



5-Year Plan (2015 to 2020) Ferry Conservation District

For More Information Contact: **Lloyd Odell, (509)775-3473**
lloyd.odell@conserveva.net



Organization of the Ferry Conservation District

A public subdivision of the State of Washington - authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08. Ferry Conservation District began in 1947 as the Curlew Conservation District. After, it consolidated with South Ferry to form the Ferry Conservation District.

▪ **Natural Resources Inventory:**

Total Private Lands	298,340 acres
Federal Lands	493,152 acres
State Lands	29,735 acres
County Lands	7,982 acres
Tribal and Allotted lands	605,759 acres
Total Land in District	1,434,878 acres

Private Land Break Down:

Timber	132,448 acres
Range	128,000 acres
Cropland	30,000 acres
Roads and towns	7,892 acres
Total Private Land	298,340 acres

Source: Ferry County Planning Commission

Function of the Ferry 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

- **Ferry Conservation District serves landowners and citizens to protect, enhance, and utilize local natural resources for the benefit of the local economy and quality of life.**

Mission of the Ferry Conservation District

- **The Mission of the FCD is to safeguard the rural lifestyle and sustainable use of natural resources of Ferry County for present and future landowners, residents, and visitors by offering technical and financial assistance, outreach, and education through partnerships.**

Vision of the Ferry Conservation District

- **To be the lead entity for the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)**
- **To have a stronger communications plan resulting in raised awareness and lower public suspicion of the conservation district and what we can do for landowners**
- **To increase stable funding through strong partnerships with funding agencies to address**
 - **Forest health**
 - **Firewise practices**
 - **Water quality in Curlew Lake as well as both Kettle and Sanpoil rivers**
 - **Groundwater quality monitoring in partnership with mining companies**
 - **Public education including:**
 - **an extensive outreach/education program in partnership with schools**
 - **developing properties for public education purposes**
 - **owning and operating a Wetlands Educational Center in partnership with Universities**
- **To address the issue of purchasing water rights in Ferry County**
- **To explore the hiring or contracting of a “burn boss”**

- *To create better partnerships with the county jail or state prison system to assist in working on conservation practices*
 - *To investigate the development of a portable biomass facility for slash*
-

Values of the Ferry Conservation District

- *We are a locally led public agency that cooperates, educates, partners, and coordinates with good administration and without regulatory authority.*
 - *We are a non-partisan, impartial, and diverse board bringing people together.*
 - *We strive to maintain the natural beauty and quality of life by helping landowners care for their land through voluntary conservation programs.*
 - *We pass-on the conservation values of farming, ranching, mining, and forestry.*
 - *We believe natural resources are the main economic driver/tradition of conservation minded folks*
 - *We work to achieve clean and healthy lakes and streams.*
 - *Ferry County is a great place to live and grow and raise a family.*
 - *We work to support sustainable recreation.*
 - *Ferry County residents are a rural population that has not depleted natural resources.*
-

Natural Resource Data & Information:

- **EPA water quality assessment**
Washington's Water Quality Assessment lists the water quality status for water bodies in the state. This assessment meets the federal requirements for an integrated report under Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Clean Water Act. The assessed waters are grouped into categories that describe the status of water quality. The 303(d) list comprises those waters that are in the polluted water category, for which beneficial uses— such as drinking, recreation, aquatic habitat, and industrial use – are impaired by pollution.
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/currentassessmt.html>
 - **Northeast Washington Local Work Group: Session notes 2015**
Ferry, Stevens and Pend d'Oreille Counties make up the Northeast Washington Local Work Group, which is a group of natural resource conservation agencies, organizations, and landowners who determine the resource concerns in the area.
<http://www.ferrycd.org/?page>
 - **NRCS: Priority resource concerns**
Local work group resource assessments provided a baseline of information that assisted in determining and ranking the statewide resource concerns.
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wa/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcs144p2_036280
-

Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:

- *We combine partner agency natural resource data with our own as well as a sense of local needs and values reflected elsewhere in this plan to develop the priorities of the Ferry Conservation District..*
-

Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Geographic Areas, Measures of Success, Goals, Milestones, Timeline & Actions:

1. Critical Areas Associated with Agricultural Lands

Priority Geographic Area: Critical areas associated with agricultural lands

Goals:

By 2018, the FCD will have received lead entity status from Ferry County for the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) and will have completed the required plan.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Meet with County Commissioners to seek lead entity status	ASAP	
If Lead entity status granted by Ferry County, begin coordinating VSP Plan		
If Lead Entity status is <i>not</i> granted by Ferry County, participate actively in development of VSP plan		

By 2019, the FCD will begin implementation of the Ferry County VSP plan.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Using the VSP data, design action plan to meet county's needs.	December, 2017	
Secure funding sources for needed work.	June 2018	
Implement work as needed.	December 2019	

2. Forest Health/Fuels Reduction

Priority Geographic Area: All private land adjacent to Federal land, and the Wild land-Urban Interface (WUI).

Goals:

By 2018, the FCD will work with partners to assist 20 landowners in developing forest stewardship plans.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Develop forest stewardship plans		6 plans developed
Develop forest stewardship plans	FY 2017	7 plans developed
Develop forest stewardship plans	FY 2018	7 plans developed

By 2016, the FCD will explore the feasibility of bringing portable bio-fuel/chipping machines to the district for use by landowners.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Research availability and cost of machines	September 2015	
Search for partners and funding sources	September 2015	
Decide on feasibility	January 2016	

Build a proposal for program	March 2016	
------------------------------	------------	--

By 2016, the FCD will continue to work with partners to deliver forest health, defensible space, and fire education via multiple methods of delivery.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Identify and communicate with landowners, communities and community groups		June 2015 at latest
Continue working with partners	Ongoing	
Community Outreach via multiple media sources (website, newspaper, etc)	Ongoing	
Sign up one more Firewise community	November 2016	See Milestones Above

By 2016, the FCD will work more closely with state and federal landowners/agencies regarding forest health issues – especially in WUI areas.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Work with County to update CWPP	July 2015	
Bring together agencies/partners to discuss opportunities to partner	ASAP	

By 2016, the FCD will develop district fire/disaster training and preparation policy and procedures.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Contact other districts to identify work already done	ASAP	
Stay connected to the Districts & Disasters Work Group	Ongoing	
Coordinate with Ferry County disaster management	ASAP	
Develop <u>draft</u> policies and procedures	June 2015 at latest	
Finalize and implement policy and procedures/training	April 2016	See above

3. Water

A. Water Quality

Priority Geographic Areas: Kettle River; Curlew Lake; Deadman Creek, Sanpoil River

Goals:

By 2017, the FCD will assess water quality and clean-up needs of Deadman Creek.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Assess water quality needs	June 2016	Perform assessment as called for in ECY grant.
Locate cooperators and implement BMPs as needed	December 2019	None

By 2019, the FCD will assess water quality and clean-up needs of Curlew Lake and Curlew Creek and begin implementation of water quality BMPs.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Assess water quality needs	June 2016	Perform assessment as called for in ECY grant.
Lake surface water elevations will change seasonally to historic mid-summer levels	2019	Investigate causes and propose solutions
Reduce phosphorus levels below levels considered pollution by Washington State	2019	Investigate sources of phosphorus pollution
Locate cooperators and implement BMPs as needed	December 2019	None

By 2017, the FCD, in cooperation with the Colville Confederated Tribes will have completed the riparian fencing of the Sanpoil River.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Complete work agreement with CCT	June 2015	
Complete fence work	October 2015	
Identify and install 3 alternative watering sites for livestock	December 2016	Identify sites and begin installation where possible

By 2016, the FCD will have assessed water quality and clean-up needs of the Sanpoil watershed (WRIA 52) and implemented BMPs where needed.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Install .5 mile of fence on Bridge Creek	September, 2015	
Complete Sanpoil Riparian Fence Project.	March, 2016	
Complete 1 mile riparian restoration and fence on Sanpoil.	March, 2016	
Finish riparian condition assessment on Sanpoil River	June, 2016	

By 2020, the FCD will have contacted potential partners (WSU, EWU, U-W, LCSC, Stone Rose, WSCC) for an Earth Studies program on Roberta Lake.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Identify and contact potential partners	December 2016	None
Identify and contact potential users	December 2016	None
Coordinate plans with potential partners	December 2018	None
Identify/Seek funding	December 2018	None
Implement plan	June 2020	None

B. Water Quantity

Geographic Priority Area: Kettle River WRIA 60, Sanpoil River WRIA 52

Goals:

By 2017, the FCD will have worked with Stevens County CD to develop an educational program on the importance of keeping water rights in Ferry County.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Explore water banking processes for keeping active water rights in county	August, 2015	Work with County Commissioners to re-institute a local water conservancy board
Develop education materials and workshops.	March, 2016	Do a "water 101" workshop for local citizens.
Use all available media to spread message	June, 2016	Write resolution to the NE Area and WACD related to this issue.
Seek funding to help water users keep water rights local.	Ongoing	

4. Riparian Restoration/Waterway Health/Streambank & Shoreline Stabilization
Geographic Priority Areas: *Curlew Lake; Curlew Creek; Sanpoil River; Kettle River*
Goals:

By 2017, the FCD will have restored 2 miles of riparian area on the Sanpoil River.

See activities for the Goal: “By 2016, the FCD will have assessed water quality and clean-up needs of the Sanpoil watershed (WRIA 52) and implemented BMPs where needed.”

By 2019, the FCD will have begun restoration of Curlew Creek at the confluence with Curlew Lake.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Biological Assessment of Curlew Creek	2017	Locate expertise to perform assessment
Determine Community Needs	2017	Begin to survey community
Seek permits, funding	2018	N/A
Implement project	2019 or sooner	N/A

By 2019, the FCD will have completed 1.5 miles of riparian restoration in the Kettle River watershed.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Provide technical assistance for Cainelli Riparian Restoration	November, 2015	
Complete Fitzpatrick Riparian Restoration Project	June, 2016	
Explore additional projects	ongoing	

5. Air Quality related to wood and slash burning

Priority Geographic Areas: *Republic; Curlew; Inchelium; Orient; Keller; Danville*

Goals:

By 2016, the FCD will assess air quality issues related to (for example) older wood stoves and slash burning, make recommendations based on results.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Investigate methods of measuring air quality	December 2015	

By 2020, the FCD will develop cost-share programs working with partners on solutions for dealing with results of air quality study.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Partner with Tri-County Health	2016	
Cooperate with Tri-County Health on educational materials	2016	

Work with partners (WSU, DNR, USFS) to develop methodologies for slash disposal	2017	Compile list of potential partners and begin discussions
---	------	--

6. Soil Erosion

Priority Geographic Areas: Curlew Lake; Curlew Creek; Trout Creek; Deadman Creek; Sanpoil River; road snow/stormwater runoff

Goals:

By 2020, the FCD will provide cost-share to 20 landowners along the Curlew Creek, Trout Creek, and Deadman Creek for wildflowers, grasses, or other plant materials, or other practices to address erosion control.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Determine funding sources; secure funding.	2017	
Recruit cooperators	ongoing	
Distribute seed/oversee planting/implement projects	2017 - 2020	N/A

By 2017, the FCD will develop an educational program on the damaging impact on shorelines from boaters and other lake users.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Partner with Curlew Lake Association	Ongoing	
Develop/implement comprehensive education plan.	2016	
Offer cost-share assistance to those most adversely affected.	2017-2020	n/a depending on funding

Also see the goals under priority 3 (Riparian Restoration/Waterway Health/Streambank & Shoreline Stabilization).

7. ESA Species

Priority Geographic Area(s): TBD based on study/assessment referenced below

Goals:

By 2016, the FCD will assess threatened and endangered species information and make recommendations based on results.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Review County Comprehensive Land-Use Plan sections on endangered species.	December, 2015	

By 2018, the FCD will develop cost-share programs working with partners on voluntary solutions for dealing with results of the threatened and endangered species assessment.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Incorporate ESA species protection into project evaluation matrix.	June, 2016	

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

- Locate a sustainable source of funds independent of grants
- Build on the Conservation Fair to increase public education
- Gather existing or create and publish pamphlets to help inform the public about district programs
- Continue Conservation Corner newspaper articles
- Continue to upgrade FCD website to make it the “go-to” resource for Ferry County Resource Issues
- Increase the number of workshops
- Revise and publish Rural Living Handbook

Land Manager Needs

- *FCD District supervisors and staff identify the following needs for products and services*
 - *Trained and technically proficient conservation district staff*
 - *Consistent and accurate information on natural resource rules and regulations*
 - *Options for conservation programs that can be customized to meet their needs while providing adequate protections to natural resources*
 - *Cost-share funds to offset costs to implement highest priority practices*
 - *A viable source of funding for the conservation district to serve landowners*

District Operations Priorities, Goals:

- *Annually complete staff reviews during the 4th quarter each calendar year.*
- *Update the Board of County Commissioners on district activities at least annually.*
- *By the end of 2016, conduct one or more board and staff team building activities.*
- *By the end of 2016, develop supervisor and employee training plans for initial and continuing education.*
- *By the end of 2015, develop an annual meeting event in cooperation with another agency or organization.*
- *Continue to improve operations related to accounting, grant vouchering, personnel management, supervisor elections and appointments, and annual reporting.*
- *By the end of 2015, continue to develop and implement cooperative projects with Okanogan CD, Stevens County CD, and Colville Confederated Tribes.*
- *By the end of 2015, implement disaster recovery plans and procedures to include protection of key files and records.*
- *Continue to work toward increasing operational budget as feasible.*

Staffing Needs

- *One fte District Manager to oversee, facilitate and coordinate District operations*
- *One fte Financial Administrator*
- *One fte Natural Resource Specialist to conduct the District's technical programs*
- *One .5 fte Education Coordinator to develop outreach programs.*
- *One .5fte Funding Source Coordinator/Grant Writer*
- *One .5 fte Technical Assistant to develop and maintain District properties*

Annual Budget Needs

- *The annual operating budget will need to increase each year by 10% as follows:*
 - *FY 2016 Budget Total \$423,500*
 - *FY 2017 Budget Total \$465,850*
 - *FY 2018 Budget Total \$512,700*

- FY 2019 Budget Total \$563,970
- FY 2020 Budget Total \$620,367

Key Decision Makers

- Citizens of Ferry County
- Board of Supervisors and staff
- Ferry County Commissioners
- NRCS Management Team
- NE Area Association /WACD
- WSU Ferry County Extension Office
- Conservation Commission
- Curlew Lake State Park Ranger
- Curlew Job Corps Center
- Curlew Lake Association
- School Districts
- Kettle River Advisory Board
- Conservation Northwest
- Kinross Gold
- Ferry County and WA State Cattleman's Association
- Agricultural leaders
- 4-H
- Bordering conservation districts
- Colville Tribal Resource Managers
- State legislators and Governor
- Ranger District - USFS
- Weed Board
- Department of Ecology
- WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
- Dept. of Natural Resources
- Department of Agriculture
- Wildlife Organizations
- Upper Columbia RC&D
- NE WA Forestry Coalition
- Chamber of Commerce
- Washington Farm Forestry Association
- Okanogan Land Trust
- Stonerose
- Recreation and Conservation Office
- Congresswoman McMorris-Rodgers
- Senator Murray
- Senator Cantwell
- Ferry PUD
- Ferry County Rail Trail Partners
- Others as needed

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

