



Lincoln County Conservation District 5-Year Plan (FY2026 to FY2031)

Contact: Elsa Bowen, (509) 725-4181 ext. 117, ebowen@lincolncd.com

Organization of the Lincoln County Conservation District

- Is a political subdivision of the State of Washington –with authorities, powers, and structure granted per RCW 89.08.
- We are a non-regulatory organization that offers conservation resources (water, soil, livestock, and energy) assistance to landowners in Lincoln County.

Function of the Lincoln County Conservation District

- Is to provide technical, financial, and educational meet the resource concerns and needs (soil, water, livestock, and energy) of landowners and land managers. Funds are derived from various funding sources.

Mission of the Lincoln County Conservation District

- To help citizens of Lincoln County protect, conserve, and enhance our natural resources.

Vision of the Lincoln County Conservation District

- It is our intent to conserve and enhance Lincoln County’s natural resource base. It is our intent to promote an integrated management philosophy of education, research, and application to protect and enhance the quality of the natural and human environment.
- In addition, we believe conservation programs shall be economically feasible and socially acceptable.

Values of the Lincoln County Conservation District

- We value and strive to provide honesty, integrity, compassion, and fairness in all we do
- We believe conservation programs shall be economically feasible and socially acceptable
- We value conserving, protecting, and enhancing our natural resources for current and future generations
- We value helping the public we serve with their natural resource issues and concerns
- We value being financially responsible
- We value local leadership, partnership, and volunteerism

Who We Serve & Why

- **Citizens of Lincoln County** – The needs of our constituents are of utmost priority. We have a responsibility to educate and assist patrons/landowners to protect and enhance the natural resource base in the county and beyond as well as a purpose, authorization, and passion to serve.
- **Future Generations** – Today and into the future many people will call Lincoln County home. It is our goal to conserve, protect, and enhance natural resources today so they are available to all future generations.

- **Visitors and People throughout the World** People come to our county to recreate and for the quality of life. They deserve fresh water, clean air, and natural beauty. The natural resources should be managed in such a way to not be degraded and provide the quality-of-life residents and visitors to Lincoln County expect.

Natural Resource Data & Information:

- LCCD works in concert with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the West Palouse Local Work Group (LWG) (comprised of local farmers and ranchers). The LWG reviews natural resource data, identifies natural resource priorities by land use and resource concerns, priority treatment watersheds, and conservation practices. The LWG also identifies treatment areas, ranking questions, and funding pools for the Federal Farm Bill Programs.

Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:

- Locally needed and/or desired
- Available funding sources to address the issue (local, state, federal, and/or private)
- Time required to accomplish
- Acres treated and area(s) of the district positively impacted
- Socially acceptable and economically feasible.

Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs, Geographic Areas, Goals, Measures of Success, Milestones and Actions:

Priority 1: Regenerative Ag	Geographic Area	Measures of Success	Goals By June 30, 2031
Erosion, Drought, Nutrients, Biologicals	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acres in conservation systems • Soil erosion reduced • Soil health measurements • Tillage practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement 50 conservation plans • Assist 100 producers w/soil health measures and practices
Milestones	Timeline	Actions	
Develop and implement information and education programs	June 30, 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host and attend growers' meetings, seminars, fairs, tours, and field days to relay and demonstrate soil health/regenerative ag techniques. • Develop a communication strategy to promote soil health/regenerative ag programs that include newsletter, website, and social media 	
Identify feasible projects and related funding source possibilities	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a bank of funding opportunities related to regenerative ag management • Develop a communication strategy with area partners to share grant funding opportunities 	
Administer cost share programs	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete 25 projects per year to include the direct seed program and other soil health /regenerative ag programs 	

Establish a working linkage with fertilizer companies to provide soil health technical assistance.	June 30, 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a communication strategy with at least two companies • Include company staff at events to promote soil health techniques 	
Soil health/regenerative ag education tour at Lincoln County schools.	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host soil erosion experiment and farm visit events at area elementary schools each year 	
Partner with WSU researchers and others to promote & seek funding for soil health/regenerative ag techniques.	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop communications with area soil health researchers and share grant funding opportunities. 	
Priority 2: Water Resources	Geographic Area	Measures of Success	Goals By June 30, 2031
Irrigation, Water Supply, Water Storage	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of projects, related plans, acres, and impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete five water storage, five water supply, and five irrigation projects
Water Monitoring	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water conservation • Conservation practices implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a long-term water monitoring strategy for county residents
Milestones	Timeline	Actions	
Identify feasible projects and related funding source possibilities	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a bank of funding opportunities related to water resource management • Develop communication strategy with area partners to share grant funding opportunities. 	
Administer cost share programs	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and complete three cost share projects per year. 	
Partner with regional stakeholders to create long term water management solutions for Columbia Basin	By June 30, 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in meetings, develop communication strategies and strategic plans 	
Priority 3: Water Quality	Geographic Area	Measures of Success	Goals By June 30, 2031
Point and Non-Point Source: Livestock, Septic Systems, Nutrients, Pesticides, and other Pollution Sources	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality measurements as related to NRCS standards • Number of projects, related plans, acres, and impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate 500 people on water quality • Complete 25 water quality improvement projects
Milestones	Timeline	Actions	
Identify feasible projects and related funding source possibilities	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a bank of funding opportunities related to water resource management • Develop communication strategy with area partners to share grant funding opportunities. 	

Host informational meetings & develop exhibit materials	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet, communicate, and plan with community members 	
Administer cost share programs for water quality and water quality monitoring	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and implement five water quality projects 	
Priority 4: Forestry & Grazing Lands	Geographic Area	Measures of Success	Goals By June 30, 2031
Forest Health & Risks, Invasive Species, Erosion and Water Resources	Forest lands & grazing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of projects, related plans, acres, and impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete 300 acres of conservation treated areas
Milestones	Timeline	Actions	
Identify feasible projects and related funding source possibilities	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a bank of funding opportunities related to forestry and grazing lands Develop communication strategy with area partners to share grant funding opportunities. 	
Administer cost share programs related to grazing practices and management	June 30, 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and implement five forestry and grazing projects 	
Priority 5: Wildlife Habitat and Resources	Geographic Area	Measures of Success	Goals By June 30, 2031
ESA, Threatened and Other	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of projects, related plans, acres, and impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete 10 projects for wildlife habitat
Milestones	Timeline	Actions	
Disseminate information regarding wildlife threats and related policies from partnering agencies.	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue communication links with DNR, WDFW and BLM partners to transmit this information. Hold public meetings as needed to communicate these policies to residents. 	
Implement a sage grouse and other animal habitat awareness program	June 30, 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to develop focus areas for best management practices and installations 	
Provide resources for landowners to improve wildlife habitats on their property.	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a tree, shrub, plant sale Promote habitat improvement practices through internet, social media and newsletter publications via print and digital mediums 	
Priority 6: Energy	Geographic Area	Measures of Success	Goals By June 30, 2031
Renewable, Wind, Solar, Efficiencies, Other	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of projects completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete five energy conservation projects
Milestones	Timeline	Actions	
Provide resources for landowners to improve the energy efficiency of their operations	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote energy efficiency activities through internet, social media and newsletter resources both digital and print medium 	
Identify and implement cost share programs related to	June 30, 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with producers and partners to find projects and funding 	

water quality and water quality monitoring		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and implement five energy conservation projects. 	
Priority 7: Fire Prevention	Geographic Area	Measures of Success	Goals By June 30, 2031
Fuels reduction, Forest Stand Improvements	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of acres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat 500 acres, create three Firewise Communities, and complete 30 home assessments
Milestones	Timeline	Actions	
Provide resources for landowners to improve the defensible spaces on their properties	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate outreach information through internet and newsletter mediums and promote programs through exhibits at area events. 	
Identify feasible projects and related funding source possibilities	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a bank of funding opportunities related to fuel reduction management Develop communication strategy with area partners to share grant funding opportunities. 	
Administer cost share programs to reduce wildfire danger	June 30, 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat 500 acres of privately-owned property to create defensible spaces. 	
Priority 8: Conservation Education & Recruitment	Geographic Area	Measures of Success	Goals By June 30, 2031
Conservation Outreach	County wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people reached and related impact from events and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of people reached with events and activities by 15%
Education and Recruitment	County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach through various print and media modalities Job shadowing Information booth at Lincoln Co events Hosting and or participating in County held workshops and trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present “what we do” at 3 school events or job fairs Provide 5 educational opportunities for future natural resource enthusiasts
Milestones	Timeline	Actions	
Educational opportunities identified and a plan based on audience, messaging, and media needs	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase electronic and social media outreach to Lincoln County residents Contact Schools for job fair dates & request to have a booth 	
Identify and implement new ways to share district accomplishments to key	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for innovative educational opportunities Test new marketing techniques 	

audiences			
Promote landowner-driven conservation practices	June 30, 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight the Voluntary Stewardship Program components and other programs online and at area events. 	
Create training opportunities for area students	June 30, 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend career fairs to recruit and hire, train, and supervise interns 	
Priority 9: Employee Retention & District Operations	Geographic Area	Measures of Success	Goals By June 30, 2031
Employee Education & Development	County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of cost share contracts completed Number of trainings completed Innovative marketing modalities implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the completion of 25 cost share programs. Promote trainings opportunities, both virtual and in person Employee training of new marketing trends
District operations	County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial condition Support partner conservation activities Deliverables above Stable Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete deliverables with partner support while maintaining sound financial condition and stable staffing
Milestones	Timeline	Actions	
Fund and encourage training opportunities for each discipline	Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each employee will attend training workshops, virtually and in person to increase knowledge and application of natural resource conservation practices. Employees will be encouraged to obtain Conservation Planner Certification I II III through the NRCS 	

- **District Needs from Supporting Agencies (Washington State SCC, WACD, WDFW, DOE, NRCS and other Agencies,**
- Conservation planning assistance and access to planning tools
- Education and information of conservation system programs that get results
- Technical assistance
- Have their voice heard at local, state, and federal level
- Partner program support
- Adequate cost share or grants to meet the resource concerns for operators and landowners
- Advocacy group to be a buffer between regulators and clients
- Mentor a farmer program and effective ways to exchange ideas
- Assistance with natural disasters and recovery
- Economic, marketing and research information readily available