



5-Year Plan (2013 to 2018) Grays Harbor Conservation District

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*Picture of Natural
Resource Project*

Organization of the Grays Harbor Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Washington – authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08.

- In 1939, the State Soil Conservation District Law was passed by the Washington State Legislature. On June 21, 1940, the Montesano-Elma-Oakville Soil Conservation District was confirmed by Secretary of State Belle Reeves thus creating the second Conservation District in Washington State. On January 8, 1952, the Montesano-Elma-Oakville Soil Conservation District application for change of name amendment to Grays Harbor Soil Conservation District was certified by Secretary of State Earl Coe.

Function of the Grays Harbor Conservation District

To make 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. To collaborate with other local, State, and Federal entities to implement on the ground practices.

We Serve & Why

- The cooperators and natural resources within the boundaries of the Conservation District.
- To improve, conserve, protect, and preserve our many natural resources to ensure the quality of life and the rural character of our county for future generations; to ensure the long term use of natural resources in an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable manner using non-regulatory, voluntary approaches that use best management practices.

Mission of the Grays Harbor Conservation District

- The mission of the Grays Harbor Conservation District is to protect, conserve, and enhance the many natural resources in our District and to promote the implementation of best management practices to meet these goals.

Vision of the Grays Harbor Conservation District

- Grays Harbor Conservation District provides quality technical assistance with committed staff in a financially sound and effectively managed organization.

Values of the Grays Harbor Conservation District: The Grays Harbor Conservation District values its natural resources and landowners. We demonstrate this by valuing:

- Integrity and honesty
- Flexibility
- Service to those who voluntarily engage us
- Locally led, economically sustainable resource conservation
- On the ground, science based solutions
- Stewardship for our properties/resources
- Fiscal and public responsibility
- Sustainability – meaning the implementation of economically and environmentally sound and socially acceptable conservation practices

Natural Resource Data & Information:

- 122,000 acres of non-industrial forest land
- 8,000 acres of shellfish production
- 9 Dairy's in operation

Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:

- Knowledge of past and present farming and forestry practices highlights what needs to be done. As the population grows, resource land acreage shrinks and utilizing available resources to the best advantage is critical. Weather conditions directly influences all farming and conservation practices within the district. Government programs directly impacts current projects.

Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Geographic Areas, Measures of Success and Goals:

- **Critical Geographic Areas: (attached map)**



- Watershed health
 - Reduction in TMDL listings within the WRIA's #22, 23, and 24
 - Goal 1-No new TMDL listings by 2018
 - Goal 2-%100 increase in acreage with Riparian Forest Buffer Plantings by 2015 and %200 more by 2018
 - Goal 3- Provide technical assistance for no less than 3 LNMP's and (if available) cost share to non-dairy livestock producers to install needed BMP's
 - Increase Salmonid habitat throughout Grays Harbor Conservation District
 - Goal 1-Cooperate with landowners and sponsors to correct 15 salmonid barriers by 2018
 - Goal 2-%100 increase in acreage with Riparian Forest Buffer Plantings by 2015 and %200 more by 2018
 - Goal 4-Increase habitat protection in the Chehalis River's tributaries by using bio-engineering by 2018
 - Goal 5-By 2018, complete a joint operation with Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Board to identify areas and impacted infestations of noxious water weeds, and assist to eradicate key noxious weeds
- Cropland/unimproved land, tidelands and forest health
 - Improve forest health for Grays Harbor Conservation District's non-industrial private forest landowners (NIPF)
 - Goal 1-Establish a working relationship with Noxious Weed Board for identification or eradication of noxious weeds
 - Goal 2-By 2018 provide technical assistance and/or financial assistance to 50 non-industrial private forest landowners (NIPF)

- Eliminate pesticide contaminant of surface water from applications
 - Goal 1- By 2018, have all ditches in cranberry bogs covered
 - Goal 2- Continue to provide technical assistance to cranberry producers to install BMP to reduce pesticides in surface waters

- Assist in upgrading shellfish grounds
 - Goal 1-Maintain existing production of shellfish bed acres in Grays Harbor by 2018
 - Goal 2-Increase acreage production of shellfish beds in Grays Harbor by 10% by 2018
 - Goal 3- By 2018, complete a joint operation with Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Board to identify areas and impacted infestations of noxious water weeds, and assist to eradicate key noxious weeds

- Improve cropland/unimproved land/small AG operations farms
 - Goal 1- Provide technical assistance to small AG operations, 5 per year
 - Goal 2- When the program is funded, strive to become the technical service provider for the voluntary stewardship program
 - Goal 3- Establish a working relationship with Noxious Weed Board for identification or eradication of noxious weeds

- Energy efficiency and conservation
 - Reduce usage of non-renewable energy
 - Goal 1-Provide energy audits to 10 AG producers by 2016

 - Educate about Low Impact Development and implement Low Impact Development
 - Goal 1-By 2018 have provided information about Low Impact Development to a wide network of stakeholders

Information – Education & District Operations Priorities, Measures of Success, and Goals:

- By June 30, 2015, the GHCD will have the staff, programs, funding, and organizational (roles and responsibilities) structure in place to meet the needs of District landowners and resource users. We will maintain the reputation this District has earned for being a locally led problem solving group. We will strive to remain on the leading edge of conservation issues within our District. We will continue to recruit quality supervisors. Gather greater public and landowner input. Inter-local agreement with Pacific CD
- By 2015, reach non-dairy livestock producers for self assessment
- By 2015, participate in community outreach functions such as, attend Grays Harbor County Fair for public outreach, as well as Watershed Festival and other community events (Master Gardner Events)
- By 2015, create a program to distribute educational materials to schools and cooperators
- By 2015, work with local high schools to participate and compete in Envirothon/Cultivate Success
- Partner with the WSU extension office and GHC to expand education outreach
- Create and maintain social media/website
- Determine the effectiveness of our support of NRCS Wetland Reserve Program Chehalis Emphasis Area
- Provide funding for attendance at NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee and Local Work Group as requested

Land Manager Needs

- Assistance dealing with increased development, such as Farmland Preservation and Voluntary Stewardship Program
- Assistance dealing with increased population with decreasing lot sizes, such as Farmland Preservation and Voluntary Stewardship Program
- Assistance needed with increasing regulatory pressure
- Assistance with more effective water usage to answer increased demand for water supply
- Financial assistance to develop and install conservation practices for agricultural producers

Milestones, Timeline & Actions

Priority: Watershed Health

Measurable Goal: Reduction in TMDL listings within the WRIA's #22, 23, and 24

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
No new TMDL listings for cranberry producers	July 2013 – June 2014	Continue to provide technical assistance to cranberry producers to install BMP to reduce pesticides in surface waters
No new TMDL listings for livestock induced water quality issues	July 2013 – June 2014	Provide technical assistance for no less than 3 LNMP's and (if available) cost share to non-dairy livestock producers to install needed BMP's
No new TMDL listings in Chehalis Basin	Ongoing	Monthly attendance at Chehalis Basin Partnership TMDL DIP meetings

Measurable Goal: Increase Salmonid habitat throughout Grays Harbor Conservation District

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Cooperate with landowners and sponsors to correct 15 salmonid barriers	July 2013 – June 2018	Complete removal of 3 salmonid barriers
%100 increase in acreage with Riparian Forest Buffer Plantings by 2015 and %200 more by 2018	July 2013 – June 2018	10 acres of CREP on the ground or contracted to go on the ground
Increase habitat protection in the Chehalis River's tributaries by using bio-engineering	Ongoing	1 LWD project designed & permitted.

Priority: Cropland/unimproved land, tidelands and forest health

Measurable Goal: Improve forest health for Grays Harbor Conservation District's non-industrial private forest landowners (NIPF)

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
provide technical assistance and/or financial assistance to 50 non-industrial private forest landowners (NIPF)	Ongoing	Technical and/or financial assistance to 10 NIPF
Establish a working relationship with Noxious Weed Board for identification or eradication of noxious weeds	Ongoing	Schedule joint meetings with the Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Board

Measurable Goal: Eliminate pesticide contaminant of surface water from applications

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Have all ditches in cranberry bogs covered	By June 2018	Surveying Cranberry producers for unfinished crib and cover
Provide technical assistance to cranberry producers to install BMP to reduce pesticides in surface waters	Ongoing	Attend and present at the Cranberry growers meetings

Measurable Goal: Assist in upgrading shellfish grounds

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Maintain existing production of shellfish bed acres in Grays Harbor	Ongoing	Assist and engage with local shellfish growers and the Departments of Health and Ecology to ensure that no new downgrades of shellfish beds occur
Increase acreage production of shellfish beds in Grays Harbor by 10%	Ongoing	Assist and engage with local shellfish growers and the departments of Health and Ecology to work on non-point source pollution issues so downgraded shellfish beds are upgraded

Measurable Goal: Improve cropland/unimproved land/small AG operations farms

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Provide technical assistance to small AG operations, 5 per year	July 2013 – June 2018	Develop a program for outreach and technical assistance for small AG operations

Establish a working relationship with Noxious Weed Board for identification or eradication of noxious weeds	Ongoing	Schedule joint meetings with the Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Board

Priority: Energy efficiency and conservation

Measurable Goal: Reduce usage of non-renewable energy

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Provide energy audits to 10 AG producers	July 2013 – June 2014	Have staff become trained to provide energy audits

Measurable Goal: Educate about Low Impact Development and implement Low Impact Development

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Provide information about Low Impact Development to a wide network of stakeholders	July 2013 – June 2018	Develop an outreach program for Low Impact Development

Staffing Needs (optional)

- Office Administrator
- Contracted Livestock Planner
- Education and outreach coordinator
- VSP Technician
- Natural Resource Technician(s)
- Grant Writer
- Service Forester
- District Manager GIS/ Engineer technician
- *Livestock Technician*
- *Contracted CREP Coordinator*

Annual Budget Needs (optional)

- The Grays Harbor Conservation District requires, at minimum, enough funds to pay for two full time staff, a forester and a project supervisor, rent and utilities, employee training, associational dues, and project funds. As the district grows, all funds will need to increase to continue resource services.

Key Decision Makers (optional) The first and foremost key decision maker is the landowner or land manager. The management decisions they make on a daily basis affect the condition of natural resources. The second key decision makers are the Board of Supervisors and the staff of Grays Harbor Conservation District. Other key decision makers include :

- The Federal Government


- Washington State Government
- Washington State Conservation Commission

Key advisors include but are not limited to:

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Grays Harbor County Commissioners
 - Washington State Agencies/WSDA, WDFW, DNR, Ecology, etc.
 - Farm Services Agency
 - U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Environmental Protection Agency
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Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

*Picture of Natural
Resource Project*



Strategies to Address Trends:

- ❖ Increased involvement with county government to effect growth and regulations affecting resource issues
 - ❖ Continue to act as a buffer between regulatory agencies and individual landowners, including VSP
 - ❖ Continue to act as a clearing house for conservation technical and financial assistance programs for landowners
 - ❖ Strive to promote small acreage management by providing technical and financial assistance as funding allows
 - ❖ Investigation and/ or implementation of a system of rates and charges
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