



**CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**  
OF WASHINGTON STATE  
*your window to healthy lands*



# Franklin Conservation District



Annual Work Plan for 2025

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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.

## Natural Resource Priorities

### **Water Quantity (use, conservation)**

- Natural resource priority description: Water is a valuable resource in Washington. Using our resources wisely will help us fill the needs of people, industries, businesses, and farms, while also keeping fish and other aquatic life alive and well. Across the state these water users have diverse needs and goals we must find a way to share limited, fluctuating supplies. Water conservation— using water efficiently and avoiding waste—is fundamental to ensuring water availability in the future. In order to protect our water supply everyone can practice conservation. In our businesses, schools, and homes, using water more efficiently will lessen the effects of limited water supply. ~ ECY

Much of the water in the Lower Snake Watershed and the Esquatzel Coulee Watershed has already been spoken for. Increased demands from population growth, declining groundwater levels, and impacts from climate change are adding to the challenge of finding new water supplies in WRIA 33 and 36, especially during the summer months.~ ECY

- Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority? YES (See Priority Description Above and Source Data below)
- Source of data: FCD's Five Year Plan, Tri-Cities Urban Area Landscape Irrigation Plan, 2006, ECY Publication 11-11-040 and ECY Publication 11-11-037, Columbia Basin GWMA Plan, Franklin County Voluntary Stewardship Plan.
- Other entities: Columbia Snake River Irrigators Association, NRCS, Columbia Basin GWMA

### **Water Quality Improvement (ground and surface)**

- Natural resource priority description: The major water-quality issues in Washington are preserving the quality of public drinking water supplies and the effects of non-point-source contamination on ground and surface waters. The quality of surface water and its effect on the health of aquatic ecosystems also is becoming increasingly important. Nitrate is the most prevalent drinking water quality concern in the State, but pesticide contamination of water supplies is a major issue in some areas. Agriculture, a major industry in the state, has had a wide effect on water quality, especially in eastern Washington. ~ USGS

The Columbia Basin Ground Water Management Area or GWMA of Adams, Franklin, Grant, and Lincoln Counties is made up of local citizens, stakeholders, industries, and leaders and is a

non-regulatory, pro-active, voluntary organization whose main goal is to protect groundwater and address issues relating to the aquifer system underlying the four-county area. ~ GWMA  
The Columbia Basin GWMA was first designated in February 1998, in response to concerns due to elevated nitrate concentrations in groundwater. The maximum contaminant level (MCL) established for nitrate in drinking water by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) as nitrogen. Nitrate concentrations greater than 3 mg/L are generally considered to indicate likely impacts from agricultural or other human activities (Ryker and Frans, 2000). In the most recent (2006) biannual mass sampling event (Columbia Basin GWMA, 2007b) the median nitrate concentration was 4.2 mg/L while the maximum detected was 84.9 mg/L. Nitrate concentrations were greater than 3 mg/L in 57% of the wells sampled and 22% exceeded the MCL. Concentrations greater than the MCL occurred most frequently in Franklin County (31% of wells sampled) and least frequently in Grant (16%) county. ~ GWMA

- Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority? YES (See Priority Description Above and Source Data below)
- Source of data: Columbia Basin Ground Water Management Area, Franklin CD's 5 Year Plan, ECY 96-017, Site Specific Inventories, Franklin County Voluntary Stewardship Plan
- Other entities: NRCS, CB GWMA, ECY

### **Soil Quantity, Quality, Health, and Erosion Control**

- Natural resource priority description: Soil quality, also referred to as soil health, is how well soil does what we want it to do. More specifically, soil quality is the capacity of a specific kind of soil to function, within natural or managed ecosystem boundaries, to sustain plant and animal productivity, maintain or enhance water and air quality, and support human health and habitation. Soil Organic Matter and Soil Biology play a major role in soil quality. ~ NRCS

Wind or water erosion is the physical wearing of the earth's surface. Surface soil material is removed in the process. Erosion removes topsoil, reduces levels of soil organic matter, and contributes to the breakdown of soil structure. This creates a less favorable environment for plant growth. ~ NRCS

In Franklin County 278,044 acres are categorized as HEL, or Highly Erodible Land. Highly Erodible Land refers to land that is very susceptible to erosion.

- Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority? YES (See Priority Description Above and Source Data below)
- Source of data: ECY Air Quality Monitoring Stations, Columbia Plateau PM10 Project Research, WSU, USDA-ARS, FSA, Franklin County Voluntary Stewardship Plan

### **Wildlife Habitat**

- Natural resource priority description: Shrub steppe communities form the iconic, western landscape of open sagebrush plains, rim rock, and tumbleweeds. Described as vegetation communities consisting of one or more layers of perennial grass with a discontinuous over story

layer of shrubs, shrub steppe historically dominated the landscape in eastern Washington. Some of the many species of wildlife that inhabit shrub steppe can only be found in these semi-arid communities. Today, less than 50% of Washington's historic shrub steppe remains and much of it is degraded, fragmented, and/or isolated from other similar habitats. Conversion to cropland has resulted in the greatest loss of shrub steppe in Washington, leading to a fragmented landscape and a differentially high loss of deep-soil communities. Across the Intermountain West, shrub steppe communities have been lost or degraded by conversion to cropland, extensive energy extraction, and alteration of the vegetation through over-grazing, invasion by exotic plants and changes in fire frequency. ~ WDFW

Pollinators are essential to our environment. The ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of nearly 70 percent of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's crop species. The United States alone grows more than one hundred crops that either need or benefit from pollinators, and the economic value of these native pollinators is estimated at \$3 billion per year in the U.S. Beyond agriculture, pollinators are keystone species in most terrestrial ecosystems.

Fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a major part of the diet of approximately 25 percent of all birds, and of mammals ranging from red-backed voles to grizzly bears. In many places, the essential service of pollination is at risk from habitat loss, pesticide use, and introduced diseases. ~ Xerces

- Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority? YES (See Priority Description Above and Source Data below)
- Source of data: Inadequate Habitat for Wildlife in areas adjacent to cropland that have been degraded per FCD Five Year Plan, WDFW's Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species – Volume IV, 2004, Site Specific Inventories and MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WASHINGTON'S PRIORITY HABITATS: Managing Shrub steppe in Developing Landscapes, 2011, Franklin County Voluntary Stewardship Plan
- Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern: NRCS, Xerces, WSDA, WDFW, ECY

### **Air Quality**

- Natural resource priority description: During the late 1980s and early 1990s a large number of exceedances of the 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) from particulate matter ten microns or less (PM10) were recorded in Spokane, Kennewick, and Wallula, Washington. An examination showed a close correlation to high wind events. The Kennewick monitor has had 7 exceedances in the last five years. The exceedances are primarily attributable to activity on agricultural fields, although other sources may contribute. If any area exceeds pollution concentrations defined by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards or NAAQS more frequently than is permitted by the rule, the area is put into "non-attainment". The non-attainment status has significant planning and possibly economic impacts to that area. Since the policy does require that dust originating from man-made sources be controlled

according to a best practice, documenting that essentially “nothing more could have been done” to prevent the exceedances avoids a determination of non-attainment. ~ BCAA

- Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority? YES (See Priority Description Above and Source Data below)
- Source of data: ECY Air Quality Monitoring Stations, Columbia Plateau PM10 Project Research, WSU, USDA-ARS, Franklin County Voluntary Stewardship Plan
- Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern: ECY

## Program Areas:

### Natural Resource Priority Program Area

**Natural Resource Priority Program Area:** Water Quantity and Quality

**Goal(s):** Have a demonstrated increase in the number of irrigated acres; number of irrigated acres under irrigation water management, the number of water right transfers; the issuance of new water rights, and the amount of water saved and available for use in Franklin County. Have a demonstrated increase in the number of acres enrolled in irrigation water management and nutrient management; the sources of pollution addressed; a decrease in the amount of nitrates in ground water; and improvements in water quality measurements.

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Funding Source(s):** See Notes Section

Activities for FY2025	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Provide cost-share to producers for irrigation conversions, VFD's, and livestock best management practices.	7/24-6/25	Mark / Kara / Riley	15	\$50,000	WSCC
Provide Irrigation Water Management Technical Assistance and Info/Ed to producers.	7/24-6/25	Mark / Riley / Max	10	\$5,000	Rates & Charges
Provide technical assistance to 12 livestock operations to implement nutrient management on 6,000 acres.	7/24-6/25	staff	12	\$12,000	Seeking funding

Participate as director and oversee implementation of P.E. Grant with FCD, BCD, SYCD, and CBCD	7/24-6/25	Mark / Kara / Marcie	3	\$250,000	WSCC
Continue working with CBCD on OGWRP water conservation and quality program	7/24-6/25	Mark / Kara / Riley	3	\$1,000	WSCC
Implement Heritage Garden Program in Franklin County	7/24-6/25	Kelsey	30	\$10,000	WSCC
Provide staffing for Franklin County Water Conservancy Board	7/24-6/25	Mark / Kara	18	\$7,500	Inter-governmental service agreement / Rates & Charges
Respond to requests for water quality information on wells, water systems, wellhead protection, etc. as requested & available	7/24-6/25	Staff	2.5	\$1,000	Rates & Charges
Implement Voluntary Stewardship Program	7/24-6/25	Mark / Kara / Riley / Kelsi	15	\$240,000	WSU / USBR

**Natural Resource Priority Program Area:** Soil Quantity, Quality, Health, Erosion Control and Air Quality

**Goal(s):** Have a demonstrated increase in farms at soil loss tolerance level or better; the number of producers understanding soil condition index (SCI); increase in soil biological activity (soil sampling); and numbers of people attempting improvement in soil quantity, quality, etc. (people participating). Have a demonstrated reduction in PM 10 emissions; # of complaints (dust, odor, smoke); and an increase in # of people served and the number of acres addressed in conservation plans.

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Funding Source(s):** See Notes Section

Activities for FY2025	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Implement Franklin County’s agricultural burn permit program. Accept burn permit applications and issue burn permits	7/24-6/25	Mark / Kara / Riley	20	\$5,000	Permit Fees
Seek funding to promote no-till and conservation tillage practices in the dryland from Ecology’s Prevent Non-attainment funds and/or Climate Commitment Act for Overburdened Communities funds and/or WSCC’s Sustainable Farms and Fields Grant	7/24-6/25	Kara / Riley	3	\$1,000	Rates & Charges



**Natural Resource Priority Program Area:** Wildlife Habitat

**Goal(s):** Have a demonstrated increase in the acres in 'habitat' balance; in the number of acres of new and enhanced wildlife habitat; and the number and acres of habitat addressed in conservation plans.

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Funding Source(s):** See Notes Section

<b>Activities for FY2025</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time(Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Provide technical input on Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas and provide county residents with assistance in developing mitigation plans to meet Franklin County Critical Area Ordinance requirements.	7/24-6/25	Staff	3	\$1,000	Rates & Charges
Provide technical assistance to develop beneficial insect and pollinator habitat enhancement projects.	7/24-6/25	Riley / Kelsi	15	\$5,000	WSCC / Grants
Continue to partner with the City of Pasco on the implementation of the shrub steppe mitigation agreement.	7/24-6/25	Mark / Kara	5	\$5,000	Mitigation Agreement

## District Programs

**District Program Area:** District Operations & Education

**Goal(s):** Have successful district and state audits; a demonstrated increase in people that want to become supervisors; stable funding for programs and operations. Have a demonstrated increase in the number of people reached; number of education activities; and number of people performing conservation activities. Have a demonstrated increase in the number of agreements with entities; and the number of people participating in programs & services.

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Funding Source(s):** See Notes Section

Activities for FY2025	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Attend WACD Annual Meeting, WADE Training, WACD Legislative Days, NACD Annual Meeting	numerous	Board / Staff	12	\$7,500	WSCC
Continue increasing FCD's outreach and presence thru the use of social media, newspapers, and grower meetings	7/24 – 6/25	Kara / Max	20	\$10,000	WSCC / Rates & Charges / VSP
Conduct Wheat Week throughout WA, deliver Stormwater Education Curriculum for eastern WA, STEM Academy, and Salmon in the Classroom in Franklin County	7/24 – 6/25	Kara / Meghan / Liz / Kristy / educators	1,500	\$575,000	WGC / ECY / Quad Cities / Yakima Co. / City of Yakima / NYCD / WSCC
Organize and archive all stored documents (FCD&BCD)	7/24 – 6/25	Kara, Brie, Kamaile, Taylor	180	\$25,000	State archives grant
Keep County Commissioners apprised of activities funded through Rates & Charges.	7/24 – 6/25	Mark, Kara, Board	3	\$1,000	Rates & Charges
Increase expertise in accounting procedures and software.	7/24 – 6/25	Mark, Kara, Bookkeeper	3	\$1,000	WSCC / Rates & Charges
Continue to update the District's capital asset list.	7/24 – 6/25	Staff	1	\$330	Rates & Charges

# Budget

## Annual Budget - Franklin Conservation District

	Proposed
3340330 · Grant Income-WSCC	540,000.00
3340691 · Grain Commission	420,000.00
3370704 · District Rates & Charges	70,000.00
3370705 · Other Counties	20,000.00
3370801 · Income from City	55,000.00
3370900 · Inter-Governmental Services	170,000.00
3370901 · Education Grant-Interlocal	65,000.00
3414310 · Burn Permit	6,000.00
3417101 · Sales	500.00
3611111 · GESA - Checking Interest	1000.00
3611130 · Money Market Interest	10.00
3611190 · Interest - WA Investment Pool	25,000.00
3671110 · Private Grants, Gift Donations	1,000.00
3699001 · Miscellaneous Revenue	2,500.00
3860001 · Sales Tax Collected	30.00
3860020 · Ecology – Burn Permits	16,000.00
Total Income	<hr/> 1,392,040.00
Expense	
5531110 · Salaries & Wages	650,000.00
5531120 · Benefits	100,000.00
5531142 · Election Advertising	100.00
5531149 · Bank Service Charges	30.00
5531240 · Cost-Share Growers	150,000.00
5531040 · Intergov. Pass thru Payments	17,500.00
5531831 · Office & Operating Supplies	50,000.00
5531832 · Field Expendable Supplies, Fuel	3,000.00
5531835 · Tools & Equipment	9,000.00
5531841 · Professional/Intergovernmental Services	320,000.00
5531842 · Communication	8,000.00
5531843 · Travel	30,000.00
5531845 · Rentals & Leases	1,500.00
5531846 · Insurance	22,500.00

5531847 · Utilities	6,500.00
5531848 · Repairs & Maintenance	2,000.00
5531849 · Miscellaneous	15,000.00
5531040 · Burn Permit	15,000.00
5899000 · Sales Tax Remitted	50.00
Total Expense	<hr/> 1,385,130.00