



Washington State Conservation Commission

The Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) represents the voluntary side of conservation and is the coordinating agency for all conservation districts in our state. Together, the SCC and conservation districts provide voluntary, incentive-based programs that empower people to care for natural resources through their own land management decisions.

ABOUT US:

- ▶ Non-regulatory state agency that coordinates and assists all conservation districts in Washington.
- ▶ Our incentive-based programs make it easier and more affordable for landowners to become natural resource stewards.
- ▶ We find voluntary conservation solutions that integrate local, state, tribal, and federal natural resource priorities.

IT'S ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

Washington State is rich in diverse natural resources. This wealth creates opportunity, exhibited by our strong agriculture, thriving port cities, and growing population.

As more people enjoy and use our natural resources, the demand for conservation increases. And, the success of conservation efforts increasingly depends on resource stewardship by landowners.

WHO WE ARE

At the SCC, our goal is for every person in Washington to have the knowledge, tools, and capacity to voluntarily and successfully conserve natural resources.

How we do this:

- ▶ Provide financial and operational support to conservation districts.
- ▶ Administer voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs.
- ▶ Facilitate collaborative natural resource and land use solutions.

WHAT ARE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS?

For more than 75 years, conservation districts have served as trusted, non-regulatory partners helping people care for natural resources.

Each county is represented by at least one conservation district. They provide a range of voluntary services tailored to the local community and landscape. Their cost-share programs incentivize conservation practices.

Examples of conservation district areas of service include:

- ▶ Livestock and nutrient management
- ▶ Habitat restoration and enhancement
- ▶ Natural disaster preparedness and recovery
- ▶ Water quality and quantity improvement
- ▶ Soil, forest, and range health
- ▶ Stormwater management

WHY USE A VOLUNTARY, INCENTIVE-BASED APPROACH TO CONSERVATION?

It engages landowners as partners in stewardship.

- ▶ Incentives spark participation, rather than conflict.
- ▶ Many landowners become spokespeople for conservation following good experiences.

It's farm-friendly, which is good for the economy and the environment.

- ▶ Incentives represent a business opportunity for farm operations, rather than a business risk.
- ▶ Farmers are involved in conservation planning and implementation, ensuring that solutions keep their operation in business and take care of the environment.

It's fair and practical.

- ▶ Washington landscapes are too diverse for a "one-size-fits-all" solution to resource management.
- ▶ Landowners work with technicians to design voluntary conservation projects, resulting in solutions that are based on scientific data and landowners' detailed knowledge of the local landscape.



KEY VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS SUPPORTED BY THE SCC AND CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

- ▶ Over 1,500 acres of shellfish harvest area have been upgraded in Dungeness Bay as a result of voluntary efforts to improve water quality in the watershed.
- ▶ Stream temperatures have decreased and spring Chinook returns are among the highest in 30 years following a voluntary effort that restored salmon habitat in the Tucannon River.
- ▶ The headwaters of Manastash Creek are accessible to fish for the first time in a century, opening 20 miles of habitat for steelhead, following a voluntary process to remove fish barriers and improve instream flow.



Before and after pictures of an SCC-funded conservation district project. Asotin County Conservation District helped a landowner install a livestock bridge across Tenmile Creek. Prior to bridge installation, more than 300 cow-calf pairs would wade through the creek, perilously close to spawning steelhead.



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