

# Walla Walla County Conservation District

Rick Jones, District Manager  
325 N 13th Avenue Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 522-6340 x3 | rick.jones@wwccd.net | www.wwccd.net  
Board Chair: Jim Kent



State Legislative District #16  
Congressional District #5

2015 Feature Accomplishment:

## Smith sediment reduction demonstration project

**RESOURCE CHALLENGE** Erosion from farm field roads impairs water quality and fish habitat. Wheat farmer Glen Smith came to the conservation district for help addressing erosion from a field-access road that was delivering sediment to the Coppei Creek, an important spawning and rearing stream for threatened Mid-Columbia River steelhead. Water from upland fields ran directly to the farm road. This resulted in concentrated flow erosion of the road, which was a maintenance problem for the farmer as well as a detriment to fish.



**PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS** The Smith project was a chance to demonstrate erosion control measures on one of many farm-access roads near fish-bearing streams. Our conservation district engineer drew up plans, and staff submitted project proposals to funding agencies. With funds from the Washington State Conservation Commission and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the district helped Smith install an inlet structure and piping to direct run-off water to a nearby field, where the fish-smothering sediment settles out and clean water filters into the Coppei.



The project keeps an estimated 30 to 50 tons of sediment from the creek, resulting in cleaner water for fish and a stable road for the farmer.

**KEY PARTNERS:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Washington State Conservation Commission; Bonneville Power Administration

Top: Site before project — erosion from farm-access road delivered sediment directly to Coppei Creek, a fish bearing stream. Bottom: Project installation — run-off water is captured and piped to a grassed area where sediment settles out and clean water filters to the creek.

## Other Accomplishments



Pump station before — no water meter and out of compliance.



The landowner became compliant with state metering laws when he updated his pump station to the 21st century and added a magnetic flow meter.



This 500 gallon-per-minute passive fish screen protects endangered fish species during the irrigation season and is ready for launch.

## More Work to Do!

- Titus Creek screening: Protecting endangered fish by screening part of Titus Creek and restoring a two-mile stretch of a Mill Creek side channel.
- Gailey Bridge: Helping a landowner install a bridge so he doesn't have to drive through the river with farm equipment, a practice that erodes river banks and disrupts the river ecology.
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program: Helping landowners install over 100 acres of riparian forest buffers.