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# Benton Conservation District



## Annual Work Plan for 2027

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## Mission

The Mission of Benton Conservation District is to facilitate responsible stewardship of the natural resources for residents in Benton County through the implementation and coordination of cooperative and voluntary partnership programs, using all available funding sources.

## Service Area

The Benton Conservation District is authorized under Washington State Legislature (RCW 89.08) as a non-regulatory special purpose district. As a district, we are dedicated to supporting the wise stewardship of natural resources throughout all of Benton County, excluding federal land holdings. The Service Area includes three water resource inventory areas (WRIAs): Rock Glade Watershed (WRIA 31), Alkli-Squilchuck Watershed (WRIA 40) and the lower Yakima (WRIA 37). Benton County includes rural, mixed rural/urban, and urban landscapes.

## Natural Resource and Operational Priorities

### Water Resources

**Resource Priority Statement:** Water is a limited resource in the semi-arid desert of Benton County which receives less than 8" of rainfall annually. Using water resources wisely and building drought resiliency helps fill the needs of people, industries, businesses and farms, while also keeping native fisheries and aquatic life alive and well. Water Resource priorities include Water Quality and Quantity, Water Monitoring, and urban conservation. Water Conservation, using water efficiently and avoiding waste, is fundamental to ensuring water availability in the future.

#### Water Quantity

Much of the water in the Rock-Glade Watershed (WRIA 31) and the Alkali-Squilchuck Watershed (WRIA 40) is already allocated. Increasing demand from population growth, declining groundwater levels, and climate change are intensifying the challenge of finding additional water supplies in these WRIAs.

The lower Yakima River (WRIA 37), part of the Yakima River Basin—the largest watershed entirely within Washington State—supports irrigated agriculture, urban landscapes, native fisheries, waterfowl, and aquatic and riparian habitats. It also plays a vital role in the regional economy and recreation. Surface water rights in the Yakima Basin were adjudicated in 2021, establishing a final schedule that prioritizes approximately 2,300 water rights (Ecology). However, the basin is over-allocated, and users with pro-ratable or junior water rights face decreased water availability during drought years.

## Water Quality

Protecting and monitoring water quality is a natural resource priority for the region. Both groundwater and surface water sources face challenges that can affect public health, agriculture, and the environment.

In the Lower Yakima Valley, more than 2,000 residents are exposed to nitrate levels over the maximum contaminant level (MCL) through their drinking water. While not all groundwater supplies have been impacted, many residents rely on private wells that are in vulnerable portions of the aquifer. Approximately 12% of domestic well users are exposed to nitrate levels in their drinking water that exceed the health-based standard of 10 mg/L.

The lower Yakima River is listed by the Washington State Department of Ecology as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act for high water temperatures, low dissolved oxygen, high turbidity, pH imbalances, detections of fecal coliform bacteria, and toxic chemicals (e.g., DDT). Surface water and groundwater are closely connected, meaning contaminants such as nutrients and pesticides can move between them. Runoff from land surfaces and pesticide drift also contribute to water quality concerns.

In recent years, harmful algal blooms driven by increased nutrients have been observed near parks in Benton County. These blooms can produce cyanotoxins, which are harmful to animals and people if consumed. When blooms occur, public health advisories and water use restrictions may be issued.

Ongoing monitoring of groundwater and surface water helps track conditions, identify trends, and guide conservation actions to improve and protect water resources

*References: BCD's Five-Year Plan; 2006 Tri-Cities Urban Area Landscape Irrigation Plan, Ecology Publications: 11-11-035, 11-11-041, 11-11-044, 10-10-009, 96-17; WRIA 31 Plan, WRIA 37 Plan; Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, 2009 Yakima River Steelhead Plan, Lower Yakima River Assessment (2011), Benton County Voluntary Stewardship Plan, Benton County Groundwater Community Action Plan (2018).*

*Partnerships: Benton County, NRCS, Benton Franklin Health District, Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) Partners, Department of Ecology, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (YBFWRB), local Irrigation Districts (ID), Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), US Geological Survey (USGS)*

## **Agriculture, Range & Small Acreage Conservation**

**Resource Priority Statement:** Agriculture and rangelands are the dominant land use in Benton County and represent a large share of local economic output from Benton County. Because a large number of acres are used for irrigated and dryland agriculture, changes in management on these lands have substantial impacts to shared natural resources such as air and water that impact nearly all residents in the county. Working with large producers often has the potential to enact the largest change within the county. Small acreage landowners face the same conservation issues as large-scale agricultural producers but without the support from government funding programs to address natural resource issues associated with livestock and crops. Conservation districts are flexible and able to address resource concerns for a variety of production systems and producer scales. Water conservation, soil health, and nutrient management practices help to protect critical areas and create healthy lands.

*References: BCD's Five-Year Plan; WRIA 31 Plan; WRIA 37 Plan; Benton County Voluntary Stewardship Plan, Site Specific Inventories*

*Partnerships: Benton County, NRCS, USDA, Washington State University (WSU), Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Benton County (County),*



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## Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

**Resource Priority Statement:** Sagebrush steppe habitat along with aquatic and wetland habitats are an important part of Benton County and provide critical areas for wildlife, biodiversity, pollinators and native vegetation. These areas are enjoyed by the public and an important part of recreation, enjoyment and economics in Benton County. Benton Conservation District works with landowners and agency partners for enhancement, restoration and protection of critical area wildlife habitats in Benton County.

Shrub steppe communities form the iconic, western landscape of open sagebrush plains and rim rock. Described as vegetation communities consisting of one or more layers of perennial grass with a discontinuous over story layer of shrubs, shrub steppe historically dominated the landscape in eastern Washington. Some of the many species of wildlife that inhabit shrub steppe can only be found in these semi-arid communities. Today, less than 50% of Washington's historic shrub steppe remains and much of it is degraded, fragmented, and/or isolated from other similar habitats. Conversion to cropland has resulted in the greatest loss of shrub steppe in Washington, leading to a fragmented landscape and a differentially high loss of deep-soil communities. Across the Intermountain West, shrub steppe communities have been lost or degraded by conversion to cropland, extensive energy extraction, and alteration of the vegetation through over-grazing, invasion by exotic plants and changes in fire frequency (WDFW).

Pollinators are essential to our environment. The ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of nearly 70 percent of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's crop species. The United States alone grows more than one hundred crops that either need or benefit from pollinators, and the economic value of these native pollinators is estimated at \$3 billion per year in the U.S. Beyond agriculture, pollinators are keystone species in most terrestrial ecosystems. Fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a major part of the diet of approximately 25 percent of all birds, and of mammals ranging from red-backed voles to grizzly bears. In many places, the essential service of pollination is at risk from habitat loss, pesticide use, and introduced diseases (Xerces Society).

The lower Yakima River in Benton County, Washington provides habitat and is a migration corridor for multiple anadromous fish species, including the ESA listed Mid-Columbia steelhead, Chinook (spring, summer, and fall runs), sockeye, coho, and Pacific lamprey. The Habitat Limiting Factors report to Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC, 2001) reported that lack of spawning habitat is a limiting factor for Chinook in the lower Yakima River. Alterations in river flow and timing, dense aquatic vegetation, lack of native shoreline riparian habitat, and overabundant river temperatures impair salmon habitat and spawning beds. Tributaries to the lower Yakima River as well as the Columbia River provide critical aquatic and wetland habitats in Benton County.

*References: BCD's Five-Year Plan; WRIA 31 Plan; WRIA 37 Plan; WDFW's Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species – Volume IV (2004); Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Habitats: Managing Shrub-steppe in Developing Landscapes (2011); Benton County Voluntary Stewardship Plan; Habitat Limiting Factors Report to the Washington State Conservation Commission, Lower Yakima River Assessment (2011).*

*Partners: Benton County, City of Richland, City of Kennewick, Native Plant Society, Tapteal Greenway Association, YBIP Partners, YBFWRB, YN-Fisheries, Mid-Columbia Fisheries (MCF), Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society (LCBAS)*

## **Noxious & Nuisance Plant Management**

**Resource Priority Statement:** Benton County has multiple nuisance and invasive plants that cause harm to local native habitats and agriculture. The plants are found both on land and in water. 'Noxious weed' is the traditional, legal term for invasive, non-native plants that are so aggressive they harm our local ecosystems or disrupt agricultural production. These plants crowd out the native species that fish and wildlife depend on. They also cost farmers, orchardists, and ranchers millions of dollars in control efforts and lost production – and that can make the food we buy more expensive. Noxious weeds are a genuine threat to the natural resources, ecology, and economy of our state. (Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board). Innovative conservation farm practices can provide alternative methods to control nuisance plants.

Nuisance plants may not be classified as 'noxious' or even be 'invasive' but can become a detriment to environment and economics. This is the case with the native aquatic plant *Heteranthera Dubia* (water stargrass) which impacts all beneficial uses of the lower Yakima River. The aquatic plants fill the river channel and are fed through historic inputs of nutrients in the sediment bed. Impounding flows, and slowing river velocities, water stargrass creates mosquito breeding habitats, blocks irrigation delivery, clogs fish screens, impedes recreation, and has resulted in a near total loss of fall Chinook spawning in Benton County. Drought years magnify the nuisance effects of the plant with increased biomass density and growth in low flow water years. Managing the nuisance plant with in-stream conservation is a top-priority for restoring the many beneficial uses of the lower Yakima River.

*References: Lower Yakima River Assessment (2011), BCD Five Year Plan, Benton County Voluntary Stewardship Plan, Water Stargrass Strategy Plan (in-draft)*

*Partners: Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board (BCNWCB), Benton County, USDA, NRCS, Water Stargrass Coalition partners, Benton County Mosquito Control Board, Irrigation Districts*

## **Air Quality & Wind Erosion Protection**

**Resource Priority Statement:** During the late 1980s and early 1990s a large number of exceedances of the 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) from particulate matter ten microns or less (PM-10) were recorded in Spokane, Kennewick, and Wallula, Washington. An examination showed a close correlation to high wind events. The exceedances are primarily attributable to activity on agricultural fields, although other sources may contribute. If any area exceeds pollution concentrations defined by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards or NAAQS more frequently than is permitted by the rule, the area is put into “non- attainment”. The non-attainment status has significant planning and possibly economic impacts to that area. Providing support to producers to transition to reduce tillage equipment reduces dust production. In combination with reduced passes on the land, improved soil health, and increased acres of native grass cover can all improve air quality.

*References: WRIA 31 Plan; WRIA 37 Plan; BCD Five Year Plan; Site Specific Inventories, Ecology Air Quality Monitoring Stations; Columbia Plateau PM-10 Project Research; WSU; USDA-ARS; FSA; Benton County Voluntary Stewardship Plan*

*Partnerships: Benton Clean Air Authority, Department of Ecology, NRCS*

## **Shoreline Protection and Public Access**

**Resource Priority Statement:** The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) under RCW 90.58 directs counties and cities in managing, accessing, and protecting shorelines that fall under their jurisdiction. These plans are regularly updated and adopted as counties and cities continue to grow and develop.

The County government updated their Shoreline Master Plan in 2022. The Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) is designed to protect the environmental resources of Benton County shorelines and promote public access and enjoyment opportunities while planning for water-dependent uses (Benton County). Cities along the lower Yakima have also adopted SMPs, with Shoreline vegetation conservation and enhanced public access as a critical component. Benton Conservation District partners with the Benton County Parks Board, local city parks and recreation divisions, and other outdoor conservation organizations to provide safe public access while preserving shoreline vegetation along the Yakima River.

*References: Shoreline Master Plans: Benton County, Prosser, Benton City, West Richland, and Richland*

*Partners: Benton County, Benton County Parks Board, Prosser, Richland, Benton City, Tapteal Greenway Association, Friends of Badger*

## **Education and Outreach**

**Program Priority Statement:** The District's outreach and education programs for youth and the broader community create meaningful opportunities for residents of Benton County to learn about the natural resources and environment in which they live. Through increased awareness and hands-on learning, these programs foster a sense of responsibility and connection to the land and surrounding environment. Outreach and education helps cultivate long-term stewards of soil, air and water, ultimately strengthening conservation efforts in our community.

Partners: Benton PUD, Richland Rod and Gun Club, South Yakima Conservation District (SYCD), Tapteal, Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL), YN Fisheries, City of Kennewick, City of Richland, City of Pasco, MCF, Native Plant Society (NPS), BCWCB, BFHD, Franklin Conservation District (FCD)

## District Operations

**Program Priority Statement:** District operations are essential to sustaining the day-to-day functions that make conservation efforts possible. They provide the structure and resources needed to deliver technical assistance to landowners, implement effective programs, and carry out on-the-ground conservation work. Strong operational support ensures workflow continuity, public accountability, and the ability to respond to local resource needs, ultimately enabling the district to conserve natural resources within the community.

## District Staff and Timeline

The District operates with a small staff, leveraging community partnerships, hired field crews, and professional services to support the District's work and mission. The Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Work plan assumes staffing levels are maintained at the current levels with three full-time employees, four part-time employees, and summer interns and short-term hired staff as needed to complete projects. Staffing levels may change pending actual grant funding levels.

This work plan and estimated funding is created for the 2027 Washington State Fiscal Year which runs from July 1, 2026 - June 30 2027.

# Natural Resource Priority Program Areas

## Water Resources

Water Quality / Quantity Issues / Monitoring & Urban Water Conservation

**Program Goal(s):** Protection of surface and groundwaters of Benton County; Water Quantity savings through irrigation efficiency projects, and continued monitoring to evaluate measurable results. The program actions will result in Pollution Reduction, Increased Water Use Efficiency and meaningful data. Goals include increased number of people using technology and participating in practices to conserve water and related reduction in water use.

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Funding Source(s):** WSCC, ECY, Rates & Charges (R&C), WSDA

Activities for FY2027	Lead Person(s) Responsible	Required Staff Time (Hours)	Estimated Funding*	Funding / Partner(s)
Irrigation efficiency projects including irrigation conversions, pond linings, leaky pipe replacements	Resource Director	73	\$3,500	WSCC, VSP
Install 5 new water meters and 2 fish screens for Yakima River private irrigators	District Manager	406	\$25,200	ECY / WDFW
Implement urban water savings through the Heritage Garden Program.	HG Specialist	978	\$45,000	ECY, WSCC, R&C
Research new water efficiency technologies for landowners	HG Specialist	32	\$1,440	WSCC
Water Quality Monitoring of Lower Yakima River and Tributaries	District Manager	80	\$5,000	ECY / USGS, WSDA
Groundwater nitrate reduction, monitoring and protection	District Manager	60	\$3,720	ECY / BFHD, EPA, DOH
Benton County cyanotoxin workgroup	District Manager	10	\$620	R&C / BFHD, USGS, DOH

\*Estimated Funding for staff time. There may be program costs beyond staff time (e.g., cost-share, mileage, professional services, equipment).

## Agriculture and Range: Small Acreage Conservation

**Natural Resource Priority Program Area:** Agriculture, Range & Small Acreage Conservation

**Goal(s):** Measurable increase in plans, programs, and included acreage and the number of people attending events/participating in programs.

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Funding Source(s):** VSP, WSCC, ECY, NRCS

<b>Activities for FY2027</b>	<b>Lead Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Staff Time (Hours) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Funding / Partner(s)</b>
Implement the Benton County Voluntary Stewardship Program, monitoring, and implementation for critical area protection	VSP Coordinator	2573	\$123,500	VSP
Implement WSCC farm program funding work (such as NRI, SFF) to support livestock, soil health, and crops	Resource Director	175	\$8,400	WSCC / WSU-TC, NRCS
Work with partners to explore the options for livestock mortality management on small acreage parcels.	Resource Director	20	\$960	R&C / WSDA, BFHD, SWAC
Seek funding to purchase equipment for small acre conservation	Resource Director	15	\$720	R&C
Work with landowners in Spring/Snipe/Amon basins on nutrient management plans and septic checks	Conservation Planner	527	\$23,200	ECY/ BFHD, NRCS
Coordinate on-farm and commercial nutrient management programs.	Resource Director	60	\$5,700	WSCC / SYCD, WSDA
Coordinate with NRCS on Task Orders for field checks	Conservation Planner	25	\$1,200	NRCS / WSCC, FSA
Technical Assistance for Conservation Easement Programs	District Manager	24	\$1,488	R&C / DU, County

\*Estimated Funding for staff time. There may be program costs beyond staff time (e.g., cost-share, mileage, professional services, equipment).

## Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

**Natural Resource Priority Program Area:** Wildlife & Habitat

**Goal(s):** Increase in amount and quality of wildlife habitat and related acreage with plans and implementation.

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Funding Source(s):** WSCC (NRI, CTA, SFF, RPG), VSP, ECY, RCO, R&C, Mitigation Admin

Activities for FY2027	Lead Person(s) Responsible	Staff Time (Hours) Required	Estimated Funding	Funding / Partner(s)
Planting plans and seeding recommendations for riparian and upland landowners upon request	Resource Director	120	\$5,760	WSCC
Lower Yakima River Thermal Refuge Development	District Manager	420	\$25,873	ECY / MCF
Implementation of Amon Creek thermal refuge habitat restoration	District Manager	564	\$35,300	ECY, SRFB, WSCC / YN, MCF, USACE
Native planting events for increased upland habitats	Resource Director	80	\$3,840	WSCC, VSP
Provide pollinator habitat, wildlife habitat and insectary planting plans upon request.	HG Coordinator	20	\$920	WSCC, VSP
Sagebrush Steppe Mitigation Program Development	District Manager/ Mitigation Specialist	466	\$20,200	Mitigation Fund
Cattle Exclusion Fencing and Wildlife Friendly Fence Projects	Resource Director	110	\$5,300	WSCC, VSP, R&C

\*Estimated Funding for staff time. There may be program costs beyond staff time (e.g., cost-share, mileage, professional services, equipment).

## Noxious & Nuisance Plant Management

**Natural Resource Priority Program Area:** Noxious and Nuisance Plant Issues

**Goal(s):** Number of acres treated. Active implementation of programs.

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Funding Source(s):** ECY, Rates & Charges, WSCC

Activities for FY2027	Lead Person(s) Responsible	Staff Time (Hours) Required	Estimated Funding	Funding / Partner(s)
Aquatic Veg. Removal to support Water Stargrass control	District Manager	1,214	\$53,500	YBIP; ECY / YN, ID, BCNWB
Evaluate aquatic weed biomass and relationships to water quality, scour, and flow with 1 pilot test.	District Manager	210	\$13,020	ECY/ USGS, YN
Water stargrass coalition leadership and strategy planning	District Manager	129	\$8,000	ECY / YN, ID, WDFW, USBR
Pasture/Crop and native plant management plans for weed control	Resource Director	30	\$1620	WSCC
Develop pilot plan for chemical control of aquatic weeds	District Manager	8	\$486	WSCC / USACE, YN
Monitoring of Aquatic Plant Biomass	Drone Operator	80	\$3,600	ECY / WDFW, ID, YN

\*Estimated Funding for staff time. There may be program costs beyond staff time (e.g., cost-share, mileage, professional services, equipment).

## Air Quality & Wind Erosion

**Natural Resource Priority Program Area:** Air Quality & Wind Erosion Issues

**Goal(s):** Reduction in PM-10 emissions and exceedances and increase in CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration.

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Funding Source(s):** Rates & Charges, Ecology, FCD

<b>Activities for FY2027</b>	<b>Lead Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Staff Time (Hours) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Funding / Partner(s)</b>
Identify funding opportunities to support the use of No-till Equipment in the Horse Heaven Hills.	Resource Director	10	\$480	R&C
Seek funding/collaboration to provide Firewise Assessments.	District Manager/ Resource Director	12	\$632	R&C
Reduction of PM-10 and PM-2.5 through targeted conservation practices such as no-till, wind breaks, deferred grazing	Resource Director	833	\$40,000	FCD, ECY
Seek funding opportunities for implementation of air quality and wind erosion projects	Resource Director	10	\$480	R&C

\*Estimated Funding for staff time. There may be program costs beyond staff time (e.g., cost-share, mileage, professional services, equipment).

## Shoreline Protection and Public Access

**Natural Resource Priority Program Area:** Riparian Critical Area Issues

**Goal(s):** Linear feet of Shoreline enhanced/protected. Active implementation of programs.

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Funding Source(s):** ECY, Rates & Charges, WSCC

Activities for FY2027	Lead Person(s) Responsible	Staff Time (Hours) Required	Estimated Funding	Funding / Partner(s)
Native riparian plantings and maintenance	Conservation Resource Director	80	\$3,840	WSCC, ECY, wetland mitigation
Provide engineering and technical assistance for riparian restoration projects	District Manager	60	\$3,720	WSCC Engineering
Identify additional access sites for public access on the Yakima River. Seek funding for land purchase or easements.	District Manager / Board	10	\$620	R&C / Tapteal, WDFW, County

\*Estimated Funding for staff time. There may be program costs beyond staff time (e.g., cost-share, mileage, professional services, equipment).

# District Programs

## Education and Outreach

**District Program Area:** Education & Outreach

**Goal(s):** Demonstrated increase in district capacity and successful district operations. Increase in public awareness (survey & media). Increase in number of people reached and number requesting services.

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** To Be Determined Based on Actual Grant Funding Levels

**Funding Source(s):** WSCC, Rates & Charges, Interlocal funding, Private Grants

Activities for FY2027	Lead Person(s) Responsible	Staff Time (Hours) Required	Estimated Funding	Funding / Partner(s)
Implement BCD Education & Outreach Program Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salmon in the Classroom</li> <li>• Salmon Power</li> <li>• STEM Academy</li> <li>• RiverFest</li> <li>• Web-Based Media / Social Marketing</li> <li>• Print Media (Press Releases / News Articles)</li> <li>• Signage &amp; Brand Development</li> <li>• Conservationist of the Year Award Program, etc.</li> <li>• Virtual Tour(s) and Landowner Testimonials</li> </ul>	Education & Outreach Director/ Education Staff	3061	\$123,800	WSCC, R&C; Private Grants; /  All Partners
Salmon Safe Certification, WSDA pesticide education, and project "walk and talk events"	Resource Director / HG Coordinator	185	\$8,500	ECY / Salmon Safe; WSDA
Outreach events for fish screens, water meters, and drought savings.	District Manager	117	\$7300	ECY / WDFW
Investigate and Seek Funding for Envirothon	Education & Outreach Director	10	\$375	R&C
Wheat Week / Drain Rangers	Education & Outreach Director	0	\$0	FCD

## District Operations

**District Program Area:** District Operations

**Goal(s):** Ensure essential District operations and functions are maintained to support the district mission and programs.

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** Satisfy district operational and policy requirements; Satisfy requirements of WSCC, State Auditor's Office, applicable Washington State RCWs, and grant contract requirements

**Funding Source(s):** R&C, WSCC, ALL Grants

Activities for FY2027	Lead Person(s) Responsible	Staff Time (Hours) Required	Estimated Funding	Funding / Partner(s)
Attend trainings, meetings, and conferences pertinent to District work	District Manager/BCD Board	240	\$12,000	WSCC
Keep County Commissioners apprised of activities funded through Rates & Charges.	District Manager/BCD Board	10	\$600	R&C
Maintain budgets, annual work plan, board meetings, staff meetings, performance evaluations, records request	District Manager/District Operations	860	\$56,440	R&C
SAO financial report, monthly Treasurer's Report, Payroll, Grant Vouchers, Budget reviews	District Manager/Financial Manager	1256	\$51,800	All Grants; R&C
Technology Support and Services	District Manager/Technical Operations	214	\$5,000	R&C; WSCC
Maintain the District's capital asset list.	District Manager/Outreach Coordinator	10	\$375	R&C



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## Annual Budget (FY 27)

<b>Estimated Income</b>	
State Grants	\$469,013
Non-Competitive Grants - WSCC	\$545,842
Interlocal Grants	\$76,835
Rates & Charges	\$383,000
Private Grants	\$1,500
Fundraising/Gift Income	\$1,000
Interest/Investment Income	\$4,000
<b>Pass- Through Income</b>	
State Grants	\$1,239,938
Non-Competitive Grants - WSCC	\$755,179
Interlocal Grants	\$50,000
<b>Total Income \$3,526,307</b>	

<b>Estimated Expenses</b>	
Salaries and Benefits	\$608,138
Liabilities (Vacation & Sick Leave)	\$63,755
Annual Building Loan & Interest	\$122,157
Operating Expense & Office Supplies	\$45,905
Cost Share	\$183,750
Elections & Bids	\$1,000
Rent - Office Space	\$5,600
Insurance	\$27,000
Communications	\$9,000
Utilities	\$6,500
Property Taxes	\$250
Building Maintenance	\$8,500
Travel, Meetings and Trainings	\$24,000
Program Supplies and Equipment	\$171,272
Fuel and District Vehicle Care	\$5,600
Field Equipment & Maintenance	\$65,000
Monitoring - Soil & Water	\$2,000
Outlay - Vehicle Purchase	\$20,000
Savings	\$38,100
Miscellaneous	\$73,663
<b>Pass-Through Expenses</b>	
Professional Services	\$2,045,117
<b>Total Expense \$3,526,307</b>	

## Acronym List and Definition of Terms

Acronym	Definition
BCD	Benton Conservation District
BCMCB	Benton County Mosquito Control Board
BCNWB/Weed Board	Benton County Noxious Weed Board
BFHD	Benton Franklin Health District
County	Benton County
CTA	Conservation Technical Assistance (WSCC Grant)
DNR	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
DU	Ducks Unlimited
ECY/Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCD	Franklin Conservation District
FSA	Farm Service Agency
FY	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30)
HG	Heritage Gardens
ID	Irrigation Districts
IE	Irrigation Efficiencies (WSCC Grant)
IMP	Implementation (WSCC Funding)
LCBAS	Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society
MCF	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Habitat Enhancement Group
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standard
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	Native Plant Society
NRCS	USDA National Resource Conservation Service
NRI	Natural Resource Implementation (WSCC Grant)
PM-10	Particulate Matter ten microns or less
PNNL	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
PUD	Public Utility District
RCO	Resource Conservation Office
R&C	Rates and Charges
RPG	Riparian Grant Funding (WSCC Grant)
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
SAO	Washington State Auditor's Office
SFF	Sustainable Farms and Fields (WSCC Grant)
SMA	Shoreline Management Act
SMP	Shoreline Master Plan

SRFB	Salmon Recovery Funding Board
SYCD	South Yakima Conservation District
TA	Technical Assistance
Tapteal	Tapteal Greenway Association
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USBR	United State Bureau of Reclamation
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VSP	Voluntary Stewardship Program
WDFW	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
WRIA	Water Resource Inventory Area
WSCC	Washington State Conservation Commission
WSDA	Washington State Department of Agriculture
WSU / WSU-TC	Washington State University / Washington State University - Tri-Cities
Xerces	Xerces Society (Plant Society)
YBFWRB	Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board
YBIP	Yakima Basin Integrated Plan
YN	Yakama Nation
YKFP	Yakama Klickitat Fisheries Program