



FY2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Work Plan **Spokane Conservation District**

For More Information Contact: Vicki Carter, 509-535-7274, vicki-carter@sccd.org



Mission of the Spokane Conservation District

- *To promote the sustainable use of our natural resources.*

As a result of our efforts, citizens of Spokane Conservation District will have access to:

- *Sustainable stewardship and conservation practices, protecting natural resources.*
- *Utilize the District as their local source of natural resource management assistance.*
- *Understand the purposes and benefits of conservation practices and policies resulting in informed decision making regarding natural resources.*
- *Implement conservation plans, programs, projects and systems resulting in sustainable, regenerative natural resources.*

Natural Resource Priorities:

- Increase public participation in natural resource conservation and regenerative efforts
- Reduce soil erosion through increased applications of conservation tillage and direct seeding technology
- Expand low interest loan program(s) regionally, addressing impacts to water quality and quantity in shared watersheds
- Reduce loss of property and lives to wildfire through implementation of the County Wildfire Protection Plan for fuel reduction
- Promote best management practices of both rural and urban forest through technical assistance, site assessments, evaluations and workshops.
- Protect water quality and quantity through comprehensive watershed management planning and implementation including water conservation, riparian buffers, stream bank stabilization and naturalization, surface and ground water monitoring, and water resources education.
- Expand outreach and education efforts to increase recognition of the District and its' programs and natural resource concerns and priorities, including new Vets on the Farm initiative.
- Seek legislative approval for county legislative authorities to set special assessment rates according to need.
- Increase technical assistance, site assessments/evaluations and workshops to small acreage landowners through livestock and land programs and projects.
- Provide financial and technical assistance for on-site septic connections, replacements and repairs in Spokane County.
- Assist with the implementation of the phosphorus limitations via soil testing services.
- Work in partnership to research and develop conservation practices to address local climate change activity.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices



FY2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) Annual Work Plan Spokane Conservation District

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: **PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE**

Goal(s): Promote sustainable agricultural practices focusing on soil health and reduction of erosion for the benefit of water quality.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Maintain and/or increase the current acreage of direct seed, no-fill, and/or minimum tillage operations in Spokane County and partner counties.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Programming will be developed to educate and inform landowners, offering technical assistance, site assessments/evaluations and workshops and financial assistance to transition from conventional methods to more sustainable practices of minimum tillage and direct seed.

Funding Source(s): Grants, Loans

Activities for FY2016	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Coordinate national Production Ag tour emphasizing Direct Seed technology and equipment, farming on the Palouse, and livestock practices with riparian buffers.	FY16	T. Meyer/ V. Carter	180 days	Assessment, Sponsors, NACD, WSCC	Partners: PRLCD, PNDSA, WSCC, WACD
Promote Direct seed certification program and partnership in RCPP program addressing the sustainable farming initiative.	FY16-17	T. Meyer	180+ days	Grant(s), Matching contributions	NRCS, SCD, PRLCD, DOE, PNDSA
Identify programs and resources available to assist cooperators/producers for implementation of direct seed and/or minimum tillage practices	FY16	T. Meyer	Ongoing	Assessment, 319	WA DOE, SRF, Custom operators, demos
Promote custom seeding operations in order to transition farmers to no-till farming systems.	FY16	T. Meyer	80-90 days/year	SRF, Landowner Contributions	WA DOE, SRF, Custom operators, demos
Partner with PNDSA and Farm Forum on Annual Direct Seed Conference, Farm Forum Conference, Ag tours and grower meetings.	FY16	T. Meyer	60-90 days	Assessment, Grants	PNDSA, Farm Forum, PRLCD

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: SMALL ACREAGE PLANNING

Goal(s): Increase knowledge base and access to resources for small acreage landowners and users.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Provide technical assistance, site assessments/evaluations and workshops, resource planning, information/education to help landowners/users in the 1-150 acre range.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Programming and projects will be developed to educate and inform landowners/users, offering technical assistance, site assessments/evaluations and financial assistance to increase knowledge base, reduce potential pollution violations, and increase sustainable practices.

Funding Source(s): Grants, assessment, private donations

Activities for FY2016	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Coordinate on-site small farm tours demonstrating efficiency, cost effectiveness, and proper management.	FY16	P. Munts	60-90 days	WSU, Assessment	WSU and other resource agencies
Hold/host workshops, forums and/or conferences with small acreage suppliers and speakers offering technical assistance and expertise.	FY16	P. Munts	60-90 days	WSU, Assessment	INW Small Farms Conf; Food Council
Develop curriculum and partnership with WSU and SCC to provide certification to Vets on the Farm initiative.	FY16	P. Munts	90 days	Assessment, grants, private donations	WA DoA, WSU, SCC, NWFCs
Pursue community partnership with organization(s) using the full spectrum of technical expertise we offer. Prepare resource plans and documents as requested.	FY16	P. Munts, V. Carter	90 days	Assessment	VoTF, Rhyzoterra, WSU
Promote and assist in developing a custom equipment and services program including manure spreader, drill, and chipper. Incorporate into Vets on the Farm initiative.	FY16	P. Munts W. Edelen T. Meyer	60 days	WSSC, Assessment, Landowner fees	VoTF, SCC, WSU, landowners
Host/develop pasture/weed management education and technical assistance workshops, site assessments, and evaluation program.	FY16	P. Munts W. Edelen	90-120 days	Grant, Assessment, WSU	L&L program, WSU and other agencies
Develop and coordinate symposium day of Pacific NW Tilth	FY16	P. Munts	180+ days	Assessment,	WSU, LINC

Conference focusing on new and beginning farmers and ranchers as well as Veterans.		V. Carter		registration fees, grants	Foods, PNWT, VoTF
--	--	-----------	--	---------------------------	-------------------

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: WATER RESOURCES/ QUALITY/QUANTITY

Goal(s): Address water quality and quantity resource issues within Spokane County by increasing awareness and implementation of best management practices.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Provide landowners/users with technical assistance, site assessments/recommendations and optional financial assistance to address water resource issues throughout watersheds of Spokane County.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Programming, projects, and demo sites will be developed to educate and inform landowners to provide more sustainable and/or best management practices.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, WA DOE, WA RCO, NRCS, Assessment, Private donations

Activities for FY2016	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Develop and coordinate upland habitat and shoreline restoration and stabilization projects throughout Spokane County.	FY16	W. Edelen	60-120 days	Assessment, Landowners, DOE Grant	HOAs, DOE, RCO, WSCC
Develop and promote livestock and land projects to improve producer operations and protect the water quality.	FY16	W. Edelen	120-180 days	Assessment, Landowner fees, Grants	Cost-share, DOE, WSCC
Reassess the operation and maintenance of new stream flow gauging stations in priority watersheds.	FY16	W. Edelen	120 days	Assessment, Private	USGS, Whitworth Water Dist, CDA Tribe
Continue regional fish barrier inventory of Spokane County, identifying barriers and prioritizing basins. Implement barrier passage removal projects in Spokane County to increase instream fish habitat accessibility.	FY16	W. Edelen	30-90 days	Grants	RCO, Tribes, Multi-CD
Implement water resource/best management projects including groundwater well monitoring, streambank restoration, livestock and land, 3F2P restoration, monitoring and gauging stations, etc.	FY16	W. Edelen	Ongoing	Grants, Assessment, Private Donations, Landowner	RCO, NRCS, DOE, WSCC, Tribes, Multi-CDs and other agencies
Act as coordinator/facilitator for joint WRIA Implementation Team (55/57, 56 and 54).	FY16	W. Edelen	30 days	Grant(s), Assessment	DOE, Spokane County,
Implement irrigation efficiency projects throughout Spokane County WRIAs.	FY16	W. Edelen	120 days	Grant	DOE. Private and Public entities
Develop RCPP proposal to address WQ issues with innovative buffer compensation program for producers. Additionally,	FY16	W. Edelen	60 days	Assessment, NRCS	DOE, NRCS, Palouse CD,

work with Whitman Co. CDs on WRIA 34 RCPP activities.					PRLCD
Continue implementation of On-site Septic System low-interest loan/grant program throughout Spokane County.	FY16	W. Edelen B. Tee	Ongoing	Grants, Loans, Assessment, Landowner	DOE, Spokane County, City of Spokane Valley

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: FORESTRY

Goal(s): Promote healthy trees and forests throughout Spokane County.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Increase the urban forestry canopy and promote sustainable management of the working forest.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Programming and projects will be developed to educate and inform landowners/users, offering technical assistance, site assessments/evaluations and financial assistance, provide assessments, implementation, and plantings.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, DNR, FWS, Assessment

Activities for FY2016	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Coordinate the County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to implement hazardous fuels reduction projects in Spokane County.	FY16	G. Davis	30 days	Assessment, FEMA Grant, DNR, WSCC	DNR, WSCC, USFS, Firewise, City of Spokane Urban Forestry
Promote energy conservation tree planting projects to reduce temperatures and energy consumption.	FY16	G. Davis	30 days	Avista, Assessment	Avista (100 trees per year)
Identify and assist communities to qualify for Tree City USA status, expanding through plantings, inventory, and management plans.	FY16	G. Davis	60-80 days	DNR	TCUSA, cities & towns, Avista, FAFB
Serve as the regional education coordinator (REC) for the Pacific NW Chapter of ISA, offering training opportunities to regional arborists for proper tree care practices.	FY16	G. Davis	30-60 days	ISA, WSCC	ISA, WSU, WSCC
Provide low-cost tree and shrubs for reforestation and wildlife habitat plantings as well as native and drought tolerant plants for rural and urban landscaping.	FY16	G. Davis	180 days	Assessment, Landowners	PMC, Muti-CD
Provide fuels reduction technical assistance, site assessments/evaluations for forest landowners and tree owners, both public and private.	FY16	G. Davis	60-90 days	Assessment, WSCC	DNR, Spokane County, City of Spokane Urban Forestry
Develop and provide technical tree school annually for professional resource development.	FY16	G. Davis	60 days	Assessment	Private contractors

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: SOIL SCIENCE

Goal(s): Improve soil health in Spokane County through increased land user knowledge base.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Improve the soil health through interpretations of the soil survey, soil testing, and technical assistance, site assessments/evaluations for land users.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Programs and projects will be developed to educate and inform land users, offering technical assistance, site assessments/evaluations through workshops, site tours, land judging contests, and soils testing.

Funding Source(s): NRCS, WSU, Assessment

Activities for FY2016	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Provide land users site specific soils interpretations using the updated Spokane County Soil Survey.	FY16	E. Choker	60-90 days	Assessment	NRCS, Spokane County, local
Provide technical assistance to staff and certified planners to assist with resource plans, site plans, etc.	FY16	E. Choker	60-90 days	Assessment	SCD, local planning agencies
Provide basic soils tests for small acreage and urban land users.	FY16	E. Choker	180 days	Assessment, Landowner	
Coordinate and host annual land judging contest/opportunities as educational events.	FY16	E. Choker	30 days	Sponsors, Assessment	Multi-CD
Develop presentations for workshops, conferences, and meetings addressing: How to take soils samples, Interpreting Soil Sample Results, Nutrient Management, and backyard soil health issues.	FY16	E. Choker	90 days	Assessment, Landowner Fees	WSU-MG, SCC, ISA, WSU Ext.
Provide technical assistance to regional partners to promote soil knowledge and health in Washington State.	FY16	E. Choker	15 days	Assessment, Sponsors	Multi-CD; WSU
Coordinate and implement site visits to initiate projects with land users or other project partners; update GIS master list of demo sites, and incorporate into NRI website.	FY16	E. Choker	30	Assessment	All departments to report

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Goal(s): Provide K-14, teachers and adults balanced and objective environmental and conservation education.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Increase the knowledge base for citizens to make informed choices and decisions regarding environmental issues.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Programming and activities will be developed to educate and inform the public about relevant environmental topics and basic natural resource knowledge.

Funding Source(s): WAWG, WSCC, Assessment, DOE

Activities for FY2016	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Partner with Franklin CD to bring "Wheat Week," "Water on Wheels," and "Trout in the Classroom" to Spokane and surrounding counties (K-12).	FY16	S. Selcho	270 days	FCD	
Plan and host adult backyard annual course including speakers, materials, and venue.	FY16	S. Selcho	30-60 days	Landowner Fees, Assessment	Various partners & presenters
Partner with NNRI, participate in annual Farm Fair, Water Festival, Model Forest, Turnbull Spring Celebration, Earth Day activities, and other outreach/educational events and field days.	FY16	S. Selcho J. Armstrong	30-45 days	Assessment	Multiple Agency partners
Provide adult workshops, tours, educational events to expand knowledge base of natural resources, issues and concerns.	FY16	All Departments	180 days	Assessment	Partner agencies and organizations
Increase education and outreach through partnerships with other organizations and agencies.	FY16	S. Selcho	60-90 days	Assessment	GreenZone, The River Mile, Enviro Kids, SYSC
Provide educational assistance and use of materials in grades K-14 regarding water quality and soils.	FY16	S. Selcho	60-90 days	Grant, Assessment	Teachers, Partners
Implement Heritage Garden and landscape workshop and for adult education programming.	FY16	S.Selcho	30-60 days	Assessment	Green Zone, WSU MG

District Program Area: District Operations and Infrastructure

Goal(s): Develop and maintain an infrastructure to support the projects and programs of SCD.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

Obtain and maintain efficient and sufficient staff, provide a safe/stable work environment, stay current in technology and training.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, WACD, DOE, Assessment

Activities for FY2016	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Secure adequate funding to carry out SCD activities, programs, projects, and events. Identify and apply for grants/loans and other funding to leverage the annual assessment. This may also include rates and charges, donations, investment programming, etc.	FY16	V. Carter	Ongoing	Assessment, grants, donations	
Seek and provide employee and board training and development opportunities including WADE, WACD, and other agency trainings, including mandatory training in ethics, public records, and public meetings.	FY16	V. Carter	60 days	Assessment, WSCC, WACC	All Staff & Board
Maintain the physical infrastructure and vehicle fleet to support and insure a safe, productive atmosphere to carry out day-to-day operations.	FY16	V. Carter	Ongoing	Assessment	Equipment upgrades, vehicle replacement or maintenance, safety meetings
Maintain and update capital asset inventory to use as evaluation tool for replacement, safety, obsolescence, etc.	FY16	V. Carter	Ongoing	Assessment	Annual
Recruit and/or hire qualified staff to carry out SCD objectives including 8-10 interns through the Vets on the Farm initiative.	FY16	V. Carter	Ongoing	Grant	Seasonal/ Temp hires 2016-17
Promote legislation that promotes conservation issues and operational efficiencies.	FY16	V. Carter/Board	30-60 days	Assessment	WACD, WSCC

District Program Area: Communication, Outreach & Public Relations

Goal(s): Serve as the primary source for natural resource information and management to inspire champions of conservation.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

Develop outreach strategies and resources to reach all Spokane County residents regarding the mission of SCD.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, WACD, DOE, Assessment

Activities for FY2016	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Develop advertising and promotional campaigns specific to SCD programs, services, projects, and events.	FY16	V. Carter	Ongoing	Grants, Assessment	Livestock & Land, Conservation Champions, Direct Seed,OSS, FW
Use media sources to inform and educate about SCD activities, events, programs, and projects; send press releases regarding new projects and programs.	FY16	V. Carter	Ongoing	Assessment	Facebook, Radio, TV, print
Develop and implement e-commerce policies and procedures for online transactions.	FY16	C. Turntine	Ongoing	Assessment, Landowner Fees	BoF, tree sales, soils tests, equipment rental
Provide outreach services and activities to all land use categories (urban, small acreage, rural, etc.).	FY16	All Departments	Ongoing	Assessment, Grants	
Create new publications, projects and programs with consistent branding; incorporate WSCC state-wide branding and messages; pursue new collateral and promotional materials; update website.	FY16	V. Carter	Ongoing	Assessment	Erica

Pursue and maintain effective governmental relationships to promote conservation policies. Provide targeted education/information to elected officials.	FY16	V. Carter	Ongoing	Assessment	WACD, leg dist: 3,4 6, 7, 9
Develop and continue web-based natural resource information distribution.	FY16	All Staff	Ongoing	Assessment	Spokane County, USGS
Make periodic presentations to chamber, town councils, and civic organizations to inform decision makers of local issues.	FY16	All Staff	Ongoing	Assessment	By request and project or need
Pursue and strengthen working relationships, MOUs, MOAs, etc. with local tribes, non-profits, conservation districts and other community organizations.	FY16	V. Carter	Ongoing	Assessment	All staff
Design and develop community action projects based on resource availability and need.	FY16	V. Carter	Ongoing	Assessment	All staff
Coordinate and participate in volunteer citizen based projects and partnerships.	FY16	V. Carter	Ongoing	Assessment	All staff
Develop conservation campaigns to include website, ads, marketing materials, etc.	FY16	V. Carter	Ongoing	Assessment	All staff
Create and maintain current website updates, Facebook postings, and conservation articles and blogs.	FY16	V. Carter	Ongoing	Assessment	All staff



FY2015-16 Annual Budget

Spokane Conservation District

FY2015-16 (1/1/15 – 12/31/15)

Revenues:

Assessment	\$1,055,733.00
Generated Revenue	\$ 288,500.00
Services	\$ 198,425.00
Misc. Revenue	\$ 39,000.00
Total Revenues:	\$1,581,658.00

Expenses:

Salaries/Benefits/Taxes	\$1,252,250.00
General Operating Expenses	\$ 188,250.00
Staff Travel/Meeting Expense	\$ 17,500.00
Board Travel/Training	\$ 5,000.00
Insurance	\$ 22,500.00
Services & Charges	\$ 500.00
Public Outreach Misc.	\$ 2,000.00
Soil Lab Supplies	\$ 2,000.00
Forestry/Tree Sales	\$ 65,550.00
Production Ag Supplies/Misc	\$ 1,250.00
Water Resources Supplies/Misc	\$ 5,850.00
Small Acreage Supplies/Misc.	\$ 1,000.00
Environmental Education Misc.	\$ 1,500.00
Excise/Use Tax	\$ 1,500.00
Vehicle Loan Expense	\$ 2,500.00
Capital Lease Expense	\$ 10,000.00
Total Expenses:	\$1,579,150.00
Revenue Overage:	<u>\$ 2,508.00</u>