



Washington State Conservation Commission

The Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) represents the voluntary side of conservation and is the coordinating agency for all 45 conservation districts in our state. Together, the SCC and conservation districts provide programs and services that empower people to take actions that keep natural resources and farmland healthy for all.

About Us:

- ▶ The SCC is the non-regulatory state agency that coordinates and assists all 45 conservation districts in Washington.
- ▶ Our incentive-based programs make it easier and more affordable for people to become natural resource stewards.
- ▶ We find voluntary conservation solutions that integrate local, state, tribal, and federal natural resource priorities.

It's About Stewardship

Washington State is rich in diverse natural resources. This wealth creates opportunity, exhibited by our strong agriculture, thriving port cities, and growing population.

As more people enjoy and use our natural resources, the demand for conservation increases. The success of conservation efforts increasingly depends on resource stewardship by landowners and residents.

Who We Are

At the SCC, our goal is for every person in Washington to have the knowledge, tools, and capacity to voluntarily conserve natural resources.

How we do this:

- ▶ Provide financial and operational support to conservation districts.
- ▶ Administer voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs.
- ▶ Facilitate collaborative natural resource and land use solutions.

What Are Conservation Districts?

Conservation districts — sometimes referred to as “CDs” — engage people with voluntary actions that keep our air, water, soil, habitats, and farmland healthy for all.

Each county is represented by at least one conservation district. They're community-based hubs of expertise and funding that are staffed by locals who understand landscapes and fellow community-members that they serve.

CDs provide a range of services tailored to the local community and landscape, such as:

- ▶ Livestock and nutrient management
- ▶ Habitat restoration
- ▶ Water quality and quantity improvement
- ▶ Soil, forest, and range health
- ▶ Stormwater management
- ▶ Wildfire preparedness and recovery.



Why Use a Voluntary, Incentive-Based Approach to Conservation?

It engages landowners as partners in stewardship.

- ▶ Incentives spark participation instead of conflict.
- ▶ Many landowners become spokespeople for conservation following positive experiences.

It's farm-friendly, which is good for the economy and the environment.

- ▶ Incentives represent a business opportunity for farm operations, rather than a business risk.
- ▶ Farmers are involved in conservation planning and projects, ensuring that solutions keep their operation in business and take care of the environment.

It's fair and practical.

- ▶ Washington landscapes are too diverse for a "one-size-fits-all" solution to resource management.
- ▶ Landowners work with local CD technicians to design conservation projects, resulting in solutions that are based on scientific data and landowners' detailed knowledge of their property.



Success Stories From Efforts Supported by Conservation Districts and the SCC:

- ▶ Over 1,500 acres of shellfish harvest area have been upgraded in Dungeness Bay as a result of voluntary efforts to improve water quality in the watershed.
- ▶ Stream temperatures decreased and instream flow increased after a voluntary effort enhanced salmon habitat in the Tucannon River.
- ▶ The headwaters of Manastash Creek are accessible to fish for the first time in a century, opening 20 miles of habitat for steelhead, following a voluntary process to remove fish barriers and improve instream flow.



Before and after pictures of an SCC-funded conservation district project. Asotin County Conservation District helped a landowner install a livestock bridge across Tenmile Creek. Prior to bridge installation, more than 300 cow-calf pairs would wade through the creek perilously close to spawning steelhead.



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