



## **5-Year Plan (2017 to 2021)**

# **South Douglas Conservation District**

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### **Organization of the South Douglas Conservation District**

South Douglas is a political subdivision of the State of Washington – authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08. The District was established on August 5, 1975, a final organization of the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District that began February 15, 1941.

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### **Function of the South Douglas Conservation District**

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

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### **Who We Serve & Why**

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the local conservation needs of soil, water and related natural resources.

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### **Mission of the South Douglas Conservation District**

Maintain and improve natural resources, particularly soil and water, in southern Douglas County through cooperative education, demonstrations and voluntary participation.

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### **Vision of the South Douglas Conservation District**

South Douglas Conservation District provides local leadership in promoting wise stewardship of natural resources through programs, funding, education and workshops. A place for local landowners to come and seek assistance for use and protection of natural resources.

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### **Values of the South Douglas Conservation District**

Conservation of natural resources, voluntary participation, honesty and fairness, financial responsibility, helping all landowners and general public who request our assistance.

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### **Natural Resource Data & Information:**

South Douglas has 549,120 acres. Of that approximately 20,000 acres are irrigated orchards or crops, 5,000 woodland, 30,000 urban and suburban (including transportation) and the remaining 494,120 half is dryland farming and half range. As the population grows rural is becoming urban and conservation of natural resources needs to be encouraged.

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### **Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:**

Knowledge of past and present farming practices highlights what needs to be done. As the population grows, agriculture acreage shrinks and utilizing available resources to the best advantage is critical. Weather conditions, such as drought, directly influences all farming and conservation practices within the district. Government programs, such as CRP takeout, directly impacts current projects.

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**Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Geographic Areas, Measures of Success and Goals:**

- **Wind & Water Erosion Control:** By 2021 maintain or decrease soil erosion on fragile cropland in SDCD.
- **Noxious Weed Control:** By 2021 have a demonstrated reduction in noxious weed infestations in SDCD.
- **Firewise Planning & Implementation:** By 2021 increase the number of people involved in developing and implementing Firewise plans and projects in SDCD
- **Livestock Grazing, Range and Water:** by 2021 have a demonstrated increase in acres meeting grazing prescription and increase number of spring improvements in SDCD
- **Conservation Technology:** By 2021 have a demonstrated increase in number of participants adopting new conservation technology and acres involved in SDCD.
- **Alternative Cropping Systems:** By 2021, have a demonstrated increase in # of acres with alternative cropping, improved test results for soil quality and yields in SDCD.
- **Irrigation Water Management:** by 2021, have a demonstrated increase in the number of irrigation water management plans being utilized.
- **Education:** By 2021, have demonstrated increase in educational opportunities and goals accomplished in SDCD.

**Information – Education & District Operations Priorities, Measures of Success, and Goals:**

- By 2021, achieve community awareness and acceptance of the District as the primary conduit for voluntary conservation of natural resources.
- By 2021, operate a natural resources information and education program that will assist such programs as the Envirothon, field trips, and existing school programs.
- By 2021, expand education programs for adults, both rural and urban.
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**Land Manager Needs**

Land managers need to know how to utilize natural resources while protecting those same resources for future needs and generations. Having local assistance greatly magnifies their ability to conserve and safeguard land, water, animals, and air.

**Milestones, Timeline & Actions**

**Priority:**

**Measurable Goal:**

Milestones	Timeline	12 Month Actions
Identify and prioritize areas where work can be done and has been done by sub-watershed.	By 6/30/21	Work with staff, NRCS and FSA staff to identify priority areas
Contact each producer in high priority areas regarding technical, financial and technology available. Conservation Plans with five producers	By 6/30/21	Work with NRCS to develop Conservation Plans.

Identify and map top 5 noxious weeds and related problem areas. Identify treatment options	By 6/30/21	Work with WSU and others to pinpoint Areas of greatest concern.
Implement Firewise Plan in Douglas County	By 6/30/21	Work establishing Firewise program for Douglas County
Increase conservation education opportunities	By 6/30/21	
Investigate alternative crop systems that will work within the district.	By 6/30/21	Work with Central WA Grain Growers and farmers to Determines what is economically viable within the District.

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### Staffing Needs

Ideally a district coordinator, resource technician, shared engineer, part time education/outreach. Currently part time staff working on specific projects.

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### Annual Budget Needs

With the uncertainty of funding by State and local sources, the District works on projects as funding is available. Reserves can help meet matching requirements.

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### Key Decision Makers

South Douglas Conservation District Board of Supervisors, Washington Conservation Commission, Douglas County Commissioners, NRCS, other government agencies, general public.

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### Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

