

CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT LONG RANGE PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Clark Conservation District is to protect, conserve, and improve the natural resources of the District. We focus on water quality, soils management to limit erosion and run off, and critical habitat areas; and guiding use through project implementation, outreach and education of best management practices, enhancement, and development to benefit present and future citizens.



Primary Function of the District

The primary function of the District is to assist land users and others who participate in making land use decisions in resource conservation activities. This takes the form of encouraging proper use and treatment of renewable, natural resources and making available necessary technical and material assistance.

Assistance provided by the District may also include partnering with various entities for technical specialists and financial assistance. For example:

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service	Fish First
Clark County Executive Horse Council	Columbia Land Trust
Clark County Public Works	WSU Extension
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	Clark Public Utilities
Washington Department of Ecology	Washington State Fish and Wildlife
Washington State Conservation Commission	WA Dept of Natural Resources
Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group	Clark County Weed Board

District activities include:

- Encourage and implement land use practices that protect and improve water quality.
- Help land users plan and implement conservation measures through best management practices to meet resource quality standards.
- Compile and make available relevant conservation education information for land users.

- Encourage retention of agricultural lands for agricultural purposes.
- Encourage retention of land for forestry and related uses.
- Encourage and implement retention of flood plains, wetlands and uplands for their intrinsic values.
- Inform land users about environmental laws, rules, and regulations and other possible situational requirements.
- Cooperate with regulatory agencies, at their request, by offering assistance to land users who have been found to be in violation of rules and regulations.
- Make available one or more Board Supervisors to serve on planning commissions or advisory committees to provide renewable, natural resource knowledge to such groups. Supervisors currently serve or have served on: Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board TAC, Clark County ESA Committee, Columbia Land Trust Land Acquisition Committee, Co. Agricultural Advisory Group, Salmon Creek TMDL, etc.

District Description

Clark Conservation District History

The District was first organized as the Clark-Skamania Soil and Water Conservation District as a result of favorable referendum October 10, 1942. In this first organization, only parts of Clark and Skamania counties were included within the District boundaries, an area of about 253,440 acres.

On December 29, 1947, a first addition expanded the District to include all lands in Clark County, excluding incorporated towns and municipalities. The addition increased the area, part of which was still in Skamania County.

In 1969 the City of Vancouver petitioned the District to be annexed. Favorable hearing and referendum culminated in annexing Vancouver into the District on September 25, 1969.

On August 16, 1971 the name of the District was officially changed to Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District; and on September 8, 1971, the area lying in Skamania County was granted and annexed into the Underwood Soil and Water Conservation District; thus making the boundaries of the District the same as those of Clark County.

The District name then changed to Clark County Conservation District following passage of the 1973 Conservation District Law, which dropped “Soil and Water” from the State’s districts in favor of “Conservation Districts”.

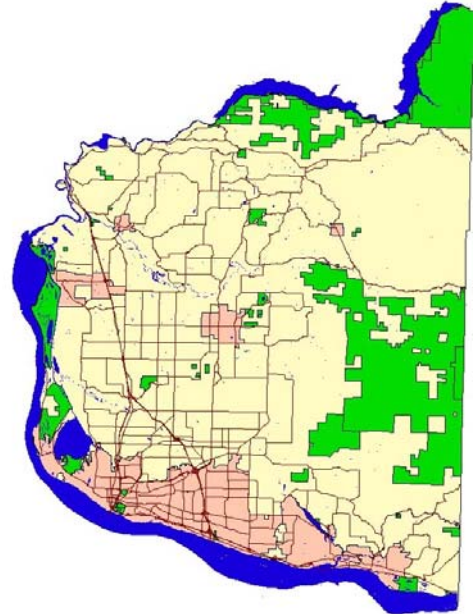
In December 1999, the District dropped the “County” from its name and changed its name from Clark County Conservation District to Clark Conservation District.

Authority and Jurisdiction

Conservation districts are governed by the Conservation District Act of 1973, RCW 89.08, which includes a broad statement of policy on responsibilities of districts for protection, conservation, and development of natural resources within their areas of jurisdiction.

District Topography

Clark Conservation District is located in southwestern Washington. Its boundaries are the Columbia River on the south and west, the Lewis River to the north, and the foothills of the Cascade Range on the east, excluding small portions of the cities of Camas, La Center, Ridgefield, Washougal, and Yacolt. The overall area is nearly 656 square miles, of which 28 square miles are water.



The District lies in a long, structural basin known as the Willamette-Puget Trough, between the Pacific Coast ranges to the west and the parallel Cascade Range to the east. The northeast and eastern portions are comprised of the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. Extending along the Columbia River are the low-lying bottom lands. From the bottom lands, a series of level alluvial plains and terraces extend north and northeast.

The uplands lying between the foothills extend in a northerly direction through the District.

The highest peak is Pyramid Rock at 3,502 feet above sea level. A number of other peaks reach 2,000 to 3,000 feet. Most of the foothills consist of hilly type relief. Most of the rivers and streams flow westerly or southwesterly and discharge into the Columbia River.

Climate

Climate of the District is influenced by the Coast Range to the west and the Cascade Mountains to the east. It is characterized by long, frost free seasons; mild, rainy winters; moderately heavy rainfall; and warm, dry summers.

Precipitation varies from under 40 inches annually in the southwest to over 80 inches in the mountainous northeast. Most of the annual precipitation occurs in the months from October to June.

Temperature is characteristically moderate with an average annual of 51 degrees. The growing season is over 200 days in the bottom lands next to the Columbia River. This growing period lessens gradually in the plains, terraces, and foothills; but remains more than 160 days, which is adequate for most agricultural crops of the District.

Soils

Soils in the valleys of the Columbia and Lewis Rivers and their tributaries in the western and southern parts of the county generally range from somewhat excessively drained to very poorly drained soils of the bottom lands and terraces. This group makes up 41 percent of the county. Elevations range from less than 35 feet to about 350 feet, and annual precipitation ranges from 40 to 60 inches. The native vegetation consists of conifers, deciduous trees, native grasses, and ferns.

Soils in areas in the eastern part of the county, on the western slopes of the Cascade Range are generally deep, well drained, and mostly steep to very steep soils of mountains and valleys. This group makes up 43

percent of the county. Elevations range from about 300 feet to more than 3,000 feet, and the annual precipitation ranges from about 45 inches at the lower elevations to about 120 inches on the high ridges and peaks. Most of the precipitation at the higher elevations comes in the form of snow. The native vegetation is dominantly conifers and a few hardwoods.

Soils occupying a narrow band running diagonally from the northwestern corner of the county to the southeastern corner are deep, well drained, and mostly moderately slowly permeable soils of uplands, mountain foot slopes, and associated terraces. This group makes up 16 percent of the county. Elevations range from 300 to 1,200 feet, and the annual precipitation ranges from 45 to 80 inches. The native vegetation is dominantly conifers and some hardwoods.

The soil survey report, published by the USDA NRCS in cooperation with the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station (1972), provides detailed descriptions of soil series and mapping units, and carries complete map coverage with each soil mapping unit boundary delineated. The report provides interpretations of the soil mapping units for agricultural, woodland, urban, engineering, wildlife, and other use considerations. Interested persons may get the complete soil survey online at www.usda.nrcs.gov. A general soil classification map is attached as Appendix A.



Plowed field in Chelatchie Prairie

Natural Resources of the District

Water Resources

Major aquifers of ground water lie within the alluvial deposits along the Columbia River lowlands and the upper member of the Troutdale formation. In July of 2006, the Troutdale Aquifer system in Clark County was determined by the EPA to be a Designated Sole Source Aquifer, providing for federal oversight of projects within the system.

There are sixteen separate drainage basins in the District. Five major drainage basins are identified that relate to the bulk of stream flow.

The Lewis River Basin (98,111 acres) drains to the Columbia River and includes Gee Creek, Allen Canyon, Lower North Fork, Cedar Creek, Lake Merwin, Canyon Creek, and Yale Lake.

The East Fork Lewis River Basin (107,913 acres) drains into Lewis River and includes the Lower East Fork, Big Tree Creek, Upper East Fork, and Dole Valley.

Lake River Basin (104,646 acres) drains into the Columbia and includes Lake River, Flume Creek, Whipple Creek, Salmon Creek, Lake Shore, Vancouver Lake, and Burnt Bridge Creek.

The Columbia River Basin (63,132 acres) is comprised of Little and Lower Washougal, Gibbons Creek, and Lacamas Creek subbasins; all of which enter the Columbia.

There are more than 100 lakes within the District. Most occur in the Columbia River lowlands, are shallow in nature, and have only limited access.

- Battle Ground Lake, located near the town of Battle Ground, is a geological interest because it is a volcanic crater filled with ground water outfall. It is one of the few distinct crater-type lakes in the State.
- Vancouver Lake is a shallow lake influenced by the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean tides. A county park is developed on its western shore. Lake quality is low because of urbanization and contaminated runoff.
- Two man-made lakes, Merwin and Yale, are used primarily for power generation but support public recreation as well. Lake Merwin has some degradation caused by septic tank seepage on the north shoreline.

For a complete listing of lakes and their location, size, use, and fisheries; consult Lakes of Washington, Volume one, Western Washington, State Dept. of Ecology, Second Edition.

Other References

- Washington State Dept. of Ecology
www.ecy.wa.gov
- Washington State Conservation Commission
www.scc.wa.gov
- Army Corp of Engineers
www.nws.usace.army.mil/reg.htm
- Clark County
www.co.clark.wa.us

Fish Resources

Clark County is in the Lower Columbia Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU), Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) 27 and 28. Within the borders of the County, sixteen stream basins provide spawning grounds for five salmon or trout species listed as either endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Populations of steelhead, chinook salmon, chum salmon and bull trout are listed as threatened under the ESA within the region. Both Sea-run cutthroat trout and Coho salmon have been considered for listing as threatened but the listing was not warranted.



Cutthroat trout

The major water habitats are described as follows:

Columbia River

Major habitat area for spring and fall salmon, summer and winter steelhead, sea run cutthroat, smelt, shad, spiny rayed fish, and sturgeon. Increased temperature and dissolved nitrogen gas place major constraints on this habitat. Both problems are beyond reach of the District.

North Fork Lewis River

A major spawning area for chum, chinook, and coho salmon. Some 10,000 chinook use the river annually. Smelt, steelhead, and cutthroat also use the river. Ariel Dam terminates natural migratory fish runs. Hatchery plants make it possible to use water beyond this point as rearing water.

East Fork Lewis River

A major spawning river for chinook and chum salmon. Some 1,600 chinook use the river mostly below Lucia Falls which is a major barrier to fish movements. Other species use its entire length.

Washougal River

Used extensively by chinook, Coho, and chum salmon; along with steelhead and searun cutthroat. No barriers exist on the river.

Salmon Creek

A minor chinook run. Coho salmon, winter steelhead, and searun cutthroat utilize much of the creek. The fish of this stream are threatened by poor water quality caused by urban development.

Spiny-rayed fish are found in many warmer and slow moving streams and shallow lakes. They include large mouth bass, white and black crappie, carp, and bullheads.

Both Merwin and Yale Lakes have excellent freshwater fish habitats and support self-sustaining populations of kokanee.

Preservation and improvement of water quality is paramount to the entire fish resources of the District.

Other References

- Washington State Fish and Wildlife
www.wa.gov/wdfw/
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1
www.r1.fws.gov/
- National Marine Fisheries Service, NW Region
www.nwr.noaa.gov/

Also reference for ESA listed species

- Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
<http://www.lcfrb.gen.wa.us/default1.htm>
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board
<http://www.iac.wa.gov/>
- Washington State Conservation Commission Limiting Factors Assessment
www.scc.wa.gov .

Land Resources

Existing land uses can be discussed by major geographical features – the Columbia River, the alluvial plains and uplands, and the foothills.

Industry is associated with the Columbia River margin; with the adjacent flood plains being devoted to agriculture, wildlife, and recreational uses.

The confluence of the Washougal River and the Columbia River are associated with the pulp and paper industry. It is connected to the Vancouver area by State Highway 14, with urban and residential growth along the Highway limited by topography.

The flood plains north of Vancouver Lake, subject to periodic flooding are dominated by grasslands and agricultural land use. The Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge is in this area. There continues to be residential, urban, and industrial development in this area.

A considerable amount of residential development is radiating away from Vancouver northward, especially into the area paralleling the Columbia. It is also spilling out along east-west and north-south transportation routes.

The plains area of north Vancouver is urbanizing rapidly. It is no longer agriculture, but residential development has and is progressing, along with the area south of Salmon Creek toward Vancouver. Land adjacent to this residential buildup, although in agricultural uses, can be classed as transitional – shifting from agriculture to suburban in character.

The upland area is a mixture of small tract farms and forestry oriented uses. Small acreages and residential farms are increasing in this area.

The foothill land use is primarily forestry, with some agriculture and residential development in the plains and valleys. Steepness of topography is against development and in favor of forestry and wildlife uses.

Agricultural Lands

Urban and rural development along the avenues of public facilities, gas and electric lines, roadways, sewage disposal facilities, and other developments are changing the use of lands which have long been devoted to agricultural pursuits. Currently, (2001) there are 54,398 acres in Farm and Agriculture, according to Clark County statistics. There are also 7,367 acres considered in Open Space.

Conservation activities are needed on agricultural lands to protect the resource from erosion and to enhance its organic level and productive capability. Some cropland acres need rotational and/or annual cover, along with drainage improvements. Also, crops, orchards, and native pasture land needs improved cultural and management practices.

Land Suitable for Agricultural Production

The Natural Resource Conservation Service has set up guidelines to identify lands in relation to their ability to produce. These delineations were established as Prime (1), Prime and Unique (2), and Good (3).

Areas within the county have tentatively identified as being favorable for agricultural use on the basis of the following criteria (1972):

1. Acreage size
2. Size of ownership
3. Present use
4. Soil Characteristics, class, etc.
5. Feasibility of land remaining as it is (potential)

The following areas have been identified as Prime Agricultural Lands:

1. Felida area: The soils in this area are primarily of the Hillsboro series. They have the best soil structure, best climate, wide range of workability, require the least energy inputs, are very fertile, and will respond to all crops adapted to the area. This is within an urbanizing area of relatively small ownerships; however, there are some areas that can be used for agricultural production.
2. Vancouver Lake area: These soils are of the Sauvie series, with some Newberg series included. They are prime where they are behind dikes. They are fertile, have good soil structure, are generally easily

worked, and will produce a wide range of crops. At the present time, this area is in relatively large ownerships – an area being increasingly used for industrial development.

3. Fargher Lake area: This area produces specialty crops and is classified prime only where it is drained.
4. Brush Prairie area: This area is primarily of the Hillsboro series with some urban build-up, but areas remain that are capable of being good, productive units.

Other References

- Clark County
www.co.clark.wa.us
- Washington State USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov
- WA State Department of Natural Resources
www.wa.gov/dnr/

Timber Resources

More than half the District is currently in woodland use, either commercially or otherwise. Of this woodland, more than 80 percent is in private ownership, with the remainder in State and Federal.

The District is committed to encourage the retention of high site forest lands for growing and harvesting wood. To this end, knowledge of forest management practices will keep such lands producing sustained yields of wood.

The Soils Survey is the basis for assisting District woodland users. Each soil mapping unit has been placed in woodland suitability groups, which are interpreted into potential productivity together with basic management hazards of limitations. Common understory plants are also listed. Please refer to Table 3 and Table 4 of the Clark County Soil Survey for these details.



Old growth Douglas fir

Other forest land in private ownership is found mostly in small holdings associated with farm operations. Generally, these holdings need replanting, thinning, access, and establishment of sustained yield systems. Other residential woodland forest lands are not managed for commercial viability, but rather for the intrinsic value of the woodland lot.

Other References

- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
www.wa.gov/dnr/
- U.S. Forest Service
www.usfs.gov

Plant and Wildlife Resources

Wildlife is an important renewable resource of the District and has an economic impact to the community. The kinds and numbers of wildlife that live in a particular area depend on the kind of habitat available. The District can generally be divided into three habitat zones which, by their nature, are selective to kinds of wildlife.

The Columbia River Lowland Zone contains the most extensive wetland habitat of the District. This area supports large numbers of water birds and shore birds including ducks, geese, Red-winged and Brewer's blackbirds, Common Snipe, and Killdeer. It is part of the Pacific Flyway where migratory species feed and rest. Blue-winged teal and mallards commonly nest in the fields of this area. It is an important wintering area for Canada geese. Important elements of habitat needed in this area are grain crops, grasses, legumes, and shallow water impoundments.

The Interior Valley Zone provides much of the farmland habitat and occurs across the plains of the District, and to some extent, portions of the uplands and foothills. California Quail, Morning Doves, Band-Tailed Pigeon, and Western Meadow Larks are all common in this area. Also within this zone, though less common, are Bald Eagles and Western Screech Owls. The combination of cropland interspersed with patches or thickets of oak woodlands, Douglas fir, shrub communities, and grassland make this zone potentially very productive. Elements of habitat needs include crops, grasses, legumes, and brushy cover.

The Douglas Fir Zone occupies nearly half of the District. This Zone is an important habitat for resident black tail deer and elk and provides critical wintering range for migratory deer and elk. Where areas have been cleared by fire and logging, food elements of the habitat have been enhanced; thereby, benefit deer, elk, bear, ruffed and blue grouse, Pileated woodpecker, mountain beaver, chipmunks, squirrels, and Washington hare. Habitat elements needed include coniferous forest, open land, brush, grass, and forbs.

Other References

- Washington State Fish and Wildlife
www.wa.gov/wdfw/
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1
www.r1.fws.gov/
- Clark County
www.co.clark.wa.us
- Washington State USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov
- WA State Department of Natural Resources
www.wa.gov/dnr/
- U.S. Forest Service
www.usfs.gov

Air Resources

The District is desirous of maintaining a level of air quality that meets local air quality standards for the protection of citizen health and to prevent damage by emissions, from any source, to natural vegetation, wildlife, and crop production.

Identified primary sources of particulate emissions in the District came from manufacturing activities: paper and allied products; mineral products; smelting, refining, and casting activities; and lumber and wood products. These are generally outside the capability of the District to correct in terms of technical assistance.

State Significance and Historical Resources

These sites abound in the District. It is a continuing policy of the District to preserve these sites for the enjoyment of its citizens now and in future years. The District has the capability to assist historical societies and others in planning means for and facilities to use in protecting these lands as historical sites (such as trails, parking areas, picnic areas, and beautification where necessary).

Other References

- Clark County
www.co.clark.wa.us
- National Heritage (Dept. of Natural Resources)
www.wa.gov/dnr/
- Washington Natural Heritage Program
www.wa.gov/dnr/htdocs/fr/nhp/wanhp.html
- WA State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
www.ocd.wa.gov/info/lgd/oahp/

Objectives and Goals of the District

To be meaningful and successful, any program must be developed within the context of predetermined goals and objectives which are relevant to the needs of people and which can be reasonably achieved.

The goal of the Clark Conservation District is to protect and improve the natural resources of the District and to guide resource development and use to provide the highest quality of life for present and future residents.

The broad goal recognizes that high quality human life is tied to the resource base of soil and other renewable natural resources; not only for a place to live; but for economic growth and sustainability, through resource development, distribution, and conservation.

To achieve its stated goal, the District plans to pursue these objectives:

1. Develop new or revised conservation plans with land users providing for proper use of natural resources and the utilization of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce erosion, sedimentation, and pollution. Special emphasis is placed on minimizing non-point sources of pollution coming from agricultural and forest land uses, or other land uses causing erosion.
2. Develop and implement a public, comprehensive information and educational program to:
 - a. Inform land users and other residents about natural resource capabilities and limitations. The District will recommend uses and treatment of these resources.
 - b. Inform land users about existing resource programs in land use planning, conservation by incentive, opportunities for improvement, and proper use and treatment of resources.

- c. Stimulate appreciation of the value of a strong resource base with renewable, natural resources, particularly among those who do not directly manage land. Both youth and adults will be addressed.
3. Promote the preservation and improvement of anadromous fish runs in rivers and streams in the District by:
 - a. Reducing pollution caused by erosion, sedimentation, and animal and human waste.
 - b. Conserving and/or restoring of riparian vegetation and the associated stream buffers.
 - c. Removing/replacing barriers to fish passage.
4. Promote the preservation and improvement of habitat for all forms of beneficial wildlife, bird and animal, and create additional habitat where needed by:
 - a. Improving the use and treatment of land, water, and vegetation specifically for wildlife and incorporating wildlife habitat as a companion use on land primarily in animal, crops, timber, and other uses.

Resource Management Issues

In general, urban growth and development, construction of residential homes, industry, schools, etc., along with the associated support systems of roads, parks, and utilities, increase pressure on the resources of this county. Land users will need educational and technical assistance in conserving natural resources in a rapidly changing landscape.

Water Resources

Issues

- Non-point source pollution of streams, rivers, and lakes of the District stemming from septic tank seepage, urban storm water runoff, sivicultural and agricultural activities, highway construction, and other earth baring activities.
- Seasonal flooding and low flow characteristics of local streams caused by urban and suburban development which alter the normal hydrology of stream systems, such as Salmon Creek and Burnt Bridge Creek
- Stream bank erosion which increases sediment loading of the stream during periods of high water and high tide.

Opportunities

- Participate in planning non-point pollution abatement programs
- Provide technical assistance to land users identified as contributing non-point source pollutants to the district waters;
- Plan and install of conservation practices to control erosion and runoff.



Wetlands at La Center Bottoms, East Fork Lewis River

Fish Resources

Anadromous Fish Issues

The Washington Conservation Commission completed a Salmon and Steelhead Limiting Factors Analysis for WRIA 27 and 28, which noted limiting factors throughout the basins including: stream structure, riparian habitat, water quality (especially temperature), low flows, and flood plain disconnection.

- Several perennial streams have man-made or natural obstructions which obstruct fish from using additional spawning and rearing water.
- Septic tank seepage, storm drainage, animal waste, and other pollutants enter streams and reduce water quality for fish usage.
- Stream and shore erosion, together with erosion from farm land, timber land, urban development, road construction, and similar land baring activities, discharge sediment into streams to damage spawning areas and rearing water.

Opportunities

Encourage conversion of septic tank sewage systems in areas of high population to community sewerage systems. Improve existing rural septic tank systems to reduce seepage into spawning and rearing water.

Reduce erosion and sedimentation entering streamways through the ongoing program of planning and implementing conservation programs on lands in the District. Assist private land users in repairing eroding stream banks, using vegetative methods of controlling erosion and bank sloughing, and assisting land owners to replace fish obstructing culverts.

Encourage revitalization of important fish migratory watersheds to minimize damage to the stream and encourage reestablishment of anadromous fish runs for these streams.

Encourage and participate in educational programs designed to develop appreciation of the fish resources and their quality habitat, and thereby cause a reduction in harmful practices that serve as constraints to maximum fish propagation.

Administer the three major elements of the Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon for minimizing non-point pollution from agricultural operations: the implementation of the CREP program, implementation of farm plans, and comprehensive programs for a specific agricultural commodity or sector.

Land Resources

Agricultural Land Issues

Quality, productive farm land is being converted to nonagricultural uses, primarily for housing and other suburban uses. Once lost to development, land is unlikely to convert back to agricultural uses.

- Urban and suburban development impacts adjacent agricultural lands through increased storm water runoff, higher taxes, and constraints on farm enterprise options.
- Formerly cropped farm land, been idled or isolated by urban development, is a source of weed infestation and fails to provide food or fiber or contribute to the communities' economy.
- Flooding and ponding on level agricultural lands often results from man-made situations including dense, restrictive soils, inadequate water outlets, and urbanization.

Opportunities

Encourage development of a comprehensive land use plan which considers the finite availability of prime and unique agricultural land and provides for its retention in agricultural pursuits, except in extreme circumstances of public need.

Discourage growth into agricultural areas.

Institute educational efforts to acquaint landowners with provisions of current use taxation through community meetings, news media, and other informational channels, as a means to reduce the impact of property taxes based on development instead of current agricultural, forest, or open space use.

Intensify assistance to agricultural land users, such as planning, installation, and cost sharing, to complete practices that will bring agricultural land under conservation use and protection.

Encourage protection of farm enterprises engaged in dairy and other animal oriented farm enterprises from encroachment of noncompatible uses intolerant of animal odors, insects, and other environmental problems associated with animal oriented farm enterprises.

Encourage the development of value-added operations on isolated agricultural lands, such as produce production, and encourage local marketing of this production. Increase small acreage/residential farm assistance activities with the WSU Extension to provide educational resources for those land users.

Woodland Issues

- Small woodland owners, farmers with woodland, land investment holders of woodland, and other incidental owners of woodland are often unaware of the value or income potential of properly managed forest land. Consequently, such holdings are unmanaged, often over stocked or under

stocked with adapted tree species, and therefore are not producing at capacity or they performing in the capacity the land user needs (i.e. providing habitat).

- Many small woodland owners have inadequate capital to plant, thin, prune, and execute other forest practices needed for proper forest management on sustained yield principals.
- Property taxation and inheritance taxes combine to discourage retention of high quality timber lands for small forest enterprises, often resulting in timber lands being converted to other uses or being consolidated into corporate holdings.
- Markets are not readily available for small products coming from small private woodland holdings, including minor forest products.

Opportunities

Encourage professional forestry services to work with small woodland owners for planting, implementing, and maintaining woodland management systems.

Work with WSU Extension, Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources, and others to implement a informational program designed to inform small woodland owners with the value and income producing potential of their woodland holdings.

Encourage retention of the high-site forest land for forest production purposes in comprehensive land use planning, zoning, and other land use activities of local government.

Encourage and assist in implementing the Farm Forestry Fish Passage Program to help private woodland owners with fish passage and road erosion issues.

Urban Growth Issues

- Consistently high population growth rates result in pressure for more home sites, service centers, roads, and other facilities.
- Severe erosion occurs during rain events where soils have been cleared of vegetative protection for development purposes.
- Erosion and sedimentation from sand and gravel extraction sites and unsightly, and often hazardous, land remaining after extraction operations cease.

Opportunities

Develop and provide educational and informational opportunities for urban land users on Best Management Practices applicable to households and small lots (i.e. Naturescaping, Backyard Conservation).

Provide sustained informational efforts to acquaint both youth and adult groups with resource facts useful in understanding comprehensive planning and plan decisions.



Tour group on a local farm

Provide planning and implementation assistance to development contractors, the County, and others in designing conservation practices for revegetation and stabilization thereafter.

Plant and Wildlife Resources

Wildlife Issues

- Losses of habitat by land use conversion from natural characteristics to urban and suburban development and intensified agriculture.
- Damage to wetlands and prairies from siltation, land filling, and excessive human traffic.

Opportunities

Protection of existing habitat in the wetlands and prairies through comprehensive land use planning and appropriate ordinances.

Providing suitable open space in urban and suburban development; which includes major habitat needs of adapted birds and mammals such as food, cover, and water; and designation of sanctuaries and preserves where applicable.

Incorporation of wildlife provisions, in the ongoing District program, concerning planning the use and treatment of renewable, natural resources in the District. Properly planned; croplands, woodlands, pasture lands, and other forms of land use can accommodate wildlife habitat and wildlife populations.

Encourage appreciation of wildlife and their habitats in continuing informational programs for students and adults.

Priorities for the District

1. Continue and accelerate the ongoing program of preparing, updating, and carrying out complete conservation plans for all lands, considering all the renewable, natural resources in the decision making process.
2. Serve as the renewable natural resource agency, providing technical assistance and resource facts, together with recommendations for the best use treatment of renewable, natural resources.
3. Focus activities on improving water quality and anadromous fish habitat in priority watersheds within the District.

Watershed Priorities within the District:

East Fork Lewis River	Gibbons Creek
North Fork Lewis River	Burnt Bridge Creek
Washougal River	Lacamas
Salmon Creek	

Factors involved in the prioritization of a watershed are:

- Listed species
 - Water quality
 - Soil erosion
 - Plant condition, quality, and composition
 - Riparian area health
 - Amount of biological diversity
 - Numbers of species in the watershed
4. Establish positive relationships with landowners. Value and show respect for each individual and their needs while providing technical assistance, advice, and plans that are financially responsible and viable for long term, sustainable use.
 5. Support agricultural activity that uses sustainable, economically feasible practices.
 6. Encourage retention of agricultural lands for agricultural purposes, land for forestry and related uses, and flood plains, wetlands and uplands for their associated and intrinsic values.
 7. Raise awareness of conservation through education and outreach. Develop comprehensive, public educational programs.

Our Board Members

Board Chairman

Dean P. Longrie was born in New London, Wisconsin. He spent his summers on a dairy farm through high school and joined the US Marine Corp after graduation. He attended the University of Wisconsin and received his B.S. in Botany. He went on to receive his M.S. and Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from Michigan State University. He has lived with his wife, of 37 years, in Clark County since 1978. He has two children and four grandchildren.

Dean was Assistant Professor of Wildlife at the University of Wisconsin. He worked for BLM and Forest Service as wildlife biologist and botanist. As Regional Botanist for the Forest Service, Dean managed the botany program for all of the National Forests in Washington and Oregon. He assisted in creating the Celebrating Wildflowers program and received the Outstanding Program Management award. He retired in 1997 as Regional Botanist with the US Forest Service. Dean has owned and operated a small landscape contracting business in Clark County since 1982.

Dean served as board member for the Clark County Master Gardner Foundation and on the Berry Botanical Garden Board of Directors. He serves as past chairman and member of the Clark County Endangered Species Advisory Committee and serves as the Chairman on the State Board of Directors for the Washington Native Plant Society.

Dean became an Associate Supervisor for Clark Conservation District in May 1998, and became a Board Supervisor in December of 1999. He became the Clark Conservation District Board Chairman in 2002, leading the district to receive the 2003 SW Area District of the Year award from the Conservation Commission. In 2006, Dean became Vice President of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts.

Vice Chairman

John Baugher was born and raised on a large family farm. He spent 2 years of military service in Bavaria, Germany before completing his BS degree in Agricultural and Soil Sciences at Oregon State University.

John has worked with the USDA specializing in agricultural finance, land appraisal and agricultural production and conservation and as a Soil Scientist for the USFS Gifford Pinchot National Forest. He currently is a Project Manager/Contracting Officer Technical Representative in Boneville Power Administration's Fish and Wildlife Division, specializing in land acquisitions for fish and wildlife, habitat enhancement projects, watershed council coordination and anadromous fish monitoring.

John began with the Board in 1999 and became Vice Chair in 2002. He is a member of Columbia Land Trust Land Acquisitions Committee (since 1998) and was on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board from 2000-2005. John is a Watershed Steward, Master Gardener, and member of the Home Orchard Society. He lives with his wife and two children in Hockinson.

Auditor

I still need info from Steve.

Member

Doug Stienbarger currently serves as the County Director for Washington State University Extension in Clark County, managing fiscal and personnel resources serving to maximize the benefit of WSU Extension programs to the citizens of Clark County. Doug is also interested in farmland preservation, promoting local sustainable food systems, and other agricultural and natural resource policy issues. Doug oversees the Small Acreage Program, the Watershed Steward program, and the Gee Creek Watershed project.

Doug received his M.S. in Land Resources from the Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1986 and his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Texas-Austin. 1977. Before joining WSU Extension in 1996, Doug worked for several years in West Africa and Haiti on applied Agroforestry programs, first as a Peace Corps volunteer and later as a project manager with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also worked as a Conservation Planner for the Snohomish CD.

Doug became a Clark CD board member in 2002. He also serves on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, as President of the WSU Extension affiliate to the Washington Association of Counties, and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Journal of Extension.

Member

I still need info from Scott

Associate Members

I still need info from Milada

I still need info from Dave

Timothy Tolle has an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in water resources from Oregon State University. He is recently retired from USDA Forest Service as the Pacific Northwest regional ecosystem management officer, where work focused on adaptive management, monitoring and evaluation, and collaborative stewardship.

Tim worked as Planning Team Leader and Forest Planning Officer on two national forests. He was a forest hydrologist in Montana and water resource analyst in Oregon for Water Resources Board. Tim has taught at both community college and university level. He co-lead a five-year knowledge management research project with computer science Professor Lois Delcambre of OHSU and continues to work with her at Portland State University.

Tim became an Associate Supervisor with Clark CD in 2006 and has been an Associate Supervisor for two other Conservation Districts: Lincoln Co., Montana and Okanogan Co., Washington.