



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

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

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 to support ecological and community values by assisting landowners to actively manage lands. Conduct resource and risk assessments.
 - Develop plans to guide protection of natural resources and human well-being.
 - Support local food production and food security.
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Focus Areas

- The District's areas of focus include:
 - Stormwater
 - Freshwater Habitat: Watersheds that support Tribally significant and endangered fish populations
 - Marine Habitat: Areas that support forage fish populations and priority salmon populations, as well as recreational/commercial/cultural shellfish beds
 - Forested Areas: Non-industrial forest lands throughout Mason County
 - Agricultural Lands: All agricultural lands throughout Mason County
 - Critical aquifer recharge areas throughout Mason County
 - Erosion hazard areas throughout Mason County
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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.
 - 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.
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District Operations Priorities

- Promote the values of the District in all facets of operation.
 - Realize efficiencies through improved operational business 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 and regional partners to develop and implement coordinated and strategic ecosystem recovery actions.
 - Expand community accessibility to District programs and services by utilizing expanded formats and locally pertinent languages.
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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 regulatory actions 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 wildfire related impacts and food systems/food security.
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Strategies to Address Trends

- Development and implementation 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.
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Key Decision Makers

- Residents and landowners in Mason County
 - District Board and staff
 - Board of Mason County Commissioners
 - Shelton City Council
 - State and federal policy makers
 - Native American tribes
 - Partners such as: Schools, NGOs, Non-profits, etc.
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