

FY2024 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24) Annual Work Plan FOSTER CREEK Conservation District

Douglas County, WA For More Information Contact: (509) 888-6372, or www.fostercreekcd.org

Mission of the Foster Creek Conservation District

Serving the community through quality technical assistance for natural resource stewardship through:

- Encouraging good land stewardship through education, incentives, and quality technical assistance.
- Enhancing sustainable, profitable agriculture and protecting individual private property rights.
- Building strong coalitions with other groups including, but not limited to, government assistance as a valid conservation partner to agriculture.

Natural Resource Priorities

Promoting sustainability and viability of resources in Douglas County that contribute to and benefit farming operations, local communities and cultures, natural habitat, and indigenous wildlife within Douglas County. Program priorities are set to monitor and implement resources projects that have a local, state, and federal priority ranking.

VSP and Critical Area Protection and Enhancement through:

Agricultural Viability and Sustainability

- Soil health
- Enhancing Cropping Systems Managements
- Erosion Control
- Wildlife Compatibility with Croplands

Riparian, Stream, and Water Health

- Water Quality for Streams
- Restoration of Stream and Riparian Habitat
- Water Quantity of Wells

Shrub Stepp Resiliency and Enhancement

- Wildfire Recovery and Resilience
- Grazing Managements and Wildlife Compatibility
- Noxious Weed Control and Prevention
- Habitat Enhancement

Education and Outreach

- K-12th School Programs
- Camp Sagebrush
- Newsletter and Web Presence
- Producer Education and Networking

Program Area: Natural Resource Programs

Agricultural Viability and Sustainability

Priority levels: Local, State, and National priorities.

Goals: Continue to implement best management practices to enhance and sustain agricultural viability through prioritizing soil health, erosion control, the enhancement of cropping systems, all while learning about local wildlife compatibility with croplands to ensure agricultural viability and sustainability.

Source Data includes: Douglas County VSP, Douglas County Multiple Species General Conservation Plan (2015), NRCS State Priority Resource Concerns, WA Soil Health Association, Washington Soil Health Initiative, Douglas County Soil Survey, Douglas County Hazard Mitigation Plan, WRIA 44 Moses/Coulee and WRIA 50 Foster, North Central Local Working Group priorities, Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Health, Washington State University, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Conservation Northwest, The Confederation of the Colville Reservation, and local knowledge.



Figure 1: Staff work with local producers to ensure quality technical assistance is available to help implement program practices and instill an understanding and relationship with soil health to make management decisions.

Other entities engaged in this concern include: Private landowners, USDA Natural
Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, WA Dept Fish and
Wildlife, WA Dept of Ecology, The Nature Conservancy, WA Bureau of Land Management, The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, WA Conservation
Commission and Conservation Districts, Washington State University Cooperative Extension, Anabranch Solutions LLC,
Washington Wheat Growers Association, WA Cattlemen's Association, Conservation Northwest, Pheasants Forever, Trout
Unlimited, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, US Army Corps of Engineers, National Conservation Foundation,
Douglas County.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective(s): Continuation of soil monitoring program, transition of 1,500 acres from no-till to direct seed, Erosion Map to set priority focus areas for restoration efforts in WRIA 50, Residue monitoring for 1,500 acres, one implementation of a crop rotation study with corresponding wildlife study, 1 farm tour to expand on BMP knowledge and showcase FCCD funded projects.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission (VSP, Implementation), Department of Ecology (ECY-0058, 0059), NRCS

Activities for FY2023-2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Soil sampling completed for 6 participants with data gathered assisting the WA Soil health Initiative monitoring program.	April – July 2024	B. Hebron, M. Lockhart	5	\$5,000	Data to supplement WASHI program and VSP
At least 3 new producers signed up for direct seed rotations cost-share and 4 previous participants to be able to complete their rotations. (1,500 acres transitioned)	July 2023 - June 2025	B. Hebron, M. Lockhart	continuous	\$63,000	Data to supplement WASHI Program, DOE, and VSP
Soil Monitoring program – sample collection ongoing – soil analyzed, and results provided to all participants, WASHI, and reported to Ecology.	July 2023- June 2024	B. Hebron, M. Lockhart	8	\$14,500	Data to supplement WASHI Program, DOE, and VSP
Updates to monitoring plans such as QAPPs and SOPs to ensure information is up-to-date, upload to Dept. of Ecology portal.	July 2023- June 2024	B. Hebron, M. Lockhart	3	\$44,200.00	
GIS Erosion mapping of WRIA 50 to create priority rankings for projects	June 2023- October 2023	M. Lockhart, N. Schmidt		\$28,000	Data to supplement Watershed Plan, VSP, DOE
Residue checks to monitor BMP adoption in croplands	July 2023- June 2024	M. Lockhart, M. McGillivray	2	\$1,200	Data to supplement VSP, NRCS
Crop rotation trial to expand crop rotations options as a way to mitigate noxious weeds, while monitoring for success. Simultaneous monitoring for wildlife use of new crop will also continue.	July 2023- June 2024	B. Hebron, R. Lefler, N. Schmidt	6	\$5,000	Data to supplement VSP, NRCS
Cover Crop cost share program development and implementation	July 2023- June 2024	B. Hebron, M. Lockhart	Unknown	unknown	NRCS funded
Host a farm tour to showcase best management practices that help showcase a regenerative approach to agricultural management and highlight key ag programs from the District.	July 2023- June 2024	All Staff	6	\$ 12,000	VSP, CNW, IM, DOE
EQIP, CSP contract work and surveys of Douglas County participants.	July 2023- June 2024	All Staff	16	\$7,500	Data to supplement VSP, NRCS

Shrub Stepp Resiliency and Enhancement

Priority levels: Local, State, and National priorities.

Goals: Prioritize shrub steppe resiliency and enhancement through implementation of wildfire recovery and restoration projects that benefit grazing managements, wildlife compatibility and habitat enhancement via range planting, noxious weed surveying, and monitoring the effects of BMPS implementation on the surrounding range ecosystem.

Source Data includes: Douglas County VSP, Douglas County Multiple Species General Conservation Plan (2015), NRCS State Priority Resource Concerns, Washington Soil Health Initiative, Douglas County Soil Survey, Douglas County Hazard Mitigation Plan, WRIA 44 Moses/Coulee and WRIA 50 Foster, North Central Local Working Group priorities, Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Health, Washington State University, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Conservation Northwest, The Confederation of the Colville Reservation, and local knowledge, Vence Virtual Fence.

Other entities engaged in this concern include: Private landowners, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, WA Dept Fish and Wildlife, WA Dept of Ecology, The Nature Conservancy, WA Bureau of Land Management, The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, WA Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts, Washington State University Cooperative Extension, Anabranch Solutions LLC, Washington Wheat Growers Association, WA Cattlemen's Association, Conservation Northwest, Pheasants Forever, Trout Unlimited, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, US Army Corps of Engineers, National Conservation Foundation, Douglas County.



Figure 2: Monitoring for wildlife usage of different landscapes and managements can help build an understanding of behavior changes by the animals and how management approached impact the surrounding ecosystem.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective(s): Noxious weed surveys for 6,000 acres of private and public lands (10 landowners) that were impacted by the Pearl Hill, Grass Valley, fires, CRP Surveys conducted for at least 25 contracts (roughly 8,000 acres), update monitoring plans for CWPP, adaptive management and updates to MSGCP habitat conservation plan, start permitting process for two permittees, investigate funding sources for finding full time planner staff to do MSGCP habitat plans, implementation of 16 miles worth of updated wildlife friendly fencing, cost share 1 watering facility updates

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission (VSP, Implementation), FEMA (Fac, Reseed), The Nature Conservancy,

NRCS, Washington

Activities for FY2023-2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Noxious Weed Surveys of public and private lands to curb the growth of noxious weeds, with prescriptions written, and applied across 6,000 acres, 10 producers.	July 2023- March 2025	R. Lefler, N. Schmidt, M. McGillivray, M. Lockhart	100	\$120,000	Data to Supplement BLM, TNC, VSP,
Conduct CRP surveys on local enrolled acres to ensure healthy, viable plant communities and habitat is intact for at least 25 contracts (8,000 acres).	July 2023 - June 2025	All Staff	60	\$63,000	Data to FSA, NRCS
Initiate third FEMA grant to help with noxious weed survey and wildfire mitigation and prevention.	August 2023- June 2024	B. Hebron, R. Lefler			
Create and implement monitoring guide for range health assessment and foraging impacts.	July 2023- June 2024	M. Lockhart	10	\$6,000	Data to supplement VSP, Vents, NRCS, CNW
Conduct pilot program implementation and monitoring (photo point, range assessment) for Vence Virtual Fencing pilot program, wildlife surveys compatible to the project area for native wildlife	July 2023- June 2024	M. Lockhart, N. Schmidt, R. Lefler	25	\$28,000	Data to supplement Watershed Plan, VSP, DOE
Work with county partners to increase wildfire resiliency through education and outreach and updates to critical plans like the CWPP	July 2023- June 2024	N. Schmidt	10	\$5,000	Data to supplement VSP, DNR, BLM, WDFW, DoCo, WAFad
Adaptive management towards the <i>Multiple Species General Conservation Plan</i> , conduct two surveys and initiate the permitting process for two more permittees. Research funding availability to hire full-time planner to do permittee surveying and other planning contracts.	July 2023- June 2024	M. Lockhart, R. Lefler, N. Schmidt	60	\$25,000	Data to supplement VSP, NRCS, DFW, USFWS
Implement projects for conversion of livestock pipelines and installation of offsite watering sites (1 site update), and wildlife friendly fencing (16 miles of fencing)	July 2023- June 2024	All Staff	75	\$50,000	Data to supplement VSP, NRCS, WSCC
Reseeding 20 acres with native rangeland plants to aid in habitat sustainability and rebuilding of desired species.	July 2023- 2024	R. Lefler, N. Schmidt	10	\$15,000	

Riparian, Stream, and Water Health

Priority levels: Local and State priorities.

Goals: Improve riparian, stream, and water health through the understanding of water movement and below groundwater levels through well monitoring, continue the installation of riparian restoration project that improve water quality and critical riparian habitat, and monitor the changes to better understand the effects of implemented best management practices on our local watershed ecology.

Source Data includes: Douglas County VSP, Douglas County Multiple Species General Conservation Plan (2015), NRCS State Priority Resource Concerns, Douglas County Soil Survey, Douglas County Hazard Mitigation Plan, WRIA 44 Moses/Coulee and WRIA 50 Foster, North Central Local Working Group priorities, Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Health, Washington State University, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Annabranch Solutions, The Confederation of the Colville Reservation, and local knowledge.

Other entities engaged in this concern include: Private landowners, US Fish and Wildlife Service, WA Dept Fish and Wildlife, WA Dept of Ecology, The Nature Conservancy, The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, WA Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts, Washington State University Cooperative Extension, Anabranch Solutions LLC, Washington Wheat Growers Association, WA Cattlemen's Association, Conservation Northwest, Pheasants Forever, Trout Unlimited, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, US Army Corps of Engineers, National Conservation Foundation, Douglas County.



Figure 3. Before and after images show the power of beaver dam analogues and two years. There are over 30 structures installed within the Foster Watershed.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective(s): 5 wells monitored for well levels

twice yearly, 10 BDAs installed within Foster Creek Stream, Initiate one new grant agreement and begin work on monitoring streamflow within the mouth of Foster Creek, Update monitoring guides and QAPPS for all well and stream monitoring, initiate riparian soil sampling as a new metric of tracking progress within the riparian plain, continue post installation monitoring of riparian plants, plant 1,500 new riparian plants on 1.0 streambank mile.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission (VSP, Implementation), Department of Ecology (0058, 0059, 116), US Fish and Wildlife, NRCS, Washington

Activities for FY2023-2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Data gathered from 5 sites to assist WSU groundwater monitoring program.	July 2023- March 2025	M. McGillivray	10	\$10,000	Data to Supplement VSP, DOE, DOH
Continuation of restoration site monitoring throughout Foster Watershed. Installation of 10 new Beaver Damn Analogous structures	July 2023 - June 2025	R. Lefler, N. Schmidt, M. Lockhart, M. McGillivray	200	\$89,000	Data to VSP, TU, USFWS, UCSRB, CCT
Continuation of the water quality monitoring program for 303d listings in Foster Creek, effects of direct seed implemented BMPs on above plateau.	August 2023- June 2025	M. McGillivray	180	\$56,000	Data Supplemented DOE, EPA, VSP
Update monitoring guides, QAPPs, and SOPs to include current riparian monitoring	July 2023- June 2025	M. McGillivray	40	\$6,000	Data to supplement VSP, DOE, EPA
Riparian soil sampling to understand available water holding capacity of soils within the riparian plan and how levels change in subsequent years. Better understand greenhouse gas and carbon sequestration associated with riparian restoration	July 2023- June 2025	B. Hebron	50	\$2,760	Data to supplement Watershed Plan, VSP, DOE, USDA, WSCC
Update the WRIA 50 Watershed Plan, engage stakeholders through public meeting, form a committee, and produce an improved and approved plan.	July 2023- June 2025	All Staff	280	\$88,800	Data to supplement VSP, DNR, BLM, WDFW, DoCo
Initiate and approve agreement to start monitoring and restoration within the mouth of Foster Creek Stream.	July 2023- June 2025	R. Lefler, B. Hebron, M. McGillivray		\$160,000	Data to supplement VSP, USFWS, TU, UCSRB
Host one riparian planting day	October 2023	All Staff	30	5,000	Data to supplement VSP, TU, USFWS, UCSRB

Program Area: District Programs

Education and outreach

Priority levels: Local and State

Goals: Continue to provide quality technical assistance, ecosystem knowledge and stewardship, to create opportunities to grow in that understanding for the Douglas County producers, residents, and youth through education and outreach opportunities that showcase best management practices and the effects they have on the local ecosystem

Source Data includes: Douglas County VSP, Douglas County Multiple Species General Conservation Plan (2015), Washington Soil Health Initiative, Douglas County Soil Survey, Douglas County Hazard Mitigation Plan, WRIA 44 Moses/Coulee and WRIA 50 Foster, North Central Local Working Group priorities, Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Health, Washington State University, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Conservation Northwest, The Confederation of the Colville Reservation, Pacific Education Institute, and Coalition of Conservation District Education and Outreach staff



Figure 4. Camp Sagebrush brings campers into the shrub steppe and focuses in on plant, wildlife, and fire ecology and teaches skills to understand fire adapted communities and how they can help for middle schoolers.

Other entities engaged in this concern include: Local Schools, Private landowners, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, WA Dept Fish and Wildlife, WA Dept of Ecology, The Nature Conservancy, WA Bureau of Land Management, The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, WA Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts, Washington State University Cooperative Extension, Anabranch Solutions LLC, Washington Wheat Growers Association, WA Cattlemen's Association, Conservation Northwest, Pheasants Forever, Trout Unlimited, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, US Army Corps of Engineers, National Conservation Foundation, Douglas County.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective(s): Successfully complete the second and third years of Camp Sagebrush, producer educational handouts pertaining to district programs, develop ISPs for 10 producers, produce four newsletters reaching 800 people, participate in at least 10 outdoor education events for K-12, continue planning and researching for grants to supplement cultural program and Envirothon, develop a outdoor education plan with one local school, continue to implement Spanish Outreach Plan for Douglas County.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission (VSP, Implementation), Department of Ecology (0058, 0059, 116), Recreation Conservation Office, FEMA (FAC), Conservation Northwest

Activities for FY2023-2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Develop 10 ISPs for resource priorities and developments to feed VSP Data and metrics and help understand current resource priorities and concerns.	July 2023- March 2025	All Staff	20	\$10,000	Data to Supplement VSP
Production of 4 quarterly newsletter distributed to at least 800 residences, via mailer, email, and website posting	July 2023 - June 2025	All staff	120	\$25,000	
Participate in 10 different K-12 events that help educate about resource priorities like soils, water, and conservation of resources.	August 2023- June 2025	M. McGillivray, N. Schmidt, M. Lockhart	180	\$56,000	Data Supplemented DOE, EPA, VSP
Continue to host the Salmon in the Classroom program for two different schools in the area, build curriculum, and work with local entities to create unique opportunities to learn about salmon in the ecosystem.	July 2023- June 2025	M. McGillivray. M. Lockhart,	16	\$4,000	Data to supplement DFW, USFWS
Implement two more Camp Sagebrush Seasons, planning, development, and partner communication to build the program. Find more sustainable funding.	July 2023- June 2025	All staff	220	\$125,000	1 new grant, plus grant extension
Continue to develop and implement the Spanish Outreach Plan	July 2023- June 2025	All Staff	20	\$5,000	
Outreach to at least 30 individual landowners to complete VSP checklists, including at least 2 orchards.	July 2023- June 2025	All Staff	120	\$25,000	
Develop Outreach program that is geared to culturally significant connection to the local ecosystem and geological area.	July 2023- June 2024	M. McGillivray, M. Lockhart	15	\$5,000	

District Operation

Priority levels: Local

Goals: Maintain a fully functioning District, keeping all current members employed and hire new positions that would help benefit current Conservation District Programs operation. Ensure all necessary reporting, documenting, vouchering, etc., is completed and submitted in time. Ensure smooth initiation and closure of active grants and continue to search for grants that can continue to supplement and grow the programs at Foster Creek CD. Participate in training and partner groups that help develop professional growth for the employee and provide stronger staff for the District.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission (VSP, Implementation), Department of Ecology (0058, 0059, 116),

Recreation Conservation Office, FEMA (FAC), Conservation Northwest

Activities for FY2023-2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
VSP Implementation – ongoing adaptions to management plan and budget based on five-year report comments and progress seen the past two years.	July 2023 – June 2024	B. Hebron	50	\$10,000	
Four quarterly reports submitted, grant successfully closed-out for the end of the biennium and new biennium work planned and approved by the VSP Work Group,	July 2023 – June 2024	B. Hebron	15	\$5,000	
Regularly meet with County Commissioners to receive information and keep them updated on District activities and needs.	July 2023- June 2024	B. Hebron	5	\$1,000	
Provide assistance to other districts, as requested.	July 2023- June 2024	All Staff		\$3,000	
Participate in WACD efforts to work with legislators in support of priority legislation.	July 2023- June 2024	FCCD Board, B. Hebron		\$1,000	
Seek funding for training opportunities, including WADE training, to encourage professional development of staff.	July 2023- June 2024	All Staff			
Conduct annual District election and appointment activities.	Nov 2023 – March 2024				
Review and/or update as needed: RCW 89.08, partner agreements, policy resolutions and employee handbook.	July 2023- June 2024	B. Hebron, K. Sadler			
All programs - Oversight, administration, district operational and financial management.	July 2023- June 2024	B. Hebron, K. Sadler, R. Lefler			

Total District Operation Budget

Revenue:

	Total
Direct Federal Grants	70,000
Indirect Federal Grants	340,000
State Grants	370,000
Local Grants	10,000
Total Conservation District	790,000
Revenue	790,000





Expenses:

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Salaries & Wages	340,000
Benefits	125,000
Supplies	88,000
Other Services & Charges	215,000
Debt Service Costs	12,000
Capital Outlays	10,000
Total Conservation District Expenses	790,000