



5-Year Plan (2016 to 2021) Jefferson County Conservation District

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Organization of the Jefferson County Conservation District

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

- We were created in 1946 to help all Jefferson County residents achieve sustainable land use goals, while protecting and enhancing the area's natural resources.

Function of the Jefferson County Conservation District

- To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

Who We Serve & Why

- The District serves all Jefferson County citizens, landowners, and community groups and supports the efforts of local and regional partners to achieve balanced conservation and management of natural resources and working lands in the area.

Mission of the Jefferson County Conservation District

- The Jefferson County Conservation District strives to maintain and expand economically viable agriculture and forestry operations, while protecting and improving the natural resources of Jefferson County by providing technical assistance to landowners, community groups, and agencies.

Vision of the Jefferson County Conservation District

- A community that has a balanced approach to protecting and utilizing its unique natural resources;
- Economically viable and environmentally sustainable working lands (farms and forests);
- Healthy watersheds with free-flowing and unpolluted waterbodies that support the people, fish, and wildlife of the area.

Values of the Jefferson County Conservation District

- Commitment to promoting natural resource conservation through local voluntary efforts;
- Recognition of the value that productive working lands have on our local community;
- Recognition as an accountable, available, trusted, and collaborative partner in local conservation efforts;
- An effective liaison between Jefferson County residents and other agencies and organizations.

Natural Resource Data & Information:

- Geographic Area: 1804 sq. miles of land (83%) and 379 sq. miles of water (17%). The county is split into three parts by landform:
 - East Jefferson along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Admiralty Inlet, and Puget Sound;
 - Central Jefferson is uninhabited and includes Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park;
 - West Jefferson along the Pacific Coast.
- Populations: The year-round resident population is approximately 30,000. Over the last decade, the area has seen a growth rate of 15 percent.
- Guiding Data: The District's water quality database, including the *2015 Chimacum Creek Comprehensive Report*. The District has been collecting water quality data for streams in eastern Jefferson County since 1993 and has been sharing it with agricultural and other interested landowners in monthly reports. This data has been useful in prioritizing areas of concern in this Long Range Plan.

- [Dept. of Ecology impaired waters map.](#)
 - [Federal Endangered Species Act \(ESA\).](#)
 - [T & E Animal & Plant Species in WA](#)
 - [Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda](#)
 - [Jefferson County Department of Environmental Health](#)
 - [Department of Health Shellfish Growing Areas Annual Report](#)
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Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:

- 20 years of water quality data collected by the District and shared with partners
 - The needs of partners developed in collaboration with them
 - The experience and knowledge of JCCD Board and staff
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Natural Resource Conservation Priorities and Goals

Priority Geographic Area: WRIA 17 (Quilcene-Snow)

Priority: Working Lands

Goals: Support agricultural and forestry producers in achieving long-term economic viability and in being good stewards of the natural resources that they manage.

- Preservation of agricultural lands
- Conservation and enhancement of natural resources
- Streamlined agricultural drainage management
- Increased landowner participation in voluntary stewardship opportunities
- Healthy pastures and healthy soils
- Unified conservation and agriculture through innovative land management techniques
- Forestry program development:
 - Forest Health Management
 - Fire prevention and preparedness

Priority: Improve and protect water quality and water quantity

Goals:

- Robust and sustained surface water quality monitoring program
- Conduct a watershed-scale livestock risk assessment
- Provide technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers implement BMP's that address water resource concerns
- Low Impact Development/Stormwater management program development:
 - Application in rural and agricultural settings
 - Demonstration sites
 - Effectiveness monitoring

Priority: Habitat Protection and Enhancement

Goals:

- Continue long-term in-stream juvenile fish monitoring program
- Advocate for policies and implement projects that protect and enhance native wildlife habitat
- Protect conservation projects from wildlife damage

Priority: Collaborative Watershed Management

Goals:

- Assist in the update of Jefferson County's Critical Areas Ordinance
- Develop a comprehensive riparian management plan for East Jefferson County
- Develop an adaptive beaver management plan
- Assist in the development of the Chimacum Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan
- Assist Jefferson County Dept. of Environmental Health in improving water quality in Jefferson County's waterbodies

Priority: Energy Conservation**Goal:**

- Provide technical assistance for Jefferson County residents to implement energy-saving BMP's

Education & District Operations Priorities and Goals**Priority: Outreach to landowners on BMP's and natural resource conservation****Goal:**

- Develop unified outreach materials to more effectively share District services and technical information

Priority: Educate the general public on natural resource conservation**Goals:**

- Utilize website, newsletter, press releases, community events, social media and partner organizations to distribute information and inform the public about District programs, services, and education opportunities.
- Inform legislators, county commissioners, and other key decision makers about District accomplishments and needs.

Priority: Financial stability for ongoing District programs and overhead expenses**Goals:**

- Collaborate with Jefferson County to develop a System of Rates and Charges by December 2017.
- Acquire grant funding for projects that lead to the fulfillment of the 5-year plan.

Priority: Staffing levels sufficient to implement programs and deliver services**Goals:**

- Hire and retain qualified staff necessary to implement the 5-year plan.
- Develop and implement individual training development plans, position descriptions, and annual performance reviews.
- Cross-train staff on essential skills and tasks.

Priority: Maintain effective and efficient operations**Goals:**

- Compile a complete Policies and Procedures Manual with adopted policies and procedures to guide all programs, activities, and personnel management.
- Adhere to proper accounting, grant vouchering, and reporting procedures.
- Prepare effective annual plans and review progress quarterly
- Complete monthly manager's report of staff and District progress.

Land Manager Needs

- Programs and technical assistance from JCCD staff
- Chimacum Creek agricultural drainage management assistance
- Assistance in managing beaver activity that impacts agricultural lands
- Regulatory certainty –e.g. water supply
- Assistance with understanding and addressing issues brought by local agencies
- Clarity on who to contact for conservation work
- Recognition of the legal framework for voluntary conservation work and landowner stewardship
- District education programs, which bring a greater knowledge to citizens about natural resources and funding for those programs

Milestones, Timeline & Actions

Priority: Working Lands

Measurable Goal: By 2018, JCCD will have a Jefferson County-focused farm planning assessment tool to assist landowners in meeting land use goals and protecting the region's critical areas

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Assist Jefferson County in Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Update Process	January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback on draft ordinances that relate to agriculture • Meet with Department of Community Development staff to identify and understand baseline requirements as directed by Growth Management Act
Develop farm planning and assessment tool to meet requirements of CAO and GMA	January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in Technical and Professional Development Workgroup (TPDW) working group on Small Acreage Farm Planning for unified assessment tool development • Coordinate tool development with Jefferson County Department of Community Development (DCD) staff • Identify staff and training needs
Use Jefferson County-specific farm planning tool to help landowners meet new CAO mandates	ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop referral plan with Jefferson County DCD • Identify roles and responsibilities of JCCD as they relate to CAO • Continue to review staff and training needs

Priority: Improve and protect water quality and water quantity

Measurable Goal: *By 2019, conduct a watershed-wide, parcel by parcel assessment and ranking of the livestock parcels into categories such as high-medium-low risk in order to better prioritize focused outreach and potential cost-share opportunities. By 2020, implement BMPs to improve water quality on medium to high risk parcels.*

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Geographic Scoping and existing data review	By June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify livestock operator parcels along Chimacum Creek • Review existing water quality, buffer, and landowner survey data and identify gaps • Summarize data
Risk assessment tool development	By June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Puget Sound Conservation Districts (PSCDs) to develop a risk assessment tool • Identify training needs • Establish priorities, goals, actions, and desired outcomes
Develop a communication and outreach strategy for livestock operators in the Chimacum Creek Watershed.	March 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local partners on Chimacum Watershed landowner surveys to identify motivators and barriers • Develop outreach materials • Identify an implementation strategy for surveys
Connect with livestock owners and conduct assessment	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make initial contact with livestock operators to announce survey • Schedule and conduct farm visits • Establish priorities and goals for BMP implementation phase
Implement BMP's to improve water quality on medium to high risk parcels (as funding allows)	July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and seek out funding for BMPs • Work with livestock owners to develop implementation plans

Priority: Habitat protection and enhancement

Measurable Goal: By 2017, write the Chimacum Watershed Protection and Enhancement Plan in collaboration with local partners. By 2020, begin to implement natural resource protection and restoration efforts on highest priority parcels in Chimacum Watershed

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Adaptive Beaver Management Plan	November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local partners on Chimacum Watershed landowner surveys to identify beaver-related motivators and barriers to participation in riparian conservation • Conduct a literature review of adaptive beaver BMP's • Write plan that includes local beaver history, literature review, and BMPs based on levels of impact • Identify trial sites for BMP implementation
Adaptive Beaver Management	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement trial BMP's to address the complexity of beaver impacts on riparian buffers in agricultural settings
Riparian Management Plan	November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local partners on Chimacum Watershed landowner surveys to identify motivators and barriers to participation in riparian conservation efforts • Conduct literature review of BMP's for reed canary grass control • Conduct literature review of working buffers concept • Write plan in collaboration with local land management partners • Identify trial sites for BMP implementation
Innovative Riparian Management	January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement trial BMPs that address innovative management of riparian buffers for agricultural benefit and invasive weed control
Comprehensive Chimacum Watershed Protection and Enhancement Plan	January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide current and historic water quality data to local partners • Collaborate with local partners to write plan • Identify highest priority parcels in Chimacum Watershed for natural resource protection and enhancement efforts
Protection and Enhancement Implementation	July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and seek out appropriate funding sources for identified implementation and protection efforts. • Identify roles and responsibilities of JCCD and other land management partners

Priority: Collaborative Watershed Management

Measurable Goal: by 2022, facilitate the establishment of a landowner-lead working group to collaboratively manage drainage issues in the Chimacum Creek Watershed

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Chimacum Drainage Management	July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with WDFW to complete Chimacum Programmatic HPA for vegetation management
Chimacum Drainage Management	July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with local agricultural partners (WSU extension, Jefferson LandWorks Collaborative, Jefferson Land Trust) to build a farmer-lead working group to collaborative management Chimacum drainage on a watershed scale • Identify resource needs of the working group: funding, equipment, etc. • Act as liaison between working group and local and regional regulatory agencies
Adaptive Beaver Management Plan	November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local partners on Chimacum Watershed landowner surveys to identify beaver-related motivators and barriers to participation in riparian conservation • Conduct a literature review of adaptive beaver BMP's • Write plan that includes local beaver history, literature review, and BMPs based on levels of impact • Identify trial sites for BMP implementation
Riparian Management Plan	November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local partners on Chimacum Watershed landowner surveys to identify invasive weed-related motivators and barriers to participation in riparian conservation efforts • Conduct literature review of BMP's for reed canary grass control • Write plan in collaboration with local land management partners • Identify trial sites for BMP implementation
Comprehensive Chimacum Watershed Protection and Enhancement Plan	January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide current and historic water quality data to local partners • Collaborate with local partners to write plan • Identify highest priority parcels in Chimacum Watershed for natural resource protection and enhancement efforts

Priority: Energy Conservation

Measurable Goal: By 2018, JCCD will have partnered with local land management partners to develop a suite of programs and services to provide technical assistance to landowners to implement measures to conserve energy resources.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
LID/Stormwater Management Program	May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with WSU extension to develop LID/Stormwater practice effectiveness monitoring program
LID/Stormwater Management Program	December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with PSCDs to develop program that focuses on applications in rural and agricultural settings • Identify potential demonstration site
Promote energy conservation practices	May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine outreach materials for solar-powered off-channel watering facilities • Identify and seek out funding sources to implement solar-powered BMPs • Identify staff and training needs to implement and maintain these practices • Develop landowner curriculum for installing and maintaining solar-powered watering facilities
Promote energy conservation practices	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with PSCD and local partners to identify the most useful energy conservation practices for landowners • Develop outreach and education materials based on these Jefferson County-specific priorities
Promote energy conservation practices	December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement multi-session energy conservation practice stewardship training program that includes expert presentations and field visits • Develop outreach materials on irrigation methods and irrigation efficiencies

Priority: Conservation Education and Outreach

Measurable Goal: By 2020, have wide-reaching local recognition as a resource for conservation in both rural and urban communities in Jefferson County.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
JCCD presence at city and county planning meetings	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JCCD supervisors and staff regularly attend meetings • JCCD supervisors and staff ensure quarterly check-ins with County Commissioners and City Staff
Host bi-monthly workshops in partnership with WSU extension and surrounding CDs	June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue meeting with WSU small farms coordinator and LandWorks Collaborative to plan events
Update JCCD Brand	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design new logo • Update all education and outreach materials with unified logo and design
Tech Guides and Fact Sheets	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further build and develop resource library of local tech guides and fact sheets for Jefferson County residents

Priority: District Operations

- **Measurable Goal:** By December 2017, implement a system of Rates and Charges in collaboration with Jefferson County. By December 2019, compile a complete Policies and Procedures Manual with adopted policies and procedures to guide all programs, activities, and personnel management.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Annexation of City of Port Townsend into Jefferson County Conservation District	December 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up meeting with Mayor and City Manager • Presentation to City Council • Complete documentation and submit to WSCC
Develop System of Rates and Charges with Jefferson County	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure funding for <i>FCS Group</i> consulting services • Work with County Assessor to develop systems that is easily implementable • Work with County Commissioners to host public hearings and pass the System of Rates and Charges for implementation in January 2018
Policies and Procedures development	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and supervisors identify gaps in JCCD policies and procedures • Staff reviews other local CD policies and procedures manuals that have been recommended by WSCC
Policies and Procedures Manual	December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and board discuss and approve policies/procedures for identified gaps • Staff compiles the Comprehensive JCCD Policies and Procedures Manual • JCCD Board approves the Comprehensive Manual

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices