



5-Year Plan (2019 to 2024) Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

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Organization of the EASTERN KLICKITAT Conservation District

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

- Established in 1943, EKCD has a positive history of conservation in Klickitat County. Our ultimate goal has always been and continues to be, cooperation with landowners to provide the most on-the-ground conservation for the dollars spent. As conservation practices progress and change, we have adopted new technology to provide the best in conservation to our cooperators.

Function of the EASTERN KLICKITAT Conservation District

To take 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

- Landowners, users of natural resources, individuals & organizations interested in natural resource issues within EKCD.
- EKCD has a legal responsibility under 89.08
- We are the most effective conduit and buffer for federal and state programs to the local level
- We are the most effective agency to help people achieve their resource conservation goals

Mission of the EASTERN KLICKITAT Conservation District

The mission of the Eastern Klickitat Conservation District is to improve, conserve, and promote the wise use of natural resources by providing technical, financial, educational, and research assistance for landowners, users of natural resources, individuals & organizations interested in natural resource issues within EKCD.

Vision of the EASTERN KLICKITAT Conservation District is to accomplish the following goals in the next 5 years:

- Implementation of no-till and cover crop test plots that involve soil quality monitoring
- Obtain funding for more forest management and fuels reductions projects
- Have a signed MOU and partnership plan with DFW
- Own forest and rangeland in the Simcoe Mountains for working lands management
- Have a management plan for land owned in the Simcoe Mountains
- Have a system of rates and charges in place
- Host another collaborative agency field-day
- Identify more stream restoration projects with landowners
- Maintain continuity of funding for eastern tributaries monitoring sites
- Make progress towards restoring fish passage at the mouth of Pine Creek
- Identify or develop resources to address water conservation/small pond issues
- Complete a watershed assessment of Alder Creek

- Offer two ready to implement conservation easement opportunities to landowners
 - Develop a program to do outreach to wineries/vineyards
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Values of the EASTERN KLICKITAT Conservation District

We believe in:

- Locally led, grass roots natural resource conservation
 - Cooperative, incentive based, voluntary programs
 - Assisting landowners in being proactive with natural resource issues
 - Helping landowners comply with regulatory conservation efforts
 - Representation of landowners' interests and concerns with respect to natural resource issues in the region at local, state, and federal levels
 - Forming and honoring partnership agreements with governmental agencies
 - Treating everyone equitably and in a positive manner
 - Operating efficiently to achieve the highest return on public investment possible
 - Respecting private land rights
 - Prioritizing natural resource concerns to implement effective high quality on the ground practices
 - Saying what we are going to do - and doing what we say
 - Informing people so they understand landowner commitments and the CD obligations to conservation efforts
 - Wise use of natural resources for environmental and economic sustainability
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Land Manager Needs:

- Conduit for and convenient access to information and assistance
 - Financial assistance...cost share...e.g. grazing, CRP takeout, wildfire prevention etc
 - Assistance navigating through programs... e.g. grazing management programs, other
 - Current research updates and information on how it can be applied locally
 - Assistance with range and forest health
 - Assistance with water quantity and quality improvements
 - Education related to land management technical and political issues
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Natural Resource Data & Information: See Appendix A

Land Use in the Rock/Glade Basin:

▪ Agriculture	40%
▪ Urban	2%
▪ Water	4%
▪ Forest	5%
▪ Range	49%

- Yearly rainfall averages 8 inches. The landscape is composed of layer upon layer of basalt, and remnants of the Pleistocene lake basins. The typical soils are deep gravelly loam to silty loam. Potential natural vegetation is big sagebrush, bitterbrush, bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue. (WA Water Quality Management Plan Vol 1)

Critical Geographic Areas: (attached map Appendix B)

- Rock Creek watershed
 - Eastern edge of EKCD – low rainfall area 8” and under
 - Alder Creek watershed
 - Pine Creek watershed
 - Simcoe Mountains
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Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Geographic Areas:

Priority Natural Resource Conservation Need	Geographic Area
Farmland Preservation/Conservation Easements	District wide
Local management of publicly owned working lands	District wide
Water Quantity and Quality	District wide
Forest Health	Simcoe Mountains
Water Use/ Irrigation Efficiencies	Alderdale area
Rangeland, Forest & Habitat Management	District wide
Wildfire Prevention	District wide
Air Quality	East end of EKCD
Soil Health	District wide

Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:

- Pressure from land sales and developers – loss of forestry, grazing and farmland
- Water quality issues
- Wind and solar energy wildlife mitigation
- Producers adopting new technologies for conservation benefit
- Potential for habitat projects in all watersheds

Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs, Goals, Milestones, Timeline & Actions

Natural Resource Conservation Need: Farmland Preservation/Conservation Easements

Measurable Goal:

By 2023, offer ready to implement conservation easements to landowners on 2 projects

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Find willing landowners ▪ Be recognized as local source for easements 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>By 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a workshop, include estate planning expertise • Produce a fact sheet with sufficient detail about the opportunities, timeframes and process • Develop criteria for ranking easement projects, applicants • Develop a streamlined process & work with partners to implement • Providing outreach to landowners

Natural Resource Conservation Need: Water Quality

Measurable Goal:

By 2024, have completed projects on Rock Creek

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Complete Rock Creek SRFB project	By 2023	Design, build and monitor
Completing spring development project in upper headwaters	By 2021	Acquire funding, design, build and monitor

Complete application process for new SFRB project for levee removal and be successfully funded	By Dec 2019	Complete application process
Revisit Newell Springs project	By June 2020	Visit with the landowner

Natural Resource Conservation Need: Forest Health

Measurable Goal:

By July 2021, obtain funding to implement forest management and fuels reductions projects

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Funding from DNR secured	July 2021	Work with SCC and DNR on coordination of local work to inform a funding agreement
Engaged with WACD, SCC, DNR, to coordinate and secure funding	Ongoing and legislative timeframes	Continue to engage in discussion with SCC, DNR, and including WACD around strategies to secure sufficient funding for this work
CD written into the County Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plans	Summer 2020	Continue to engage with communities and county on crafting of HMP and CWPP
Complete Simcoe acquisition	June 2021	Negotiations with Western Pacific Timber Complete a working lands management plan

Natural Resource Conservation Need: Soil Health

Measurable Goal:

By May 2022, implementation of no-till and cover crop test plots that involve soil quality monitoring

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Investigate new research in soil health/carbon sequestration	Fall 2021	Coordinate with OSU, WSU, WSU Extension, NRCS, WA Dept Ag and other partners as appropriate to learn about soil health initiative. Explore soil health initiative funding in new Farm Bill
Determine if monitoring program in EKCD would	By spring of 2022	Research existing programs that are similar Coordinate with WSU, WSDA, NRCS, etc.

benefit local producers		
Develop budget and identify funding for new soils program	By Jan 2023	
If funded, secure locations with cooperators for test plots	2024	Establish landowner agreements with cooperating producers Purchase or source equipment for soil monitoring or soil testing
Implement program	2024 and forward	Conduct initial testing and/or have monitoring equipment installed

Natural Resource Conservation Need: Operations

Measurable Goal:

By Dec 2020, update operating MOU with Central Klickitat CD

Milestones	Timeline	Actions
Signed operating MOU	By July 2020 board meetings By November 2020 By January 2021	Both CDs discuss topic separately Hold a joint meeting to work on this topic Manager to collect staff feedback and input on joint operating MOU draft

Staffing Needs

- Manager/Engineer
- Administrative Assistant
- Technical Position #1 – water quality/conservation planner
- Engineer in Training
- Engineer Assistant
- Technical Position #2 – generalist
- Information – Education (part time or include in Tech position #2 or Admin Ass't)

Potential New:

- Ask existing employees if they want to increase hours
- Part time water quality monitoring technician
- Seasonal employees for forestry and riparian project implementation

Use of Strategic Long Range Plan:

- For grant proposals
- Annual plan of work development
- Employee requirements
- Information for elected officials
- Public information