



## 5-Year Plan (2020 to 2025) Adams Conservation District

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### Organization of the Adams Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Washington – authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08.

- *The Ritzville Conservation District was formed on 11/23/1951; the “Benge-Washtucna” District was formed on 11/25/1952. These two agencies consolidated into the Adams SWCD in 1963. The Lind area was annexed in 1964. In 1966 “8 townships” along the western edge of the county transferred to the Warden CD in anticipation of the arrival of the East High Canal in the Columbia Basin Project. In early 2000 Lincoln County released more Adams County lands to the current Adams CD region following a Lincoln County assessment providing the Adams Conservation District with approximately 900,000 acres of conservation responsibilities out of the total 1,219,665 Adams County Acres.*

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### Function of the Adams Conservation District

- *To make available technical, financial and educational resources, and 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

- *The Adams Conservation District serves dryland crop producers, irrigated crop producers, and cattle ranchers occupying rangeland, as well as adjacent resource lands. The ACD focuses primarily on agricultural activities providing conservation protection or solutions for a quality resource base.*

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### Mission of the Adams Conservation District

- *The Mission of the Adams Conservation District is to provide technical, financial, and educational assistance to landowners/operators to conserve natural resources.*

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### Vision of the Adams Conservation District

- *Enhancing the natural environment through farming and ranching standard improvements and public education objectives by:*
  - *Gaining respect, trust, and rapport with producers, landowners, and the public; forming partnerships with them to meet their needs as well as preserve and improve our environment*
  - *Becoming a pioneer district in the adoption of minimal disturbance CRP take out and cropping systems; managed grazing allowed on CRP; better management of CRP take-out during drought years*
  - *Having a strong program supporting pasture and range management, resulting in healthier rangeland conditions*
  - *On the forefront of new and innovative technological advances and practices.*

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### Values of the Adams Conservation District

- *Preservation of natural resources through the installation of conservation practices and enhanced education objectives through leading edge technology.*

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### Natural Resource Data & Information:

- [Department of Ecology - Palouse River Water Quality Report and Data](#)
- [U.S. Geological Survey Water Resource Data - Palouse](#)

- [EPA Water Quality Data - Washington](#)
  - [NRCS Soil Services – Washington](#)
  - [WDFW Priority Habitats & Species](#)
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### **Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:**

- *Need*
    - *Location of the resource concern*
    - *Whether the resource concern has been identified by partner agencies*
    - *Locally wanted and needed*
    - *Acres treated and area of the district impacted*
    - *Resource sustainability*
  - *Funding*
    - *Project and TA costs*
    - *Available funding sources to address the need (local, state, federal, private)*
    - *Time and staff required to complete*
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### **Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Goals to be accomplished by 2025:**

#### **Priority 1 Natural Resource Issues**

- *Soil Health*
  - *Increase cover cropping acres in the district*
  - *Reduction of synthetic inputs*
  - *Conduct education and outreach on the impacts of residue removal*
- *Wetlands*
  - *The current area encompassing wetlands will be maintained at minimum or increased through conservation practices*
- *Water Quality*
  - *Improve water quality parameters not currently meeting state standards in Cow Creek*
    - *Reduce cropland soil erosion by use of deep tillage, grassed waterways, buffers or other practices*
    - *Reduce pasture and rangeland soil erosion by expanded use of retention structures, buffers, off-stream livestock watering facilities or other practices*
- *Water quantity*
  - *Utilize abandoned wells to provide wildlife water access*
  - *Locate resources to help livestock producers install solar powered livestock watering facilities and other water development practices*

#### **Priority 2 Natural Resource Issues**

- *Soil erosion*
  - *Increase windbreak buffers*
  - *Work with transportation agencies, county and landowners to install roadside buffers*
  - *Produce and distribute educational materials discussing alternative management options for CRP takeout acres*
- *Weed infestations*
  - *Locate funding for education and implementation of strategies to reduce weed infestations*
  - *Promote test sites for medusa head weed control*
- *Direct seed education in low rainfall areas*
  - *Conduct education and outreach to promote direct seed*
  - *All lands taken out of CRP that are intended to be cropped will be encouraged to be direct seeded*

### **Priority 3 Natural Resource Issues**

- *Range Condition*
    - *Encourage plantings that result in healthy multi-species forage communities*
    - *Promote rotational grazing to improve rangeland management*
    - *Encourage marginal land remain in pasture when CRP is being converted to crop*
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### **Priority Geographic Areas:**

*Odessa Subarea (“deep well” irrigation), Cow Creek, Channeled Scablands*

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### **Information – Education Priorities & Goals to be accomplished by 2025:**

- *Community outreach – such as an annual meeting, grower meetings and other educational events*
  - *Make the website a resource to producers and the public on natural resource issues*
  - *Expand awareness of funding options for conservation projects*
  - *Increase K-12 outreach and newsletter circulation*
  - *Increase district representation at organization and other meetings (Cattlemen, Direct seed, Wheat Growers, VSP, etc.)*
  - *Develop a volunteer program to help assist with implementation projects and educate public on resource concerns*
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### **District Operations Goals**

- *Board*
    - *All 5 supervisor seats filled with active and engaged board members*
  - *Staffing*
    - *District Manager/Planner, Bookkeeper, Natural Resource Planner (on staff or outsourced), Continued education for district staff*
  - *Funding*
    - *Seek partnerships with agencies & organizations (NRCS, TSP, WDFW, DNR, Ducks Unlimited, Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Pheasants Forever, DOE, DOT, WSCC, other Conservation Districts, Adams County, Adams County Weed Board, etc.)*
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### **Annual Budget Needs**

- *Budget needs will be finalized each year when the ACD board adopts its annual plan of work.*
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### **Key Decision Makers**

- *Elected officials (local, state, federal)*
  - *Washington State Conservation Commission*
  - *Washington Association of Conservation Districts*
  - *Partner entities (Natural Resource Conservation Service, WA Department of Ecology, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, WSU Extension, etc.)*
  - *Stakeholder Groups (WA Cattleman’s Associations, WA Association of Wheat Growers, Adams County Farm Bureau, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, etc.)*
  - *Environmental Groups (Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, etc.)*
  - *Adams County Noxious Weed Board, Pacific NW Direct Seed Association, Adams County VSP, Columbia Basin Groundwater Management Area*
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### **Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices**

