



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
OF WASHINGTON STATE

your window to healthy lands



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Cascadia Conservation District

Long Range Plan for 2025 to 2030



Table of Contents

1. Cascadia Conservation District Summary

a. <u>Organization</u>	pg 3
b. <u>Function</u>	pg 3
c. <u>Mission</u>	pg 3
d. <u>Vision</u>	pg 4
e. <u>Values</u>	pg 4
f. <u>Data Sources</u>	pg 5

2. Strategic Goals and Objectives

a. <u>Agricultural Sustainability</u>	pg 6
b. <u>Community and Landscape Resiliency</u>	pg 7
c. <u>Habitat Enhancement</u>	pg 8
d. <u>Urban and Community-Based Conservation</u>	pg 9
e. <u>Education and Outreach</u>	pg 10
f. <u>District Operations and Cultural Resources</u>	pg 11



CASCADIA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Cascadia Conservation District Summary

Organization of the Cascadia Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Washington – authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08.

- The Chelan County Conservation District was formed on October 15, 1973 when the Wenatchee-Entiat Soil Conservation District (formed on March 24, 1948) and the Lake Chelan Soil Conservation District (formed on March 30, 1948) combined. The name was changed to Cascadia Conservation District in June 2007. The current district boundaries include all of Chelan County.
- The District is governed by five supervisors; three are elected and two are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission.

Function of the Cascadia 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 with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

Who We Serve & Why

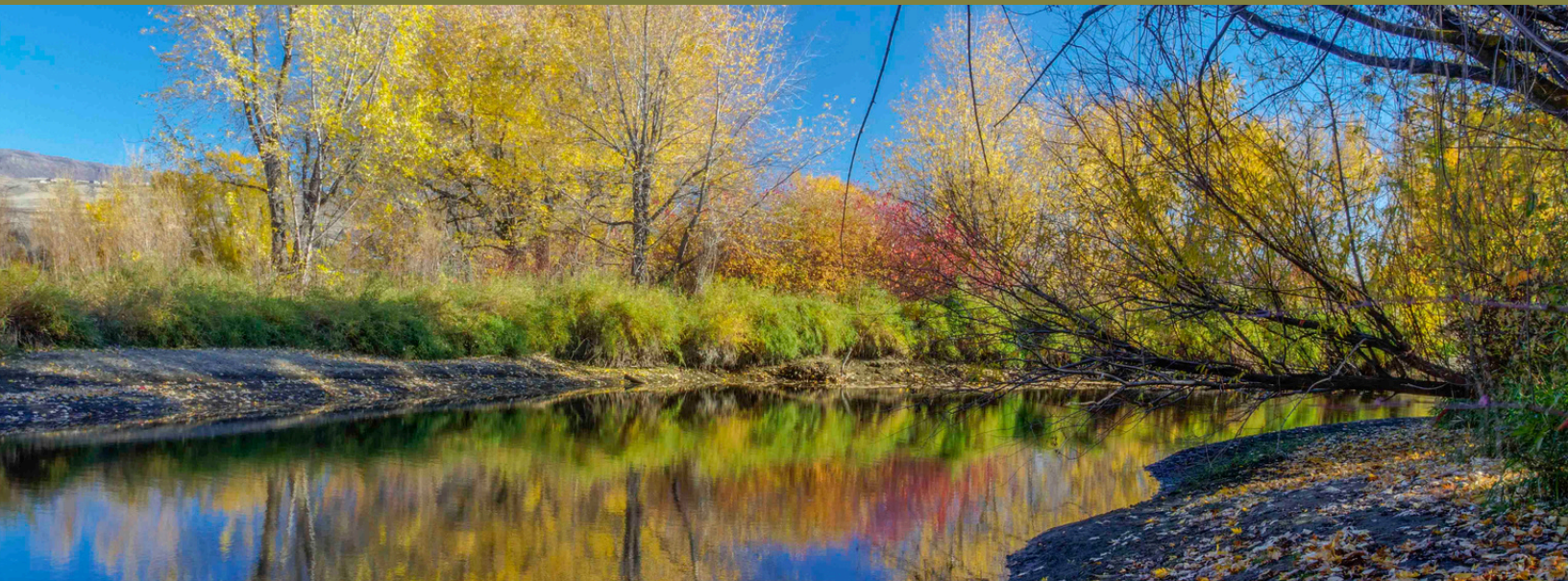
We serve all those who have a connection to Chelan County resources by working with Chelan County land managers.

We are enthusiastic about conservation and people, and work to reach cooperative solutions that create the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

Mission of the Cascadia Conservation District

To encourage wise stewardship and conservation through best management practices for all natural resources for current and future residents in Chelan County by:

- Being an active advocate for sustainable land use, agricultural, and water management decisions.
- Promoting a reasonable approach to environmental problems.
- Providing locally-led, voluntary, non-regulatory solutions to local environmental problems.
- Educating both adults and youth about natural resources stewardship.
- Monitoring and responding to future trends that affect the environment.
- Working collaboratively with landowners, partners, residents, educational entities, tribes, and other stakeholders within the district.



Cascadia Conservation District Summary

Vision of the Cascadia Conservation District

- To encourage landowners and residents to actively participate and partner in conservation actions, personally and collectively.
- Establish partnerships with diverse and underserved community members, and non-traditional groups
- To have enough available water for all beneficial uses including domestic, agricultural, and fish and wildlife by developing water storage, implementing water conservation practices, and leveraging any available funding sources for these activities.
- To mitigate the need for regulatory agency intervention by working collaboratively with landowners and these agencies to address issues before regulation becomes necessary.
- To implement strong conservation programs that address the quality and quantity of water resources in the county, and balance competing demands on those resources.
- Create resilient and healthy forest landscapes and communities and proactively prepare communities for living in a fire prone environment
- To improve the ability to get financial and technical assistance to the appropriate and most beneficial projects for the community
- To improve efficiency and reduce duplication of effort in regional watersheds by cultivating strong partnerships
- Encourage a passion for natural resources management in future generations

Values of the Cascadia Conservation District

- Trustworthy, honest and transparent
- Local solutions to local issues
- Customer service to landowners, residents, partners, vendors and funding sources that is friendly, personable, respectful and responsive, inclusive, and accessible
- Help landowners with voluntary and non-regulatory stewardship on the ground
- Fiscally responsible, committed, efficient, results-oriented, quality work
- Partnership approach to projects



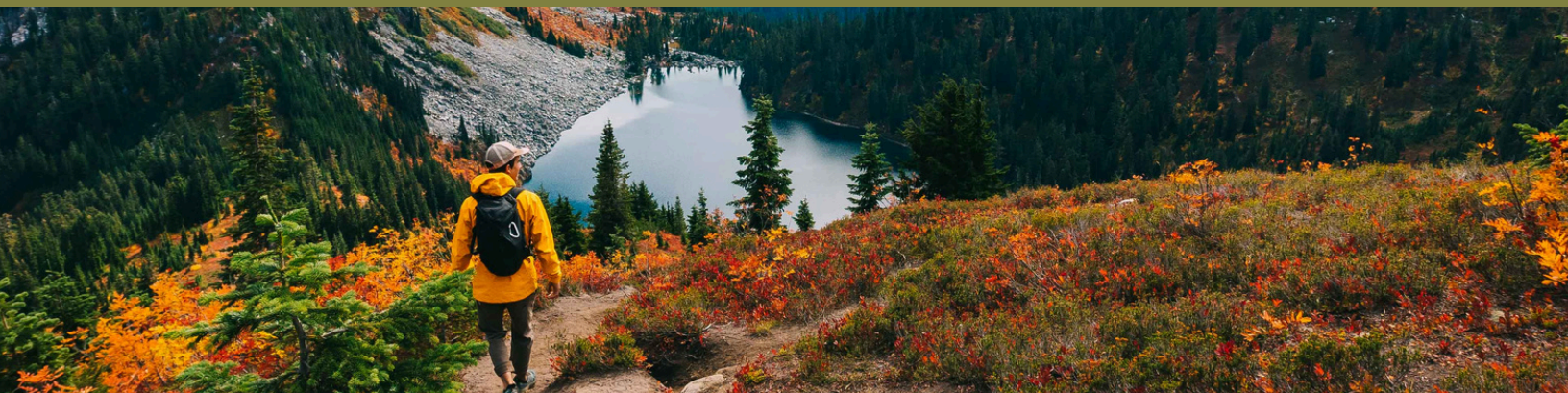
Cascadia Conservation District Data Sources

Natural Resource Data & Information:

Chelan County is located in the north-central part of Washington State, between the crest of the Cascade Mountains to the west and the Columbia River to the east. Chelan County is the third largest county in Washington at about 2,994 square miles (1,916,160 acres), of which 73 squares miles is surface water. The county is drained by three primary watersheds (Chelan, Entiat and Wenatchee) and several small drainages that flow directly into the Columbia River (Chelan County Fire Plan, 2009). Only 15% of Chelan County, or 287,424 acres, is privately owned. Characterized by rolling foothills and highly incised river valleys, many individual properties have a mix of resource concerns. There are about 835 farms (6% decline), making up 59,767 acres (21% decline) (2017 Census of Agriculture). The average farm size is 72 acres (16% decline). 72% of these farms are less than 50 acres.

Over 1.5 million acres of forest in the county, both public and private, are at high risk for catastrophic fire activity due to dry climate, drought, insects, overcrowding from historic fire suppression, abundant understory fuels, and a rapidly growing wildland-urban interface. In addition to residential and recreational uses, 23,819 acres of farms are irrigated. (2017 Census of Agriculture) Lake Chelan contains 33,280 acres of the total surface water, and the remaining 13,440 acres include several smaller lakes along with hundreds of miles of navigable or salmon-bearing creeks and rivers. Although water quality is generally good in the county, pressure from concentrated suburban and rural residential non-point pollution, legacy chemicals from historic use, and disturbances ranging from visiting recreationists to construction and stormwater add to water quality concerns for the future. This resource's continued availability and efficient use is in the best interest of all residents, as well as fish and wildlife. Additionally, ongoing education is important to encourage good stewardship for water resources.

Both in-stream and upland habitat enhancement are a part of Cascadia's programs to implement watershed and salmon recovery plans, as well as individual farm plans and habitat projects. Tools such as cost share project funding and water rights management are important to the goal of assisting both agriculture and other landowners with reasonable, practical, long-term land use stewardship options. The focus of urban conservation includes not only backyard habitat using native plants, but also increasing access to fresh, healthy food through community gardens and small-scale conservation practices. Farmers and residents also face negative impacts from noxious weeds, invasive species and pests. Helping to control and prevent the invasion of these threats will assist with both economic health and habitat protection. Population growth and a highly mobile society result in the ongoing need for education and outreach, both to inform the population about the unique characteristics and resource concerns of this area, and to enlist voluntary cooperation in best management and personal stewardship activities.



Cascadia Conservation District Strategic Goals and Objectives Goals

Overarching Goals and Objectives

For all of Cascadia's program goals and objectives we will apply the following large-scale goals:

- Provide programming in multiple languages appropriate for Chelan County residents
- Strive to meaningfully engage with Tribal Partners
- Provide opportunities for Adult and Youth Education
- Serve underserved producers through equitable program approaches

Agricultural Sustainability Goals

Goal 1: Determine Cooperator conservation needs

Objective 1: Develop and conduct survey on technical assistance and cost share needs for soil health, irrigation efficiency, energy efficiency, and farmland preservation

Objective 2: Develop an implementation plan for meeting cooperator needs for adult education, engagement, technical assistance and cost share.

Goal 2: Grow cooperator assistance programs

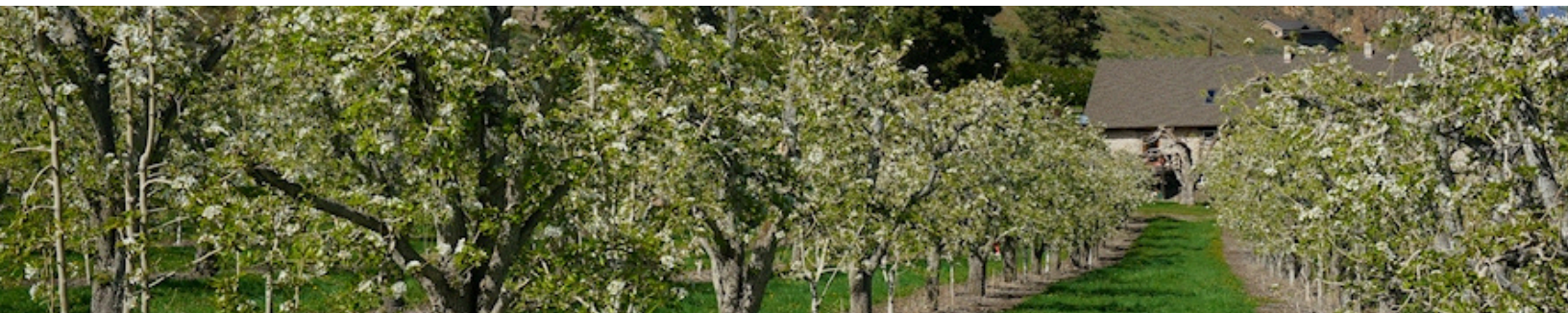
Objective 1: Seek funding to provide technical assistance and cost share opportunities for cooperators to implement conservation practices. This includes soil health, irrigation efficiency, energy efficiency, and other on-farm practices that improve agricultural sustainability.

Objective 2: Promote and grow programs that improve utilization of branding opportunities such as Salmon Safe, and/or connect cooperators with market opportunities such as farmers markets, restaurants and other venues.

Goal 3: Increase partnerships with organizations that provide resources to cooperators

Objective 1: Increase engagement with cooperator associations (such as irrigation, cooperatives, peer networks, fruit co-ops, etc.) to provide more opportunities for their members.

Objective 2: Work with partners to highlight resources available to cooperators. Programs include, but are not limited to NRCS Cost Share (Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP, Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)), Voluntary Stewardship Program, Washington State Conservation Commission Cost Share, etc.



Cascadia Conservation District Strategic Goals and Objectives Goals

Community and Landscape Resilience Goals

Goal 1: Improve access to wildfire and community preparedness programs and increase participation from a broad spectrum of residents.

Objective 1: Adapt existing programs to be more accessible for low income and non-English speaking residents.

Objective 2: Develop, with local partners, a multi-lingual public resource that informs residents and visitors of Chelan County on wildfire preparedness and recovery resources and utilize technical staff to implement fire adaptation strategies.

Objective 3: Maintain consistent funding for forest health cost share programs and increase funding for home hardening and prescribed burning.

Goal 2: Utilize innovative policies, programs and tools that help improve community resilience to wildfire and climate change.

Objective 1: Conduct proof-of-concept work focused on alternative slash management methods such as prescribed burning, air curtain burners, biochar production, and alternatives for agricultural burning.

Objective 2: Partner with land managers in Chelan County to plan and implement cross-boundary restoration and prescribed burning.

Objective 3: Work with partners to develop Chelan County MOU for post-fire recovery roles and responsibilities and specific reforestation and post-fire practices protocols which consider future climate models.

Objective 4: Increase capacity for utilizing prescribed fire on private lands through landowner education, workforce development and policy engagement.

Goal 3: Promote and support groups that help create resilient communities and landscapes.

Objective 1: Implement CWPP action plan through participating in local partnerships that focus efforts on creating resilient landscapes. These include, but are not limited to, North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative, Chumstick Wildfire Coalition, Forest Ridge Wildfire Coalition, and other fire adapted community groups.

Objective 2: Develop and maintain relationships with grass roots coalitions, Firewise and Fire Adapted Communities and provide technical expertise to assist in guiding their work.

Objective 3: Work with partners to develop a smoke preparedness and air quality improvement program.

Objective 4: Provide technical and financial assistance to forest landowners which can reduce wildfire risk and improve fish and wildlife habitat, address water quality degradation and drought concerns through forest management practices utilizing programs such as RCPP.

Cascadia Conservation District Strategic Goals and Objectives Goals

Habitat Enhancement Goals

Goal 1: Increase scope and scale of restoration projects in Chelan County

Objective 1: Increase capacity for aquatic restoration projects through greater program integration.

Objective 2: Increase implementation of aquatic restoration projects including Process-Based Restoration, mid/large size wood installation, riparian restoration and fish passage projects.

Objective 3: Increase upland and pollinator habitat restoration project implementation in the Shrub Steppe and other critical wildlife areas.

Goal 2: Improve processes and actions to increase project effectiveness

Objective 1: Work with partners to develop an effectiveness monitoring plan for CCD common project types and agreed upon set of practices (such as forestry prescription that meets DNR requirements)

Objective 2: Seek funding to provide on-going adaptive management, maintenance and monitoring of project sites.

Objective 3: Utilize biomass from forestry and fuel reduction projects for in-stream habitat enhancement projects.



Cascadia Conservation District Strategic Goals and Objectives Goals

Urban and Community-Based Conservation

Goal 1: Increase adoption of urban conservation practices such as native planting, water conservation, and other conservation practices

Objective 1: Continue to grow the Heritage Garden program to provide technical assistance and other support for installation of certified Heritage Gardens.

Objective 2: Develop and host workshops to promote water conservation practices in the urban areas.

Objective 3: Work with municipalities to develop and/or support their urban forestry programs.

Goal 2: Increase awareness of and appreciation for urban agriculture.

Objective 1: Work with schools in Chelan County to implement classroom and field-based education programs focused on agriculture.

Objective 2: Work with schools, municipalities, and other community groups to develop a network of community gardens where community members can learn how to grow their own food and utilize space for their own food production.

Objective 3: Encourage conversion of irrigated, nonproductive land (lawns) to food production, pollinator habitat or other conservation uses.

Goal 3: Increase knowledge, awareness, adoption of conservation practices in the urban environment

Objective 1: Work with municipalities, school districts, and other community groups to develop and implement demonstration projects that highlight water conservation, native plants, pollinators, urban gardens and other important conservation practices.

Objective 2: Work with food system groups such as farmers markets to encourage community members to utilize local farms.



Cascadia Conservation District Strategic Goals and Objectives Goals

Education and Outreach Goals

Goal 1: Increase the effectiveness of the Youth Education program

Objective 1: Increase effectiveness of outdoor field experiences such as Kids in the Creek, Forest, and Snow.

Objective 2: Expand the amount of offerings for real world, real-science field experiences for k-12 school students.

Objective 3: Identify and reduce barriers for youth to engage in and benefit from Cascadia CD Youth Education programming including incorporation of multi-cultural and tribal curriculum.

Goal 2: Increase Community Awareness and Engagement

Objective 1: Increase public awareness of Cascadia CD, its programs and projects.

Objective 2: Develop and implement a bilingual strategy for providing outreach and education about all Cascadia CD programs, projects and content.

Objective 3: Conduct annual or biennial surveys to Chelan County residents to assess awareness, attitudes and best methods for engaging with the community on Cascadia CD projects.

Objective 4: Targeted outreach to support specific project development and program participation

Objective 5: Evaluate effectiveness of existing outreach and education efforts and develop strategies for making continual improvements and recruiting new participants.

Goal 3: Increase Adult Education and Outreach opportunities

Objective 1: Provide workshops, farm tours and other educational content focused on adult audiences.

Objective 2: Increase our presence at community events.

Objective 3: Update content of website to provide important and pertinent conservation information for adult audiences.



Cascadia Conservation District Strategic Goals and Objectives Goals

District Operations and Cultural Resources Goals

Goal 1: Maintain strong procedures and policies

Objective 1: Update operation manual and review annually

Objective 2: Develop and implement cooperator and implementation database.

Objective 3: Ensure new staff have adequate training and resources

Goal 2: Build systems that promote District sustainability and resilience

Objective 1: Foster a strong staff through cross-training, team building and strong organizational support.

Objective 2: Build a reserve fund and business continuity plan (for personnel).

Objective 3: Conduct feasibility assessment for district owned facilities such as shop, nursery, and other operational space.

Goal 3: Maintain funding and capacity for archaeologist support for Cascadia and other Conservation Districts

Objective 1: Continue building tribal relationships and working toward meaningful engagement on projects.

Objective 2: Create cultural resource administrative efficiencies utilizing templates, protocols, checklists, and staff training.

