



# FY 2013 (7/1/12 – 6/30/13) Annual Work Plan Whatcom Conservation District (Adopted May 14, 2012)

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MISSION OF THE WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT: ***TO ASSIST LAND MANAGERS WITH THEIR CONSERVATION CHOICES.***

NATURAL RESOURCE PRIORITY: ***ADDRESS THE FECAL COLIFORM CONTAMINATION OF THE NOOKSACK RIVER AND ITS LOWLAND TRIBUTARIES; CALIFORNIA, DAKOTA AND TERRELL CREEKS.***

Rationale: Increasing trends of bacterial contamination are threatening the closure of Portage Bay to commercial shellfish harvest. Much of Drayton Harbor is entirely closed to commercial shellfish harvesting or conditionally open during a few months of the year. A portion of Birch Bay is closed to the recreational harvest of shellfish. Livestock and failing Onsite Septic Systems are thought to be major sources of this contamination. The Governor has directed State agencies to address the pollution problems in Whatcom County.

Goal:

- Reduce the contributions of bacterial pollution from livestock operations

Strategies:

- *Deliver technical and cost share assistance to commercial farming operations that result in the implementation of best management practices that protect and improve water quality.*
- *Consult with agencies on policies and regulatory programs that protect the environment not only to ensure program effectiveness but also avoid undue or unintended negative impacts to livestock-based industries.*

Tasks:

<b>Commercial Livestock</b>					
Conduct Risk Assessments	On going	Livestock Team	38	\$	14,945
Develop/Update Custom LNMPs	On going	Livestock Team	158	\$	48,287
Implement Custom LNMPs	On going	Livestock Team	72	\$	29,778
Implement Cost-share Program	On going	Livestock Team	16	\$	7,329
ARM Research Project	On going	Science Team	209	\$	58,607
TSP - Planning & Design work	On going	Engineering Team	295	\$	121,889



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### Non-Commercial Livestock

Conduct Risk Assessments	On going	Livestock Team	23	\$	7,641
Develop Standardized LNMPs	On going	Livestock Team	101	\$	27,213
Implement Standardized LNMPs	On going	Livestock Team	56	\$	19,103
Implement Cost-share Program	On going	Livestock Team	9	\$	3,025
EPA Birch Bay Project	On going	Livestock Team	131	\$	48,899

### General

Work with Agencies & Stakeholders	On going	As Appointed	41	\$	21,491
<b>TOTALS:</b>			<b>1148</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>408,205</b>

### Measures:

#### Commercial Livestock Operations

- Conduct risk 40 assessments for and provide recommendations.
- Develop 30 custom LNMPs
- Assist 30 operators enroll in cost-share programs to install needed BMPs.
- Provide 60 engineering designs and specifications.
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#### Non-Commercial Livestock Operations

- Conduct 20 risk assessments and provide recommendations
- Develop 12 standardized LNMPs for non-commercial & small commercial livestock operations and/or crop producers
- Assist 5 owners to implement their plans
- Complete critical area/land capability assessments for 50 individuals
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### Potential Funding Sources:

- *Washington Conservation Commission*
  - *Natural Resources Conservation Service*
  - *Whatcom County*
  - *US Environmental Protection Agency*
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### NATURAL RESOURCE PRIORITY: **ADDRESS DEGRADED CONDITIONS OF RIPARIAN AND WETLAND AREAS IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS.**

Rationale: Lowland Whatcom County has been highly modified through clearing, ditching, draining, dredging, tiling, filling and grading in order to make its lands productive for agriculture. However the tributaries once produced large populations of salmon and trout. Some species (Spring Chinook, Bull Trout and Steelhead Trout) that use these areas are now threatened with extinction. By assisting farmers to adopt good drainage management practices they can lessen their impact on fish when maintaining the drainage they need to grow crops. Also, a program of voluntary restoration of riparian and wetland areas can perhaps avoid the imposition of mandatory buffers typically prescribed to recover these species. Many of the lowland tributaries suffer from low flows in the summer. This isn't good for fish or farms. By restoring wetlands water can be stored during the rainy season for later use.

#### Goals:

- Enhance fish habitat while maintaining drainage for farm fields.
- Improve hydrological conditions of the lower watersheds.

#### Strategies:

- *Provide technical and cost share assistance to landowners for the installation and maintenance of CREP eligible practices along eligible watercourses.*
- *Partner with the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association and obtain grant funding to re-meander and install large woody debris in straightened and degraded watercourses.*
- *Partner with Whatcom County Flood Division, WIDs & DIDs to provide a program developing and implementing fish, water quality/quantity friendly irrigation/drainage plans.*
- *Partner with Whatcom County Planning & Development Services to deliver a program of technical and cost share assistance to non-commercial livestock operations that result in the implementation of best management practices that protect sensitive areas and improve water quality.*

#### Tasks:

#### CREP

Develop and Plant CREP Projects	Winter/Spring	Riparian Team	248	\$	80,971
Monitor and properly maintain CREP Projects	Summer/Fall	Riparian Team	270	\$	88,132
Effectively administer CREP cost-share and maintenance reimbursement program	On going	Riparian Team	90	\$	31,662



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### WID & DID Management Plans

Plant and maintain DID riparian buffers	Spring	Riparian Team	106	\$	41,979
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### General

Record plan and management data records into database	On going	Riparian Team	9	\$	3,271
Create/Update Plan GIS Shape files	On going	Riparian Team	32	\$	10,983
Mitigate/adapt for Climate Change	On going	Riparian Team	9	\$	4,485
Receive Professional Training Appropriate for Staff to Meet Program Tasks	On going	Riparian Team	20	\$	6,836

<b>TOTALS:</b>			<b>783</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>268,319</b>
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### Measures:

- Develop and plant 30 CREP projects on 200 acres
- Maintain 104 projects on 500 acres
- Plant 15,800 feet of DID Hedgerows
- Maintain 107,010 feet of DID Hedgerows
- Complete Terrell Dam Fish Passage Project
  - Open 17,750' of stream
  - Reconstruct 900' of stream channel
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### Potential Funding Sources:

- *Washington Conservation Commission*
- *Whatcom County*
- *National Fish & Wildlife Foundation*

### PROGRAM AREA: **PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION**

- *Landowners, students and other public entities will make the wise use of natural resources for present and future generations.*
- *Residents of Whatcom County will have a better appreciation for the value of livestock-based industries.*

### Strategies:

- *Promote conservation-wise stewardship practices to landowners, students and other public entities through various media.*
  - *Connect with urban dwellers through a plant sale, farmers markets and county fair.*
  - *Hold workshops on topics of small farm stewardship and low impact development.*
  - *Coordinate with other organizations and agencies on natural resource education efforts.*
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## Funding Source(s):

- *Washington Conservation Commission*
- *Whatcom County*
- *US Environmental Protection Agency*
- *Sales of Native plants.*

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION**

Publish Whatcom Conservation News	Annually	WCD Staff	34	\$	11,704
Publish presentations, flyers, videos, internet content	On going	WCD Staff	5	\$	1,657
Conduct Annual Native Plant Sale	Feb/Mar	WCD Staff	38	\$	11,167
Provide support (office, graphics, website & GIS ) to partners in sub-basin initiatives	On going	WCD Staff	34	\$	11,462
Conduct livestock stewardship workshops	On going	Livestock Team	23	\$	7,641
<b>TOTALS:</b>			<b>133</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>43,631</b>

## PROGRAM AREA: **DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

- *Strengthen partnerships and relationships with NRCS and other agencies and groups.*
- *Put the District on firm financial footing.*
- *Maintain the appropriate technical staff to accomplish District goals.*

## Strategies:

- *Support the District's Board so they may serve successfully as the grassroots representatives of landowners and general public of Whatcom County by achieving widespread voluntary cooperation in natural resource conservation programs.*
  - *Serve as the technical resource for landowners, general public and agencies on conservation matters.*
  - *Administer District operations to ensure compliance with its enabling statute RCW 89.08 et seq. As well as the policies and standards established by the Commission or other funding sources.*
  - *Capture financial resources to implement Annual and Long Range Plans*
  - *Participate in the County's initiative to develop a comprehensive water resources management funding strategy*
  - *Maintain the appropriate technical staff to accomplish the District goals.*
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### Tasks:

<b>DISTRICT OPERATIONS</b>					
Recruit/Support District Supervisors and Associates in implementing the District Charge.	On going	Board & Executive Director	5	\$	2,395
General Technical Assistance to Agencies, Public and Landowners not addressed through other programs.	On going	Board & Executive Director	68	\$	35,921
Administer Programs/Grants consistent with prescribed management standards	On going	Administrative Team	207	\$	79,631
Pursue and obtain funding to implement District Annual and Long Range Plans	On going	Exec. Dir. & Appointed Staff	20	\$	10,776
Provide the training, equipment and support to District staff necessary to successfully accomplish their respective program responsibilities	On going	Administrative Team	7	\$	2,694
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>306</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>131,417</b>

### Funding Source:

- *All Grants*
- *Discretionary Funds*

## FY12-13 Desired Level of Staffing and Funding:

<b>Operations</b>	<b>Full-time Equivalents</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>
Improving Water Resources	5.10	\$ 408,204.54
Habitat Enhancement	3.48	\$ 268,318.62
Public Information & Education	0.59	\$ 43,630.56
District Operations	1.36	\$ 131,416.56
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 851,570.28</b>
Overhead (25%)		\$ 212,892.57
		<b>\$ 1,064,462.85</b>