



5-Year Plan (2016 to 2021) Mason Conservation District

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Organization of the District

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

Mission of the District

To promote the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of natural resources in our community.

Function of the District

To make available technical, financial, and educational resources and coordinate them to meet the needs of residents to accomplish the mission of the District.

Vision of the District

A healthy natural resource environment that supports working lands and a sustainable economy.

Values of the District

- Financial integrity and transparency regarding use and allocation of public resources.
- Delivering cost-effective programs and common sense conservation.
- The District's role as a liaison between land managers and other government agencies.
- Earning the trust of our clients by the value of the services we deliver.
- Conservation and stewardship practices supporting working lands and vibrant ecosystems.
- Collaborative leadership in community-based conservation.
- Passionate pursuit of excellence to create value.

Natural Resource Priorities

- Increase awareness and action among marine and freshwater shoreline landowners to protect habitat and water quality.
- Implement riparian management plans for freshwater and marine shorelines.
- Increase resilience of forest lands to capture ecological, recreational, and other values by assisting landowners to actively manage forest lands.
- Conduct resource risk assessments to protect natural resources and human well-being.
- Assist in organic waste management and help develop beneficial uses of nutrients.

Critical Geographic Areas

- All watersheds of Mason County are critical geographic areas.
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Technical Assistance – Education Priorities

- Educate and engage youth and adults in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of natural resources in our community.
 - Communicate the value of natural resources to the residents of Mason County.
 - Increase community awareness of the benefits of conserving and sustaining natural resources.
 - Assist with the implementation of conservation practices.
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District Operations Priorities

- Secure sufficient funding/financial resources when and where possible to achieve mission.
 - Increase awareness of conservation district mission, services, and natural resource conservation.
 - Increase public recognition of the District and its programs.
 - Deliver equitable services with Integrity.
 - Implement innovative and cost-effective conservation solutions.
 - Collaborate with local and regional partners to develop and implement coordinated and strategic ecosystem recovery actions.
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Trends Impacting Conservation in the District

- Rapidly growing population in Mason County from 2011 to 2015.
 - Changing demographics and economic conditions.
 - Changing land use patterns and regulations.
 - Increasing demands on water availability and prioritization of utilization.
 - Increasing regulatory actions to achieve Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Clean Water Act (CWA) compliance.
 - Increasing demand for technical assistance with insufficient and unstable funding.
 - Changing climate and sea level.
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Strategies to Address Trends

- The District will implement priority actions through the Annual Plan of Work
 - Continued investment in professional development for District staff to increase knowledge and efficiency in the development of effective strategies for natural resource management.
 - Awareness of developing constraints on water availability necessary to sustain quality of life and a livable community.
 - Increased emphasis of District efforts toward freshwater and marine shorelines.
 - Develop and implement effectiveness monitoring strategies for District conservation initiatives.
 - Increase emphasis to enhance agricultural viability through voluntary stewardship.
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Key Decision Makers

- Residents and landowners in Mason County
 - District Board and staff
 - Board of Mason County Commissioners
 - State and federal policy makers
 - Native American tribes
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