

Washington State Conservation Commission

Program Descriptions



Livestock Grants: The Washington State Legislature appropriates funding to WSCC to distribute Livestock Grants to conservation districts. The Livestock Grant is used to assist owners and operators of animal feeding operations in developing nutrient management plans as well as providing information to smaller scale livestock producers. In addition, the Livestock Grant provides cost share funding for implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP's) such as facility gutters, livestock exclusion fencing, and manure containment facilities.



Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program (IEGP): The IEGP is administered by WSCC through a contracted partnership with the Washington state Department of Ecology. The IEGP helps private landowners partner with local conservation districts to save water and aid in salmon recovery. By implementing BMP's to increase the efficiency of on-farm water applications and conveyance systems, the IEGP converts water savings into beneficial instream flows in tributaries with listed salmonid species.



Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP): WSCC administers CREP to provide funding for private landowners who enroll land located along water bodies with priority salmonid stocks. Eligible land is fenced and/or planted to create forested streamside buffers that are protected for 10-15 years, providing cooler streams, more diverse aquatic habitats, and a reduction in sediments. Participants are reimbursed for 100% of eligible costs and receive an annual rental payment per acre enrolled. FSA provides 80% of the funding for CREP.



Farm Plan Implementation Grant (FPIG): WSCC administers FPIG funding, appropriated by the Legislature, to the 47 conservation districts in Washington State. Based on local long-range and annual planning, districts use the funding to conduct outreach activities (such as the workshop pictured to the left), provide technical and financial assistance for BMP implementation, participate in watershed planning, and coordinate water quality monitoring activities.



Voluntary
Incentive-based
Private landowner Actions!



Puget Sound Water Quality Work Plan Grants (PSWQ): The PSWQ Grants Program is a partnership between WSCC and twelve conservation districts that border Puget Sound. The program funds implementation of the current Puget Sound Water Quality Work Plan prepared by the Puget Sound Action Team. Districts use the funding to conduct outreach activities, provide technical and financial assistance for BMP implementation, participate in watershed planning, and coordinate water quality monitoring activities.



Professional Engineering Services Grant: Conservation districts with similar resource issues work in “clusters” to prioritize each participating district’s engineering needs. Funding appropriated to WSCC by the Legislature is used to hire a licensed professional engineer for each cluster. Engineering services cover projects for dairies, small farms, habitat restoration, irrigation, and other non-point water quality projects.



Coordinated Resource Management (CRM): WSCC is funded by the Washington State Department of Ecology to facilitate consensus-based decision making by small watershed groups in the state under CRM. Through trainings, workshops, and tours, CRM offers a voluntary, collaborative, team approach that promotes active local participation in developing and implementing sound resource management programs.



Columbia River Basin Water Management Program (CRBWM): WSCC assists the Washington Department of Ecology with the implementation of RCW 90.90 to develop storage, conservation, and improved water management practices for the Columbia River main stem. The goal is to get water to the right place at the right time to support both healthy, growing communities as well as the needs of fish.



Good Governance and Capacity Building Grants: The Washington State Legislature appropriates funding to the Commission to assist the 47 conservation districts in the state with expenses not covered by other funding sources. Good Governance Grants provide funding for salaries and benefits, travel, training, equipment, and overhead expenses. Capacity Building Grants assist districts with activities such as strategic planning, training, participation in statewide networks, and implementing long-term funding strategies.



Office of Farmland Preservation: The 2007 Legislature created the Office of Farmland Preservation within the State Conservation Commission to develop model programs and tools to retain agricultural land for agricultural production, including a grant process to assist local governments in purchasing development rights from farmers who want to keep their lands in agriculture for generations to come.