

# Walla Walla County Conservation District

325 North 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Walla Walla, WA 99362  
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## ***WANT TO VOTE ABSENTEE IN THE WWCCD SUPERVISOR ELECTION?***

*An absentee ballot may be  
picked up from the District  
office at 325 N. 13th Ave.  
in Walla Walla or by call-  
ing 509-522-6340 Ext.  
101. The deadline is Jan.  
17th, 2013.*

## **2013 WWCCD ANNUAL MEETING & SUPERVISOR ELECTION**

Wednesday, January 30, 2013

7:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Walla Walla Regional Airport Community  
Room

The Walla Walla County Conservation District will hold its 2013 Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at the Walla Walla Regional Airport in the Blue Mountain Community Meeting Room. Coffee and rolls will be available at registration beginning at 7:45 am. Chairman Pat McConnell will call the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. This year we have applied for 2 pesticide credits for the day's program. Jim Kent has accepted the nomination for election to the WWCCD board and if elected will replace Guy McCaw who has served since 1998. Guy resigned from the board in early November and Jim has been appointed to serve out the remainder of Guy's term. Polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

### **Agenda (Subject to Change):**

**7:45 Sign in; Coffee & Rolls**

**8:00 Welcome, Introductions, Opening of Polls: Pat McConnell  
District Chair**

**8:10 WWCCD Activities & Annual Report**

**8:30 Cutting Edge Sprayer Technology, Travis Hillman, Ag-Teq**

**9:15 Break—Make sure you vote!**

**9:30 Persistence of Herbicides in Soil, Allen Felsot, WSU  
Professor, Entomology & Environmental Toxicology**

**10:15 Ag. Burn Program: Kary Peterson, WA-DOE**

**11:00 Herbicide and Residue Management for Direct Seeding  
Systems—Grower Panel**

**12:15 Hosted lunch**

**1:00 Critical Low Flow Plan/Water Bank Opportunities, Chris  
Hyland, W2WMP**

# JAPANESE SCIENTISTS STUDY

## WALLA WALLA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION

### PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Walla Walla County Conservation District was visited by two very distinguished Japanese ecologists and research fishery biologists. They were Dr. Tetsu Sato and Dr. Chigusa Nakagawa from the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN). These scientists came to the Walla Walla Valley to observe and discover how we in the valley have improved sustainability of water quality and fishery resources over time as an answer to our many local environmental issues. This was Dr. Sato's third visit to this river basin and Dr. Nakagawa's first. Both scientists are members of the Integrated Local Environmental Knowledge (ILEK) project. They collectively have been all over the world looking for "bottom-up solutions to complicated global environmental issues." The goals of the ILEK project are to study "all local processes of knowledge production and circulation that facilitates dialog between scientific and everyday ways of understanding environmental challenges."



*Dr. Tetsu Sato and Dr. Chigusa Nakagawa from the Research Institute for Humanity & Nature, Japan*

The WWCCD took Dr. Sato and Dr. Nakagawa on a tour so they could take a very close look at the WWCCD's riparian restoration program. During the tour, Dr. Sato announced that he and Dr. Nakagawa had selected the Walla Walla County Conservation District and our partners as the template by which Japan would design their country's massive riparian restoration program. Dr. Sato stated that the RIHN is interested in how to do major riparian restoration programs throughout Japan. Dr. Sato said that after traveling the earth, he found that the Walla Walla River Basin has the most advanced and successful restoration programs he has ever seen and that he plans on returning several more times to continue studying this basin.

Both Mike and Larry feel we in the basin have been enriched by the opportunity to share with Dr. Sato what we have learned over the years of restoration work. It reminds us that we in the Walla Walla River Basin live in such a unique and special place. All of the great conservation work that has been done and is being done will now have an impact half a world away, in Japan.

*By: Mike Denny, Riparian Habitat Coordinator, WWCCD*

# THE GFID'S NORTH LATERAL PIPING PROJECT

## CURRENTLY BEING INSTALLED

A little more than two years after the completion of the Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13's South Lateral piping project, installation of the \$4 million North Lateral piping project is underway. The projected completion date is March 1st. The north lateral canal system is approximately 7.3 miles in length. Thirty-four pumping stations will be built or modified, 27,125 feet of main delivery pipe and 19,667 feet of new lateral pipelines will be installed. The project will serve about 2,900 acres and the saved 4.7 cfs of water will be put into trust.

The project is sponsored by the Walla Walla County Conservation District and by a trio of federal and state agencies. \$500,000 is being funded by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) through the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is providing \$991,500 and the WA Department of Ecology (WA-DOE) an additional \$1,751,643. When combined with the 2,800 foot piping project completed last month, the total project runs about \$4.15 million.

The primary contractor for the project is Rotschy, Inc., Tri-Cities and Vancouver, WA. *By: Larry Hooker, Agricultural Projects Coordinator, WWCCD*



## BLALOCK FISH SCREEN PROJECT COMPLETED

Located on Mill Creek, the intake for the Blalock Irrigation District's diversion is located adjacent to the City of Walla Walla's Wastewater Treatment Facility. Water from Mill Creek travels through a pipeline under the flood control levee to a structure where it is mixed with effluent to meet the irrigation water rights of Blalock irrigators.



Capable of diverting up to 10 cfs, this was the last large unscreened irrigation diversion on Mill Creek. Therefore, ESA listed fish species were at risk without the installation of a modern fish screening system.

In cooperation with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and the WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), the WWCCD began actively working on this project about seven years ago. After many meetings with Blalock irrigators and other stakeholders, a design was completed, easements and rights-of-way granted and permits obtained. The custom made screen was designed by the WDFW Ya-

kima Screen Shop and the installation was completed in November. The cost of the project was approximately \$275,000. *By: Larry Hooker, Agricultural Projects Coordinator, WWCCD*

### *NEED A SPEAKER FOR YOUR MEETING?*

*As part of the WWCCD Outreach & Education effort, we are available to speak regarding who the Walla Walla County Conservation District is and what we do!*



# **BERGEVIN-WILLIAMS/OLD LOWDEN PIPING** **PROJECT NOW UNDERWAY**

The dust had hardly settled from the installation of the new fully automated fish screen that will serve the Bergevin-Williams and Old Lowden ditch groups when work was started on laying conveyance piping to replace the open delivery canals previously serving irrigators on the two systems. The first "phase" of this consolidation project eliminated two gravel push-up dams that sometimes blocked fish passage by designing and constructing a new diversion structure with a state-of-the-art fish screen. This piping "phase" complements the screening project by trusting saved water.

Conveyance efficiencies obtained from piping will save approximately 2,405 acre/feet of water that will be put into the WA Dept. of Ecology's Trust Water Rights Program. This is a win-win for both fish and farmers—fish will benefit from augmented flows and farmers will benefit from an upgraded, reliable irrigation water delivery system that allows them to manage their water more efficiently.

The project involves the design and installation of 27 mainline turnouts, over 30 pump station and flood outlets, and 8.8 miles of piping that will serve 1,816.5 acres. The estimated cost including both phases of the project is \$3.1 million. *By: Larry Hooker, Agricultural Projects Coordinator*



## **Walla Walla County Conservation District**

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Jeff Schulke, Vice Chair  
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Todd Kimball, Treasurer  
Jim Kent, Member

### **District Staff**

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Mike Denny, Riparian Project Coordinator  
Jeff Klundt, Restoration Project Coordinator,  
CREP Maintenance Technician  
Larry Hooker, Ag. Projects Coordinator  
Lisa Stearns, Civil Engineering Technician

### **NRCS Staff**

Ed Teel, District Conservationist  
Jessica Taylor, Soil Conservationist



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