

# Walla Walla County Conservation District

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Board Chair: Pat McConnell



State Legislative District #16  
Congressional District #5

## 2016 Feature Accomplishment

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

**RESOURCE CHALLENGE** Water quality and high temperatures affect endangered species and are impacted by the lack of woody vegetation (shade) along stream-banks. Hundreds of miles of streams have been impacted by activities such as farming, livestock use, urban development, and natural events. In 1998, our state initiated buffer restoration projects using the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to address these issues. Today, Walla Walla County accounts for over 25 percent of the state's riparian forest buffers enrolled in CREP.

**PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS** The Walla Walla County Conservation District continues to coordinate with agencies, landowners, and contractors to install CREP riparian buffers throughout the county. Between July 2015 and June 2016, the district helped treat approximately 42,909 feet of stream bank length and planted 89 acres of riparian buffer, 3.6 acres of wetland, and 6 acres of grass buffer. This is in addition to the over 171 miles of treated stream bank and 3,365 acres of riparian forest buffer established through Walla Walla County Conservation District efforts since 1998. Looking ahead, the district will reach out to remaining landowners to install buffers on unprotected stream reaches.

**KEY PARTNERS:** CREP is a federal USDA Farm Service Agency program. It's administered at the state-level by the Washington State Conservation Commission with technical assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Completed installation of CREP riparian buffer on Mud Creek with livestock fencing

## Other Accomplishments



Titus Creek Fish Passage and Screening project before construction.

Credit: Greg Kinsinger



Titus Creek Fish Passage and Screening project after construction. Reduced ESA listed fish mortality from irrigation diversion and stranding.

Credit: Greg Kinsinger



New meter for irrigation diversion with solar power. Renewable energy holds many possibilities.

## More work to do!

- Continue installing fish screens on irrigation diversions.
- Tackle bank stability issues and the lack of woody debris in streams.
- Broaden our outreach and education to area landowners, cattlemen, and future farmers.