

# Foster Creek Conservation District

## 2018 Water Quality Education and Outreach Plan



*Students at the Kids in the Creek Station at the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival*

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## **Background**

The Foster Creek Conservation District (FCCD) was created in 1942 and is located in North Central Washington in Douglas County. One of 45 Districts in the state, the FCCD is mandated under the Revised Code of Washington 89.08 to develop and administer voluntary, non-regulatory programs to conserve natural resources. Governed by a board of volunteer supervisors from the local community, the Foster Creek Conservation District identifies local conservation problems, guides voluntary local solutions, and sets policies where needed.

Foster Creek Conservation District's mission is to protect natural resources; enhance sustainable, profitable agriculture; and improve the quality of life in Douglas County, by: Encouraging good land stewardship through education, incentives, and quality technical assistance. Protecting individual and private property rights. Building strong coalitions with other groups. Including, but not limited to, government assistance as a valid conservation partner to agriculture, by providing quality, intelligent, technical assistance to cooperators and partners.

## **Education and Outreach Vision**

Foster Creek Conservation District (FCCD) values and promotes the connection between people and the environment. We seek to help strengthen that connection through community involvement, educational programs and events. It is important to us that we include a wide range of audience types so that our approach is well-rounded and effective short-term and long-term. Our goal is to promote awareness and understanding of watersheds and their health in Douglas County and beyond. Our Water Quality Education and Outreach Plan will fit into a comprehensive, large-scale education and outreach plan for FCCD to facilitate proper planning and implementation.

## **Audiences Target Groups (with overlap)**

FCCD will identify and target various audiences and each year will include all of the following groups:

- Schools - students and teachers
- Producers - dryland farmers, ranchers and orchardists
- Homeowners with city water/storm drains
- Homeowners with septic
- Native Tribes - Yakima and Colville
- Latino Community
- Department of Ecology – reporting for grants
- FCCD – internal education and training

## **Overview of Goals**

1. Maintain a current Water Quality Education and Outreach Plan that fits into a more comprehensive FCCD Education and Outreach Plan.
2. Continue to connect with local organizations to create healthy communication and partnerships.
3. Seek out key resources and knowledgeable experts to provide the most accurate information for our audience.
4. Develop a mobile collection of water quality display tools for educational events and programs.
5. Attend and/or host educational events.
6. Connect with private landowners to identify and resolve specific water quality issues.
7. Implement long-term projects/programs in local K-12 schools.

8. Increase water and land stewardship through volunteer restoration events and workshops.
9. Increase easy-access information for the general public. written or recorded, reproducible means: newsletters, handouts, posters, interpretive signs.

**Goal 1:** *Maintain a current Water Quality Education and Outreach Plan that fits into a more comprehensive FCCD Education and Outreach Plan.*

Task 1: Write a comprehensive education and outreach plan that encompasses the WQ specific education and outreach plan

Task 2: Update yearly, or as needed

**Goal 2:** *Connect with local organizations to create healthy communication and partnerships. If plausible, sign MOUs and MOAs with partnering organizations. This will allow us to expand our knowledge and audience base through interagency outreach and cooperation.*

Possible Partnering Groups:

Pybus Public Market, Chief Joseph Dam (Earth Day), Cascadia CD, South Douglas CD, Okanogan CD, Mansfield School, Lake Roosevelt Junior HS, Lake Roosevelt Elementary, Bridgeport School District, Waterville School District, The Nature Conservancy, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Chelan County PUD, Washington Native Plant Society: Wenatchee Chapter, Wenatchee Valley Community College, University of Washington, Wenatchee River Salmon Festival, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Friends of NW Hatcheries, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Chelan-Douglas County Master Gardeners, Washington State University, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bonneville Power Association, Douglas Co Municipal Storm Water Utility, Waterville Library

Task 1: Contact schools and organizations to establish connections and begin possible partnerships. Also continue to maintain existing partnerships while promoting strong communication and support.

Task 2: Have discussions of collaborative projects with partners.

**Goal 3:** *Seek out key resources and knowledgeable experts to provide the most accurate information for our audience. FCCD acknowledges that while our staff has a wide variety of skills and knowledge on various subjects, we will not necessarily be the best expert available. Thus, we realize our limitations and seek resources and experts that can best fulfill the role and provide the best information possible.*

Task 1: In conjunction with Goal 2, identify key resources, get permission to use their information and ask if they would be willing to contribute time/skills to an event/program.

**Goal 4:** *Develop a mobile collection of water quality display tools for educational events and programs.*

Possible teaching tools:

Watershed model; current FCCD brochures, handouts and posters; water quality coloring books; water quality related games; a digital interactive game on an anchored tablet

Task 1: Buy or build an erosion model with varying gradient and soil types. This should be combined with a lesson on how certain gradients/soil types/vegetation cover increase erosion and decrease water quality.

**Goal 5:** *Attend educational events.*

Possible events:

NCW fair in Waterville, Envirothon, Earth Day at Chief Joseph Dam, salmon release field trip for Salmon in the Classroom, Kids in the Creek, River of Power, Wenatchee River Salmon Festival, PUD Water Quality Testing

Task 1: Consult schedule and attend events.

Task 2: Update schedule and deliverable sheet when there are changes.

**Goal 6:** *Connect with private landowners to identify and resolve specific water quality issues.*

Task 1: While in the field developing farm plans, note problems and ask landowner if he/she would like to address the issue.

Task 2: Use FCCD newsletter and social media to promote awareness of working with landowners to address water quality issues on their land.

Task 3: Identify specific water quality issues and cost share interest through the VSP producer survey.

**Goal 7:** *Implement long-term projects in k-12 schools.*

Possible programs:

Salmon in the Classrooms; Kids in the Creek; Wheat Week

Task 1: Contact schools, find interested educators.

Task 2: Find additional funding and partners.

**Goal 8:** *Increase water and land stewardship through volunteer riparian restoration events and workshops.*

Task 1: Identify specific site and dates for restoration event.

Task 2: Send out request for volunteers on email contact list, post on partner websites/newsletters/listserves.

**Goal 9:** *Increase easy-access information for the general public.* Information can be recorded in various formats, and available for viewing at any time, such as: newsletters, handouts, posters, interpretive signs.

Task 1: Continue to promote and update the FCCD newsletter email subscriber list, and continue to update the hardcopy newsletter contact list (check the death notices in the local newspaper).

Task 2: Establish a collection of water quality resources for hard copy newsletter and brochures, also make available at events

Possible subjects:

-existing water quality resources (website, Facebook)

- Sewage systems (wells, floodplain, watersheds)
- Ways to reduce water use
- Household water systems/pollution (i.e. biodegradable laundry detergents)
- Xeriscaping (pamphlet of a compare of drought tolerant veg vs ornamental veg)

## **Grants**

WQC-2017-FoCrCD-00371 2015-2018 and WQC-2017-FoCrCD-00171 2016-2019

## **Deliverables (with 2018 amendments – pending approval)**

WQC-2017-FoCrCD-00371 2015-2018, Task 7, Education and Outreach Deliverables

### 00371 Grant Deliverables

- 7.1 Update and upload Foster Creek Education and Outreach Plan annually to EAGL and place on the RECIPIENT's website.
- 7.2 Distribute 12 water quality related articles in the FCCD newsletter. Each newsletter sent to 650 people.
- 7.3 Develop 6 water quality related handouts, 50 hardcopies each available for distribution and an electronic copy on the website.
- 7.4 Attend 3 North Central Washington Fairs with a display that contains information related to water quality.
- 7.5 Participate in 6 environmental events for any K-12 students, reaching a total of 300 students total.
- 7.6 Participate in 3 high school tours/events; 45 students total.
- 7.7 Participate in 3 workshops/informational presentations with aspects related to water quality, 45 people total.

WQC-2017-FoCrCD-00171 2016-2019, Task 6, Education and Outreach Deliverables

### 00171 Grant Deliverables

- 7.1 Update and upload Foster Creek Education and Outreach Plan annually to EAGL and place on the RECIPIENT's website.
- 7.2 Distribute 12 water quality related articles in the FCCD newsletter. Each newsletter sent to 650 people.
- 7.3 Provide 6 water quality teaching tools that relay information related to water quality.
- 7.4 Provide 1 display at the 2018 NCW Fair in Waterville.
- 7.5 Attend 6 K-12 events/activities providing information related to water quality; 300 students total.
- 7.6 Participate in 3 high school field tours/events; 45 students total.
- 7.7 Host and/or assist at 3 workshops; 45 people total.
- 7.8 Give 1 water quality/restoration interview for a local public broadcasting station.

## 2018-2019 Water Quality Education and Outreach Schedule

DS-2016-00270	DS-2017-00067	WQ-2016-00371	WQ-2017-00171	total ppl	Date	Event
			6.2 (12/12)		May, 2019	2019 Spring Newsletter
	**DS-2018-149 =more DS articles		6.2 (10-11/12)		Feb, 2019	2019 Winter Newsletter
			<b>6.6 (3/3)</b>		<b>April, 2019</b>	<b>2019 Envirothon</b>
			6.1 (3/3)		Jan, 2019	E/O Plan for 2019
	6.1 (6/6)		6.2 (8-9/12)		October, 2018	2018 Fall Newsletter
			6.4 (1/1)		August, 2018	NCW Fair
	6.1 (5/6)		6.2 (6-7/12)		July, 2018	2018 Summer Newsletter
			optional (need more ppl?)		June, 2018	HS Hydro STEM Academy
			optional (need more ppl?)		May, 2018	River of Power
			6.5 (6/6)		May, 2018	Kids in the Creek
	6.1 (4/6)		6.2 (4-5/12)		May, 2018	2018 Spring Newsletter
		7.6(3/3)			Thursday, April 26, 2018	2018 Envirothon
			6.5 (5/6)		Monday, April 23, 2018	Mansfield salmon release field trip
			6.5 (4/6)		Friday, April 20, 2018	WAT Salmon Release Field Trip
			6.5 (3/6)		Thursday, April 19, 2018	Earth Day at Chief Joseph Dam