



Skagit Conservation District FY2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Work Plan

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Mission of the Skagit Conservation District

The mission of the Skagit Conservation District is to bring voluntary, incentive-based natural resource solutions to citizens of Skagit County and beyond by providing technical, financial and educational resources.

Natural Resource Priorities

Water Quality – Protecting, preserving, and enhancing the water quality of Skagit County’s fresh and saltwater resources for all beneficial uses and users is a top priority for the Skagit Conservation District.

This is a local, regional, and state natural resource priority.

Data Sources: Skagit County, WAC 400-12 Watershed plans, Ecology TMDLs (Lower Skagit, Nookachamps, Samish), Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda, Puget Sound Shellfish Initiative, Skagit Conservation District Stream Team/Storm Team monitoring data, Natural Resources Conservation Service Resource Inventory, Governor’s Blue Ribbon Panel Report on Ocean Acidification, Governor Jay Inslee: Results Washington

Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern: Skagit County, Samish Indian Nation, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, Swinomish Indian Nation, Washington State Conservation Commission, Puget Sound Partnership, Skagit Conservation Education Alliance, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington State Departments of Agriculture,

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Other entities cont.

Ecology, Natural Resources, and Health, Skagit Shellfish Growers, Skagit County Cattlemen's Association, Skagit County Dairymen's Association, Western Washington Agricultural Association, RE Sources, Puget Sound Baykeepers, and WSU Extension

Forest Health – With nearly 80% of Skagit County under tree cover, maintaining vibrant, healthy forests is a priority not only for a sustainable forest industry, but is essential for watershed health.

This is a local, regional, state and national resource priority.

Data Sources: Skagit County, Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda, Natural Resources Conservation Service Resource Inventory, Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan, Skagit Watershed Council Habitat Work Schedule, National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy: Phase III, Healthy Forest Restoration Act, Healthy Forest Initiative, Governor Jay Inslee: Results Washington Skagit County Envision 2060 Citizen Committee Final Recommendations, "Preserving Our Heritage, Shaping Our Future"

Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern: Skagit County, Skagit County Forestry Advisory Board, Washington Department of Natural Resources, US Forest Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service

Appropriate Land Use/Conversion/Population Growth – A growing population puts growing pressure on critical natural resources lands and the industries and beneficial uses they support.

This is a local, regional, state and national natural resource priority.

Data Sources: Skagit County Comprehensive Plan, Puget Partnership Action Agenda, Natural Resources Conservation Service Resource Inventory, Department of Ecology - Instream flow rule, Mundy/Land "Skagit County Agri-Industrial Critical Mass Study (draft)", American Farmland Trust "Cost of Community Services", American Farmland Trust "Losing Ground: Farmland Protection in the Pacific Northwest", WSU Skagit County "Skagit County Agricultural Statistics", Skagit County Envision 2060 Citizen Committee Final Recommendations, "Preserving Our Heritage, Shaping Our Future", Governor Jay Inslee: Results Washington

Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern: Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, Western Washington Agricultural Association, The Nature Conservancy, Skagit County Ag Advisory and Forest Advisory Boards, Skagit County Ag Leaders Committee, American Farmland Trust, Washington State Conservation Commission Office of Farmland Preservation, Recreation and Conservation Office, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, Smart Growth, Friends of Skagit County, and the Skagit Land Trust

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Habitat Protection and Restoration – Skagit County is home to an abundance of fish and wildlife species. Maintaining the environment critical to their survival helps also to maintain our sense of place.

This is a local, regional, and state natural resource priority.

Data sources: Skagit County Comprehensive Plan, WAC 400-12 Watershed plans, Puget Partnership Action Agenda, Puget Sound Shellfish Initiative, Natural Resources Conservation Service Resource Inventory, Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan, Western Washington Agricultural Association - Data from Tide Gate Fish Initiative, Skagit Watershed Council Habitat Work Schedule, Governor’s Blue Ribbon Panel report on Ocean Acidification, Western Washington Agricultural Association - Drainage Fish Initiative, Healthy Forest Initiative, Governor Jay Inslee: Results Washington, Skagit County Envision 2060 Citizen Committee Final Recommendations, “Preserving Our Heritage, Shaping Our Future”

Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern: Skagit County, all Washington state natural resource agencies, Skagit Watershed Council, US Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Samish Indian Nation, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, Swinomish Indian Nation, Skagit River Systems Cooperative, The Nature Conservancy, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Skagit Land Trust, Seattle City Light, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Soil Tilt Maintenance – Skagit County is recognized as having some of the finest soils in the world. It is imperative that we maintain and enhance the productivity of this finite resource.

This is a local, state, and national natural resource priority.

Data sources: Natural Resources Conservation Service Resource Inventory and Soils Survey

Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern: Western Washington Agricultural Association, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and WSU Extension

Climate Change/Ocean Acidification – The Skagit Conservation District will work to increase awareness on what changes in our environment can/may occur, and how we will adapt our natural resource management strategies to address them.

Data Sources: Puget Partnership Action Agenda, Puget Sound Shellfish Initiative, National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy: Phase III, Governor’s Blue Ribbon Panel Report on Ocean Acidification, WWAA - Drainage Fish Initiative

Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern: Skagit County, Western Governors Association, Washington State, Washington Shellfish Growers

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Water Quantity – Too much and too little regarding water quantity are both concerns in Skagit County. Addressing problems caused by flooding and poor drainage as well as low stream flows and closed basins is critical.

This is a local and state natural resource priority.

Data Sources: Skagit County, WAC 400-12 Watershed plans, Natural Resources Conservation Service Resource Inventory, Department of Ecology - Instream flow rule, Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan, Skagit Watershed Council Habitat Work Schedule, Western Washington Agricultural Association - Drainage Fish Initiative

Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern: Skagit County, Skagit County Dike and Drainage Districts, Western Washington Agricultural Association, Department of Ecology, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, The Nature Conservancy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Invasive Species – Controlling and eradicating harmful plant and animal species is important to maintain healthy land/seascapes.

This is a local, regional, state and national natural resource priority.

Data sources: Natural Resources Conservation Service Resource Inventory, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Samish Indian Nation and The Nature Conservancy field inventories

Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Samish Indian Nation, The Nature Conservancy, WA Department of Natural Resources, US Forest Service, Skagit Watershed Council, Washington Shellfish Growers, and National Association of Conservation Districts

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Natural Resources Program Areas



Program Area: Water Quality Protection and Improvement, Ocean Acidification

Address negative human and animal impacts to water quality as well as runoff/storm water from all sources; prioritizing lands impacting water bodies on EPA's 303(d) list in Skagit County.

Goals:

- By 2019, water quality in Samish Bay will have been improved sufficiently to allow the Department of Health to upgrade from conditional use to approved status.
- By 2017, the SCD will have developed and implemented a comprehensive water quality monitoring program.
- By 2019, monitoring in other priority waterbodies will indicate improvement trends.
- By 2018, complete data analysis and initiate program development on ocean acidification issues.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: An additional 10% decrease in fecal coliform levels monitored for 2014 in the Samish basin

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Sixteen conservation plans prioritizing regulatory referrals and other landowners in the Samish and Padilla Bay/Bayview Basins developed and implemented

Funding Sources: Skagit County, Washington State Conservation Commission, City Interlocal Agreements, Puget Sound Partnership, Natural Resources Conservation Service

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| Activities for FY2015 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|---|---------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Provide technical assistance to commercial and non-commercial agricultural producers</i> <i>Write sixteen conservation plans prioritizing ECY referrals and other landowners in the Samish and Padilla Bay/Bayview Basins</i> <i>Update ten dairy nutrient management plans, prioritizing dairies in the Samish Basin</i> <i>Coordinate peer-to-peer neighborhood outreach program</i> ✓ <i>Provide/locate cost-share to implement BMPs identified in plans, prioritizing implementation in the Samish Basin</i> ✓ <i>Conduct five workshops for small scale/noncommercial agricultural producers and other audiences</i> ✓ <i>Coordinate with other agencies on watershed planning and implementation efforts</i> ✓ <i>Clean Samish Initiative participation</i> <i>Executive Committee</i> <i>Project Delivery Team</i> <i>Outreach/Education Subcommittee</i> ✓ <i>Skagit Conservation Education Alliance participation</i> ✓ <i>Puget Sound Partnership/Econet participation</i> ✓ <i>Coordinate Stream Team Monitoring</i> ✓ <i>Coordinate Storm Team Monitoring</i> ✓ <i>Coordinate Marine Biotoxin Monitoring</i> ✓ <i>Conduct social marketing study in the Thomas Creek Sub-basin</i> ✓ <i>Begin data analysis on ocean acidification and sea level rise</i> ✓ <i>Develop DNA testing program</i> ✓ <i>Implement a stormwater education and public involvement program, which includes Low Impact Development (LID)</i> <i>Maintain current interlocal agreements and programs with jurisdictions that are subject to stormwater regulations</i> <i>Coordinate Sustainable Landscapes training and</i> | <p>June 2015</p> | <p>John, Joe, Jeff Kristi, Cindy: Education</p> | <p>4 FTEs</p> | <p>\$572,000 *</p> | |

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certification program for landscape professionals
Promote Puget Sound Starts Here program at the local level
Continue to promote the Clean and Green Car Wash Kit program
Develop and distribute stormwater educational fact sheets and brochures
Develop media campaign to promote the stormwater message
Conduct Backyard Conservation Short course
Develop technical assistance and cost-share program for homeowners to install rain gardens – seek funding
Continue the storm drain labeling program in Mount Vernon, Burlington, Anacortes, And Urban Growth Areas of Skagit County
Promoting stormwater education and water quality protection through presentations utilizing the Enviroscape model
Provide resource materials for local schools
Host public meetings and workshops
Assist staff from the cities, County and drainage districts with Storm Water Management Program (SWMP)evaluation



Program Areas: Forest Health and Invasives

Goals: By 2017, identify and prioritize forest landscapes for treatment.
 By 2019, 5000 acres will have been treated.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: 200 acres will be treated to improve forest health
Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Five forest Stewardship plans developed and implemented

Funding Sources: Skagit County, Washington State Conservation Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Natural Resources

| Activities for FY2015 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Collect data to prioritize landscapes</i> ✓ <i>Provide technical assistance to develop and implement forest stewardship plans</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Write and implement five forest stewardship plans</i> <i>Assist landowners in securing funding to implement plans</i> <i>Provide outreach – co-sponsor at least one workshop on forest health</i> | June 2015 | AI | .5 FTE | \$37,252* | |



Program Area: Land use planning/working land conversion/wildland/urban interface and intermix

Goal: By 2019, SCD will have worked with project partners and the community to ensure an additional 5000 acres of farmland are protected in perpetuity from development

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Assist Skagit County with protecting 1000 farmland acres

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Assist partners with securing funding to double annual farmland protection capacity

Funding Sources: Skagit County, Washington State Conservation Commission, Recreation Conservation Office, Natural Resources Conservation Service

| Activities for FY2015 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|--|--------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ <i>Support efforts to protect and preserve prime farm and forest lands and provide opportunities to promote sustainable natural resource industries</i>✓ <i>Farmland Legacy Program (FLP)/Conservation Futures Advisory Committee Assistance and participation</i>✓ <i>Forestry Advisory Board participation</i>✓ <i>3FI participation and project implementation</i> | On-going | Board Carolyn | .2 FTE | \$18,600* | |



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Program Area: Wildland Urban Interface, Land Use, Climate Change

Goal: Provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to develop and implement defensible space strategies

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Implement 3 fuels reduction projects

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Certify 2 Firewise Communities/USA

Funding Sources: Skagit County, Washington State Conservation Commission, Department of Natural Resources, additional funding to be determined

| Activities for FY2015 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|--|--|---|---------------|-------------------|-------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Implement the Community Wildfire Protection Plan</i> ✓ <i>Seek funding to increase program capacity</i> ✓ <i>Build state-wide Firewise program with partners</i> ✓ <i>Complete updated wildfire risk assessment for county</i> ✓ <i>Complete Fire Section update to Skagit County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan</i> ✓ <i>Facilitate climate change/wildfire discussions</i> | <p>June 2015</p> <p>June 2015 June 2015</p> | <p>Jenny Al</p> <p>Carolyn Jenny</p> | <p>1 FTE</p> | <p>\$85,000*</p> | |



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Program Area: Protect, preserve, and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife

Goals: By 2018, we will work with project partners to implement recommendations of the Farm, Fish, and Flood Initiative process. In the interim, we will continue to serve landowners and operators impacting fish and wildlife habitat. We will work to get 95% of our CREP contracts renewed by 2018.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: 250 feet of stream will be fenced and/or planted

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 14 landowners will re-enroll in CREP

Funding Sources: Skagit County, Washington Conservation Commission, Recreation Conservation Office/Salmon Recovery Funding Board, City of Mount Vernon, additional funding to be determined

| Activities for FY2015 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|---|---------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Implement the CREP Program</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Maintain and monitor existing easements</i> <i>Perform mid-contract mgt. inspections/ report to FSA</i> <i>Continue to promote the enhanced CREP program</i> ✓ <i>Actively participate in Skagit Watershed Council activities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Serve on Administrative Board</i> <i>Assist with implementation projects</i> <i>Assist with project review and prioritization</i> ✓ <i>Implement and maintain DFI riparian projects</i> ✓ <i>Provide engineering assistance to partnering agencies to implement fish and wildlife habitat projects, including lead of NW Conservation District Engineering cluster</i> ✓ <i>Assist RCO/SRFB as member of technical team</i> ✓ <i>Continue Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program</i> ✓ <i>Coordinate with the City of Mount Vernon to perform monitoring services as requested</i> ✓ <i>Conduct a Native Plant Materials Sale</i> ✓ <i>Organize and support volunteer groups to participate in community wildlife habitat program</i> ✓ <i>Participate in 3FI</i> | On-going | Joe: TA, Monitoring Tom: Engineering Carolyn: Policy Plants: AI | 2 FTEs | \$222,500* | |

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Program Area: Soil Tilth, Climate Change, Habitat: Promote and implement projects to sustain adequate drainage for agricultural land

Goal: By 2019, the SCD will implement five projects under the drainage fish initiative.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: 200 acres will have improved drainage

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: One Drainage Fish Initiative project will be planned and implemented

Funding Sources: Skagit County, Washington Conservation Commission, additional funding to be secured

| Activities for FY2015 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| ✓ <i>Work in partnership with Western Washington Ag to implement a minimum of one DFI project</i> | June 2015 | Joe | .1 FTE | \$7,450* | |

Program Area: Maintain sufficient water for adequate food production, people, and fish and wildlife

Goals: By 2017, we will implement a pilot project in the Fisher/Carpenter watershed to show positive impacts on aquifer recharge.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: One pilot project in the Fisher Basin developed resulting in water saved

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 5 landowners contacted and provided information on water conservation/LID

Funding Sources: Department of Ecology, Natural Resources Conservation Service

| Activities for FY2015 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| ✓ <i>Seek funding for landowners to implement water conserving BMPs</i> | June 2015 | Carolyn | .2 FTE | \$15,000* | |
| ✓ <i>Begin pilot project in Fisher Carpenter watershed</i> | | | | | |

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District Program Area: Information – Education

Goals: Provide conservation education opportunities and volunteer activities to residents of all ages throughout Skagit County, increasing knowledge of resource issues while building community stewardship.
 By 2019, increase by 10% workshops from the current number for small-acreage landowners.
 By 2019, co-sponsor five new seminars and workshops for producers for continuing education.
 By 2019, increase by 10% the information opportunities for the public that the district provides/co-sponsors.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Practices completed by program participants tracked

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: One fifth of program goal increases met

Funding Sources: Skagit County, Washington State Conservation Commission, City Interlocal Agreements

| Activities For FY2015 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|--|---------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <p>✓ <i>Provide conservation education opportunities and volunteer activities:</i> <i>Arbor Day proclamation and seedling distribution</i> <i>Soil and Water Stewardship Week proclamation and poster contest</i> <i>Envirothon – host 2015 NW Regional Competition</i> <i>Classroom presentations</i> <i>Sixth Grade Tour</i> <i>Watershed Masters</i> <i>Biannual newsletter</i> <i>Update District brochures and fact sheets</i> <i>Displays at local events including Skagit County Fair, Festival of Family Farms, Mount Vernon Science Night</i> <i>Conduct Stormwater Poster contests in Mount Vernon, Anacortes, Sedro-Woolley, and urban Skagit County</i> <i>Treeture appearances</i> <i>Coordinate volunteer activities</i></p> | <p>June 2015</p> | <p>Adult program: Kristi</p> <p>Youth Program: Cindy</p> <p>Print media: Jenny</p> | <p>1.5 FTE</p> | <p>\$128,122*</p> | |

District Program Area: Program Area: District Operations

Goals: Through 2019, maintain adequate, stable, long-term funding for Skagit Conservation District programs.
 Through 2019, the Skagit Conservation District will continue to be in compliance with policies, procedures, and legal requirements.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Natural resource program results are tracked and reported
Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: The Skagit Conservation District meets statutory, administrative and fiscal responsibilities

Funding Sources: Washington State Conservation Commission, Skagit County

| Activities for FY2015 | Target Dates | Person Responsible | Time(Days) Required | Estimated Funding | Notes |
|--|---------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Meet statutory, administrative and fiscal responsibilities</i> ✓ <i>Maintain Good Governance Standing</i> ✓ <i>Provide leadership and professional development opportunities for Board of Supervisors and staff</i> ✓ <i>Recognize those, including volunteers, who have made a positive contribution toward the protection, enhancement or preservation of Skagit County's natural resources</i> ✓ <i>Update policies and procedures as appropriate</i> ✓ <i>Provide regular progress and performance evaluation on District programs</i> ✓ <i>Maintain current land use and program data bases</i> ✓ <i>Continue to utilize an effective public relations program</i> ✓ <i>Maintain contact with local, state and national representatives, both public and private</i> ✓ <i>Coordinate with other districts to leverage resources to implement mutually beneficial programs</i> ✓ <i>Work to secure adequate and stable funding</i> ✓ <i>Maintain an effective and efficient office environment</i> | June 2015 | Board Carolyn Barbara Cora Carla | 1.5 FTEs | \$200,076* | |

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FY 2015 Draft Budget - Skagit Conservation District

*Conditioned upon final allocation of funding

| <u>Revenues</u> | | |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|
| | Conservation Commission | \$775,893 |
| | Resource Conservation Office | \$40,000 |
| | Interlocals | \$70,000 |
| | Skagit County | \$343,000 |
| | Sales | \$25,000 |
| | Natural Resources Conservation Service | \$10,000 |
| | Puget Sound Partnership | \$20,000 |
| | Misc. contracts | \$20,000 |
| | Sales Tax | \$2,000 |
| | Donations | \$500 |
| | Interest | \$100 |
| | | |
| | Total Income | <u>\$1,306,493</u> |
| | | |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | |
| | Salaries/Benefits | \$776,000 |
| | Overhead Expenses | \$142,000 |
| | Goods and Services | \$50,000 |
| | Travel/training | \$20,000 |
| | Equipment | \$15,000 |
| | Sales Tax | \$2,000 |
| | Professional Services | \$35,000 |
| | Items for Resale | \$16,000 |
| | Cost-share | \$230,000 |
| | Reserve | 20,493 |
| | | |
| | Total Expenses | <u>\$1,306,493</u> |