

Thurston Conservation District



2012-2014 Strategic Plan

District Organization:

A political sub-division of the State of Washington, with authorities and structure outlined in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 89.08.

Function:

To take 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.

Mission Statement Review:

To conserve and sustain the beneficial use and protection of local natural resources in partnership with Thurston County rural, agricultural, and urban communities using volunteerism, cooperation, leadership, education, and technical & financial assistance in a non-regulatory role.

Our Values:

- *Learning and applied education*
 - *Sustainable use of natural resources*
 - *Advocate for agricultural activity that uses sustainable, economically feasible practices*
 - *Commitment to healthy, viable natural resource systems*
 - *Value and respect each individual*
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Our Priorities:

- Land Use Conversion (Addressing Negative Impacts and Reducing Pressure)
- Urban and Rural Acreages Management
- Surface & Ground Water Quality Improvement (pollution reduction)
- Upland, riparian, and near-shore habitat conservation and enhancement
- Invasive / Exotic Species

- ☑ Salmon Habitat Recovery
- ☑ Information – Education (in all above)
- ☑ Responsible District Operations (in all above)

Our Priority Geographic Areas:

- South County (south of airport) – underserved land managers and youth (for education), economic need, opportunities to prevent resource issues, address land use conversion and all the above issues
- Upper Nisqually and Henderson watersheds (Ecology grant)
- Urbanizing areas in county
- Nearshore areas for restoration and conservation as identified in the WRIA 13 3-year work plan.

Watersheds: (not priority order)

- Chehalis
 - Deschutes
 - Eld/Totten
 - Henderson
 - Nisqually
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Our Measures of Success:

Working Lands Protection (Addressing Negative Impacts)

- Conversion rate

Urban & Rural Land Management

- Landowners served
- Practices implemented & acres benefited

Surface & Ground Water Quality Improvement (pollution reduction)

- Pollution load reduction
- 303d segments upgraded or removed
- Shellfish areas upgraded or removed
- Storm water quality improved
- Number of regulatory referrals with success

Upland, riparian, and nearshore habitat conservation and enhancement

- Landowners served
- Practices implemented; acres and linear feet benefited
- Numbers of plants, pieces of LWD, length of bulkheads removed, etc.

Invasive / Exotic Species

- Acres treated
- Landowners contacted & served

Salmon Habitat Recovery

- Stream and shoreline miles restored or conserved
- Partnerships fostered
- Landowners contacted
- Number of outreach materials produced
- Number of projects implemented

Information – Education (in all above)

- Number of people contacted (contact count)

- Number of land managers served and number that implemented practices resulting from education activities
- Website counts & pages visited
- Number of students receiving watershed education

Responsible District Operations (in all above)

- Audit results
- “District in Good Standing” elements met
- Experienced workforce available to meet workload needs
- Conversion of funding and staff resources compared to conservation work completed in any given year
- Expand partnerships with other districts, NGOs, local governments and establish administrative efficiencies.

Measurable Goals:

Working Lands Protection

- By June 2014 have a significant reduction in conversion rate

Small Acreages Management

- By June 2014 have a demonstrated increase in number of landowners served (new & existing), conservation plans completed, practices implemented, and acres benefited

Surface & Ground Water Quality Improvement (pollution reduction)

- By June 2014 have demonstrated reduction in pollution load; an increase in 303d segments upgraded or removed; an increase in shellfish areas upgraded or reopened.
- 85% of regulatory referrals are successfully addressed

Upland, Riparian, and Nearshore Habitat Conservation and Enhancement

- By June 2014 have significant increase in landowners served; practices implemented; partnerships created; acres benefited; numbers of plants, and other practices installed.

Invasive / Exotic Species

- By June 2014 have a demonstrated increase in number of acres treated; landowners contacted & served; and rental equipment usage.

Salmon Habitat Recovery

- By 2014, show an increase in the number of partnerships created with other agencies, Tribes, and non-governmental organizations (NGO's); measurable progress being made on implementing the WRIA 13 3-Year Work Programs.

Information – Education (in all above)

- By June 2014 have a significant increase in number of people contacted; numbers of information-education events; website counts & pages visited; number of land managers served; number of land managers that implemented practices resulting from information-education activities; numbers of Thurston County residents able to identify Thurston Conservation District services
- By June 2014, an additional 4500 students will participate in watershed education activities.

District Operations (in all above)

- By June 2014 have successful audit results, all “District in Good Standing” elements met; workforce available to meet workload needs; analysis of conversion of funding and staff resources compared to conservation work completed in any given year; an increase in partners creation, retention and resources shared; and have a demonstrable increase in partnerships and administrative efficiencies.

Thurston Conservation District Board Members

Doug Rushton, Chair (appointed)
Fred Colvin, Treasurer (elected)
David Hall, Member (elected)
Vivian Chambers, Member (appointed)
Dan Cathers, Member (elected)

Associated Members

Betty Bird
Jaclyn Reid
Tom Newcomb
Hank Doelman
Chris Stearns
Alan Wald

Thurston Conservation District Staff Members

(as of 1/3/12)

Kathleen Whalen, Administrator
Bonnie Ruddell, Accountant
Dave Nygard, Resource Specialist
Brian Thompson, Resource Specialist
James Weatherford, Resource Specialist
Amy Hatch-Winecka, Lead Entity Coordinator
Sarah Wooten, Education/Outreach Coordinator
Anne Mills, South Sound GREEN Co-Coordinator
Amber Smith, South Sound GREEN Co-Coordinator
Akua Nyame-Mensah, AmeriCorps Placement – South Sound GREEN