

Review of 2017 activities

The staff of the Walla Walla County Conservation District worked with landowners and farm managers to improve their lands. In addition to our own grant programs, we help our partner agencies such as NRCS, FSA, Walla Walla County and WDFW in program implementation. Thank you for your hard work and efforts to be good stewards of our land.

Partner Activities

USDA FSA & NRCS

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

New CREP: 75 acres

CREP works in combination with Federal and State funds. The impasse of the State Capital Budget has impacted CREP, resulting in fewer new contracts and reduced maintenance. We will resume technical assistance for new contracts as soon as budgets allow.

Re-enrolled CREP: 14 people, 305 acres

Re-enrollment requires almost as much work as a new contract. Plant survival, controlling weeds and continued maintenance throughout your contract increase the possibility of renewing your CREP contract.

Walla Walla County

Ag Burn Permitting: 72 people totaling ~31,000 acres

This is a slight decline from the last 4 years, which could be attributed to an excessive rainy spring and in the fall fewer burn days due to wildfires contributing to poor air quality statewide. Over the past ten years, the number of acres burned has decreased by half.

Voluntary Stewardship Program: Walla Walla VSP Work Plan approved by the Sate review panel in November 2017

Ten community members worked with WWCCD staff and consultants to prepare and draft the VSP Work Plan. This document is step one in a series of efforts to prove that agriculture can play a part in protecting critical areas without more regulation.

We need your participation. Our next step is to implement the Work Plan and document what agriculture producers are currently doing to protect critical areas.

Conservation District Programs

Flow Meters: 41 installed & Fish Screens: 10 installed, including a 6.4 cfs screen. Screens and meters have been widely adopted within our irrigator community resulting in better management of water and protection of fish.

Irrigation Efficiency: Hiatus on projects, but provided technical assistance & participation in regional planning efforts.

Livestock Technical Assistance: 4 ranchers

We continue to work with and provide technical assistance for area ranchers as requested. The main concern is how to address Washington Dept. of Ecology's water quality concerns, provide reasonable solutions and be sustainable long term.

Outreach: 6 classes, 3 events, & 5 farmer mini-sessions

It is important for the community to understand who we are and how we can help. We will expand our outreach in schools and the community at large throughout the next year.



By sharing our knowlege and experience, conservation districts help others make wise decisions that enhance the health and abundance of their land.

Washington's conservation districts help people care for our state's priceless natural resources. Our services are voluntary, and our goal is to be your partner in building healthy lands.

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Walla Walla County Conservation District Board of Supervisors:

Ed Chvatal, Jim Kent, Todd Kimball, Pat McConnell, Jeff Schulke  
Associate Supervisors Mike Hagerman & Annie Byerley

Walla Walla County Conservation District Staff:

Renee M. Hadley, District Manager      Audrey Ahmann, Assistant Manager Finance  
Jeff Klundt, Burn Permit Coordinator      Lisa Stearns, Civil Engineering Technician  
Joanna Cowles Cleveland, Scientist, CREP      Lynda Oosterhuis, Conservation Technician  
Lance Horning, Agricultural/Civil Engineer

Our federal USDA partners

NRCS Technical Staff: Ed Teel, District Conservationist, Snake River Team  
Katy Walters, Program Support      Bryce Krueger, Resource Conservationist

FSA Staff: Kelley Betts, County Executive Director  
Nicole Armijo & Norma Colunga; Program Technicians



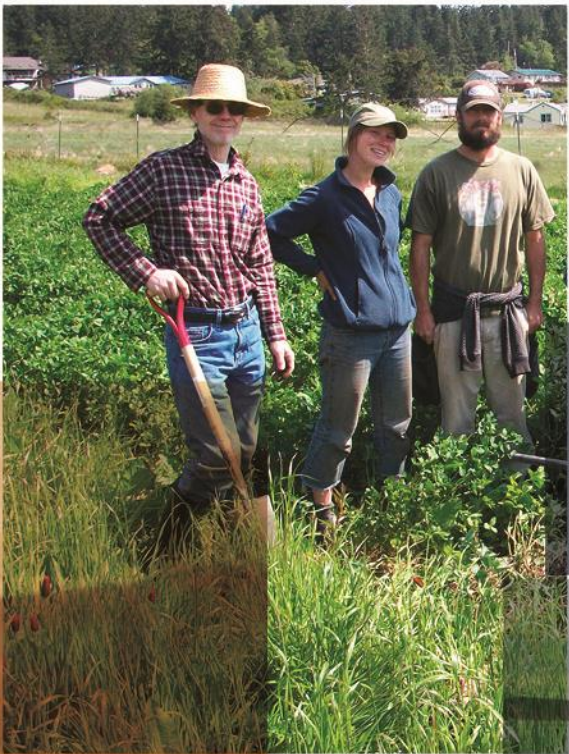
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS  
OF WASHINGTON STATE

your window to healthy lands





No two communities are alike. When someone asks a conservation district for assistance, we listen carefully and tailor our voluntary programs and services to address the situation at hand.



Our staff spend most of their time in the field providing non-regulatory services backed by rigorous training and hands-on experience. We love what we do.



*We are here to help*

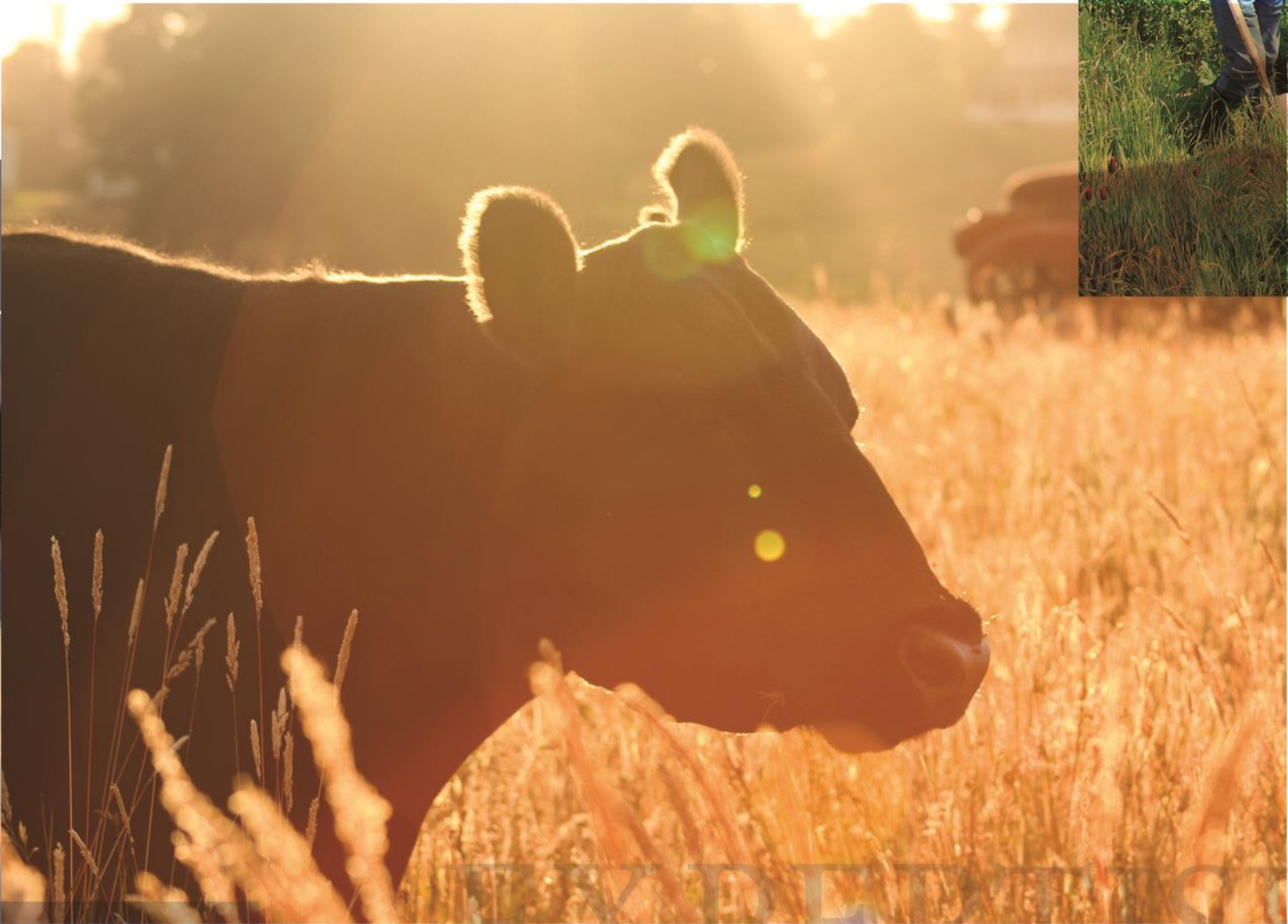
Did you know the Walla Walla County Conservation District has been serving the community of Walla Walla since 1941?

We are a non-profit, special purpose district of the state, similar to fire districts or library districts. We are solely funded by grants and not county tax dollars. Here at WWCCD, we believe conservation should be led by local citizens and complex environmental problems can be solved through voluntary *cooperation* rather than by regulatory mandates. We do this by creating and implementing solutions that *respect both the needs of the landowners and the natural resources* of the County.

We work collaboratively to help people responsibly and efficiently manage their land and natural resources. We partner with local and federal service agencies. Those agencies include:

- Walla Walla County (Voluntary Stewardship Program & Ag burn permitting),
- USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service (CREP, others) and
- Over 20 other Conservation Districts and State agencies.

It's your choice on how you manage your land. It's our privilege to provide you with information and resources to help preserve the land for the next generation.



EXPERTISE

Local people work at each of Washington's 45 conservation districts. Helping our friends and neighbors keep their lands vibrant and fertile supports the quality of life we all hold dear.

