



5-Year Plan (2013 to 2018) Pacific Conservation District

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Organization of the Pacific Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Washington – authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08.

The economy of the Pacific County and the Pacific Conservation District is driven by natural resource-based industries. Timber, dairy, beef, fish, crab fishing, cranberries and shellfish account for an overwhelming proportion of the local economy. The lower portions of 20 tributaries that drain into Willapa Bay (Water Resource Inventory Area 24) are utilized as agricultural resource lands. There are presently 7 active dairies containing approximately 3500 animals along the Willapa River (Nick Somero, Soil Conservationist, 360/875-6300). Another 170 smaller livestock farms exist in Pacific County containing approximately 1800 animals (Willapa Bay Watershed Bacteria and Evaluation Control Strategy, Department of Ecology, 1992). Over 1500 acres of cranberry bogs are harvested annually in Pacific County (Kim Patten, Washington State University – Long Beach, 360/642-2031). Willapa Bay is Washington's most productive shellfish estuary and produces some of our state's most healthy salmon runs.

The waters of the Willapa Basin (Water Resource Inventory Area 24) have been under scrutiny for the past 15-20 years. Portions of Willapa Bay have been identified as water quality limited due to bacterial pollution (Willapa Bay Watershed Bacteria and Evaluation Control Strategy, Department of Ecology, 1992). Past timber harvest, high forest road densities, and failing culverts have contributed to high levels of suspended sediments, habitat degradation and accessibility to critical salmonid habitat in the waters of Willapa Bay and its associated tributaries.

Results from a Total Maximum Daily Load study of the Willapa River has found levels of fecal coli form, dissolved oxygen, and water temperatures that exceed state water quality standards. Japanese Knotweed has become a major problem within the Willapa Watershed. This noxious weed has taken over and displaced native riparian vegetation, as well as the noxious weed gorse in the hills around cranberry grounds.

The Grayland ditch, a watershed that drains run off from surrounding hills and the Grayland Cranberry bogs, was found to have the highest level of three insecticides that have ever been found in Washington State waters. The Long Beach Cranberry area has also become a focus over the past year and similar practices will be implemented to address and prevent water quality concerns.

Within the past two years levels of fecal coli form bacteria from unknown sources have caused Shell fish/Oyster growing area down grades. The Willapa Bay Oyster Industry is one of the highest producers of Shellfish in the United States.

While no ESA listed stocks are present within Willapa Bay there are several depressed stocks that are of major concern to the local infrastructure with our boundaries. Salmon recovery is an ongoing process within Willapa Bay WRIA #24.

The population within the Pacific Conservation District boundaries is currently 18,500 and is growing at a rate of 1.6% (Faith Taylor, Director, Pacific County Dept. of Community Development, 360/875-9356). The encroachment of "urban sprawl" on agricultural lands will intensify the scrutiny of agricultural production practices as potential sources of non-point pollution.

Function of the Pacific Conservation District

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

We Serve & Why

- The Pacific Conservation District serves all natural resource based groups within PCD boundaries to educate and address natural resource concerns and alternatives that benefit the landowner and the environment. This is often a difficult chore and may take a tremendous amount of time and energy. The groups and industries the PCD has and will work with into the future are as follows;

Pacific County Live stock producers
Pacific County Dairy producers
Pacific County small forest producers
The Pacific County Commissioners
WRIA #24 Salmon Recovery Group
Sportsman's National Land Trust
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Southwest Cluster Engineer
Southwest Cluster Engineer Board
The Washington State Conservation Commission
The Nature Conservancy
Olympic Natural Resources Conservation Service (U.W.)
Natural Resource Conservation Service

Ocean Spray Corporation
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Weyerhaeuser Corporation
Washington Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Conservation Districts
Pacific County Marine Resource Committee
BPA
Lewis County Conservation District
Grays Harbor Conservation District

Pacific County Oyster growers
Pacific County Cranberry producers
Pacific County Hobby Farm producers
Local City Government(s)
Ducks Unlimited
Washington State Department of Health
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Washington State Department of Ecology
Pacific County Weed Management
Local Schools
Willapa Bay Fisheries Enhancement Group
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Promotion of Programs to the citizenry of Pacific County
The Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Washington State Cooperative Extension
ITT Rayonier Corporation
Washington State Sustainable Salmon Partnership
Mid Valley Resources
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington Coast Marine Advisory Council
Grays Harbor County
Grays Harbor College

Mission of the Pacific Conservation District

- The Pacific Conservation District promotes sound; volunteer conservation programs and provides technical assistance to foster a healthy relationship between people and the environment.
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Vision of the Pacific Conservation District

- Pacific Conservation District promotes sound; volunteer conservation programs and provides technical assistance to foster a healthy relationship between people and the environment. The PCD values its relationship with its partners and cooperators and serves as a locally led, locally driven entity to serve its constituents within Pacific County while benefiting the environment with educated and common sense alternatives.
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Values of the Pacific Conservation District:

- The Pacific Conservation District promotes sound; volunteer conservation programs and provides technical assistance to foster a healthy relationship between people and the environment. The PCD values its relationship with its partners and cooperators and serves as a locally led, locally driven entity to serve its constituents within Pacific County while benefiting the environment with educated and common sense alternatives.

Natural Resource Data & Information:

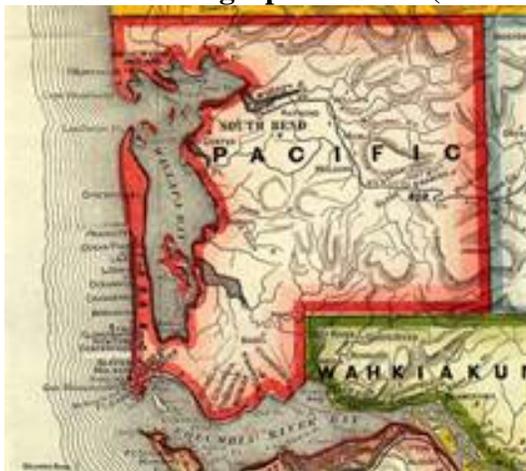
- The Willapa Basin covers more than 1000 square miles including the Willapa Bay estuary with over 100 miles of shoreline. In total, there are roughly 745 streams encompassing over 1470 linear stream miles in the Basin. Pacific County has 7 active dairy's.
- Willapa Bay has approximately 23,000 acres of shellfish production.
- 170 smaller livestock farms exist in Pacific County containing approximately 1800 animals
- 58,000 acres of non-industrial forest land.

Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:

- Knowledge of past and present farming practices highlights what needs to be done. As the population grows, agriculture acreage shrinks and utilizing available resources to the best advantage is critical. Weather conditions directly influences all farming and conservation practices within the district. Government programs directly impacts current projects.

Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Geographic Areas, Measures of Success and Goals:

- **Critical Geographic Areas: (attached map)**



- Watershed health
 - Reduction in TMDL listings within the WRIA's #, and 24, 25
 - Goal 1-No new TMDL listings by 2018
 - Goal 2-%100 increase in acreage with Riparian Forest Buffer Plantings by 2015 and %200 more by 2018
 - Goal 3- Provide technical assistance for no less than 3 LNMP's and/or farm plans (if available) cost share to non-dairy livestock producers to install needed BMP's
 - Increase Salmonid habitat throughout Pacific Conservation District
 - Goal 1-Cooperate with landowners and sponsors to correct 15 salmonid barriers by 2018
 - Goal 2-%100 increase in acreage with Riparian Forest Buffer Plantings by 2015 and %200 more by 2018

- Goal 3 -Increase habitat in the WRIA # 24, 25 tributaries by using bio-engineering by 2018
 - Goal 4 -By 2018, complete a joint operation with Pacific County Noxious Weed Board to identify areas and impacted infestations of noxious water weeds, and assist to eradicate key noxious weeds
 - Cropland/unimproved land, tidelands and forest health
 - Improve forest health for Pacific Conservation District's non-industrial private forest landowners (NIPF)
 - Goal 1-Establish a working relationship with Noxious Weed Board for identification or eradication of noxious, weeds
 - Goal 2-By 2018 provide technical assistance and/or financial assistance to 50 non-industrial private forest landowners (NIPF)
 - Goal 3- Continue a working relationship with NRCS to implement an integrated pest management plan on NIPF
 - Eliminate pesticide contaminant of surface water from applications
 - Goal 1- By 2018, have all ditches in cranberry bogs covered
 - Goal 2- Continue to provide technical assistance to cranberry producers to install BMP to reduce pesticides in surface waters
 - Assist in upgrading shellfish grounds
 - Goal 1-Maintain existing production of shellfish bed acres in Willapa Bay by 2018
 - Goal 2-Increase acreage production of shellfish beds in Willapa Bay by 10% by 2018
 - Goal 3- By 2018, complete a joint operation with Pacific County Noxious Weed Board to identify areas and impacted infestations of noxious water weeds, and assist to eradicate key noxious weeds
 - Goal 4- By 2018, complete a joint operation with Washington Invasive Species Council and NRCS to identify areas and impacted infestations with noxious invasive species, and assist eradicate key noxious species
 - Improve cropland/unimproved land/small AG operations farms
 - Goal 1- Provide technical assistance to small AG operations, 5 per year
 - Goal 2- When the program is funded, strive to become the technical service provider for the voluntary stewardship program
 - Goal 3- Establish a working relationship with Noxious Weed Board for identification or eradication of noxious weeds
 - Energy efficiency and conservation
 - Reduce usage of non-renewable energy
 - Goal 1-Provide energy audits to 10 AG producers by 2018
 - Educate about Low Impact Development and implement Low Impact Development
 - Goal 1-By 2018 have provided information about Low Impact Development to a wide network of stakeholders
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Information – Education & District Operations Priorities, Measures of Success, and Goals:

- By June 30, 2015, the PCD will have the staff, programs, funding, and organizational (roles and responsibilities) structure in place to meet the needs of District landowners and resource users. We will maintain the reputation this District has earned for being a locally led problem solving group. We will strive to remain on the leading edge of conservation issues within our District. We will continue to recruit quality supervisors. Gather greater public and landowner input. Inter-local agreement with Grays Harbor CD
- By 2015, reach non-dairy livestock producers for self assessment
- By 2015, participate in community outreach functions such as, attend Pacific County Fair for public outreach, and other community events (Master Gardner Events)
- By 2015, create a program to distribute educational materials to schools and cooperators
- By 2015, create an outreach program for k-12 students and educators to facilitate programs such as Project Learning Tree, BWET, PEI, and Blue Water Task Force with Surfrider Foundation.
- By 2015, work with local high schools to participate and compete in Envirothon/Cultivate Success
- Partner with the WSU extension office and GHC to expand education outreach
- Create and maintain social media/website
- Continue outreach and education with PCMRC and WRIA #24 Salmon Recovery Group

Land Manager Needs

- Assistance dealing with increased development, such as Farmland Preservation and Voluntary Stewardship Program
- Assistance dealing with increased population with decreasing lot sizes, such as Farmland Preservation and Voluntary Stewardship Program
- Technical and financial assistance needed with increasing regulatory pressure
- Assistance with more effective water usage to answer increased demand for water supply
- Financial assistance to develop and install conservation practices for agricultural producers

Milestones, Timeline & Actions

Priority: Watershed Health

Measurable Goal: Reduction in TMDL listings within the WRIA's # 24 and 25

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
No new TMDL listings for cranberry producers	July 2013 – June 2014	Continue to provide technical assistance to cranberry producers to install BMP to reduce pesticides in surface waters
No new TMDL listings for livestock induced water quality issues	July 2013 – June 2014	Provide technical assistance for no less than 3 LNMP's and (if available) cost share to non-dairy livestock producers to install needed BMP's

Measurable Goal: Increase Salmonid habitat throughout Pacific Conservation District

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Cooperate with landowners and sponsors to correct 15 salmonid barriers	July 2013 – June 2018	Complete 3 salmonid barriers

%100 increase in acreage with Riparian Forest Buffer Plantings by 2015 and %200 more by 2018	July 2013 – June 2018	10 acres of CREP on the ground or contracted to go on the ground
Increase habitat protection in the Willapa tributaries by using bio-engineering	Ongoing	1 LWD project designed & permitted.

Priority: Cropland/unimproved land, tidelands and forest health

Measurable Goal: Improve forest health for Pacific Conservation District's non-industrial private forest landowners (NIPF)

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
provide technical assistance and/or financial assistance to 50 non-industrial private forest landowners (NIPF)	Ongoing	Technical and/or financial assistance to 10 NIPF
Establish a working relationship with Noxious Weed Board for identification or eradication of noxious weeds	Ongoing	Schedule a joint meeting with the Pacific County Noxious Weed Board

Measurable Goal: Eliminate pesticide contaminant of surface water from applications

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
have all ditches in cranberry bogs covered	By June 2018	Surveying Cranberry producers for unfinished crib and cover
Provide technical assistance to cranberry producers to install BMP to reduce pesticides in surface waters	Ongoing	Attend and present at the Cranberry growers meetings

Measurable Goal: Assist in upgrading shellfish grounds

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Maintain existing production of shellfish bed acres in Willapa Bay	Ongoing	Assist and engage with local shellfish growers and the Departments of Health and Ecology to ensure that no new downgrades of shellfish beds occur

Increase acreage production of shellfish beds in Willapa Bay by 10%	Ongoing	Assist and engage with local shellfish growers and the departments of Health and Ecology to work on non-point source pollution issues so downgraded shellfish beds are upgraded

Measurable Goal: Improve cropland/unimproved land/small AG operations farms

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Provide technical assistance to small AG operations, 5 per year	July 2013 – June 2018	Develop a program for outreach and technical assistance for small AG operations
Establish a working relationship with Noxious Weed Board for identification or eradication of noxious weeds	Ongoing	Schedule a joint meeting with the Pacific County Noxious Weed Board

Priority: Energy efficiency and conservation

Measurable Goal: Reduce usage of non-renewable energy

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Provide energy audits to 10 AG producers	July 2013 – June 2014	Have staff become trained to provide energy audits

Measurable Goal: Educate about Low Impact Development and implement Low Impact Development

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Provide information about Low Impact Development to a wide network of stakeholders	July 2013 – June 2018	Develop an outreach program for Low Impact Development

Staffing Needs (optional)

- Office Administrator
- Contracted Livestock Planner
- Education and outreach coordinator
- VSP Technician
- Natural Resource Technician(s)
- Grant Writer
- Service Forester
- District Manager
- GIS/ Engineer technician
- Renewable Resource Technician
- Invasive Species Specialist
- Lead Entity Coordinator
- Marine Resource Coordinator
- CREP Coordinator

Annual Budget Needs (optional)

- The Pacific Conservation District requires, at minimum, enough funds to pay for two full time staff, a forester and a project supervisor, rent and utilities, employee training, associational dues, and project funds. As the district grows, all funds will need to increase to continue resource services.

Key Decision Makers (optional) The first and foremost key decision maker is the landowner or land manager. The management decisions they make on a daily basis affect the condition of natural resources. The second key decision makers are the volunteers who serve on our Board of Supervisors. Other key decision makers include:

- U. S. President
- U. S. Senators
- U. S. Representatives
- Washington State Governor
- Washington State Senators
- Washington State Representative
- Washington State Conservation Commission

Key advisors include but are not limited to:

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Pacific County Commissioners
- Washington State Agencies/WSDA, WDFW, DNR, Ecology, etc.
- Farm Services Agency
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Environmental Protection Agency

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices



Strategies to Address Trends:

- ❖ Increased involvement with county government to effect growth and regulations affecting resource issues
 - ❖ Continue to act as a buffer between regulatory agencies and individual landowners, including VSP
 - ❖ Continue to act as a clearing house for conservation technical and financial assistance programs for landowners
 - ❖ Strive to promote small acreage management by providing technical and financial assistance as funding allows
 - ❖ Investigation and/ or implementation of a system of rates and charges
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