



Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District

2021-2022 Annual Work Plan

The DSWCD works to conserve natural resource concerns in Deschutes County (water quality and quantity, weeds, wildlife and fish habitat, forest health, and land/soils). These resource concerns and various objectives and programs are outlined in the DSWCD Long-Range Plan (2019-2024).

Deschutes SWCD Long Range Plan 2019-2024

For purposes of the annual work plan, four sections of the Long Range Plan (Goals/objectives, natural resource concerns and outcomes, District programs, and District capacity, needs, and strategies) have been compiled and narrowed down to create specific goals for the 2021 – 2022 Fiscal year that pertain to active grants and work being accomplished:

Goal 1: Maintain partnerships and alliances with a wide variety of agencies and organizations at the local, regional, state, and national level.

Both staff members will work on accomplishing this goal throughout the fiscal year.

Objective: Work with partners on existing and future grants and continue proper reporting.

Program:

1. OWEB Grants
 - a. Capacity Grant (ODA)
2. OWRD Grant
 - a. Lundy Ditch Feasibility Study
3. NRCS TA Grant
4. NACD TA Grant
5. NACD Urban Agriculture Grant
6. Manure Exchange Program
7. Small Grants – manage, provide administrative support, and collaborate with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
8. Provide technical assistance to on-the-ground projects

Goal 2: Build new alliances and partnerships with an array of organizations to develop and promote stewardship and conservation activities.

This will be an ongoing effort by both staff members for this coming fiscal year and shall continue and progress in the future.

Objective: General manager will seek networking opportunities.

Program:

1. Develop partnerships and apply for grants to fund on-farm and urban agricultural projects
2. Manure Exchange – work to develop more instruction for livestock producers and gardeners
3. Wildlife Habitat Restoration Projects – Eastern Deschutes County for Sage Grouse, Tumalo Winter Mule Deer Range, Upper Deschutes and Little Deschutes
4. OWEB – Technical Assistance grant for Indian Ford coordinated resource management plan
5. OWEB – Stakeholder Engagement grant for Upper Deschutes Forest Health Investment Project

Goal 3: Promote soil and water conservation through an education, public information, and outreach program.

This will be performed by both staff members throughout the fiscal year.

Objective: Market Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District.

Program:

1. Maintain website by providing updates on projects, annual reports, and annual work plans
2. Develop outreach opportunities with groups that align with the mission in Deschutes County
3. Develop fundraising opportunities
4. Market Manure Exchange Program in new avenues
5. Update Rural Living Handbook

Objective: Advance public understanding of DSWCD's purpose and activities, and promote conservation participation among rural and urban landowners, educational and community groups, watershed councils, working groups and District constituents.

Program:

1. Hold Irrigation Water Management Workshops for rural and urban landowners
2. Network with local groups to develop relationships for participation in future conservation programs
3. Assist with educational natural resource programs in Deschutes County

Goal 4: Maintain legal accountability, fiscal responsibility, and district operations.

This will be an ongoing effort by both staff and board members for this coming fiscal year and shall continue and progress in the future.

Objective: Board and staff shall continuously improve their professional education and knowledge of the conservation business.

Program:

1. Set up trainings for board and staff
2. Provide and discuss recommendations of conservation issues occurring in the county and how these issues relate to the district's mission

Objective: Obtain a reliable source of funding to ensure continuity of operations.

Program:

1. Staff will work to maintain current grant funding as well as find new funding opportunities, whether via grants or through outreach efforts

Objective: Maintain integrity and positive working relationships with all partners, staff, and board members.

Program:

1. Plan a field trip to observe current projects
2. Take 10-15 minutes out of the meeting to discuss a course of action where staff and members would like to see the district in a year's time
3. Hold the annual meeting in December after the audit; consider a holiday party following the meeting
4. Engage in SDAO Board assessment with the entire board present in order to assess strengths and weaknesses and to develop and increase communication
5. Send one staff and one or two board members to the SDAO Annual Conference in February

Objective: Continually evaluate and strengthen the Deschutes SWCD through the management of programs and projects to accomplish Deschutes County vision and mission by achieving measurable outcomes.

Program:

1. Collaborate to expand our partners and working relationships
2. Set up sub-committees to develop district policies pertaining to personnel, board member duties and responsibilities, contracting, records retention, public record request, conflict of interest, and financials
3. Exemplify our achievements to the public to show continuing conservation efforts
4. Maintain Long-Range Plan 2019-2024
5. Evaluate and update annual work plan as needed
6. Work toward managing the Deschutes SWCD financial affairs consistent with General Accepted Accounting Principles and ODA Requirements
7. Conduct annual financial audit or review
8. Provide a copy of the annual budget and annual work plan to ODA for review and to ensure full technical, administrative, and financial support
9. Conduct an annual meeting where the public is invited through a public notice published in the Bulletin. The annual work plan and budget will be presented at this time

