



5-Year Plan (2025 to 2030) 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 Conservation District (ACD) region following a Lincoln County assessment. On 3/15/2018 the incorporated city of Ritzville was added to ACD. ACD encompasses approximately 900,000 acres out of the total 1,219,665 acres that make up Adams County.*

Who We Serve & Why

- *All landowners/operators within ACD boundaries are eligible for assistance with conservation endeavors. From urban landowners to farmers and ranchers ACD exists to provide support to accomplish efforts that conserve, protect, and enhance natural resources.*

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.*

Vision of the Adams Conservation District

- *Enhance the natural environment through education and implementation of conservation practices by:*
 - *Gaining respect, trust, and rapport with landowners/producers and developing relationships with partner agencies*
 - *Encouraging efforts to minimize water loss and protect against pollution*
 - *Promoting the adoption of minimal disturbance cropping systems and practices that improve soil health*
 - *Supporting better pasture and range management*
 - *Staying on the forefront of new and innovative technological advances and practices.*

Values of the Adams Conservation District

- *Preservation of natural resources through the installation of conservation practices, education, and technology.*

Natural Resource Data & Information:

- [Department of Ecology - Palouse River Water Quality Report and Data](#)
 - [EPA Water Quality Data - Washington](#)
 - [NRCS Soil Resources – 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 2030:

Priority 1 Natural Resource Issues

- *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 soil erosion by implementing practices that minimize erosion on all lands and improve opportunities for increased water infiltration*
- *Water quantity*
 - *Locate resources to help producers install solar powered livestock/wildlife 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*
 - *Provide education and resources for alternative management options for CRP takeout acres*
- *Direct seed education in low rainfall areas*
 - *Conduct education and outreach to promote direct seed*
 - *Encourage farmers to direct seed or use minimal tillage practices*
- *Weed infestations*
 - *Locate funding for education and implementation of strategies to reduce weed infestations*

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*
 - *Increase awareness of opportunities to improve wildlife and pollinator habitat*
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Priority Geographic Areas:

Odessa Subarea ("deep well" irrigation), Cow Creek, Channeled Scablands

Information – Education Priorities & Goals to be accomplished by 2030:

- *Try new ways to engage with the community to better understand their wants and needs*
- *Expand awareness of ACD and the services we can provide via an increased presence on Facebook, mailings, and advertising*
- *Develop website into a resource for producers and the public to learn about natural resource issues, conservation practices, and assistance opportunities*

District Operations Goals

- *Staffing*
 - *District Manager/Planner, Natural Resource Planner (on staff or outsourced), Continued education for district staff*
 - *As the district evolves, projects change, and funding fluctuates, staffing will be adjusted as needed*
- *Funding*
 - *Seek out new funding opportunities and continue developing relationships with partner 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.)*

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

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

