

UNDERWOOD CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

ANNUAL PLAN

OF WORK

JULY 2023-
JUNE 2024

For more information, contact:

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VALUES

UCD Values



VISION

UCD is a trusted, consistent, innovative and reliable source of sound natural resource support for all landowners and residents in meeting their goals in their enjoyment, use and stewardship of the region's natural environment.

MISSION

UCD engages landowners and land users throughout Skamania and western Klickitat Counties in the voluntary conservation, enhancement, stewardship, and sustainable use of natural resources.

NATURAL RESOURCE PRIORITIES

The natural resource priorities and programs of UCD fall into seven broad categories:

- Forestlands
- Agriculture and Working Lands
- Urban Environments
- Terrestrial and Riparian Habitat, Weeds and Native Plants
- Instream Habitat and Water Quality
- Community Engagement
- Sustainable Operations

Stemming from UCD's 2023-2028 Long-Range Plan, the following pages describe the program goals, objectives and planned activities for FY2024, July 2023 - June 2024. All activities are subject to change, depending on available funding and staff capacity.



PROGRAM GOALS, OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

Forestlands

This program includes UCD's ongoing wildfire risk reduction program and a variety of landowner technical assistance.

Goal: Increase health, diversity, sustainability and cover of native forestlands while supporting conservation of working lands.

Objectives:

- Reforest fallow agricultural lands on at least one site in the next year; grow the Acre by Acre reforestation program.
- Develop a more robust and comprehensive wildfire risk reduction program with multiple types of assistance, including mobile chipping service to at least 40 new landowners in the next year.
- Build capacity for forestry technical assistance and conduct at least ten small woodland assessments in the next year.

Forestlands

Activities for FY2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Source of Funding
Identify 1-3 locations in the district for pilot Acre by Acre projects.	July-Sept. 2023	Dan Richardson	State Conservation Commission (SCC), Klickitat County Rates and Charges
Plan and implement planting work for 1-3 sites, utilizing Conservation Incentive Program structure.	Aug. 2023-Apr. 2024	Dan Richardson	SCC, Klickitat County Rates and Charges
Continue current wildfire resiliency program and services in the district, including on-site home hazard assessments to 20 homeowners, mobile chipping service to at least 40 residences, project development for defensible space and fuels reduction, partnership development and community education and outreach.	Year-round	Dan Richardson	SCC, Skamania County Title III, Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG, pending)

Forestlands, continued

Activities for FY2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Estimated Funding
Develop district-wide funding and technical staff capacity for forestlands and wildfire resiliency programs.	year-round	Tova Tillinghast	SCC, CWDG (pending)
Provide at least ten small woodland assessments and other forestry technical assistance, resources and referrals to non-industrial forest landowners in the district.	year-round	Dan Richardson and Corrie Podolak	SCC, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Klickitat County Rates and Charges, CWDG (pending)



Agriculture & Working Lands

This program includes a variety of landowner technical assistance, support for best management practices, the Farm Tool Library and efforts to support agricultural viability.

Goal: Increase sustainability of agricultural practices while supporting conservation of working lands.

Objectives:

- Provide technical assistance for at least ten working farm landowners in the next year.
- Expand Farm Tool Library membership by 30 members in the next year and work toward establishing sustainable operations.
- Develop engineering and technical assistance for at least one property's manure management.
- Offer services in engineering for irrigation upgrades, streamside stewardship, and dairy nutrient management planning.
- Explore and build capacity with partners to support agricultural and conservation easement options.

Agriculture & Working Lands

Activities for FY2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Funding Source
<p>Provide technical assistance, including nutrient management plans, irrigation improvements, streams and engineering as needed, to at least ten small working farms in the district.</p>	<p>year-round</p>	<p>Carly Lemon</p>	<p>SCC, Ecology, Klickitat County Rates and Charges, Skamania County</p>
<p>Continue and expand Farm Tool Library program, outreach and education, and member recruitment to 30 additional community members.</p>	<p>year-round</p>	<p>Corrie Podolak</p>	<p>Farm Tool Library revenue, SCC, Ecology, Klickitat County Rates and Charges, Skamania County</p>



Agriculture & Working Lands, cont'd

Activities for FY2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Funding Source
Develop funding and sustainable operations plans for Farm Tool Library.	year-round	Tova Tillinghast	SCC, Ecology, Klickitat County Rates and Charges, Skamania County
Build partnerships and resources for conservation and agricultural easement options to landowners.	year-round	Tova Tillinghast	SCC, Ecology, Klickitat County Rates and Charges, Skamania County



Urban Environments

This program includes UCD's recently-established Yard by Yard program and support to cities and city residents on a variety of natural resource concerns.

Goal: Promote conservation of natural resources and functional native ecosystems in urban and suburban areas.

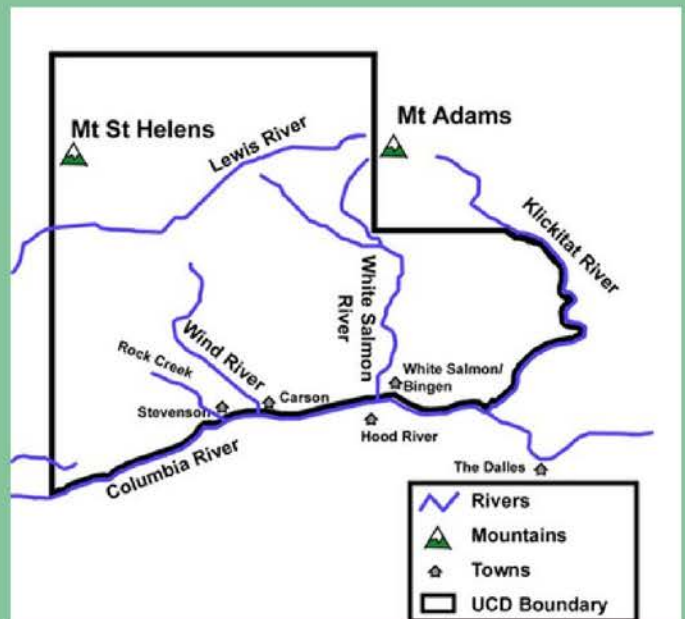
Objectives:

- Register 25 new Yard by Yard landowners in the next year, expanding the program to areas throughout the district.
- Offer technical assistance to support "green infrastructure," water quality protection, stormwater management and water conservation.



Urban Environments

Activities for FY2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Funding Source
Continue and expand Yard by Yard program, outreach and education, and member recruitment district-wide.	year-round	Dan Richardson	SCC, Ecology, BPA, Klickitat County Rates and Charges, Skamania County
Build capacity, partnerships and resources for technical assistance supporting "green infrastructure," water quality protection, stormwater management and water conservation in the urban areas of the district.	year-round	Tova Tillinghast	SCC, Ecology, Klickitat County Rates and Charges, Skamania County



Terrestrial & Riparian Habitat, Weeds & Native Plants

This program includes UCD's annual native plant sale, ongoing support for Tree of Heaven control, and other noxious weed projects in urban and rural environments.

Goal: Promote restoration and sustainability of functional native ecosystems throughout the district, prioritizing most-threatening invasives and most-critical habitats.

Objectives:

- Conduct the annual native plant sale and TreeFest event and evaluate to determine growth and new strategies.
- Explore and pursue potential native plant nursery program.
- Evaluate the Tree of Heaven control pilot project and develop a plan for next five years.
- Promote and support best practices around preservation and management of oak woodlands.
- Offer technical assistance and project support for noxious weed control/eradication and restoration of native terrestrial and riparian habitat.



Terrestrial & Riparian Habitat, Weeds & Native Plants

Activities for FY2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Funding Source
Continue to conduct the annual Native Plant Sale.	Sept. 2023-Apr. 2024	Jan Thomas	SCC, Native Plant Sale revenue
Build partnerships and explore native plant nursery prospects that support the district's native plant sale, planting and community outreach projects.	year-round	Dan Richardson	SCC, BPA, Ecology, Klickitat County Rates and Charges, Skamania County
Continue Tree of Heaven Control project and develop long-term plans.	year-round	Corrie Podolak	SCC, WA State Dept. of Agriculture, Klickitat County Rates and Charges
Provide technical assistance, including noxious weed management, restoration and management of native terrestrial and riparian habitats in the district.	year-round	Dan Richardson	SCC, BPA, Ecology, RCO SRFB, Klickitat County Rates and Charges, Skamania County

Instream Habitat & Water Quality

This program includes UCD's ongoing work to enhance instream habitat, correct fish passage barriers, install fish up-to-date screens and restore historic hydrology in urban and rural environments.

Goal: Increase instream habitat quantity, quality and long-term resiliency for critical aquatic species and functional watersheds.

Objectives:

- Identify, evaluate, and provide project support for at least one instream habitat project within the district.
- Provide engineering services to at least one instream habitat or irrigation project throughout Washington State, as a member of the regional engineering team.
- Evaluate UCD's role in water quality monitoring and determine plans for ongoing work by December 2023.
- Begin to evaluate UCD's role in water resources planning in the White Salmon River watershed.



Instream Habitat & Water Quality

Activities for FY2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Funding Source
<p>Identify, evaluate, and provide project support for at least one instream habitat project within the district, including projects defined in Wind River and White Salmon River watersheds, such as Hollis Creek fish passage, Little Wind River habitat enhancement, and Rattlesnake Creek habitat enhancement.</p>	<p>year-round</p>	<p>Tova Tillinghast</p>	<p>SCC, BPA, Ecology, Klickitat County Rates and Charges, Skamania County</p>
<p>Provide engineering services to at least one instream habitat or irrigation project throughout Washington State, as a member of the regional engineering team.</p>	<p>year-round</p>	<p>Carly Lemon</p>	<p>SCC, other conservation districts</p>
<p>Discuss and evaluate internally water quality monitoring program.</p>	<p>July-Dec. 2023</p>	<p>Carly Lemon</p>	<p>SCC, BPA, Ecology</p>
<p>Explore opportunities for water resources planning in the White Salmon River watershed</p>	<p>year-round</p>	<p>Tova Tillinghast</p>	<p>SCC, Ecology, Klickitat County Rates and Charges</p>

Community Engagement

This program is a core part of UCD's success and relates to all other program areas throughout the district. Relevant community outreach, education, information-sharing and participation are integral to improving natural resource conditions on a voluntary basis over the long-term.

Goal: Share information, promote best practices, and recruit increased voluntary participation in natural resource management and stewardship.

Objectives:

- Continue consistent outreach programs, including annual Winter Workshop series, summer Crop Talks, and TreeFest events.
- Provide accessible educational materials, website, landowner technical assistance and volunteer opportunities.
- Expand education and outreach opportunities to Stevenson and westward, with at least one event in next year.
- Engage youth throughout the district in natural resource education where possible.
- Expand Spanish education by providing Spanish translations and hosting at least one Spanish-spoken event in next year.
- Continue integral support to Center for Technical Development, conducting at least two statewide technician-skills trainings in next year.

Community Engagement

Activities for FY2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Funding Source
Plan and conduct Winter Workshop series	Oct. 2023- Mar. 2024	Tova Tillinghast	SCC, BPA, Ecology
Plan and conduct Crop Talk series	Mar. - Oct. 2023 and 2024	Dan Richardson	SCC, Klickitat County Rates and Charges, Skamania County
Plan and carry out Native Plant Sale and TreeFest event	Sept. 2023 - Apr. 2024	Jan Thomas	SCC, Native Plant Sale revenue, Klickitat County Rates and Charges, Skamania County
Continue expanding education and outreach to west end of district, youth, and Spanish speaking populations.	year-round	Tova Tillinghast	SCC, BPA, Skamania County
Continue integral support to Center for Technical Development, conducting at least two statewide technician-skills trainings in next year.	year-round	Jan Thomas	SCC, NACD

Sustainable Operations

This area of work is also a core part of UCD's success, relating to the long-term viability of all other program areas. Robust funding, financial accountability, Board of Supervisor and staff development, and long-term district visioning and planning are key components of sustainable operations.

Goal: Sustain and grow a strong foundation of operations through consistent funding, board support and staff capacity.

Objectives:

- Maintain a five-member Board of Supervisors and two Associate Board Members.
- Pursue consistent sources of relevant funding.
- Increase staff capacity and support for technical assistance, district development, grant writing, and administrative/financial management.
- Begin to engage in detailed planning around UCD's Community Conservation Center and potential land acquisition; evaluate progress annually.
- Conduct annual board and staff reflection session to review work and upcoming plans.
- Begin to update UCD mission and vision, including a compelling "why" statement and a diversity, equity and inclusion perspective.
- Begin to develop a land acknowledgement statement in collaboration with area tribes.
- Explore a "branding" process for UCD and associated community outreach to increase awareness and participation.

Sustainable Operations

Activities for FY2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Funding Source
Provide information and support to maintain a five-member Board of Supervisors and recruit two Associate Board Members.	year-round	Ann Gross	SCC, Klickitat County Rates and Charges, Skamania County
Pursue consistent sources of relevant funding.	year-round	Tova Tillinghast	SCC, Klickitat County Rates and Charges, Skamania County
Increase staff capacity and support for technical assistance, district development, grant writing, and administrative/financial management.	year-round	Tova Tillinghast	SCC, Klickitat County Rates and Charges, Skamania County
Begin detailed planning around UCD's Community Conservation Center and potential land acquisition and evaluate progress.	year-round	Tova Tillinghast	SCC
Conduct annual board and staff reflection session to review work and upcoming plans.	Dec. 2023	Tova Tillinghast	SCC

Sustainable Operations, cont'd

Activities for FY2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Funding Source
Begin discussions between board and staff to update UCD mission and vision, including a compelling "why" statement and a diversity, equity and inclusion perspective.	Dec. 2023	Tova Tillinghast	SCC
Begin discussions around a land acknowledgement statement in collaboration with area tribes.	Jan. 2024	Tova Tillinghast	SCC
Begin to explore a "branding" process for UCD and associated community outreach to increase awareness and participation in district programs.	year-round	Tova Tillinghast	SCC



ANNUAL BUDGET SUMMARY

FOR FY2024

(7/1/23 – 6/30/24)

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
BPA Fish & Wildlife – Wind River	\$ 88,701
Ecology Water Quality Implementation (pending)	204,232
Engineering – Clark, Columbia, North Yakima, Okanogan CDs	73,948
Klickitat County Rates & Charges	70,625
MARS Community Wildfire Defense Grant (pending)	96,794
RCO SRFB – White Salmon River Pre-Acquisition Planning	22,505
Skamania County – general services (pending)	9,216
Skamania County – Title III Firewise (pending)	35,074
UCD Farm Tool Library	2,000
UCD Native Plant Sale	28,328
WCS small grant	773
WSCC Implementation (pending)	117,823
WSCC Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program (pending)	14,375
WSCC Livestock TA (pending)	10,000
WSCC Natural Resource Investments (pending)	11,083
WSCC Professional Engineering (pending)	150,000
WSCC Salmon Recovery Funds (pending)	82,000
WSCC Wildfire Resiliency (pending)	21,503
WSCC Center for Technical Development (pending)	128,500
WSDA Tree of Heaven Control	3,512
NACD Training Coordinator	75,485
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,246,477
EXPENSES	
Staff	\$ 580,272
Overhead	114,341
Project and Program Costs	551,864
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,246,477

This is an estimated budget and subject to change



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