



# FY 2012 (7/1/11 – 6/30/12) Annual Work Plan Whatcom Conservation District (Adopted May 11, 2011)

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## Mission of the Whatcom Conservation District

- *To assist land managers with their conservation choices.*

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## Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

- **Improving Water Resources**
  - Surface waters of the Drayton Harbor, Birch Bay and Nooksack watersheds will, respectively, meet water quality or TMDL bacterial standards
  - Levels of nitrates in the rural public water supplies of the North County will be reduced to less than 10 mg/liter
  - The quantity of water available for both in and out-of-stream uses for the Bertrand, Fishtrap, Tenmile and South Fork (Black Slough) sub-basins will markedly increase.
  - Flooding from stormwater and poor drainage will be reduced in Ag lands.
- **Sustaining Agriculture**
  - The AG zoning designation will expand to 100,000 acres of farmland.
  - The conflicts between Agricultural and Residential uses will be reduced.
  - City, County and State governments will not adopt policies that result in a net loss in farmland or unduly and unreasonably hamper the ability of local agricultural operations to sustain themselves.
- **Forest Enhancement**
  - The productivity of small woodlots will increase.
  - Homeowners and communities will become safer from the threat of wildfires.
- **Habitat Enhancement**
  - Enhance or protect riparian areas along 10 miles of degraded watercourses.

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## Information & Education Priorities and Goals:

- *Landowners, students and other public entities will make the wise use of natural resources for present and future generations.*
- *Residents of Whatcom County will have a better appreciation for the value of livestock-based industries.*

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## District Operations Priorities, Goals & Funding Sources:

- *Strengthen partnerships and relationships with NRCS and other agencies and groups.*
- *Put the District on firm financial footing.*

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Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices



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- *Maintain the appropriate technical staff to accomplish District goals.*

### Program Area: **IMPROVING WATER RESOURCES**

#### Strategies:

- *Deliver technical and cost share assistance to commercial farming operations that result in the implementation of best management practices that protect and improve water quality.*
- *Enhance supplies of fresh water through landowner adoption of conservation and stormwater infiltration practices.*
- *Consult with agencies on policies and regulatory programs that protect the environment not only to ensure program effectiveness but also avoid undue or unintended negative impacts to livestock-based industries.*

#### Funding Source(s):

- *Washington State Conservation Commission*
- *Whatcom County*
- *Washington Dept. of Ecology*
- *USDA NRCS Technical Service Provider Program*
- *US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

| <b>WATER RESOURCES</b>                       |             |                          |     |    |         |
|--|-------------|--------------------------|-----|----|---------|
| <b>Commercial Livestock</b>                  |             |                          |     |    |         |
| Conduct Risk Assessments                     | On going    | Livestock Team           | 38  | \$ | 13,730  |
| Develop/Update Custom LNMPs                  | On going    | Livestock Team           | 79  | \$ | 29,953  |
| Implement Custom LNMPs                       | On going    | Livestock Team           | 72  | \$ | 27,640  |
| Implement Cost-share Program                 | On going    | Livestock Team           | 16  | \$ | 6,909   |
| ARM Research Project                         | On going    | Nichole                  | 99  | \$ | 33,921  |
| Yakima Clean Air Agency Technical Assistance | Winter 2011 | Nichole                  | 9   | \$ | 3,084   |
| TSP - Planning & Design work                 | On going    | Bill/Chris               | 293 | \$ | 115,133 |
| <b>Non-Commercial Livestock</b>              |             |                          |     |    |         |
| Conduct Risk Assessments                     | On going    | Chuck                    | 23  | \$ | 7,211   |
| Develop Standardized LNMPs                   | On going    | Chuck                    | 56  | \$ | 18,027  |
| Implement Standardized LNMPs                 | On going    | Chuck                    | 56  | \$ | 18,027  |
| Implement Cost-share Program                 | On going    | Chuck                    | 9   | \$ | 2,937   |
| EPA Birch Bay Project                        | On going    | Chuck/Andrew/Dawn/George | 119 | \$ | 45,875  |



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### Crop Farms

|   |          |       |    |    |       |
|---|----------|-------|----|----|-------|
| Develop Standardized Plans for Crop Farmers | On going | Chuck | 11 | \$ | 3,605 |
|---|----------|-------|----|----|-------|

### Conservation

|                                     |          |       |   |    |       |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------|---|----|-------|
| System/metering design/installation | On going | Chris | 2 | \$ | 1,083 |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------|---|----|-------|

### Stormwater Infiltration

|                   |          |       |   |    |       |
|-------------------|----------|-------|---|----|-------|
| Assist Landowners | On going | Frank | 5 | \$ | 1,722 |
|-------------------|----------|-------|---|----|-------|

|                         |          |       |   |    |       |
|-------------------------|----------|-------|---|----|-------|
| Develop/Implement Plans | On going | Frank | 5 | \$ | 1,722 |
|-------------------------|----------|-------|---|----|-------|

|                                       |          |       |   |    |       |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-------|---|----|-------|
| Design/Install Demonstration Projects | On going | Frank | 5 | \$ | 1,722 |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-------|---|----|-------|

### General

|                                   |          |                       |    |    |        |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|----|----|--------|
| Work with Agencies & Stakeholders | On going | Chris/George/ Nichole | 29 | \$ | 15,259 |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|----|----|--------|

|                |  |  |            |           |                |
|----------------|--|--|------------|-----------|----------------|
| <b>TOTALS:</b> |  |  | <b>925</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>347,558</b> |
|----------------|--|--|------------|-----------|----------------|

### Program Area: **SUSTAINING AGRICULTURE**

#### Strategies:

- *Participate on the Whatcom County Ag Advisory Committee to advocate for the expansion of the farmland base, compensated removal of development rights from AG and RR zoned land important for agriculture and other policies that foster the sustained conservation of natural resources.*
- *Support efforts of existing local organizations whose mission is to protect farmland or make farming sustainable.*
- *Participate on Local, State or International committees that develop recommendations that could enhance agricultural sustainability while addressing resource concerns.*
- *Engage or cooperate with researchers in studies that could help livestock operations economically and effectively manage their nutrients.*

#### Funding Source(s):

- *Discretionary Funds*

### **SUSTAINING AGRICULTURE**

|                                 |          |        |    |    |       |
|---------------------------------|----------|--------|----|----|-------|
| TA-County/Agencies/Stakeholders | On going | George | 11 | \$ | 5,952 |
|---------------------------------|----------|--------|----|----|-------|

|                |  |  |           |           |              |
|----------------|--|--|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>TOTALS:</b> |  |  | <b>11</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>5,952</b> |
|----------------|--|--|-----------|-----------|--------------|



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### Program Area: **FOREST ENHANCEMENT**

#### Strategies:

- *Provide technical and cost share assistance to woodlot owners to develop conservation plans that enhance forest resources and protect water quality.*
- *Provide technical assistance to homeowners and communities in fire prone areas to develop “firewise” plans that reduce the fire hazard to their persons & property.*

#### Funding Source(s):

- *Whatcom County*
- *Washington State Conservation Commission grant*
- *Washington Departments of Ecology and Natural Resources*

| <b>FOREST PROTECTION</b>                       |          |       |           |           |              |  |
|--|----------|-------|-----------|-----------|--------------|--|
| TA-Landowners develop/implement forest plans   | On going | Wayne | 11        | \$        | 4,152        |  |
| TA-Landowners develop/implement Firewise plans | On going |       | 0         | \$        | -            |  |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>                                 |          |       | <b>11</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>4,152</b> |  |

### Program Area: **HABITAT ENHANCEMENT**

#### Strategies:

- *Provide technical and cost share assistance to landowners for the installation and maintenance of CREP eligible practices along eligible watercourses.*
- *Partner with the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association and obtain grant funding to re-meander and install large woody debris in straightened and degraded watercourses.*
- *Partner with Whatcom County Flood Division, WIDs & DIDs to provide a program developing and implementing fish, water quality/quantity friendly irrigation/drainage plans.*
- *Partner with Whatcom County Planning & Development Services to deliver a program of technical and cost share assistance to non-commercial livestock operations that result in the implementation of best management practices that protect sensitive areas and improve water quality.*

#### Funding Source(s):

- *Washington Conservation Commission*
- *Washington Dept. of Ecology*
- *Whatcom County*



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### HABITAT ENHANCEMENT CREP

|  |               |             |     |    |        |
|--|---------------|-------------|-----|----|--------|
| Develop and Plant 30 CREP Projects   | Winter/Spring | Wayne/Emily | 248 | \$ | 79,431 |
| Monitor and ensure proper maintenance of ~175 CREP Projects                  | Summer/Fall   | CREP Team   | 259 | \$ | 81,829 |
| Effectively administer CREP cost-share and maintenance reimbursement program | On going      | CREP Team   | 90  | \$ | 31,040 |

### WID & DID Management Plans

|   |        |       |     |    |        |
|---|--------|-------|-----|----|--------|
| Plant and maintain DID riparian buffers | Spring | Frank | 106 | \$ | 40,456 |
|---|--------|-------|-----|----|--------|

### General

|   |          |               |    |    |        |
|---|----------|---------------|----|----|--------|
| Record plan and management data records into database                     | On going | Riparian Team | 9  | \$ | 3,232  |
| Create/Update Plan GIS Shape files  | On going | Riparian Team | 32 | \$ | 10,736 |
| Mitigate/adapt for Climate Change   | On going | Riparian Team | 9  | \$ | 4,432  |
| Receive Professional Training Appropriate for Staff to Meet Program Tasks | On going | Riparian Team | 20 | \$ | 6,682  |

**TOTALS: 772 \$ 257,837**

### Program Area: **PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION (PIE)**

#### Strategies:

- *Promote conservation-wise stewardship practices to landowners, students and other public entities through various media.*
- *Connect with urban dwellers through a plant sale, farmers markets and county fair.*
- *Hold workshops on topics of small farm stewardship and low impact development.*
- *Coordinate with other organizations and agencies on natural resource education efforts.*

#### Funding Source(s):

- *Washington Conservation Commission*
- *Washington Dept. of Ecology*
- *Whatcom County*
- *US Environmental Protection Agency*
- *Sales of Native plants.*



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## **PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION (PIE)**

|   |            |                  |            |           |               |
|---|------------|------------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Publish Whatcom Conservation News   | Biannually | WCD Staff        | 34         | \$        | 11,142        |
| Publish presentations, flyers, videos, internet content                                 | On going   | WCD Staff        | 5          | \$        | 1,602         |
| Staff booth at Farmers Market & NW Washington Fair in Lynden                            | Summer     | WCD Staff        | 0          | \$        | -             |
| Conduct Annual Native Plant Sale  | Feb/Mar    | WCD Staff        | 38         | \$        | 10,809        |
| Conduct school presentations and educational workshops                                  | On going   | WCD Staff        | 0          | \$        | -             |
| Provide support (office, graphics, website & GIS ) to partners in sub-basin initiatives | On going   | PIE & Admin Team | 34         | \$        | 11,121        |
| Conduct livestock stewardship workshops   | On going   | Chuck            | 23         | \$        | 7,211         |
| Conduct Rain Garden workshops   | On going   | WCD Staff        | 2          | \$        | 861           |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>  |            |                  | <b>135</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>42,746</b> |

## Program Area: ***DISTRICT OPERATIONS***

### Strategies:

- *Support the District's Board so they may serve successfully as the grassroots representatives of landowners and general public of Whatcom County by achieving widespread voluntary cooperation in natural resource conservation programs.*
- *Serve as the technical resource for landowners, general public and agencies on conservation matters.*
- *Administer District operations to ensure compliance with its enabling statute RCW 89.08 et seq. As well as the policies and standards established by the Commission or other funding sources.*
- *Capture financial resources to implement Annual and Long Range Plans*
- *Participate in the County's initiative to develop a comprehensive water resources management funding strategy*
- *Maintain the appropriate technical staff to accomplish the District goals.*

### Funding Source(s):

- *All Grants*
- *Discretionary Funds*



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### **DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

|  |          |             |            |           |                |
|--|----------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| Recruit/Support District Supervisors and Associates in implementing the District Charge.   | On going | George      | 5          | \$        | 2,381          |
| General Technical Assistance to Agencies, Public and Landowners not addressed through other programs.  | On going | George      | 68         | \$        | 35,710         |
| Administer Programs/Grants consistent with prescribed management standards   | On going | Dawn/George | 207        | \$        | 79,401         |
| Pursue and obtain funding to implement District Annual and Long Range Plans  | On going | George      | 20         | \$        | 10,713         |
| Provide the training, equipment and support to District staff necessary to successfully accomplish their respective program responsibilities | On going | Dawn/George | 7          | \$        | 2,685          |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>  |          |             | <b>306</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>130,890</b> |

### **FY11-12 Desired Level of Staffing and Funding:**

| <b>FY 10-11 Programs</b>       | <b>Full-time<br/>Equivalents</b> | <b>Estimated Funding</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Improving Water Resources      | 4.11                             | \$ 347,558.04            |
| Sustaining Agriculture         | 0.05                             | \$ 5,951.70              |
| Forest Protection              | 0.05                             | \$ 4,151.70              |
| Habitat Enhancement            | 3.43                             | \$ 257,836.68            |
| Public Information & Education | 0.60                             | \$ 42,746.04             |
| District Operations            | 1.36                             | \$ 130,890.24            |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                  |                                  | <b>\$ 789,134.40</b>     |
| Overhead (25%)                 |                                  | \$ 197,283.60            |
|                                |                                  | <b>\$ 986,418.00</b>     |