

# Walla Walla County Conservation District

325 North 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Walla Walla, WA 99362  
Phone: (509) 522-6340, Ext. 3 – Fax: (509) 525-2811

Spring 2014

Published regularly to provide information to land users

Volume 17, Issue 1



## In this issue:

Jeff Schulke — Another three year term

Mini-session recognition

New CE-CAD Tech. Intern on the WWCCD staff

Conservation Compliance

SR-SRB begins accepting project applications for 15th Grant Round

## FARM BILL FACTS

For the latest on 2014 Farm Bill programs administered by FSA, please visit the Farm Bill website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill) and for an FSA program overview please read, download and/or print the recently posted FSA Farm Bill Fact Sheet titled, [What's in the 2014 Farm Bill for Farm Service Agency Customers?](#)

## JEFF SCHULKE TO SERVE THREE YEAR TERM AS WWCCD SUPERVISOR

The Walla Walla County Conservation District held its Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at the Walla Walla Regional Airport in the Blue Mountain Community Meeting Room.

Jeff Schulke is a veteran Board member who has served Walla Walla County as a Board member since 2009. During this time, he has served in every officer position on the Board from Chairman to Member-at-Large and most recently served as Chairman. Jeff filed to run for re-election but since he ran unopposed and collected 25 valid county elector signatures, he was automatically elected in accordance with conservation district election guidelines.



The Washington State Conservation Commission will validate the election when they meet in May.

The WWCCD 2014 Annual Meeting was enjoyed by over 70 people in attendance. Presentations by Wayne Thompson, Regional Dryland Cropping Systems Specialist, WSU Extension, Cary Peterson, DOE, Rocky Eastman, Chief, Walla Walla Fire District 4, Ed Teel, Snake River Team District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, Don

Wysocki, Extension Soil Scientist, Oregon State University Extension, Stephen Starr, Pacific Coast Canola, and Jim Nichols of XY Imaging were well-received. Larry Hooker, WWCCD Agricultural Projects Coordinator gave the District's Annual Report.

Three pesticide license re-certification credits were offered to participants for both Washington and Oregon. *By: Larry Hooker, WWCCD Agricultural Projects Coordinator*



# 2014 ROUND OF MINI-SESSIONS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

In February of 2014, the conservation partners at the USDA Service Center in Walla Walla held a series of six farmer-hosted mini-sessions at various locations around the county. Participating from the Service Center were representatives of the Farm Services Agency (FSA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Walla Walla County Conservation District.

Mini-sessions are generally (but not always) farmer hosted and held in shops, farm offices, homes or other venues. This year, all six were hosted by farmers. With news of the new Farm Bill on the agenda, turnout was about twice what is normally expected. When the last session was adjourned on February 27th, the partnership had made program presentations to a total of 91 attendees.

As always, a special thanks goes to the hosts: Jeff Schulke, Ed Chvatal, Brent & Brad Tompkins, Allen and Scott Ford, Guy McCaw and Greg Ferrel. These folks made space available for the Mini-session team as well as inviting in their neighbors. They also provided refreshments and their service to their communities is appreciated very much. *By: Larry Hooker, WWCCD Agricultural Projects Coordinator*



***NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST ED TEEL EXPLAINS NRCS'S FARM BILL PROGRAMS AT THE SUDBURY MINI-SESSION HELD AT JEFF SCHULKE'S SHOP.***

## WELCOME TRAVIS MORRISON



The WWCCD is pleased to introduce Travis Morrison as the newest member of the District staff. Travis is a 2013 graduate of Walla Walla High School and also a 2013 Graduate of Walla Walla Community College with an AA degree. In the fall of 2013, Travis enrolled in the Civil Engineering program at Walla Walla University with a minor in mathematics. Although he currently has senior standing, he expects to graduate in 2017.

Travis grew up on a farm in the Walla Walla Valley (the Schulke Farm). He will serve as a Civil Engineering Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD) Technician Intern with the District. In this capacity, he will be working with Civil Engineering Technician Lisa Sterns and Restoration Project Coordinator Greg Kinsinger primarily with engineering designs. And, of course, other duties as assigned!

Welcome, Travis. *By: Larry Hooker, WWCCD 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!*

# HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND COMPLIANCE

The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, requires growers to be using an approved conservation system to produce agricultural commodities on highly erodible land (HEL). In order to be eligible for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program benefits, established residue levels must be met. Growers can self-certify they are in compliance and meeting specified residue requirements. This law further stated that every HEL acre would be covered by a conservation plan and that the residue management practice will be in every plan.

In the early 90's, Alternative Conservation Systems (ACSs) were developed and they established residue requirements by rainfall zone. In 1992, Larry Hooker, from the NRCS, and Merrill Camp, from the Walla Walla County Conservation District, signed the Alternative Conservation Systems. This work established residue amounts that are achievable and will control erosion. For example in the 15-18 inch rainfall zone: The ACS requires that 550 lbs. per acre is left, on the field, after seeding. In the fall of each year, random field checks are conducted to see if residue amounts are achieved.

Fall Field Burning does remove residue, but the crowns of the plants are still intact. It is possible to meet the required ACS levels by direct seeding the winter wheat crop into burned stubble. A couple of ways the ACS residue levels may not be met is:

- By burning and conducting additional tillage operations before seeding.
- By burning chemical fallow

Residue requirements have been part of the 2002 and 2008 Farm Bills and residue requirements will be part of the next Farm Bill. *By: Ed Teel, Snake River Team District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS*



***JUST BECAUSE THE BEAD OR KNOT HITS A PIECE OF STRAW, IT DOESN'T NECESSARILY COUNT. PICK A POINT ON THE BEAD OR KNOT (E.G. UPPER RIGHT CORNER) AND COUNT A "HIT" ONLY IF THE STRAW IS UNDER THE SELECTED POINT. USE THE SAME POINT FOR EACH BEAD/KNOT.***

## ***BURN PROGRAM - FRANK'S HOT SPOT!***

*When filling out your field burn application, you must include detailed driving instructions as to how to find the burn site. This isn't for the WWCCD. It is for WA-DOE—and someone who may not be familiar with the county.*

***REMEMBER:*** *All permit holders who have completed their field burns need to complete their blue cards and mail them in to DOE. If desired, field burn completion can be reported via DOE's website as per the permit transmittal letter. If a permitted burn was not completed, be sure to turn in a "Request for Refund"!*

***ALSO REMEMBER:*** *Frank is in on Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday as needed from 8:00 to 12:00 & from 1:00 to 4:00 BY APPOINTMENT at 509-522-6340.*



# SR-SRB Announces Opening of 15th Grant Round—Call for Projects

The Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SR-SRB) recently announced the opening of the 15th 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.

While the optional Pre-application submittal deadline has passed, the all-important deadline for draft applications for the 15<sup>th</sup> Grant Round is just around the corner.

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 23rd, 2014.** 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 Tuesday, May 6th, 2014. If you think you have a potential project or have questions, contact Larry Hooker, Agricultural Projects Coordinator at (509) 522-6340 Ext. 119.



*APEX LOG JAM USED TO INDUCE FLOOD-PLAIN RE-CONNECTION ON THE MCCAW PROJECT, TOUCHET RIVER, 2013*

## Walla Walla County Conservation District

### Board of Supervisors

Ed Chvatal, Chair  
Jim Kent, Vice Chair  
Pat McConnell, Secretary  
Todd Kimball, Treasurer  
Jeff Schulke, Member

### District Staff

Rick Jones, District Manager  
Marguerite Daltoso, Admin. Assistant  
Audrey Ahmann, Grants Administrator  
Greg Kinsinger, Restoration Project Coordinator  
Frank Lane, Burn Permit Technician  
Kay Mead, Irrigation Efficiency Coordinator  
Jeff Klundt, Restoration Project Coordinator,  
CREP Maintenance Technician  
Larry Hooker, Ag. Projects Coordinator  
Lisa Stearns, Civil Engineering Technician  
Travis Morrison, Civil Engineering CAD Tech. Intern

### NRCS Staff

Ed Teel, District Conservationist  
Jessica Taylor, Soil Conservationist

*Check out the newly up-  
dated **WWCCD website**  
at [www.wwccd.net](http://www.wwccd.net)*



Printed on 100%  
recycled paper

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**Paid**  
99324  
Permit #44

Walla Walla County  
Conservation District  
325 North 13th Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362