

5-Year Plan (2018 to 2023)

Asotin County Conservation District

For More Information Contact:

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Organization of the Asotin County Conservation District

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

- *The Asotin County Conservation District was organized in 1940. The District includes all of Asotin County excluding incorporated cities and towns. The District also serves the Grouse Flat Area of Garfield County. A Board of Supervisors governs the District, of whom local electors elect three landowners and others who participate in making land use decisions. This takes the form of encouraging proper use and treatment of renewable natural resources and making available the necessary technical and financial assistance. The District also identifies resource conservation problems and opportunities for solving these problems.*

Function of the Asotin County 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.

We Serve & Why

- *People that live, work, and play in our district*
- *Natural resources included in our district and impact on a regional level*

Mission of the Asotin County Conservation District

- *To advocate, educate and assist people in responsible land management and agricultural practices that conserve and improve air, soil and water quality and fish and wildlife habitat for present and future generations.*

Vision of the Asotin County Conservation District

- *People and agencies working together as one to protect and enhance all natural resources, working lands, and sustainable agricultural viability for present and future generations.*

Values of the Asotin County Conservation District

- *Natural resource conservation on a ridgetop to ridgetop approach*
 - *Provide on-the-ground restoration and protection of water quality, soil health, riparian and fish & wildlife resources*
 - *Helping the citizens of Asotin County with the understanding of conservation issues and practices*
 - *Provide services with integrity and professionalism*
 - *Provide local leadership, outreach and assistance in a non-regulatory manner*
 - *Promote future of sustainable agriculture – successful, profitable, safe food production*
 - *Provide on-the-ground activities to protect soil, water, disaster preparedness and recovery, and other related natural resources*
 - *Protect farming, ranching, forestry, and rural life*
 - *Protect private property rights*
 - *Promote Long term conservation planning, implementation, and management*
 - *Provide technical expertise*
 - *Be a liaison with land owners/cooperators, agencies and organizations*
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Natural Resource Data & Information:

- *Landcover:*
 - *Total County Area = 409,706 ac*
 - *Private land = 270,406 ac (66%)*
 - *Federal land = 73,747 ac (18%)*
 - *State land = 65,553 ac (16%)*
 - *Agricultural Landcover = 187,019 ac (45.6%)*
 - *Irrigated = 134 ac (0.1%)*
 - *Cropland = 73,443 ac (39.3%)*
 - *Range = 113,278 ac (60.6%)*
 - *Forest = 19,797 ac (10.6%)*

- *Water Resources:*
 - *Asotin County is within WIRA 35*
 - *240 miles of perennial streams within the County*
 - *Streams within Agricultural Lands:*
 - *Intermittent = 552 mi*
 - *Perennial streams = 68 mi*
 - *Steelhead bearing = 30 mi*

- *Terrain and Soils:*
 - *Four distinct landscape units within the County:*
 - *Mesic forests*
 - *Dissected highlands*
 - *Dissected loess uplands*
 - *Lower Snake River Canyons*

- *Habitat and Species:*
 - *Steelhead, bull trout, chinook salmon, and coho salmon are priority species for stream habitat restoration and protection efforts.*
 - *Deer, elk, turkey, quail, grouse, raptors, and songbirds are common species in the County and are valued for recreational purposes.*

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

Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs	Geographic Area
Water Quality (manure management,)	Entire County
In-stream Habitat & Flows (channel work)	Each stream
Forest Health	Blue Mountains and forest land areas
Weed Management (with Noxious Weed Control Board)	Entire County
Soil Health (cover crops, PH, rotations, erosion)	Cropland acres
Working Lands Protection & Viability (development, public lands)	Flats, Peola, Snake River, Blue Mountain areas
Water Conservation & Use	Entire County
Education (information and outreach)	Entire County
District Operations	District Boundaries
Technical Assistance	District Boundaries

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

Priority: Education (information and outreach)

Measurable Goal: Develop and implement an education program for elementary and secondary students regarding agriculture, conservation, and sustainability of agricultural lands. Host events, activities, training, scholarships, and internships that will educate and inform key audiences specific to land types, general public, funders, legislators, and agencies.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Have targeted natural resource education activities by each major resource area – audience specific	May 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the audiences to be reached, what message 2. Develop educational activities to do for each group 3. Start with pilot program – e.g. range rider workshop
Have a coordinated Legislative Day for Leg District 9 presentation and tour	May 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reach out to other Conservation Districts in the 9th Legislative district to plan the event and ongoing efforts
Develop a demonstration area at the county fairgrounds with a youth and funders connection	April 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a plan on what the demonstration would look like
Renewed community, youth and high school outreach (e.g. FFA and 4H) and experience programs on ridgetop to ridgetop and agriculture concepts (Environthon, Natural Resource Camp, fairs, other)	May 2023	

Priority: District Operations

Measurable Goal: NA

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Ridgetop to ridgetop concept continued for funding sources and the way we do business	Ongoing	Ongoing
Maintain Asotin County CD as the lead entity for natural resource conservation program delivery	Ongoing	Ongoing
Sustainable short and long term funding	Ongoing	Active participation in the WACD Sustainable Funding Work Group regarding impacts
Have a more paperless office (electronic filing)	Ongoing	Continue efforts
Have secured a different District facility	May 2020	Work with NRCS on facility needs
Better recognition of WACD and work it does	May 2021	

Land Manager Needs

- *Knowledge of what programs are available, and what it would cover*
 - *Staff technical expertise in informing, advocating, planning and implementation*
 - *Staff assistance on how to match landowner desired conservation practices with available program & funding sources*
 - *Eligibility requirements and any restrictions*
 - *Landowner to landowner contacts*
 - *In-person technical and information assistance*
 - *Knowledge of District approach: non-regulatory, program neutral, and ridgetop to ridgetop conservation*
 - *Knowledge of projects completed by landowners with district assistance*
 - *Constant contact approach – check ins and updates on status of projects and programs (written and verbal approaches)*
 - *Assistance with wildlife depredation issues*
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Milestones, Timeline & Actions

Priority: Water Quality (manure management)

Measurable Goal: Establish manure spreading system infrastructure including equipment and procedures with ten operations in five years.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Secure equipment for manure management application for land owners	By May 2021	1. Grant sources developed 2. Optional analysis – District owned or private – equipment identified and pricing
Investigate district owned compost facility	By May 2023	
Have completed the work on land owner requests for manure management systems	By May 2023	

Priority: In-stream Habitat and Flows (channel work and CREP)

Measurable Goal: Five in-stream habitat and flows projects in place in five years, protecting four miles of stream in four watersheds, plus three in planning stages.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Pintler Creek Project ready for construction	By May 2019	1. Pintler Creek Project scope of work
Two additional projects in design and permitting process	By May 2019	1. Locations selected – tier one 2. Approval of funding sources 3. Engineering underway
Balance of our conservation work including instream work on high priority projects	Ongoing	
Have new CREP contracts signed and work completed on reenrollments	May 2020	
Finish the Grande Ronde and Snake River geomorphic and watershed assessment and conceptional restoration plan	May 2021	
Have fully developed riparian management program (not just CREP)	May 2023	

Priority: Forest Health

Measurable Goal: In the Blue Mountain area have five projects with a minimum of 5 acres each for forest health...including Firewise, fire safety, forest health, along with tours, private and government demonstration and use of large wood for in-stream projects.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Research and outline a potential forestry program based on collaboration with DNR and Forest Service	By May 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage land owners to use existing programs and develop stewardship plans 2. Use geomorphic assessment for data and stewardship plans for needs 3. Meet with DNR & Forest Service regarding a program
Identify funding sources	By May 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Based on above discussions identify funding source
Have more fully developed forestry program including Firewise, forest health, tours, and projects	By May 2023	

Priority: Weed Management (with Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board)

Measurable Goal: Establish a cooperative agreement / program with Asotin County Weed Board by 2019 that will include: weed management planning, identify funding sources, grant applications, critical areas to work on within the county, cooperative technical assistance as part of conservation planning.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Establish a cooperative agreement / program with Asotin County Noxious Weed Control Board	By May 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review existing agreements with weed board 2. Outline ACCD goals & objectives of agreement with weed board 3. Compare with weed board goals & objectives 4. Meet and develop or revise agreement

Priority: Soil Health (cover crops, pH, rotations, and erosion)

Measurable Goal: Establish and implement a soil health program with producers in each agriculture zone, reach all producers each year with soil health information, resulting in 25% of producers establishing demonstration areas including cover crop pilot areas, and pH pilot projects in each zone with related cost share in collaboration with WSU, NRCS, Crop Advisors, Crop Insurance, PNWDSA, and WAWG (state and local).

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Have pilot cover crop and pH programs launched throughout the county	By May 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look into what neighboring Conservation Districts have already done...cost/benefit 2. Meet with local WSU, NRCS, Crop Advisors, Crop insurance, PNWDSA, WAWG regarding collaboration on soil health work in Asotin County 3. Outline the Asotin County soil health pilot program 4. Reach out to producers willing to pilot soil health activities
Reach out to all producers that do not have direct seed on their property	By May 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reach out to producers with ground not previously direct seeded 2. Utilize Ecology funding for new direct seed acreage applications

Priority: Working Lands Protection and Viability (development and public lands)

Measurable Goal: Collaborate with agencies and organizations to have purchased lands remain working lands based on acreage for a viable agriculture operation and overall impact on natural resources and agriculture culture in the County.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Assist and provide input with the development of WDFW Blue Mountain Management Plan	By 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to serve on WDFW Blue Mountain Management Plan group and promoting the benefit of working lands within the plans developed and purchased
Have gathered basic information on easement program availability	By 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact funding sources that have easement programs as information for farm land owners 2. Produce a listing of Asotin County easement options

Priority: Water Conservation and Use**Measurable Goal:** Find funding, develop and implement a program of outreach, education, and assistance for people in different land uses related to water conservation in Asotin County.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Informational program developed for water conservation related to different land uses related to water conservation in Asotin County	By May 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify types of water conservation information and tip sheets to make available for Asotin County residents 2. Make information available

Priority: Technical Assistance**Measurable Goal:** NA

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Ridgetop top ridgetop concept continued	Ongoing	Ongoing
Work with NRCS on technical assistance certification for our employees	May 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get our employees certified for doing all conservation work in Asotin County CD
Fully developed framework for small acreage program and reactivated including CREP (e.g. in heights)	May 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Find out if VSP funding can be used for small acreage 2. Develop outline for small acreage program
Full farm and ranch 'stewardship' plans have been started with our most active land owners/manager with including past practices completed for...new practices tie to past	May 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop working template for pilot 'stewardship' plan with Levi Luhn 2. Refinement of working template based on pilot plan and develop each board member 'stewardship' plan
Have certified planners 'school' for our employees, and opportunities for other district employees in area and apprentice	May 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Start conversation with CTD leaders, WSCC, NRCS on potential certified planners regional training...location – 3 States, 2 Universities and 2 Colleges that can provide students and trainers 2. Actively participate in the development of this certification process
Voluntary Stewardship Program implementation activities and demonstrated results	Ongoing	Ongoing
Balance of our	Ongoing	Ongoing

conservation work including instream work on high priority projects		
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Staffing Needs (optional)

- *The Asotin County Conservation District currently has six full-time employees. Each year, when preparing the Annual Plan, the Board of Supervisors evaluate the current staffing level and determine future needs based on workload and budget available.*

Annual Budget Needs (optional)

- *The annual budget needs and availability will be evaluated, and this information will be utilized to assist in the development of the goals and priorities each year. A detailed budget will be included in the Annual Plan that is developed by the Board of Supervisors.*

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

