

Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District

Long Range Plan Summary

2015-2020

Providing local leadership, education, motivation, and assistance to the citizens of Deschutes County for responsible, efficient stewardship of our soil and water resources.

Deschutes SWCD Office

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This five-year or long-range Business Plan (2015-2020) details the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD) services, activities, resources, staffing, and finances currently available and planned to carry out its mission. The Business Plan also contains general information about the District and Deschutes County and guides the development of the District's annual work plans and budgets.

The top five resource concerns in Deschutes County are water quantity and quality, weeds, wildfire, wildlife and fish, and land/soils. To address these concerns, eight goals of the DSWCD are to sustain and enhance water quality and quantity, identify and eliminate noxious and invasive weeds, restore and improve fish and wildlife habitat, reduce wildfire risk and restore degraded uplands, promote a sustainable local agriculture economy, improve and promote soil stewardship, develop renewable energy and energy efficient resources, and continue to administer District operations to be legally accountable and fiscally responsible.

District Programs 2015-2020

The DSWCD would provide technical assistance, education and outreach for these programs pending funding.

Program: Soil Stewardship

Goal: Improve and promote soil stewardship

Program:

- Encourage and support use of Best Management Practices that conserve soil and water, and conservation planning that assists delivery of USDA assistance to private landowners.
- Encourage and support the use of USDA NRCS soil survey maps and information to guide soil enhancement projects and appropriate use of sites.
- Encourage nutrient management that reduces potential for pollution including manure management, compost and biomass energy production.

Program Water Quality and Quantity

Goal: Water is clean and abundant for fish, farms and families.

Program:

- Improve irrigation efficiency
- Encourage livestock manure management/manure exchange to maintain water quality
- Improve or restore streamside vegetation
- Support on farm projects.

Program Weeds

Goal: Control the spread of noxious and invasive weeds that threaten native vegetation and resources.

Program:

- Maintain and restore native riparian vegetation.
- Coordinate weed management.
- Assist with education throughout the District.

Program Wildlife and Fish Habitat

Goal: Restore and improve fish and wildlife habitat

Program:

- Reduce juniper encroachment into native sagebrush-grass communities.
- Restore sage-grouse habitat and native perennial grasses.
- Promote or obtain conservation easements and agreements.
- Maintain and restore riparian and aquatic habitats, including habitats for threatened and endangered species such as Oregon spotted frog and bull trout, or native species of importance such as redband trout and reintroduced steelhead trout and Chinook salmon.

Program: Wildfire Risk Reduction

Goal: Reduce wildfire risk and maintain healthy forests

Program:

- Partner with local stakeholders to reduce density of trees and flammable brush.

Program: Wellbeing/Wholeness/Whole Foods

Goal: Promote health and a sustainable local agricultural economy

Program:

- Encourage local farm-to-market and pursue funding for farm-to-market products.
- Encourage the cultivation and marketing of locally grown food.

Program: Energy

Goal: Support development of renewable energy and energy efficient resources

Program:

- Encourage and support capacity for energy conservation and production within the irrigation delivery system.
- Encourage development of biomass energy production.
- Support integrated energy strategies including solar, wind, hydropower, combined heat and power, geothermal, energy conservation and actions that are cost effective, including reduction of future production costs (reduced future costs).
- Recognize hydropower as a renewable resource.