

Session Notes

Strategic Thinking & Planning Work Session Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Committee (WATCAC)

June 14, 2012 – 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Coeur d'Alene Casino, Worley, ID

Session Objectives:

- Determine and identify WATCAC 3 year strategic goals based on State Resource Assessment resource based priorities.
- Develop FY 13 WATCAC plan goals and objectives of our resource based priorities.

Opening Comments

- Roylene Rides at the Door gave opening comments and welcome to the group.

Greatest Accomplishments by 2015

- All tribes in the state participating in NRCS programs
- Having the beginning farmers and ranchers coming back to the land in Indian country
- Redefine the land use categories to reflect tribal resources
- Be alive in 2015
- Programs are really available on reservations – on the ground
- Funding allocations match land use percentages
- See NRCS strengthen and expand in the area of forest health
- NRCS totally engulfed in the salmon recovery effort in the Puget Sound
- See the efficiency of how funds spread out among multi resource needs
- Recovering salmon will be accomplished throughout the state not just on reservation or trust lands
- Water quality and quantity both on reservation and watershed meet water standards and promote healthy, harvestable salmon population for salmon and shellfish
- Make sure the programs are in line with the white paper developed on treaty rights at risk
- See the programs expanded to include alternative resource concerns – eg feral horse concerns
- More funds available on restoration projects – working with agricultural people especially restoration projects
- All USDA agencies leadership to support local staff decisions made in field with program delivery in Indian country
- See a significant increase in progress numbers (contracts and acres) for EQIP and CSP programs – proactive STC
- More funding available for salmon recovery...beyond NRCS funding...other ag agencies lend assistance for areas with non-listed species

- See strengthened partnership with coastal and Puget Sound tribes – salmon recovery through programs
- Have a strong tribal program in WA State that is nationwide model
- Have a more clear understanding of NRCS programs in Indian Country especially with tribal staff
- Programs expanded to non-traditional programs for agriculture especially those that work with tribes even off reservation with co-management responsibility
- Have two trainings with technical transfer back and forth with Tribal interests

Greatest Accomplishments by 2015 (continued)

- Resolutions from all 29 tribes in participation in the advisory council
- Simplify the complex requirements in our programs, reduce paperwork as a barrier
- Farm Bill would reflect input from tribes especially from Washington
- Build a program to address closed shellfish beds including targeting funds in those watersheds
- Help tribes have a better working relationship with Local Work Group
- Younger people, new producers that are interested in production
- NRCS relationship built deeper than just programs...including technical assistance, conservation planning, and conversation
- Integrate the tribal nations into the main stream venues...establishment of tribal conservation districts in state...more involvement in technical service providers, conservation activity plans,
- See integration of the long range planning process and annual planning processes into the all planning (long range and annual)
- Have an integrated budget that is integrated with Tribal Resource Assessment
- Achieve the number one priority identified by advisory council with implementation
- Increased participation by all producers
- Have technical capacity of the right kind in the right place to deliver programs
- Tribes working together with departments on the plan to natural resources and use for resource inventory

Update on Practice Standards

- Habets encouraged participants to look at practice standards when they are up for review at national level
- Committee formed to look at 590 Nutrient Management Standard...talking of phosphorus index and nitrogen index...wanting to get review done before October 1st
- Riparian forest buffer (391) practice standard being reviewed within the months
- Bonda Habets contact for above standards
- Irrigation / water consumptive use standard and guideline being worked on at present
- If a practice should be considered or recommended changes...who to contact – Bonda Habets would be contacted first and she can push for implementation
- 391 standard clarification for the state...working on in tribes

State Resource Assessment & Budget Framework

- See Bautista presentation (will email to folks)
- How is NRCS going to deal with ESA priority habitats with practices going on more than one year?

Criteria for Selecting a High Priority

- Must abide and respect treaties
- Does it solve the conservation issue/resource concern
- Amount of funding needed and available to fix the resource concern
- Tribal, cultural, regional importance and would protect and/enhance culturally important species
- Consider program activity in relation to acres needing addressed
- Must address tribal (or applicable) water quality standards
- Would address pest management and/or invasive species (plant and/or animal)
- Scope of the resource concern, level of threat, amount of tribes effected
- Number one priority for each tribe is considered
- The natural resource are becoming rare or limited

- Would consider water quantity needs

Overall

- Ability to monitor the effect of the work (should be in everything)
- Afford opportunities for tribal members (should be in all)
- Concern expressed on some NRCS practice standards

Other criteria

- Effect of work would move us closer to state and tribal water standards
- At least one resource concern addressed for each tribe
- Consideration of resource scope and scale
- Would significantly reduce erosion
- Should consider traditional ecological knowledge or native science

Do we want to consider the tribal resource assessment separate than state resource assessment...which more effective for tribes – STC says stand-alone based on this morning exercise on accomplishment...but draw on both

Stand-alone...that is why we formed the Advisory Committee

Area Recommendations for Natural Resource Conservation Priorities for FY 13-15

See presentations

Statewide Tribal Natural Resource Conservation Priorities by Land Use

	Group A	Group B	Group C
1	INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE - Habitat degradation -all	INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE - Habitat degradation -all	INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE - Habitat degradation -all
2	DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Excessive plant pest pressure – all	DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable plant productivity and health - all	WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters - all
3	WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION – Excessive sediment in surface waters - all	WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION – Excessive sediment in surface waters - all	SOIL EROSION - Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels, Also from forest roads - all
4	WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters – range, pasture, crop	INSUFFICIENT WATER - Inefficient use of irrigation Water – crop, pasture	SOIL EROSION - Sheet, rill, and wind erosion - all
5	SOIL EROSION - Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels, Also from forest roads – all	DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation - all	INSUFFICIENT WATER - Inefficient use of irrigation water – crop, pasture, range, other
6	INSUFFICIENT WATER - Inefficient use of irrigation water – crop,	DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Excessive plant pest pressure - all	WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Elevated water temperature

	Group D	Group E	
1	INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE - Habitat degradation - crop	WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION – Excessive sediment in surface waters - all	
2	DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Excessive plant pest pressure - forest	INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE - Habitat degradation - all	
3	DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Excessive plant pest pressure - range	DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Excessive plant pest pressure - all	
4	WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excessive sediment in surface waters - cropland	SOIL EROSION - Sheet, rill, and wind erosion - forest	
5	WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters - cropland	WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters – cropland - all	
6	DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation	WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications - all	

Combined

Resource Concern	Land Use
INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE - Habitat degradation (1)	all
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excessive sediment in surface waters (3)	all
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters (3)	range, pasture, crop
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Excessive plant pest pressure (4)	all
SOIL EROSION - Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels, Also from forest roads (4)	all
INSUFFICIENT WATER - Inefficient use of irrigation Water (5)	Crop, pasture
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable plant productivity and health	all
DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation	all
SOIL EROSION - Sheet, rill, and wind erosion	all
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Elevated water temperature	
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications	all

Process of Review:

- Opportunity for all tribes to review the conservation priorities and respond in 10 days.
- Send the session notes for review process
- Last chance for input - Review any suggested revisions on next conference call or net meeting
- Move on FY13 recommendations

Formulation of FY 13 Business Planning Priorities - Measurable Goals, Benchmarks, Timeline, Budget & Details

FY 2013 Conservation Priority Worksheet

Background

Washington has 11 resource priorities that were derived from the State Resource Assessment however we are in the developmental stage of determining priorities. Each priority must be evaluated to determine whether we will address it in FY 2012 and how. We need to quantify how much will be treated, where the focus of treatment will be, how focus area will be treated, when the treatment needs to occur, what resources will be needed (internal and partner), and how much it will cost. This worksheet will help us flesh out priorities, put a price tag on it, and mobilize the resources needed. We will need to define benchmarks, timelines, and outcomes in our performance goals and timelines.

Inadequate Habitat for Fish & Wildlife

Habitat degradation

Measure(s) of Success:

- Increase number of EQIP contracts by 20% per year specific to habitat development
- Increase acres b 20% for habitat development specific contracts

Measurable Goal(s):

- 460 acres of habitat developed restored, enhanced per year

Benchmarks & Timelines:

Benchmark (large piece of work completed)	Timeline
Wildlife assessments to determine quality and amount of habitat	
Determine reference condition for wildlife habitat types	
Monitor against reference condition above	

1. Acres to be treated:

- Within this priority, how many total acres need to be treated (from SRA)?
5496 acres
- What is the highest priority for treatment in FY 2012?
Tribe specific
- Where are the highest priority acres located?
Tribe specific
- How many acres will be treated in the highest priority areas in next 3 years?
460 per year
- How many producers are impacted in the areas and acres to be treated in next 3 years?
- When should the work be performed (construction season, fish window)?

Water Quality

Sediment and nutrients

Measure(s) of Success:

Fish presents, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, conductivity, water quality standards

Measurable Goal(s):

Removal off Washington State 303d list
Improvement in water quality standards

Benchmarks & Timelines:

Benchmark (large piece of work completed)	Timeline
Weekly water quality monitoring	weekly
Check 303d list	quarterly
Fish monitoring (local/tribal)	Semi-annually (seasonal based)

2. Acres to be treated:

- a. Within this priority, how many total acres need to be treated (from SRA)?
3.1 million
- b. What is the highest priority for treatment in next 3 years?
All - \$50,000 per year
- c. Where are the highest priority acres located?
Riparian areas
- d. How many acres will be treated in the highest priority areas in next 3 years?
150,000 over next 3 years
- e. How many tribes are impacted in the areas and acres to be treated in FY 2012?
- f. When should the work be performed (construction season, fish window)?
Habitat restoration projects with planting (October through March)

Degraded Plant Condition

Measure(s) of Success:

Number of acres adequately treated

Measurable Goal(s):

Rangeland – 10% acres treated

Forestland – 1% acres treated

Cropland/hayland 2% acres treated

Benchmarks & Timelines:

Benchmark (large piece of work completed)	Timeline
Analysis of work to be done	1 year
CRMP – review to determine acres to be treated	3 year
Monitor success of controlling pests	

3. Acres to be treated:

- a. Within this priority, how many total acres need to be treated (from SRA)?
13% of listed acres
- b. What is the highest priority for treatment in the next 3 years?
- c. Where are the highest priority acres located?
- d. How many acres will be treated in the highest priority areas in FY 2012?
- e. How many producers are impacted in the areas and acres to be treated in FY 2012?
- f. When should the work be performed (construction season, fish window)?

Soil Erosion – Bank & Shoreline Erosion

Measure(s) of Success:

Miles of forest roads stabilized and/or abandoned

Miles of streambank threated ecologically and structurally

Miles of unlined conveyance systems lined

Measurable Goal(s):

Reduced temperature sedimentation, turbidity – water quality improvements

Stabilization of shorelines and two miles of streams restored

Water habitat improved

Benchmarks & Timelines:

Benchmark (large piece of work completed)	Timeline
50 miles water conveyance lining	3 years
20 installed log jams	3 years
5 miles of streambank stabilized	3 years

50 miles of forest road stabilized	3 years
1000 acres of riparian plantings	3 years

Insufficient Water – Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water

Measure(s) of Success:

Assume 50% treated

Number of acres treated (5% current irrigated areas per year)

Measurable Goal(s):

New systems installed

Benchmarks & Timelines:

Benchmark (large piece of work completed)	Timeline
Baseline inventory of treatments (outreach)	
Priority rankings (system efficiency)	
Engineering design, permitting, irrigation history	

4. Acres to be treated:

- a. Within this priority, how many total acres need to be treated (from SRA)?
5% of total untreated acres
- b. What is the highest priority for treatment in the next 3 years?
croplands
- c. Where are the highest priority acres located?
Eastern Washington
- d. How many acres will be treated in the highest priority areas in the next 3 years?
5% of total untreated acres
- e. How many producers are impacted in the areas and acres to be treated in the next 3 years?
N/A
- f. When should the work be performed (construction season, fish window)?
Off-growing season