



FRANKLIN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# 5-Year Plan (2026 to 2031) 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.

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## 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.

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## We Serve & Why

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

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## Mission

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

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## Vision

Our vision is a well-informed community in which agriculture remains viable and is supported by a shared understanding of conservation, with residents actively engaged in protecting Franklin County’s land, water, and air through education, innovation, and shared responsibility.

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## Values

We value leadership, honesty, and integrity; a strong conservation ethic; and flexible, locally responsive service to our constituents through quality customer service and technically sound, economically feasible solutions.

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## Natural Resource Data & Information

Area Description	Acres
Franklin County	809,608
Cultivated Cropland	468,672
Irrigated Cropland	220,959
Dry Cropland	247,709
Rangeland	152,300
Pasture	
Public Land Non-DNR	87,350
Public Land DNR	40,138
Private Land	620,618
City Urban Growth Areas	41,329

In 2024, 82,988 acres of dry cropland have been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Less than 1.2% 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.

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### **Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Priority Geographic Areas**

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

<b>Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>
Water Quantity (use, conservation, aquifer recharge)	Entire district
Soil Quality (Quantity, Health, Erosion Control)	Entire district
Water Quality Improvement (ground and surface)	Entire district
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	Goals	Measures of Success	Progress
<b>Water Quantity</b> (use, conservation, aquifer recharge)	Continue to improve water use efficiency by agricultural irrigators in the County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of irrigation conversions supported</li> <li>• Estimated volume of water conserved (ac-ft)</li> <li>• Acres implementing water management practices</li> <li>• Length of open ditches converted to pipeline</li> </ul>	
	Continue to provide service to FCWCB and assist with water right transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain eligibility for all members of water conservancy board</li> <li>• Move transfers/changes through in a timely fashion</li> </ul>	
	Identify opportunities to increase groundwater in the Lake Kahlotus basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generate a support statement for the East High Canal and follow through with legislators/WACD</li> <li>• Continue work with OGWRP participants to reduce groundwater use to surface water use</li> <li>• Identify and pursue possible funding sources for baseline monitoring and community engagement</li> </ul>	
	Continue to provide Heritage Garden services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of landowners assisted</li> <li>• Number of certified gardens</li> <li>• Estimated water savings (gal/yr)</li> </ul>	

<b>Natural Resource Conservation Need</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measures of Success</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Water Quality Improvement</b> (ground and surface)	Continue to support the implementation of nutrient and waste management practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres under nutrient management practices</li> <li>• Number of operations under nutrient management systems</li> </ul>	
	Continued support of manure storage systems at current standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of waste transfers supported</li> <li>• Number of waste management facilities supported</li> </ul>	
	Support efforts to monitor and reduce nitrates in groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of active partnerships in monitoring</li> <li>• Identify high priority areas for targeted implementation and monitoring</li> </ul>	
	Support all CAFO operations with nutrient management plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres impacted</li> <li>• Number of landowners assisted</li> <li>• Secure partnerships with neighboring CDs for technical support on DNMP and TA related to dairies and CAFOs (ILAs in place)</li> </ul>	

<b>Natural Resource Conservation Need</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Measures of Success</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Soil Quality</b> (quantity, health, erosion control)	Support the adoption of new conservation technologies improving soil health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres of conservation tillage implementing new technology</li> <li>• Acres implementing soil health practices</li> </ul>	
	Increase soil health components of technical assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of soil samples provided</li> </ul>	
	Reduce soil losses to wind erosion*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimated PM10 reduction from supported practices*</li> </ul>	
	Design a cover crop program (plan, funding, implementation) and include circle corners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan developed</li> <li>• Funding sources identified and secured</li> <li>• Pilot program implementation</li> </ul>	

<b>Natural Resource Conservation Need</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Measures of Success</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Air Quality</b>	Reduce soil losses to wind erosion*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimated PM10 reduction from supported practices*</li> <li>• Acres of relevant practices supported</li> </ul>	
	Support odor reduction projects for agricultural operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of projects supported</li> </ul>	
	Provide alternative practices and approaches to ag burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of projects supported</li> <li>• Acres of relevant practices</li> <li>• Number of prescribed burn plans</li> </ul>	

Natural Resource Conservation Need	Goal	Measurers of Success	Progress
<b>Wildlife Habitat</b>	Improve wildlife habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of structures for wildlife (raptor poles, guzzlers, owl dens/perches, duck boxes, floating wetlands, bat boxes, etc.)</li> <li>• Acres of habitat management practices supported</li> </ul>	
	Improve pollinator habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres of pollinator habitat supported</li> </ul>	
	Develop a consistent wildlife habitat monitoring effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres monitored</li> <li>• Species identified/documentated</li> </ul>	
	Become a regional source for native plants (propagation and restoration)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of seed collection efforts</li> <li>• Number of species collected locally</li> <li>• Funding opportunities pursued</li> </ul>	

<b>Natural Resource Conservation Need</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Measures of Success</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Education</b>	Increase outreach events to growers, public, partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend 3-5 outreach events per year</li> <li>• Offer 1-2 grower events per year (demos, pesticide credit workshops, annual meeting)</li> </ul>	
	Maintain current classroom-based education programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure 3-5 year contract for Wheat Week, Drain Rangers</li> </ul>	
	Secure funding for Salmon in the Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annex City of Pasco into CD</li> <li>• Find grants to provide funding for equipment/materials</li> </ul>	
	Increase awareness of FCD services and outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and install FCD signage throughout the county</li> <li>• Create a clear one-page handout of services offered through FCD</li> </ul>	

<b>Natural Resource Conservation Need</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>	<b>Progress</b>
District Operations	Remain in good financial standing with WSCC and the state auditor's office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have clean, successful audits</li> <li>• Remain in compliance to WSCC's CAPP standards</li> </ul>	
	Secure stable funding for district operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annex City of Pasco into CD</li> <li>• Secure an increase in R&amp;C from County</li> <li>• Identify outside funding sources (nursery, shrubsteppe mitigation)</li> </ul>	
	Maintain a 5-member board of supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit new associate supervisors</li> <li>• Identify 1-2 potential new board members</li> </ul>	

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### **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
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**Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices.**

