



# FY2016 (7/1/16 – 6/30/17) Annual Work Plan Underwood Conservation District

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## Mission of Underwood Conservation District

- ❖ *The mission of UCD is to engage landowners and land users throughout Skamania and west Klickitat Counties in the voluntary conservation, enhancement, stewardship, and sustainable use of natural resources.*

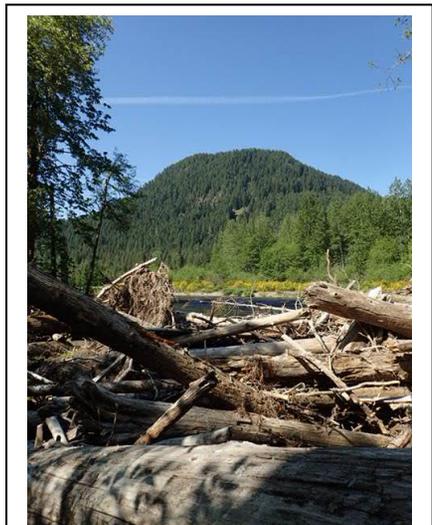
## Program Area: NATURAL RESOURCES

### Natural Resource Issues of Concern (alphabetical):

- ❖ *Air quality*
- ❖ *Climate change resiliency*
- ❖ *Disaster resilience and recovery*
- ❖ *Energy*
- ❖ *Forest and native ecosystem management, health and diversity including White Oak forest habitat*
- ❖ *Habitat fragmentation and protection including fish and wildlife, riparian, and pollinator habitat*
- ❖ *Invasive species control*
- ❖ *Pollution prevention*
- ❖ *Small farm and other working land stewardship and sustainability*
- ❖ *Soil health and erosion control*
- ❖ *Water (quality and quantity) and watershed protection*

### Natural Resource Priorities and Goals (through 2021):

- ❖ *Water (Quality and Quantity) and Watershed Protection*
  - Assist irrigation districts, ditch companies, and Coordinated Resource Management Areas through facilitation and project sponsorship.
    - Work with Buck Creek water users and Trout Lake irrigators to improve withdrawal, screening, and delivery systems.
  - Assist farmers and ranchers, both small and large-scale, with farm plans, nutrient management plans, cost share and grant applications, technical assistance on site-specific projects, and serve as a liaison between the landowner and regulatory agencies.
    - Maintain and improve a prioritized list of projects that supports watershed health. Review this list annually.
  - Assist water users in the district with conservation and protection of water sources.
    - In coordination with others, implement ways to fill data gaps identified in watershed plans.



Instream large wood, blooming scotch broom and Bunker Hill in the Wind River Watershed

- Evaluate current and future water use and supply and identify areas of potential to conserve and manage water and look at the future of water use and climate change.
    - Establish a positive environment to enable a watershed plan to move forward in the White Salmon River watershed.
    - Work with Trout Lake to improve sewage management.
  - Work with livestock and irrigation operations to improve water quality metrics in the White Salmon River, Wind River and other major drainages.
- ❖ *Invasive Species Control*
  - Maintain close working relationships with other entities engaged in invasive control and restoration practices in order to support collaborative implementation of control plans and projects within the district.
  - Engage in and educate the public to the practices of Early Detection and Rapid Response as it pertains to invasive plants and animals and Integrated Pest Management.
  - Support projects that sustain awareness of invasive species.
- ❖ *Climate Change Resiliency*
  - Help plan for climate change, adaptation, and resiliency.
  - Ensure that climate change resiliency is built into programs, plans and projects.
- ❖ *Forest and Native Ecosystem Management, Health and Diversity including White Oak Forest Habitat*
  - Help small forest landowners maintain healthy, quality, economically viable forests as well as reduce the catastrophic effects on soil, water, fish, wildlife, plants, climate, and related social impacts of wildfires through forest health enhancement and fire hazard reduction.
    - Assist forestland owners in forest management plans, technical recommendations, implement those plans through district cost share agreements as well as state and federal grants/cost share, and serve as a liaison between the landowner and regulatory agencies.
    - Coordinate with other agencies to maintain Firewise communities and empower them to implement Firewise projects and principles.
    - Continue mitigation of fire danger to urban interface areas.
    - Work to make Firewise common practice.
    - Work with USFS and other large forest landowners in mitigating risk in the wildland-urban interface.
    - Build working relationships with fire departments and fire districts.
    - Establish a viable community-based fuel reduction program for all forest holdings.
    - Continue and expand the UCD chipper program.
    - Support sustainable use of forest products (e.g. biomass energy production).
    - Help forest landowners with problems of insects, diseases, and invasive species impacting our forests.
    - Support education and assistance for the bark beetle infestation in urban/suburban environments.
  - Help landowners to provide an environment for native species and do so in concert with agricultural production.
  - Work with and build relationships with large, private land managers.
- ❖ *Soil Health and Erosion Control*
  - Help to educate landowners on the best management practices for improving and maintaining soil health.

- ❖ *Habitat Improvement and Protection including Fish and Wildlife, Riparian, and Pollinator Habitat*
  - Continue to establish and improve riparian buffers and protect shorelines from erosion.
  - Help improve habitat for steelhead and salmon in the White Salmon River, the Wind River and other rivers and streams.
    - Continue to improve failing bridges and culverts that impact streams and fish habitat.
    - Continue to plan and implement habitat enhancement projects throughout the district.
  - Help create healthy forage and habitat available for pollinators.
    - Educate the public on the challenges facing pollinators.
    - Educate on best management practices supporting pollinators.
    - Identify and complete at least 5 pollinator or wildlife habitat enhancement projects.
  - Support programs that assist with wise growth and development.
    - Plan and implement a backyard habitat program.
    - Provide education and resources for residents and municipalities interested in Low Impact Development.
  
- ❖ *Disaster Resilience and Recovery*
  - Ensure that disaster resilience and recovery is built into programs, plans and projects.
    - Build working relationships with emergency management offices, fire departments, and fire districts.
  
- ❖ *Small Farm and other Working Land Stewardship and Sustainability*
  - Help landowners develop and implement practices for better land stewardship.
    - Help landowners improve grazing practices.
    - Conduct active outreach to orchardists and vineyard operators to identify needs and ways to assist.
    - Assess additional needs of district landowners, research solutions and implement.
    - Assist farmers and ranchers, both small and large-scale, with farm plans, nutrient management plans, cost share and grant applications, technical assistance on site-specific projects, and serve as a liaison between the landowner and regulatory agencies.
  - Help prevent land conversion and conserve working farms and forests.
    - Provide information and services to help farms and forestlands be more economically viable.
  
- ❖ *Pollution Prevention*
  - Support education for the public on pesticide and herbicide use, chemical vs. non-chemical options, with emphasis on Integrated Pest Management options.
  - Provide information to homeowners on proper use and alternatives to toxic products.
  
- ❖ *Air Quality*
  - Support or participate in air quality programs where appropriate.
    - Continue the chipper program.
  
- ❖ *Energy*
  - Support renewable energy projects such as methane digesters and other technology.

- Help reduce the barriers to alternative energy development.
- Investigate opportunities related to biomass power plants such as using the generated heat for greenhouses. Perhaps create a farm incubator program like the East Multnomah SWCD has.

**Funding Sources:** *WA DNR, WA ECY, RCO SRFB, USFWS, BPA F&W, WSCC (see glossary for acronym definitions)*

<b>Activities for FY2016</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding Needed</b>	<b>Actual Funding Secured</b>
Secure adequate funding for and implement a successful District-wide Forest Health and Firewise Program.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Dan Richardson</i>	<i>Year-round project</i>	<i>\$150,000*</i>	<i>\$93,000</i>
Identify and provide technical assistance for livestock management projects, soil health, water quality improvements, and riparian buffer projects with cooperating landowners. This includes work under WSCC Category 3, the WA State Soil Health Committee, and Dept. of Ecology's Clean Water Grant.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Carly McNeil</i>	<i>Year-round project</i>	<i>\$250,000*</i>	<i>\$156,500</i>
Continue to assess needs and gain input on how we can assist orchardists and vineyard owners/operators.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Carly McNeil</i>	<i>Year-round project</i>	<i>\$2,000*</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
Continue to plan and implement steelhead habitat enhancement/restoration work in Wind River, via BPA F&W contract, Interfluve subcontract, and other funding sources.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round project</i>	<i>\$165,000</i>	<i>\$74,000</i>
Pursue successful completion of Mill Creek Fish Passage Project.	<i>July- October 2016</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>12 weeks</i>	<i>\$600,000</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>
Pursue successful completion of projects such as Buck Creek Irrigation Improvement and other irrigation improvements throughout the District.	<i>July 2015- June 2016</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round project</i>	<i>\$1,200,000</i>	<i>\$ 5,000</i>

Pursue furthering projects that have been prioritized from the Rattlesnake Creek Habitat Project Assessment.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Dan Richardson</i>	<i>Year-round project</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>	<i>\$91,000</i>
Pursue opportunities to conduct a land use inventory of the District, assessing natural resource needs of District and ways UCD can fulfill those needs.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Four weeks</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Continue to develop options for re-organizing and re-energizing the WSRWMC and WRWC or other forums to engage community-based watershed involvement.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Three weeks</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Develop and maintain a Watershed Enhancement Project List for entire District, including the Wind River and White Salmon River watersheds.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Four weeks</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Continue participating in and coordinating project work with Coordinated Resource Management Planning groups.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Two weeks</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Participate in WRIA 29A & 29B planning processes when possible, and as data gaps are identified and prioritized, assist in securing funding and gathering data.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round project</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Complete Fish Passage Inventory for Wind River and conduct inventory in as many fish-bearing streams as possible in the District, developing projects with willing landowners where possible.	<i>July- September 2016</i>	<i>Jan Mehaffy</i>	<i>12 weeks</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>

\*without specific grant support for this task, funding may come from WSCC

**Program Area: INFORMATION & EDUCATION**

**Information/Education Priorities and Goals (through 2021):**

- ❖ Raise awareness of UCD and our services throughout the district.
- ❖ Educate the district’s school students on natural resource issues, and promote the Envirothon program.
  - Involvement in the schools will help educate kids and parents. Assist children, our future landowners, in being the driver of change.
  - Educate kids on stream health and forest health.
  - Develop an understanding that the health of the community comes from the health of the land.
- ❖ Provide forestry, livestock, and horticultural and water conservation training on an annual basis.
- ❖ Provide educational opportunities to small parcel landowners and managers on natural resource stewardship.
- ❖ Provide education and outreach to local land managers to reduce water consumption and solid waste.
- ❖ Increase education and outreach to minority populations.
- ❖ Investigate the opportunity for a facility that could serve as a community center for natural resources that may contain workshop space, demonstration sites, and work with partner agencies and organizations.
- ❖ Serve as a convener and facilitator of discussions on relevant natural resource issues.
- ❖ Strive to meet the diverse information needs and electronic capabilities of the public.
  - Be seen as a real service to the public.
  - Be the source of hard copies of information.
  - Increase outreach to minority populations.
- ❖ Provide educational opportunities for volunteerism.
  - As there is a dwindling on-the-ground labor force, invite kids to work on projects with landowners to gain experience.

**Funding Sources:** WA DNR, WA ECY, WSCC (see glossary for acronym definitions)

<b>Activities for FY2016</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding Needed</b>	<b>Actual Funding Secured</b>
Pursue funding for and provide educational opportunities and technical assistance for livestock, forest, horticulture, and natural resource management. Conduct relevant educational programs, tours, site visits, and workshops throughout the District.	July 2016- June 2017	Tova Tillinghast	Year- round project	\$20,000	\$7,000*
Improve UCD’s outreach and education structure to provide clear messaging to the public about UCD services. This may include developing a holistic land and water stewardship program.	July 2016- June 2017	Tova Tillinghast	Year- round project	\$5,000	\$1,000*

Pursue funding and implementation of a Backyard Habitat Certification and education program.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Dan Richardson</i>	<i>Year- round project</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>\$500</i>
Continue partnering with USFWS, MCFEG, YN, CGEI, other partners, and school districts to educate students on natural resource issues, including WaterJam, the Envirothon, and pursuing funding for either an education/outreach position or internship or to adopt state-wide CD program such as Salmon in the Classroom, Water on Wheels, and Wheat Week.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Jan Mehaffy</i>	<i>Year- round project</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Continue to include outreach and education about aquatic and terrestrial invasive species into general UCD educational materials, as well as continued participation in the Columbia Gorge Coordinated Weed Management Area meetings.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Dan Richardson</i>	<i>Year- round project</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Pursue funding to reprint and distribute Landowner Handbook, and contact both counties to refresh online posting and distribution.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Jan Mehaffy</i>	<i>One week</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Continue annual Plant Sale and Arbor Day event, and continue to promote these events to the west end of Skamania County.	<i>Nov. 2016- March 2017</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Six months</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>	<i>\$15,000**</i>
Continue to utilize on-line media such as the UCD website and Facebook pages for program promotion.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Jan Mehaffy</i>	<i>Year- round project</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Update UCD brochure and develop a Spanish version of it as an invitation to minority populations to work with UCD. Continue to provide hard copies of materials, when practical, to those who need it.	<i>July 2016- June 2017</i>	<i>Jan Mehaffy</i>	<i>Year- round project</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>

\* without specific grant support for this task, funding may come from WSCC

\*\* a portion of funding may come from plant sale revenue

**Program Area: DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

**District Operations Priorities and Goals (through 2021):**

- ❖ Have all needed staffing and staff training to implement the Long Range Plan.
- ❖ Pursue funding and practice fiscal prudence to retain staff and provide district services into the future.
- ❖ Establish and maintain positive solid relationships with Klickitat County and Skamania County.
- ❖ Assess additional needs of district landowners, research solutions and implement.
- ❖ Have all facilities, vehicles, and equipment to meet the needs of the district. UCD will be housed in better facilities that are more visible to the public, with meeting/workshop space, demonstration sites, and close to partner agencies and organizations.
- ❖ Work with neighboring districts and other entities to leverage and share resources and information.
- ❖ Achieve stable funding for conservation to allow for planning for the needs of the district.
  - Work to create an entity that can receive certain types of grant funds for the district.
  - Discuss the idea of a tax base.

**Funding Sources: WSCC (see glossary for acronym definitions)**

<b>Activities for FY2016</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding Needed</b>	<b>Actual Funding Secured</b>
Keep UCD staff grants/time-tracking up-to-date and work to balance staff workload, including identification of additional staffing, staff training, or funding needs.	July 2016- June 2017	Tova Tillinghast and Ann Gross	Year- round project	\$3,000	\$3,000*
Raise awareness of UCD projects and services by requesting to meet with Skamania and Klickitat County Commissioners on a regular basis, identifying ways to meet county needs, and compiling landowner/stakeholder letters of support.	July 2016- June 2017	Tova Tillinghast	Year- round project	\$2,000	\$1,000*
Continually assess office, vehicle, and equipment needs, and pursue improvements.	July 2016- June 2017	Tova Tillinghast	Year- round project	\$1,000	\$1,000*
Provide supervisor and staff training and equipment improvements/upgrades as needed to sustain capable staff and work environment. Develop and implement a training schedule and structure for staff to review conservation-related topics and BMPs.	July 2016- June 2017	Tova Tillinghast	Year- round project	\$20,000	\$10,000**

Regularly update the board of supervisors with budget picture and potential changes.	July 2016- June 2017	Tova Tillinghast and Ann Gross	Year- round project	\$5,000	\$5,000*
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\*funding may come from WSCC

\*\*funding may come from overhead accrual account, per UCD Training Policy.



## FY2016 (7/1/16 – 6/30/17) Annual Budget Summary

Underwood Conservation District

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<i>BPA Fish &amp; Wildlife – Wind River</i>	\$ 59,600
<i>DNR Fish Passage Inventory</i>	\$ 10,000
<i>ECY Fecal Coliform Water Quality</i>	\$ 54,000
<i>ECY WRIA 29 Water Quality Implementation Project</i>	\$ 92,500
<i>Inter-fluve Wind River Strategy</i>	\$ 15,000
<i>RCO SRFB – Rattlesnake Creek Hydrol. Enhancement</i>	\$ 67,000
<i>RCO SRFB – Rattlesnake Creek Riparian Vegetation</i>	\$ 24,000
<i>RCO SRFB – Mill Creek Fish Passage</i>	\$412,000
<i>Skamania County Title III – Firewise</i>	\$ 93,000
<i>USFWS – Mill Creek Fish Passage</i>	\$ 88,000
<i>Washington State Soil Health Committee</i>	\$ 7,300
<i>WSCC Implementation*</i>	\$ 67,000
<i>WSCC Basic Funding*</i>	\$ 12,500
<i>WSCC Livestock</i>	\$ 6,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,008,400</b>



Mill Creek Culvert, planned for replacement in 2016

\*WSCC funds are not yet allocated for FY16, hence these are estimates based on FY15 allocations.

**Washington Conservation Districts are trusted partners helping people care for Washington's natural resources**

## **Glossary of Acronyms:**

*BPA F&W – Bonneville Power Administration’s Fish and Wildlife Division subcontracts with UCD to conduct steelhead restoration work in the Wind River*

*NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service, a division of US Dept. of Agriculture, is UCD’s federal partner in conservation work. Formerly, the Soil Conservation Service.*

*PCSRF/YN – Yakama Nation has Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding that has been subcontracted to UCD for various projects*

*RCO SRFB – Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, has funded numerous projects for UCD*

*Skamania County – Under Title III of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Act, counties such as Skamania County are authorized to allocate federal funding to help pay for programs related to Firewise.*

*South Central WA RC&D – South Central Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council*

*USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service*

*WA DNR – Washington Department of Natural Resources has “Western States” funding that has then been subcontracted to UCD for various projects including Firewise work and a fish passage inventory.*

*WA ECY – Washington Department of Ecology has funded UCD to conduct livestock and water quality projects in the White Salmon River watershed.*

*WSCC – Washington State Conservation Commission, UCD’s state-level guiding agency, provides funding on an annual basis*