

# Walla Walla County Conservation District

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## In this issue:

GFID #13 2,800 ft./North  
Lateral Piping Projects

BWOL Consolidated Di-  
version Project

BWOL Irrigation Piping  
Project

Announcing “Worm Wig-  
wam” at WWCC-WEC

Salmon Recovery Funding  
Board 14th Grant Round

## MINI-SESSIONS FOR 2013 CANCELLED!

*Due to District Staff time  
constraints, the farmer-  
hosted mini-sessions for  
2013 have been cancelled.  
If you have questions,  
please call Larry Hooker,  
WWCCD Agricultural Pro-  
jects Coordinator at 509-  
522-6340 Ext. 119*

## Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13 2,800 ft. & North Lateral Piping Project Now Complete

The WWCCD tackled this large capital project in two phases. The first phase was the installation of the 2,800 foot long section of 66-inch diameter High Density Polyethylene Plastic pipe from the inlet of the Pine Creek siphon to the weed screen located below the Lowden Gardena Road canal bridge. This phase was completed in late 2012.

The weed screen at the inlet to the overall pipeline system was designed by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's Yakima Screen Shop and was installed in the fall of 2012. It was tested in October, modifications were designed and installed and the final concrete work of the splash pad was completed in February 2013.



WEED SCREEN TEST RUN, OCTOBER 2012



NEW CONCRETE PAD

The remaining part of the piping project was the replacement of the old open canal delivery system. The major piping portion of the project was completed in February 2013. The remaining work involving the installation of some connectors and valves on the main pipeline and some work on individual pump stations and on-farm delivery lateral pipelines was finished in early March.

GFID 2,800 ft. Piping continued on page 2

With a project of this magnitude, there are a myriad of details that need to be worked out. For example, coordination with the county on road closures, scheduling concrete pours for thrust blocks and pump stations at times when weather allowed all had to be considered. And last but not least was completion of all the finish work! What happens to mile upon mile of old canal (now pipeline) and tons of old concrete structures? When seen today, one would never know that several months ago, a large canal existed at the edge of many fields.



***2,800 FT. PROJECT PIPE PLACEMENT  
OF A 48-FT. LONG SECTION OF 66-INCH PIPE***

Now completed, approximately 7.3 miles of earthen canal/ditches have been replaced by almost 35,000 feet of delivery pipeline and 20,000 feet of lateral pipelines. 34 pumping stations serving 2,900 acres have been built or modified. With the culmination of this project, 5.95 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water will be put into trust.



***FIELD BEFORE PIPING***



***SAME FIELD AFTER PIPING***

The contractor for the 2,800 ft. piping project was Premier Excavation with Dunning Irrigation the main sub-contractor. Rotschy Inc. was the contractor on the North Lateral piping phase with Walla Walla Electric as the primary sub-contractor.

While all the figures are not in yet, the estimated cost of this project will be around \$4,557,000. The project was funded by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the Washington Department of Ecology (WA-DOE). By: Larry Hooker, Agricultural Projects Coordinator

## ***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 Consolidated

## Diversion Completed

Completion of the Bergevin-Williams/Old Lowden Consolidated Diversion structure and fish screen spells the end for gravel push-up dams on the Walla Walla River. By its construction, the new BWOL diversion structure eliminated the last two gravel passage barriers to migrating salmonids.

Located adjacent to the Lowden 2/Garden City diversion fish screen and the pneumatic blow-up dam and fish ladder, this structure will allow irrigators to divert needed irrigation water without the need to annually put dozers in the river and potentially harm listed fish.

Diverted water is pumped to the north side of the river via a 30-inch high density polyethylene plastic (HDPE) pipeline. Once on the north side of the river, water is routed to both the Bergevin-Williams and the Old Lowden ditch groups respectively.



***THE NEW BWOL CONSOLIDATED DIVERSION STRUCTURE ON THE WALLA WALLA RIVER***

The WWCCD's funding partners on this \$1.33 million project were the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation/Bonneville Power Administration. *By: Larry Hooker, Agricultural Projects Coordinator*

## Piping Phase of the BWOL Project Now Complete!

After a couple months of laying pipe in very challenging conditions, the Bergevin-Williams/Old Lowden pipeline was completed. In its consolidated state, the open canal delivery ditches that served the Bergevin-Williams and Old Lowden ditch groups have been replaced by a pipeline nearly 9 miles in length. Along the mainline are 27 take-outs (tees) serving over 30 modified pump stations and flood outlets.



***BORE HOLE SITE TO BRING PIPE-LINE UNDER HWY 12***



***SAME SITE AFTER PIPELINE INSTALLED UNDER HWY 12***



The project will serve over 1,800 acres with an estimated 2,404 acre-feet of water being placed into trust program for the Walla Walla River.

Boring under Highway 12 for a 30-inch steel pipe was certainly a major undertaking as illustrated by the photographs at the bottom of page 2. When the boring was completed and the excess water removed, the 200 feet of 26-inch HDPE welded pipe was “snaked” into position. And this wasn’t the only site with a problem of too much water. Water in pipe trenches often had to be pumped and, because this system can be used as a gravity flow pipeline, gravel was added to maintain a level or down-sloping grade.

Today, however, there is little evidence of the trials and tribulations endured with the construction of the pipeline. Finish work is completed and, in many places, the land once occupied by an irrigation canal or ditch is now being farmed.

The winners in this effort are farmers, fish and regulatory agencies. Farmers will get more efficient and timely delivery of irrigation water, fish will have fewer obstructions to navigate over or around during migration, and the regulatory agencies (and fish) get improved stream flows and water quality. So the real story of this Piping project is the collaborative and cooperative work between federal and state agencies and the local irrigators and their proponents. Owners and operators of the working lands will all benefit from this project.

The irrigators of Bergevin-Williams and Old Lowden ditches, to be known now as Bergevin-Williams/Old Lowden Corporation, have guaranteed protection of their irrigation water rights through the daunting scrutiny and the validity and extent review that they endured with patient perseverance. The construction team from Premier Excavation and their subcontractors, Dunning Irrigation, Current Electric, and Northwest Boring made the pipeline plans become a reality. Many others including the local representatives of the Washington Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT), Watco PRCCRR, and PacifiCorp worked cooperatively with the construction team to realize the completion of this project.

The funding partners of the project were Bonneville Power Administration and WA Department of Ecology. *By: Kay Mead, Irrigation Efficiency Coordinator and Larry Hooker, Agricultural Projects Coordinator.*



**BURN PROGRAM REMINDER!!! REPORT YOUR BURN ACRES TO WA-DEPT. OF ECOLOGY BY BLUE CARD OR ON THE DOE WEBSITE FURNISHED IN YOUR TRANSMITTAL LETTERS.**



## “WORM WIGWAM”

at Walla Walla Community College

*Brought to you by the*



# SustainableLivingCenter

**When:** Saturday and Sunday, April 13 & 14

11:00 AM to 1:00PM

*(You can register for either day however, registry covers both days.)*

**Where:** WWCC Greenhouse and Water & Environment Center

500 Tausick Way, Walla Walla, WA 99362

### **Details:**

There is so much to explore in the world of ecology, and what better way to wiggle in than by learning how to make your own compost for home gardening! Our Worm Wigwam will be directed by our site and composting manager, Ben Christy, with help from volunteers through Sustainable Living Center. This is time for specialists, teachers, parents and community members to share knowledge by joining one another in an educational, sustainable workshop.

*Free Healthy lunch Provided!*

You can register to include your own composting kit for home or without the composting kit, however all tickets purchased include the workshop and lunch.

**Please visit our website for more information and to register!**

[www.sustainablelivingcenter.com](http://www.sustainablelivingcenter.com) and click on the EVENTS & RESOURCES title

*Spread the word to all your family, friends, coworkers and neighbors!*

For further questions, please call the Sustainable Living Center:

## **NEED MAINTENANCE C/S ASSISTANCE ON CONTINUOUS CRP?**

Continuous CRP contracts less than five years of age are eligible for cost-share for maintenance similar to that available for CREP. This new benefit is being offered due to a relatively new grant obtained by the WWCCD from WA-Dept. of Ecology. Continuous CRP practices eligible for maintenance assistance include CCRP Grassed Waterways, CCRP Filter Strips, CCRP Riparian Forest Buffers, and CCRP Contour Buffer Strips. If you have questions, call Jeff Klundt, WWCCD CREP Maintenance Technician at 509-522-6340 Ext. 121.

# **SR-SRB Announces Opening of 14th Grant Round—Call for Projects**

The Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SR-SRB) recently announced the opening of the 14th grant round for salmon recovery projects in the Snake River Recovery Region. Projects in the Washington restoration area benefitting species listed as threatened or endangered by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) are eligible for consideration. While there are a number of project types eligible for funding, the most competitive in the ranking process are those that result in improved fish survival. So, removal of barriers to fish migration is always a good bet to receive funding as are fish habitat restoration projects in streams considered as important restoration reaches in major spawning areas. Perpetual conservation easements are also desirable if they are located adjacent to streams important to spawning and rearing.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Grant Round will include a pre-proposal submittal which serves as a litmus test for your proposal's compatibility with regional salmon recovery goals, and is designed to provide early feedback to project sponsors, and build more successful applications.

To have a project considered, **the draft application must be delivered to the Snake River Salmon Recovery office in Dayton, WA by the end of business hours on Tuesday, April 30th, 2013.** Late filed applications will not be considered. The proposals will be distributed with the SRSRB Regional Technical Team and Lead Entity Committee for review and applications will be pre-scored on Thursday, May 8th, 2013. If you think you have a potential project or have questions, contact Larry Hooker, Agricultural Projects Coordinator at (509) 522-6340 Ext. 119.

## **Walla Walla County Conservation District**

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Mike Denny, Riparian Project Coordinator  
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### **NRCS Staff**

Ed Teel, District Conservationist  
Jessica Taylor, Soil Conservationist



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site at [www.wwccd.net](http://www.wwccd.net)**

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