



# 5-Year Plan (2021 to 2025) Ferry Conservation District

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## Organization of the Ferry Conservation District

A public subdivision of the State of Washington - authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08. The District was established in 1947 as the Curlew Conservation District. Since consolidating with the South Ferry Conservation District at a later date, it has been known as the Ferry Conservation District. The District is governed by five volunteer supervisors, three that are elected and two that are appointed by the State Conservation Commission. The staff carry out the day-to-day operations to meet the District's goals.

## Function of the Ferry Conservation District

To make available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

## Mission of the Ferry Conservation District

The Mission of the FCD is to support rural lifestyles and sustainable use of natural resources of Ferry County for present and future landowners, residents, and visitors by offering technical and financial assistance, outreach, and education through partnerships.

## Vision of the Ferry Conservation District

- To be recognized as the most effective non-regulatory natural resource conservation organization.
- To have consistent and sustainable funding.
- To have satisfied constituents and employees working in partnership.
- To continue as the lead entity for the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP).
- To increase awareness and public understanding of the conservation district mission.

## Values of the Ferry Conservation District

Community service and improvement of natural resources through education, voluntary stewardship, cooperation, and implementation of conservation practices on the ground.

## Natural Resource Data & Information

Total Private Lands	298,340 acres*	<u>*Private Lands Breakdown:</u>	
Federal Lands	493,152 acres	Timber	132,448 acres
State Lands	29,735 acres	Range	128,000 acres
County Lands	7,982 acres	Cropland	30,000 acres
Tribal and Allotted lands	605,759 acres	Roads and towns	7,892 acres
Total Land in District	1,434,878 acres	Total Private Lands	298,340 acres

*Source: Ferry County Planning Commission*

Watersheds include Kettle River, Sanpoil River and Columbia River. There are also many lakes including Curlew Lake which is a large economic driver of Ferry County.

## Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities

We combine partner agency natural resource data with our own as well as a sense of local needs and values reflected elsewhere in this plan to develop the priorities of the Ferry Conservation District. The criteria include:

- Willing cooperators
  - Resources available
  - Science based data
  - Community input
  - Current natural resource issues, needs, and trends
  - Economic feasibility
  - No other entity primarily addressing need
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## Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs

### Water Quality and Conservation

- Evaluate conditions that could lead to nutrient impairment of water resources.
- Address riparian habitat at a watershed level.
- Promote awareness of water quality issues.

### Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation

- Promote awareness of Firewise principles and Best Management Practices (BMP).
- Assess and inventory post-fire damage.
- Provide technical assistance and recovery information for fire affected constituents.

### Forest Health and Resilience

- Identify and prioritize needs on private forest lands.
- Promote principles of forest management for small and large landowners.
- Provide technical assistance for forest health issues.

### Economically Viable Land Management / Preserving Working Landscapes

- Promote voluntary stewardship to increase agricultural viability and protection of environmentally sensitive areas.
- Provide planning and technical assistance for preservation of agricultural viability and land.
- Promote soil health initiatives and activities.

### Outreach and Education

- Maintain and build on District sponsored Conservation Fair and workshops to promote conservation values.
- Continue to support conservation education in local schools.
- Maintain newsletters, website, press releases and social media to promote District actions and opportunities.

### District Operations

- Continue being the hub of natural resource information for residents.
- Evaluate how District owned property can be best used to support conservation.
- Invest in training and tools that improve District efficiency and effectiveness.
- Continue to search for sustainable funding opportunities.

## Priorities, Goals, and Measures of Success

Strategic Priority	Goals	Measures of Success
Water Quality and Conservation	Evaluate conditions that could lead to nutrient impairment of water resources.	Water testing results # of site evaluations.
	Promote awareness of water quality issues.	# of requests for technical assistance.
	Address riparian habitat at a watershed level.	Map priority areas.

Strategic Priority	Goals	Measures of Success
Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation	Promote awareness of Firewise principles and Best Management Practices (BMP).	# of attendees at Firewise workshops. # of Firewise assessment requests.
	Assess and inventory post-fire damage.	# surveys returned.
	Provide technical assistance and recovery information fire affected constituents.	# of impacted persons receiving assistance.

Strategic Priority	Goals	Measures of Success
Forest Health and Resilience	Identify and prioritize needs on private forest lands.	# of site evaluations. # of forest plans.
	Promote principles of forest management.	# of requests for technical assistance. # of attendees at informational workshops.

Strategic Priority	Goals	Measures of Success
Economically Viable Land Management / Preserving Working Landscapes	Promote voluntary stewardship to increase agricultural viability and protection of environmentally sensitive areas.	# of Voluntary Stewardship Program participants.
	Provide planning and technical assistance for preservation of agricultural viability and land.	# of farm plans completed.
	Promote soil health initiatives and activities.	# of workshop attendees.

<b>Strategic Priority</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Measures of Success</b>
Outreach and Education	Maintain and build on District sponsored Conservation Fair and workshops.	# of attendees at Fair and workshops.
	Continue to support conservation education in local schools.	# of teachers and students involved.
	Maintain newsletters, website, press releases and social media.	# of responses.

<b>Strategic Priority</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Measures of Success</b>
District Operations	Continue being the hub of natural resource information for residents.	# of contacts helped # of agency referrals.
	Evaluate how District owned property can be best used to support conservation.	Plan developed.
	Invest in training and tools that improve District efficiency and effectiveness.	# of trainings completed.
	Continue to search for sustainable funding opportunities.	Dollars of increased funding.

## **Key Decision Makers**

- The Board of Supervisors are the key decision makers.
- The Board works in collaborations with Ferry County, local school districts, Voluntary Stewardship workgroup, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Curlew Lake Association, State Conservation Commission, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology, Department of Agriculture, Recreation and Conservation Office, Northeast Tri County Health District, Curlew Job Corps, Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Forest Service, Farm Services Agency and many other partners.