

# Conservation Technical Assistance

This request funds the foundation of all conservation projects: technical assistance. Conservation Technical Assistance is crucial for conservation districts to conduct the relationship-building, partner coordination, technical design, permitting, and other logistics required before breaking ground on a project. It also allows districts to make progress on the growing demand for services related to food security, forest and rangeland fire resiliency, and managing livestock waste.

**Funding requested: \$5,000,000**

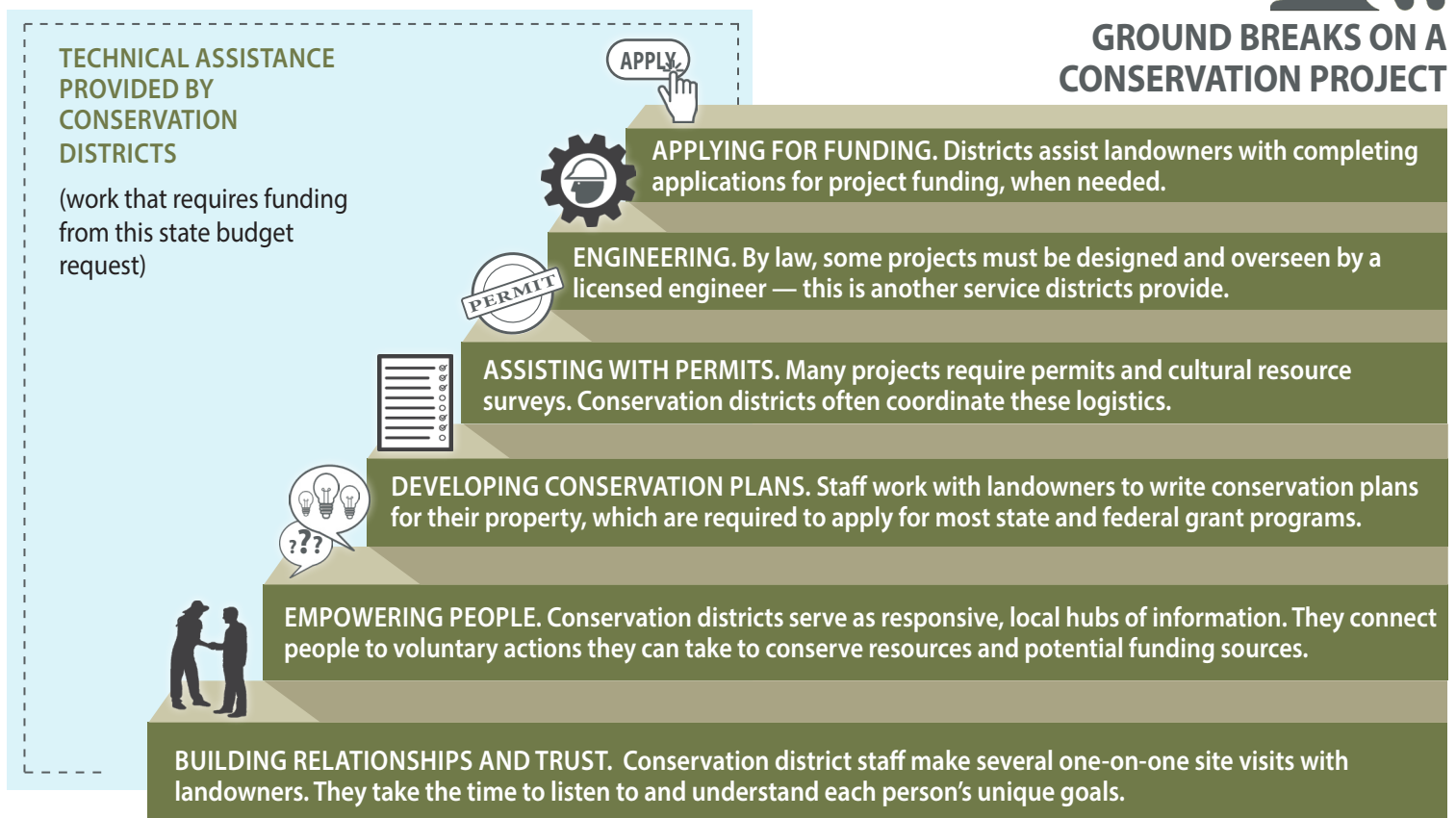
## Why this request can't wait:

- ▶ Over 50% of land in our state is privately owned. If we don't engage landowners and land managers broadly with conservation, we can't sustain healthy natural resources and Washington-grown products for all.
- ▶ Conservation districts (CDs) can't keep up with the demand for their services as our state population surges at the seventh-fastest rate in the nation, which increases the diversity of customers districts aim to serve.
- ▶ Numerous communities and over 1,500 range and forest landowners could be assisted with mitigating wildfire risks, but only if CDs have adequate conservation technical assistance funding.
- ▶ CDs need Conservation Technical Assistance funding to lead actions recommended by the Washington State Food Policy Forum that will help our farmers and food system weather impacts of COVID-19.

## Technical assistance steps that are required before conservation project construction begins...



### GROUND BREAKS ON A CONSERVATION PROJECT



## What is the need for Conservation Technical Assistance dollars?

Out of respect for the current economic climate, the SCC is requesting a small fraction of the estimated \$29M of actual need for Conservation Technical Assistance dollars. Our \$5M request for the 2021-23 biennium will help address a state-wide backlog of service needs, including the examples on this page.



**2,285**

site visits with landowners are needed.



**784**

farm plans need to be written, including 100+ for dairy nutrient management.



**70%**

of conservation districts are interested in launching or expanding services that improve agricultural viability, preserve farmland, and/or expand markets.



**50%**

of conservation districts would like to launch or expand services that support farmers markets and food access and/or assist with food system infrastructure.

*"I want to do the right thing because it benefits natural resources as well as my own agricultural operation. Without voluntary conservation services and programs, I would not have had the opportunity to maintain the baseline and work towards improvements on my land."*

- Jack Field, Yakima County cattleman



**350+**

conservation projects are ready to go but are waiting for the technical assistance services of an engineer.



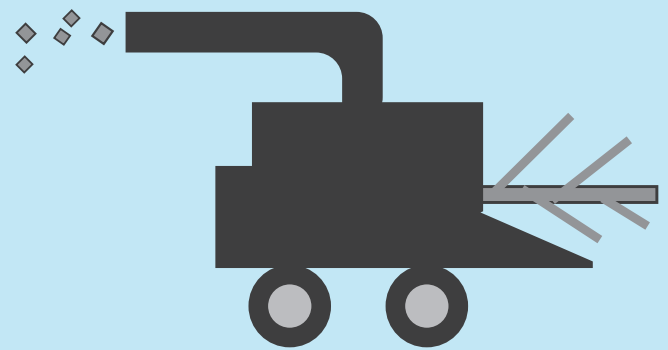
**605**

homes and structures could be provided with free wildfire risk assessments.



**82%**

of conservation districts prioritize forest and rangeland health in their long-range plans, but funding is needed to put plans into action.



**800+**

residents could be served by wood-chipper services that reduce wildfire fuel around homes and property.



## What does Conservation Technical Assistance look like on the ground?



Visiting landowners' properties and developing site-specific plans that provide roadmaps of recommended actions to conserve natural resources.



Building community awareness and engagement with priority natural resource issues, such as by hosting annual Orca Recovery Day events.



Helping landowners and communities reduce wildfire fuel, such as by hosting free mobile wood chipper events.



Creating new opportunities to give all people access to fresh, locally grown food, such as by launching virtual farmers markets and hosting farm stands.

### Contacts

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