



FY2023 (7/1/22 – 6/30/23) Annual Work Plan FOSTER CREEK Conservation District

For More Information Contact: (509) 888-6372, or: <https://www.fostercreekcd.org>



Mission of the FOSTER CREEK Conservation District

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

- 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

- Soil Health
- Range Health
- Wildlife Habitat Health
- Water Quality and Drought Resilience
- Wildfire Recovery and Resilience
- Agricultural Activities in Critical Areas
- Noxious Weed Control and Prevention
- Education and Outreach

Natural Resource Priority Description: Promoting sustainable agricultural practices that contribute to and benefit farming operations, local communities, natural habitat and indigenous wildlife within Douglas County.

Priority levels: Local, State, and National priorities.

Source Data includes: Douglas County VSP, Douglas County Multiple Species General Conservation Plan (2015), NRCS State Priority Resource Concerns, WA Soil Health Association, Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association, Douglas County Soil Survey, Douglas County Hazard Mitigation Plan, WRIA 44 Moses/Coulee and WRIA 50 Foster, North Central Local Working Group priorities, local knowledge.

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, Anabran 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.

Natural Resource Priority Program Areas:

Program Area: Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP).
Soil Health, Range Health, Habitat for Fish and Wildlife, Water Quality, Agricultural Activities in Critical Areas

Goal(s): Douglas County Voluntary Stewardship Plan implementation.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective(s): Two Individual Site Plans (ISPs), or MSGCP site specific plans (GCPs) completed, plan and budgets adaptively managed, orchard outreach program developed.

Funding Source(s): WSCC.

Activities for FY2022-23	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Days Required	Estimated Funding
VSP Implementation – ongoing adaptations to management plan and budget based on five-year report comments.	July 2022 – June 2023	R. Schexnayder	220	\$123,000
Outreach to at least 30 individual landowners to complete VSP checklists, including at least 2 orchards.	July 2022 – June 2023	R. Schexnayder		
At least two site specific GCP plans completed and related incidental take permits submitted to USFWS.	July 2022 – June 2023	A. Orpet		
Technical assistance provided to at least 5 operators	July 2022 – June 2023	All staff		
Data gathered from five sites to assist WSU groundwater monitoring program.	July 2022 – June 2023	A. Orpet		
Soil sampling completed for at least 8 participants	July 2022 – June 2023	B. Hebron		
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 2022 – June 2023	R. Schexnayder		

Program Area: Soil Health Program.
Soil Sampling, Direct Seed Systems, Cover Crops, Crop Rotations, Range Health, Regenerative Agriculture, Water Quality.

Goal(s): Promote Agricultural BMPs, assist Douglas County producers transition from conventional tillage to direct seed systems, decrease soil erosion, improve soil health and water quality.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective(s): A new WA Dept of Ecology funded Soil Health program grant contracted and implementation underway.

Funding Source(s): WA Dept. of Ecology.

Activities for FY2022-23	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Days Required	Estimated Funding
New grant for Soil Health/Direct Seed cost-share program contracted and being implemented	July 2022 - June 2023	A. Ward B. Hebron	180	\$100,000
At least 3 new producers signed up for direct seed rotations cost-share and 7 previous participants able to complete their rotations.	July 2022 - June 2023	B. Hebron		
Soil Monitoring program – sample collection ongoing – soil analyzed and results provided to all participants and reported to Ecology.	July 2022 - June 2023	R. Hebron		
Water quality monitoring ongoing in Foster Creek watershed.	July 2022 - June 2023	A. Orpet		
Update of WRIA 50 Foster Creek Watershed Plan underway, with key stakeholders engaged in the process	July 2022 - June 2023	R. Hebron A. Orpet		
Planning underway for K-12 education program on best management practices for soil erosion and water pollution.	July 2022 - June 2023	R. Hebron A. Orpet		

Program Area: Water Quality Program
Water and Drought resilience, Habitat for Fish and Wildlife, Agricultural Activities in Critical Areas, Noxious Weed Control and Prevention - Water Quality monitoring, Riparian Stream Restoration/Enhancement.

Goal(s): Foster Creek watershed plan implementation of planned restoration work completed.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective(s): BDAs installed at 20 locations along E. Foster Creek, two Phase 2 project sites identified, TA to at least five landowners, annual site maintenance completed at three restoration sites.

Funding Source(s): WA Dept. of Ecology.

Activities for FY2022-23	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Days Required	Estimated Funding
All tasks, deliverables and reporting completed for ECY-0181 and all relevant information uploaded to EAGL.	July 2022 – March 2023	R. Lefler A. Orpet	240	\$140,000
Current grant successfully completed and closed out; New grant contracted and underway	July 2022 – March 2023	A. Ward R. Lefler		
Implementation of two planned riparian restoration and revegetation projects underway	July 2022 – June 2023	R. Lefler N. Schmidt		
Update of WRIA 50 Foster Creek Watershed Plan underway, with key stakeholders engaged in the process	July 2022 – June 2023	R. Lefler R. Hebron		

Water Quality program - ctd				
Annual monitoring and maintenance completed at three previously installed project sites.	July 2022 – June 2023	R. Lefler N. Schmidt		
Annual water quality monitoring completed for the year, data analyzed, annual WQ monitoring report completed and provided to landowners.	July 2022 – June 2023	A. Orpet		
All E & O deliverables – ongoing, including Salmon in the Classroom program, Envirothon and Earth Day participation, and quarterly newsletter.	July 2022 – June 2023	R. Hebron A. Orpet		

Program Area: Creating Fire Adapted Communities in High Desert Areas
Wildfire Recovery and Resilience, Water Quality, Noxious Weed Control and Prevention, Habitat for Fish and Wildlife, Agricultural Activities in Critical Areas.

Goal(s): Bring awareness, knowledge and skills about creating defensible spaces to 40 landowners and 360 school-aged youth.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective(s): Agency and schools training programs completed, one summer camp completed, TA provided to at least 20 landowners, grant successfully completed and closed out.

Funding Source(s): FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP-PF).

Activities for FY2022-23	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Days Required	Estimated Funding
Comprehensive set of informational materials distributed throughout the community.	July 2022 – March 2023	All staff	70	\$60,000
One agency training program completed.	July 2022 – March 2023	All staff		
Outreach and training provided to local community groups	July 2022 – March 2023	All staff		
10 landowners contacted for developing individual site plans or HIZ assessments	July 2022 – March 2023	All staff		
Grant successfully closed out with all deliverables met.	July 2022 – March 2023	A. Ward		

Program Area: Wildfire recovery
 Wildfire Recovery and Restoration, Water Quality, Noxious Weed Control and Prevention, Habitat for Fish and Wildlife, Agricultural Activities in Critical Areas.

Goal(s): Develop plans for at least 10 landowners for post-fire weed control, erosion control and/or re-seeding in the Grass Valley fire footprint.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective(s): Site assessments and individual site plans completed for at least 20 landowners and at least one round of weed control measures implemented; Grant successfully completed and closed out.

Funding Source(s): FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP-PF).

Activities for FY2022-23	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Days Required	Estimated Funding
New FEMA grant contracted and planning underway in the Pearl Hill fire footprint	July 2022 – June 2023	A. Ward	80	\$150,000
Outreach ongoing to landowners in the fire impacted area.	July 2022 – March 2023	All staff		
Site assessments conducted and individual site plans completed for at least 10 landowners.	July 2022 – March 2023	All staff		
Weed control undertaken for at least 5 landowners	July 2022 – March 2023	R. Lefler N. Schmidt		
Grant competed and successfully closed-out	Jan 2023	A. Ward		

Program Area: Technical Assistance
 Soil Health, Range Health, Habitat for Fish and Wildlife, Water Quality and Quantity, Agricultural Activities in Critical Areas, Noxious Weed Control and Prevention, Wildfire Prevention/Restoration.

Goal(s): Provide assistance to NRCS through completing various Task Orders.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective(s): A minimum of four new Task Orders, either farm planning and/or conservation practice monitoring tasks, completed and approved by NRCS.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, NRCS.

Activities for FY2022-23	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Days Required	Estimated Funding
Task Orders completed as required by NRCS and WSCC.	July 2022 – June 2023	R. Hebron A. Orpet	80	\$50,000
In collaboration with NRCS, assist operators with acquiring Farm bill funding to complete CPs.	July 2022 – June 2023	All staff		

Program Area: Technical Assistance
 Soil Health, Range Health, Habitat for Fish and Wildlife, Water Quality and Quantity, Noxious Weed Control and Prevention, Wildfire Recovery and Restoration.

Goal(s): Weed assessment and control provided to at least four landowners.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective(s): Weed control within an area of 231.0 acres completed, grant successfully closed-out.

Funding Source(s): USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

Activities for FY2022-23	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Days Required	Estimated Funding
Weed mapping and control completed across all designated areas and grant successfully closed out.	July 2022 – Dec 2022	R. Lefler A. Ward	15	\$4,000

Program Area: Technical Assistance
 Soil Health, Range Health, Habitat for Fish and Wildlife, Water Quality and Quantity, Noxious Weed Control and Prevention, Wildfire Recovery/Restoration, infrastructure re-build.

Goal(s): Technical assistance and cost-share assistance provided to at least 12 landowners.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective(s): Landowners provided with post-fire recovery assistance, new projects identified and planned.

Funding Source(s): WDFW and WSCC.

Activities for FY2022-23	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Days Required	Estimated Funding
Cost-share to 3 landowners for post-fire infrastructure rebuilds	July 2022 – June 2023	R. Lefler	10	\$400,000
Cost-share to 6 landowners for fencing infrastructure	July 2022 – June 2023	R. Lefler		
At least 5 new cost-share projects identified and entered into CPDS	July 2022 – June 2023	All staff		

Program Area: District Operations
Goal(s): Maintain effective and efficient operations including financial accountability, planning, budgeting, and reporting, team development and professional training, to proactively support program, community, natural resource and administrative needs.
Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Meet Conservation Commission and state agency requirements for operations, policies and procedures; maintain good business practices and internal controls; be available to meet the needs of landowners and partners. Providing realistic solutions and technical resources for local environmental issues to the residents of Douglas County.
Funding Source(s): WSCC.

Activities for FY2022-23	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Days Required	Estimated Funding
Provide technical assistance to landowners as requests are received.	July 2022– June 2023	All staff	380	\$150,000
Regularly meet with County Commissioners to receive information and keep them updated on District activities and needs.	July 2022 – June 2023	A. Ward		
Provide assistance to other districts, as requested.	July 2022 – June 2023	All staff		
Participate in WACD efforts to work with legislators in support of priority legislation.	July 2022 – June 2023	A. Ward		
Seek funding for training opportunities, including WADE training, to encourage professional development of staff.	July 2022 – June 2023	All staff		
Conduct annual District election and appointment activities.	Nov 2022 – March 2023	A. Ward		
Review and/or update as needed: RCW 89.08, partner agreements, policy resolutions and employee handbook.	July 2022 – June 2023	FCCD Board A. Ward		
Hold one annual planning workshop.	Nov 2022	FCCD Board All staff		
Seek creative and cost-effective solutions to funding and operations challenges and continue to build district capacity.	July 2022 – June 2023	FCCD Board All staff		
All programs - Oversight, administration, district operational and financial management.	July 2022 – June 2023	A. Ward		

Program Area: Education and Outreach

Goals: Promote awareness of FCCD’s mission and all natural resource programs and services.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective(s): Produce and distribute four newsletters and one annual report; utilize FCCD’s website, Facebook page and YouTube to educate county residents about resource concerns and district programs; complete all education and outreach components detailed in all FCCD grant funded programs.

Funding Source(s): WA Dept. of Ecology, WSCC, NRCS, USFWS, FEMA, TNC, Douglas County.

Activities for FY2022-23	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Days Required	Estimated Funding
Conduct planned outreach activities using District and community resources to promote District’s water quality, soil health, fire recovery and weed control programs.	July 2022 – June 2023	All staff	E&O is a subset of all previous programs, and every program incorporates time for E&O activities	Included in previous budgets, above
Continue to promote District work through a quarterly newsletter, develop content to include Spanish translations and expand readership.	July 2022 – June 2023	All staff		
Continue the Salmon in the Classroom program.	Ongoing	A. Orpet R. Hebron		
Continue Douglas County conservation projects story-map updates on website hosted by USFWS.	July 2022 – June 2023	R. Lefler		
Ongoing participation in community events such as Earth Day, Kids in the Creek, River of Power, Salmon Festival, Make A Difference Day, NCW Fair, Envirothon.	July 2022 – June 2023	All Staff		
Continue to develop new programs focusing on orchards and agriculture, soil health, fire recovery, water quality and urban conservation.	July 2022 – June 2023	All staff		
Continue in-person outreach as well as video productions for virtual O&E, including publishing on FCCD’s YouTube platform.	July 2022 – June 2023	All staff		

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 Revenue	790,000

Expenses:	
Total	
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