



## **5-Year Plan (2013 to 2018)**

# **EASTERN KLICKITAT Conservation District**

**For More Information Contact: Jim Hill, Mgr (509) 773-5823, [klickcon@gorge.net](mailto:klickcon@gorge.net)**



---

### **Organization of the EASTERN KLICKITAT Conservation District**

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

- Established in 1943, EKCD has a positive history of conservation in Klickitat County. Our ultimate goal has always been and continues to be, cooperation with landowners to provide the most on-the-ground conservation for the dollars spent. As conservation practices progress and change, we have adopted new technology to provide the best in conservation to our cooperators.

---

### **Function of the EASTERN KLICKITAT 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**

- Landowners, users of natural resources, individuals & organizations interested in natural resource issues within EKCD.
- EKCD has a legal responsibility under 89.08
- We are the most effective conduit and buffer for federal and state programs to the local level
- We are the most effective agency to help people achieve their resource conservation goals

---

### **Mission of the EASTERN KLICKITAT Conservation District**

The mission of the Eastern Klickitat Conservation District is to improve, conserve, and promote the wise use of natural resources by providing technical, financial, educational, and research assistance for landowners, users of natural resources, individuals & organizations interested in natural resource issues within EKCD.

---

### **Vision of the EASTERN KLICKITAT Conservation District**

- By 2015 EKCD will have established a reliable, stable source of income
- By January 2015 livestock grazing in Lower Rock Creek Basin will be improved
- By 2015 EKCD will be in a building of our own along with partners
- By Jan 2015 the Eastern Klickitat CD will have provided the opportunity for land owners, visitors, and operators to visit our office and learn more of what we do
- By 2018 EKCD will be on equal footing with EPA on water quality and land use issues – Conservation districts have a better insight for local concerns than bureaucracies located somewhere else
- Promote better more efficient agricultural practices including precision ag
- Promote wildlife habitat by encouraging habitat improvements through cost share programs

---

### **Values of the EASTERN KLICKITAT Conservation District**

We believe in:

- Grass roots conservation efforts
- Wise use of natural resources
- Cooperative, incentive based programs
- Assisting landowners in being proactive with natural resource issues

- Helping landowners comply with regulatory conservation efforts
- Partnership agreements with governmental agencies
- Good conservation
- Treating everyone equitably and in a positive manner
- Being frugal with funds
- Not being intrusive on private land rights
- Successful and beneficial projects
- Saying what we are going to do - and doing what we say
- Informing people so they understand landowner commitments and the CD obligations to conservation efforts
- Use of natural resources wisely for a living and income
- Locally led conservation
- Not a being a regulatory agency – nor do we intend to be

### **Natural Resource Data & Information:**

- **Land Use in the Rock/Glade Basin:**
- Agriculture     40%
- Urban            2%
- Water            4%
- Forest           5%
- Range            49%

Yearly rainfall averages 8 inches. The landscape is composed of layer upon layer of basalt, and remnants of the Pleistocene lake basins. The typical soils are deep gravelly loam to silty loam. Potential natural vegetation is big sagebrush, bitterbrush, bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue. (WA Water Quality Management Plan Vol 1)

- **Critical Geographic Areas: (attached map)**
- Rock Creek watershed
- Eastern edge of EKCD – low rainfall 8” and under area
- Alder Creek watershed
- Pine Creek watershed

### **Trends Impacting Conservation in Eastern Klickitat Conservation District:**

- Smaller tracts of land – people moving to rural areas
- Lack of understanding of what the conservation district can do for Eastern landowners
- Fewer active farmers (full time)
- Emphasis on Rock Creek water quality and salmonid habitat - TMDL and STI process
- More landowners moving toward federal funding rather than conservation district programs -not wanting to lose our relevancy
- Change to no-till from summer fallow
- Change in attitudes from commodity payments to conservation payments
- Shift towards sub-basin planning, outside forces that the conservation districts have no control over
- Legislation proposed in state to reduce the penalties on open-space removal causing larger tracts to be broken into smaller tracts
- Project opportunities are decreasing due more to lack of communication rather than lack of projects
- Increased competition for funding sources

## **Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:**

- Pressure from land sales and developers – loss of grazing and farmland
  - Water quality issues – elevated temperature in Rock Creek – and Ecology and Tribal influences
  - Wind energy wildlife mitigation
  - Producers adopting new technologies
  - Potential for habitat projects in all watersheds
- 

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

- Farmland Preservation – purchase of development rights or conservation easements to keep farms intact
  - Priority Area: Rock Creek watershed
  - Measure of Success: District holds at least 1 contract for development rights or conservation easement
- Water Quality and Salmonids Recovery (stream bank restoration)
  - Priority Area: Rock Creek watershed
  - Measure of Success: Development of a Rock Creek watershed STI plan, in collaboration with the Rock Creek coordinated resource management (CRM) group. Implementation of the plan treatments on 10% of the watershed area. District will evaluate and prioritize other watersheds for watershed planning and implementation activities.
- Wind Erosion (including CRP ground coming out)
  - Priority Area: Glade – below 8” rainfall area
  - Measure of Success: Land managers will have practices in place to control wind erosion on cropland to prevent transportation hazards and events exceeding air quality standards.
- Range and Forest Management
  - Priority Area: Upper Pine Creek, Wood Gulch and Rock Creek watersheds
  - Measure of Success: 50% of the grazing and forest lands will be managed under a conservation plan.
- Animal Feeding Operations and Confined Animal Feeding Operations
  - Priority Area: Wherever livestock are grazed and fed
  - Measure of Success: Provide information to all livestock operations in EKCD regarding AFO/CAFO regulations leading to working with livestock organizations and individual cattlemen in the county for implementation strategies. CD staff to assist livestock operators with their nutrient management plan as required.
- Noxious Weeds Management
  - Priority Area: WRIA 31
  - Measure of Success: Reduce noxious weeds in CRP lands by 90% and management plans implemented to maintain noxious weeds reduction.

Currently in Eastern Klickitat CD we are doing several things to promote conservation. We have a few streams on the 303(d) list for which we are seeking improvement projects. The conversion to no-till and direct seed farming is rapidly expanding in the district. EKCD cost shares for the planting of permanent cover (native grasses) after a crop/fallow rotation. EKCD has a cost share policy for the purchase of precision ag equipment. In an effort to promote wildlife in the District EKCD has developed a cost share policy for the implementation of wildlife habitat BMPs. Rock Creek has a coordinated resource management (CRM) group working toward a management plan for the Rock Creek watershed. This effort by local landowners with the cooperation of EKCD and NRCS will be beneficial as Dept of Ecology works toward a Management Plan in WRIA 31. We anticipate active participation once the management plan is finalized. EKCD will play a major role in implementing projects on Rock Creek and other watersheds in the District at that time.

---

**Information – Education & District Operations Priorities, Measures of Success, and Goals:**

- Reach EKCD population with information about services available through EKCD
  - Measure of Success: Distribution of a semiannual newsletter to 80% of EKCD population. Annual District meetings to present information to residents.
  - Goal: By Jan 2015, 100% of land managers will have understanding of NRCS and District programs sufficient to implement practices and be eligible for participation.
- District Operations – Acquire District-owned office space or negotiate reasonable rental rates to maintain current location. Talk with agency partners to determine who can move with us, identify potential location, research funding options and get creative with space usage. Talk with County Commissioners about a building housing all agriculture related agencies.
- District Operations – full quorums at every board meeting.
- District Operations – stable funding and fully staffed for workload
- District Operations – Maintain existing MOA’s in place and develop new MOA’s as needed with partner agencies. Be proactive in communicating with government agencies.

**Land Manager Needs**

- Opportunity for sale of conservation easements
- Cost share assistance for conservation practices
- Cost share assistance for water quality implementation practices
- Technical assistance for conservation practices
- Liaison between landowners and federal and state agencies
- 

**Milestones, Timeline & Actions**

**Priority:** Farmland Preservation

**Measurable Goal:** Purchase of development rights or conservation easements to keep farms intact.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Hold at least one contract for development rights or conservation easement	<b>2013-2018</b>	Continue discussions with Roscoe Imrie on purchase of conservation easements on Rock Creek and development rights on the balance of the ranch through WWRP. Prepare applications through SRFB and WWRP with assistance from OFF.

**Priority:** Water Quality and Salmonids Recovery (stream bank restoration)

**Measurable Goal:** Development of a Rock Creek watershed STI plan, in collaboration with the Rock Creek coordinated resource management (CRM) group. Complete implementation of the plan treatments on 10% of the watershed area.

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>12 Month Actions</b>
Assist Rock Creek group in locating funding for planning and implementation		Attend Rock Creek workgroup meetings to represent EKCD.
Assist landowners in identifying projects in the Rock Creek watershed		Advertise cost-share opportunities to eligible producers.
Perform Rock Creek watershed assessment with SRFB funding		Field work, mapping, reporting of results

**Priority:** Water Quality and Salmonids Recovery (stream bank restoration)

**Measurable Goal:** Evaluate and prioritize other watersheds for watershed planning and implementation activities. Work with WRIA 31 Planning Unit for prioritization and evaluation funding and assistance.

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>12 Month Actions</b>
Collect existing watershed data	2013-2014	Complete the Scope of Work for SRFB grant #11-1344 regarding the literature review.
Select priority watershed in cooperation with WRIA 31 Planning Unit	2013-2018	Attend WRIA 31 meetings
Develop management plan in conjunction with WRIA 31 Planning Unit		
Monitoring	2013-2018	Continue monitoring schedule, update QAPP as needed

**Priority:** Range and Forest Management

**Measurable Goal:** 50% of the grazing and forest lands located in the upper Pine Creek, Wood Gulch and Rock Creek watersheds will be managed under a conservation plan.

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>12 Month Actions</b>
Speakers at Annual meetings that address grazing and forest practices	2013-2018	Identify speaker and invite to annual meeting.
Identify and target relevant land managers	2015	Develop a parcel map and mailing list of relevant land managers.
Hold workshops that focus individually on grazing and forestry management	2015	Plan and advertise a workshop that will focus on grazing and forestry management.
Conservation Plan development	2016	Refer relevant land managers to NRCS for conservation plan development.

**Priority:** Wind Erosion (including CRP ground coming out)

**Measurable Goal:** Land managers will have practices in place to control wind erosion on cropland to prevent transportation hazards and events exceeding air quality standards.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Obtain air quality data		Contact Ecology and Benton CD for air quality data
Identify land owners in the affected area		Develop a parcel map and mailing list of affected landownership.
Team up with Benton CD on information-education activities		Contact Benton CD re. available educational information. Develop an educational mailing for landowners in the affected area.
Utilize cost share to help producers access precision ag equipment		Advertise cost-share opportunities to eligible producers.

**Priority:** Animal Feeding Operations and Confined Animal Feeding Operations

**Measurable Goal:** Provide information to all livestock operations in EKCD regarding AFO/CAFO regulations leading to working with livestock organizations and individual cattlemen in the county for implementation strategies.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Educate CD personnel in AFO/CAFO program activities	2013-2018	Review NRCS training material
Do on-site visits as requested by the land managers	Ongoing	Conduct field visits as requested by land managers, with NRCS.
Hold educational event at annual meeting	2014	Identify speaker and invite to annual meeting.

**Priority:** Noxious Weeds Management

**Measurable Goal:** Reduce noxious weeds in CRP lands by 90% and management plans implemented to maintain noxious weeds reduction.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Invite County Weed Supervisor to board meetings	2014-2015	Invite County Weed Supervisor to board meetings.
County Weed Supervisor speak at Annual meeting on weed control measure	2014-2018	Invite County Weed Supervisor to speak at annual meetings.
Reminders of noxious weeds, with measures for control in district	2014	Write article for District newsletter on noxious weeds each year.

newsletter		
------------	--	--

**Priority:** Conservation Education

**Measurable Goal:** Reach 80% of EKCD population with information about services available through EKCD. Provide 100% of land managers with an understanding of NRCS and District programs sufficient to implement practices and be eligible for participation.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Identify land managers	Ongoing	Develop mailing list of EKCD land managers.
Hold Public meetings, Informational mailings possibly using FSA listings to educate land managers on EQIP and other programs.	2014	Host annual meeting and develop an informational mailing for distribution.

Priority: District Operations

Measurable Goal: Acquire our own building, full quorums at every meeting, stable funding, fully staffed for workload.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Talk with partners about potential of moving offices	2013-2014	Negotiate CWP with NRCS regarding need to begin to pay rent – contract due date July 1, 2014
Locate potential real estate	2013-2014	Investigate the potential to vacate the present location
Investigate funding sources through economic development, County resources		
Identify floor plan and secure funding		

---

### Staffing Needs

- District Manager
  - Administrative Assistant
  - Technical Position #1 – water quality
  - Engineer
  - Engineer Assistant
  - Technical Position #2 – generalist
  - Information – Education (part time or include in Tech position #2 or Admin Ass't)
-

## Annual Budget Needs

Admin Supplies	\$750
Fuel	\$
Professional Svcs	\$70,000
Communications	\$750
Travel Expenses	\$1,500
Election Advert	\$400
Rentals	
Insurance	\$2,600
Dues & Registration	\$4,000
Equip Purchase	\$900
Contracted Services	\$85,500
General Supplies	\$1,500
Gen'l Ops Goods for Sale	\$12,000
Travel	\$1,500
General Advert	\$200
Cost Share/Projects	\$8,150
Cost Share	\$50,000

\$239,750

### TOTAL EXPENSES:

---

## Key Decision Makers

- Governor
- President
- Each Supervisor
- Committees of state legislature
- WSCC
- County Commissioners
- Each state and federal legislator
- Agencies we work with – local, state, federal
- WACD
- Presidents and Executive Directors of commodity organizations

---

## Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

