

**Evaluating Performance and Accountability of
Conservation Districts and Conservation Commission
DRAFT Policy for Commission Consideration
September 15, 2011**

In RCW 89.08.070, the Conservation Commission has the legal authority to assist, guide, review, coordinate, resolve conflicts, facilitate, promote, harmonize, organize, advise, encourage cooperation and collaboration, recommend, and finally disseminate/ compile information to, with, between, and for conservation districts. The Commission also has the authority:

“(5) To recommend the inclusion in annual and longer term budgets and appropriation legislation of the state of Washington of funds necessary for appropriation by the legislature to finance the activities of the commission and the conservation districts; to administer the provisions of any law hereinafter enacted by the legislature appropriating funds for expenditure in connection with the activities of conservation districts; to distribute to conservation districts funds, equipment, supplies and services received by the commission for that purpose from any source, subject to such conditions as shall be made applicable thereto in any state or federal statute or local ordinance making available such funds, property or services; to adopt rules establishing guidelines and suitable controls to govern the use by conservation districts of such funds, property and services; and to review all budgets, administrative procedures and operations of such districts and advise the districts concerning their conformance with applicable laws and rules.

(11) To require annual reports from conservation districts, the form and content of which shall be developed by the commission.

(12) To establish by rule, with the assistance and advice of the state auditor's office, adequate and reasonably uniform accounting and auditing procedures which shall be used by conservation districts.”

Policy: It is the policy of the Conservation Commission that periodic Commission review and evaluation of conservation district performance of duties (described in RCW 89.08.210 – 89.080.220) is consistent with Commission duties described in RCW 89.08.070. In the implementation of this policy, it is the intent of the Commission to, on an ongoing basis, create and perfect tools and processes that will ensure outstanding performance and accountability by both conservation districts and the Conservation Commission.