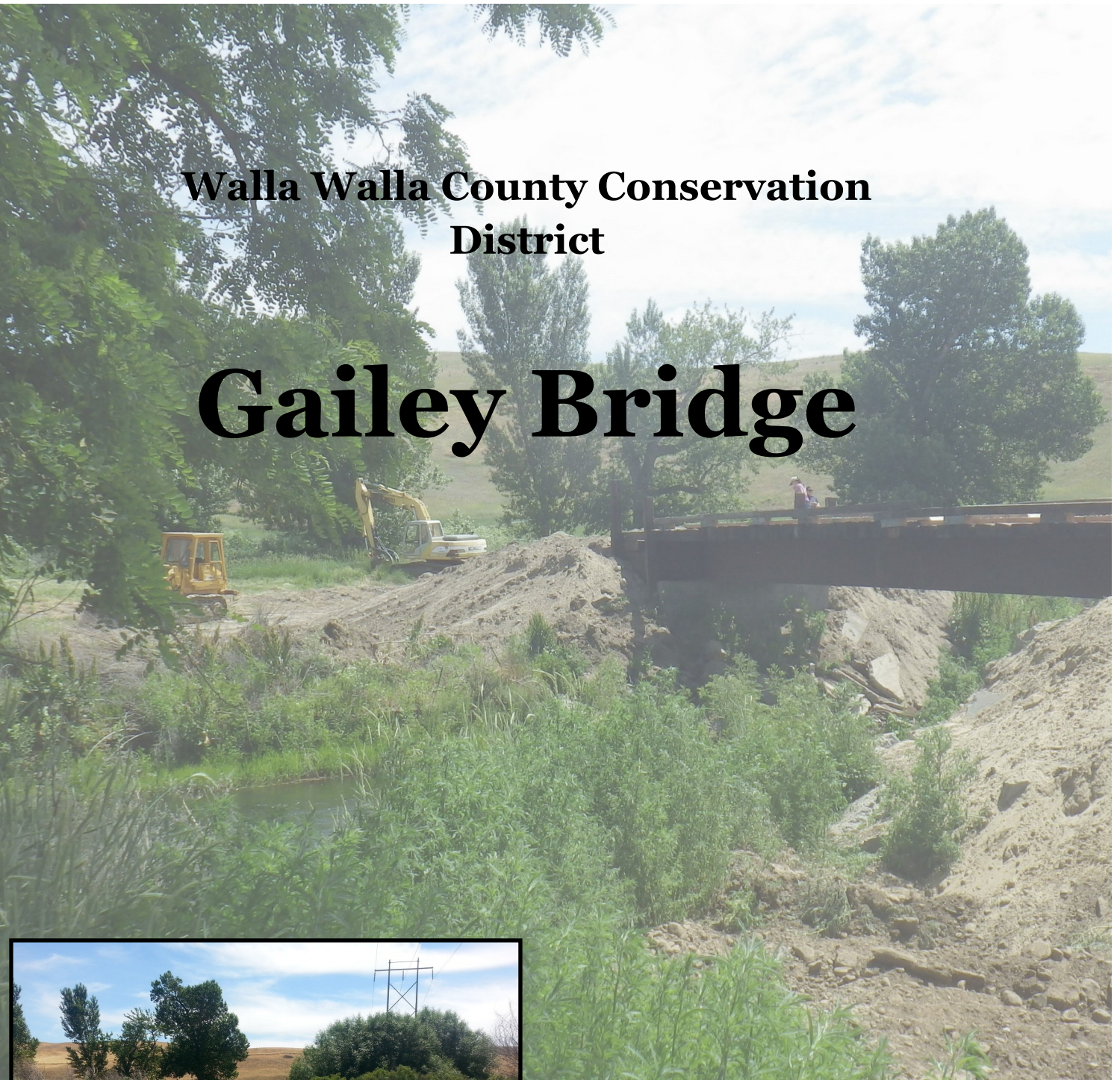


# **Walla Walla County Conservation District**

## **Gailey Bridge**



### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Walla Walla County Conservation District  
325 N. 13th Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362**

**Website: [www.wwccd.net](http://www.wwccd.net)  
(509)956-3777**

## **Mission of the Walla Walla County Conservation District**

WWCCD is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of the natural resources of Walla Walla County, facilitated by working on a voluntary basis with landowners to identify opportunities and create solutions, while consistently providing education, information, and assistance whenever possible.

### **WWCCD Vision:**

WWCCD believes that many complex environmental problems can be solved through voluntary cooperation rather than by regulatory mandates. We will do this by creating and then implementing proactive programs that respect both the needs of the landowners and the natural resources of the County.

# Gailey Bridge

Funded by

J. Gailey

&

Washington State Conservation  
Commission

Walla Walla County Conservation District

2016



## The Resource Concern:

Property owner John Gailey had a problem many local producers face in Walla Walla County. Access to his fields required fording a waterway, but in his case, it was the Touchet River. The Touchet is impassable during some months of the year, and an important fish passage channel year round. Driving his equipment through the river was not only occasionally hazardous, it released contaminants from the vehicle into the river and dislodged large amounts of sediment from the exposed banks and river bottom. Gailey was already familiar with the Conservation District. He had restored the riparian areas with a large CREP project and installed fish screens and water meters for his irrigation pumping stations. Recognizing the resource concern, Gailey came to the District for assistance to install a farm bridge large enough to pass his farm equipment across the river year round.



River crossing: a hazard in the winter months.



Sediment delivery and river-substrate disturbance year round.



## Project Overview

Greg Kinsinger took on the project, which, although fairly simple in concept and design, was daunting in terms of permitting and inspections! The bridge was designed by Harms Engineering of Pasco to bear 20 tons. It needed to be 8 feet above the ordinary high water mark and 2 feet about the 100 year flood plain. The design called for steel reinforced concrete piers imbedded on bearing ground to support twin 60 ft. structural I-beam girders fitted with

railroad ties as decking and wear planks. Earthen approach ramps would connect the bridge to existing field roads.

The Conservation District assisted the landowner by providing him with a \$50,000 Conservation Commission cost-share grant to help fund the project and by helping him obtain the required state and county permits. All the work was completed by Gailey, who had prior construction experience, and his son.

There were hiccups along the way, such as finding times when the WDFW work windows that protect fish passage aligned with weather conditions to allow construction over the river. But the District helped Gailey through all the regulatory hurdles and the project was completed in 2016.







The completed bridge, while not likely to be nominated for most beautiful bridge of the year, allows Gailey to safely access his fields while staying out of the river, reducing bank erosion and sediment delivery to the river. Greg Kinsinger, in taking the final report pictures, looked over the side and saw fish swimming placidly below—a fitting image, highlighting the important results of the conservation work of local farmers.



Undisturbed fish  
appreciate the bridge.