



5-Year Plan (2022 to 2027) Mason Conservation District

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Organization of the District

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

Mission of the District

Promote the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of natural resources for future generations.

Function of the District

Provide our community with technical, financial, and educational resources to accomplish the District's mission.

Vision of the District

A resilient and healthy ecosystem with abundant natural resources that supports working lands and a sustainable economy.

Values of the District

- Adaptability, sustainability, and effectiveness
- Collaborative relationships and leadership
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Fairness, honesty, and accessibility
- Financial integrity and transparency
- Historic and traditional knowledge
- Multi-benefit stewardship solutions
- Results-based conservation

Natural Resource Priorities

- Promote the sustainability and viability of working lands.
 - Promote, restore, and protect healthy soil.
 - Assist with organic waste management and help develop beneficial uses of nutrients.
 - Protect and improve water quality and ecosystem function through increased awareness by landowners.
 - Protect and improve water quality and ecosystem function through the voluntary implementation of best management practices.
 - Promote resilient natural areas that balance ecological and community values.
 - Offer landowners assistance with land management planning, and conduct resource and risk assessments.
 - Develop plans to guide protection of natural resources and human well-being.
 - Support and promote local food production and food security.
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Focus Areas

- The District's areas of focus include:
 - Stormwater
 - Freshwater habitats that support significant and endangered fish populations
 - Marine habitats that support forage fish, salmonid, and shellfish populations.
 - Forested lands throughout Mason County
 - Agricultural lands throughout Mason County
 - Critical aquifer recharge areas throughout Mason County
 - Erosion hazard areas throughout Mason County
 - Diverse wildlife habitat types that support native mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, pollinators, other invertebrates, etc.
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Technical Assistance – Education Priorities

- Educate and engage youth and adults in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of natural resources in our community.
 - Provide hands-on conservation and stewardship experiences such as volunteer events, workshops, classes, and farm tours.
 - Provide a forum to allow for peer to peer collaboration and information sharing.
 - Collaborate with natural resource businesses, non-profits, local tribes, and other partners to deliver meaningful and relevant learning opportunities.
 - Educate community about advances in applicable science and best management practices.
 - Communicate the value of natural resources to the residents of Mason County.
 - Increase community awareness of the benefits of conserving and sustaining natural resources.
 - Assist with the implementation of conservation practices.
 - Promote, support, and participate in community events that provide an opportunity to connect Mason County residents with the District's services and resources.
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District Operations Priorities

- Promote the values of the District in all facets of operation.
 - Realize efficiencies through improved operational systems.
 - Secure sufficient funding/financial resources when and where possible to achieve mission.
 - Increase public awareness of the District's mission, services, and accomplishments.
 - Maintain awareness of regional, state, and federal priorities to align the District with future opportunities.
 - Seek every opportunity to diversify funding to maintain resiliency and expand programming while continuing focus on priorities.
 - Collaborate with local, state, federal, and tribal partners to develop and implement coordinated and strategic ecosystem recovery actions.
 - Use relevant and available tools to identify and improve accessibility to District services in overburdened and underserved portions of the community.
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Trends Changing Conservation in the District

- COVID-19 pandemic and resulting long term changes to society.
- Rapidly growing population in Mason County.
- Changing demographics and economic conditions.

- Changing land use patterns and regulations (ex. Loss of habitat and working lands to development and degradation.).
 - Increasing demands on water availability and prioritization of utilization.
 - Increasing actions among regulatory agencies to achieve Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Clean Water Act (CWA) compliance.
 - Increasing demand for technical and financial assistance with insufficient and unstable funding.
 - Changing climate impacts on flood frequency and magnitude, temperature and precipitation trends, and sea level changes.
 - Expected increase in access to funding for infrastructure related and shovel ready projects.
 - Increased societal focus on and awareness of land uses and sustainability, wildfire related impacts, and food systems/food security.
 - Increasing pressures on current recreational facilities and demand for outdoor recreational opportunity.
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Strategies to Address Trends

- Development and implementation of monitoring strategies for District conservation initiatives to measure long term value and effectiveness.
 - Continual adaptation of programs and operational strategies in response to societal threats and priorities (including COVID-19, wildfire prevention/recovery, and food systems/food security).
 - Implement priority actions through the Annual Plan of Work.
 - Continued investment in professional development for District staff to increase knowledge and efficiency in the production of effective strategies for natural resource management.
 - Awareness of developing constraints on water availability necessary to sustain quality of life and a livable community.
 - Increased emphasis of District efforts toward freshwater and marine shorelines.
 - Increase emphasis on enhancement of agricultural viability through voluntary stewardship.
 - Increased emphasis on formulating, building, and/or facilitating a community organic waste management program.
 - Identify and share ideas with the community to empower individuals to act on easy things to implement in response to trends and resource challenges.
 - Seek funding and expand partnerships to assist with development of environmentally friendly recreational facilities, programs and opportunities.
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Key Decision Makers

- Board of Mason County Commissioners
 - District Board and staff
 - Native American tribes
 - Partners such as: Schools, NGOs, Non-profits, etc
 - Residents and landowners in Mason County
 - Shelton City Council
 - State and federal policy makers
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To guide the implementation of this long-range plan the District updates the annual plan of work every spring. The annual plan of work can be found on the District's webpage here: [Board Agendas, Minutes & Plans - Mason Conservation District \(masoncd.org\)](https://www.masoncd.org/Board-Agendas-Minutes-Plans)

