



FY2020 (7/1/20 – 6/30/21) Annual Work Plan

Walla Walla County Conservation District

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Mission of the Walla Walla County Conservation District

- *WWCCD is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of the natural resources of Walla Walla County, facilitated by working on a voluntary basis with landowners to identify opportunities and create solutions, while consistently providing education, information, and assistance whenever possible.*

Natural Resource Priorities

Most of Walla Walla County land is in private ownership. As a result, WWCCD tends to work with agricultural landowners. The Natural Resources Priorities described below have been identified as state, regional and local priorities through various agencies. These agencies include but are not limited to Washington Dept. Of Ecology, Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, NRCS Snake River Local Working Group, Walla Walla County, Snake River Salmon Recovery Office and area non-profit organizations. Priorities often overlap and are defined in detail in numerous TMDL reports, several geomorphic assessments on local waterways, the VSP plan, WW Subbasin Plan, WW Watershed Plan, several USACE flood assessment plans, WW Co Hazard Mitigation Plans, WW Co CWPP and other documents.

- *Critical areas and wildlife protection*
 - *This resource is described in the WWCCD 5-year plan as Fisheries, Range & Pasture, Wetland Resources, and Forest Health. Critical areas include Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Wetlands, Frequently Flooded areas, Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, and Geologic Hazardous areas. Components of each are described in other resource priorities, below.*
- *Water Quality*
 - *Numerous TMDL reports and the Salmon Limiting Factors Report have identified water quality concerns. Establishing and maintaining riparian buffers, facilitating improvements with livestock producers, reducing erosion and restoring waterways to their natural function are ways to protect and enhance water quality.*
- *Water Quantity*
 - *Municipal and irrigation withdraws and changing climate conditions have resulted in declining aquifers and instream flows. Several waterways also have “gaining” or “losing” reaches making it challenging to identify the factor related to declining conditions. Installing irrigation efficiency projects, monitoring water use and collaborating with area partners are part of WWCCD’s strategy to address water quantity concerns.*
- *Air Quality*
 - *Nearly 94% of Walla Walla County acres are mapped as within a “moderate” to “very high” wind erosion potential which is more severe in the west portion of the county adjacent to the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Walla Walla County, WA-Ecology, and NRCS are working to address these concerns. Encouraging best management practices related to agricultural burning can reduce particulate matter and address air quality concerns.*

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Program Areas: *There are two program areas: natural resource programs and district programs. Natural resource programs are those intended to address specific, identified natural resource concerns in the district area. District programs are those supporting basic district operations, education and outreach with landowners, engagement with other forums and entities to advance the work of the district, etc. Both program area activities relate to long term goals identified in the 5-year plan.*

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Critical Areas & Wildlife protection

Goal(s): Increase stability of fish and wildlife populations and protect/enhance habitats

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Remove one fish barrier/install one fish screen per year in Walla Walla County. Assess critical area function and needs within Walla Walla County.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Design one fish related barrier removal or fish screen project annually. Develop farm plans at the request of landowners to address critical area concerns on their property.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission, Walla Walla County, Bonneville Power Administration, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO): Snake River Salmon Recovery Office

Activities for FY2020	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Lead the Voluntary Stewardship Program including implementing the plan, monitoring, and developing VSP focused farm plans.	On-going through June 2021	Renee M. Hadley	85	90,000	Walla Walla County contract
		Lisa Stearns	85		
		Joanna Cowles Cleveland	12		
		Audrey Ahmann	25		
Assist the Columbia CD in scoping, design, review and finalization of the <i>Touchet River Conceptual Restoration Plan</i> . Apply for funding of high priority projects identified in plan.	July 2018 to June 2022	Renee M. Hadley	15	5000	Partner CD/ Implementation grant
Obtain permits for and monitor removal of a fish passage barrier and install a series of Post-assisted log structures (PALS) on Russell Creek.	January 2020 to June 2022	Renee M. Hadley	15	31,000	RCO, project materials, landowner

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Obtain permits for and monitor installation of a series of PALS and log jams on Cottonwood Creek.	On-going through June 2022	Joanna Cowles Cleveland	20	182,500	RCO/SCC, project materials, landowner & SCC NRI
Create engineered design for restoration on the Walla Walla River above Last Chance Road. Apply for construction funds.	On-going through June 2022	Renee M. Hadley	5	61,000	RCO
		Lance Horning	70		
Design and monitor various restoration projects.	On-going	Lance Horning	100	62,000	Partner CDs/ NRCS MOU
Seek funds to design and install fish screens in cooperation with local landowners and appropriate agency partners.	On-going	Lynda Oosterhuis	10	2,500	Implementation grant
Construct a new bridge and remove two fish passage barriers on the South Fork of Russell Creek	On-going through June 2021	Renee M. Hadley	15	62500	SCC-Natural Resource Investments
Seek funds to design and construct fish barrier removal projects as identified by WDFW priority barrier removal list.	On-going	Renee M. Hadley	5	1600	Implementation grant
Seek funds to help landowners construct stream and habitat restoration projects on the Touchet River, Walla Walla River, Mill Creek and tributaries.	On-going	Renee M. Hadley	10	3000	Implementation grant

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Water Quality

Goal(s): Reduce pollutants to waters of Walla Walla

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Work with Walla Walla landowners and conservation partners to remove Walla Walla streams and rivers from the 303d list by planting and maintaining riparian forest buffers on 85% of eligible streambanks, controlling invasive noxious weeds, and restoring natural river function to area rivers and streams.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, Washington Dept. of Ecology, Washington Recreation & Conservation Office, Walla Walla County

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Activities for FY2020	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Assist landowners install 40-60 acres of new riparian forest buffers. Maintain and monitor current enrollment of ~2,700 acres and about 126 active contracts.	On-going through June 2021	Joanna Cowles Cleveland	90	136,000	CREP TA plus cost share
		Lynda Oosterhuis	40		
		Audrey Ahmann	30		
Re-enroll ~14 expiring contracts by providing landowners with conservation plans and protecting 10-15 year old buffers.	On-going through June 2021	Joanna Cowles Cleveland	50	60,000	CREP TA plus cost share
		Lynda Oosterhuis	45		
Conduct mid-management reviews on 10 CREP contracts.	On-going through June 2021	Joanna Cowles Cleveland	10	14,000	CREP TA plus cost share
		Lynda Oosterhuis	10		
Seek funds for urban riparian buffers and area waterways not eligible for CREP.	On-going	Joanna Cowles Cleveland	10	5,000	Implementation grant
		Lynda Oosterhuis	5		
Continue implementation of False Indigo removal and replanting project	July 2019 to June 2022	Joanna Cowles Cleveland	10	168,000	Ecology Water Quality includes cost share
		Lynda Oosterhuis	30		
Work with landowners and area partners (Tri-State Steelheaders, WDFW, WA-Ecology, Blue Mountain Land Trust, CTUIR, USFWS, NRCS LWG) to address erosion on lands adjacent to the rivers which impact water quality.	On-going	Joanna Cowles Cleveland	5	10,000	Implementation grant
		Renee M. Hadley	20		
Coordinate with Walla Walla County to address damages to streams and fields from natural disasters.	on-going	Lisa Stearns	2	1,200	Implementation grant
		Renee M. Hadley	2		
Coordinate with area livestock producers on water quality concerns offering technical assistance and/or seeking financial assistance.	on-going	Renee M. Hadley	5	1000	Implementation grant
Seek funds for construction of Dozier Restoration project on the Touchet River and several Mill Creek projects.	July 2019 to June 2021	Lisa Stearns	10	10,000	Implementation grant
		Renee M. Hadley	5		
		Lance Horning	5		

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Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Water Quantity

Goal(s): Assist with restoring flow in Walla Walla area waterways.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services

Activities for FY2020	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Assist landowners in developing on-farm irrigation efficiencies projects.	On-going	Lisa Stearns	40	17,600	Irrigation Efficiency
		Lance Horning	10		
		Lynda Oosterhuis	20		
Participate in and work closely with the Policy Advisory Group, Water Resources Panel, and the Bi-State Flow Enhancement Group for the Walla Walla Water Management Partnership to help improve management of water.	On-going	Lynda Oosterhuis	10	6000	Irrigation Efficiency
		Renee M. Hadley	10		
Seek funds to continue water sampling and monitoring of Aquifer Recharge projects.	July 2020 to June 2021	Lynda Oosterhuis	5	1,400	Irrigation Efficiency

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Air Quality

Goal(s): Assist with Agricultural Burn Permit applications in Walla Walla County.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Agricultural burn related air quality particulates will be reduced over time.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Landowners (30 to 70) will be guided through the agricultural burn permit Best Management Practices and permit applications resulting in a reduction of burn related air quality particulates.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Dept. of Ecology through contract with Walla Walla County, Washington State Conservation Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Activities for FY2020	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Provide technical assistance in Best Management Practices regarding fillage management and air quality	On-going	Renee M. Hadley	12	3,500	Implementation
Assist landowners with permitting for prescribed agricultural burn permits. Attend Ag Burn Task Force meetings.	On-going	Lisa Stearns	15	25,000	Walla Walla County contract
		Jeff Klundt	55		
		Audrey Ahmann	12		
Complete field checks of CRP HEL and other grasslands and provide technical assistance to landowners	As requested through June 2022	Joanna Cowles	30	20,000	SCC & NRCS
		Cleveland			
		Lynda Oosterhuis	30		
		Intern (2)	60		

District Program Area: Education & Outreach

Goal(s): Continue providing technical assistance to the Walla Walla County community. Share progress on restoration efforts and participate in regional planning forums.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

Education and outreach program will include 1) maintaining publications including the District Story, website, quarterly newsletters and 2) conducting 5 farmer hosted mini-sessions, workshops and/or tours. Education and outreach programs will target and engage 30 landowners annually.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission through Implementation grant; Snake River Salmon Recovery Office through Lead Entity grant

Activities for FY2020	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Inform the public of WWCCD mission accomplishments through quarterly newsletter (850 subscribers), website, videos, and other outreach media.	On-going	Renee M. Hadley	15	4,000	Implementation grant
		Audrey Ahmann	10		
Meet all statutory requirements of RCW 89.08: conducting regular audits, fiscal management, commission reporting, and grant management.	On-going	Audrey Ahmann	125	30,000	Implementation grant, Basic, Overhead

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Maintain certifications and skills of WWCCD staff through various trainings such as WADE, GIS, Riparian Planting Symposium, SAO, NRCS Conservation planner and others.	On-going	All staff, as needed	6 each	10,000	Implementation grant
Coordinate a minimum of 4 Farmer to Farmer Mini-Sessions with area producers to inform them of conservation innovations and cost-share assistance.	On-going	Renee M. Hadley	7	2,000	Implementation grant
Collect yearly and maintain historic records of rainfall data to benefit the community.	On-going	Lisa Stearns	5	1,000	Implementation grant
Seek funds to modernize rainfall data collection	July 2020 to June 2021	Lisa Stearns	5	1,000	Implementation grant
Educate area youth and landowners through community events (Fair, Make-a-Splash days, Return-to-the-River Event)	On-going	Renee M. Hadley	7	2,000	Implementation grant
Educate area youth through the Fourth Grade Foresters Program.	Spring	Audrey Ahmann	2	2200	Implementation grant includes project materials
Actively participate in regional Lead Entity Committee/Regional Technical Team/Snake River Salmon Recovery Board activities throughout the year.	On-going	Joanna Cowles Cleveland	10	4,000	SRSRO LE grant
		Renee M. Hadley	2		

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FY2020 Annual Budget Walla Walla County Conservation District

FY 2020 OPERATING BUDGET (7/1/2020-6/30/2021)

Revenues

Project	Salary plus cost share
SCC-Implementation	77,500
SCC-CREP	210,000
SCC-Natural Resource Investments	125,000
SCC-Irrigation Efficiency	25,000
SCC/Walla Walla Co.-Voluntary Stewardship Program	90,000
Priority Projects (RCO Cottonwood, Walla Walla, Russell Creek)	212,000
SRB Lead Entity	4,000
Ecology/ Walla Walla Co. MOU for Burn Permit	25,000
Other CD	67,000
Ecology Water Quality: False Indigo	168,000
USDA NRCS Task Order	20,000
Basic	12,500
Total Revenue:	1,036,000

Expenses and Other Uses

Description	FY21 Estimated Expenses
Wages and Benefits:	
5 FT, 3 PT employees	497,000
General Office Expenses	80,000
CREP cost-share	90,000
Natural Resource Investments	100,000
Priority Projects (RCO Cottonwood, Russell Creek)	142,000
Ecology Water Quality: False Indigo	126,000
Total Expenses:	1,035,000

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