

MID-COLUMBIA BASIN DROUGHT PLAN

We Need Your Input!

Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD) has received a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology to prepare the Mid-Columbia Basin Drought Preparedness Plan (the Plan). The Plan will identify drought risks and drought mitigation projects.

WHERE

The Plan will be for the **FLAG** (Franklin, Lincoln, Adams, and Grant) county area.

WHEN

The Plan will be completed by February 2027.

WHY

The intent of the Plan is to serve as a foundational document for communities in the FLAG counties to secure funding, when available, for drought mitigation project implementation.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We want to hear from you. We will be asking for input throughout the planning process. Have you or your community been affected by drought? What kind of drought mitigation projects would help your community be more resilient to the impacts of drought?

- Please contact Brean Nieman, directly by email or phone: bnienan@lincolncd.com | 509-725-3050
- Follow on social media for updates - www.facebook.com/lincolncountycd, or visit the Mid-Columbia Basin Drought Preparedness Plan website, www.lincolncd.com/mid-columbia-basin-drought-plan.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Mid-Columbia Basin's farmers and public water supply systems depend on water resources that face unmitigated threats from drought. Dryland farming is particularly vulnerable as the water supply comes directly from rain. Most irrigated agriculture in the project area relies on surface water supplied by the Bureau's Columbia Basin Irrigation Project (CBP); agricultural lands without access to CBP water irrigate with groundwater. Drought increases groundwater withdrawal rates and stresses the local aquifer which is already in decline. Farmers and municipal/community water systems are facing challenges to meet their water demand; some are being forced to lower their pumps, switch to shallow sources that require costly treatment, or develop expensive water storage projects. The intent of the Mid-Columbia Basin Drought Plan is to create locally driven recommendations that influence water management and direct resources toward drought resilient water solutions. The drought planning effort is being led by the Lincoln County Conservation District in partnership with the Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Coalition.

