



5-Year Plan (2017 to 2022) Pend Oreille Conservation District

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Organization of the Pend Oreille Conservation District

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

- *The Pend Oreille Conservation District was formed in 1949.* □
- *A five-member board of volunteer supervisors, three elected locally and two appointed by Washington State Conservation Commission, provides leadership to address local resource conservation issues.*

Function of the Pend Oreille Conservation District

To make 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.

Mission of the Pend Oreille Conservation District

The mission of the Pend Oreille Conservation District is to protect and enhance all natural resources including, but not limited to, air, soil, forest, wildlife, water, and land in the district for all people in the district through education, partnering, and implementation using best management practices and financial/technical assistance.

Vision of the Pend Oreille Conservation District

- *Staff of up to 5 FTE (Full Time Equivalents)*
- *Everyone in POCD to know who we are where we are and what we do*
- *Identify sources of funding, that people will accept, to address resource concerns*

Values of the Pend Oreille Conservation District

- *Outdoor Education*
- *Keeping farm and forest land continuous and productive*
- *Conserving resources*
- *Public Service*

Natural Resource Data & Information:

The following internet links are the sources of data for POCD in both identifying natural resource concerns and addressing them:

- [Ecology 303\(d\) Listing](#)
 - [Kalispel Natural Resource Department geodatabase](#)
 - [Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\) - Field Office Technical Guide \(FOTG\)](#)
 - [USDA Web Soil Survey](#)
 - [US Forest Service](#)
 - [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)
 - [U. S. Department of Education](#) and [Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction](#)
 - [U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
 - [WSU Extension](#)
 - [Watershed Management Plan \(WRIA 62\)](#)
 - [U. S. Geological Survey](#)
 - [U. S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration](#)
 - [Washington Department of Natural Resources](#)
 - [Washington State Department of Agriculture](#)
 - [USDA Farm Services Agency](#)
 - [U. S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)
 - [Pend Oreille County PUD](#)
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Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:

- *Climate trends*
 - *Who it affects*
 - *Funding to address it*
 - *Political environment*
 - *Public vs private landownership/duties*
 - *Public demand and priorities*
 - *Proximity of the bulk of the public to that resource*
 - *Is there a focused area or reach that could be enhanced to produce measurable results?*
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Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Geographic Areas, Measures of Success and Goals:

Priority Natural Resource Conservation Need

- *Forest Health/Wildland-Urban Interface*
 - *Until 2022 POCD will have an annual increase of 10% of acres or property owners under assessment/contract for Firewise.*
 - *POCD will have a presence promoting district programs highlighting Firewise/forest health at least 3 public events each year.*
 - *By 2020 POCD will have developed a strategy to help provide forest stewardship management plans to landowners.*
 - *By 2019 POCD will coordinate with the County Weed Board on management of noxious weeds.*
- *Agricultural land/soil preservation, enhancement, and management*
 - *Continue to participate in local discussions on land use planning and VSP.*
 - *By 2019 provide assistance to agricultural landowners to help protect a mile of riparian area and increase by 50 percent each year.*
 - *By 2018, become the lead agency implementing VSP.*
 - *By 2019 utilize a certified conservation planner to work with agricultural landowners.*
 - *By 2019 POCD will coordinate with the County Weed Board on management of noxious weeds.*
 - *Continue to work with the county to develop a strategy to help landowners preserve their agricultural land.*
 - *By 2020 provide at least one workshop per year on opportunities for reduced tillage practices.*
 - *By 2020 develop an outreach program dealing with small acreage agricultural production and conservation opportunities.*
- *Lifelong education of people on conservation and natural resources*
 - *By June 30, 2017 recruit one member of the Kalispel Tribe Natural Resource Department to attend the America Wilderness Leadership School to bring back information that POCD can put "on the ground."*
 - *Continue to participate in the Indian Creek Forest Advisory Committee.*
 - *Develop at least one PSA to be broadcast throughout the year.*
 - *Put on at least one workshop per year with each local school.*
 - *By 2020 create a strategy for the development of an environmental learning center in POCD.*
 - *Promote the creation of a water festival in POCD.*
 - *Promote participation by a local high school in Envirothon.*
- *Water quality/supply*
 - *Become involved in the discussions related to the development of a water bank as well as the wise use of water in POCD.*
 - *By June of 2018 develop a list of high priority reaches in the Little Spokane River to concentrate conservation activities and provide assistance to the landowners there.*
 - *By June of 2018 develop a list of high priority reaches in the Pend Oreille River to concentrate conservation activities and provide assistance to the landowners there.*

- *Develop partnerships with the Pend Oreille County PUD, WDFW, Army Corps of Engineers, Ecology, County Public Works Department, and neighboring conservation districts to jointly meet and develop work plans on mutual projects.*
- *By 2019 provide assistance to agricultural landowners to help protect a mile of riparian area and increase by 50 percent each year.*
- *By June of 2017, work with Whitworth University and St. George's School to re-establish water quality monitoring annual reports.*
- **Habitat**
 - *By 2018, re-establish the POCD native tree/shrubs sale to encourage volunteer efforts for creating habitat.*
 - *Encourage native fire-resistant landscaping and plantings.*
 - *Encourage the use of downed large woody debris material and standing snags to enhance habitat.*
 - *By June of 2018 develop a list of high priority reaches in the Little Spokane River to concentrate conservation activities and provide assistance to the landowners there.*
 - *By June of 2018 develop a list of high priority reaches in the Pend Oreille River to concentrate conservation activities and provide assistance to the landowners there.*
 - *By 2019 provide assistance to agricultural landowners to help protect a mile of riparian area and increase by 50 percent each year.*
 - *Investigate the existence of threatened and/or endangered species and develop a strategy to help address them.*

Priority Natural Resource Geographic Area

- *High risk areas for fire – forest health*
- *Small Landownerships – South County – Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)*
- *Little Spokane River – water quality*
- *Pend Oreille River - erosion*
- *Farmland – Calispel Flat – water quality*

Information – Education & District Operations Priorities, Measures of Success, and Goals:

- *By fall of 2017, develop an operating, interactive website to help inform POCD citizens and cooperators.*

District Operations Priorities Measures of Success, and Goals:

- *By 2022, have a fully functioning office space that can comfortably hold up to 5 employees.*
- *Develop measures that will help maintain office space and evaluate and correct safety concerns as needed.*
- *By 2020 build an operating reserve for the district of 6 months or \$50,000.*
- *By 2020 pay off commercial loan debt.*
- *Maintain good relationships with renters.*
- *By 2018 approach non-member cities (Cusick, Metaline, and Newport) and discuss becoming part of the district.*
- *Apply for grants that will help bring local partners together (e.g. NACD Urban Ag Grant)*

Staffing Needs (up to 5 FTE)

- *District Manager*
 - *Administrative Assistant*
 - *Planner/Grant Writer*
 - *2 Resource Technicians*
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Key Partners and Decision Makers

Local

- *Pend Oreille County Commissioners*
- *Kalispel Tribe*
- *County Weed Board*
- *Fire Departments*
- *Cooperative Extension*
- *Neighboring CDs*
- *Pend Oreille County PUD*
- *St. George's School*
- *Library District*
- *Whitworth University*
- *Local School Districts*

Statewide

- *Washington State Conservation Commission*
- *Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*
- *Washington Department of Ecology*
- *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)*
- *Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)*
- *Washington Conservation Corps*
- *Washington State Legislators*
- *Fire Adapted Community Network*
- *Washington Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO)*
- *Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)*

National

- *USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*
- *US Fish and Wildlife Service*
- *Army Corps of Engineers*
- *Federal Legislators*
- *Ducks Unlimited*
- *Trout Unlimited*
- *Wild Turkey Federation*
- *Safari Club International*
- *National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)*

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

