



FY25

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

(7/1/24-6/30/25)

COLUMBIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Columbiacd.com



FY2025 (7/1/24 – 6/30/25) Annual Work Plan Columbia Conservation District

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Mission of the Columbia Conservation District

“To sustain the way of life for local farmers, ranchers, and foresters by protecting our natural resources through support and education.” (Updated 2023)

Natural Resource Priorities

- 1. Soil Quality & Conservation (Chemistry, Biology, Research, Erosion & Education to the next Generation):** nutrient management and monitoring, cover crops, long term effect of residue removal, micronutrients, soil health, change in rotation organic matter, microbial health, infiltration, erosion control.
 - *This is a state, regional and local priority.*
 - *Supported by NRCS SE Area Local Work Group Priorities (2024), Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan, Tucannon Subbasin Plan, WRIA 32 & 35 Watershed Plans, Tucannon and Touchet Habitat Restoration - Geomorphic Assessment and Restoration Prioritization Plans and the District's current long-range plan & biennium budget requests.*
 - *District engages with USDA FSA & NRCS, WSU Extension and SCD to address these issues.*
- 2. Water Quality & Quantity (Salmon Recovery, Quality & Quantity & Flood Impacts, Mitigation and Education):** ground water issues including shallow wells, nitrates & human health, benefits from salmon recovery projects including flood protection, floodplain management, confined animals, nutrient levels, TMDLs, practices application, residue management, ESA recovery impacts.
 - *This is a federal, state, regional and local priority.*
 - *Supported by NRCS SE Area Local Work Group Priorities (2024), Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan, Tucannon Subbasin Plan, WRIA 32 & 35 Watershed Plans, Tucannon and Touchet Habitat Restoration - Geomorphic Assessment and Restoration Prioritization Plans, federal BiOp and the District's current long-range plan & biennium budget requests.*
 - *District engages with USDA FSA, NRCS & USFS, NOAA, USF&W, Nez Perce Tribe, CTUIR, NWCP, Bonneville Power Administration, WDFW and WDOE to address these issues.*
- 3. Air Quality (Fire, Wind, & Dust):** fire recovery of burned areas, burn permits, air quality issues from neighbors, wind erosion, health concerns, reduced emissions, PM 2.5 levels, dust.
 - *This is a state, regional and local priority.*
 - *Supported by WDOE Air Quality Standards, NRCS SE Area Local Work Group Priorities (2024) and the district's current long-range plan.*
 - *District engages with DNR, WDOE, local EMS-Wildfire planning/recovery and USDA NRCS to address these issues.*

Natural Resource Priorities Continued:

4. **Forest, Range, and Fire Management (Fire, Forest Health & Invasive Species:** CWPP planning with County EMS, Forest Stewardship Plans, noxious weeds, fuel reduction, CWPP, CRM)
 - *This is a state, regional and local priority.*
 - *Supported by NRCS SE Area Local Work Group Priorities (2024), Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan, Tucannon Subbasin Plan, WRIA 32 & 35 Watershed Plans, Columbia County Wildfire Prevention Plan, Washington State Noxious Weed Management and the District's current long-range plan & biennium budget requests.*
 - *District engages with USDA NRCS, DNR and local fire districts and county EMS and weed control boards to address these issues.*

 2. **Leadership to New Generation Conservation** (education, outreach, visionary, on-ground conservation implementation & demonstration)
 - *This is a state, regional and local priority.*
 - *Supported by NRCS SE Area Local Work Group Priorities (2024), Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan, Tucannon Subbasin Plan, WRIA 32 & 35 Watershed Plans, Columbia County Wildfire Prevention Plan, Washington State Noxious Weed Management and the District's current long-range plan & biennium budget requests.*
 - *District engages with local School Districts, WSU Extension, Community Events to continue this effort.*
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Natural Resource Priority Program Area:

Soil Quality & Conservation (Chemistry, Biology, Research, Erosion & Education to the next Generation): nutrient management, cover crops, long term effect of residue removal, micronutrients, soil health, change in rotation organic matter, microbial health, infiltration, erosion control

Goal(s): Increase acres with improved; soil nutrient management balance, nutrient indicator levels, pH, soil quality (organic matter, infiltration, and biological activity), soil and water retention (minimal visible erosion) and implementation of conservation systems.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Healthy soils.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Work with producers to install BMPs designed to improve soil health: pH levels, micro-nutrients and agronomic practices to enhance soil health.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, NRCS & SCD State Revolving Fund Loan Program

| Activities for FY2025 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time (HRS) Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Work with NRCS via TSP on CRP Status Reviews and Plan development | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff & NRCS | 120 | 7,200 | |
| Work with Extension, WSU, ARS for monitoring Nutrient/pH concerns within the county including sharing data from Kinsey and Best Test. Aid in education outreach – nutrient/pH concerns, economic benefits, programs available, and long-term sustainability. | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff & WSU Extension | 80 | 4,800 | |
| Seek and evaluate value and potential funding for cost share program to help producers with agronomic practices that may improve soil biology (stubble decomposition, nutrient leaching, micronutrients and cover crops). | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff, WSU Extension, Burn Task Force | 80 | 4,800 | |
| Continue Nutrient/pH Management practice application monitoring with the “Kinsey Method” concentration of the “Hatchet” field as a trial. | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff & WSU, Extension | 480 | 28,800 | + imp \$ |
| Research and monitoring of pH “cliff” point – to assess the point at which soil becomes infertile with potential partnerships | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff & WSU, Extension | 320 | 19,200 | + imp \$ |
| Assist producers in securing equipment for conservation farming – utilizing our MOU with Spokane CD and the loan program | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff | 8 | 480 | |
| | | TOTAL | | \$65,280 | |

Resource Priority Program Area:

Water Quality & Quantity (Salmon Recovery, Quality & Quantity): ground water issues including shallow wells, nitrates & human health, benefits from salmon recovery projects including flood protection, floodplain management, confined animals, nutrient levels, TMDLs, practices application, residue management, ESA recovery impacts)

Goal(s): Positive gains in water quality and quantity through an increase in number of practices implemented and land managers served.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Increase habitat quantity and quality based on buffers and instream work. Decrease livestock caused contaminates reaching water courses.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Provide technical and, when available, cost share to implement livestock management projects.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, BPA, USDA, RCO & WDOE

| Activities for FY2025 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time (HRS) Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Develop NRI projects</i> | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff | 240 | 14,400 | + imp \$ |
| <i>Provide Technical assistance to develop 1 Ag water quality/quantity improvement and/or irrigation efficiencies BMP's project</i> | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff | 160 | 9,600 | + imp \$ |
| <i>Work to re-enroll expiring CREP contracts</i> | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff, USDA | 20 | 1,200 | + imp \$ |
| <i>Work with landowners to complete new CREP sign-up through contract</i> | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff, USDA | 40 | 2,400 | + imp \$ |
| <i>Finish Install of PA 26 Phase III/IV to Construction Specifications & Engineering: Salmonid Habitat Complexity Improvement Program Development</i> | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff & consultant | 350 | 21,000 | + imp \$ |
| <i>Design MS-15 to Design Specifications & Engineering: Salmonid Habitat Complexity Improvement Program Development</i> | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff & consultant | 300 | 18,000 | + imp \$ |
| <i>Design PA 34.1 & 34.2 to Design Specifications & Engineering: Salmonid Habitat Complexity Improvement Program Development</i> | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff & consultant | 700 | 42,000 | + imp \$ |
| <i>Provide technical assistance for the development of VSP project plans</i> | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff | 400 | 24,000 | |
| <i>Watershed Planning and TMDL's</i> | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff | 80 | 4,800 | |
| <i>WRIA 32,33 & 35 Monitoring – to provide a comprehensive monitoring plan and web portal in coordination with all partners (including all voluntary practices completed with information and implementation monitoring, all regulatory monitoring efforts)</i> | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff & consultant | 100 | 6,000 | |
| | | TOTAL | | \$143,400 | |

Natural Resource Priority Program Area:

Air Quality (Fire, Wind, & Dust: fire recovery of burned areas, burn permits, air quality issues from neighbors, wind erosion, health concerns reduced emissions, PM 2.5 levels, dust)

Goal(s): Increase utilization of agronomic practices to reduce grain residue burning.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Minimize air quality impacts due to field burning and excessive tillage.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Increase producer awareness of benefits of alternative residue management systems.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, USDA-NRCS, District, Local

| Activities for FY2025 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time (HRS) Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Administer the Columbia County Agriculture Burn Program for the Columbia County Commission and WDOE | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff | 450 | 27,000 | |
| Reemphasize/educate producers on the economy and conservation of minimum tillage, variable rate and other systems. | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Supervisors, Staff, WSU Extension | 80 | 4,800 | |
| Burn alternatives through ne methods, research and education | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff | 40 | 2,400 | |
| | | TOTAL | | \$34,200 | |

Natural Resource Priority Program Area:

Forest, Range, and Fire Management (Fire, Forest Health & Invasive Species: CWPP planning with County EMS, Forest Stewardship Plans, noxious weeds, fuel reduction, CWPP, CRM)

Goal(s): Demonstrate an increase in number of fuel reduction management practices implemented; the number of land managers served and a reduction in acres burned.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Increase fuel reduction practices impacts.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Work with landowners/manager to develop fuel reduction plans.

Funding Source(s): USDA-NRCS, WDNR, District

| Activities for FY2025 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time (HRS) Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Provide technical assistance for development of fuel reduction plans. | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff & County EMS | 20 | 1,200 | |
| Provide youth Fire Wise education for safety 4-H camp and school program. | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff & County EMS | 40 | 2,400 | |
| Work with landowners & agencies to assist with plan implementation. | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff & County EMS | 60 | 3,600 | |
| Seek funding to assist landowner to implement plans. Referrals to DNR. | 7/1/2024-6/31/2025 | Staff | 20 | 1,200 | |
| | | TOTAL | | \$8,400 | |

District Program Area:

Leadership to New Generation Conservation (education, outreach, visionary, on-ground conservation implementation & demonstration)

Goal(s): Increase public awareness of producer efforts to benefit natural resources through improved land use, habitat enhancement projects and production agriculture practices.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, District, BPA

| Activities for FY2025 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time (HRS) Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Spring Tour</i> | <i>May 2025</i> | <i>Staff & Extension</i> | <i>24</i> | <i>1,440</i> | <i>Imp+</i> |
| <i>Annual Grower Education Day – Agronomics – Soil quality</i> | <i>Jan 2025</i> | <i>Staff & WSU, Extension</i> | <i>48</i> | <i>2,880</i> | <i>Imp+</i> |
| <i>Youth Education - Increase K-5th grader knowledge of conservation & soil stewardship</i> | <i>April 2025</i> | <i>Staff</i> | <i>300</i> | <i>18,000</i> | |
| <i>Fair educational display Production Ag</i> | <i>Sept.2025</i> | <i>Staff</i> | <i>40</i> | <i>2,400</i> | |
| <i>FFA Soil Evaluation Field Day & Contest</i> | <i>7/1/2024-6/31/2025</i> | <i>Staff & Partners</i> | <i>24</i> | <i>1,440</i> | |
| <i>Community Education - Improve District's outreach efforts to reach a broader group. Evaluate and adjust as determined time of growers meeting, tours and programs.</i> | <i>7/1/2024-6/31/2025</i> | <i>Staff & Partners</i> | <i>200</i> | <i>12,000</i> | |
| <i>Develop partnerships with local organizations promoting the positive benefits of Columbia agriculture conservation and district programs.</i> | <i>7/1/2024-6/31/2025</i> | <i>Staff & Partners</i> | <i>40</i> | <i>2,400</i> | |
| <i>Participate in State & Local Work Group Committees, VSP implementation lead</i> | <i>7/1/2024-6/31/2025</i> | <i>Staff</i> | <i>48</i> | <i>2,880</i> | |
| <i>Coordinate landowner referrals with USDA-NRCS (EQIP) and other appropriate cost-share programs</i> | <i>7/1/2024-6/31/2025</i> | <i>Staff</i> | <i>16</i> | <i>960</i> | |
| <i>Assist landowners dealing with wildlife control and damage on production Ag ground & livestock predation</i> | <i>7/1/2024-6/31/2025</i> | <i>Staff</i> | <i>16</i> | <i>960</i> | |
| <i>Trainings and meetings: natural resource enhancement & district operations</i> | <i>7/1/2024-6/31/2025</i> | <i>Supervisors & Staff</i> | <i>160</i> | <i>9,600</i> | |
| <i>Website Development & Management: improving outreach, education, networking capabilities between the CD and the community.</i> | <i>7/1/2024-6/31/2025</i> | <i>Staff</i> | <i>80</i> | <i>4,800</i> | |
| <i>Newsletter: improving outreach, education, networking capabilities between the CD and the community.</i> | <i>7/1/2024-6/31/2025</i> | <i>Staff</i> | <i>80</i> | <i>4,800</i> | |
| | | TOTAL | | \$64,560 | |

Program Area:

District Operations & Cost Share

Goal(s): Increase funding for on ground conservation work, the number of people served, the number of conservation practices implemented, and goals accomplished.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, WDOE, BPA, RCO-SRFB

| Activities for FY2025 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time (HRS) Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Assist producers as requested</i> | <i>7/1/2024-6/31/2025</i> | <i>Staff</i> | <i>80</i> | <i>4,800</i> | |
| <i>Assist cooperators in preparing applications for grant funding for desired resource benefiting projects</i> | <i>7/1/2024-6/31/2025</i> | <i>Staff</i> | <i>40</i> | <i>2,400</i> | |
| <i>Manage natural resource enhancement grants</i> | <i>7/1/2024-6/31/2025</i> | <i>Staff</i> | <i>200</i> | <i>12,000</i> | |
| <i>Professionally administer all district administrative and legal requirements.</i> | <i>7/1/2024-6/31/2025</i> | <i>Staff</i> | <i>40</i> | <i>2,400</i> | |
| | | TOTAL | | \$21,600 | |

2024 Columbia Conservation District Annual Budget

| | 2024 Budget | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Employee Expenses | | |
| Salaries | \$275,000.00 | |
| Benefits | <u>\$ 65,000.00</u> | <u>\$ 340,000.00</u> |
| Travel | <u>\$ 1,500.00</u> | <u>\$ 1,500.00</u> |
| District Operations | | |
| Communications | \$ 7,000.00 | |
| Equipment Maintenance | \$ 8,000.00 | |
| Computers | \$ 6,500.00 | |
| Office & Supplies | \$ 8,000.00 | |
| Trees | \$ 7,000.00 | |
| Professional Services | \$ 75,000.00 | |
| Advertising | \$ 6,000.00 | |
| Audit | \$ 15,000.00 | |
| Insurance | \$ 10,000.00 | |
| Dues | \$ 5,500.00 | |
| Rent | \$ 18,000.00 | |
| Training | \$ 5,000.00 | |
| Travel – Dist. Truck | <u>\$ 6,000.00</u> | <u>\$ 146,270.00</u> |
| Field Burn Permitting Sales Tax Remit | | |
| Agency Pass-Thru | \$ 100,000.00 | |
| Permit Refunds | <u>\$ 10,000.00</u> | <u>\$ 110,000.00</u> |
| Educational Activities | | |
| Supplies & Materials | \$ 3,000.00 | |
| Transportation | \$ 350.00 | |
| Professional Services | <u>\$ 2,000.00</u> | <u>\$ 5,350.00</u> |
| | | \$ 558,850.00 |
| Project Implementation by funding source (cost share, materials & services to carry out implementation) | | |
| BPA | \$ 850,000.00 | |
| RCO | \$ 350,000.00 | |
| WSSC (IMP, NRI, SRF, RPPP) | \$ 750,000.00 | <u>\$1,950,000.00</u> |
| Total | | \$2,553,120.00 |

* We operate on a fiscal year of January 1st through December 31st.

** Budget doesn't include awards for grants being submitted this year.

2023 Columbia Conservation District Annual Budget

| | 2023 Actuals | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Employee Expenses | | |
| Salaries | \$282,457.23 | |
| Benefits | <u>\$ 57,453.17</u> | <u>\$ 339,910.40</u> |
| District Operations | | |
| Communications | \$ 5,682.61 | |
| Equipment Maintenance | \$ 1,795.59 | |
| Computers | \$ 10,741.21 | |
| Office & Supplies | \$ 6,484.13 | |
| Trees | \$ 5,883.41 | |
| Professional Services | \$130,247.62 | |
| Advertising | \$ 826.25 | |
| Audit | \$ 7,647.66 | |
| Insurance | \$ 8,251.00 | |
| Dues | \$ 4,693.89 | |
| Rent | \$ 15,135.00 | |
| Training | \$ 2,445.64 | |
| Travel – Dist. Truck | <u>\$ 2,843.25</u> | <u>\$ 202,677.26</u> |
| Field Burn Permitting Sales Tax Remit | | |
| Agency Pass-Thru | \$ 92,785.00 | |
| Permit Refunds | <u>\$ 20,508.75</u> | <u>\$ 113,293.75</u> |
| Educational Activities | | |
| Supplies & Materials | \$ 1,748.91 | |
| Transportation | \$ 0.00 | |
| Professional Services | <u>\$ 17.23</u> | <u>\$ 1,766.14</u> |
| | | <u>\$ 657,647.55</u> |
| Project Implementation by funding source (cost share, materials & services to carry out implementation) | | |
| BPA | \$ 410,487.83 | |
| RCO | \$ 109,656.91 | |
| WSCC (IMP, NRI, SRF, RPPP) | \$ 570,664.85 | <u>\$1,090,809.59</u> |
| Total | | \$1,740,809.48 |

* We operate on a fiscal year of January 1st through December 31st.

** Budget doesn't include awards for grants being submitted this year.