



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING PACKET

DECEMBER 2014

TAB 1



**WASHINGTON STATE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**
Suncadia Lodge
3600 Suncadia Trail
Cle Elum, WA 98922

**PRELIMINARY MEETING AGENDA
December 4, 2014**

TIME	TAB	ITEM	LEAD	ACTION/INFO
8:30 a.m.		Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">Additions/Corrections to Agenda Items <i>(pgs. 3-4)</i>	Chair Jim Peters	
15 minutes		Introductions/Comments	All	
***** PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE ALLOWED PRIOR TO ACTION ITEMS *****				
8:45 a.m. 10 minutes	2	Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">Approval of the WSCC September 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes <i>(pgs. 6-9)</i>Approval of Executive Director and Chair to attend NACD February 1-4, 2015 <i>(pg. 10)</i>Approval of Executive Director and Chair to attend NACD in March 2015 <i>(pg. 10)</i>		Action Action Action
8:55 a.m. 60 minutes	3	District Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cultural Resources Policy Development UpdateCRM Update <i>(pgs. 12-14)</i>Conservation District Election Status	Larry Brewer Ray Ledgerwood Bill Eller	Information Information Information
9:55 a.m. 50 minutes	4	Policy/Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">WSDA Water Monitoring UpdateLegislative UpdateNutrient Application Legislation UpdateAg and Water Quality Meetings Update	Perry Beale, Dept. of Agriculture Ron Shultz Ron Shultz Ron Shultz	Information Information Information Information
10:45 a.m. 15 minutes		BREAK		

******* PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE ALLOWED PRIOR TO ACTION ITEMS *******

11:00 a.m. 30 minutes	4	Policy/Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology Non-Point Plan Update • Coordinated Investments Update • CREP Stream Miles <i>(pgs. 16-17)</i> 	Josh Baldi, Dept. of Ecology Ron Shultz/Mark Clark Brian Cochrane	Information Information Action
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11:30 a.m. 30 minutes	5	Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplemental Budget Update re: Carlton Complex Fire <i>(pgs. 20-30)</i> • Non Shellfish Funding Update • Shellfish Funding Update 	Debbie Becker/ Mark Clark Debbie Becker Ron Shultz	Information Information Information
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12:00 p.m.
45 minutes **LUNCH: PLEASE RSVP TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION BY NOV. 22**

12:45 p.m. 20 minutes	5	Budget (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chehalis Flood Budget Update • Financial Report 	Mark Clark Debbie Becker	Information Information
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***** PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE ALLOWED PRIOR TO ACTION ITEMS *****

1:05 p.m. 55 minutes	6	Commission Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominating Committee Chair/Vice Chair Elections • Thoughts/Comments from September Interaction Dinner 	Lynn Bahrych /Lynn Brown Mark Clark/ All	Action Information
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2:00 p.m. **Adjourn** Chair Jim Peters

NEXT MEETING:

Conservation District Tour **hosted by Clallam Conservation District** will be on January 14, 2015, and the **Conservation Commission Regular Business Meeting** will be held on January 15, 2015.

Meeting Location:

Olympic Lodge **Room:** Crescent Room
 140 Del Guzzi Drive
 Port Angeles, WA 98362 **Phone:** (360) 452-2993

The times listed above are estimated and may vary. Every effort will be made, however, to adhere to the proposed timelines. If you are a person with a disability and need special accommodations, please contact the Conservation Commission at (360) 407-6200.

TAB 2

DRAFT

Washington State Conservation Commission Regular Business Meeting
Bellingham, Washington
September 18, 2014

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/WSCC) met in regular session on September 18, 2014, in Bellingham, Washington. Chair Peters called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Jim Peters, Chair
Clinton O'Keefe, Vice Chair, East Region
Lynn Brown, Central Region
Dean Longrie, West Region
Lynn Bahrych, Member
Jim Kropf, WSU-Puyallup
Perry Beale, Dept. of Agriculture
Todd Welker, Dept. Of Natural Resources
Kelly Susewind, Department of Ecology (DOE)
Alan Stromberger, President, WA Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT

Mark Clark, Executive Director
Ron Shultz, Policy Director
Ray Ledgerwood, District Operations Manager
Josh Giuntoli, Office of Farmland Preservation
Shana Joy, Puget Sound Regional Manager
Melissa Vander Linden, Finance Staff
Lori Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant
Laura Johnson, Communications & Outreach
Larry Brewer, Southeast Regional Manager

PARTNERS REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING

Roylene Rides-at-the Door, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Tom Eaton, Executive Director, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10
Dave Vogel, Executive Director, WACD

GUESTS ATTENDED

Joe Heller, Whatcom CD, Larry Davis, Whatcom CD, George Boggs, Whatcom CD, Carolyn Kelly, Skagit CD, Margen Carlson, WDFW, Jeff Davis, WDFW, Steve Landino, NOAA, Wendy Pare, Skagit CD, Joe Holtrop, Clallam CD, Ryan Williams, Snohomish CD, Dr. Nichole Embertson, Whatcom CD, Chris Mertz, Sherre Copeland, NRCS, Chris Herron, Franklin CD, and Rianne Perry, WSDA.

Consent Agenda

Commission members reviewed the Regular Business Meeting minutes from July 17 and the Special Meeting minutes from August 19, 2014. The following motions were made:

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the July 17, 2014 Regular Business Meeting minutes. Commissioner Bahrych seconded. Motion passed.

Motion by Commissioner Brown to approve the August 19, 2014 Special Meeting minutes. Commissioner Longrie Seconded. Motion passed.

Ron Shultz, Policy Director introduced Shana Joy, SCC's new Puget Sound Regional Manager and Policy Assistant. Shana came from Alaska as the Executive Director and is currently the President of the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA). This is a good role for Shana as she has close partnerships with other state agencies. Shana also works with the Puget Sound District Caucus and reports to Ron Shultz as well as Ray Ledgerwood, District Operations Manager.

Several presentations were given throughout the day.

Priority Habitat Species (PHS) Presentation by Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)

DFW, staff, Margen Carlson and Jeff Davis provided a background of the program that first started in 1992 in response to manage growth. PHS program's intended means is to share information on species and habitat. They have a list of species that they consider to be priorities and may be facing some level of risk. The program also provides a lot of technical assistance to local counties for land use planning. Ms. Carlsen mentioned the most current PHS Riparian document was published in 1997. They have received a grant from EPA via Ecology from the National Estuary Funds and DFW did match to fund the work. They are currently in two phases in updating the document. It is a synthesis of the science not a policy recommendation. Dr. Nichole Embertson from Whatcom CD has been a very big help through the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) in assisting with the review of the document by making sure the science and the tone is good when it rolls out to the public. Final document needs to be completed by June 2015. **PowerPoint presentation can be found on the SCC website located at this web address:** <http://scc.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/1-WDFW-Priority-Habitat-Species-Riparian-Update.pdf>

The Power of Coordinated Investments for Collective Impact by Steve Landino, NOAA

Steve Landino of NOAA Fisheries presented information on a concept their agency is exploring called Coordinated Investments. The approach is an effort to see whether and how federal funding in Puget Sound could be implemented in a more coordinated fashion to get better resource results more efficiently. The proposal is still in concept form and being discussed between the primary federal partners, NOAA, EPA, and NRCS. **PowerPoint presentation can be found on the SCC website at this address:** <http://scc.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2-NOAA-Coordinated-Investment-Strategy.pptx>

Office of Farmland Preservation

Josh Giuntoli, OFP staff handed out a workbook he worked on, in coordination with others called: Planning the Future of Your Farm: A Workbook Supporting Specialty Crop Farm Transfer Decisions. OFP received funding from a Specialty Crop grant through the Department of Agriculture. This booklet is also being transcribed in Spanish. **You can find an electronic version of the workbook on the OFP website at this web address:** <http://ofp.scc.wa.gov/succession-planning/>.

OFP Indicator Report Update

In 2009 the Office of Farmland Preservation Task Force adopted a series of indicators. There are 20 indicators. The Farmland Preservation Indicators Report continues to be populated with updated data. Many data sources used in the last version have not been updated. However, new potential indicators with data are being considered. **PowerPoint presentation can be found at this web address:** <http://scc.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/3-SCC-OFP-Farmland-Indicators-Report.pptx>.

USDA/ National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Programs and Census of Agriculture Presentation

Chris Mertz, Director of USDA/NASS Regional Office. NASS provides timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. They do a complete count every five years of America's farms and ranches, including the people that operate them. **Mr. Mertz provided a lot of statistical information in his PowerPoint that can be found on the SCC website located at this address:** <http://scc.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/4-USDA-NASS-Program-and-Census-of-Ag.pptx> . Mr. Mertz also noted the full **Census Report can be found online at** www.agcensus.usda.gov where you will be able to view a full publication, searchable database and several charts and maps.

Carlton Complex Fire Update

Craig Nelson, Okanogan Conservation District Manager was able to provide a brief update via phone on the Carlton Complex fires that started in the Central region of the state in July 2014. He informed the Commissioners that Okanogan has created a Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team to go out and assess the damage. He listed the various entities assisting in the effort.

Commissioner Welker said DNR will put in a budget request in the amount upwards of \$20 million to help with forest health and Firewise.

Roylene Rides at the Door, NRCS, said they have people out there doing some damage assessment and will be asking for more funds on the EWP and have asked for additional money for EQIP funds. Also checking to see if they could do cost recovery funds on existing contracts.

Results Washington

Director Clark did a presentation in front of the Governor on September 10th to discuss the CREP program. Steve Martin from the Salmon Recovery Board spoke on the program as well as Bob Falkner, a landowner from Pacific County to talk about his successful experience with CREP. Mr. Clark was able to show results in the Tucannon and being able to reduce the temperature by 10 degrees. Governor noted at the end of the presentation: “now is not the time to be humble. You need to get the word out about the success of this program.” Next will be Results Washington on BMP agency discussions. Governor’s Office has been meeting with individual agencies. Our AAG, Phyllis Barney will be brought into the discussions. District managers, George Boggs and Monte Marti will also be brought into the meeting to have district perspective on how to get work done on the ground.

RCPP

There are nine pre-proposals in the RCPP from Washington State accepted and requested to prepare a full proposal for NRCS consideration. CDs are working on four (Whatcom – WRIA 1 CREP; Palouse – WRIA 34 Programs; Palouse-Rock Lake – No Till; Kittitas and N. Yakima – Irrigation efficiencies and farm easements). WSCC staff is working on one for Puget Sound in coordination with The Nature Conservancy and American Farmland Trust. All proposals are due October 2.

Cultural Resource

Commission discussed the proposed Cultural Resource Policy for BMPs with Commission Cost share only. Consensus seemed to be that the Policy will apply to Operating funded projects as well as Capitol Funded projects. There was an interested in having WSCC recognize and accept Cultural Resource work done by individual Districts as complying with the Executive Order 0505, for those districts with that capacity. For other districts the procedure will be further developed to provide guidance for compliance with 0505.

Commissioner Brown moved to establish a committee of CC member volunteers to go over the proposed CR policy particularly focused on the funding issue, and approach the definition of ground disturbance, and for the districts to be responsible with the Commission as fall back. Commissioner Stromberger seconded. Motion passed.

The Commission appointed three commissioners and George Boggs from Whatcom to work with SCC staff, Larry Brewer to discuss and agree on a policy to present at the December Commission meeting.

Ag and Water Quality Meetings

Commissioner Susewind, representative of the Department of Ecology (ECY) updated the Commission on their meetings. They just had their 4th meeting September 11th. Ag producers selected the agenda and had presentations on topics relating to:

- Farm Smart a no till program implemented in the Palouse. Voluntary program that Ecology worked with the proponents on to make sure those implementing the program would be consistent with resource protection.
- VSP discussion by Evan Sheffels; Jay Gordon talked about MOAs; Ron Shultz discussed ecosystem markets.

- Presentation by Walla Walla CD on the work there.

Next meeting will be Oct 23 in Lacey. No agenda yet but will focus on discussions relating to how ECY works with producers and ECY will present suggested changes in the ECY programs approaches to address concerns. Hope is to have the advisory group support ECY in a path forward. ECY looking to incorporate as appropriate of the Tip Hudson, WSU work. ECY is considering a guidance document that will be focused on a risk assessment approach rather than a manual with specific management recommendations. Last meeting is in December. Whether these meetings continue beyond December will be dependent on the water quality issues, which means the group will likely continue into the future.

Application Risk Management (ARM)

Dr. Nichole Embertson from Whatcom Conservation District presented on ARM. Whatcom is the second leading dairy area. Yakima is number 1 in cow production. This assessment has to be done all year round. ARM was developed to help farmers through the process of properly assessing, managing, and reducing the risks associated with applying manure to their fields. It is real time for farmers, automatically updated from NOAA. It tells you the runoff risk- soil leaching. The tool only goes out three days to help farmers know when the right time to spread is. Dr. Embertson shared a website they created (WA Dairy Plan): <https://sites.google.com/site/wadairyplan/home> for ARM and Nutrient Management Plan Guidance. The site has a whole section on Application Risk Management and the lists of all the parameters will determine the ability to apply or not apply to the individual fields. **PowerPoint presentation can be found at this web address:** <http://scc.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Application-Risk-Assessment-by-Dr-Nichole-Embertson.pdf>.

Commission Operations

Commission members were presented with proposed locations for 2015.

Motion by Commissioner Longrie to approve the 2015 meeting locations as presented by staff and check in with CD staff. Seconded by Commissioner Welker. Motion passed.

SCC Mission Statement

Commissioner Bahrych would like to hear back from other Commission members on the revised mission statement. Once approved by members, SCC staff will send out to districts for comment, and subcommittee will present again to members.

Chair Peters adjourned at 4:24 p.m.



December 4, 2014

To: Conservation Commission Members
FROM: Mark Clark, Executive Director
RE: Attendance for NACD Meetings in February and March 2015

Summary: Seeking approval for Executive Director and Chair to attend the following meetings hosted by the National Association of Conservation Districts.

- **February 1-4, 2015** NACD Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA. Meeting theme: "Conservation: Key to a Healthy Nation."
- **March 2015** NACD Legislative Fly-In in Washington DC.

Action Requested: Approval for the Executive Director and Chair to attend the February and March NACD hosted meetings.

Staff contact: Mark Clark, Executive Director mclark@scc.wa.gov (360) 407-6200.
Lori Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant lgonzalez@scc.wa.gov (360) 407-6200.

TAB 3



Coordinated Resource Management

Executive Committee Work Session

The Cove Restaurant
9604 Pacific Way, Long Beach, WA 98631
October 1, 2014 – 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Work Session Objective:

- Examine past successes, potential opportunities, and identify priorities for the future of the CRM program.

CRM Overview, Successes, and Past Year's Work Completed

- See overview slides
- Have the right people in the room to talk about resource issues, and recommendations
- Black Wolf CRM – started in early 2014, wolf issues, water quality, A to Z timber sale
- Chehalis CRM startups
- Sage grouse group that has been working together...NRCS funding and partner agencies
- New program on Western Pacific ground...RCPP
- Carlton Complex activities...built on relationships
- Skagit County livestock group – water quality
- North Lynden WID & Lummi tribe startup – water resources
- Trout Lake CRM – water quality
- WACD established a tribal outreach task force to come together on common resource issues
- Update to current MOU
- Ongoing work – Okanogan, Klickitat, Cowlitz / Wahkiakum
- Presentations on CRM – annual wildlife society conference
- Willapa Bay Shellfish Growers
- Created website on Conservation Commission
- Incorporated speakers to in-person manager – rangeland management, fisheries
- Annual range tour
- Lincoln – Spokane County group on water quality risk management
- Update CRM listing of groups

Potential CRM Activities

- RCPP project development & implementation
- Hangman Creek watershed – water quality
- Wash away Beach
- Community of Darrington – after OSO soil slide
- Carlton Complex fire area rehabilitation
- Pigmy Rabbit ESA
- Teanaway forest area – wolves and forest management
- WDFW lands – community role and CRM activities – ag leases, grazing,
- Updating to wildlife area plans and reinvigorating wildlife area advisory process
- Forest Service – forest collaborative connection with groups
- Ghost shrimp management
- Voluntary Stewardship Program w counties (28)
- Forest health issues
- Role of prescribed fire and smoke management issues

Potential CRM Activities (continued)

- Fish passage screening
- Shellfish growers & aquaculture conservation program – work with growers, agencies, and Governor's office to build a program
- Prepare for emergency management needs – fire, flood, bank forage, other
- Potential for CRM group to look at Governor's Task Force on Outdoor recreation

Natural Resource Priorities in 2015 (continued)

Keeping working lands working...linkage to state lands...private/public (in all below)

- Forest health...Multi-use habitat health (wildlife, domestic animal use, recreation)
- Sustainable water quality
- Shellfish and estuaries
- Rangeland health Multi-use habitat health (wildlife, domestic animal use, recreation)
- Water quantity
- Flooding issues
- Fish passage

Resources from Each Member Organization

- Ecology – project specific funding potential including grants to CDs and other organizations...facilitation, etc. and Chad
- Fish & Wildlife - \$2500 and at least a single representative...plus support for facilitation at Black Wolf
- Agriculture – in line with other agencies (match)...Greg
- Forest Service – \$2500 and funding for potential projects from list above plus Travis
- WACD – task group representation – Mark & Craig and staff time
- NRCS – \$2500 and funding for potential projects from list above...task group representation
- DNR – task group member
- WSCC – \$2500 and funding to districts for specific projects; Ray's time, task group member
- Independents – work with area representatives (WACD); success story writing, training
- BLM
- Extension

Needs...facilitation help (3 x \$5000), some startup funds (\$15,000 to \$20,000), staffing at local CD level...about \$40,000

Idea: 8 times \$xx, Community Conservation Landscape Grant

Recognition of Task Group Chairs & Passing of the Leadership Role

Steve offered thanks to WSCC for Ray assistance

Thanks to Jeff and Don for chairing the work of the task group

Steve passed over the leadership of the CRM Executive Committee to Mark Clark on behalf of the WSCC

Suggestion was to have tour first then CRM Executive Committee meeting after...have a closing debrief...tour then breakfast meeting

Carlton Complex fire area for next year meeting and tour

Action Register

Action	Timeline	Lead
Notes to Executive Committee & Task Group	By 10.6.14	Ray
MOU Signatures	By 10.31.14	Mark C
Follow up with organizations and funding	By 10.31.14	Mark C & Ray
Funding use policy for member funding	Next in-person meeting - January	Don, Ray, TG members
Work w Forest Service on forest collaborative connection with groups	By 10.31.14	Debbie, Clay & Ray
Identify funding sources for CRM groups	On-going	All members
Follow-up on Governor's Task Force on Outdoor recreation (invite to next in-person TG meeting)	By December TG meeting	Steve & Don
Next CRM Executive Committee Meeting & tour – Okanogan – Carlton Complex Fire Area or oldest CRM area	By 7.30.14	Mark C & Ray

TAB 4



Washington State Conservation Commission

December 4, 2014

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Mark Clark, Executive Director

FROM: Brian Cochrane, CREP Habitat Coordinator

SUBJECT: Request to include five (5) miles of Mud Creek Walla Walla County in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Summary: The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has approved a request from Walla Walla County Conservation District Board of Supervisors (WWCCD) to add five (5) miles of Mud Creek to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) eligible streams. We recommend that the Conservation Commission also approve their request.

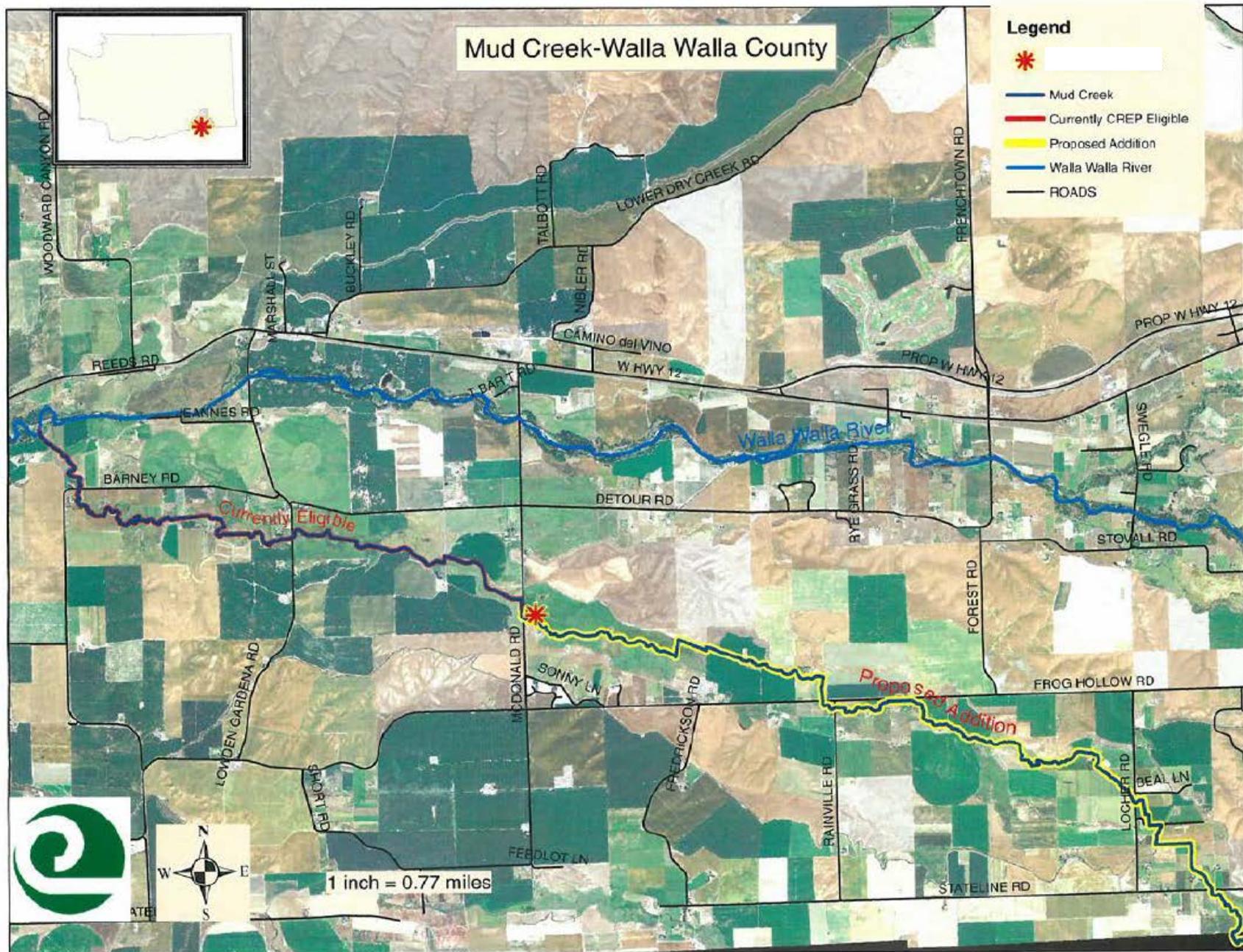
Background: The current CREP eligibility on Mud Creek ends at McDonald Road at stream mile 4.5 (Figure 1). Another 5.6 miles of stream habitat to the state line (at Stateline Road) should be approved for eligibility due to presence of juvenile *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (steelhead/rainbow trout), spring Chinook, and coho in lower Mud Creek. WDFW has also found native mussels in the reach. The greatest limiting factors for salmon production in Mud Creek appear to be flow, lack of riparian, passage, and water quality, all of which would be improved by CREP practices.

Due to interest by adjacent landowners in CREP enrollment, the WWCCD consulted with WDFW and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Upon receiving support from both agencies, the WWCCD obtained FSA approval to include new stream segment so that all of Mud Creek in Washington is eligible for CREP.

Action Requested: Approval of WWCCD request to add the described portion of Mud Creek to the CREP eligible stream list.

Staff Contact: Brian Cochrane, 360-407-7103, bcochrane@scc.wa.gov.

Figure 1. Map of currently eligible and proposed reaches of Mud Creek in Walla Walla County.



TAB 5



Washington State Conservation Commission

December 4, 2014

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Mark Clark, Executive Director

FROM: Debbie Becker, Budget Director

SUBJECT: Supplemental Request and New Request for funding to address the Carlton Complex Fire

Summary:

SCC submitted a supplemental request for the FY15 budget negotiations in the amount of \$3.248 million. Of this, \$1.568 million is federal spending authority and match in anticipation of the EWP contract with NRCS. This request would cover Okanogan conservation district's staffing costs, fence rebuilding, watering systems, seeding and other associated costs.

SCC also submitted a new request for the 15-17 biennium in the amount of \$4.750 million. Of this, \$1.250 million is federal spending authority and match anticipated through an EWP contract with NRCS. This request would continue the projects identified in the *Burned Area Emergency Response* (BAER) report and those not completed with the Supplemental Funding referenced in the previous paragraph.

Background:

The Carlton Complex Fire burned a Washington State record 256,000 acres in Okanogan County, destroying over 300 homes, millions of dollars in agricultural infrastructure, and removing critical soil stabilizing vegetation. This request funds a portion of the costs needed to recovery from these losses.

This is now the largest single fire in the history of the State and was spread across approximately 100,000 private lands acres. During the fire, hundreds of miles of livestock and deer fencing was damaged or destroyed, irrigation systems were impacted, crops and forage areas were burned, and soil stabilizing vegetation was burned. The resulting impact is a large area needing re-vegetation to reduce erosion, critical areas replanted with woody vegetation to protect natural resource values and establish wildlife cover and habitat, and loss of critical agricultural and private property infrastructure.

Assisting landowners with replacement of infrastructure such as fencing and irrigation systems is necessary as many are not receiving assistance with these costs from insurance companies, and no assistance for these costs will be forthcoming from the Federal Emergency Management Agency since individual assistance was denied.

Action Requested: Information only.

Staff Contact:

Mark Clark, Debbie Becker, Bill Eller

Agency: 471 State Conservation Commission
Decision Package Code/Title: N4 Carlton Complex Fire
Budget Period: 2015-17
Budget Level: PL - Performance Level

Recommendation Summary Text:

The Carlton Complex Fire burned a Washington State record 256,000 acres in Okanogan County, destroying over 300 homes, millions of dollars in agricultural infrastructure, and removing critical soil stabilizing vegetation. This request funds a portion of the costs needed to recovery from these losses.

Agency Total

Fiscal Detail

Operating Expenditures	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
001-1 -General Fund - Basic Account-State	3,500,000	1,597,386	5,097,386
001-2 -General Fund - Basic Account-Federal	3,500,000	1,250,622	4,750,622
Total Cost	7,000,000	2,848,008	9,848,008

Staffing
FTEs

Revenue

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
001 General Fund	0310 Dept of Agriculture	3,500,000	1,250,622	4,750,622

Package Description:

Funding will be used as cost-share to private landowners to assist them with replacing critical agricultural and other property infrastructure related to natural resource management, stabilize soils, and partially fund conservation district staff time to coordinate landowner cost-share and coordination with other entities assisting with fire recovery efforts. Much of the funding in this package will be used as match for federal funds already committed and other funds being requested through federal cost-share programs and grants.

Narrative Justification and Impact Statement

The Carlton Complex Fire burned 256,000 acres in Okanogan County in July and August 2014. This is now the largest single fire in the history of the State and was spread across approximately 100,000 private lands acres. During the fire, hundreds of miles of livestock and deer fencing was damaged or destroyed, irrigation systems were impacted, crops and forage areas were burned, and soil stabilizing vegetation was burned. The resulting impact is a large area needing re-vegetation to reduce erosion, critical areas replanted with woody vegetation to protect natural resource values and establish wildlife cover and habitat, and loss of critical agricultural and private property infrastructure.

The State/Private Lands Burned Area Emergency Response evaluation identified 37,320 acres of private and state lands as a high soil erosion rating, and another 72,768 acres as a moderate rating. Stabilizing soils will ensure fewer significant erosive

events will occur which carry sediment, debris, garbage, and other hazardous materials to streams and rivers in the region that cause further economic hardships with infrastructure such as culverts and roads lost, and impact natural resources such as water quality degradation and impacts to sensitive aquatic species such as ESA listed Chinook Salmon and Steelhead.

Assisting landowners with replacement of infrastructure such as fencing and irrigation systems is necessary as many are not receiving assistance with these costs from insurance companies, and no assistance for these costs will be forthcoming from the Federal Emergency Management Agency since individual assistance was denied.

What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?

Funds will be used to fund directly, or as federal match, projects that protect critical natural resources destroyed by the Carlton Complex Fire. Projects will include critical area seeding and planting, fence repair/construction, stock water system repairs, noxious weed control, and hazard reductions such as flash flood diversions and/or hazard tree removal.

Performance Measure Detail

Activity: A001 Technical Services and Program Delivery

	Incremental Changes	
	<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>
Outcome Measures		
001409 Miles of stream protected, improved or enhanced through the implementation of best management practices on landowner's property.		see detail below
001424 Number of land owners/managers assisted and those contacts resulting in new actions by the conservation districts.		see detail below
001425 Number of acres protected, improved, or enhanced through the implementation of best management practices on landowner property.		see detail below
001426 Number of authorized best management practices (conservation practices) installed on landowner property, including those practices which received financial assistance.		see detail below
Feet of Fence	1,600,000	(1,531,000 feet of livestock, and remainder deer)
Acres Seeded	750	
Landowners serviced	250	
Livestock Water Systems	10	
Acres of weed control	5,000	
Emergency Structures Installed	20	
Weather Service Broadcast Antenna Installed	1	

Is this decision package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?

Yes, the following is derived from the agency's strategic plan adopted in May 2014.

Impact on Natural Resource Concerns

Goal Statement: Continue to improve Washington State Natural Resources by demonstrating environmental objectives identified by each conservation district addressing resource priorities statewide by utilizing the local connection of Conservation Districts with private land owners to the network of federal, state and local agencies and organizations to implement the work necessary to achieve results through long term conservation implementation and documentation of related resource impacts.

Does this decision package provide essential support to one of the Governor's priorities?

According to Governor Inslee's web-site: Agricultural is one of the economies of Washington State that is a priority and he would like to "protect and manage scarce resources: land, water, energy, labor, capital, and credit"

Results Washington Implementation

The Washington State Conservation Commission and the 45 Conservation District Boards of Supervisors and employees provide the local linkage and relationship building with private land owners when they are making conservation planning and conservation practice implementation decisions. These local relationships for conservation work will be instrumental in the implementation activities under Goal 3 Sustainable Energy & a Clean Environment including strategic implementation for healthy fish and wildlife, clean and restored environment, and working & natural

lands. This unique structure provides partnering agencies and organizations the opportunity to effectively and efficiently work with private land owners throughout Washington State on conservation planning, technical assistance, and information exchange and project implementation.

Does this decision package make key contributions to statewide results? Would it rate as a high priority in the Priorities of Government process?

Working and Natural Lands Use our lands responsibly

4.1.b. Increase treatment of forested lands for forest health and fire reduction

Clean and Restored Environment Keep our land, water and air clean

3.2 Increase the percentage of rivers meeting good water quality

- Commission is a leader in facilitating change in culture to be a positive, results oriented conservation district family by involving partners an opportunities.
- Coordination with other agencies using the model area concept for getting together on an area-wide project(s) to address an area-wide resource concern.

We believe that the record size of the fire and scarce federal resources being provided to private landowners would make this a critical priority for the Governor, Legislature, and the public. These activities will provide critical economic stimulus to an economically depressed area while simultaneously providing resource protection to large areas of a landscape damaged by a natural disaster.

What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

This funding package funds the local conservation district to continue work with state, federal, and tribal agencies along with private organizations in their collective efforts to have a coordinated and seamless recovery program for private and public lands alike. Much of the natural resource protection offered in this funding package will protect many thousands of dollars in public improvements to natural resources that are near the burned area that will otherwise be at risk to erosion and other post-fire damage. Furthermore, the installation of the critical agricultural infrastructure will assist this rural economy to recovery quicker and provide for jobs and local tax revenue.

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Object Detail

	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
N Grants, Benefits & Client Services	9,168,148	679,860	9,848,008
Total Objects	9,168,148	679,860	9,848,008

Agency: 471 State Conservation Commission
Decision Package Code/Title: N4 Carlton Complex Fire
Budget Period: 2015-17
Budget Level: PL - Performance Level

Recommendation Summary Text:

The Carlton Complex Fire burned a Washington State record 256,000 acres in Okanogan County, destroying over 300 homes, millions of dollars in agricultural infrastructure, and removing critical soil stabilizing vegetation. This request funds a portion of the costs needed to recovery from these losses.

Agency Total

Fiscal Detail

Operating Expenditures	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
001-1 -General Fund - Basic Account-State	3,500,000	1,597,386	5,097,386
001-2 -General Fund - Basic Account-Federal	3,500,000	1,250,622	4,750,622
Total Cost	7,000,000	2,848,008	9,848,008

Staffing
FTEs

Revenue

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
001 General Fund	0310 Dept of Agriculture	3,500,000	1,250,622	4,750,622

Package Description:

Funding will be used as cost-share to private landowners to assist them with replacing critical agricultural and other property infrastructure related to natural resource management, stabilize soils, and partially fund conservation district staff time to coordinate landowner cost-share and coordination with other entities assisting with fire recovery efforts. Much of the funding in this package will be used as match for federal funds already committed and other funds being requested through federal cost-share programs and grants.

Narrative Justification and Impact Statement

The Carlton Complex Fire burned 256,000 acres in Okanogan County in July and August 2014. This is now the largest single fire in the history of the State and was spread across approximately 100,000 private lands acres. During the fire, hundreds of miles of livestock and deer fencing was damaged or destroyed, irrigation systems were impacted, crops and forage areas were burned, and soil stabilizing vegetation was burned. The resulting impact is a large area needing re-vegetation to reduce erosion, critical areas replanted with woody vegetation to protect natural resource values and establish wildlife cover and habitat, and loss of critical agricultural and private property infrastructure.

The State/Private Lands Burned Area Emergency Response evaluation identified 37,320 acres of private and state lands as a high soil erosion rating, and another 72,768 acres as a moderate rating. Stabilizing soils will ensure fewer significant erosive

events will occur which carry sediment, debris, garbage, and other hazardous materials to streams and rivers in the region that cause further economic hardships with infrastructure such as culverts and roads lost, and impact natural resources such as water quality degradation and impacts to sensitive aquatic species such as ESA listed Chinook Salmon and Steelhead.

Assisting landowners with replacement of infrastructure such as fencing and irrigation systems is necessary as many are not receiving assistance with these costs from insurance companies, and no assistance for these costs will be forthcoming from the Federal Emergency Management Agency since individual assistance was denied.

What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?

Funds will be used to fund directly, or as federal match, projects that protect critical natural resources destroyed by the Carlton Complex Fire. Projects will include critical area seeding and planting, fence repair/construction, stock water system repairs, noxious weed control, and hazard reductions such as flash flood diversions and/or hazard tree removal.

Performance Measure Detail

Activity: A001 Technical Services and Program Delivery

		Incremental Changes	
		<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>
Outcome Measures			
001409	Miles of stream protected, improved or enhanced through the implementation of best management practices on landowner's property.		see detail below
001424	Number of land owners/managers assisted and those contacts resulting in new actions by the conservation districts.		see detail below
001425	Number of acres protected, improved, or enhanced through the implementation of best management practices on landowner property.		see detail below
001426	Number of authorized best management practices (conservation practices) installed on landowner property, including those practices which received financial assistance.		see detail below
Feet of Fence		1,600,000	(1,531,000 feet of livestock, and remainder deer)
Acres Seeded		750	
Landowners serviced		250	
Livestock Water Systems		10	
Acres of weed control		5,000	
Emergency Structures Installed		20	
Weather Service Broadcast Antenna Installed		1	

Is this decision package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?

Yes, the following is derived from the agency's strategic plan adopted in May 2014.

Impact on Natural Resource Concerns

Goal Statement: Continue to improve Washington State Natural Resources by demonstrating environmental objectives identified by each conservation district addressing resource priorities statewide by utilizing the local connection of Conservation Districts with private land owners to the network of federal, state and local agencies and organizations to implement the work necessary to achieve results through long term conservation implementation and documentation of related resource impacts.

Does this decision package provide essential support to one of the Governor's priorities?

According to Governor Inslee's web-site: Agricultural is one of the economies of Washington State that is a priority and he would like to "protect and manage scarce resources: land, water, energy, labor, capital, and credit"

Results Washington Implementation

The Washington State Conservation Commission and the 45 Conservation District Boards of Supervisors and employees provide the local linkage and relationship building with private land owners when they are making conservation planning and conservation practice implementation decisions. These local relationships for conservation work will be instrumental in the implementation activities under Goal 3 Sustainable Energy & a Clean Environment including strategic implementation for healthy fish and wildlife, clean and restored environment, and working & natural

lands. This unique structure provides partnering agencies and organizations the opportunity to effectively and efficiently work with private land owners throughout Washington State on conservation planning, technical assistance, and information exchange and project implementation.

Does this decision package make key contributions to statewide results? Would it rate as a high priority in the Priorities of Government process?

Working and Natural Lands Use our lands responsibly

4.1.b. Increase treatment of forested lands for forest health and fire reduction

Clean and Restored Environment Keep our land, water and air clean

3.2 Increase the percentage of rivers meeting good water quality

- Commission is a leader in facilitating change in culture to be a positive, results oriented conservation district family by involving partners an opportunities.
- Coordination with other agencies using the model area concept for getting together on an area-wide project(s) to address an area-wide resource concern.

We believe that the record size of the fire and scarce federal resources being provided to private landowners would make this a critical priority for the Governor, Legislature, and the public. These activities will provide critical economic stimulus to an economically depressed area while simultaneously providing resource protection to large areas of a landscape damaged by a natural disaster.

What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

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