

# FY2019 Annual Work Plan

## Asotin County Conservation District

For More Information Contact:

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### 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."*

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### Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

**Work in watersheds throughout Asotin County that address factors limiting ESA listed species. (steelhead, spring chinook, fall chinook, bull trout)**

- Upland – Decrease sedimentation delivered to streams and improve water quality through upland practices.
- Riparian – Improve riparian areas through tree planting, riparian fencing and off stream water developments.
- Livestock – Improve heavy use and feeding areas associated with streams through fencing, tree planting, nutrient management and off stream water developments. Improve rangelands through managed grazing, fencing and water developments for better grazing distribution and noxious weed management.
- Instream – Complete instream projects to improve fisheries habitat and implement post project tree planting to develop shading in project area.
- Forestry – Promote protection and restoration of functioning forest habitat by replacing culverts, reducing sediments from roads and supporting RMAP activities. Participate in the CWPP, Fire Wise, complete home assessments and complete fuel reduction and forest health projects.
- Monitoring – Evaluate progress and success of projects, water quality and endangered species.
- Noxious Weed Management – Decrease noxious weed populations throughout the entire county.

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### Information – Education Priorities and Goals:

**Promote an awareness and importance of the District and NRCS' role in handling local resource issues and instill a conservation ethic with county producers, youth and others.**

- Hold tours emphasizing upland BMPs, stream work, feedlot improvement projects, CREP or other USDA/District programs completed in Asotin County.
- Provide growers with information promoting wise use of natural resources & conservation practices, availability of programs, upcoming events, introduction of new conservation techniques, and reporting on accomplishments made by the District and growers through newsletters, ACCD website, WSCC Facebook, and articles in newspaper or TV/media coverage.
- ACCD is in the process of transitioning newsletter to electronic availability and creating and expanding existing email list to provide landowners with immediate notifications and updates.

- Hold an annual meeting and board supervisor election to update producers and interested citizens on current conservation
  - Provide financial support to Franklin CD for Wheat Week Program in Asotin County Elementary Schools.
  - Involve students in natural resource restoration projects if projects become available.
  - Provide education days to Asotin County students regarding conservation practices, sustainability of natural resources, and watershed protection and enhancement.
  - Provide continued support to classrooms with fish-rearing aquariums – Salmon in the Classroom.
  - Continue the Envirothon competition to involve local students and teachers. Provide necessary coordination with the goal that at least two teams from Asotin County compete in a local and/or regional contest with one team progressing onto the state contest.
  - Attend training sessions to increase the skills of employees.
  - Attend local committee meetings for County Commissioners, Asotin City Council, Clarkston City Council, Clarkston PUD, Asotin County Wheat Grower's, Cattlemen's, Weed Board, Nez Perce Tribe and other groups as needed.
  - Annual District Tree Sale
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#### **District Operations Priorities, Goals & Funding Sources:**

##### **Maintain efficient and effective District Operations.**

- Maintain annual District budget
- Administer benefit programs such as health insurance, DCP and cafeteria plan.
- Attend trainings.
- Maintain accurate personnel management records.
- Administer grants effectively.
- Complete grant applications.
- Maintain accurate accounting system using BARS.
- Participate on committees, task forces and work groups.
- Encourage supervisor participation on committees, at trainings and WACD sponsored events.
- Workload analysis, office reorganization and cross training.
- Anticipated funding sources are Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Ecology, Recreation and Conservation Office/Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Washington State Conservation Commission.

#### **Planning Priorities, Goals & Funding Sources:**

##### **Complete large scale planning and individual property plans**

- Voluntary Stewardship Program
  - Geomorphic Assessment and Conceptual Restoration Plan.
  - Individual Agricultural Stewardship Plans
  - Anticipated funding sources are Bonneville Power Administration, Recreation and Conservation Office/Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Department of Ecology and Washington State Conservation Commission
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### Current Program Activities by Funding Source

#### Program Area:

Goal(s): Continued Coordination and Implementation of Asotin County Watershed Projects

Funding Source(s): **BPA**

Activities	Target Dates	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Coordinate fish habitat enhancement and restoration in Asotin Creek Watershed and ensure that projects meet accepted environmental and biological standards	July 1 to June 30	75	\$85,000
Coordinate with other agencies and co-managers working on salmon habitat enhancements and restoration in Asotin Creek	July 1 to June 30	30	\$25,000
Coordinate activities that keep citizen and technical agencies involved in the Model Watershed Process	July 1 to June 30	10	\$15,000
Geomorphic Assessment – Grande Ronde and Snake River Reaches	September 1 to June 30	10	

#### Program Area: BPA Cost-Share Programs

Goal(s): Implement Projects

Funding Source(s): **BPA**

Activities	Target Dates	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Cost-Share Projects – tree & shrub planting, riparian fencing, off stream water developments, residue management projects, farmland conversion, sediment basins and other upland BMPs	July 1 to June 30	See Asotin Administration & Couse/Tenmile Administration	\$330,000

**Program Area: BPA Information & Education Programs**

Goal(s): Continued Information and Education dissemination for Asotin Creek Watershed Projects and Classroom Activities

Funding Source(s): **BPA**

Activities	Target Dates	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Information – Newsletters, tours and promote conservation practices & maintain website	July 1 to June 30	4	\$2,500
Education – Salmon in Classroom, Envirothon, Water Quality Projects, Misc. educational projects	July 15 to June 10	8	\$2,800

**Program Area: CREP Technical Assistance**

Goal(s): Enroll landowners into CREP program for purpose of streamside restoration

Funding Source(s): **WSCC**

Activities	Target Dates	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Secure the commitment of landowners to participate in CREP and implement activities associated with the CREP contracts including maintenance. Provide technical assistance to eligible landowners, coordinate with FSA & NRCS, facilitate installation of BMPs, coordinate the PIP loan for CREP & CCRP contracts and coordinate the maintenance portion of the contracts, maintain the CREP database,	July 1 to June 30	75	\$60,000
Implement the CREP grant efficiently. Grant administration, market CREP, attend grant related training and participate on the WACD CREP committee	July 1 to June 30	75	\$25,000

**Program Area: CREP Cost-Share & Maintenance Programs**

Goal(s): Coordinate WCC and FSA resources to enroll acres in the CREP Program in a cost-effective manner.

Funding Source(s): **WSCC**

Activities	Target Dates	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Cost-Share – Financial assistance to landowners for the implementation of the BMP's necessary to implement the CREP Program.	July 1 to June 30	See CREP Tech. Asst.	\$50000
Maintenance – Financial assistance to landowners for the maintenance of	July 1 to June 30	See CREP	(Portion of the

the BMP's necessary to implement the CREP Program		Tech. Asst.	CREP C-S)
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**Program Area: Implementation**

Goal(s): Maintain long-term sustainability of natural resources and address resource concerns throughout Asotin County.

Funding Source(s): **WSCC**

Activities	Target Dates	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Technical Assistance for cost-share projects, noxious weed projects, participate in EQIP Local Working Group, STAC, RC&D and others Provide support to all District programs and activities	July 1 to June 30	25	\$75,000
Administer the Implementation grant	July 1 to June 30	12	\$10,000

**Program Area: Natural Resource Investments**

Goal(s): Implement projects that have been identified on the Category 3 funding list to address natural resource concerns in Asotin County.

Funding Source(s): **WSCC**

Activities	Target Dates	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Grant Administration and Technical Assistance for cost-share projects	July 1 to June 30	12	\$25,000
Implement funded projects; Install BMPs	July 1 to June 30	20	\$100,000

**Program Area: Livestock**

Goal(s): Maintain long-term sustainability of natural resources and address resource concerns throughout Asotin County.

Funding Source(s): **WSCC**

Activities	Target Dates	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Provide Technical Assistance to landowners with livestock, identify resource concerns and develop cost-share projects	July 1 to June 30	25	\$7,000
Administer the Implementation grant	July 1 to June 30	12	\$1,000

**Program Area: Lead Entity**

Goal(s): Coordinate a Citizen and Technical Committee to Submit a Snake River Habitat Project List for SRFB Funding Cycles

Funding Source(s): **Walla Walla Community College**

Activities	Target Dates	Time (Days)	Estimated
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		Required	Funding
Identify potential projects and work with sponsors/landowners	July 1 to June 30	5	\$500
Coordinate Citizen and Technical Group Membership for Asotin County	July 1 to June 30	2	\$250
Assist the Lead Entity Program Manager with the Habitat Work Schedule by providing information about current, past and potential future projects funded by but not limited to the SRFB process.	July 1 to June 30	3	\$250
Attend Planning Meetings (i.e. WRIA 35 watershed planning, Regional Recovery Meeting, Lead Entity and Regional Technical Team meetings and LEAG meetings at the request of the Lead Entity Coordinator.)	July 1 to June 30	6	\$2,000

**Program Area: Asotin Creek Riparian**

Goal(s): Protect and enhance riparian buffer on approximately three miles of Asotin Creek, includes CREP contract, water developments, fence, tree/shrub planting and installation of bridge for livestock and ag equipment crossing.

Funding Source(s): **RCO/SRFB**

Activities	Target Dates	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Technical Assistance to plan, design and permit practices	July 1 to June 30	10	\$6,000
Complete practice implementation	July 1 to June 30	10	\$30,000
Administer grant	July 1 to June 30	4	\$ 2,500

**Program Area: IMW Monitoring**

Goal(s): Continue IMW Monitoring efforts including juvenile steelhead PIT tagging and mark-recapture surveys and habitat monitoring

Funding Source(s): **RCO/SRFB**

Activities	Target Dates	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Administer grant	July 1 to Jan 31	4	3,000
IMW Monitoring	July 1 to Jan 31	8	147,000

**Program Area: Asotin County VSP**

Goal(s): Coordinate the process for the Voluntary Stewardship Program

Funding Source(s): **Asotin County (WSCC)**

Activities	Target Dates	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Project Administration	July 1 to June 30	6	\$5,000
Watershed Group Facilitation and Coordination	July 1 to June 30	15	\$5,000
VSP Work Plan Implementation & Reporting	July 1 to June 30	15	\$78,000
Public Outreach	July 1 to June 30	3	\$2,000

**Program Area: DOE Riparian**

Goal(s): Support CREP, CCRP and other buffer restoration projects and direct seed projects.

Funding Source(s): **DOE**

Activities	Target Dates	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Public Information and Education – Create and distribute a color brochure explaining the water quality efforts, create at least one case study of BMP implementation in the county explaining the water quality and fish benefits as well as the source of funding and provide DOE with copies of educational materials.	July 1 to June 30	3	\$12,500
Project Administration/Management – Provide effective administration and management of this grant project, maintenance of all project records, Submit all required performance items, progress reports, financial vouchers, and maintenance of all project records.	July 1 to June 30	3	\$30,000
Best Management Practice Implementation – Riparian improvements and Direct Seed practices. BMP implementation projects are consistent with NRCS and/or professional engineering standards and with riparian buffer requirements.	July 1 to June 30		\$45,000

## Additional Activities based of Long Range Planning Priorities

### Milestones, Timeline, & Actions:

**Natural Resource Conservation Need:** Water Quality (manure management,)

**Measurable Goal:** Established manure spreading system infrastructure including equipment & procedures with ten operations in five years

Milestones	Actions – 12 months
By May 2021 secure equipment for manure management application for land owners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grant sources researched</li> <li>2. Option analysis – district owned or private - equipment identified and pricing</li> </ol>

**Natural Resource Conservation Need:** In-stream Habitat & Flows (channel work, 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	Actions – 12 months
By May 2019 Pintler Project ready for construction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pintler Project Scope of work</li> </ol>
By May 2019 two additional projects in design and permitting process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Locations selected – tier one</li> <li>2. Approval of funding sources</li> <li>3. Engineering underway</li> </ol>

**Natural Resource Conservation Need:** Forest Health

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

Milestones	Actions – 12 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By May 2019 research and outline a potential forestry program based on collaboration with DNR and Forest Service</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage land owners to use existing programs and develop stewardship plans</li> <li>2. Use geomorphic assessment for data and stewardship plans for needs</li> <li>3. Meet with DNR &amp; Forest Service regarding a program</li> </ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By May 2019 identify funding sources</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on above discussions identify funding source</li> </ol>



**Natural Resource Conservation Need:** Weed Management (with weed 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	Actions – 12 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By May 2019, establish a cooperative agreement / program with Asotin County Weed Board by 2019</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review existing agreements with weed board</li> <li>Outline ACCD goals &amp; objectives of agreement with weed board</li> <li>Compare with weed board goals &amp; objectives</li> <li>Meet and develop or revise agreement</li> </ol>

**Natural Resource Conservation Need:** Soil Health (cover crops, PH, rotations, 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 & local)

Milestones	Actions – 12 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By May 2020 have pilot cover crop &amp; PH programs launched throughout the county</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look into what neighboring CDs have already done...cost/benefit</li> <li>Meet with local WSU, NRCS, Crop Advisors, Crop insurance, PNWDSA, WAWG regarding collaboration on soil health work in Asotin County</li> <li>Outline the Asotin County soil health pilot program</li> <li>Reach out to producers willing to pilot soil health activities</li> </ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By May 2019 have reached out to all producers that do not have direct seed on their property</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reach out to producers with ground not previously direct seeded</li> <li>Utilize Ecology funding for new direct seed acreage applications</li> </ol>

**Natural Resource Conservation Need:** Working Lands Protection & Viability (development, 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	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By May 20xx assistance and input with development of WDFW Blue Mountain Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to serve on WDFW Blue Mountain Management Plan group and promoting the benefit of working lands within the plans developed &amp; purchased</li> </ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By May 2019 have gathered basic information on easement program availability</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact funding sources that have easement programs as information for farm land owners</li> <li>Produce a listing of Asotin County easement options</li> </ol>

**Natural Resource Conservation Need:** Water Conservation & 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	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By May 2019 an informational program developed for water conservation related to different land uses related to water conservation in Asotin County</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify types of water conservation information and tip sheets to make available for Asotin County CD residents</li> <li>Make information available</li> </ol>

**Natural Resource Conservation Need:** Education (information, outreach,

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

Milestones	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By May 2019 have targeted natural resource education activities by each major resource area – audience specific</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the audiences to be reached, what message</li> <li>Develop educational activities to do for each group</li> <li>Start with pilot program – eg range rider workshop</li> </ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By May 2019 have a coordinated Legislative Day for Leg District 9 presentation and tour</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reach out to other CDs in 9th Legislative district to plan the event and ongoing efforts</li> </ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By April 2020 develop an demonstration area at the county fairgrounds with a youth and funders connection</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a plan on what the demonstration would look like</li> </ol>

**Natural Resource Conservation Need:** District Operations

Milestones	Actions – 12 months
Ongoing, sustainable short and long term funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active participation in the WACD Sustainable Funding work group regarding impacts</li> <li></li> </ol>
Ongoing, have a more paperless office (electronic filing)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue efforts</li> </ol>
By May 2020 have secured a different district facility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with NRCS on facility needs</li> </ol>

**Natural Resource Conservation Need:** Technical Assistance

Milestones	Actions -12 months
Ongoing ridgetop to ridgetop concept continued	On-going
By May 2020 work with NRCS on technical assistance certification for our employees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Get our employees certified for doing all conservation work in Asotin County CD</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>
By May 2020 fully developed framework for small acreage program and reactivated including CREP (eg in heights)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Find out if VSP funding can be used for small acreage</li> <li>2. Develop outline for small acreage program</li> </ol>
By May 2020 full farm and ranch 'stewardship' plans have been started with our most active land owners/manager with including past practices completed for...new practices ties to past	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop working template for pilot 'stewardship' plan with Levi Luhn</li> <li>2. Refinement of working template based on pilot plan and develop each board member 'stewardship' plan</li> </ol>
By May 2020 have certified planners 'school' for our employees, and opportunities for other district employees in area and apprentice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>2. Actively participate in the development of this certification process</li> </ol>

## FY2019 Projected Annual Budget Asotin County Conservation District



	<b>Administrative Technical Asst.</b>	<b>Consultants</b>	<b>Implementation Activities</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>BPA</b>	140000	65000	333000	<b>538000</b>
<b>CREP*</b>	85000		25000	<b>110000</b>
<b>Implementation</b>	85000			<b>85000</b>
<b>Livestock</b>	8000			<b>8000</b>
<b>Natural Resource Investment</b>	23000		100000	<b>123000</b>
<b>Lead Entity</b>	3000			<b>3000</b>
<b>SRFB IMW Monitoring</b>	3000	147000		<b>150000</b>
<b>SRFB Asotin Creek</b>	8500		30000	<b>38500</b>
<b>FBRB Cottonwood</b>	5000	50000		<b>55000</b>
<b>Asotin County VSP</b>	90000			<b>90000</b>
<b>DOE</b>	20000		100000	<b>120000</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>470500</b>	<b>262000</b>	<b>613000</b>	<b>1345500</b>

\*This budget does not include the CREP PIP Loan and other miscellaneous income received by the District.

\*\*This budget reflects funds anticipated based on previous allocations and current funded projects.