



# WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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## RESPONSIBILITIES

The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC/Commission) provides leadership and assistance to private landowners of the state in the wise stewardship, conservation and protection of soil, water, and related natural resources on private lands. WSCC is the primary conduit at the state level for natural resource improvements on private lands through proven delivery methods by conservation districts. The Commission does this by providing structure and leadership for good governance to the 48 conservation districts who provide education, technical assistance, and implementation of best management practices. Conservation districts are local governments working directly with private landowners to install best management practices that positively impact water, soil, timber, fish, and other natural resources. The Washington State Conservation Commission was created in 1939 with the passage of Chapter 89.08 Revised Code of Washington.

WSCC participates in a number of legislative and advisory functions to address natural resource issues in the state as well as administer the respective funding: Puget Sound Action Team, Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Office of the Interagency Committee, Governor’s Environmental Council, Governor’s Water Team, Priorities of Government, Salmon Monitoring Forum, Joint Environmental Cabinet, Ecology (Signatory on Memorandum of Understanding with Ecology and Agriculture), Biodiversity Council, and Drainage Infrastructure (SB 1418). A few of our partnerships: Environmental Protection Agency, Washington State Department of Agriculture, and the US Department of Agriculture (Memorandum of Agriculture Agreement with the State of Washington) including the Local Work Groups, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency and various workgroups and non-point workgroups.

## ORGANIZATION

<b>COMMISSION BOARD</b>	<p><i>Two members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor, and one of these must be a landowner or operator of a farm.</i></p> <p><i>Three members are elected to three-year terms by conservation district supervisors to represent western, central and eastern Washington regions. At least two of these must be landowners or operators of a farm.</i></p> <p><i>Five members are appointed as ex-officio members by: the Director of the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology); the Director of the Washington Department of Agriculture (AG); the Commissioner of Public Lands (Washington Department of Natural Resources, (DNR)); the President of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD); and the Dean of the College of Agriculture at Washington State University (WSU).</i></p>	<p><b>Lynn Bahrych (2004)</b> <b>Jim Peters (1998, 2001)</b> <b>Tracy Eriksen – Eastern (2000)</b> <b>Jackie Reid – Western (1992)</b> <b>Lynn Brown –Central (2002)</b> <b>Dave Peeler, Ecology (2002)</b> <b>William Boyum, DNR (1999)</b> <b>Lee Faulconer, AG (1996)</b> <b>Ed Adams, WSU (2002)</b> <b>Paul Stoker, WACD (2003)</b></p>
<b>WSCC STAFF</b>	<p><b>Mark Clark, Executive Director</b> Mary Anderson, Executive Assistant Marvin Johnson, Programs Assistant</p> <p><b><i>Special Projects and Programs</i></b> Debbie Becker, Administrative Programs Ray Ledgerwood, Program Coordinator Jon Culp, Irrigation Efficiencies Program Coordinator Ed Manary, Tidegates Program Coordinator Carol Smith, Tidegates/Limiting Factors Program</p>	<p><b><i>Field Service Managers</i></b> Bill Broughton, Eastern Washington Butch Ogden, Central Washington Tom Salzer, Southwest Washington Stu Trefry, Puget Sound</p> <p><b><i>Grants Department</i></b> Cheryl Witt, Grants Officer Kristine McGill, Grants Assistant Debbie Skogen, Grants Assistant</p>

## 2003-05 BIENNIUM BUDGET

Generally, each biennium, the Commission administers more than 350 grants and loans valued in excess of \$25 million to conservation districts. WSCC has a biennial budget of \$21,369,760. The Washington State Conservation is comprised of twelve staff directed by a ten member board.

2003-05 Operating Programs	001	139	
	General Fund	Water Quality Account	Savings Incentive
Administration	1,104,400	544,300	
Conservation District Basic Funding	1,244,000		
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Technical Assistance	1,900,000		
Drainage Infrastructure (HB 1418)	239,000		
Technical Service Program (Federal)	25,000		
Professional Engineering Grant		1,500,000	
Conservation District Audits		128,000	
Landowner's Education Assistance		250,000	
Savings Incentive			60,000
Account Total	4,512,400	2,422,300	60,000
Operating Total	6,994,700		

2003-05 Capital Programs	057	139	552
	State Building Construction Account	Water Quality Account	Conservation Assistance Revolving Account
Dairy Nutrient Management Grants		1,950,000	
Puget Sound Work Plan Administration		925,416	
Conservation District Implementation Grants	3,500,000	194,500	
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program-Cost Share	6,857,352		
Skykomish Flood Mitigation Project	447,792		
Conservation Assistance Revolving Account			500,000
Account Total	10,805,144	3,069,916	500,000
Capital Total	14,375,060		

## CHALLENGES & PRESSING ISSUES

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP):

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a joint partnership between the State of Washington and USDA, and is administered by the Commission and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). CREP is a centerpiece of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Strategy and represents one of the few programs being funded throughout the state that actually has an "on the ground" investment that can be immediately seen with almost instantaneous results. This program provides financial incentives to restore and improve salmon and steelhead habitat on private agricultural lands. The Technical Assistance needs and requests for contracts have outstripped the available funds.

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### Financial Stresses on the Water Quality Fund - 139-1

The Conservation Commission is very aware of the increasing demands on a decreasing Water Quality Account. In partnership with conservation districts, the Commission is the only state agency that provides water quality technical and financial assistance to private landowners. Private landowners play an important role in improving water quality and maintaining healthy watersheds. The most significant statewide water quality issue for the Commission is Livestock Nutrient Management. Livestock owners meeting the definition of a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (or CAFO) have until December 31, 2006 to comply with the law. The Commission, in consultation with WSDA's Livestock Nutrient Management Development and Oversight Committee, has requested a significant appropriation from the WQA to help landowners meet this quickly approaching deadline.

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## Board Member Listing by Board Position

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION (NS035)

Agency 471 - State Conservation Commission	Senate Conf. N	Positions: Maximum 010
Authority Governor, statute, cons. district elected	Public Disc. N	Minimum 000
Authoriztn. RCW 89.08.030	Term Length 048	Actual 010
Rem. Auth. GC	Meetings/Yr. 06	

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
001	Peters, James L. Natural Resources Department SE 3100 Olympic Highway, Box 3 Shelton, WA 98584	A	NA	06/25/2001	06/06/2005
		Terms Served	02		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		

Pos. #	Name and Address	Status	Race	Appointed	Expires
002	Bahrych, Lynn 123 W. Meridian Drive Shaw Island, WA 98286	A	C	01/09/2004	06/06/2007
		Terms Served	01		
		Position	a member		
		Comments	General Public		