

King Conservation District

2015 Program Focus Areas – FACT SHEET

Rural Small Lot Forestry & Urban Tree Canopy Development



Challenge: As climate change and population growth pressures mount, the health of Pacific Northwest Forests is threatened.

Need: Individual jurisdictions and agencies do not have the resources to adequately protect our forests without mobilizing private landowners. The demand to train and support owners of small forest properties to safeguard our regional forest resources is immediate and essential.

The Problem

As recently as 2009, over 45,000 acres of the nearly 782,000 acres of rural non-commercial forest lands outside King County's Agriculture Production Districts were held by landowners of parcels of five acres or less in size. These small, non-commercial forested lands fall outside the capacity of the King County forestry program for support. Yet together, these acres represent a vast resource that contributes to the overall health of our community and offers a timely opportunity to proactively engage private landowners in stewardship.

Healthy trees and forests are just as essential in urban communities. Recent research by King County reveals an alarming drop in urban trees in many communities at a time when more, not fewer, trees are intensely needed: As growth management concentrates development in urban areas and the regional commitment to social justice and equity is institutionalized, management and enhancement of healthy urban forests and tree canopies emerges as a necessity. Urban forestry programs are focusing on quality of life indicators and urban heat islands and additionally addressing wildlife habitats in the cities, stormwater management, water quality protection, pollution abatement, and carbon sequestration.

“The combined impacts of increasing wildfire, insect outbreaks, and tree diseases are already causing widespread tree die-off and are virtually certain to cause additional forest mortality by the 2040s.”

Climate Change Impacts in the United States – Northwest May, 2014

Current Program Outcomes	Proposed Additional Program Outcomes
<p>Rural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25-40 forested acres treated • 2,000-3,000 native trees and shrubs planted/year • \$28,986 private funds leveraged/year 	<p>Rural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest acres treated and planted increased to 225 acres annually. • Native trees and shrubs planted on forest land increased to 18,000-36,000 annually • Private sector funding leveraged on forest health management increased from \$144,900 annually • A minimum of 18 small acreage forest landowners engaged annually in planning and implementing forest health management practices through KCD technical services • At least 1 WSU Coached Forest Stewardship Workshop per year in King County. Allocate \$150,000 annually in KCD LIP forest health management cost-share funding for contracts awarded to small acreage non-industrial private forest landowners to implemented forest health management practices (an increase from 3 to 10 contracts, and \$60,000 to \$150,000).
<p>Urban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 upland acres treated annually • \$14,500 in plants and other project materials provided annually to landowners and neighborhood groups through KCD technical service programs for implementation of urban forest/open space enhancement projects. • \$144,000 leveraged annually (mostly in-kind labor) in association with urban forest/open space enhancement projects supported by KCD. 	<p>Urban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban forest/upland acres treated and planted increased to 14 acres annually. • Native trees and shrubs planted on urban forest/upland habitat increased to 34,400 annually • Private sector funding leveraged on urban forest/upland health management increased to \$324,400 annually • Facilitate roundtables in three jurisdictions annually to develop tailored urban forest initiatives. In turn, market services and facilitate outreach and educational opportunities to promote the retention and restoration of urban forests, and facilitate community forestry activities through technical support. • Work with 3 new jurisdictions annually in a support and/or coordination role to plan and implement urban forest retention and restoration programs. • Allocate \$150,000 annually (\$50,000 per jurisdiction) in KCD LIP cost-share funding for contracts awarded to urban residents and neighborhood and community groups to implement management practices consistent with urban forest initiatives adopted by the respective jurisdictions.
<p style="text-align: right;">.14 FTE \$17,430</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PROPOSED TOTAL:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2.14 FTE 1 AmeriCorps Intern \$319,654</p>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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