



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

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### **Organization of the Grant County Conservation District**

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

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### **Function of the Grant County Conservation District**

To take 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.

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### **We Serve & Why**

The Grant County CD serves all of Grant County and the Panhandle of Adams County. The District's focus is to conserve the natural resources

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### **Mission of the Grant County Conservation District**

The mission of the Grant County Conservation District is to address local natural resource conservation issues by promoting local working solutions through educating and serving Grant County CD land occupiers in the voluntary implementation of projects, practices, systems, and research.

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### **Vision of the Grant County Conservation District**

The vision of the Grant County Conservation District is to work with local producers and agencies to enhance the local resources and offer assistance, technical support and funding to implement voluntary projects, practices, education, systems and research.

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### **Values of the Grant County Conservation District**

- Local control and self-governance.
- Conservation of natural resources for future users.
- Beneficial use of all natural resources.
- Economic viability and sustainability of agriculture within the District.
- Education on the impact everyone has on natural resources.
- Accountability to our constituents and transparency of our workings.
- Support us being non-regulatory and being partners with land owners and a liaison with other organizations.
- Cooperation with land occupiers and partners.
- Trust, honesty, respect, reliability, measurable and effective results.
- Knowledgeable technical staff.
- Voluntary implementation of conservation practices.
- Provide representation for the entire district on all natural resources.

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

Grant County Conservation District covers all of Grant County and the Panhandle of Adams County to Highway 395. Grant and Adams Counties have a wide variety of agricultural and livestock within its boundaries. With the diverse crops grown and many livestock facilities water savings is one priority along with soil erosion.

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

- Land occupiers would approve the BMPs.
  - Must meet conservation resource priorities as established by the District.
  - Solve a high priority issue to an economically feasible level.
  - Must address the mission of the District.
  - Solutions to issues must be economically viable.
  - Would have a long term benefit.
  - Must preserve, enhance and protect the natural resource.
  - Is it a service to a significant number of people in the District?
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### **Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Geographic Areas, Measures of Success and Goals:**

- Producer Information, Technical Assistance and Compliance – 15 requests, contacts and related assistance and issues addressed. By January 2018 a demonstrated increase in the number of requests, contacts, and related assistance, and issues addressed.
  - Water Quality – 7 conservation plans developed, 30 practices installed and related benefit, 15 people assisted. By January 2018 a demonstrated increase in conservation plans developed, practices installed and related water quality benefit, and number of people assisted.
  - Livestock – 2 conservation plans developed, 5 conservation plans updated, 10 practices installed and related benefit and 15 people assisted. By January 2018 a demonstrated increase in conservation plans developed and updated, practices installed and related water quality benefit, and number of people assisted.
  - Irrigation Technology – 150,000 acres participating in IWM that conform to IWM plan and changes in irrigation practices and related water application efficiencies. By January 2018 a demonstrated increase in the number of energy assessments and audits and related change in energy use, and conservation plans developed and implemented.
  - Small Farms – 5 technical assistance requests, 10 practices installed and related benefit. By January 2018 a demonstrated increase in the number of technical assistance requests and practices installed and related benefit.
  - Wildlife Habitat – 2 practices installed and related benefit and 8 participate in wildlife habitat programs. By January 2018 a demonstrated increases in practices installed and related benefit and participation in wildlife habitat programs.
  - Energy Efficiencies – 10 energy audits completed and 4 practices installed and related benefits. By January 2020 a demonstrated increases in audits completed and practices installed and related benefit and participation in Energy Efficiencies.
  - Shoreline Management – 3 private landowners wanting a shoreline enhancement project to help protect the shorelines on Moses Lake Lake. By January 2020 have an increase in participation in shoreline restoration to benefit wildlife and soil erosion.
  - Direct Seed – Promote and rent out a 15” Direct Seed drill to irrigated producers. By January 2018 have a demonstration of the District’s Direct Seed Drill and the benefits of less soil erosion and water and using less fertilizer.
  - Soil Health – Promote and educate on Farm Smart and biological farming for health soils.
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### **Information – Education & District Operations Priorities, Measures of Success, and Goals:**

- Water on Wheels – By January 2020, have taught in the 12 school districts within the District boundaries and have taught 300 children.
- Wheat Week – By January 2020, have taught in the 12 school districts within the District boundaries and have taught 200 children.
- Salmon and Trout in the Classroom – By January 2020, have 7 classrooms participate in the education and release of Salmon and Trout.
- Eco-Gardening Symposium – By January 2020, have an annual conference and demonstrate an increase of attendance of 50.

- Othello Sandhill Crane Festival – By January 2020, increase the 1,500 attendance for the annual event and provide education on a variety of wildlife, conservation, agriculture and geology by qualified speakers.
- Soil Conditioning and Composting – 3 workshops, seminars and activities on the reduction of materials going to landfills by January 2020.
- Vacant Lot Assistance – Seek cost share funding and potential vacant lots to participate in using native grasses and shrubs to clean up the looks of the cities. By January 2020, have demonstrated before and after pictures of vacant lots transformed into low maintenance and ascetic looking lots.
- Field Technician – Seek funding and qualified employee to carry out field inspections on the variety of crops in the District.
- Functional District and Stable Funding – Seek local County funding, program and project funding, staffing and funding to match programs and project needs. By January 2017 a demonstrated increase in Local County Funding, program and project funding, staffing and funding to match program and project needs.
- No-Till Drill Rental – By January 2020, 15 rentals to show the benefits of no-till in irrigated agriculture land.
- By January 2020, complete effective and efficient operations including accounting, grant vouchering, personnel management, Supervisor elections and appointments, training and development, annual planning and reporting.

### Land Manager Needs

Technical and financial assistance.

### Milestones, Timeline & Actions:

#### Priority: LIVESTOCK

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Inform livestock producers/managers of possible new regulations & BMPs for staying in compliance (50 operations)	July 2015- June 2017	Farm visits, promotional literature, seminars, workshops, field days, word-of-mouth and other activities.
Work with livestock producers/managers on addressing potential water quality concerns on their farms (25 Operations)	July 2015- June 2020	Technical assistance, information packets, developing and revising farm plans, one-on-one nutrient, cropping and soils consultations.
Implementation of BMPs to benefit water quality, wildlife habitat, farming economy, air quality (30 BMPs)	July 2015- June 2020	Provide TA for implementation, provide project material estimates etc., provide cost share through local funds or grants, help with design TA and/or engineering services.

#### Priority: SMALL FARMS

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Meet & greet as many small farm operations as possible & educate them on new regulations, programs, being pro-	July 2015- June 2017	Tradeshows, workshops, presentations, literature, word-of-mouth, cold call farm visits.

active. Conserving resources. (80 small farms)		
Provide TA & help to small farm managers on addressing potential water quality/soil erosion (SWAPA) concerns on their small farms. (25 operations)	July 2015- June 2020	Technical assistance, informational packets, developing farm plans, revising farm plans, one-on-one nutrient, cropping, and soils consultations, soil services, education.
Implementation of BMPs to benefit water quality, wildlife habitat, pasture management, air quality. (20 BMPs)	July 2015- June 2020	Provide TA for implementation, provide project material estimates etc., provide cost share through local funds or grants, help with design TA and/or engineering services.

### Priority: WATER QUALITY

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Work with producers to address water efficiency techniques. (160,000 acres)	July 2015- June 2020	Farm visits, promotional literature, seminars, workshops, field days, word-of-mouth and other activities.
Work with producers/managers on addressing potential water quality/quantity concerns on their farms (75 Operations)	July 2015- June 2020	Technical assistance, information packets, developing and revising farm plans, one-on-one nutrient, cropping and soils consultations.
Implementation of BMPs to benefit water quality and quantity. (3 BMPs)	July 2015- June 2020	Provide TA for implementation, provide project material estimates etc., provide cost share through local funds or grants, help with design TA and/or engineering services.

### Priority: IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Work with producers to address potential water efficiency techniques. (150,000 acres)	July 2015- June 2020	Farm visits, promotional literature, seminars, workshops, field days, word-of-mouth and other activities.
Work with producers/managers on addressing potential water quality/quantity concerns on their farms (75 Operations)	July 2015- June 2020	Technical assistance, information packets, developing and revising farm plans, one-on-one nutrient, cropping and soils consultations.
Implementation of BMPs to benefit water quality and quantity such as IWM.	July 2015- June 2020	Provide TA for implementation, provide project material estimates etc., provide cost share through local funds or grants, help with design TA and/or engineering services.

(3 BMPs)		
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### Priority: WILDLIFE HABITAT

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Work with producers to promote wildlife habitat for local wildlife. (10 producers)	July 2015- June 2020	Farm visits, promotional literature, seminars, workshops, field days, word-of-mouth and other activities.
Work with producers to implement wildlife habitat.	July 2015- June 2020	Technical assistance, information packets, designs, and future assistance to maintain the habitat.
Implementation of BMPs to benefit wildlife habitat. (3 BMPs)	July 2015- June 2020	Provide TA for implementation, provide project material estimates etc., provide cost share through local funds or grants, and help with design TA.

### Priority: ENERGY AUDITS/EFFICIENCIES

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Work with producers to perform audits. (60 producers)	July 2015- June 2020	Farm visits, NRCS sign-ups, promotional literature, seminars, workshops, field days, word-of-mouth and other activities.
Work with producers to implement energy efficiencies.	July 2015- June 2020	Technical assistance, information packets, designs.
Implementation of BMPs to benefit energy efficiencies. (6 BMPs)	July 2015- June 2020	Provide TA for implementation, provide project material estimates etc., provide cost share through local funds or grants, and help with design TA.

### Priority: SHORELINE MANAGEMENT

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Work with landowners to restore the shoreline along Moses Lake Lake.	July 2015- June 2020	Landowner visits, promotional literature, seminars, workshops, field days, word-of-mouth and other activities.
Work with producers to implement shoreline restoration.	July 2015- June 2020	Technical assistance, information packets, designs, engineering and future assistance to maintain.
Implementation of BMPs to benefit shoreline restoration. (3 BMPs)	July 2015- June 2020	Provide TA for implementation, provide project material estimates etc., provide cost share through local funds or grants, help with design TA and provide engineering.

### Priority: RATES AND CHARGES

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Work with Grant County Assessor to seek a Rates and Charges.	July 2015- June 2020	Visit with Assessor and get reports on the different state codes and break acres/parcels by those codes. Work with other CD's and Field Manager.
Work with Assessor	July 2015-	Have a meeting with the Assessor over the figures and how

over breakdown of state codes.	June 2020	go over Rates and Charges and how Conservation Districts function.
Work with Assessor and County Commissioners on public meetings etc.	July 2015- June 2020	Work with Assessor and County Commissioners on public meetings; continue with working on projects and public outreach of what we have to offer.

**Priority: CROP CERTIFICATION**

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>12 Month Actions</b>
Look into how the District can become certified in all Ag Commodity Field Inspection & certification	July 2015- June 2020	Work with Department of Ag and local producers to fill the gap in the need for local qualified inspectors in the Columbia Basin.
Work with producers to start certifying crops.	July 2015- June 2020	Provide technical assistance for implementation of crop certification.
Implementation of crop certification in the Columbia Basin.	July 2015- June 2020	Provide TA for implementation, provide project material estimates etc.

**Priority: VACANT LOT USING NATIVE PLANTS**

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>12 Month Actions</b>
Work with landowners to provide assistance on vacant lots. (5 lots)	July 2015- June 2020	Landowner visits, promotional literature, seminars, workshops, field days, word-of-mouth and other activities.
Work with producers to implement native plants on the vacant lots.	July 2015- June 2020	Technical assistance, information packets, designs, and future assistance to maintain.
Implementation of native plants on vacant lots.	July 2015- June 2020	Provide TA for implementation, provide project material estimates etc., provide cost share through local funds or grants, and help with design TA.

**Priority: DIRECT SEED IN IRRIGATED AG**

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>12 Month Actions</b>
Work with landowners to demonstrate and educate the benefits of Direct Seed on irrigated ag. (10 producers)	July 2015- June 2020	Landowner visits, promotional literature, demonstration field day, workshops, advertisements, word-of-mouth and other activities.
Work with producers to the use of Direct Seed in the Columbia Basin.	July 2015- June 2020	Rent out the Direct Seed Drill and document what crops are planted and the benefit the producer had with the crop.
Implementation of renting out the Direct Seed Drill.	July 2015- June 2020	Provide cost share assistance and educate on how to use the drill.

**Priority: SOIL HEALTH**

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>12 Month Actions</b>
Work with producers to education on the benefits of biological farming for a healthier soil.	July 2015- June 2020	Landowner visits, promotional literature, seminars, workshops, field days, word-of-mouth and other activities.

Work with producers to implement Farm Smart practices for a healthier soil.	July 2015- June 2020	Technical assistance, information packets, work with other agencies to promote, and field days.
Implementation of Field Smart farms.	July 2015- June 2020	Provide TA for implementation, provide documentation on several producers success stories, provide cost share through local funds or grants, and help with TA.

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### Staffing Needs

Programs Specialist Positions

- Environmental (Soils & Amendments, Solid Waste & Composting)
- Energy Efficiency
- Technician (NRCS Qualified)
- Field Technician (Crop certification)

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

