



FOSTER CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Manager: Amanda Ward Board Chair: John McLean
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Legislative District: 12; Congressional District: 4

Other accomplishments:



The District opens its 3rd Ecology grant that provides cost share to producers reducing erosion by converting to direct seed systems.



Implementation of the Multiple Species General Conservation Plan is progressing, with the site plan format in final draft.



The District is leading the formation of A Cooperative Weed Management Area for Douglas County.

2018 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM WORK PLAN APPROVED



On Monday, April 30, 2018, the State of Washington approved the Douglas County Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Work Plan. Approval of the work plan was the culmination of an eighteen-month planning process undertaken by a work group consisting of local farmers, ranchers, orchardists, agricultural groups, state and federal agencies, and environmental groups. The hard work of the many individuals who donated their time to participate in the local work group ensures that this plan will be feasible for the agricultural community of Douglas County and provide protection for critical areas. Over the coming year, the work group will set its sights on implementation and guiding the work plan to succeed.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Grazing and tillage have shaped our county and provided many valuable products. However, they can also negatively affect water quantity and quality. To protect watershed health, the District planted thousands of native plants last year, managed invasive weeds, and started monitoring water quality along three creeks. Funding, directed at streams that don't meet clean water standards, is from the WA Department of Ecology. Streamside restoration plantings will help shade stream banks, reduce erosion, and provide better quality habitat for animals like sage grouse. The changes in the streams relating to our riparian plants may take years to become obvious, but monitoring water quality now will help us document improvements over time and guide our progress.



Deploying a temperature logger at Foster Creek.

Key Partners: Landowners, operators and the Conservation Districts in Douglas, Grant, Chelan, and Okanogan Counties, BLM, Douglas County, TNC, USDA-NRCS, USFWS, WA Dept. of Ecology; WDFW, WSCC, and WSU.

MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ The District hopes to secure funding to provide cost-share for producers wishing to purchase biological weed control agents.
- ▶ In the coming year, the District will look to expand its water quality program, enroll additional acres in agricultural BMPs, such as direct seed, and plan additional riparian restoration projects.
- ▶ The District intends to expand its technical assistance and resources scope to provide relevant assistance to tree fruit growers of Douglas County.