



5-Year Plan (2020 to 2025) Stevens County Conservation District

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Organization of the Stevens County Conservation District

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

- *The Kettle-Stevens Soil Conservation District was organized On March 6, 1942. The district boundaries included all of Stevens County and the part of Ferry County lying north of the Colville Indian Reservation and east of the Kettle River range. Boundaries were changed on March 30, 1964, making the District boundaries identical to those for Stevens County. On May 29, 1974 the name was changed to Stevens County Conservation District. All incorporated areas in Stevens County are part of the District.*

Function of the Stevens 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

Any private or public landowner or land manager who is ready, willing and able to address natural resource concerns within the District's boundaries

- *Forestry and Agriculture producers for utilization and long-term sustainability*
- *Home and landowners wanting to learn more about the environment they control*
- *Natural resource health is necessary for sustaining human health*
- *Reduce regulatory actions through performance based voluntary solutions*

Mission of the Stevens County Conservation District

- *"To promote the wise use of natural resources"*

Vision of the Stevens County Conservation District

- *Utilization of the natural resources in a manner for long-term sustainability*
- *Protection of a quality natural resource base for the County*
- *Maintain or improve the quality of living within the County*
- *Enhance the natural environment for future generations to utilize*

Values of the Stevens County Conservation District

- *Trust is earned through integrity and honesty*
- *To provide service fairly and transparently*
- *Conservation defined as the utilization of natural resources with long term sustainability*
- *Programs and Services are developed and administered locally*
- *Programs are for all county landowners and land managers*
- *Voluntary programs are the key to long-term improvements and protection of natural resources*
- *Actions should be science based and practical*
- *Protection of private property rights*
- *Protection of cooperators' information*
- *Promote cooperation, not competition, with private sector and other agencies*

Natural Resource Data & Information: *data from Stevens County Comprehensive Land use plan.*

- *Stevens County is predominantly rural in character, with approximately 99 percent of the 1,5888,510 acres in Rural or Resource Lands designations. County population is 40,066. Of resource lands 93% is forested, 5% agriculture and 2% mineral.*
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Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:

- *Local needs/resource needs*
 - *Public health and safety*
 - *Benefit to the general public*
 - *Financial responsibility*
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Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Geographic Areas, Measures of Success and Goals:

- *Conservation of all natural resources: **soil, water, air, plant, animals (SWAPA)** considering human needs and goals within Stevens County*
- *Working lands and profitability are key to long-term sustainability*
- *Coordinate natural resource and critical area needs*
- *Conservation plans that evaluate all resources and offer options for implementation*
- *Promote and work with NRCS standards, BMPs and site specific needs for plans and practices*
- *Coordinate and cooperate with agencies, commodity groups and landowners in the conservation of natural resources*
- *Provide landowners information on environmental regulations, standards and permitting requirements*

Soil

- *Assist landowners in identifying and implementing practices to reduce erosion and soil loss*
- *Promote soil testing and practices that protect and improve soil health and productivity*

Water

- *Assist landowners in identifying and controlling non-point sources of pollution*
- *Promote riparian area proper function and protection*
- *Work with all stakeholders to find solutions to water quality and quantity issues*
- *Promote wise utilization, improve efficiency in irrigation and other uses*
- *Advocate utilization and protection of water rights*

Air

- *Provide information to the general public about noise, odor, etc. associated with living in ag/forestry production areas*
- *Provide information about alternatives to open burning of ag/forestry and residential urban yard and garden wastes*

Plants

- *Work with private forest landowners to manage their lands for fire resistance & forest health*
- *Encourage state and federal agencies to manage their lands for fire resistance & forest health*
- *Promote livestock management to encourage plant health and improved production*
- *Promote nutrient management for healthy plants*
- *Promote IPM pest management for forest, crops, developed properties and idle ground*

Animals

- *Promote viable, sustainable grazing management*
 - *To assist dairy producers updating Dairy Nutrient Management Plans ensuring compliance*
 - *Advocate utilization of livestock as part of the multiple use component in land management*
 - *Promote wildlife habitat management and conflict reduction practices*
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Information – Education & District Operations Priorities, Measures of Success, and Goals:

Education

- *Provide information on conservation and how management impacts natural resource cycles and future utilization of natural resources*
- *One-on-one meetings with landowners*
- *Workshops, field days, meetings and tours*
- *Supplementing classroom instruction*
- *Newsletters, Press releases, Website*
- *Partner and work with other entities to provide comprehensive programs*
- *Work with all ages from youth to adult*

Technical Assistance

- *Provide information and implementation guidance on proven management practices that help the landowner make decisions*
- *Assist in the development of site specific alternative practices that benefit the resources and landowner*

Financial Assistance

- *Research and house information on grant and loan programs available for landowners*
- *Assist landowners to receive assistance funds for implementation*

District Operations

- *Timely and efficient use of funds*
- *District employees are qualified and informed and recognize their role as public servants*
- *District employees will strive to be diligent in observing all governing laws, rules and regulations*
- *District employees will promote and maintain cooperative relationships with federal, state, and county entities and agricultural organizations*
- *Supervisors and Associate Supervisors are actively participating in District activities*
- *Strong working relationships with neighboring Conservation Districts sharing resources and expertise*
- *Maintain and Improve working relationships with local natural resource agencies to benefit the Landowner and District's Mission*

Land Manager Needs

- *Coordinated information on available assistance and resources available*
- *Information of regulatory requirements and compliance*

Milestones, Timeline & Actions

- *Refer to Annual work plans for specific actions, goals and deadlines*

Priority: District Operations
Measurable Goal: Secure Stable Funding

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Develop long term building management plan	2 Years	Determine options and feasibility for continued ownership, sell-build, sell-lease.
Rate and Charges options	2 to 5 Years	Research and develop risk analysis to proceed with outreach and establishment
Establish the District as the central contact (go to place) for information and assistance in dealing with natural resource issues	Ongoing	Outreach and having staff available to meet with landowners, answer questions and refer to proper agency for answers

Priority: Working Lands/Conservation Planning
Measurable Goal: Increase District Cooperators

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Increase landowner knowledge of District mission and purpose	Ongoing	Regular and timely newsletters
Provide more technical assistance to landowners	Ongoing	Develop county specific fact sheets on BMP's, have other agencies provide TA contact information
Lead or provide technical assistance and education to County VSP programs	1 to 2 years	When and as funding available
Develop new programs to promote wise utilization of Natural Resources	Ongoing	Programs develop as landowners and cooperators have expressed need and willingness to participate
Discovery or Research Farm	Ongoing	Work with partners on potential long term management of a Demonstration Farm for community involvement.

Priority: Youth Education
Measurable Goal: Improved and make more comprehensive youth programs; increasing participation by youth and volunteers

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Regional Program	Ongoing	Work toward establishing a coordinated regional youth education program
Develop long term stable funded program for a FTE	Ongoing	Utilize USDA/USFS Children's Forest Grant to jump start program.

Key Decision Makers

- *Stevens County Conservation District Supervisors and Associate Supervisors*
 - *Stevens County Commissioners*
 - *Stevens County residents and landowners*
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Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

