



# SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST

Washington State Conservation Commission | January 2024

# Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

## **CORE COMPONENTS**

OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

WHAT WILL CTA DOLLARS DO?



# ADDRESS LOCAL COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

On-the-ground work using CTA dollars looks different in each community. Projects might include creating wildlife habitat in urban areas, increasing tree canopy to mitigate impacts of high temperatures, managing storm water to protect salmon and orcas, helping farmers create proper manure storage, giving people better access to fresh and locally grown food, and more.

# BUILD DISTRICT CAPACITY

Communities and regulatory agencies rely on conservation districts' technical assistance to weather the impacts of climate change, development pressures, supply chain disruptions, food system resiliency, and more. They cannot keep up with the demand for services and need core funding to meet obligations and attract and retain qualified staff.



#### INCREASE ENGAGEMENT

Build community awareness and engagement with priority natural resource issues through events like annual Orca Recovery Day activities, which gets a diversity of community members involved with hands-on conservation work.

# **Funding requested: \$10 million**

This request supports the foundation of all conservation districts' engagement with their community— Conservation Technical Assistance. CTA is crucial for conservation districts to further develop long-term, trusted relationships to empower even more people to become better stewards of our natural resources and increase sustainable farming.

# **Quick Numbers**



# Well over 3,000

landowners have requested site visits.



# More than 1,000

farm plans need to be written, including 100+ for dairy nutrient management.



## **70%**

of conservation districts are interested in launching or expanding services that improve agricultural viability, preserve farmland, and/or expand markets.



#### 50%

of conservation districts would like to launch or expand services that support farmers markets and food access and/or assist with food system infrastructure.

**Leveraging of funds:** For every dollar SCC provides, districts leverage \$3.41 in local, state, and federal funding. (2021)













#### **CONSERVATION STARTS WITH...**

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED** BY CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



**WORK THAT REQUIRES FUNDING** FROM THIS STATE BUDGET REQUEST





#### 1 EMPOWER PEOPLE

Conservation districts serve as responsive, local hubs of information. They connect people to voluntary actions they can take to conserve resources



#### WRITE CONSERVATION PLANS

Staff work with landowners to write conservation plans for their property, which are required to apply for many state and federal grant programs.





## (3) DEVELOP PROJECTS

Work with willing landowners and land managers to develop both single landowner and larger scale conservation projects.



#### (4) ASSIST WITH PERMITS

Many projects require permits and other organization steps. Conservation districts often coordinate these logistics.





# 5) APPLY FOR FUNDING

Districts assist landowners with completing applications for project funding, when needed.

**BREAK GROUND ON CONSERVATION PROJECT!** 





# **Testimonials**

I want to do the right thing because it benefits natural resources as well as my own agricultural operation. Without voluntary conservation services and programs, I would not have had the opportunity to maintain the baseline and work towards improvements on my land."

## - Jack Field, Yakima County cattleman

The district receives a broad spectrum of requests that align with our mission but can't always be addressed or funded. CTA funding meets the essential needs of districts by providing flexibility for staff to be better trained, improved and consistent service for residents, and allows projects to be implemented quickly and efficiently. The need for this funding is crucial now more than ever with the high volume of requests that continues to grow year-to-year.

- Okanogan Conservation District

# Contacts

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