

# Annual Work Plan for FY2018 (7/1/18 – 6/30/19)

## 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:

- ❖ Water (Quality and Quantity) and Watershed Protection
- ❖ Invasive Species Control
- ❖ Climate Change Resiliency
- ❖ Forest and Native Ecosystem Management, Health and Diversity including Oregon White Oak Forest Habitat
- ❖ Soil Health and Erosion Control
- ❖ Habitat Improvement and Protection including Fish and Wildlife, Riparian, and Pollinator Habitat
- ❖ Disaster Resilience and Recovery

- ❖ Small Farm and other Working Land



#### Stewardship and Sustainability

- ❖ Pollution Prevention
- ❖ Air Quality
- ❖ Renewable Energy

## **Natural Resource Priorities and Goals (through 2022):**

### ❖ *Water (Quality and Quantity) and Watershed Protection*

- Assist irrigation districts, ditch companies, and Coordinated Resource Management Areas through facilitation and project sponsorship.
- 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.
- Assist water users in the district with conservation and protection of water sources.
- 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.
- 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 (BMPs) 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.
- Help create healthy forage and habitat available for pollinators.
- Support programs that assist with wise growth and development.

❖ *Disaster Resilience and Recovery*

- Ensure that disaster resilience and recovery is built into programs, plans and projects.

❖ *Small Farm and other Working Land Stewardship and Sustainability*

- Help landowners develop and implement practices for better land stewardship.
- Help prevent land conversion and conserve working farms and forests.



Stabler Bend scotch broom removal along the Wind River

❖ *Pollution Prevention*

- Support education for the public on least polluting 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.

❖ *Energy*

- Support renewable energy projects such as methane digesters and other technology.

**Funding Sources:** WSCC, Skamania County, Klickitat County, Yakama Nation, WA ECY, WA DNR, RCO SRFB, BPA F&W, Clark-Skamania Flyfishers, USFS-CRGN SA, CRGC (see glossary for acronym definitions)

<b>Activities for FY2018</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 2018-June 2019</i>	<i>Dan Richardson</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$150,000</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
Identify and provide technical assistance for livestock management projects, soil health, water quality improvements, pollinator habitat, oak woodlands, wildlife habitat, and riparian buffer projects with cooperating landowners. This includes work under WSCC Natural Resource Initiative, Columbia River Gorge Commission, and Dept. of Ecology's Clean Water Grant.	<i>July 2018-June 2019</i>	<i>Carly Lemon</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$250,000</i>	<i>\$154,000</i>
Continue to assess needs and gain input on how we can assist orchardists and vineyard owners/operators.	<i>July 2018-June 2019</i>	<i>Carly Lemon</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Continue to plan and implement steelhead habitat enhancement/restoration work in Wind River watershed, via BPA F&W contract, LCFRB/SRFB funding, and other funding sources.	<i>July 2018-June 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>	<i>\$339,000</i>
Continue to plan and implement salmon habitat enhancement/restoration work in the White Salmon River watershed, such as the Lower Buck Creek Floodplain Reconnection project, Lower Rattlesnake Creek habitat and vegetation enhancement and Panakanic hydrologic restoration work, via RCO SRFB and other funding sources.	<i>July 2018-June 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>	<i>\$210,000</i>
Pursue successful completion of projects such as Buck Creek Irrigation Improvement and other irrigation improvements throughout the District.	<i>July 2018-June 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$2,000,000</i>	<i>\$1,520,000</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 2018-June 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Four weeks</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>

Develop and maintain a Natural Resource Project List, including completed projects, for entire District, including the Wind River and White Salmon River watersheds.	July 2018- June 2019	Jan Thomas	Four weeks	\$2,000	\$1,000*
Continue participating in and coordinating project work with Coordinated Resource Management Planning groups.	July 2018- June 2019	Tova Tillinghast	Two weeks	\$1,000	\$1,000*
Participate in WRIA 29A & 29B planning processes when possible, and as data gaps are identified and prioritized, assist in securing funding and gathering data.	July 2017- June 2018	Tova Tillinghast	Year-round	\$5,000	\$1,000*

\*without specific grant support for this task, funding may come from WSCC Implementation or Basic Funding

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

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Program Area: ***INFORMATION & EDUCATION***

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**Information/Education Priorities and Goals (through 2022):**

- ❖ Raise awareness of UCD and our services throughout the district.
- ❖ Educate the district’s school students on natural resource issues.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Provide educational opportunities for volunteerism.

**Funding Sources:** *WSCC, Skamania County, WA ECY, WA DNR, WCS*

<b>Activities for FY2018</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.	<i>July 2018- June 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>	<i>\$7,000*</i>
Continue to explore ways to re-engage communities in watershed stewardship, providing forums for natural resource information exchange and stewardship.	<i>July 2018- June 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Explore ways to expand education and outreach programs to Spanish-speaking members of community.	<i>July 2018- June 2019</i>	<i>Jan Thomas</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>\$500*</i>
Continue improving UCD's outreach and education to provide clear messaging to the public about UCD services.	<i>July 2018- June 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Pursue funding and implementation of a Backyard Habitat Certification and education program.	<i>July 2018- June 2019</i>	<i>Dan Richardson</i>	<i>Year-round</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, Jewett Creek water quality monitoring, Envirothon, other opportunities as available, and pursuing funding for an education/outreach position. If funding is secured, consider adopting state-wide CD program such as Salmon in the Classroom, Water on Wheels, and Wheat Week.	<i>July 2018- June 2019</i>	<i>Jan Thomas</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Provide educational volunteer opportunities for all ages to gain experience with natural resource stewardship.	<i>July 2018- June 2019</i>	<i>Jan Thomas</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Continue to integrate outreach and education about aquatic and terrestrial invasive species into general UCD	<i>July 2018- June 2019</i>	<i>Dan Richardson</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>

educational materials, as well as continue participation in the Columbia Gorge Coordinated Weed Management Area meetings.					
Continue annual Native Plant Sale, TreeFest event and associated publicity, education, and opportunities for public input.	<i>November 2018-March 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Six months</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>	<i>\$15,000**</i>
Continue to utilize on-line media such as the UCD website, E-Newsletter, and Facebook pages for program promotion.	<i>July 2018-June 2019</i>	<i>Jan Thomas</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Investigate opportunities for a UCD facility that could serve as a community center for natural resources, workshop space, demonstration sites, and offices.	<i>July 2018-June 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>

\* without specific grant support for this task, funding may come from WSCC Implementation or Basic Funding

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

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Program Area: ***DISTRICT OPERATIONS***

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**District Operations Priorities and Goals (through 2022):**

- ❖ 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.

**Funding Sources:** *WSCC, Whatcom Conservation District/CTD (see glossary for acronym definitions)*

<b>Activities for FY2018</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 to support District Operations, projects, programs, staff, and sustainable sources of funding.	<i>July 2018- June 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round project</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>1,000*</i>
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.	<i>July 2018- June 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast and Ann Gross</i>	<i>Year-round project</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>\$3,000*</i>
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 continually compiling landowner/stakeholder letters of support.	<i>July 2018- June 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round project</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Continually assess office, vehicle, and equipment needs, and pursue improvements in order to provide adequate facilities and supplies to implement plan of work.	<i>July 2018- June 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round project</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Investigate opportunities for a UCD facility that could serve as a community center for natural resources, workshop space, demonstration sites, and offices.	<i>July 2017- June 2018</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>	<i>\$1,000*</i>
Provide supervisor and staff training, regular wage increases, 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.	<i>July 2018- June 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast</i>	<i>Year-round project</i>	<i>\$40,000</i>	<i>\$20,000**</i>
Regularly update the board of supervisors with budget picture and potential changes.	<i>July 2018- June 2019</i>	<i>Tova Tillinghast and Ann Gross</i>	<i>Year-round project</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>\$5,000*</i>

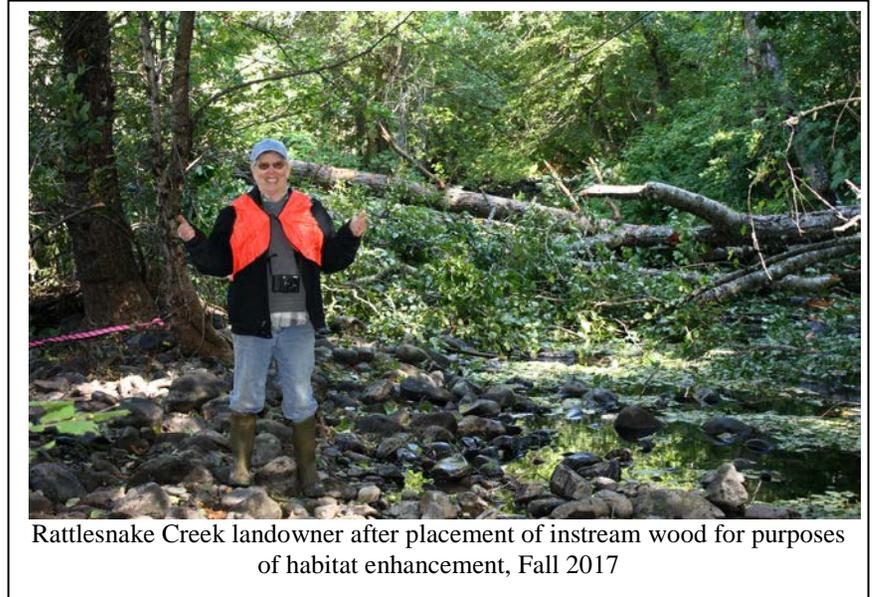
\*funding may come from WSCC

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

# Annual Budget Summary for FY2018 (7/1/18 – 6/30/19)

## Underwood Conservation District

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<i>BPA Fish &amp; Wildlife – Wind River</i>	\$ 89,000
<i>Clark-Skamania Flyfishers</i>	\$ 2,000
<i>Columbia River Gorge Commission</i>	\$ 5,000
<i>ECY WRIA 29 Water Quality Implementation Project</i>	\$ 33,000
<i>Klickitat County – Hell Roaring Irrigation Co.</i>	\$ 26,000
<i>RCO SRFB – Rattlesnake Creek Hydrol. Enhancement</i>	\$138,500
<i>RCO SRFB – Rattlesnake Creek Riparian Vegetation</i>	\$ 51,000
<i>RCO SRFB – Little Wind River</i>	\$274,000
<i>RCO SRFB – WSID Fish Screen</i>	\$254,000
<i>Skamania County – general services</i>	\$ 5,000
<i>UCD Plant Sale/TreeFest</i>	\$ 20,000
<i>USFS – Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area</i>	\$ 5,000
<i>WSCC Basic Funding - based on FY17</i>	\$ 12,500
<i>WSCC Implementation - based on FY17</i>	\$ 67,000
<i>WSCC Irrigation Efficiencies Program</i>	\$600,000
<i>WSCC Natural Resource Initiative</i>	\$ 86,000
<i>WSCC/Whatcom Conservation District/CTD</i>	\$ 10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,678,000</b>



Rattlesnake Creek landowner after placement of instream wood for purposes of habitat enhancement, Fall 2017

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

*CD – Conservation District*

*CGEI – Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute, a local environmental education group*

*CRGC – Columbia River Gorge Commission*

*CTD – Center for Technical Development*

*LCFRB – Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, the lead entity that provides SRFB funds to the Wind River and west.*

*MCFEG – Mid-Columbia Fish Enhancement Group*

*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*

*SWCD – Soil and Water Conservation District*

*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.*

*WCS – Washington Conservation Society*

*WRIA – Watershed Resource Inventory Area, a watershed area designated by Dept. of Ecology*

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

*USFS – CRGNSA – United States Forest Service Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area*