



## **5-Year Plan (2017 to 2022)**

# **South Yakima Conservation District**

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### **Organization of the South Yakima Conservation District**

A political subdivision of the State of Washington – authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08. In 1944 the Rosa CD was formed and later merged (1961) with the Lower Yakima Valley CD, which was formed in 1947. The Wapato CD formed in 1949 and in 1967 changed their name to the Toppenish CD. The Lower Yakima Valley and Toppenish merged to become the South Yakima CD on 09/19/1974.

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### **Function of the South Yakima Conservation District**

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 manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

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### **We Serve & Why**

We strive to serve all landowners, the Yakama Nation, and others (public or private) interested in conservation to facilitate a standard of living and protecting natural resources of concern for our land and to conserve our land and water in a common sense, practical way to address and reduce potential liabilities.

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### **Mission of the South Central Conservation District**

Our mission is to promote; and assist land owners with implementation, development, and conservation of our renewable natural resources by providing education, technical and financial resources and to work in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies, and private and professional organizations.

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### **Vision of the South Yakima Conservation District**

The South Yakima Conservation District is recognized by landowners as the source of technical, educational and financial assistance in this District; and by private entities; local, state and federal authorities as the organization of choice to assist with implementing on-the-ground stewardship activities.

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### **Values of the South Yakima Conservation District**

- Education and demonstration
  - Local control of resource management
  - Community orientated
  - Self-governance
  - Integrity
  - Conservation
  - Working lands
  - Resourceful
  - Acceptable local practices
  - Sustainable agriculture
  - Economic viability
  - Voluntary/non-regulatory approaches
  - Assist producers to address resource issues including planning implementation of best management practices
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### **Natural Resource Data & Information:**

South Yakima Conservation District is a very diverse agricultural area with a total of approximately 1,350,568 acres, with the majority in Federal Lands.

Land use consists of irrigated land, dry-land, rangeland, woodland, and wildlife. Irrigated crops include alfalfa, asparagus, barley, corn, triticale, grapes, hops, fruits, vegetables, and pasture.

- The Lower Yakima Valley Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) encompasses the entire district except the acres on Yakama Reservation.
  - Provide technical and financial (when available) assistance to irrigators - 115,000 irrigated cropland acres. Currently, approximately 37,000 acres of rill/surface irrigated cropland, 6,480 acres under drip and 71,600 under sprinkler irrigation (Information from Rosa and Sunnyside Irrigation Districts). This does not include approximately 130,000 irrigated cropland acres within the Yakama Reservation.
  - **Grazing/Rangeland** – Approximately 50,000 acres, not including acres within the Yakama Reservation
  - **Dairies** – 65
  - **Beef/Dairy Feedlots** – 16
  - **Irrigation Districts** – 2 large & 8 small districts and companies
  - **Port of Sunnyside** - “The primary objective of the Port is to enhance the economic development within the boundaries of the Port of Sunnyside. The Port is organized to aggressively enhance the local economy by providing new and expanding business and industry access to industrial land, industrial infrastructure and assistance with funding sources.”
  - **Fruit** – Apples (17,000+ acres), Grapes (Wine & Juice -15,400 acres) Cherry (6,400 acres) Pear/Peach/Nectarines (7,200 acres).\*
  - **Corn Silage/Corn Grain** – (16,778 & 1,166 acres), Triticale (10,800 acres), Alfalfa (8,000), Pasture (6,700 acres), Wheat (,1300 acres), Asparagus (900 acres)\*
  - **Wineries** – 13
  - **Hops** – 45,000 acres – 75% of Nations Production (American Hop Museum)
  - **Mint processing** – Approximately 15,000 acres
  - **Miles of stream** – 1,500
  - **No cities and towns in district**
- \*Crop acres by WSDA

**Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:**

- Local Natural Resource Concerns.
- NRCS State Resource Assessment – Local Priority Resource Concerns.
- Yearly Priorities set by the Local Work Group.
- Public Health & Safety
- Funding Availability.

**Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Geographic Areas, Measures of Success and Goals:**

1. Irrigation Water Management - (surface to sprinkler conversions, irrigation scheduling)
2. Nutrient Management (improve water quality by managing soil nutrients to meet crop needs,)
3. Soils Health (soil testing, cover crops, soil moisture monitoring, biology, organic manner)
4. Education (producers & consumers, youth: K-12)
5. District Operations

<b>Priority Natural Resource Conservation Need</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>
Irrigation Water Management (water quantity, conversions)	GWMA Area including Yakama fee lands and leased lands
Nutrient Management (water quality)	See above
Soils Health (soil testing, cover crop, soil moisture monitoring, biology, organic manner)	See above
Education (producers & consumers, youth)	All district

<b>Natural Resource Conservation Need</b>	<b>Measures of Success</b>	<b>Goals</b> Landowner visits, promotional literature, demonstration field day, workshops, advertisements, word-of-mouth and other activities.
Irrigation Water Management (water quantity, conversions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of systems &amp; acres of irrigation systems under IWM, converted</li> <li>▪ Number of acres under irrigation water management system</li> <li>▪ Number of moisture monitoring systems installed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 30 systems &amp; 1200 acres of irrigation systems under IWM, converted by 2022</li> <li>▪ 2000 acres under irrigation water management systems by 2022</li> <li>▪ 50 moisture monitoring systems installed by 2022</li> </ul>
Nutrient Management (water quality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of producers with nutrient management systems planned and implemented and related acreage</li> <li>▪ Number of acres under nutrient management system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 140 producers with nutrient management systems planned and implemented and related acreage by 2022</li> <li>▪ 1100 acres under nutrient management system by 2022</li> </ul>
Soils Health (soil testing, cover crops, soil moisture monitoring, biology, organic matter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of producers soil testing and related acres</li> <li>▪ Number of producers participating in soil health program and related acres</li> <li>▪ Numbers of direct seed acreage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 50 producers soil testing and 1000 related acres by 2022</li> <li>▪ 50 producers participating in soil health program, and 1000 related acres by 2022</li> <li>▪ 5,000 acres direct seed by 2022</li> </ul>
Education (producers, consumers and youth)  Youth Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of education events &amp; related participation (meetings, demonstrations)</li> <li>▪ Number of students &amp; teachers participating in district offered classroom instruction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Annually host four education events &amp; 80 related participation (meetings, demonstrations) by 2022</li> <li>▪ Continue education partnerships to provide 1,000's of student &amp; teachers with Salmon in the Classroom, field trips, Wheat Week, and Water on Wheels. and new opportunities through 2022</li> </ul>
District Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strong and accurate financial administration</li> <li>▪ All required Conservation Accountability and Performance elements met</li> <li>▪ Trained &amp; experienced staff to match program need</li> <li>▪ Active Supervisors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Through 2022 have strong and accurate financial administration, have all required Conservation Accountability and Performance elements met, have trained &amp; experienced staff to match program needs and active Supervisors</li> <li>▪ Continue to provide staff and Supervisors with appropriate training via webinars and/or workshops</li> <li>▪ Minimum of 1 training session per year.</li> <li>▪ Continue to seek new educational opportunities and funding</li> </ul>

**Information – Education & District Operations Priorities, Measures of Success, and Goals:**  
*Refer to Annual work plans for specific actions, goals and deadlines*

## Land Manager Needs

- Cost share programs for irrigation conversion and education
- Cost effective Irrigation Water Management (IWM) monitoring program
- Engineering assistance
- Technical assistance
- Financial assistance
- Nutrient Management Record keeping system for private land owners...functional, user friendly
- Soil testing program – equipment, soil moisture monitoring, testimonials, nutrient balance
- Soils and nutrient management technical assistance
- Demonstration of successful practices for the local area.
- Noxious weed control

## Milestones, Timeline & Actions

**Priority:** Irrigation Water Management (water quantity, conversion, efficiencies)

### Measurable Goal:

- 30 systems & 1200 acres of irrigation systems under IWM, converted by 2022
- 2000 acres under irrigation water management systems by 2022
- 50 moisture monitoring systems installed by 2022

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Provide technical assistance and information to producers	annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify 6-10 individual producers</li> </ul>
Do an IWM needs assessment	annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with local irrigation districts on irrigation efficiencies, where rill irrigation needs to be addressed due to sediment loading</li> <li>▪ Develop questionnaire</li> <li>▪ Determine level of individual producer need</li> <li>▪ Work with local irrigation districts on possible funding for joint projects</li> </ul>
Development and/or revise IWM Plan	annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop/update 6-10 IWM plans based on NRCS practice standard 449</li> </ul>
Implementation IWM Plan	annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Include needed elements based on producer need</li> </ul>
Monitoring systems installed	annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop monitoring system</li> <li>▪ 6 monitoring systems installed each year</li> </ul>

**Priority:** Nutrient Management (water quality)

### Measurable Goal:

- 120 producers with nutrient management systems planned and implemented and related acreage by 2022
- 2500 acres under nutrient management system by 2022

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Develop/update 80+ Nutrient management plans	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 10 – 15 nutrient management plans developed</li> <li>▪ Use drill program to check for potential nutrient management plans</li> <li>▪ Contact the third party manure applicators</li> </ul>

**Priority:** Soils Health (soil testing, cover crop, soil moisture monitoring, biology, organic matter)

### Measurable Goal:

- 50 producers soil testing and 1000 related acres by 2022
- 50 producers participating in soil health program, and 1000 related acres by 2022

- 5,000 acres direct seed by 2022

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Inventory producers who currently use soil testing & soil health information	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop list of potential producers</li> <li>▪ Database of soil testing</li> </ul>
Develop a Soil Health Program for producers	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with NRCS, WSU and other agencies and private entities to assist in the creation of a Soil Health Management System and promote through educational workshops.</li> </ul>
Work with 10 producers to implement a soil health program	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide technical assistance to growers to implement soil health BMP's</li> </ul>
Drill rental program -1000 acres	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop flyers/information packets for producers to promote the importance of Soil Health - Utilize drill rental program</li> </ul>

**Priority:** Education (producers, youth, consumers)

**Measurable Goal:**

- Focus on production agricultural education for producers and consumers and provide information on conservation and how management practices impact natural resources for future use
- Continue education on how to protect ground water resources (pollutants, nutrients, and efficiencies) within the groundwater management area (GWMA)
- Work with growers on nutrient management, soil health, IWM, etc
- Educate public and producers about BMPs for water quality protection
- Continue one-on-one meetings with landowners
- Plan workshops, field days, meetings
- Set priority on how to deliver district news...web, social media, newspaper
- Share information through newsletters, press releases, website
- Provide *Salmon in the Classroom*
- Provide *Water on Wheels, Wheat Week*
- Partner and work with other entities to annually host/co-host four education events & 80 related events by 2022.

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Provide Salmon in the Classroom, Water on Wheels, Wheat Week for K-12	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Partner with other CD's to provide classroom education &amp; field trips for K-12 students at our local participating schools reaching more than ~2000 students</li> </ul>
Partner with private entities to Host/Co-Host educational events	Quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Solicit private entities to host/co-host education events</li> <li>▪ Evaluate education events</li> <li>▪ Build consortium of participants for each resource area</li> <li>▪ Consider special committee of board members</li> </ul>

**Priority:** District Operations

**Measurable Goal:**

Through 2022:

- Have strong and accurate financial administration, have all required Conservation Accountability and Performance elements met, have trained & experienced staff to match program needs and active supervisors.
- Implement long range plan and annual plan of work
- Seek funding for more projects – identify/investigate ways to generate income for district
- Provide assistance to producers and stakeholders with resource issues
- Seek involvement from cities, towns, and port

- Continue to work with Dairy Federation, Cattleman’s Association, Farm Bureau, and other conservation related entities
- Continue No-Till Drill rental program – identify direct seed and equipment needs
- Update and expand web page and other electronic information systems.

### Staffing Needs

- Full/Part time District Manager
- Full time Technical Resource Technician/Conservation Planner
- Full Time Nutrient Management Planner
- Part-time Bookkeeper/Secretary

### Annual Budget Needs

Assessment Administration Fee	10,000
Education/Outreach	20,000
Employee Wages/Benefits	241,000
Administration	34,000
Cost-Share	150,000
Operational Expenses	35,000
Inter-Seed Drills - Maintenance/Repairs	10,000
<b>ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>361,311</b>

### Key Decision Makers

- SYCD Board of Supervisors
- Conservation Commission
- WDOE regulators
- NRCS
- Department of AG
- Partnering Agencies
- County Landowners
- County Commissioners
- County Government
- State, Federal and Tribal Governments
- Non-governmental organizations

### Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation Choices



