

## 5-Year Plan (2016 to 2021) Grays Harbor Conservation District

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### Organization of the Grays Harbor Conservation District

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

- *In 1939, the State Soil Conservation District Law was passed by the Washington State Legislature. On June 21, 1940, the Montesano-Elma-Oakville Soil Conservation District was confirmed by Secretary of State Belle Reeves thus creating the second Conservation District in Washington State. On January 8, 1952, the Montesano-Elma-Oakville Soil Conservation District application for change of name amendment to Grays Harbor Soil Conservation District was certified by Secretary of State Earl Coe.*

### Function of the Grays Harbor 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 Grays Harbor Conservation District

- *To sustain and enhance the quality of and preservation of natural resources while providing for their use by current and future citizens of Grays Harbor County through locally led conservation practices.*

### Vision of the Grays Harbor Conservation District

- *A district that provides and promotes
  - Sustainable practices that protect natural resources and quality of life.
  - Leadership in natural resource conservation
  - Practical services for landowners – working to save farmland from erosion, enhance fisheries, improve stewardship, and benefit the local economy*

### Values of the Grays Harbor Conservation District

- *Credible*
- *Science-based*
- *Relevant*
- *Significant*
- *Respected*
- *Progressive*

### Natural Resource Data & Information:

- [WRIA 22 Lead Entity Plan](#)
- [Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority](#)
- [Ecology WQ data \(TMDL, 303\(d\) list\)](#)
- [WDFW Salmonscape database](#)
- [WDFW Priority Habitat and Species \(PHS\)](#)
- [Grays Harbor County Shoreline Management Plan](#)
- [Voluntary Stewardship Program Plans](#)
- [Washington State Department of Health Shellfish Data](#)
- [Wild Fish Conservancy](#)
- [Quinalt Department of Natural Resources](#)
- [Quinalt Tribe Department of Natural Resources](#)
- [Grays Harbor County Planning Division](#)
- [Department of Natural Resources Stream Mapping](#)
- [WSDA Dairy Nutrient Management Program](#)
- [WSU Grays Harbor](#)
- [WSU Cranberry Research Station](#)
- [NRCS Soil Survey](#)
- [DNR's FPARS \(Forest Practice Application Review System\)](#)
- [Marine Spatial Plan](#)
- [Chehalis Basin Partnership](#)
- [WA Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership](#)
- [WSDA Grayland Ditch Monitoring](#)
- [WA Coastal Atlas](#)
- [U-W School of Environmental and Forest Sciences](#)
- [Washington Audubon Society](#)

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## Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:

- *Can we get it done and “move the dial” significantly (bang for the buck)*
  - *Impact of degradation that exists*
  - *Potential for further degradation*
  - *Degree of resource “richness”*
  - *Landowner interest or buy-in*
  - *Public support*
  - *Technical expertise available*
  - *Coordination or cooperation with other agencies (leveraging funding and expertise)*
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## Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Geographic Areas, Measures of Success and Goals:

### ▪ **Priority Resource Conservation Needs**

- *Water Quality*
  - *By 2018 improve the water quality in the Grayland Ditch so that it is removed from the 303(d) list.*
  - *By 2021 work to reduce the water bodies on the 303(d) list by 10%.*
  - *By 2019 have a design and plan of action on the outfall for the Cosmo Specialty Fibers mill.*
  - *By July 2016, in partnership with the county, develop a PIC plan to work on water quality hot spots such as Oyehut.*
  - *By 2017, implement an ambient water quality monitoring program.*
  - *Immediately start working with partners to develop an oil spill prevention plan.*
  - *Immediately work on implementation practices developed by the ocean acidification blue ribbon panel recommendations.*
  - *By 2019 develop and implement a program on stormwater management practices for landowners.*
  - *Reduction in TMDL listings within the WRIA’s #22, 23, and 24*
    - *No new TMDL listings by 2018*
    - *Provide technical assistance for no less than 3 LNMP’s and (if available) cost share to non-dairy livestock producers to install needed BMP’s*
  - *Eliminate pesticide contaminant of surface water from applications*
    - *By 2018, have all ditches in cranberry bogs covered*
  - *Continue to provide technical assistance to cranberry producers to install BMP to reduce pesticides in surface waters*
- *Stream Restoration*
  - *Riparian Restoration*
    - *By 2021 implement 50 new CREP projects.*
    - *By 2021, in partnership with the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority, implement 10 miles of flood mitigation projects.*
  - *Fish Passage and instream habitat*
    - *By 2021 complete 25 culvert barrier correction projects.*
    - *By 2021 complete 5 miles of instream habitat projects.*
- *Agricultural, Forestry and aquaculture land*
  - *Promote and maintain long term forest health and productivity on non-industrial private forest land by completing 12 forest stewardship plans per year or completion of 1,000 acres of forest management plans.*
  - *Promote and maintain long term forest health and productivity on non-industrial private forest land by serving and additional 12 landowners per year with forestry technical assistance and/or BMPs.*
  - *Improve water quality on forest land by addressing potential erosion and sediment delivery issues by inventorying and planning on forest roads.*
  - *By 2019 develop a program for small-size livestock operations that is capable of serving 10 landowners per year.*

- *Immediately be engaged in the development of a VSP plan and by 2021 implemented at least 50 conservation practices.*
- *By 2021 complete the writing of 15 farm plans.*
- *By July 2016 complete Phase 2 of the sediment study for Grays Harbor.*
- *By 2021 increase the number of acres available for shellfish farming by 50 acres.*
- *Assist in upgrading shellfish grounds*
  - *By 2018 maintain existing production of shellfish bed acres in Grays Harbor*
  - *By 2021 increase acreage production of shellfish beds in Grays Harbor by 10%*
- *Soil Quality*
  - *By 2018 develop a program to educate landowners on best practices to maintain soil quality.*
  - *District will work to increase soil quality in Grays Harbor Conservation District.*
- *Vegetation management*
  - *By 2021 achieve 80% control of knotweed in the Wynoochee, Williams, and Rock Creek.*
  - *By 2018 in cooperation with partners, develop a strategy and education plan for managing invasive plant species*
  - *By 2018, complete a joint operation with Grays Harbor Noxious Weed Board to identify areas and impacted infestations of noxious water weeds, and assist to eradicate key noxious weeds*
  - *Establish a working relationship with Noxious Weed Board for identification or eradication of noxious weeds*
- *Food security public education*
  - *By 2018 explore opportunities for local foods, community gardens and other programs to address food security in Grays Harbor County.*
- *Energy – conservation and education*
  - *By 2016 work with Grays Harbor County PUD to explore ways to partner.*
  - *By 2017 work with NRCS to implement energy audits.*
  - *Reduce usage of non-renewable energy*
    - *Provide energy audits to 10 AG producers by 2018*
- *Air Quality*
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- **Priority Geographic Areas**
  - *303(d) listed water bodies*
  - *Priority Habitat listed streams*
  - *DOH listed water bodies*
  - *Salmonid bearing water bodies and water bodies connected to salmon bearing streams.*
  - *Intersection of active farming (including shellfish) and forestry areas of GHCD*
  - *Areas of the estuary impacted by sediment*
  - *Satsop/Chehalis River confluence*
  - *Cities in the district*

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

- *June 30, 2016, the GHCD will have the staff, programs, funding, and organizational (roles and responsibilities) structure in place to meet the needs of District landowners and resource users. We will maintain the reputation this District has earned for being a locally led problem solving group. We will strive to remain on the leading edge of conservation issues within our District. We will continue to recruit quality supervisors and staff and provide professional development to staff. Gather greater public and landowner input. Inter-local agreement with Pacific CD.*
- *Continue to reach non-dairy livestock producers for self-assessment*
- *Continue to participate in community outreach functions such as, attend Watershed Festival and other community events (Master Gardner Events)*

- *By 2018, create a program to distribute educational materials to schools and cooperators*
- *By 2017, work with local high schools to participate and compete in Envirothon/Cultivate Success*
- *Partner with the WSU extension office and GHC to expand education outreach*
- *Create and maintain social media/website*
- *Determine the effectiveness of our support of NRCS Wetland Reserve Program Chehalis Emphasis Area*
- *Provide funding for attendance at NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee and Local Work Group as requested*
- *Educate about Low Impact Development and implement Low Impact Development*
  - *By 2018 have provided information about Low Impact Development to a wide network of stakeholders*
- *By 2021 include all the incorporated cities in the conservation district.*
- *By 2019 work with the county to implement a system of rates and charges.*
- *Continue to partner in the development workshops for forestry, pasture management, farm tours, etc.*
- *Explore the partnership with Pacific CD and sharing of staff.*
- *Become more visible on social media and in the community.*
- *Find a visible building on a main street to become more visible.*
- *Develop an ongoing program of supervisor education opportunities both on operations and on issues and district needs.*
- *Improve relationships with tribal governments and explore opportunities for partnership.*
- *Encourage Envirothon participation by local schools*
- *Work with school districts to coordinate on conservation education.*
- *Build administrative capacity to handle the multiple granting agencies.*

### **Land Manager Needs**

- *Conservation Planning*
- *Cost share funding*
- *Invasive species management*
- *Assistance understanding agency requirements*

### **Staffing Goals – Functions Needed**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>District Manager</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Financial Manager</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Education outreach</i></li> <li>▪ <i>2 service foresters</i></li> <li>▪ <i>CREP coordinator</i></li> <li>▪ <i>PIC/WQ specialist</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>VSP coordinator</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Flood Authority coordinator</i></li> <li>▪ <i>LID/Rain Garden/Local foods</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Nat Res Tech for Fish and MRC</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Agricultural specialist/technician</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Fisheries Restoration Coordinator</i></li> </ul> |
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**Budget Goals –** *Be able to pay a full time staff doing the functions above at a fair wage with benefits and to leverage project costs. See annual plan for current budget.*

### **Key Partners/Advisors**

Key advisors include but are not limited to:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**
- **Grays Harbor County Commissioners**
- **Washington State**
  - **Department of Agriculture**
  - **Department of Ecology**
  - **Department of Fish and Wildlife**
  - **Department of Natural Resources**
  - **Recreation & Conservation Office**

- Farm Services Agency
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Washington State University
- Washington Association of Conservation Districts
- Willapa-Grays Harbor Shellfish Growers Association
- Grayland Cranberry Growers Association
- Chehalis Habitat Work Group

### **Key Decision Makers**

The first and foremost key decision maker is the landowner or land manager. The management decisions they make on a daily basis affect the condition of natural resources. The second key decision makers are the Board of Supervisors and the staff of Grays Harbor Conservation District. Other key decision makers include:

- The Federal Government
- Washington State Government
- Washington State Conservation Commission

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Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

*Picture of Natural  
Resource Project*