

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

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. Please refer to our brochure titled *Farm Conservation Planning* to learn more about developing a plan for your farm.



CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT

228 W. 1st St., Ste. H, Port Angeles, WA 98362

(360) 452-

www.clallamcd.org

June 2013

What is the Cost-Share Program?

The cost share program is designed to defray landowner costs for implementing conservation practices that benefit water quality and wildlife habitat. All Clallam County land users are eligible for this program. Cost-share is contingent upon available grant funding.

How Does the Program Work?

Conservation District staff works directly with land users to help identify resource concerns and develop plans for addressing those concerns. Land users then submit cost-share applications for cost-share eligible practice deemed necessary to address the resource concerns.

(See the back page for details on this process.)

What Types of Practices are Eligible?

To be eligible for cost sharing a practice must protect or improve water quality and/or wildlife habitat. Public benefits from the practice must significantly outweigh private gains. Listed at right are common practices.

What Practices are NOT Eligible?

- Practices required as a result of a court order.
- Practices required for compliance with building permits (e.g. roof runoff management on new structures).
- Practices identified as part of mitigation requirements.

Requirements for Obtaining Cost-Share Funds

- Applicants must have a District-approved farm conservation plan.
- Applicants must review our Conservation Practice Cost-Share Policy.
- Each cost-share practice must meet Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) standards and specifications (or be approved by a Professional Engineer) and be maintained for its designated lifespan.

Cost-Share Rates (\$\$\$)

Cost-share rates—the percent of the project costs that the Conservation District will pay versus the percent that the applicant pays—are determined by evaluating the public benefit of the practice. Riparian practices including exclusion fencing, livestock crossings, and alternative stock water are eligible to receive 75% district cost share. All other practices are eligible to receive 50% cost share. The applicant's share can be contributed cash, labor, equipment or materials necessary to implement the practice. Project costs are determined by using the low bid of three project bids or



Gravel heavy use area on a horse farm in Joyce.

ON-FARM COST-SHARE PRACTICES

Exclusion Fencing, Crossings, and Alternative Stock Watering:

Fences that exclude livestock from streams, rivers, ponds, & other waterways, associated livestock crossings, and stock watering systems to provide an alternative to watering directly from a waterway.

Benefits to animals/owners:

- ✓ Decreases risk of livestock falling on slippery footing while trying to drink
- ✓ Decreases the ingestion of parasites, water-borne pathogens & sediment

Benefits to public:

- ✓ Protects water quality from manure & sediments
- ✓ Streambanks are stable and riparian/wildlife habitat is improved

Roof Runoff Management:

The installation of gutters, downspouts, dry-wells or other appropriate outlets, on existing barns or outbuildings, where roof runoff impacts horse/livestock facilities.

Benefits to animals/owners:

- ✓ Reduces mud = cleaner animals, healthier hooves
- ✓ Easier to feed and remove manure

Benefits to public:

- ✓ Clean rainwater stays clean, recharges aquifer
- ✓ Reduces storm flows to waterways



Heavy Use Area Protection:

Constructing horse or livestock confinement areas using mud-free footing materials. These areas are used during winter months to keep animals off of saturated soils.

Benefits to animals/owners:

- ✓ No mud = cleaner animals & healthier hooves
- ✓ Easier to feed and remove manure
- ✓ Maximizes pasture productivity

Benefits to public:

- ✓ Protects ground & surface water from pollutants in manure



Compost Bins/ Waste Storage Facility:

Manure storage & compost facilities that provide safe, long-term storage of manure.

Benefits to animals/owners:

- ✓ Decreases parasite infestation
- ✓ Ease of loading/unloading manure

Benefits to public:

- ✓ Protects ground & surface water from pollutants in manure

WHAT IS THE COST SHARE 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. **Develop a farm plan** for your property with the help of a District planner. The plan will include resource concerns and a schedule for implementing practices that address the concerns. This must be done prior to applying for cost-share.
3. **Select conservation practice(s)** (e.g. exclusion fencing, roof runoff management, etc.) for which financial assistance is needed. A District planner will review with you the minimum standards required for implementing each practice.
4. **Submit a cost-share application** for the practice(s) you and your planner select. Your planner will help you fill out the application and present it to the District Board of Supervisors for approval. Your attendance at the Board meeting is encouraged but not usually required.
5. **Work with your planner to finalize the design** for your practice(s). You must review and sign the design. The practice(s) **MUST** be implemented exactly as specified.
6. **Begin work on your project.** If you choose to do the work yourself, keep all receipts relevant to project expenses and a log of hours spent working on the project. If you hire a contractor, you must try to get three quotes and submit the contractor's final project cost.
7. **Once the project is completed**, you will submit all of your expenses to the Conservation District and a planner will inspect the project to ensure that the work was completed according to specifications. When the inspection is finalized, the District will issue a check for the cost-share amount.
8. **Maintain the practice(s)** for their design life. Notify the District if the property is sold.

Note: Steps 1-4 normally take at least **2 months**, so please keep this in mind if you have a practice that is dependent on the weather, and contact a planner well ahead of the time you would like to begin implementing the practice.

Even if you decide not to apply for cost-share assistance, we can provide technical assistance, free of charge, necessary to design and implement conservation practices.