



Franklin Conservation District

5-Year Strategic Plan (2015 – 2020)

Conservation District Future Accomplishments:

Water Quantity (use, conservation, aquifer recharge, cloud seeding)

- Secure alternative funding sources for irrigation water management and noxious weed control (look at mosquito board funding system)
- Begin Kahlotus Lake recharge
- Establish a consistent ground water monitoring program (nitrates and static water levels...on-going program for checking water quality in water wells...nitrates, other)
- Seek funding for irrigation conversions – hand lines to pivots (i.e. those that NRCS can not fund)
- Seek funding for irrigation efficiencies projects – work with irrigation district (i.e. conservation, lining, pressurized and piping ditches)
- Establish a program to mitigate high mineral content in deep aquifer well water
- Promote and help facilitate the process to get the 80,000 acres of irrigated lands moved from ground water to surface water

Soil Quality (Quantity, Health, Erosion Control)

- Promote programs that address soil quality, water retention and erosion control
- Promote cover cropping on irrigated lands

Water Quality Improvement (ground and surface)

- Facilitate commercial production of the Deep Furrow Conservation Drill
- Create and train our dairy producers on nutrient budgeting software
- Provide funding and technical assistance to ensure that all dairy storage structures meet current design standards (i.e. liners, other)

Air Quality

- Implement on-going program to address the wind erosion issues

Noxious Weed Control

- Promote the use of bio-control for noxious weed control
- Provide cost share for noxious weed control
- Host producer workshops with Franklin County Noxious Weed Board

Wildlife Habitat

- Help re-establish strong pheasant populations in Franklin County

Education (in all above)

- Public view and outreach programs (i.e. current conservation education programs, public outreach, and Heritage Gardens)
- Secure Commission funding for conservation education programs
- Educate the county legislative authority
- Educate producers about energy conservation programs by working with PUD, NRCS, BPA, other (VFDs, wind generators, irrigation energy, solar power array, other)

District Operations (in all above)

- Continue to be a broker for conservation education with neighboring districts and other agencies
- Develop the infrastructure to be the natural resource 'integrator' in Franklin County by working with other agencies and organizations...area-wide services included
- Annex the City of Pasco
- Switch to rates and charges from assessment
- Have an impact again in LWG policies and priorities

Conservation District & Supervisor Powers & Authorities:

- see presentation and handouts
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District Organization:

A political sub-division of the State of Washington with authorities and structure outlined in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 89.08

Function:

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.

Who We Serve & Why (revised 11.5.15)

The citizens of Franklin Conservation District and the region to enhance natural resources in order to improve the quality of the community.

Mission

The Franklin Conservation District promotes the conservation & wise use of natural resources by providing educational, technical and financial assistance to natural resource users.

Vision

- Keep farmers farming
 - The importance of agriculture to the Tri-City area is recognized including highway identification of conservation work, borders and other public outreach activities
 - Decrease nitrate levels in ground water
 - Farmers in our district are using monitoring and soil testing on every Franklin CD field
 - Make growers aware of Franklin CD and all of them using our services
 - Keep a viable (well-funded) conservation program in Franklin County
 - Continued regional-wide education program in the schools
 - More adoption of new conservation technology
 - Receive adequate funding from the state to continue fund CDs
 - Importance of agriculture to Franklin County is known within the CD
 - Continued use and operation of the Snake River Dams
 - Ability to use saved water resources – water bank type & incentive system in place
 - Water conservation activities in urban areas through education
 - Reduce wind erosion
 - Increased organic matter and water storage capacity on all soils in district
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Values

- Leadership
 - Honesty
 - Integrity
 - Conservation ethic
 - Service to constituents (growers and citizens)
 - Customer service (make easy for customers – streamlining procedures)
 - Care about people we serve
 - Technically sound work
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- Economically feasible solutions – healthy economics
- Good working environment

Natural Resource Data:

[NRCS Resource Assessment](#)
[Franklin County Critical Area Maps](#)

Area Description	Acres
Franklin County	809,422
Cultivated Cropland	486,836
Irrigated Cropland	247,926
Dry Cropland	238,910
Rangeland	202,356
Public Land	99,000
Private Land	710,442

Nearly 112,000 acres of dry cropland have been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Less than 4% of the irrigated cropland remains in furrow or flood irrigation with the majority of the conversion to sprinkler irrigation occurring in the last 15 years. Public lands include a portion of the Hanford Reach National Monument and Juniper Dunes Wilderness Area.

Land Manager Needs:

- funding for conservation work especially where there is not a return on investment
- tools and models for conservation work (straw use, carbon footprint calculations, changes in conservation system, prove out new systems)
- economic ‘infrastructure’ including people to do the conservation work
- fencing supplies
- technical assistance...advice on conservation practices
- reduction in bureaucracy and help to work through requirements, applications, other
- revision in payment limitations (i.e. Farm Bill, other)
- work force for conservation practice application (i.e. fencing, earth moving, plantings, other)
- reduction in regulations at all levels of government and/or ‘safe harbor’ (i.e. water rights, land limitations, permitting, dairy, pesticides, spraying, fuel tanks other)
- society would pay for conservation benefits from conservation management (cost recovery)
- cost effective new technology
- economic information from use of technology and conservation practices
- new technology related to natural resource industries

Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs:

- Water Quantity (use, conservation, aquifer recharge, cloud seeding)
- Soil Quality (Quantity, Health, Erosion Control)
- Water Quality Improvement (ground and surface)
- Air Quality
- Noxious Weed Control
- Wildlife Habitat

- Education (in all above)
- District Operations (in all above)

Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Geographic Areas:

Priority Natural Resource Conservation Need	Geographic Area
Water Quantity (use, conservation, aquifer recharge, cloud seeding)	Entire county not served by Columbia Basin project
Soil Quality (Quantity, Health, Erosion Control)	All district
Water Quality Improvement (ground and surface)	Irrigated half of county
Air Quality	All district
Noxious Weed Control	All district (rangeland especially)
Wildlife Habitat	Irrigated areas
Education	All district
District Operations	All district

Measures of Success & Measurable Goals

Natural Resource Conservation Need	Measures of Success	Goal
Water Quantity (use, conservation, aquifer recharge, cloud seeding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no water restrictions • increase in the number of irrigated acres • increased number of irrigation conversions • amount of water conserved • number of people implementing practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By November 2020 have a demonstrated increase in: number of irrigated acres; Number of irrigated acres under irrigation water management, number of irrigation conversions, the number of water right transfers; the issuance of new water rights, and the amount of water saved and available for use in Franklin County.
Soil Quality (Quantity, Health, Erosion Control)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stable/increase in soil quality measurements (ie organic matter readings, tilth, diversity of microbes, other) • new deep furrow drill technology use • number of people implementing practices • number of dust storms / reduction in wind erosion • number of people implementing practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By November 2020 have a demonstrated improvement in soil quality and increase in new deep furrow drill technology adoption, the number of people implementing practices and a related decrease in number of dust storms and reduction in wind erosion
Water Quality Improvement (ground and surface)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decrease in nitrate concentrations in ground water • implementation of nutrient management systems (numbers and related acres) • number of manure storage systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By November 2020 have a demonstrated increase in: the number of people implementing practices; the number of acres enrolled in irrigation water management and nutrient

	<p>at current standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation of irrigation water management systems (SIS) • number of people implementing practices 	<p>management; the potential sources of pollution addressed; a decrease in the amount of nitrates in ground water; and improvements in water quality measurements.</p>
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction in PM10 emissions • number of air quality complaints reduced • number of people implementing practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By November 2020 have a demonstrated reduction in PM 10 emissions; # of complaints (dust, odor, smoke); and an increase in # of people implementing practices and the number of acres addressed in conservation plans.
Noxious Weed Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of acres treated and related impact • number of people implementing practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By November 2020 have a demonstrated increase in number of people implementing practices, and the number of acres treated with related impact
Wildlife Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of acres treated and related wildlife population impact • pollinator habitat acres treated and related impact • number of people implementing practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By November 2020 have a demonstrated increase in the number of people implementing practices; the number of acres of new and enhanced wildlife habitat; and the number and acres of habitat addressed in conservation plan.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of students served • number of Conservation Districts and entities participating with Franklin CD education programs • number of people aware of Franklin CD programs, services, activities, and results • number of social media contacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By November 2020 have a demonstrated increase in: the number of people reached; number of education activities; and number of people aware of and performing conservation activities as a result of an increase in the number of agreements with entities'; and the number of people participating in Franklin CD programs, services, activities.
District Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have enough conservation work to hire more staff • number of successful district and state audits • stable funding for district programs and operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By November 2020 have successful district and state audits; a demonstrated increase in people that want to become supervisors; stable funding for programs and operations.

Milestones, Timeline, & Actions:

Natural Resource Conservation Need:

Water Quantity (use, conservation, aquifer recharge, cloud seeding)

Measurable Goal:

- By November 2020 have a demonstrated increase in: number of irrigated acres; Number of irrigated acres under irrigation water management, number of irrigation conversions, the number of water right transfers; the issuance of new water rights, and the amount of water saved and available for use in Franklin County.

Partners & Funders:

Ecology, NRCS, Columbia Snake River Irrigators, Land Owners

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Secure funding for Kahlotus Lake recharge activity	By June 2017	
Issue at least one new water right in Franklin County	By Nov 2020	
Implement 4 irrigation conversions (i.e. Mullen and Middleton projects)	By July 2017	

Natural Resource Conservation Need:

Soil Quality (Quantity, Health, Erosion Control)

Measurable Goal:

By November 2020 have a demonstrated improvement in soil quality and increase in new deep furrow drill technology adoption, the number of people implementing practices and a related decrease in number of dust storms and reduction in wind erosion

Partners & Funders:

NRCS, Wheat Commission, WSU, Tilth Producers, Land owners, Potato Commission, land owners

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Working prototype deep furrow drill is completed,	By August 2016	
Prototype drill tested and evaluated	By July 2017	
Cost share available for use of deep furrow drill technology (\$5 million)	By July 2019	
At least 50% of CRP acres taken out would be farmed to a positive soil quality index	By November 2020	
Cover or alternative crops implemented on 10,000 acres	By November 2016	Expand producer education activities for cover and alternative crops
Prescription farming on 8,000 acres	By November 2020	
PM10 incidents reduced by 100%	By November 2016	

Natural Resource Conservation Need

Water Quality Improvement (ground and surface)

Measurable Goal:

By November 2020 have a demonstrated increase in: the number of people implementing practices; the number of acres enrolled in irrigation water management and nutrient management; the potential sources of pollution addressed; a decrease in the amount of nitrates in ground water; and improvements in water quality measurements

Partners & Funders:

Ecology, NRCS, Columbia Basin Ground Water Management Area, Commission, Franklin County, Extension, WSU, Wheat Growers, OSU, Tilth Producers, Benton-Franklin Health District, land owners

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
All manure storage facilities will be up to standards	Nov 2020	
Water Quality testing program designed and implemented	Nov 2017	
Decrease the amount of nitrates and pollutants in ground water by 5%	Nov 2018	
Implement the nutrient management budgeting program and tools	Nov 2019	
50,000 acres implementing irrigation water management systems	Nov 2020	
Provide producer workshops on tools (calculators & other) available for nutrient management (i.e. WSU, Wheat Growers, OSU, Tilth Producers)	Yearly	

Natural Resource Conservation Need

Air Quality

Measurable Goal:

By November 2020 have a demonstrated reduction in PM 10 emissions; # of complaints (dust, odor, smoke); and an increase in # of people implementing practices and the number of acres addressed in conservation plans.

Partners & Funders:

Ecology, Columbia Plateau PM10 project, USDA ARS, WSU, NRCS, Air Quality monitoring stations, Benton Clean Air Authority, land owners

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
PM10 incidents reduced by 100%	By November 2016	
Cost share directed at wind erosion control practices in high impact area for PM10 incidents (i.e. over winter cover crops,	By July 2017	
Grant funding from Ecology for air quality project activities	By July 2017	
At least 50% of CRP acres taken out would be farmed to a positive soil quality index	By November 2020	
Cover or alternative crops implemented on xx acres	By November 2016	
Continue burn permit program with Ecology	On going	

Natural Resource Conservation Need

Noxious Weed Control

Measurable Goal:

By November 2020 have a demonstrated increase in number of people implementing practices, and the number of acres treated with related impact with noxious weed control

Partners & Funders:

NRCS, Weed control board, Conservation Commission, land owners, WSU, WSDA,

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Promote the use of bio-control for noxious weed control	By July 2017	
Provide cost share for noxious weed control	By July 2017	
Host producer workshops with Franklin County Noxious Weed Board	On-going	

Natural Resource Conservation Need

Wildlife Habitat

Measurable Goal:

By November 2020 have a demonstrated increase in the number of people implementing practices; the number of acres of new and enhanced wildlife habitat; and the number and acres of habitat addressed in conservation plan

Partners & Funders:

Pheasants Forever, WDFW, NRCS, Ducks Unlimited, Sierra Club, Xerces Society, Land owners, Audubon Society, Gun Clubs

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Identify potential sites for habitat work and what would be needed to develop the habitat	By Nov 2016	
Implement the Heritage Garden program	ongoing	
Funding identified for the habitat projects	ongoing	

Natural Resource Conservation Need

Education

Measurable Goal:

By November 2020 have a demonstrated increase in: the number of people reached; number of education activities; and number of people aware of and performing conservation activities as a result of an increase in the number of agreements with entities'; and the number of people participating in Franklin CD programs, services, activities.

Partners & Funders:

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Increase our outreach to the public through implementation of the Heritage Garden program	ongoing	
Continue educating the county legislative authority about what we do	ongoing	
Educate producers about energy conservation programs available thru PUD, NRCS, BPA, other (VFDs, wind generators, irrigation energy, solar power array,	2016	

other)		
Identify potential funding sources to continue WOW	ongoing	
Increase the number of Salmon in the Classroom schools within Pasco School District	ongoing	Meet with District STEM Director
Measure the Impact of Wheat Week on previous students	2016	Interview previous students. Gather data on their retention.
Expand Wheat Week in Western WA. Reduce Wheat Week in Eastern WA.	2016-2017	Hire additional staff in Western WA.
Increase the number of teacher's served by teacher workshops throughout the summers	2016-2020	Design and implement new STEM teacher workshop using WET, WILD and PLT
Increase the number of WOW lessons being taught in municipalities with stormwater ILA's.	2016-2020	Realign WOW with NGSS.

Natural Resource Conservation Need

District Operations

Measurable Goal:

By November 2020 have successful district and state audits; a demonstrated increase in people that want to become supervisors; stable funding for programs and operations.

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Schedule 22 / Internal Audit completed	yearly	
Policies up to date	yearly	
Budget and workload analysis completed	yearly	
Incorporate City of Pasco into district	By Nov 2020	
Agreements with Partners	ongoing	
State audits every other year	Once every two years	