



# 5-Year Plan (2023 to 2027) Pend Oreille Conservation District

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## Organization of the Pend Oreille Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Washington – authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08.

- *The Pend Oreille Conservation District was formed in 1949.*
- *A five-member board of volunteer supervisors, three elected locally and two appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission, provides leadership to address local resource conservation issues.*

## Function of the Pend Oreille 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.

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## Mission of the Pend Oreille Conservation District

The mission of the Pend Oreille Conservation District is to protect and enhance all natural resources including, but not limited to, air, soil, forest, wildlife, water, and land in the district for all people in the district through education, partnering, and implementation using best management practices and financial/technical assistance.

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## Vision of the Pend Oreille Conservation District

- *Fully staffed to successfully carry out all desired programs*
- *To ensure that all residents of the POCD know who we are, where we are, and what we do*
- *Identify sources of funding that our constituents support, to address resource concerns*

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## Values of the Pend Oreille Conservation District

- *Conservation education*
- *Keeping farm and forest land continuous and productive*
- *Conserving resources*
- *Public Service*
- *Protect and enhance fish & wildlife habitat – Living with Wildlife*
- *Strengthening partnerships*

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## Natural Resource Data & Information:

*Please see appendix for links and resources to all relevant natural resource data and information.*

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## Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:

- *Climate trends*
  - *Who is affected*
  - *Available funding*
  - *Political environment*
  - *Public vs private landownership/duties*
  - *Public demand and priorities*
  - *Proximity of the bulk of the public to that resource*
  - *Is there a focused area or reach that could be enhanced to produce measurable results?*
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## **Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs & Geographic Areas, Measures of Success and Goals:**

### **Priority Natural Resource Conservation Need**

- *Forest Health/Wildland-Urban Interface*
  - *Through 2027, POCD will have an annual increase of acres or property owners assisted.*
  - *POCD will have a presence providing public education and promoting district programs highlighting Firewise/forest health at least 5 public events each year.*
  - *By 2027, and in partnership with NRCS and WA DNR, POCD will develop a strategy to provide forest stewardship management plans to landowners.*
  - *POCD will coordinate with the County Weed Board on the management of noxious weeds.*
  - *Continue to work with partners to develop a strategy to help landowners to protect working forestlands.*
  
- *Agricultural land/soil conservation, preservation, enhancement, and management*
  - *Continue to participate in local discussions on land use planning and VSP.*
  - *Aid agricultural landowners to educate about the importance of riparian areas and explore programs for riparian restoration.*
  - *Continue as the lead agency implementing VSP and meet protection/enhancement goals and benchmarks.*
  - *By 2026, utilize a certified conservation planner to work with agricultural landowners.*
  - *POCD will coordinate with the County Weed Board on management of noxious weeds.*
  - *Continue to work with partners to develop a strategy to help landowners preserve their agricultural land and increase land access for new farmers.*
  - *By 2025, provide at least two workshops per year on improved ag practices that enhance soil health, protect/enhance critical areas, and improve productivity.*
  - *By 2027, explore/research crops to adapt to a changing climate*
  
- *Lifelong continuing education of people on conservation and natural resources*
  - *By 2027, recruit youth and/or at least one POCD staff person per year to attend the America Wilderness Leadership School to bring back information that POCD can put “on the ground.”*
  - *Continue to participate in the Indian Creek Forest Advisory Committee.*
  - *Continue to develop social media presence through posts, newsletters, YouTube videos, radio, etc....*
  - *Develop at least one PSA to be broadcast on the radio throughout the year.*
  - *Put on at least one workshop per year with each local school district connected to FFA.*
  - *By 2026, create a strategy for the development of an environmental learning center in POCD.*
  - *Increase participation in Pend Oreille Water Festival.*
  - *Promote participation by a local high school in Envirothon.*
  
- *Water quality/supply*
  - *Become involved in the discussions related to the development of a water bank as well as the wise use of water in POCD. Partner with local farmers to implement water conservation practices and promote access to water for agriculture.*
  - *By 2025 develop a list of high priority reaches in the Little Spokane River to concentrate conservation activities and provide assistance to the landowners there.*
  - *Continue to develop a list of high priority reaches in the Pend Oreille River to concentrate conservation activities and provide assistance to the landowners in those areas.*
  - *Develop partnerships with the Pend Oreille County PUD, WDFW, Army Corps of Engineers, Ecology, County Public Works Department, and neighboring conservation districts to jointly meet and develop work plans on mutual projects.*

- *By 2025, work with partners to re-establish water quality monitoring program.*
  - *By 2026, implement Town of Metaline bank stabilization project.*
  - *By 2027, implement at least 1,000 feet of riparian habitat/bank stabilization yearly.*
  - *Work with County weed board on aquatic weed management and continue to participate in annual aquatic workshop.*
- **Habitat**
    - *By 2027, work with partners to re-establish the POCD native tree/shrubs sale to encourage volunteer efforts for creating habitat.*
    - *Encourage native fire-resistant landscaping and plantings.*
    - *Encourage the use of downed large woody debris material and standing snags to enhance habitat.*
    - *Partner with lead agencies on identifying threatened and/or endangered species and develop a strategy to help address them.*

### **Priority Natural Resource Geographic Area**

- *High risk areas for fire – forest health*
- *Small Landownerships – South County – Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)*
- *Little Spokane River – water quality*
- *Pend Oreille River – erosion & water quality, aquatic invasives*
- *Farmland – Calispell Flats – water quality & wetlands*

### **Information – Education & District Operations Priorities, Measures of Success, and Goals:**

- *Maintain interactive website to help inform POCD citizens and cooperators.*
- *Produce quarterly newsletters.*

### **District Operations Priorities Measures of Success, and Goals:**

- *By 2027, have a fully functioning office space that can comfortably hold up to 8 employees.*
- *Develop measures that will help maintain office space and evaluate and correct safety concerns as needed.*
- *By 2027, build an operating reserve for the district of 6 months of total operating costs, or \$120,000.*
- *Maintain good relationships with renters.*
- *By 2027, approach non-member cities (Cusick and Metaline Falls,) and successfully recruit them into the district*
- *Continue outreach efforts to increase voter participation in POCD election.*
- *Explore feasibility of rates and charges revenue structure.*
- *Apply for grants that will help bring local partners together (e.g. RCPP, CIG, CWDG)*

### **Staffing Needs (estimated 8 FTE)**

- *District Manager/Executive Director*
- *Administrative Assistant*
- *2 Resource Technicians*
- *Education/outreach coordinator*
- *Forester*
- *VSP Coordinator/Planner*
- *Riparian Program Coordinator/Manager*

## Key Partners and Decision Makers

### Local

- *Pend Oreille County*
- *Kalispel Tribe of Indians*
- *County Weed Board*
- *Fire Departments*
- *Cooperative Extension*
- *Neighboring CDs*
- *Pend Oreille County PUD*
- *St. George's School*
- *Library District*
- *Whitworth University*
- *Local School Districts*
- *City of Newport*
- *Town of Metaline*
- *Town of Metaline Falls*
- *Town of Lone*
- *Town of Cusick*
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### Statewide

- *Washington State Conservation Commission*
- *Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*
- *Washington Department of Ecology*
- *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)*
- *Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)*
- *Washington Conservation Corps*
- *Washington State Legislators*
- *Fire Adapted Community Learning Network*
- *Washington Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO)*
- *Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)*

### National

- *USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*
- *US Fish and Wildlife Service*
- *Army Corps of Engineers*
- *Federal Legislators*
- *Ducks Unlimited*
- *Trout Unlimited*
- *Wild Turkey Federation*
- *Safari Club International*
- *National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)*
- *Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation*
- *Mule Deer Foundation*

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## Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices



# Appendix A

## Natural Resource Data & Information:

The following internet links are the sources of data for POCD in both identifying natural resource concerns and addressing them:

- [Ecology 303\(d\) Listing](#)
- [Kalispel Natural Resource Department geodatabase](#)
- [Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\) - Field Office Technical Guide \(FOTG\)](#)
- [USDA Web Soil Survey](#)
- [US Forest Service](#)
- [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)
- [U. S. Department of Education and Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction](#)
- [U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
- [WSU Extension](#)
- [Watershed Management Plan \(WRIA 62\)](#)
- [U. S. Geological Survey](#)
- [U. S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration](#)
- [Washington Department of Natural Resources](#)
- [Washington State Department of Agriculture](#)
- [USDA Farm Services Agency](#)
- [U. S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)
- [Pend Oreille County PUD](#)