



South Yakima Conservation District
Long Range Plan 2011 – 2016
For More Information Contact:
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Organization

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

We Serve & Why

We strive to serve all local private landowners, the Yakama Nation, and others interested in conservation to facilitate a standard of living and protect natural resources of concern for our land and to conserve our land and water in a common sense way to address and reduce potential liabilities.

Mission of the South Yakima Conservation District

Our primary goal is to promote the wise use, development, and conservation of our renewable natural resources.

Vision

The South Yakima Conservation District is recognized by all private landowners as a source of financial, technical and educational assistance in this District; and by local, state and federal authorities as the organization of choice to implement on-the-ground stewardship activities.

Values of the South Yakima Conservation District

- Local control of resource management
 - Self governance
 - Integrity
 - Conservation
 - Development
 - Socially acceptable
 - Sustain agriculture
 - Voluntary/non-regulatory
 - Community orientated
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Natural Resource Priorities and Goals: (in priority order)

1. Water quality - Surface and Ground
2. Soil Erosion by Water and Air
3. Water Quantity & Water Reclamation/Conservation

4. Air Quality
 5. Noxious Weeds
 6. Wildlife Habitat
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1. Water Quality - Surface and Ground

Goal: Reduce tail-water contaminants from irrigated crop land.

Specific strategy: by March 2016, convert 25 surface irrigation systems to sprinkler or drip irrigation systems.

Goal: reduce groundwater contamination from irrigated crop land.

Specific strategy: by March 2016, develop fifty nutrient management plans and inform landowners of what programs are available to help them with ground water issues.

2. Soil Erosion by Water and Air

Goal: Be proactive and keep from being designated as a non-attainment area. Meet NRCS soil loss tolerant "T" for all farms under conservation planning.

Specific strategy: by March 2016, educate growers in the Satus area about wind erosion prevention practices.

Goal: reduce air erosion by demonstrating the benefits of the application of organic matter to susceptible soils.

Specific strategy: by March 2016, create a demonstration field / workshop and disseminate information on the benefits of the application of organic matter to susceptible soils to local producers.

Goal: reduce water erosion.

Specific strategy: by March 2016, convert 25 surface irrigation systems to sprinkler or drip irrigation systems and implement IWM in those plans.

3. Water Quantity & Water Reclamation/Conservation

Goal: Promote new water storage sources and on-farm water conservation practices.

Specific strategy: participate in at least five yearly meetings with other agencies regarding water storage options and promote water storage strategies. Promote and implement on-farm water conservation practices.

4. Air Quality

Goal: Promote new technology to improve air quality.

Specific strategy: work with other responsible agencies to promote the compliance with air quality standards to comply with livestock emissions standards. Attend at least one Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority meeting a year. Sponsor educational activities on air quality issues yearly.

5. Noxious Weeds

Goal: Participate with the Central Weed Management Area to help reduce noxious weeds in district.

Specific strategy: Attend most meetings of the Central Weed Management Area.

6. Wildlife Habitat

Goal: Assist land occupiers in participating in State wildlife enhancement programs and promote the farm bill WHIP program.

Specific strategy: Include wildlife enhancement considerations in conservation planning.

Goal: Identify opportunities to improve wildlife habitat within the district.

Specific strategy: Meet periodically with wildlife partners.

Critical Geographic Areas (in no particular order):

- Granger Drain
 - Sulfur Creek Wasteway
 - Marion Drain
 - Toppenish Creek
 - Satus
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Information/Education Priority Goals:

- Provide *Salmon in Classroom* in the district.
 - Provide *Water on Wheels* in the district.
 - Provide air quality information to public.
 - Educate public and producers about BMPs for water quality protection.
 - Update and expand web page and other electronic information systems.
 - Promote office of farmland preservation issues.
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District Operations Priorities Goals:

- Increase stable funding. *Strategy:* obtain grants and other funding opportunities.
 - Increase staff. *Strategy:* obtain grants and other funding opportunities; seek volunteer partnerships with other agencies (AmeriCorps).
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Trends Impacting Conservation:

- Increasing awareness of groundwater contamination.
- More irrigation circles going up and more drip irrigation installed to help conserve water and soil.

- Producers are reducing labor use to help reduce cost savings.
- Urban invasion of rural life style/lively hood.
- Increase of small acreage farms.
- Reduced funding for conservation.
- Increased regulatory pressure.
- Increased demand for water.

Strategies to Address Trends:

- Support efforts of all agencies to address groundwater contamination.
- Support the Office of Farmland Preservation.
- Support positive trends.
- Inform landowners about conservation easements.
- Continue to update and improve nutrient management plans.
- Continue to promote BMPs.
- Seek alternative funding sources for conservation.

Resource Data:

NRCS + maps

Background Information from 2006 Annual Report:

Irrigated acres in SYCD total 298,000.

Irrigation types include drip 5%, sprinkler 45% and rill 50%.

Non-irrigated acres total 1,098,411 acres which include forest land 497,149, range land 550,500, dryland 34,562, urban 11,200, other 5,000.

Miles of streams total 1,500.

Staffing Needs:

- Full/Part time coordinator/manager.
- Full time technical person with DNMP qualifications.
- Part time bookkeeper.
- Full time technical assistance.

Annual Budget Needs (Look at current AWP budget)

Employee Wages	
Employee Benefits	
Travel – Administration	
Office Supplies	
Assessment Charges	
SYCD Cost-Share Match for Grants	
Property Taxes	
Professional Services	
Communications	
Rent & Leases	
Insurance	
Utilities	
Repairs	
Misc.	

Other Improvements	
PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	

Key Decision Makers:

SYCD Board of Supervisors
Conservation Commission
WDOE regulators
NRCS
Department of AG
Partnering agencies
County landowners
County commissioners
County government
State, Federal, Tribal governments
Non-governmental organizations
