



FY2027 (7/1/26 – 6/30/27)

Annual Work Plan Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

For More Information, Contact: Loren Meagher, 509-773-9019, LorenM@centralcd.org



Mission of the Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

As supervisors and staff, more importantly as neighbors, we feel that it is our obligation to our rural community, our way of life, and future generations to: take available technical, financial and educational resources (whatever their source) to aid, support, focus and help coordinate them so that all available resources can be presented to land/ property managers.

Sustainable agriculture requires smart stewardship of the lands we manage. The EKCD's duty is to assist our community members with their soil health, water, cropping, range, and timber lands challenges.

Natural Resource Priorities:

- Enhance natural resources through the planning and application of economically and environmentally sound conservation actions.
 - Offer opportunities for landowners to sell development rights to protect farmland and keep farms operating in the traditional and natural manner while protecting habitat and wildlife. Work with the Office of Farmland Preservation for funding and prioritization.
 - Support the local community interests in management of EKCD's publicly owned forest and range land.
 - Utilize a commonsense management approach with emphasis on maintaining and improving water quality conditions within the District Boundaries.
 - Maintain leadership in watershed planning, salmon recovery processes, and future watershed actions including habitat enhancement, water quality improvement and water quantity conservation.
 - Participate in WRIA 31 management, planning and implementation as opportunity allows.
 - Offer and facilitate programs to involve cooperators in adopting conservation practices.
 - Be engaged in local and state political processes to represent local values and support programs to assist landowners.
-

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Farmland Preservation

Goal(s): Protect high-quality agricultural land, wildlife habitat, and riparian areas from development for uses that will diminish their current availability for food and fiber production, or their habitat and water quality functions. Actively work with SCC to develop OFP programs that meet CD needs across the state.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:

Develop a conservation easement project and prepare submit it to be submitted for funding when the next round opens in 2028.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

Conduct easement monitoring on completed projects.

Provide education and outreach to develop future agricultural easement opportunities.

Funding Source(s): WSCC Implementation; Office of Farmland Preservation, Rates and Charges

Activities for FY2027	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Funding
Work with SCC OFP coordinator and interested landowners to develop a new easement project and seek approval for CD's to be easement holders.	On-going	Loren Meagher	\$5,000
Work with SCC to complete annual easement monitoring on existing easements.	May 2027	Loren Meagher Kassidy Hurst	\$5,000

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Stream Habitat, Water Quality and Water Quantity

Goal(s): Maintain or improve water quality conditions in the district; continue progress toward improving water quality and quantity throughout EKCD. Provide technical assistance to support landowners interested in implementing irrigation efficiencies.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:

Protect and/or restore riparian areas and reduce surface water contamination by designing, permitting and constructing spring enhancements and off-channel livestock watering sources. Improve habitat for native salmonids in Rock Creek, Pine Creek and other EKCD streams by designing, permitting, and implementing instream habitat and riparian improvement projects. Develop a landowner equipment loan program for soil moisture monitoring. Set up soil moisture monitoring systems and weather station for improved irrigation management.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

Implement a water quality livestock BMPs; provide technical assistance to 1 landowner. Identify and develop a project for future funding. Continue work to progress the design of bridges to address the fish passage barrier at the mouth of Pine Creek. Partner with Yakama Nation and BNSF to apply for funding for complete design and construction. Support Rainmaker's efforts to secure funding for a local cloud seeding project.

Funding Source(s): WSCC Implementation, EKCD Rates and Charges, SCC Irrigation Efficiencies Program, PE Program, SCC Riparian Grant Program

Activities for FY2027	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Funding
Re-evaluate WQ program November 2026	On-going	Loren Meagher	\$1,000
Maintain presence on WRIA 31, and other water quality related committees as opportunity presents	On-going	Loren Meagher	\$2,000
Work with irrigators to develop irrigation efficiencies projects. Install a weather and soil moisture monitoring station.	On-going	Loren Meagher	\$25,000
Work with consultant to continue to further the Pine Creek Passage design in preparation to apply for federal grant funding.	June 2027	Loren Meagher	\$45,000
Design, permit, and implement an irrigation project.	May 2026	Loren Meagher	\$200,000
Design, permit, and implement riparian enhancement projects.	June 2026	Loren Meagher Kassi Hurst	\$150,000

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Rangeland, Farm, Forest, & Habitat Management

Goal(s): Improve forest and rangeland health and protect natural resource values and functions through sound management practices. Manage land in the Simcoe Mountains to demonstrate conservation stewardship and working lands management that results in natural resource conservation and productive working lands.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:

Adaptively manage working lands owned by EKCD.

Implement forest health and fuels reduction projects on public and private lands.

Complete 26 miles of fuel breaks on roads in CKCD and EKCD's working lands.

Utilize secured funding to implement private landowner conservation projects utilizing cost share or DIPs.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

- Conduct outreach to inform residents of available technical and financial assistance.
- Utilize available resources to continue support for wildfire recovery actions.
- Continue to promote and seek opportunities to implement prescribed burning to reduce fuel loading and enhance forest health.

Funding Source(s): SCC Implementation, EKCD Rates and Charges, SCC Forest Health Funding, SCC PE Funding, Legislative funding

Activities for FY2027	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Funding
Identify and prioritize wildfire preparedness projects throughout EKCD as funding and time allows.	On-going	Loren Meagher Staff as assigned	\$12,500
Implement forest health and fuels reduction projects on public and private lands.	On-going	Loren Meagher Kassidy Hurst	\$90,000
Adaptively manage EKCD's working lands and update management plan for long term management of forest and range lands under a working lands conservation strategy.	On-going	Loren Meagher	\$15,000
Implement fire recovery projects.	April 2027	Loren Meagher Kassidy Hurst	\$50,000
Provide livestock technical assistance.	On-going	Loren Meagher Staff	\$15,000
Complete Local Community Project – Fuel Breaks in Simcoe Working Lands	May 2027	Loren Meagher Staff as assigned	\$29,000

District Program Area: Education and Outreach

Goal(s): Increase awareness of natural resource issues within the District. Increase public awareness of the District and its programs, especially ACEs, water quality and the importance of riparian areas, and forest management practices to reduce fire danger and improve water quality.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

Hold Annual Meeting in February; hold annual plant sale. Conduct outreach to people interested in conservation.

Establish a presence in the Bickleton area with remodel of building that can be utilized for meetings, workspace and equipment storage.

Funding Sources: WSCC Implementation, EKCD Rates and Charges, Legislative funding

Activities for FY2027	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Funding
Conduct annual plant sale	March 2027	Courtney Tatro Kassidy Hurst Consultant	\$15,000
Continue to add content to new website	On-going	Courtney Tatro consultant	\$6,000
Maintain relationship with county commissioners and provide updates as needed.	On-going	Loren Meagher Staff	\$2,000

District Program Area: District Operations

Goal(s): Develop and maintain effective and efficient office operations, including accounting, and grant vouchering, supervisor elections and appointments, at least quarterly meetings, training and development, annual planning and reporting. Maintain WSCC "District in Good Standing" designation. Work to develop and opportunity to obtain CD owned property and shop/office space to support operations.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

Hold regular board meetings. Timely completion and submission of the Annual Financial Report and Schedule 22 to State Auditor; Annual Plan of Work to WSCC; monthly WSCC grant vouchers; and grant reporting. Update and develop good governance policy for board. Review and update MOU's and Interlocal Agreements. Update MOU with CKCD.

Funding Source(s): WSCC Implementation, EKCD Rates and Charges

Activities for FY2027	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Funding
Manage district operations. Solicit new sources of funding. Develop new conservation project opportunities.	On-going	Loren Meagher Staff	\$60,000
Complete all reporting, planning and other office operational procedures as required for all grants and funding sources.	On-going	Courtney Tatro Loren Meagher Financial Consultant	\$60,000
Plan and hold EKCD Annual Meeting (provide 4-5 pesticide credits)	February 2027	Loren Meagher Courtney Tatro Other staff as assigned	\$15,000
Hold timely and efficient supervisor election in a manner that will include the maximum number of voters in a cost effective way.	February 2027	Courtney Tatro Others as assigned	\$3000
Maintain regular communication with WSCC, WACD, Klickitat BOCC and other legislators	On-going	Loren Meagher	\$5,000
Complete Bickleton building remodel. Local Community Project award.	March 2027	Loren Meagher Staff	\$103,000
Hold tour of fuel breaks and completed remodel.	June 2027	Loren Meagher All staff	\$1500



FY2027 Annual Budget EASTERN KLICKITAT Conservation District

Income		Expenses	
SCC Implementation/Basic Allocation	\$126,000	Wages & Benefits	\$200,000
SCC Forest Health & Wildfire Resiliency	\$80,000	Professional Services	\$80,000
SCC Natural Resource Investments	\$40,000	Comm. & Advertising	\$3,000
Engineering	\$63,000	Travel	\$10,000
Rates and Charges	\$45,000	Supplies, Tools & Equip.	\$15,000
SCC Riparian Grant Program	\$200,000	Insurance	\$18,000
SCC Irrigation Efficiencies	\$200,000	Training, Dues, Licenses	\$10,000
Simcoe Mountains Wildfire Preparedness	\$26,000	Projects and Cost Share payments	\$
Department of Commerce - Building	\$103,000	Building Improvements	\$100,000
Plant sales	\$6,000	Purchase plants for resale	\$10,000
Department of Ecology	\$27,000	Property Tax	\$2,000
		Building Utilities	\$3,000
Total		Total	\$853,000
	\$916,000		