



5-Year Plan (2020 to 2025) Franklin Conservation District

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Organization of the Franklin Conservation District

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

Function of the Franklin 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 to aid in the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

We Serve & Why

The citizens of Franklin Conservation District and the region to enhance natural resources in order to improve the quality of life for the community.

Mission

The Franklin Conservation District promotes the conservation & wise use of natural resources by providing educational, technical and financial assistance to natural resource users.

Vision

- Keep farmers farming
 - The importance of agriculture to the Tri-City area is recognized including highway identification of conservation work, borders and other public outreach activities
 - Decrease nitrate levels in ground water and continued water quality monitoring
 - Farmers in our district are using moisture monitoring and soil testing on every Franklin CD field
 - Make growers aware of Franklin CD and all of them using our services
 - Keep viable (well-funded) conservation programs in Franklin County
 - Continued regional-wide education program in the schools
 - More adoption of new conservation technology
 - Receive adequate funding to continue to fund CD activities
 - Importance of agriculture to Franklin County is known within the CD
 - Continued use and operation of the Snake River Dams
 - Ability to use saved water resources – water bank type & incentive system in place
 - Water conservation activities in urban areas through education such as Heritage Gardens
 - Reduce wind erosion
 - Increased organic matter and water storage capacity on all soils in district
 - Maintain ag viability within the VSP defined critical areas of Franklin County
 - Monitor and enhance the natural resources in Franklin County
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Values

- Leadership
 - Honesty
 - Integrity
 - Conservation ethic
 - Service to constituents (growers and citizens)
 - Customer service (make easy for customers – streamlining procedures)
 - Care about people we serve
 - Technically sound work
 - Economically feasible solutions
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Natural Resource Data & Information
NRCS Resource Assessment
Franklin County Critical Area Maps

Area Description	Acres
Franklin County	809,422
Cultivated Cropland	471,887
Irrigated Cropland	246,105
Dry Cropland	225,782
Rangeland	209,566
Public Land Non-DNR	88,807 (Includes ~10,000 Acres of Water)
Public Land DNR	48,436
Private Land	672,179
City Urban Growth Areas	39,162

Nearly 112,000 acres of dry cropland have been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Less than 2% of the irrigated cropland remains in furrow or flood irrigation with the majority of the conversion to sprinkler irrigation occurring in the last 25 years. The majority of non-DNR public lands include a portion of the Hanford Reach National Monument, Juniper Dunes Wilderness Area, and Army Corp land along the Snake River.

Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Priority Geographic Areas

- Water Quantity (use, conservation, aquifer recharge)
- Soil Quality (Quantity, Health, Erosion Control)
- Water Quality Improvement (ground and surface)
- Air Quality
- Wildlife Habitat
- Education (in all above)
- District Operations (in all above)

Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs	Geographic Area
Water Quantity (use, conservation, aquifer recharge)	Entire county not served by Columbia Basin project
Soil Quality (Quantity, Health, Erosion Control)	Entire district
Water Quality Improvement (ground and surface)	Irrigated half of county
Air Quality	Entire district
Wildlife Habitat	Entire district
Education (in all above)	Entire district
District Operations (in all above)	Entire district

Measures of Success and Goals

Natural Resource Conservation Need	Measures of Success	Goals	Progress
Water Quantity (use, conservation, aquifer recharge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no water restrictions • increase in the number of irrigated acres • increased number of irrigation conversions • amount of water conserved • number of people implementing practices 	By December 2025 have a demonstrated increase in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of irrigated acres under irrigation water management • number of irrigation conversions • number of water right transfers • issuance of new water rights • amount of water saved and available for use in Franklin County • # of Heritage Gardens/Xeriscapes 	

Natural Resource Conservation Need	Measures of Success	Goals	Progress
Soil Quality (quantity, health, erosion control)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stable/increase in soil quality measurements (i.e. organic matter readings, tilth, diversity of microbes, other) • conservation tillage technology use • number of people implementing practices • number of dust storms / reduction in wind erosion • number of people implementing practices 	By December 2025 have a demonstrated improvement in soil quality by measuring increases in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new conservation technology adoption • the number of people implementing practices and a related decrease in number of dust storms and reduction in wind erosion 	

Natural Resource Conservation Need	Measures of Success	Goals	Progress
Water Quality Improvement (ground and surface)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decrease in nitrate concentrations in ground water • implementation of nutrient management systems (numbers and related acres) • number of manure storage systems at current 	By December 2025, have a demonstrated increase in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of acres enrolled in irrigation water management • the number of acres enrolled in nutrient management • a decrease in nitrate 	

	standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation of irrigation water management systems (SIS) • number of people implementing practices 	concentrations in ground water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a consistent water quality monitoring effort 	
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Natural Resource Conservation Need	Measures of Success	Goals	Progress
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction in PM10 emissions • number of air quality complaints reduced • number of people implementing practices 	By December 2025, have a demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction in PM 10 emissions, • reduction in # of complaints (dust, odor, smoke) • an increase in # of people implementing practices • an increase in the number of acres addressed in conservation plans 	

Natural Resource Conservation Need	Measures of Success	Goals	Progress
Wildlife Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of acres treated and related wildlife population impact • pollinator habitat acres treated and related impact • number of people implementing practices 	By December 2025, have a demonstrated increase in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of people implementing practices • the number of acres of new and enhanced wildlife habitat • the number and acres of habitat addressed in conservation plans • a consistent wildlife habitat monitoring effort 	

Natural Resource Conservation Need	Measures of Success	Goals	Progress
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social media analytics data • newsletter circulation • number of students served • number of Conservation Districts and entities 	By December 2025, have a demonstrated increase in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of people reached • the number of education activities 	

	participating with Franklin CD education programs • number of people aware of Franklin CD programs, services, activities, and results	• the number of people aware of and performing conservation activities • the number of agreements with other entities • the number of people participating in Franklin CD programs, services, and activities	
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Natural Resource Conservation Need	Measures of Success	Goals	Progress
District Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of successful district and state audits • stable funding for district programs and operations • more than 1 person running for each supervisor seat • active Associate Supervisors 	By December 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continued successful district and state audits • stable funding for programs and operations • a demonstrated increase in people that want to become supervisors • a demonstrated increase in the number of Associate Supervisors 	

Land Manager Needs

- Tools and models for conservation work (straw use, carbon footprint calculations, changes in conservation system, prove out new systems)
- Economic 'infrastructure' including people to do the conservation work where there is not a return on investment
- Technical assistance i.e. advice on conservation practices
- Reduction in bureaucracy and assistance to work through requirements, applications, etc.
- Revision in payment limitations (i.e. Farm Bill, other)
- Volunteer work force for conservation practice application (i.e. fencing, earth moving, plantings, other)
- Reduction in regulations at all levels of government and/or 'safe harbor' (i.e. water rights, land limitations, permitting, dairy, pesticides, spraying, fuel tanks, other)
- Society would pay for conservation benefits from conservation management (cost recovery)
- Economic information from use of technology and conservation practices
- New cost-effective technology related to natural resource industries

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices.

