



# FY2011 (7/1/10 – 6/30/11) Annual Work Plan Whatcom Conservation District (Adopted April 10, 2010)

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## Mission of the Whatcom Conservation District

- *To serve present and future generations of Whatcom County through a natural resource conservation program of leadership, partnership, and technical, educational & financial assistance to foster a healthy, sustainable relationship between people and the environment.*

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## Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

- **Improving Water Resources**
  - Surface waters of the Drayton Harbor 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 and Fishtrap 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.
  - Four Drainage Improvement Districts will develop fish-friendly, management plans including maintenance of ditches, appropriate riparian area implementation, and water storage.

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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:

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Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices



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- *Strengthen partnerships and relationships with NRCS and other agencies and groups.*
- *Put the District on firm financial footing.*
- *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.*
- *Assist WIDs and DIDs with development & implementation of Comprehensive Irrigation and Drainage Management Plans.*

#### Funding Source(s):

- *Washington State Conservation Commission*
- *Whatcom County*
- *Washington Dept. of Ecology*
- *USDA NRCS Technical Service Provider Program*
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#### **WATER RESOURCES**

##### **Commercial Livestock**

Conduct Risk Assessments	On going	Livestock Team	50	\$	16,394
Develop/Update Custom LNMPs	On going	Livestock Team	101	\$	33,955
Implement Custom LNMPs	On going	Livestock Team	97	\$	32,527
Implement Cost-share Program	On going	Livestock Team	23	\$	8,957
TSP - Planning & Design work	On going	Bill/Chris	321	\$	123,467

##### **Non-Commercial Livestock**

Conduct Risk Assessments	On going	Chuck/Beth	62	\$	20,902
Develop Standardized LNMPs	On going	Chuck/Beth	96	\$	32,091
Implement Standardized LNMPs	On going	Chuck/Beth	84	\$	28,361



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Implement Cost-share Program	On going	Chuck/Beth	23	\$	7,587
<b>Crop Farms</b>					
Develop Standardized Plans for Crop Farmers	On going	Chuck/Beth	11	\$	3,730
<b>Conservation</b>					
System/metering design/installation	On going	Chris	2	\$	1,058
<b>Stormwater Infiltration</b>					
Assist Landowners	On going	Frank	11	\$	4,381
Develop/Implement Plans	On going	Frank	11	\$	4,381
Design/Install Demonstration Projects	On going	Frank	11	\$	4,381
<b>General</b>					
Work with Agencies & Stakeholders	On going	Chris/George/ Nichole	50	\$	21,362
<b>TOTALS:</b>			<b>952</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>343,534</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*

<b>SUSTAINING AGRICULTURE</b>					
TA-County/Agencies/Stakeholders	On going	George	11	\$	6,053
<b>TOTALS:</b>			<b>11</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,053</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*

#### **FOREST PROTECTION**

TA-Landowners develop/implement forest plans	On going	Wayne	11	\$	4,171
TA-Landowners develop/implement Firewise plans	On going	Sonya	11	\$	3,376
<b>TOTALS:</b>			<b>23</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,547</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/Sonya	268	\$	89,486
Monitor and ensure proper maintenance of ~175 CREP Projects	Summer/Fall	CREP Team	191	\$	63,152
Effectively administer CREP cost-share and maintenance reimbursement program	On going	CREP Team	34	\$	11,213

## WID & DID Management Plans

Develop 4 management plans	On going	Frank/George	131	\$	57,511
Plant and maintain DID riparian buffers	Spring	Frank	92	\$	35,926

## General

Record plan and management data records into database	On going	Riparian Team	9	\$	3,227
Create/Update Plan GIS Shape files	On going	Riparian Team	43	\$	13,961
Receive Professional Training Appropriate for Staff to Meet Program Tasks	On going	Riparian Team	23	\$	7,579

**TOTALS: 790 \$ 282,054**

## 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*
- *Sales of Native plants.*



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

Publish Whatcom Conservation News	Biannually	WCD Staff	43	\$	14,302
Publish presentations, flyers, videos, internet content	On going	WCD Staff	31	\$	10,266
Staff booth at Farmers Market & NW Washington Fair in Lynden	Summer	WCD Staff	4	\$	1,219
Conduct Annual Native Plant Sale	Feb/Mar	WCD Staff	24	\$	7,845
Conduct school presentations and educational workshops	On going	WCD Staff	6	\$	1,943
Provide support (office, graphics, website & GIS ) to partners in sub-basin initiatives	On going	PIE & Admin Team	34	\$	10,873
Conduct livestock stewardship workshops	On going	Chuck/Beth	62	\$	20,742
Conduct Rain Garden workshops	On going	WCD Staff	2	\$	876
<b>TOTALS:</b>			<b>204</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>68,066</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	2	\$	1,211
General Technical Assistance to Agencies, Public and Landowners not addressed through other programs.	On going	George	68	\$	36,320
Administer Programs/Grants consistent with prescribed management standards	On going	Dawn/George	230	\$	86,255
Pursue and obtain funding to implement District Annual and Long Range Plans	On going	George	20	\$	10,896
Provide the training, equipment and support to District staff necessary to successfully accomplish their respective program responsibilities	On going	Dawn/George	7	\$	2,677
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>326</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>137,360</b>

## FY10-11 Desired Level of Staffing and Funding:

FY 10-11 Programs	Full-time Equivalents	Estimated Funding
Improving Water Resources	4.23	\$ 343,533.89
Sustaining Agriculture	0.05	\$ 6,053.40
Forest Protection	0.10	\$ 7,546.50
Habitat Enhancement	3.51	\$ 282,054.42
Public Information & Education	0.91	\$ 68,065.99
District Operations	1.45	\$ 137,359.80
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 844,614.00</b>
Overhead (25%)		\$ 211,153.50
		<b>\$ 1,055,767.50</b>