

Name of District: BENTON

Name of Person Completing the District Budget Request: Heather Wendt, Mark Nielson

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Fiscal Year for This Budget Request: FY 2012

Quality Criteria:

Please answer the Quality Criteria question in the line directly under the question - your answers should apply to the entire budget request

1) Programs or projects are directly linked to the district's Annual Plan of Work and Long-range Plan? Yes or no - if yes describe

Yes, per BCD's FY 2011 APW Row 1 - Air Quality, Implementation of Field Borders Program (Also a TIER 1 Priority in the 5 - Year Plan). APW Row 3 - Air Quality, Convert the Weedseeker for use on Irrigated Lands. APW Row 4 - Air Quality, Implementation of Big Bale Straw Mulcher in Horse Heaven Hills. FY 2011 APW ROWs 2 - 4 - Water Quality, Implement the District's Xeriscaping Program (TIER 1 Priority in the 5-Year Plan), Small Livestock Producers / Small Acreage Program, Commercial Livestock Nutrient Management Program. APW Row 6 - Water Quality - Develop a Program to Improve Water Use Efficiency for Agricultural Irrigators (TIER 1 Priority in the 5-Year Plan). APW Row 12 - Water Quality - Seek funding forlivestock fencing, riparian buffers and shoreline stabilization projects. FY 2011 APW ROW 1 - Education - Implement the Districts' Salmon in the Classroom Program (TIER 2 Priority in the 5-Year Plan).

2) Are there a measurable outcomes for the programs or projects? Yes or no - if yes, describe

Yes, Variable Frequency Drives used on 2,300 Acres, 6 Conversions Benefitting 100 Acres, 1,000 Ft of Fence, 1 Manure Pad, 25 Acres of Pasture Management, 2 Livestock Watering Facilities, 15 Acres of Riparian Habitat Established, 2,500 Acres utilizing the WeedSeeker Technology on Irrigated Lands, 5,000 Acres under Real Time Irrigation Water Management, 1 Xeriscape Program Implemented, 368 Acres of Field Borders established (over 2 years), One Compost Facility (FY 2012), One Irrigation Conversion (FY 2013), 4,000 students educated by the District's Salmon in the Classroom Program per year.

3) Are the programs or projects part of an overall area, watershed, or other plan? Yes or no - if yes, describe

YES, WRIA 31 Plan and the WRIA 37 Plan.

4) Explain the landowner/partner readiness to proceed with the projects (commitments, plans, engineering, permits, etc)

58 Schools participating in the BCD's Education Program are identified, the BCD has started a waiting list for landowners requesting assistance with Xeriscaping, sign-ups for cost-share assistance for irrigation efficiency projects and small acreage conservation plans are on-going. Commercial Livestock Cost-share Projects are identified in producer approved NMP's.

5) Describe the Conservation District capacity (experience, technical, administrative) to implement these programs or projects?

The Benton Conservation District has an MOU with the Franklin Conservation District to share staff. The following are staff members that provide services to the BCD: Mark Nielson, District Manager, has been with the FCD for 23 years, BCD Manager for 3 years, has an M.S. in Horticulture, and is an expert in the field of water conservation and water rights. Heather Wendt, Assistant Manager, has been with the FCD for 10 years, BCD for 1 1/2 years, has a B.S. in Biology, and has 13 years of experience working with livestock facilities on water quality issues. Patricia Eldredge, Bookkeeper, has been with the Districts for 1 year and has 10 years of accounting/bookkeeping experience. In addition the BCD directly employees the following individuals: Rachel Little, Information and Education Coordinator, has been with the BCD for 8 years and has a Masters Degree in Education and a B.S. Degree in Fisheries. Marcie Appel, Water Resource Specialist, has been with the District for 2 Years and has an M.S. in Environmental Engineering. Erin Hightower, Resource Technician, has been with the District for 5 years and has a B.S. in Agricultural Economics.

6) How much federal/local/grant funding is leveraged by this request?

\$365,000

7) Describe how these programs or projects will share resources with other Districts or partners?

The Salmon in the Classroom Program covers Benton, South Yakima, and Klickitat CD's. As previously described the Benton CD partners with the Franklin CD to share staff and reduce overhead costs.

8) Describe how these programs or projects are an important investment regarding a most appropriate use of WSCC funding?

When districts leverage funds administrative costs are reduced allowing for a greater percentage WSCC funding to be used to implement district programs and to get conservation on the ground.

9) Describe the environmental benefits to projects/programs for all 3 pools of funds

The environmental benefits of implementing the proposed programs are: reduced wind erosion and improved air quality, improved water quality in the Yakima River and associated streams, increase in the amount of water conserved and used more efficiently, increase in the acres improved that are available for fish and wildlife habitat and education programs that will enhance learning about natural resource conservation.