



# 5-Year Plan (2016 to 2021) 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.

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## Mission of the District

To promote the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of natural resources in our community.

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## Function of the District

To make available technical, financial, and educational resources and coordinate them to meet the needs of residents to accomplish the mission of the District.

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## Vision of the District

A healthy natural resource environment that supports working lands and a sustainable economy.

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## Values of the District

- Financial integrity and transparency regarding use and allocation of public resources.
- Delivering cost-effective programs and common sense conservation.
- The District's role as a liaison between land managers and other government agencies.
- Earning the trust of our clients by the value of the services we deliver.
- Conservation and stewardship practices supporting working lands and vibrant ecosystems.
- Collaborative leadership in community-based conservation.
- Passionate pursuit of excellence to create value.

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## Natural Resource Priorities

- Increase awareness and action among marine and freshwater shoreline landowners to protect habitat and water quality.
- Restore marine habitats to support healthy ecosystem functions.
- Implement riparian management plans for freshwater and marine shorelines.
- Increase resilience of forest lands to capture ecological, recreational, and other values by assisting landowners to actively manage forest lands.
- Conduct resource risk assessments to protect natural resources and human well-being.
- Assist in organic waste management and help develop beneficial uses of nutrients.

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## Critical Geographic Areas

- All watersheds of Mason County are critical geographic areas.
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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.
  - 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.
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## **District Operations Priorities**

- Secure sufficient funding/financial resources when and where possible to achieve mission.
  - Increase awareness of conservation district mission, services, and natural resource conservation.
  - Increase public recognition of the District and its programs.
  - Deliver equitable services with Integrity.
  - Implement innovative and cost-effective conservation solutions.
  - Collaborate with local and regional partners to develop and implement coordinated and strategic ecosystem recovery actions.
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## **Trends Impacting Conservation in the District**

- Rapidly growing population in Mason County from 2011 to 2015.
  - Changing demographics and economic conditions.
  - Changing land use patterns and regulations.
  - Increasing demands on water availability and prioritization of utilization.
  - Increasing regulatory actions to achieve Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Clean Water Act (CWA) compliance.
  - Increasing demand for technical assistance with insufficient and unstable funding.
  - Changing climate and sea level.
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## **Strategies to Address Trends**

- The District will implement priority actions through the Annual Plan of Work
  - Continued investment in professional development for District staff to increase knowledge and efficiency in the development 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.
  - Develop and implement effectiveness monitoring strategies for District conservation initiatives.
  - Increase emphasis to enhance agricultural viability through voluntary stewardship.
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## **Key Decision Makers**

- Residents and landowners in Mason County
  - District Board and staff
  - Board of Mason County Commissioners
  - State and federal policy makers
  - Native American tribes
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