

Walla Walla County Conservation District

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REMINDER TO FIELD BURNERS!!

Existing roadways—either State or County—cannot be used as fire breaks. One pass with a disk does not make a good fire break. Please play it safe and be a good neighbor.

*Frank's Schedule
Tues-Weds-Thurs
8:00-1200, 1:00-4:00
Best to call
(509)522-6340 Ext. 117*

GROUND IS BROKEN FOR BWOL DIVERSION CONSOLIDATION & PIPING PROJECT

After waiting over four years to get through all the design and permitting hoops, the Bergevin-Williams/Old Lowden (BWOL) Diversion Consolidation & Piping Project has become a reality. Ground was officially broken for the \$3 million project on Thursday, July 19th. The new structure, designed to serve both the Old Lowden and the Bergevin-Williams ditch groups, will be built immediately upstream of the Lowden II-Garden City diversion fish screen on the south side of the river.



GROUND BREAKERS LEFT TO RIGHT – JEFF KLUNDT, WWCD; LARRY DODD, OLD LOWDEN DITCH GROUP; DON JACKSON, PREMIER EXCAVATION (CONTRACTOR); KAY MEAD, WWCCD; BARRETT PRYCE, ASST. TO SEN. HEWITT; GARY JAMES, CTUIR; CATHY SCHAEFFER, WALLA WALLA WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP; JOHN BARKLEY, CTUIR; TOM BERGEVIN, BERGEVIN-WILLIAMS DITCH GROUP; PERRY DOZIER AND JIM JOHNSON, WALLA WALLA COUNTY COMMISSION; PAT SCHILLE, WDFW SCREEN SHOP; MEGAN ALLEN, STAFF PERSON FOR BOTH REP. TERRY NEALEY & REP. MAUREEN WALSH; SARAH BRANUM, BPA; AND PAT MCCONNELL, SUPERVISOR, WWCCD.

Among those celebrating the event were stakeholders representing Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), the Bergevin-Williams Ditch Group, the Old Lowden Ditch Group, the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership, the Walla Walla County Commission, the Walla Walla County Conservation District, and the Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. Also attending were field representatives from several legislators. The project serves to showcase what can be accomplished through the cooperative and collaborative workings of private sectors and agencies, both state and federal. As John Barkley of the CTUIR stated, "This project is a win-win-win for everyone."

BWOL PROJECT—continued

This project is made possible through funding by Bonneville Power Administration through the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation for the design and construction of the consolidated diversion structure and is sponsored by the WWCCD.



What will be the benefits of this \$3.1 million dollar project? Some jump right out like the 4.5 cubic feet per second (CFS) of water saved through improved conveyance efficiency that will be put into WA-Dept. of Ecology's water trust program. Farmers who use the system will be able to better manage their water while at the same time achieving regulatory certainty that will protect their water rights. Irrigators at the far end of the delivery system will have their water delivered through pipelines that eliminate seepage losses and blockages due to weeds and debris. The provisions of Walla Walla County's Instream Flow Rule will have been met. When completed, the final result will be that both fish and farmers win as a result of the construction of this consolidated diversion and piped delivery system.

WELDED HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE PIPE BEING PLACED UNDER THE WALLA WALLA RIVER IN LATE JULY

over 30 new pumping stations and flood outlets that will serve 1,816.5 acres. An estimated 2,404 acre-feet of water will be saved into trust. By: Larry Hooker, WWCCD Agricultural Projects Coordinator

GFID #13 2800 FT. PROJECT UNDERWAY

The Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13 (GFID) 2,800 ft. piping project is in the early construction phase with pipe being delivered to the site. The project derives its name from the fact that GFID's upper canal is being piped from the inlet to the Pine Creek siphon upstream approximately 2,800 feet.

The 2,800 ft. project is actually a small but significant portion of a much larger endeavor—piping the entire North Lateral of the GFID delivery system. The north lateral canal of approximately 7.3 miles in length will be piped in its entirety this coming winter.

The project is sponsored by the Walla Walla County Conservation District and funded by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) through the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

Since there is over 11 miles of open ditch in the Upper Canal above the Pine Creek siphon, it was important that a temporary weed screen system be developed to prevent unwanted materials from entering the enclosed portion of the system. The screen will be an automated self-cleaning belt screen that can be unbolted and moved upstream as the system pipeline is extended in the future.



SPECIALLY MANUFACTURED 66-INCH PIPE BEING OFF-LOADED AT THE LOWDEN-GARDENA ROAD STAGING SITE. EACH SECTION IS 48 FEET LONG.

GFID #13 2800 FT. PROJECT—continued

The belt screen is being designed and constructed by the Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Screen Shop headquartered in Yakima, WA.

When completed, North Lateral phase will serve approximately 2,900 acres with 35 new and/or modified pumping stations. The 2,800 foot pipe will handle 70 cfs, delivering 40 cfs of water to growers on the North Lateral. The expected savings are estimated at 4.7 acre-feet of water annually. By: Larry Hooker, WWCCD Agricultural Projects Coordinator



ANGLED PIPE SECTION INSTALLATION

SMITH DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

After nearly four years after it was first proposed, the sediment retention demonstration project on the Glen & Adelle Smith Farm along Coppei Creek is at last completed. An annual maintenance problem for the Smiths and recognized as a conduit for sediment delivery into Coppei Creek, the WWCCD attempted to obtain funding needed to remediate the problem from a number of sources without success. While there were several sources willing to fund fish-centric projects in and adjacent to streams, sources willing to fund upland projects were few and far between.



BACKFILLING PIPELINE TRENCH

In 2010, a project proposal was submitted to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation that featured redesigning and stabilizing the Smith Farms access road and installing a grassed waterway with rock drops to route runoff water from adjacent uplands to the creek. In October, NFWF notified the WWCCD that the proposal had been approved. Project designs needed to implement the proposed project were quickly developed by SE Washington District Engineer Gary Ausman. After that, the future of the project became cloudy.

Planned construction was postponed when initial contractor bids exceeded the grant. When it was learned that Bonneville Power Administration was planning on replacement of poles on their nearby transmission lines, the project was postponed even longer. BPA had agreed to rock the access road therefore saving many dollars of construction costs.

When BPA finished replacing the power poles and rocking the road, a redesign of the project was needed – there wasn't enough room between the road and property line for a waterway. An alternative solution was to capture the runoff from the abandoned railroad grade culvert in a structure and pipe the water to the bottom of the hill where it could safely outlet.



NEW PIPELINE INTAKE STRUCTURE

The Smith project serves as a demonstration of just a couple of the techniques farmers can use to reduce farm maintenance costs while doing their part in improving water quality. By: Larry Hooker, WWCCD Agricultural Projects Coordinator

FISH SCREEN & METER FUNDING STILL AVAILABLE

The WWCCD still has funding available for both NOAA compliant fish screen installations and metering. If you need either a fish screen or meter, get your name on the list! Call Greg Kinsinger at the WWCCD office at (509) 522- 6340 Ext. 109.



SNAKE RIVER SALMON RECOVERY BOARD— PROGRESS UPDATE

The Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SRSRB) has received its annual authority to fund salmon habitat protection and restoration projects in South Eastern Washington (Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin & part of Whitman Counties). This authority has been granted to the SRSRB annually beginning with the SRSRB's creation in 2005. To date the SRSRB has guided funding to 155 projects throughout the recovery region with the majority of restoration actions being completed in the Walla Walla River Basin. Restoration actions have been balanced between protecting habitat through conservation easements, identifying actions and designing projects through assessments, and implementing habitat restoration projects.

Annually, the SRSRB works with its restoration partners to update its Three Year Work Plan for the purpose of meeting recovery objectives and guiding funding to the highest priority restoration actions. Every spring the SRSRB requests proposals for projects that are identified in the 3-year work plan. This year, 22 proposals were received that totaled \$4.8 million which far exceeded the \$1.6 million available in the 2012 allocation. The SRSRB Lead Entity Committee (comprised of local citizen and technical members) reviewed, prioritized, and recommended the projects that best met the objectives of protecting and restoring salmon habitat. The Lead Entity will be submitting its prioritized list of project to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in late August with grant awards available in December 2012.

If you are interested in learning more please contact Kris Buelow at kris@snakeriverboard.org or Steve Martin at steve@snakeriverboard.org.

NRCS SOIL CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN TRACY DAILY TRANSFERRED TO RITZVILLE

For the past two years, we have had the pleasure of working with NRCS SCT Tracy Daily here in the WWCCD. We will miss her bright, friendly and helpful attitude and wish her well in her new position at Ritzville.

Walla Walla County Conservation District

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**Check out the newly re-
modeled WWCCD web-
site at www.wwccd.net**



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