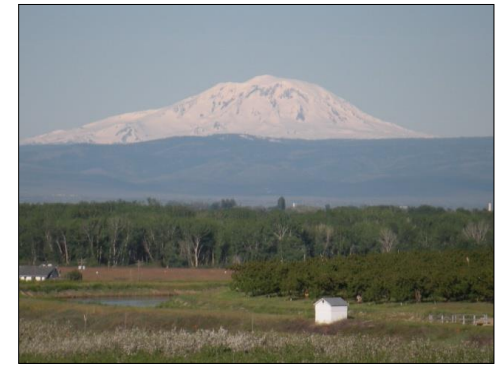




FY2021 (7/1/20 – 6/30/21) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District

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Mission of the North Yakima Conservation District

- To enhance and promote the wise use of natural resources; promote sustainable, profitable agriculture; and improve the quality of life and culture in Yakima County by:
 - Encouraging good land stewardship through education, incentives, and quality technical assistance.
 - Support private property rights.
 - Building strong coalitions with other groups and governmental entities.
 - Including, but not limited to, government assistance as a valid conservation partner to agriculture, by providing quality, technical assistance to cooperators and partners.

Natural Resource Priorities

■ Ag Preservation-Urban Interface-Land use planning

- **Natural resource priority description:** Address all SWAPAH (“soil, water, air, plant, animal and human”) related issues affected by development or changes in land use. Priority is to maintain current land uses by development of alternative options/programs while maintaining “working lands”.
- **Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority along with being a local priority?** YES, Yakima County has identified Farmland Preservation as a priority, Washington State has programs that protect farm and ranch lands, Washington State Conservation Commission have the Office of Farmland Preservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service has several programs dedicated to farm and ranch land protection. Many non-profits organizations operate in the state seeking to maintain farm and ranch lands. indicate supporting information. NYCD’s priorities will be directed towards developing and offering alternatives to acquisition and /or development by local, state, federal or NGO entities.
- **Source of data relied upon to indicate the resource concern:** Observation of land use changes within the county and resulting natural resource impacts. Program development by local, state, federal and non-profit groups. Data and print information from these same groups.
- **Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern:** NRCS, Washington State, Washington State Conservation Commission, Yakima County, Resource Conservation Office and American Farmland Trust.

■ Water Resources (Water Quality and Water Quantity)

- **Natural resource priority description:** Address Water Quality in NYCD water bodies and Water Quantity issues throughout NYCD and the Yakima River Basin
- **Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority along with being a local priority?** YES, 303d list and multiple local, state and federal plans identify water quality issues. Many local, State and Federal plans identify the need for water conservation

and storage including the “Yakima Basin Integrated Plan”. General field observations at the reach level and concerns raised by local landowners also support this resource priority. On-going activities by Yakima County to acquire water rights for development.

- **Source of data relied upon to indicate the resource concern:** NYCD’s participation in and awareness of the above mentioned “planning” processes, 303d list, landowner observations
- **Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern:** Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Conservation Commission, Yakama Nation, Bureau of Reclamation, Irrigation Districts, Yakima County, Commodity Groups, etc...

■ Fish and Wildlife

- **Natural resource priority description:** Many species of animals, fish, plants and their habitats are listed throughout the NYCD.
- **Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority along with being a local priority?** YES, there are several listings that are of a high priority including Big Horn Sheep, Steelhead and Sage Grouse. Other species that are of concern include Bull Trout and Pacific Lamprey. These species are of concern at the State, Federal and Tribal level throughout the Yakima River Basin.
- **Source of data relied upon to indicate the resource concern:** Federal and State listings, participation in planning forums, etc...
- **Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern:** All effected partner entities such as NRCS, Forest Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Yakama Nation, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, basin Conservation Districts and NGO’s.

■ Livestock Issues (AFO, CAO, DNP and local issues where fencing, off-site watering, etc... can address the Natural Resource Concern)

- **Natural resource priority description:** Livestock (including hobby farms) and the livestock industry are important to the economy and culture of NYCD. As such they represent important natural resource opportunities and issues that need voluntary assistance and cost-share.
- **Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority along with being a local priority?** YES, Statewide the Dairy Nutrient Management Planning issues is of high concern. TMDL and Critical Area Protection through the Voluntary Stewardship Program implementation will address livestock issues and Natural Resource enhancement opportunities.
- **Source of data relied upon to indicate the resource concern:** The current ECY Ag/Water Advisory Committee process, TMDL processes, Critical area concerns from local and State entities and the Voluntary Stewardship Program Plan.
- **Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern:** At this time only a few entities are engaged in the use of voluntary actions to protect natural resources from livestock use they include Conservation Districts, WSCC, WSU –Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Bureau, Washington Cattlemen Association and other commodity groups, whereas there is a larger list of State, Federal and Tribal Nations and special interest groups promoting the use of regulatory actions and litigation to address the issue. The Voluntary Stewardship Program will guide the implementation of this concern.

■ Rangeland

- **Natural resource priority description:** Shrub-Steppe habitats make up a large part of the working lands throughout the NYCD and are at risk of fire, improper grazing and conversion to non-compatible uses.
- **Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority along with being a local priority?** YES, Shrub-Steppe habitats are of concern at a local, State and Federal level due to conversion / development and fragmentation. Locally, fire risk has been identified as a major concern that affects other resource priorities.

- **Source of data relied upon to indicate the resource concern:** Shrub-Steppe Conservation Plans from many governmental entities and NGO's. Additional information from local landowner(s) observation(s) and management needs. Critical Area concerns from local and State entities and the Voluntary Stewardship Program Plan.
 - **Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern:** Shrub-Steppe Partnership, Conservation Districts, Department of Defense, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Cattlemen and private landowners.
- **Forestry**
 - **Natural resource priority description:** Forest health is failing throughout the State and fuels loading issues are the major concern of fire risk within the NYCD. The result of fire affects other NYCD priority concerns and should be considered a critical concern.
 - **Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority along with being a local priority?** YES, the Department of Natural resources recently released reports of poor forest health throughout the State, the Highway 410/12 CWPP identifies fuels loading as a major concern within that planning area making this a local, regional and State priority.
 - **Source of data relied upon to indicate the resource concern:** DNR reports on forest health and the Highway 410/12 CWPP as well as other CWPP processes.
 - **Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern:** Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Highway 410/12 planning group, US Forest Service, WSCC, Conservation Districts and local landowners.
 - **Noxious Weeds and Pests.**
 - **Natural resource priority description:** Noxious weeds exist throughout the NYCD. Several pests severely impact the areas agricultural viability to produce quality products and to ship those products.
 - **Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority along with being a local priority?** YES, Yakima County annually lists noxious weeds that impact landowners throughout the NYCD. Currently, Apple Maggot quarantines exist throughout the State and impact the entire Apple industry of the State.
 - **Source of data relied upon to indicate the resource concern:** Professional input from responsible entities.
 - **Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern:** WSU-Extension, Yakima County Horticultural Pest Control Board, Yakima County Weed Control Board, USDA-ARS, and Apple Commission.



FY 2021 (7/1/20 – 6/30/21) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Ag preservation-Urban Interface-Land use Planning

Goal(s): By 2022, implementation of plan(s) and policies for land uses that strive to enhance agricultural use.

Funding Source(s): Bonneville Power Administration, Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program, NYCD assessment, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, US Department of Defense, RCO, Office of Farmland Preservation, Yakima County, WDFW, The Nature Conservancy, Cowiche Canyon Conservancy Washington State Conservation Commission and Recreation and Conservation Office..

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Develop and Establish Conservation Easements on 200 acres.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Two (2) contracts for CE's will be completed. Required MOA's and supporting plans, agreements, and contracts will be established.

Funding Source(s): NYCD assessment, WSCC, RCO and landowners.

Activities for FY2021	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Develop and Implement two (2) stewardship plans for currently acquired conservation easements.	July 20 – June 21	Mike	20	\$62,500	TA and O&M account.
Work with the Washington State Conservation Commissions Office of Farmland Preservation to develop and fund a Conservation Easement program.	July 20 – June 21	Board and Mike	20	\$700,000	Program will address goals of Ag Preservation and Rangeland.
Work with local, State and Federal legislative authorities and staff to share information, promote opportunities and leverage funding to meet the program goals.	July 20 – June 21	Board and Mike	15	\$9000	Program will address goals of Ag Preservation and Rangeland.
Work with landowners in the Cowiche, Wenas, Naches/Tieton and Ahtanum watersheds to achieve program goals	July 20 – June 21	Mike	5	\$3880	Program will address goals of Ag Preservation and Rangeland.
Develop FPP's for the Thornton Ranch, and Stevenson Farm	July 20 – June 21	Mike	40	\$25,000	Program will address goals of Ag Preservation and Rangeland.



FY 2021 (7/1/20 – 6/30/21) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Water Resources (Water Quality and Water Quantity)

Goal(s): By 2022 identify water quality and quantity issues that will lead to implementation of corrective actions within NYCD and its Geographic priority watersheds.

Funding Source(s): Bonneville Power Administration, Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program, Conservation Commission Grant(s), YBF&WRB, NYCD Assessment, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Department of Ecology, Washington Water Trust, Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited, and EQIP, Bureau of Reclamation, Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Reduce Stream Temperatures and turbidity in Priority Watersheds

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Implement identified activities for 2021 and assist Yakima County in development of the VSP Plan.

Activities for FY2021	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Develop and Implement the Ingham “on-farm” conservation Project (water conservation).	July 20 – June 21	Justin	20	\$9,500	Funds from Trout Unlimited and YTAHP.
Develop, fund and implement a Voluntary Stewardship Program for Yakima County. (water quality)	July 20 – June 21	Board, Mike, VSP WG	100	\$195,000	Funds unsecured, model off of state funded VSP.
Work with local landowners, agencies and legislative authorities to achieve program goals in priority watersheds.	July 20 – June 21	Board, Mike, Staff	40	\$28,000	Look to Integrated plan for funding and partnerships
Develop and Implement the Purdin Ditch Project	July 20 – June 21	Mike, Justin	60	\$1,500,000	YBIP, YTAHP, RCPP funding
Assist Yakima County in the implementation of the Shaw and Wide Hollow Creeks – Restoration, Phase 1 and Phase 2.	July 20 – June 21	Mike, Brian	40	\$664,000	Use Yakima County MOA to implement elements of the project.
Implement the DOE Naches River Basin W/Q Restoration Project and Phase 2.	July 20 – June 21	Brian	30	\$249,000	Funded, being implemented
Implement the ILA with Yakima County for the N-1, N-9, Y-9 and HAWS.	July 20 – June 21	Brian	40	\$25,000	Funded, being implemented



FY 2021 (7/1/20 – 6/30/21) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Fish and Wildlife

Goal(s): By 2022 assist all affected landowners with compliance issues related to the Endangered Species Act and State requirements regarding fish species on lands within NYCD's Geographic Priority Areas and promote those successes with the public and regulatory entities

Funding Source(s): Conservation Commission Grant(s), BPA, YTHAP, USFW Service, BOR, RFEG, SRFB, NYCD, WSDOT, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, Yakima County Flood Control Zone, WDFW Mitchell Act, Yakama Nation, BLM and NRCS.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Complete all Fish Screening and barrier needs in the Cowiche, Ahtanum and Wenas Watersheds opening all fish passage access on private landownership.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Provide input into the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. Maintain the Yakima Tributary Habitat and Access Program for 2020-2021

Activities for FY2021	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Place emphasis on additional "beneficial pollinators" in all planning and implementation efforts.	July 20 – June 21	Justin	10	\$4,800	
Implement, update and develop elements of the on-going Yakima Tributary Habitat and Access Program.	July 20 – June 21	Mike, Justin, Brian	300	\$389,000	Only 9 months funding secured at this time.
Be actively involved in all aspects of fish and wildlife issues throughout Yakima County.	July 20 – June 21	Board, Mike, staff	50	\$25,000	
Develop the Cameron, Calvert and WID barrier removal project and Snake Creek Screening Project.	July 20 – June 21	Justin, Mike	30	\$30,000	Funding being sought
Implement the Ahtanum Creek Fish Screen and Habitat project – phase 2 Herke.	July 20 – June 21	Justin	40	\$210,000	Funding secured from SRFB
Assist Rattlesnake Ditch Association in plan development to address fish screening and conservation needs.	July 20 – June 21	Mike, Justin	20	\$10,000	
Continue fish monitoring activities in the Wenas watershed with partners,	July 20 – June 21	Mike, partners	10	\$6000	



FY 2020 (7/1/20 – 6/30/21) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Livestock Issues (AFO, CFO and DNP)

Goal(s): By 2022 develop programs and/or agreements to address livestock issues in NYCD Priority Watersheds.

Funding Source(s): NYCD funds, Conservation Commission NRI Grants, State/Local VSP Funds, USDA – EQIP, and DOE.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: unknown at this time

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Prepare and Implement 3 “farm plans”.

Funding Source(s):

Activities for FY2021	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Develop, fund and implement a Voluntary Stewardship Program for Yakima County. (water quality)	July 20 – June 21	Board, Mike, VSP Work Group	20	See W/Q	Funds secured and contract with Yakima County.
Develop and Implement Mike Wright project.	July 20 – June 21	Brian	10	\$30,000	WSCC NRI funding
Develop Morton Project (downstream of 62 nd Ave on Ahtanum)	July 20 – June 21	Brian	25	\$10,000	Develop program to mirror RCPP
Work with entities and governmental entities to address livestock BMP's on working lands.	July 20 – June 21	Board and Mike	10	\$6,000	
Develop a plan / funding package for Off-Channel watering facilities in Wenas Watershed.	July 20 – June 21	Brian, Mike	25	\$100,000	



FY 2021 (7/1/20 – 6/30/21) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



Program Area: Rangeland

Goal(s): By 2022 develop a Rangeland program within NYCD Priority Watersheds.

Funding Source(s): NYCD Assessment, Washington State Conservation Commission, DNR.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: **Protect 3000 acres from rangeland fire threats.**

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: **Implement elements of the Yakima County CWPP that protect rangeland landscapes.**

Activities for FY2021	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Assist in implementation of Firewise related programs for protection of landowners and Rangeland landscapes.	July 20 – June 21	Mike	20	\$500,000	Look towards partnering to start program
See Ag preservation-Urban Interface-Land use Planning Natural Resource Priority Section	July 20 – June 21	Mike	As needed		
Assist landowners in the Moxee and cold Creek watershed in the development of a Rangeland Fire Protection Association	July 20 – June 21	Board, Mike	10	\$7,750	
Work across jurisdictional boundaries to address common threats such as fire, weeds, habitat's	July 20 – June 21	Mike	5	\$4,000	
Represent private landowners and voice their rights, economic importance and cultural significance.	July 20 – June 21	Board, Mike	As needed		



FY 2021 (7/1/20 – 6/30/21) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Forestry

Goal(s): By 2022 develop and implement program(s) to assist private forestry landowners and implement the Yakima County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (YCCWPP) and address forest health.

Funding Source(s): NYCD Assessment, Conservation Commission, DNR, USDA - EQIP, and Firewise Program.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: reduce fuels loading to planned levels on 35% of all private lands within the 410/12 CWPP and assist Forest Service recreational homeowners in fuels reduction.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Implement Firewise practices on 20 properties.

Funding Source(s):

Activities for FY2021	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Cont. Implementation of fuel reduction activities related to the Highway 410/12 Community Wildfire Protection Plan".	July 20 – June 21	Mike	20	\$130,000	Funding unsecured at this time.
Develop additional funds to implement Highway 410/12 CWPP.	July 20 – June 21	Mike	20	\$12,000	Work with WSCC and WACD
Assist in the development of other CWPP's including Rangeland Fire Protection Associations.	July 20 – June 21	staff	10	\$6,000	Should be imbedded in legislation processes
Implement model fuels reduction Program with US Forest Service and Recreational homeowners in 410/12 CWPP	July 20 – June 21	Mike	20	\$225,000	Planning stage for funding and deliverables.



FY 2021 (7/1/20 – 6/30/21) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Noxious Weeds and Pests

Goal(s): By 2022 develop an integrated pest management program and participate in the Coordinated Weed Management Area process.

Funding Source(s): NYCD Assessment, Yakima County Weed Control Board, Yakima County Horticultural Pest & Disease Board, WSU Extension, USDA-ARS Yakima County FCZD and Washington Department of Agriculture.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Reduce weed populations on all project sites.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Assist in the eradication of Crack Willow under the Shaw Creek Project

Activities for FY2021	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Work with Yakima County Weed Control Board to create programs that address common goals.	July 20 – June 21	staff	10	\$12,000	
Work with Yakima County FCZD to address “Crack Willow” issues (identified as a noxious weed but impacts flooding issues) – Shaw Creek Project	July 20 – June 21	Mike, Brian	20	\$20,000	MOA in place with YC-FCZD. See Water Resources priority
Work with City of Yakima “Crack Willow” issues (identified as a noxious weed but impacts flooding issues)	July 20 – June 21	Mike, Brian	5	\$3,800	MOA in place with CoY. See Water Resources priority
Implement Herbaceous Weed Control on all NYCD Project	July 20 – June 21	staff	On-going		Part of good land stewardship



FY 2021 (7/1/20 – 6/30/21) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



District Program Area: Information and Education

Goal(s): By 2022, increase the knowledge, understanding and awareness of District priorities, programs and actions with all landowners in the District and our partners.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Reach all landowners with NYCD Newsletter (43,000), through school education programs provide curriculum and educate over 5000 students.

Activities for FY2021	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Continue Program that implements a K-12 curriculum and supports programs like Drain Rangers, Wheat Week and Salmon in the Classroom.	July 20 – June 21	Board, Mike	5	\$35,000	Partnership with FCD.
Contact all landowners via NYCD newsletter to inform and educate about District programs, activities and items of interest.	July 20 – June 21	staff	4	\$18,000	Bi-Annually
Maintain NYCD website	July 20 – June 21	staff	5	\$2,000	As needed
Develop and Implement Heritage Garden – Demonstration program with Benton Conservation District	July 20 – June 21	staff	10	\$20,000	I&E through YBIP
Integrate education into each NYCD project/program as appropriate and applicable.	July 20 – June 21	staff	On-going		As needed
Promote the Conservation District ideals and functions; i.e. “conserve, protect and enhance natural resource through the use of Best Management Practices (BMP’s)”, “to take available technical, financial and educational resources whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water and related resources”, etc...	July 20 – June 21	Board, staff	On-going	Priceless	As needed



FY 2021 (7/1/20 – 6/30/21) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



District Program Area: District Operations

Goal(s): Maintain, expand and provide effective Natural Resource Conservation programs in an efficient, legal and fiscally responsible manner.

Activities for FY2021	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Conduct and complete all District operations, Financial operations and Administrative responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner consistent with all applicable guidelines and policies set forth.	July 20 – June 21	Board, Staff	20	\$22,000	As needed
Provide training opportunities for staff and Board.	July 20 – June 21	Board, Staff	As needed		As needed
Maintain a physical presence in all applicable forums of natural resources that may pertain to the NYCD plan(s).	July 20 – June 21	Board, Staff	As needed		As needed
Participate in WACD and WSCC activities related to NYCD priorities and/or programs.	July 20 – June 21	Board, Staff	10	\$8,000	As needed
Maintain MOA for NYCD PMF that includes working with Yakima County Master Gardeners Foundation	July 20 – June 21	Board, Staff	5	\$4,000	As needed
Develop, maintain and honor MOA's MOU's that achieve NYCD Priorities.	July 20 – June 21	Board, Mike	10	\$12,000	As needed
Develop and Implement a financial plan with special emphases on NYCD Building and PMF.	July 20 – June 21	Board, Mike	20	\$25,000	As needed
Conduct annual plant sale(s)	July 20 – June 21	staff	15	\$18,000	As needed
Develop with WSCC Engineering Cluster additional engineering program(s) and complimentary funding.	July 20 – June 21	Board, Mike	As needed		As needed



FY2021 (7/1/20 – 6/30/21) Annual Budget North Yakima Conservation District

At this time NYCD's Annual Budget is based on many factors that include:

- **Zero Based Budgeting principals**
- **“soft funding” grant sources (annual, bi-annual)**
- **Revolving MOA/MOU budget inputs**
- **4 fiscal years (State, Federal, Calendar and policy from funding source)**
- **Available local funds**
- **donations**

Individual Program/Project budgets are available for review.