

Agency Activity Inventory by Agency

Appropriation Period: 2003-05 Activity Version: 2004 Sup w/ Alloc & Activities

Agency: 471 - State Conservation Commission

Conservation District Audits

This activity supplies funding to cover the costs of the State Auditor's Office (SAO) to audit the state's 48 conservation districts. Conservation districts are legal subdivisions of state government, and these audits ensure that grants to the districts are spent in compliance with state laws.

Statewide Result Area: Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources

Category: Manage damage to the environment

FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$64,000	\$0	\$64,000	0.0	\$64,000	\$0	\$64,000	0.0

Expected Results:

SAO audits and technical assistance provided by the Commission ensure that conservation districts adhere to state law.

Outcome Measure: Percentage of audited Conservation Districts with no audit findings or management letters against Conservation Commission funds as a result of a State Audit.

1999-01		2001-03		2003-05	
FY00 Actual	FY01 Actual	FY02 Actual	FY03 Estimate	FY04 Proposed	FY05 Proposed
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

SWR #9 - Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance Grants

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a federal-state partnership created in 1998. It is a voluntary, streamside restoration program to enhance salmon habitat on agricultural lands by removing land from production and planting native trees and shrubs so that bank stabilization and other important ecological functions occur. Grants issued to 33 conservation districts statewide provide technical expertise in developing and implementing planting plans; help prepare required paperwork; and provide follow-up to ensure the survival of plantings. The program also has a capital component that is the state's match for installation and maintenance costs (the state pays 10 percent of installation costs and 100 percent of maintenance costs for five years.)

Statewide Result Area: Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources

Category: Preserve and restore natural systems and the environment

FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$950,000	\$950,000	\$0	1.5	\$950,000	\$950,000	\$0	1.5

Expected Results:

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The program currently has more than 7700 acres enrolled and anticipates enrolling another 2500 acres in 2003-05. It provides the opportunity for private landowners to be compensated for removing streamside land from production and rehabilitating the site by planting trees and shrubs. Long-term contract goals with USDA include enrolling 10,000 stream miles statewide and witnessing the improved habitat for salmonid stocks over the course of the contract period. For every \$1.00 in state money, \$4.00 of federal money is invested in this program. This program also has a capital component that is the state's match for actual installation and maintenance. The State pays 10 percent of the installation costs and 100 percent of the maintenance costs on the site for 5 years.

Outcome Measure: Cumulative number of streamside acres enrolled in the Washington Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

1999-01		2001-03		2003-05	
FY00 Actual	FY01 Actual	FY02 Actual	FY03 Estimate	FY04 Proposed	FY05 Proposed
0	0	0	0	0	0

SWR #9 - Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources.

Outcome Measure: Total number of CREP enrolled stream miles protected through streambank restoration.

1999-01		2001-03		2003-05	
FY00 Actual	FY01 Actual	FY02 Actual	FY03 Estimate	FY04 Proposed	FY05 Proposed
0	0	0	0	0	0

SWR #9 - Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources.

Direct Technical Assistance

This activity includes providing regular training to staff in 48 conservation districts and 500 conservation district Board of Supervisor volunteers. This aide strengthens public accountability and ensures that laws, rules, and procedures are being followed in the provision of services to citizens. Commission staff assist districts with a wide variety of issues, including organizational development, facilitation, personnel recruitment and management, financial planning, and local involvement. The Commission also ensures that the Board of Supervisor election and appointment processes are in accordance with commission procedures and RCW 89.08. The Commission coordinates stakeholder involvement on statewide issues relating to private landowner resources and helps identify state-wide priorities in the natural resources arena.

Statewide Result Area: Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources

Category: Manage damage to the environment

FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$264,000	\$0	\$264,000	3.8	\$280,000	\$0	\$280,000	3.8

Expected Results:

To continue professional services and natural resources protection and enhancement guidance to conservation districts and coordinate local conservation efforts with all state agency natural resource priorities. Coordinate data and compliance with grants administration, provide oversight to reduce the risk audit findings and loss of public funds.

Outcome Measure: Percentage of Dairies statewide with certified Dairy Nutrient Management Plans

1999-01		2001-03		2003-05	
FY00 Actual	FY01 Actual	FY02 Actual	FY03 Estimate	FY04 Proposed	FY05 Proposed
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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District Basic Funding Grants

In 1989 the Legislature provided a basic level of funding for each conservation district. Grants are provided annually to each of the state's conservation districts for basic administrative functions necessary to achieve water quality and natural resource preservation goals.

Statewide Result Area: Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources

Category: Manage damage to the environment

FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$622,000	\$622,000	\$0	0.3	\$622,000	\$622,000	\$0	0.3

Expected Results:

Within Commission guidelines, conservation districts can prioritize how these dollars are spent. Conservation districts will provide a report to the Commission on how these funds were spent.

Grant Administration

The Conservation Commission has 332 active grant contracts. The grant administration activity consists of writing contracts, negotiating the scope of work, monitoring the activity, evaluating and reimbursing allowable expenses and ensure adherence to state laws. Additional administration activities include review of each district's administration of grants, participating stakeholder task forces/committees to provide for project evaluation and funding recommendations, and reporting to various other state agencies and compliance with RCW 89.08. All activities, including some capital projects not listed, are managed under this activity and the Direct Technical Assistance Activity.

Statewide Result Area: Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources

Category: Manage damage to the environment

FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$546,000	\$546,000	\$0	6.2	\$558,000	\$558,000	\$0	6.2

Expected Results:

That grant vouchers will meet the requirements of contract language and explicit Legislative intent and that vouchers will continue to be processed in a 72-hour time frame. A commitment to continuing strong stakeholder involvement on the implementation of all WSCC programs.

Professional Engineering Grants

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Through grants awarded to conservation districts, private engineers are hired to provide services to a group of conservation districts. These grants have allowed nine professional engineers to serve all 48 conservation districts at a much lower cost than by contracting for services or providing an engineer for each district. Through this coordinated effort, engineering services are available to private landowners to implement their natural resources conservation plans and ensure that projects meet required engineering standards.

Statewide Result Area: Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources

Category: Manage damage to the environment

FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$750,000	\$0	\$750,000	0.5	\$750,000	\$0	\$750,000	0.5

Expected Results:

Provide clustered engineering services for a variety of natural resource restoration and preservation projects, ranging from dairy nutrient management practices to salmon enhancement projects, at a much lower cost than through a contracted Engineer and ensure that the practice implemented meets the anticipated ecological result.

Outcome Measure: Percentage of Dairies statewide with certified Dairy Nutrient Management Plans

1999-01		2001-03		2003-05	
FY00 Actual	FY01 Actual	FY02 Actual	FY03 Estimate	FY04 Proposed	FY05 Proposed
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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Salmon Intertidal Habitat Restoration Task Force Staffing

Recent legislation created a 16-member Salmon Intertidal Habitat Restoration Task Force and directed the Commission to provide it with staff support. The Commission has authority to contract with other entities in developing the plan, including requirements outlined in the legislation.

Statewide Result Area: Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources

Category: Preserve and restore natural systems and the environment

FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$118,000	\$118,000	\$0	0.5	\$121,000	\$121,000	\$0	0.5

Expected Results:

WSCC intends to fully comply with the requirements of E2SHB1418, including, but not limited to, preparing reports for the Legislature and reimbursing task force members for travel expenses.

Landowner Education and Assessment

An "Assessment Tool" will be developed to assist landowners with livestock determine the application of the Livestock Nutrient Management Act (RCW 90.64) on their facility. This Assessment Tool will define the elements of an "Animal Feeding Operation" and "Confined Animal Feeding Operation" and any necessary changes that might need to occur with their facility. This Assessment provides the Conservation Districts Technical staff and the landowner the opportunity to evaluate the water quality risks and compliance measures necessary to protect the natural resources.

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FY 2004				FY 2005			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	0.0

Expected Results:

This education, guidance and Assessment Tool will lead to implementation of best management practices that prevent water quality and air quality degradation.
