



MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FY2016 Work Plan (7/1/16 – 6/30/17)

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Mission of the Mason Conservation District

- To promote the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of natural resources for future generations.

Natural Resource Priorities:

- Respond to current and forthcoming issues affecting water quality, soil conservation and erosion.
- Respond to priority issues affecting water quality for shellfish harvesting and public health in waters of Mason County.
- Respond to priority issues affecting water quality and habitat for priority, threatened or endangered species and habitats.
- Support expansion of natural resource stewardship, agriculture and local food systems, and conservation of working lands.
- Long-term viability of natural resource businesses and activities.

Information – Education Priorities:

- Expand initiatives to increase public awareness of natural resource concerns and stewardship opportunities.
- Expand conservation educational activities utilizing the “learn and take action” approach to increase conservation stewardship.

District Operations Priorities:

- Improve efficient and effective district operations to promote the sustainable use, conservation and restoration of natural resources in our community.
- Maintain effective working relationships with key government agencies, elected officials, stakeholders, and land users to increase conservation stewardship.
- Sustain investments in professional development of district staff to assure delivery of high quality technical assistance to district stakeholders and land users.
- Sustain investments in capital assets to assure sufficient infrastructure to carry out high priority natural resource initiatives.



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PROGRAM AREAS:

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Goal: Maintain a fully functional and effective conservation organization for the community.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, EPA, RCO, USFWS, Contracts.

| Activities for FY2016 | Target Dates | Responsibility |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Support the district board, conduct regular and special board meetings. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Admin Staff |
| Maintain effective & efficient operations using appropriate accounting & billing procedures, personnel & district policies, board elections & appointments systems. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Admin Staff |
| Perform district operations review & internal audit. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Admin Staff/BOS |
| Provide professional development opportunities for district staff. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Admin Staff/BOS |
| Update district equipment & systems, including IT. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Admin Staff |
| Identify & secure sources of funding to implement conservation programs and projects. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff/BOS |
| Increase community interest in stewardship of natural resources. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff/BOS |
| Deliver equitable services with integrity. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Build new, and strengthen existing, effective partnerships. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff/BOS |
| Develop and promote innovative solutions with emerging technologies. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians/Engineers |

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| Coordinate programs with other organizations and agencies. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Expand efforts to increase recognition of District programs. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff/BOS |
| Review and update District Long Range Plan, as needed, to remain relevant to resource concerns. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff/BOS |

WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

Goal: Reduce adverse impacts on water quality through implementation of Best Management Practices.
Funding Source(s): AFT, AHSS, DOE, EPA, FSA, GDRCo, Land Trusts & Conservancy's, Mason County, NOAA, NRCS, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, PSP, PUD's, RCO, RFEG's, Tribal Nations, USFWS, USGS, WDFW, WSCC, Contracts.

| Activities for FY2016 | Target Dates | Responsibility |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Respond to requests for information & assistance and referrals from regulatory agencies. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Develop conservation plans, design Best Management Practices, assist with implementation of conservation practices. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians/Engineers |
| Develop and implement LID projects to improve stormwater management. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians/Engineers |
| Seek and coordinate opportunities for financial assistance to landowners implementing Best Management Practices. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff/BOS |
| Provide professional services to individuals, groups, organizations and agencies. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Support the identification, mapping, and conservation of water resources throughout the district. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |

HABITAT PROTECTION & RESTORATION

Goal: Promote protection & enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, AFT, AHSS, DOE, EPA, FSA, GDRCo, Land Trusts & Conservancy's, Mason County, NOAA, NRCS, Puget Sound Salmon Center, PSP, RCO, RFEG's, Tribal Nations, USFWS, WDFW, Contracts.

| Activities for FY2016 | Target Dates | Responsibility |
|---|---------------------|--|
| Deliver a citizen based Lead Entity salmon recovery program in WRIA 14. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | LE Coordinator/ Technicians/Engineers |
| Facilitate and implement the WRIA 14 Lead Entity Salmon Recovery program. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | LE Coordinator |
| Participate in Watershed Planning activities. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Provide assistance to implement water quality and habitat improvement projects to improve native species diversity and increase ecosystem services. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Conduct a native plant sale and implementation workshops. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians/ Admin Staff |
| Restore fish passage to WDFW fish passage protocols and standards. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians/ Engineers |
| Restore fish and wildlife habitat for threatened, endangered, and priority species. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians/ Engineers |
| Promote conservation and restoration of diverse habitats. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff/BOS |
| Support development of a Stream Stewardship Program. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians |
| Increase emphasis on education and implementation of stewardship programs for marine and freshwater shorelines. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Promote stable natural shorelines that protect water quality, while reducing stormwater runoff, and providing high value fish and wildlife habitat. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians/ Engineers |

WORKING LANDS VIABILITY

Goal: Expand sustainable use of working lands.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, DNR, NRCS, RCO, USFWS, Mason County, Tribal Nations, Contracts.

| Activities for FY2016 | Target Dates | Responsibility |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Promote conservation and sustainability of working lands. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff/BOS |
| Advocate the development of conservation plans & BMP implementation on working lands. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians |
| Encourage and support land managers to protect and enhance the viability of natural resources. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians |
| Assist in the implementation of conservation plans on working lands. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians |
| Connect cooperators with conservation assistance programs provided by other agencies. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Examine natural resource challenges and identify strategies to best support land managers goals to achieve sustainability. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Promote the local food economy with technical, infrastructure development, and the conservation of working lands. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Promote the viability of agriculture through the development of a Voluntary Stewardship Program. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |

EDUCATION / OUTREACH

Goal: Provide quality agricultural and environmental education & information.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, AHSS, DOE, EPA, GDRCo, Land Trusts & Conservancy's, Mason County, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, PSP, RCO, RFEG's, Tribal Nations, USFWS, WDFW, Contracts.

| Activities for FY2016 | Target Dates | Responsibility |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Increase community awareness and interest in natural resource stewardship. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Provide volunteer activities to foster community stewardship of natural resources. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |

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| Conduct and promote outdoor educational experiences to youth and adults. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Nurture sustainable farming to increase local food production. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Facilitate public involvement in workshops, trainings and community events. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Maintain and upgrade the District web page and produce newsletter. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |
| Participate in Puget Sound Conservation District Caucus initiatives | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |

DATA COLLECTION & MANAGEMENT

Goal: Develop and maintain valuable data bases which can be widely utilized.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, DOE, EPA, FSA, NOAA, RCO, USFWS, WDFW, Contracts.

| Activities for FY2016 | Target Dates | Responsibility |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Maintain current natural resource inventory and program implementation databases. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians |
| Assessment of current habitat conditions and development of summary report. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians |
| Develop and/or provide complementary GIS layers for District and partner organization use. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians |
| Continue to update working lands inventory. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians |
| Track BMP implementation resulting from District programs and projects. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians/Engineers |
| Identify opportunities to develop and implement effectiveness monitoring strategies for District conservation initiatives. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | Technicians/Engineers |
| Support regional data collection efforts. | 7-1-16 6-30-17 | All Staff |