



**CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**  
OF WASHINGTON STATE

*your window to healthy lands*



# Pine Creek Conservation District



# Mission

Our mission is to simultaneously maximize efficient, profitable agriculture and diverse, functional ecosystems by working with residents to voluntarily protect, enhance and restore natural resources in the Pine Creek Conservation District.

We aim to accomplish our mission by providing actionable information and education on natural resource conservation as well as technical and financial assistance to support conservation projects.

## Natural Resource Priorities

- Soil Health and Erosion Control
- Water Quality & Quantity
- Agricultural Energy Efficiency
- Wildlife Habitat
- Wildfire Hazards

Each natural resource priority is designated as a state priority in the Washington NRCS State Resources Assessment 2012: Priority Resource Concerns.

Engaged entities: Whitman County Conservation Districts, Spokane Conservation District, National Resource Conservation Service, Whitman County Voluntary Stewardship Program, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Department of Agriculture, The Phoenix Conservancy, The Lands Council, Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association, and USDA Pullman Plants Materials Center.

# Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Soil Health and Erosion Control

Goals: Reduce soil erosion and its impacts on water quality while improving soil health and productivity.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Reduce soil loss by enabling 500+ acres of conservation tillage through incentive programs. Reduce erosion in riparian zones by establishing or enhancing zones of year-round vegetation on 1 mile of stream. Enable producers to experiment with practices that enhance soil health including conservation crop rotation with winter pulses, nutrient management using variable rate application, and soil pH remediation with liming through financial and technical assistance. Assist producers in evaluating resource concerns and preliminary planning to support applications to Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

- Four or more land managers implementing conservation tillage with District support.
- Five or more operators recruited and contracted for cover crop, commodity buffer, filter strip, hedgerow, conservation crop rotation (winter pulse), soil amendment (liming), or other practice suited for erosion control or soil health.
- Five or more operators sharing their stewardship activities that reduce erosion or improve soil health on the Whitman VSP action map.
- Information and opportunities shared through at least four newsletters, one hosted meeting, three presentations to growers or students, social media, and website.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission (Implementation grant [IM], Natural Resources Investments grant [NR], Washington Department of Ecology (2022 water quality combined grant in partnership with Rock Lake Conservation District), Whitman County Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), NACD Winter Pulse and Liming grant (partnership with Palouse CD) [NACD-CC], Washington State Department of Agriculture Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources (STAR).

Estimated funding allocation: Project/cost share = \$12,230 | Salaries/benefits = \$25,081

Activities for FY2026	Funding source
Offer technical assistance on highly erodible land through conservation plan development, field evaluation, and conversation about the needs of landowners or operators. Make the sign-up process for conservation programs from the District and other agencies easier to understand and access.	WSCC (IM, NR), VSP, Ecology, NACD-CC

Provide assistance for the implementation of practices that reduce erosion and build soil health including filter strips, cover crop, critical area seeding, riparian buffers, conservation tillage, and nutrient management. Oversee contracting, permitting, and implementation.	WSCC (IM, SFF), VSP, Ecology, NACD-CC
Provide technical and financial assistance for soil health measurement and monitoring including soil sampling, analysis of soil health indicators, and reporting results that are actionable.	WSCC (SFF, IM), STAR

## Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Water Quality and Quantity

Goals: Improve water quality and reduce negative impacts of water quantity during high flow events while conserving, protecting, or enhancing natural resources.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Stabilize banks and establish permanent vegetation in the watershed resulting in sediment and nutrient runoff reductions in the watershed. Reduce frequency of flooding in settled areas of the District by implementing beaver mitigation practices.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

- Two or more landowners or operators contracted for cost share of practices that improve water quality.
- Complete a seasonal hydrograph for one flood-prone area by analyzing the data collected during high flow events. Make the hydrograph available to stakeholders.
- Identify and submit an application (depending on budget needs) at least one grant program for funding practices that conserve, protect or enhance natural resources and reduce flooding.
- Five or more producers reporting their stewardship practices that improve water quality on the Whitman VSP action map.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission (Implementation grant [IM], Natural Resources Investments grant [NR], Riparian Grant Program [RGP]), Washington Department of Ecology (2022 water quality combined grant in partnership with Rock Lake Conservation District), Whitman County Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), NACD Technical Assistance and Outreach grant.

Estimated funding allocation: Project/cost share = \$28,154 | Salaries/benefits = \$30,429

Activities for FY2026	Funding source
Contribute to data collection and analysis, and develop relationships with partners to advance the Oakesdale floodplain project. Enable planning for collecting data and producing a seasonal hydrograph essential for design.	WSCC (IM)
Coordinate the third and final phase of implementation of the Thorn Creek and Pine Creek, riparian projects with partner Rock Lake Conservation District including planting, weed control, planting trees and shrubs, protecting and watering plants.	Ecology, WSCC (IM, RGP)
Develop projects that will implement practices that improve water quality including filter strips, grassed waterways, conservation cover, riparian buffers, conservation tillage, and nutrient management. For funded projects, oversee contracting, permitting, and direct implementation.	WSCC (IM, NR, RGP), VSP
Develop and pursue funding strategy for maintenance of existing projects that enhance water quality	WSCC (IM, RGP), Ecology
Mitigate flooding of infrastructure due to beavers while maintaining habitat and water storage by coordinating with beaver management experts, securing funding for design and implementation of management practices.	WSCC (NR)

### Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Agricultural Energy Efficiency

Goal(s): Reduce the amount of energy needed to produce food without reducing farm productivity.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Reduce the amount of major inputs needed by five or more operators in the District. Reduce CO2 emissions in the District by enabling cost share for practices that reduce fuel and other inputs.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

- Contract with five operators for cost share of equipment or practices that improve energy efficiency of major farm operations including seeding, spraying, and tillage.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission (Implementation grant [IM], Sustainable Farms & Fields grant [SF]), USDA Rural Energy Assistance Program [REAP]

Estimated funding allocation: Project/cost share = \$11,880 | Salaries/benefits = \$10,606

Agricultural energy efficiency program activities for FY2026	Funding source
Administer the District's precision ag cost share program including advertising, sign-up, completing applications, and verifying implementation.	WSCC (IM, SF)
Identify and develop a funding strategy for at least one technology or practice, apart from precision ag technology, that improves farm energy efficiency and reduces emissions such as shop lighting and heating upgrades Explore funding for programs that promote energy efficiency for land uses apart from agriculture.	WSCC (IM, SF), REAP

## Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Wildlife Habitat

Goal(s): Restore, enhance, or protect wildlife habitat.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Restore, enhance, or protect twenty acres of wildlife habitat.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

- One mile of hedgerow planted for wildlife habitat.
- Two or more landowners contracted for new wildlife habitat projects.

Funding sources: Washington State Conservation Commission (Implementation grant [IM], Natural Resources Investments grant [NR], Riparian Grant Program [RGP])

Estimated funding allocation: Project/cost share = \$34,630 | Salaries/benefits = \$19,689

Wildlife habitat program activities for FY2026	Funding source
Conduct watershed analysis to identify properties with high potential for improved wildlife habitat with minimal impact on agricultural productivity.	WSCC (IM, RPG), Ecology
Identify and develop one or more projects that benefit wildlife habitat including hedgerow, tree & shrub establishment, and conservation cover.	WSCC (IM, NR)
Complete planning and implement hedgerow and exclusion fencing for Thornton site in Thorn Creek headwaters.	WSCC (NR)
Maintain Pine Creek hedgerow project including watering and weed management.	WSCC (IM, RPG)

## District Program Area: Education and Outreach

Goals: Increase awareness of natural resource concerns and understanding of the practices and programs designed to address those concerns. Enhance the abilities of landowners, operators, and communities to address natural resource concerns on their property.

### Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

- 100% increase in web traffic and 50% increase in newsletter subscribers over the previous year.
- 80% increase in Instagram and Facebook followers
- Develop process to document cooperator and community conservation goals
- Three or more new conservation projects and ten or more new contacts with cooperators.
- Enroll three or more cooperators in the Whitman County Voluntary Stewardship Program.
- Provide three or more education programs to school districts in our service area.
- Attend 10 or more community events and host educational curriculum in 3 or more libraries in our service area.

Funding sources: Washington State Conservation Commission (Implementation grant [IM], Forest Health & Community Wildfire Resiliency grant [FH], Riparian Grant Program [RGP]), Whitman County Voluntary Stewardship Program [VSP], NACD Technical Assistance and Outreach Grant [NACD-TA]

Estimated funding allocation: Project = \$0 | Salaries/benefits = \$80,513

Activities for FY2026	Funding source
Maintain and update the District website, produce quarterly newsletters, and develop relevant social media content.	WSCC (IM, FH, RGP), VSP, NACD-TA
Coordinate with partners to identify successful education programs in our region and develop at least one new educational program for our district.	WSCC (IM), NACD-TA
Design and deploy a fresh strategy to reach producers and land managers that have not yet participated in the Whitman County Voluntary Stewardship Program.	VSP
Provide education programs on topics related to conservation agriculture including Wheat Week, Fish in the Classroom, and Ripple Effect	WSCC (IM)

Provide information on the availability and benefits of conservation planning and implementation of best management practices using the web, newsletters, meetings, and community events. Enable individuals to share their conservation successes on the Whitman County VSP action map.	WSCC (IM), VSP
Connect with local town governments, fire districts, and community members to identify and document natural resource concerns and mitigation actions. Develop projects that address local needs in these areas.	WSCC (FH)
Work with local partners to identify conservation practices that are most feasible in our region and relevant programs for implementation. Summarize options in an easy to use guide for landowners and operators that are interested in conservation but are not sure where to begin or what their options might be.	WSCC (IM, RGP), NACD-TA
Host or assist with envirothon and land judging competitions for regional high school students, the Conservation District booth at the Palouse Empire Fair, and cooperate with regional Conservation Districts in providing educational assistance to local schools.	WSCC (IM)
Provide and promote volunteer opportunities to community members to engage with and contribute to hands-on natural resource conservation.	WSCC (IM), NACD-TA
Co-host an annual meeting with speakers that are experts on relevant topics and provide attendees with an overview of the District's services, recent achievements, and financial status.	WSCC (IM), VSP

## District Program Area: Community Wildfire Resiliency & Forest Health

Goals: Provide support to communities and individual landowners in their efforts to steward land for improved wildfire preparedness and resilience.

### Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

- Three or more wildfire resiliency projects identified and planned.
- Five or more fire districts assisted in developing outreach materials.
- Ten or more home ignition zone assessments completed.
- Three or more fuel reduction events using district owned chipper.

Funding sources: Washington State Conservation Commission (Implementation grant [IM], Forest Health & Community Wildfire Resiliency grant [FH], Natural Resource Investments [NR])

Funding allocation: Project = \$8,573 | Salaries/benefits = \$8,573



Activities for FY2026	Funding source
Host or attend community events to share conservation and community wildfire resiliency information and opportunities.	WSCC (IM, FH)
Continue the community wildfire resiliency program offering technical assistance including home ignition zone assessments, fuel reduction, and defensible space creation.	WSCC (IM, FH)
Complete development of a program for fuels reduction using the district owned wood chipper.	WSCC (IM, FH)
Offer technical and assistance for forest health practices that improve plant health and reduce fire risk including thinning, woody residue treatment, mulching, and firebreak.	WSCC (IM, FH)
Identify at least two projects with preliminary plans and seek funding for those projects.	WSCC (IM, FH, NR)

### District Program Area: District Operations

Goals: Efficient operation of the District, effective grant and financial management, and compliance with the local, state and federal laws.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Complete all accounting, grant vouchering, personnel management, elections & appointments, annual planning and reporting on time. Meet or exceed the Conservation Accountability Performance Program standards.

Funding sources: Washington State Conservation Commission (Implementation grant [IM]),

Estimated funding allocation: Operational and capital costs = \$35,130 | Salaries/benefits = \$36,731

Activities for FY2026	Funding source
Manage and administer grants to fund the technical assistance and cost share components of program areas by tracking contracts and timelines, processing monthly vouchers, and fulfilling reporting requirements..	WSCC (IM), Ecology
Track funding opportunities and prepare grant applications to support district programs, priorities, and staffing.	WSCC (IM)

Develop a plan for continuing organizational growth. Identify gaps in ability to meet needs of district cooperators. Determine financial requirements for hiring contractors and/or staff to fill highest priority gaps.	WSCC (IM)
Obtain training to increase knowledge of best management practices that impact the natural resource priorities of the district. Make use of web based education, regional conferences, and regional industry meetings.	WSCC (IM)
Prepare and facilitate monthly Board meetings. Produce and publish agendas and minutes.	WSCC (IM)
Review and update Interlocal Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, Policies, and Employee Manual	WSCC (IM)
Facilitate election and/or appointment of Supervisors.	WSCC (IM)
Process and code monthly bills and payroll. Prepare and file quarterly taxes and annual financial reports.	WSCC (IM)
Conduct annual internal audit and work with the State Auditors Office to complete accountability audit.	WSCC (IM)
Participate in regional conservation meetings including WACD Southeast Area Meeting, Palouse Watershed RCPP Meetings, the WACD Convention, WADE, and the NRCS Palouse Local Workgroup.	WSCC (IM)
Maintain District property.	WSCC (IM)
Manage personnel and contractors.	WSCC (IM)

## Budget

Anticipated Revenue	total
WSCC Implementation (IM)	\$126,713
WSCC Natural Resources Investment (NR)	\$55,555
WSCC Forest Health & Community Wildfire Resiliency (FH)	\$5,500
WSCC Sustainable Farms & Fields (SFF)	\$10,000
WSCC Riparian Grant Program (RPG)	\$15,000
NACD Technical Assistance and Outreach (NACD-TA)	\$51,802
NACD Climate Smart Commodities (ILA with PCD)	\$11,500
Whitman County Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)	\$13,150
Ecology Ag Burn Permitting Program	\$3,000
Ecology WQC-2023-PaRoCD-00011 (ILA with RLCD)	\$50,000
total	\$342,220

Anticipated Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits (2 full-time, 3 part-time)	\$219,061
Overhead	\$12,293
Cost share & Project Costs (non-salary)	\$76,666
Supplies, Equipment, & Capital Expenses	\$10,000
Communications	\$2,775
Travel & Fuel	\$6,000
Utilities	\$1,800
Training & Education	\$3,000
Insurance	\$5,125
Equipment and building maintenance	\$1,000
Advertising & Branding	\$1,000
Professional Organization Dues	\$3,500
total	\$342,220