



## **FY2019 (7/1/18 – 6/30/19) Annual Work Plan**

### **Walla Walla County Conservation District**

**For More Information Contact: Renee M. Hadley, 509-956-3777,**

**[renee.hadley@wwccd.net](mailto:renee.hadley@wwccd.net)**



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#### **Mission of the Walla Walla County Conservation District**

- *WWCCD is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of the natural resources of Walla Walla County, facilitated by working on a voluntary basis with landowners to identify opportunities and create solutions, while consistently providing education, information, and assistance whenever possible.*

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#### **Natural Resource Priorities**

*Most of Walla Walla County land is in private ownership. As a result, WWCCD tends to work with agricultural landowners. The Natural Resources Priorities described below have been identified as state, regional and local priorities through various agencies. These agencies include but are not limited to Washington Dept. Of Ecology, Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, NRCS Snake River Local Working Group, Walla Walla County, Snake River Salmon Recovery Office and area non-profit organizations. Priorities often overlap and are defined in detail in numerous TMDL reports, several geomorphic assessments on local waterways, the VSP plan, WW Subbasin Plan, WW Watershed Plan, several USACE flood assessment plans, WW Co Hazard Mitigation Plans, WW Co CWPP and other documents.*

- *Critical areas and wildlife protection*
  - *This resource is described in the WWCCD 5-year plan as Fisheries, Range & Pasture, Wetland Resources, and Forest Health. Critical areas include Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Wetlands, Frequently Flooded areas, Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, and Geologic Hazardous areas. Components of each may be described in other resource priorities, below.*
- *Water Quality*
  - *Numerous TMDL reports and the Salmon Limiting Factors Report have identified water quality concerns. Establishing and maintaining riparian buffers, facilitating improvements with livestock producers, reducing erosion and restoring waterways to their natural function are ways to protect and enhance water quality.*
- *Water Quantity*
  - *Municipal and irrigation withdraws and changing climate conditions have resulted in declining aquifers and instream flows. Several waterways also have “gaining” or “losing” reaches making it challenging to identify the factor related to declining conditions. Installing irrigation efficiency projects, monitoring water use and collaborating with area partners are part of WWCCD’s strategy to address water quantity concerns.*
- *Air Quality*
  - *Nearly 94% of Walla Walla County acres are mapped as within a “moderate” to “very high” wind erosion potential which is more severe in the west portion of the county adjacent to the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Walla Walla County, WA-Ecology, and NRCS are working to address these concerns. Encouraging best management practices related to agricultural burning can reduce particulate matter and address air quality concerns.*

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**Program Areas:** *There are two program areas: natural resource programs and district programs. Natural resource programs are those intended to address specific, identified natural resource concerns in the district area. District programs are those supporting basic district operations, education and outreach with landowners, engagement with other processes and entities to advance the work of the district, etc. Both program area activities relate to long term goals from the 5-year plan.*

**Natural Resource Priority Program Area:** Critical Areas & Wildlife protection

**Goal(s):** Increase stability of fish and wildlife populations and protect/enhance habitats

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** Remove one fish barrier/install one fish screen per year in Walla Walla County. Assess critical area function and needs within Walla Walla County.

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** Design one fish related barrier removal or fish screen project annually. Develop farm plans at the request of landowners to address critical areas on their property concerns.

**Funding Source(s):** Washington State Conservation Commission, Walla Walla County, Bonneville Power Administration

<b>Activities for FY2019</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time (Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Lead the Voluntary Stewardship Program including implementing the plan, monitoring, and developing VSP focused farm plans.	On-going through June 2019	Renee M. Hadley Lisa Stearns Joanna Cowles Cleveland Audrey Ahmann	85 85 12 25	90,000	Walla Walla County contract
Design and install 2 fish screens in cooperation with local landowners and appropriate agency partners.	On-going through June 2019	Lynda Oosterhuis	10	12,800	BPA, others
Design and monitor various restoration projects.	On-going through June 2019	Lance Horning	100	62,000	Partner CDs/ NRCS MOU
Assist the Columbia CD in scoping, design, review and finalization of the <i>Touchet River Conceptual Restoration Plan</i>	July 2018 to June 2019	Renee M. Hadley	15	5000	Partner CD/ Implementation grant
Seek funding to design and construct two fish barrier removal projects as identified by WDFW priority barrier removal list.	On-going through June 2019	Renee M. Hadley	10	2,400	Implementation grant

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Seek funding to help landowners construct stream restoration projects on the Touchet River, Walla Walla River, Mill Creek and tributaries.	On-going through June 2019	Renee M. Hadley	8	2,000	Implementation grant
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**Natural Resource Priority Program Area:** Water Quality

**Goal(s):** Reduce pollutants to waters of Walla Walla

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** Work with Walla Walla landowners and conservation partners to remove Walla Walla streams and rivers from the 303d list by planting and maintaining riparian forest buffers on 85% of eligible streambanks, controlling invasive noxious weeds, and restoring natural river function to area rivers and streams.

**Funding Source(s):** Washington State Conservation Commission, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, Washington Dept. of Ecology, Washington Recreation & Conservation Office, Walla Walla County

<b>Activities for FY2019</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time (Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Assist landowners install 100 acres of riparian forest buffers, maintain and monitor current enrollment of ~3,400 acres and about 190 contracts.	On-going through June 2019	Joanna Cowles Cleveland Lynda Oosterhuis Audrey Ahmann	120 40 30	158,000	CREP TA plus cost share
Re-enroll 30 expiring contracts (15 to expire Sept. 2018, additional in 2019), providing landowners with conservation plans and protecting 10-15 year old buffers.	On-going through June 2019	Joanna Cowles Cleveland Lynda Oosterhuis	60 55	60,000	CREP TA plus cost share
Conduct mid-management reviews on 16 CREP contracts.	On-going through June 2019	Joanna Cowles Cleveland Lynda Oosterhuis	20 10	14,000	CREP TA plus cost share
Seek funding for urban riparian buffers and area waterways not eligible for CREP.	On-going	Joanna Cowles Cleveland Renee M. Hadley	3 3	1,500	Implementation grant
Work with landowners and area partners (Tri-State Steelheaders, WDFW, WA-Ecology, Blue Mountain Land Trust, CTUIR, USFWS, NRCS LWG) to address erosion on lands adjacent to the rivers which impact water quality.	on-going	Joanna Cowles Cleveland Renee M. Hadley	5 25	10,000	Implementation grant

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Coordinate with Walla Walla County to address damages to streams, fields from natural disasters.	on-going	Lisa Stearns Renee M. Hadley	2 2	1,200	Implementation grant
Coordinate with area livestock producers on water quality concerns offering technical assistance and/or seeking financial assistance.	on-going	Renee M. Hadley	4	1,200	Implementation grant
Monitor construction of McCaw Restoration project on Touchet River	Oct-18	Lisa Stearns Audrey Ahmann Intern Renee M. Hadley Lance Horning	40 20 30 20 20	271,000	RCO Salmon Recovery, Natural Resource Investments
Monitor construction of Mill Creek project near Stiller Pond	Oct-18	Lisa Stearns Renee M. Hadley Lance Horning	10 6 4	57,500	Natural Resource Investments
Monitor construction of fencing and riparian planting project on little Mud Creek	Nov-17	Renee M. Hadley Joanna Cowles Cleveland	4 10	27,000	ECY-THA grant

**Natural Resource Priority Program Area:** Water Quantity

**Goal(s):** Assist with restoring flow in Walla Walla area waterways.

**Funding Source(s):** Washington State Dept. of Ecology through contract with Walla Walla County

<b>Activities for FY2019</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time (Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Assist landowners in developing on-farm irrigation efficiencies projects.	On-going	Lisa Stearns Lance Horning	40 50	45,000	Misc. CD/NRCS, Irrigation Efficiency
Participate in and work closely with the Policy Advisory Group, Water Resources Panel, and the Bi-State Flow Enhancement Group for the Walla Walla Water Management Partnership to help improve management of water.	On-going	Lynda Oosterhuis Renee M. Hadley	6 6	3000	Irrigation Efficiency
Assess current use, seepage loss and efficiency of Blalock Irrigation District system within Walla Walla	July '18 to June '19	Lynda Oosterhuis Intern	60 30	30,000	Irrigation Efficiency

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County. Coordinate with agencies to determine feasibility and funding of project.		Lisa Stearns	20		
Seek funding to continue water sampling and monitoring of Schwenke Aquifer Recharge project.	July '18 to June '19	Lynda Oosterhuis	4	1,400	Irrigation Efficiency

**Natural Resource Priority Program Area:** Air Quality

**Goal(s):** Assist with Agricultural Burn Permit applications in Walla Walla County.

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** Agricultural burn related air quality particulates will be reduced over time.

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** Landowners (30 to 70) will be guided through the agricultural burn permit Best Management Practices and permit applications resulting in a reduction of burn related air quality particulates.

**Funding Source(s):** Washington State Dept. of Ecology through contract with Walla Walla County

Activities for FY2019	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Assist landowners with permitting for prescribed agricultural burn permits. Attend Ag Burn Task Force meetings.	On-going through June 2019	Lisa Stearns Jeff Klundt Audrey Ahmann	15 55 12	30,000	Walla Walla County contract

**District Program Area:** Education & Outreach

**Goal(s):** Continue providing technical assistance to the Walla Walla County community. Share progress on restoration efforts and participate in regional planning forums.

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**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:**

Education and outreach program will include 1) maintaining publications including the District Story, website, quarterly newsletters and 2) conducting 5 farmer hosted mini-sessions, workshops and tours. Education and outreach programs will target and engage 30 landowners annually.

**Funding Source(s):** Washington State Conservation Commission through Implementation grant; Snake River Salmon Recovery Office through Lead Entity grant

<b>Activities for FY2019</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time (Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Inform the public of WWCCD mission accomplishments through quarterly newsletter (850 subscribers), website, videos, other outreach media and community events.	On-going	Renee M. Hadley, Intern, Audrey Ahmann	8 40 8	8,000	Implementation grant
Meet all statutory requirements of RCW 89.08: conducting regular audits, fiscal management, commission reporting, and grant management.	On-going	Audrey Ahmann	125	33,000	Implementation grant
Maintain certifications and skills of WWCCD staff through various trainings such as WADE, GIS, Riparian Planting Symposium, SAO, and others as pertinent.	On-going	All staff, as needed	4 each	5,000	Implementation grant
Coordinate a minimum of 5 Farmer to Farmer Mini-Sessions to area producers to inform them of conservation innovations and cost-share assistance.	On-going	Renee M. Hadley	7	2,000	Implementation grant
Collect yearly rainfall data and maintain records of historic rainfall data to benefit the agriculture community.	On-going	Lisa Stearns	4	1,000	Implementation grant
Educate area youth through the Fourth Grade Foresters Program.	Spring	Audrey Ahmann	2	2200	Implementation grant
Actively participate in regional Lead Entity Committee/Regional Technical Team/Snake River Salmon Recovery Board activities throughout the year.	On-going	Joanna Cowles Cleveland Renee M. Hadley	10 2	4,000	SRSRO LE grant

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# FY2019 Annual Budget Walla Walla County Conservation District

## FY 2019 OPERATING BUDGET (7/1/2018-6/30/2019)

### Revenues

Project	Salary plus cost share
SCC-Implementation	72,125
SCC-CREP	223,200
SCC-Natural Resource Investments	187,500
SCC-Irrigation Efficiency	30,000
SCC/Walla Walla Co.-Voluntary Stewardship Program	142,525
Priority Projects (RCO McCaw PhB, ECY-THA Williams, SRB Lead Entity)	242,132
ECY/ Walla Walla Co. MOU for Burn Permit	30,000
Other CD/Lease	70,000
NRCS Task Orders	35,462
Basic	12,500
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>1,045,444</b>

### Expenses and Other Uses

Description	FY19 Estimated Expenses
Wages and Benefits:	
5 FT, 4 PT employees	450,000
General Office Expenses	80,000
CREP cost-share	115,000
Natural Resource Investments	150,000
Priority Projects (RCO McCaw PhB, ECY-THA Williams...)	213,937
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>1,008,937</b>

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