Center for Technical Development (CTD): FY19-20 Update and FY21 Plan

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CENTER FOR TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT, CHAIR
WA CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 19, 2020
The **Center for Technical Development (CTD)** was created for the purpose of ensuring that Conservation Districts and employees have the proper tools and expertise to consistently plan and implement conservation programs in collaboration with the:

- *Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC)*,
- *Washington Conservation Districts (CD)*,
- *Washington Association of District Employees (WADE)*,
- *Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)*,
- *Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)*,
- and other key conservation partners.
CTD Primary Areas of Service

- Certification
- Training
- Planning Tools & Templates
- Mentoring & Support
- Communication & Outreach
- Technical Expertise & Science Support
- Quality Assurance
- Leadership
# CTD Planner Certification Program

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<tr>
<th>WHY</th>
<th>HOW</th>
<th>WHAT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide a verifiable level of quality assurance in planners and planning for Districts and partner agencies</td>
<td>Certify Conservation District technical planning staff as having the necessary skills, abilities, and support to plan to a recognized level</td>
<td>Maintain discipline specific certifications</td>
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<td>Provide continuing education program to encourage growth and sustain expertise</td>
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<td>Enable access to necessary planning tools and templates</td>
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<td>Connect to and build on partner certification</td>
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Planner Designation & Certification

# PLANNERS PURSUING NRCS PLANNER DESIGNATION

- Master/Technical: 8%
- Certified: 41%
- Apprentice: 22%
- Not Pursuing: 29%

# PLANNERS PURSUING CTD PLANNER CERTIFICATION

- Farm: 36%
- Riparian: 19%
- Dairy: 7%
- Not Pursuing: 38%

Survey conducted 2019, n = 87
CTD Planner Certification

CTD Certification application process open now!
Riparian, Farm, and Dairy Planner Certifications
*(Forestry development in FY21)*

www.wactd.org/certification

First round of applications due April 17, 2020
CTD Planner Certification Support

- Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Program
  - 40 hours every 3 years (matches NRCS)
- Mentorship and Support
- On-line Communication Forum (*in development*)
- Training Plan Template
- Prioritization into Training Events
- Development of *more* training opportunity and support
CTD Sponsored & Partnered Training Highlights FY2018-19

-Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) and Facilitation
-Cultural Resources Training Series, Part 2
-Riparian Planning Considerations
-Soil Health and Sustainability for Field Staff
-Basic Soils and Web Soil Survey (WADE 2019)
-Special sessions at WADE training 2019
-Introduction to Conservation Planning
-Webinars
Training Highlights FY19-20

- Coordinated Training Needs Inventory with NRCS
  - CD seats 20%
  - Better coordination of information

- Introduction to Conservation Planning hosted September 2019!

- Awarded over $5,000 in training scholarships in FY19

- Collaborating with WADE Board to increase collaborative training opportunities

- Provision of Training Plan Template for planners with 3-year training calendar coming soon

- Working towards a CTD-NRCS designated Training Coordinator in FY21
CTD Training Collaboration

• CTD and NRCS are partnering to bring Districts more training opportunities

• CTD and WADE are collaborating on new technical track structure and content at WADE Conference

• CTD to provide certification CEU credit for Riparian, Farm, and Dairy planners
The CTD has created a Conservation District personnel database to not only capture staff and expert biologist data in the State, but also to help you keep track of your relevant certifications and training records.

In an effort to streamline data management and provide CD employees a tool that can assist in their own professional development, we’ve launched a self-service portal where you can identify your specialties, certifications, and training you’ve completed. This portal also removes the need for us to periodically call and verify your training information directly from your work. We encourage all District staff engaged in natural resources work to utilize this tool.

NOTE: The database interface is currently in the beta-testing phase. We would love your feedback so that we can make it as user friendly and meaningful as possible: database@wactd.org

Please take a couple of minutes to either:

Create New Account

Update Profile and Information

This application is currently in BETA Version – Provide Feedback

www.wactd.org/database
Quality Assurance in Planning

- To assure that the quality of conservation planning and technical assistance provided by Washington State Conservation Districts meets or exceeds an accepted standard of quality.

- CTD will develop, implement, review, and update a statewide Conservation Planning and Implementation Technical Quality Assurance Plan (TQAP) for Districts.

- District participation in TQAP is optional at this time.

- All Districts encouraged to have some type of TQAP to ensure a standard of quality in conservation planning and implementation.
CTD Website

One source for all CD planner support and information

www.wactd.org
Connect to Information

CTD Newsletter:
Primary source of training, certification, and other relevant information for CD Staff

Signup on GovDelivery
www.wactd.org/newsletter
## CTD FY21 Annual Plan of Work

### in Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORK ITEMS FULLY FUNDED</th>
<th>WORK ITEMS CUT/REDUCED DUE TO FUNDING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Certification Program</td>
<td>• Training scholarships</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Continuing Education Unit program</td>
<td>• Small training event grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Training Coordinator (bonus!)</td>
<td>• Planning template development</td>
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<tr>
<td>• CTD Training events (reduced)</td>
<td>• Small discovery grants program</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Partner Training events</td>
<td>• Mentor Program (reduced)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Communication and Outreach</td>
<td>• Technical expertise engagement (reduced)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Database</td>
<td>• Science support (reduced)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Leadership and partner engagement</td>
<td>• Quality assurance program</td>
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Questions??

CTD Leadership:

- Nichole Embertson, Whatcom CD
- Bobbi Lindemulder, Snohomish CD
- Josh Monaghan, King CD
- Jan Thomas, Underwood CD
- Robin Buckingham, Pierce CD
- Ryan Williams, Mason CD
- Shana Joy, WSCC

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www.wactd.org