

Walla Walla County Conservation District

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BURN PROGRAM

*File your blue cards with
WA-DOE for completed
burns either via their web-
site or by mail. If you did
not burn your acres, be
sure to turn in a "Request
for Refund." Frank is
available Tuesday,
Wednesday & Thursday by
appointment.*

INTRODUCING HEATHER NOEL, WWCCD CREP INTERN

The Walla Walla County Conservation District is pleased to introduce our new CREP Intern, Heather Noel. Heather is a recent graduate of Walla Walla University where she earned a Masters Degree in Biology. She has a specific interest in water management as shown by her previous Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science with an emphasis in the water environment.



While earning her MS degree, Heather served as a Graduate Student Teaching Assistant and was responsible for conducting many labs for classes which had a strong water quality emphasis including limnology, general ecology and wastewater treatment plant design.

Prior to the above, she served a six-month internship with the Jefferson County Conservation District and the North Olympic Salmon Coalition through Americorps/Washington Conservation Corps. This position involved stream restoration, flow measurements, surveying, water quality monitoring, salmon habitat monitoring, educating students about the environment, and entering monitoring data into databases.

Heather is a welcome addition to the WWCCD staff. *By: Larry Hooker,
WWCCD Agricultural Projects Coordinator*

USDA ANNOUNCES SIGN-UP PERIODS FOR PROGRAMS TO CONSERVE SENSITIVE LAND

Beginning June 9th, farmers, ranchers and landowners may sign up eligible land for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) including Continuous CRP (CCRP) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Retiring farmers enrolled in CRP could receive incentives to transfer a portion of their land to beginning, disadvantaged or veteran farmers through the Transition Incentives Program (TIP). For more details, call the Farm Service Agency at (509) 522-6340, Ext. 100.

3rd GRADE FIELD TRIP ON MAY 21st, 2014

Educating the youth of our region regarding the importance of natural resources is an important endeavor. While we all recognize its importance, few organizations dedicate the needed resources of time and funding to really do an adequate job. The WWCCD staff tips our collective hat to Debbie Seney, Office Manager-Outreach Coordinator for the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board for her efforts in youth education. Most recently, Deb has been working with Teri Lesmeister, Touchet School District 3rd Grade Teacher, to show Teri's class the importance of salmon recovery efforts and some of the projects involved in this important work.



STUART DURFEE, MANAGER OF THE GARDENA FARMS IRRIGATION DISTRICT NO. 13, EXPLAINS THE GFID IRRIGATION DIVERSION AND FISH SCREENS TO 3RD GRADERS



DAVE KARL, WATERSHED STEWARD FOR WA DEPT. OF FISH & WILDLIFE TALKS TO STUDENTS ABOUT "HOW TREES HELP RIVERS" ON THE FIELD TRIP AT WDFW SITE NEAR McDONALD ROAD



BRIAN BURNS, PROJECT MANAGER WITH TRI-STATE STEELHEADERS ASSISTS STUDENTS WITH THE "COMMUNITY HABITAT RESTORATION" PORTION OF THE FIELD TRIP BY PLANTING WILLOW WHIPS IN DESIGNATED WET ZONES FOR FUTURE SHADE TO BE UTILIZED BY BOTH FISH AND WILDLIFE



LARRY HOOKER EXPLAINS THE FISH LADDER, DAM & SCREENS AT THE BERGEVIN-WILLIAMS/OLD LOWDEN SITE

It was a "Beautiful day and great experiences for kids!!" according to Deb. Thanks, Deb, for the great photographs. By: Larry Hooker, WWCCD Agricultural Projects Coordinator

SPRAYER TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP HELD

ON KENTCH FARM NEAR PRESCOTT

On May 8th, ATI /JTI (Ag Teq Inc. Solutions and Jones Truck and Implement), Tee Jet, Apache by ET and Walla Walla County Conservation District conducted a spray workshop on the Louis Kentch farm west of Prescott. About 40 farmers participated in the demonstration of Precision Spray Decisions and Nozzle Selection presented by Travis Hillman, ATI and Dugan Petersen of Tee Jet. An explanation of nozzle type, coverage, pressure, droplet size, overlap and drift was given in a "hands on" demonstration. Jake Hatley of Apache Sprayers gave sprayer rides on nearby hillsides and demonstrated different nozzles and pressures across the Apache's spray boom. Dusty Eddy of ATI spoke about EC (Electrical Conductivity) mapping of the soil and Handheld Greenseeker uses for management zone development in the field to facilitate Precision Prescription applications. Afterwards the group traveled to the Prescott Lions Club to ask questions, discuss the morning and enjoy lunch provided by the sponsors. *By: Dusty Eddy, Professional Services Manager, ATI Professional Services*



APACHE SPRAYER DEMONSTRATION ON LOUIS KENTCH FARM, WEST OF PRESCOTT, WA

PHASE 2 OF STILLER/SCHWENKE

SAR SUCCESSFUL



THE STILLER/SCHWENKE RECHARGE POND IN LATE MARCH AFTER ONE MONTH OF PUMPING.

After modification of the Stiller/Schwenke diversion pumping station, the establishment of monitoring wells and final approval of a Local Water Plan for the project, the Stiller/Schwenke Shallow Aquifer Recharge (SAR) went into full operation this spring.

Even with a late February start, the project was able to recharge the shallow aquifer to the tune of 300 acre-feet of water during the 10 week pumping period. Early findings from the four downstream monitoring wells is that the water is moving in a south-southwesterly direction and is expected to re-enter the Walla Walla River somewhere between Swegle Road and Detour Road. Enhanced flows should be picked up by the WA-Dept. of Ecology gauging station below Detour Road.

Additionally, water quality tests show potential contaminants are less than allowed or expected with PCBs at less than 10 percent of the allowable level.

The goal for the winter of 2014/15 is to pump from December 1st to May 31st with a recharge goal of 500 acre-feet. At this time, the system is limited by the horsepower of the pump. Plans are being discussed to ramp up the horsepower which would allow a greater recharge potential. *By: Larry Hooker, WWCCD Agricultural Projects Coordinator*

SR-SRB 15th Grant Round Project Tours

On June 2, 3 & 4, the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SR-SRB), Regional Technical Team (RTT), representatives of the WA Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Review Panel, SR-SRB staff and project sponsors toured 14 projects submitted from across the Snake River Recovery Region. Walla Walla County Conservation District has two project proposals in the hunt for funding and these were the first two project sites visited on the first of the three tour days.

- **Titus Creek Fish Passage & Screening**— This project on Titus Creek will protect steelhead and bull trout by installing a fish screen on an unscreened irrigation diversion and restore fish passage. The project is located on a side channel of Mill Creek at RM13 near Five Mile Road in Walla Walla. The side channel provides excellent spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead and is within a high priority protection and restoration reach in an MSA identified in the 2011 Salmon Recovery Plan for SE Washington.
- **McCaw Fish Habitat Restoration (Design) - Phase B**—The purpose of this project is to develop final designs and specifications to restore fish habitat on 4,175 ft of the Touchet River near Waitsburg, WA. This project is Phase B of a two phase project on the McCaw property; Phase A was completed in 2013 (#11-1580). The project is located in the Touchet River Major Spawning Area for Mid-Columbia Steelhead and is located in a priority area for restoration as identified in the Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan.



By: Larry Hooker, WWCCD Agricultural Projects Coordinator

Walla Walla County Conservation District

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**Check out the newly up-
dated WWCCD website
at www.wwccd.net**



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