



## 5-Year Plan (2015 to 2020) Lincoln County Conservation District

Contact: Lea Shields, (509)725-4181 ext. 116, lshields@conserve



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### Organization of the Lincoln County Conservation District

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

- We are a non-regulatory organization who offers conservation resources water, soil, livestock, energy, and natural resource assistance to landowners in Lincoln County.

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### Function of the Lincoln County 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 respect to conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

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### We Serve & Why

- **Citizens of Lincoln County** – The needs of our constituents are of utmost priority. We have a responsibility to educate and assist patrons/land owners protect and enhance the natural resource base in the county and beyond as well as a purpose, authorization and passion to serve.
- **Future Generations** – Lincoln County will be home to people for many years to come. It is our goal to conserve, protect, and enhance natural resources today so they are available to future generations.
- **Visitors and People throughout the World** – Soils, water, air, plants, animals, and humans do not stop at our boundaries. People come to our county to recreate and the quality of life including water, air, and related natural resources should not be degraded in Lincoln County.

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### Mission of the Lincoln County Conservation District

- To help citizens of Lincoln County protect, conserve, and enhance our natural resources.

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### Vision of the Lincoln County Conservation District

- It is our intent to conserve and enhance Lincoln County's natural resource base. We believe conservation programs shall be economically feasible and socially acceptable. It is our intent to promote an integrated management philosophy of education, research, and application to protect and enhance the quality of the natural and human environment.

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### Values of the Lincoln County Conservation District

- We value and strive to provide honesty, integrity, compassion, and fairness in all we do
- We believe conservation programs shall be economically feasible and socially acceptable
- We value conserving, protecting, and enhancing our natural resources for current and future generations
- We value helping the general public we serve with their natural resource issues and concerns
- We value being financially responsible
- We value local leadership and volunteerism

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### Natural Resource Data & Information:

- The West Palouse Local Work Group provides input in NRCS. The LWG reviews natural resource data, identifies natural resource priorities by land use and resource concerns, priority treatment watershed, conservation practices, and systems to treat resource concerns, treatment areas by land use and resource concern, ranking questions and funding pools for Farm Bill Programs.

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### Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:

- The cost and availability of personnel to address the need
- Who pays the bill for the need?
- Locally desired and needed

- Available funding sources to address the issue (local, state, federal, and/or private)
- Most cost effective
- Time required to accomplish
- Number of district residents affected
- Acres treated and area of the district positively impacted
- Socially acceptable
- Economically feasible
- Feasibility of addressing the need
- Resource sustainability
- Amount of rainfall, soil type, and frost zone of the area

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

<b>Priority Natural Resource Conservation Need</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Measures of Success</b>	<b>Goals</b>
Soil Health and protection (erosion, water loss, frozen soils)	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres in conservation systems</li> <li>• Soil erosion reduced</li> <li>• Soil health measurements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By February 2020, 100 conservation plans developed and implemented</li> <li>• By February 2020, have assisted 100 producers with soil health measurements and practices</li> </ul>
Water resources (irrigation, water supply, water storage)	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of projects, related plans, acres and impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By February 2020, have completed 5 water storage, 5 water supply, and 10 irrigation projects</li> </ul>
Water quality (livestock, septic systems, nutrients, pesticides, and other pollution sources)	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality measurements as related to the standards</li> <li>• Number of projects, related plans, acres and impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By February 2020, have educated 500 people on water quality</li> <li>• By February 2020, have completed 25 water quality improvement projects</li> </ul>
Forestry and grazing lands	Forest lands & grazing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of projects, related plans, acres and impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By February 2020, have 500 acres of conservation treated areas</li> </ul>
Wildlife habitat (ESA, other)	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of projects, related plans, acres and impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By February 2020, have 25 projects completed for wildlife habitat enhancements</li> </ul>
Energy (renewable, wind, solar, efficiencies, other)	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of projects completed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By February 2020, have 5 energy conservation projects completed</li> </ul>
Loss of private land	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of acres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By February 2020, reduce the loss of private lands</li> </ul>
Conservation & continuing education	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of people reached and related impact from events and activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By February 2020, have increased the number of people reached with events and activities by 20%</li> </ul>

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

Priority	Measures of success	Goals
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water conservation</li> <li>• Conservation Practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By February 2016, have developed a water conservation program for city residents</li> <li>• By February 2017, have developed a conservation cost share program</li> </ul>
District operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial condition</li> <li>• Deliverables above</li> <li>• Stable staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By February 2020, have completed deliverables while maintaining sound financial condition and stable staffing</li> </ul>

### Land Manager Needs

- Conservation planning assistance and access to planning tools
- Education and information of conservation systems that get results and programs available
- Technical assistance
- Have their voice heard at local, state, and federal level
- Program support
- Adequate cost share or grants for operators and land owners
- Computer accessibility for research, programs, planning, and information
- Advocacy group to be a buffer between regulators and clients
- Mentor farmer program and ways to exchange ideas
- Recycling programs for items hard to dispose of
- Assistance with natural disasters and recovery
- Economic and marketing information and research

### Milestones, Timeline & Actions

**Priority:** Soil health & protection

**Measurable Goal:**

- By February 2020, 100 conservation plans developed and implemented
- By February 2020, have assisted 100 producers with soil health measurements and practices

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Develop & implement information education program including growers meetings, newsletters, seminars, website, tour, field days to demonstrate	By Feb 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host a stakeholders planning session</li> <li>• Communication strategy developed</li> </ul>
Cost share completed on 10 projects per year	Each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include direct seed program</li> </ul>
Baseline soil health on 25 Farms	By Feb 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase a soil quality test</li> <li>• Hold field demonstration for developing baseline</li> </ul>
Increase weather stations established and/or capacity including soil temperature, and share the data with producers	By Feb 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic distribution of data</li> <li>• Install weather station</li> </ul>
Have established a working linkage with fertilizer companies to provide soil health technical assistance	By Feb 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication strategy developed</li> </ul>

and promotion		
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**Priority:** Water resources (irrigation, livestock water, water supply, water storage)

**Measurable Goal:**

- By February 2020, have completed 5 water storage, 5 water supply, and 10 irrigation projects completed

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Identify feasible projects in each category and related funding source	Each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a tracking system</li> </ul>
Implement a finalized plan for passive rehydration leading to the build-out to increase water availability (irrigation, wells, other)	By Feb 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify partners to work with in implementation of the project...meeting, communicating and planning</li> </ul>

**Priority:** Water quality (livestock, septic systems, nutrients, pesticides, and other pollution sources)

**Measurable Goal:**

- By February 2020, have educated 500 people on water quality
- By February 2020, have completed 25 water quality improvement projects

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Develop and implement a septic system program	By Feb 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholders meeting for sensing need</li> <li>• Identify funding sources</li> <li>• Work with Lincoln County Health</li> </ul>
Identify and hold informational meetings on water quality	yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet, communicate, and plan with community members</li> </ul>
Projects identified and implemented	yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to develop timeline for projects</li> </ul>
Develop & implement a water quality monitoring program with producers	By Feb 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find projects and funding for water quality programs</li> </ul>

**Priority:** Forestry and grazing lands

**Measurable Goal:**

- By 2020, have 500 acres of conservation treated areas

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Establish a forestry services program with a neighboring district	By Feb 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact neighboring district to establish program</li> </ul>
Establish a demonstration project for grazing practices and management	By Feb 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet with 5-star group to identify a potential ranching operation</li> </ul>

**Priority:** Wildlife habitat (ESA, other)

**Measurable Goal:**

- By February 2020, have 25 projects completed for wildlife habitat enhancements

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Wolf awareness program for Lincoln County	By Sep 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact potential partners and stakeholders</li> </ul>
Implement a sage grouse	By Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a brochure to promote awareness</li> </ul>

habitat awareness program	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners to develop focus areas for best management practices installations</li> </ul>
Continue tree sales	yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold an tree, shrub, plant sale</li> </ul>

**Priority:** Energy (renewable, wind, solar, efficiencies, other)

**Measurable Goal:**

- By February 2020, have 5 energy conservation projects completed

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Identify and implement feasible projects	By Feb 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with producers and parents to find projects and funding</li> </ul>

**Priority:** Loss of private lands

**Measurable Goal:**

- By February 2020, reduce the loss of private lands

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Establish baseline data for private lands	By Feb 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist producers in establishing a baseline</li> </ul>

**Priority:** Conservation and continuing education

**Measurable Goal:**

- By February 2020, have increased by 20% the number of people reached with events and activities

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Educational opportunities identified and plan based on audience, messaging, and media needed	By Feb 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase electronic and social media</li> <li>• Look for systems for education opportunities</li> </ul>
Identify and implement new ways to share district accomplishments to key audiences	yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employee training of new marketing trends</li> <li>• Test new marketing techniques</li> </ul>
Voluntary Stewardship Program	By 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate, develop, and implement</li> </ul>

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

