

Farm Conservation Planning



Clallam Conservation District is **non-regulatory** sub-division of state government. We work with land users on a voluntary basis to help you be a better steward of your land. Our assistance is **FREE** of charge.

We provide technical and financial assistance to help livestock owners **develop plans** for managing their land in a way that protects natural resources and benefits the health of their animals.

Financial assistance may be available to help off-set the costs of implementing practices that conserve natural resources. Please refer to our brochure titled *Financial Assistance for Agricultural Conservation*.



CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT

228 W. First St., Suite H, Port Angeles, WA 98362

Phone: (360) 775-3747 ext. 5

Website: www.clallamcd.org

Updated: Feb. 2014

What Is the Farm Conservation Planning Process?

1. **Schedule an appointment** for a Conservation District planner to meet you at your farm. You will be asked to review and fill out a **Cooperator Agreement** (a voluntary agreement stating that we will work together to develop a mutually acceptable plan).
2. You will need to **define goals and objectives** for your farm. Goals and objectives can be as broad as wanting to raise cattle, or as specific as wanting to reduce mud and improve pastures.
3. Your planner will assist you with conducting an **inventory** of your farm. An inventory typically includes:
 - ✓ Soil type and slope of the land
 - ✓ Type and number of livestock
 - ✓ Pasture, hayland, and/or forestland health
 - ✓ Streams, ponds, ditches or other water bodies
 - ✓ Weed identification
 - ✓ Mud and manure management
4. Once the inventory is complete, your planner will assist you in **evaluating the condition** of your farm and your current management practices. Problem areas, such as muddy paddocks and over grazed pastures, for example, will be identified.
5. Work with your planner to **develop** and **explore alternatives** to address problem areas identified on your farm.
6. **Select alternatives** that best fit your management abilities, goals for your farm, and financial situation.
7. **Implement your farm conservation plan.** Your planner will provide you with the technical assistance needed to implement the alternatives you have chosen (for example how to build a fence, or what time of year to spread manure or mow pastures, or how to build a mud-free heavy use area). Your planner can also help you explore any financial assistance that may be available to install practices that protect natural resources. Please refer to our **Financial Assistance** brochure for more information.



What is a Farm Conservation Plan?

A farm conservation plan is a document developed by you (with help from your Conservation District) that outlines actions necessary to meet your farming goals, while keeping your animals healthy, protecting water quality and conserving natural resources on your property.



Through the farm planning process, Conservation District staff will help you determine the grazing capacity of your pasture(s) and estimate the volume of manure produced by your livestock. Problem areas, such as muddy paddocks or roof drainage issues will be identified and potential solutions explored. Conservation District staff can help with the design of mud-free paddocks with durable footing, or assist with the development of an improved roof runoff management system to divert roof water away from paddocks, or other heavily used areas.

Who is Eligible for a Farm Conservation Plan?

Any land user in Clallam County is eligible, no matter what the size of your land or the number of animals that you have. Even if you don't have animals yet, a farm conservation plan can help get your farm off to the right start and help you avoid problems.

How Can a Farm Conservation Plan Benefit Me?

Benefits, include: saving money by increasing productivity over the long term; increased ease and efficiency of chores; healthier livestock; and a more attractive farm. Completion of a farm plan may also make you eligible for financial assistance for your improvements.

How Can a Conservation Plan Benefit the Environment?

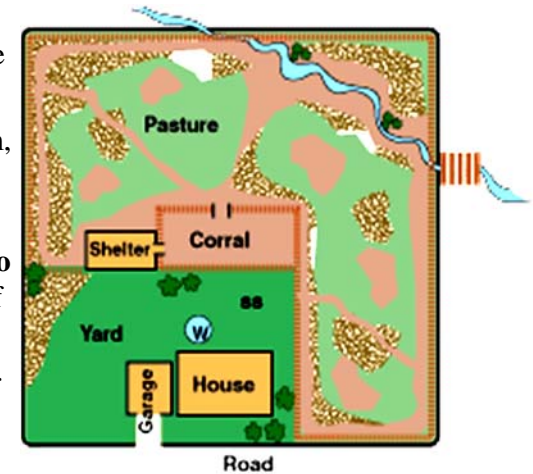
A farm plan ensures better water quality for you, your livestock and your neighbors. Valuable natural resources, like soil, water, plants, and wildlife are protected on your land, enabling you to be a better steward of the environment while still managing a productive farm.

Do I Have to Follow My Plan?

Your conservation plan is a dynamic document that you can change over time to meet your needs and goals. Ever-changing factors such as finances, land availability, livestock numbers, etc., require periodic updates to your plan.

Without A Plan

- ✓ Pastures are **overgrazed**, weed invasion is likely due to bare ground
- ✓ Animals drink from stream, contributing to **erosion**
- ✓ Manure and sediment can enter the stream; there is **no vegetation** to filter runoff
- ✓ Bare soil creates **dust** in summer and **mud** in winter
- ✓ **Little food or cover** for wildlife



After A Plan

- ✓ Multiple pastures created, allowing for rotational grazing = **healthier pastures & more forage**
- ✓ **Stream is fenced** from animals and **replanted** with vegetation to prevent erosion
- ✓ Animals no longer drink from the stream; **stock water is in a central location**, accessible from all pastures
- ✓ **Corral has mud-free footing** - useable for winter confinement
- ✓ Trees and shrubs planted to create **wildlife habitat & windbreak**

