

## 471 - State Conservation Commission

### A001 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.

	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennial Total
FTE's	0.0	0.0	0.0
GFS	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$230,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>	<b>\$230,000</b>

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

**Statewide Strategy: Establish safeguards and standards to protect natural resources**

#### Expected Results

The audits performed by the State Auditor's Office and the technical assistance provided by the Commission ensure that conservation districts adhere to state law.

Percentage of audited conservation districts with no audit findings or management letters against Conservation Commission funds as a result of a state audit.				
Biennium	Period	Target	Actual	Variance
2007-09	8th Qtr	95%		
	4th Qtr	95%		
2005-07	8th Qtr	95%	95%	0%
	4th Qtr	85%	99%	14%
2003-05	8th Qtr	80%	95%	15%
	4th Qtr	75%	78%	3%

### A002 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance Grants

Appropriation Period: 2007-09 Activity Version: 2C - 08 Supplemental Enacted Recast

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).

	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennial Total
FTE's	0.5	0.5	0.5
GFS	\$950,000	\$948,000	\$1,898,000
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$950,000	\$948,000	\$1,898,000

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

**Statewide Strategy: Preserve, maintain and restore natural systems and landscapes**

**Expected Results**

CREP had more than 7,000 acres enrolled during the 2001-03 Biennium, and it was anticipated that another 2,500 acres would be enrolled in the 2003-05 Biennium. 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 the U.S. Department of Agriculture 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. CREP 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 five years.

Biennium	Period	Target	Actual	Variance
2007-09	8th Qtr	12,000		
	4th Qtr	11,500		
2005-07	8th Qtr	11,000	11,166	166
	4th Qtr	10,400	10,389	(11)
2003-05	8th Qtr	18,000	9,646	(8,354)
	4th Qtr	13,000	9,018	(3,982)

Total number of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program-enrolled stream miles protected through streambank restoration.				
Biennium	Period	Target	Actual	Variance
2007-09	8th Qtr	650		
	4th Qtr	650		
2005-07	8th Qtr	650	616	(34)
	4th Qtr	600	605	5
2003-05	8th Qtr	1,000	553	(447)
	4th Qtr	750	500	(250)

**A003 Direct Technical Assistance**

This activity includes providing regular training to staff in 48 conservation districts and to 500 conservation district Board of Supervisor volunteers. This aid 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 statewide priorities in the natural resources arena.

	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennial Total
FTE's	6.5	7.0	6.8
GFS	\$500,000	\$706,000	\$1,206,000
Other	\$4,239,000	\$4,234,000	\$8,473,000
Total	\$4,739,000	\$4,940,000	\$9,679,000

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

**Statewide Strategy: Establish safeguards and standards to protect natural resources**

**Expected Results**

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

**A004 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 those basic administrative functions necessary to achieve water quality and natural resource preservation goals.

*Appropriation Period: 2007-09 Activity Version: 2C - 08 Supplemental Enacted Recast*

	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>Biennial Total</b>
FTE's	0.2	0.2	0.2
GFS	\$672,000	\$672,000	\$1,344,000
Other	\$464,000	\$464,000	\$928,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,136,000</b>	<b>\$1,136,000</b>	<b>\$2,272,000</b>

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

**Statewide Strategy: Establish safeguards and standards to protect natural resources**

**Expected Results**

Within Commission guidelines, conservation districts can prioritize how their dollars are spent. Conservation districts provide reports to the Commission showing how funds were spent.

**A005 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 ensuring adherence to state laws. Additional administration activities include reviewing each district’s administration of grants, and participating in stakeholder task forces/committees to provide for project evaluation and funding recommendations. All activities, including some capital projects not listed, are managed under this activity and the Direct Technical Assistance Activity.

	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>Biennial Total</b>
FTE's	10.1	10.1	10.1
GFS	\$767,000	\$781,000	\$1,548,000
Other	\$322,000	\$343,000	\$665,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,089,000</b>	<b>\$1,124,000</b>	<b>\$2,213,000</b>

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

**Statewide Strategy: Establish safeguards and standards to protect natural resources**

**Expected Results**

Grant vouchers will meet the requirements of contract language and explicit legislative intent, and vouchers will continue to be processed within a 72-hour timeframe. A commitment to continuing strong stakeholder involvement on the implementation of all Commission programs.

**A006 Professional Engineering Grants**

*Appropriation Period: 2007-09 Activity Version: 2C - 08 Supplemental Enacted Recast*

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.

	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>Biennial Total</b>
FTE's	0.5	0.5	0.5
GFS	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$750,000	\$749,000	\$1,499,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>	<b>\$749,000</b>	<b>\$1,499,000</b>

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

**Statewide Strategy: Establish safeguards and standards to protect natural resources**

**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 practices implemented meet the anticipated ecological result.

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**Grand Total**

	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>Biennial Total</b>
FTE's	17.8	18.3	18.1
GFS	\$2,889,000	\$3,107,000	\$5,996,000
Other	\$5,890,000	\$5,905,000	\$11,795,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,779,000</b>	<b>\$9,012,000</b>	<b>\$17,791,000</b>