

# Walla Walla County Conservation District NEWSLETTER



Winter 2022  
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## Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be held in-person on **January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022** at the Walla Walla Regional Airport Community Room with an online option to join via Zoom. **Special guest Derek Sandison, director of WSDA**, has requested time to speak and listen to producers and will join us at noon via Zoom. The meeting will begin at **8 a.m.** and conclude in the afternoon after a hosted lunch. In addition to regular business and guest speakers on the meeting agenda, we will conduct our annual Board Supervisor election. (See below.) We have applied for 3 pesticide credits.

### Agenda Highlights:

- 8:00 WWCCD and Partners Reports
- 8:50 Soil PH and Liming
- 9:50 Herbicide Resistance
- 11:00 The Microbiome of Wheat
- 12:00 Special Guest Speaker: Derek Sandison, Director, WSDA

## Save the Dates

Participate in our board meetings to get the latest information!

### Board Meeting Schedule:

Monday **Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>** at 4 p.m.  
Call **509-353-2327** to join.

Mon **Feb 14<sup>th</sup>** at 4 p.m.  
Call **509-353-2327** to join.

Contact Renee,  
509-956-3756, or email  
[renee.hadley@wwccd.net](mailto:renee.hadley@wwccd.net)  
for meeting links or details.

Questions? Call or check out our website at [www.wwccd.net](http://www.wwccd.net)

## Supervisor Election:

A combination mail-in and poll-site election for a board seat on the Walla Walla County Conservation District will be held on **January 27, 2022** at **45 Terminal Loop, Walla Walla, Washington** in the community room. Polls will open at **8:00 a.m.** and close at **1:30 p.m.** Registered voters who reside within the Conservation District boundary (the unincorporated areas of the county) are eligible to vote. Ballots are available upon request for eligible voters, *please request ballots ASAP to allow enough time to return to the District by mail*, ballots may be requested in-person at any time prior to the election and must be returned to the District's mailbox by **1:30 p.m. on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2022**. Please contact the District office at **509-956-3758** or by email at [cat.garza@wwccd.net](mailto:cat.garza@wwccd.net) for a ballot or if you have any questions.



# Commodity Buffer Program

## NEW! Walla Walla County Commodity Buffer Program (CBP)

### What is the Walla Walla County CBP?

The Walla Walla County CBP is a cost-share buffer program designed to protect waterways and water quality in the county, while ensuring producers are compensated and agriculture remains viable in the region.

### Who is eligible?

To be eligible for the CBP, a producer must fall into at least one of the following categories:

1. Farm land directly adjacent to a waterway (creek, stream, river, ditch, etc.) in Walla Walla County  
AND/OR
2. Farm land with an erosion or water quality concern potentially impacting nearby water sources in the county. Some possible examples include but are not limited to
  - a. Road runoff that flows into a waterbody nearby
  - b. Steep field erosion that flows to a ditch or creek downstream
  - c. Edge-of-field runoff that drains into a river

### Why should I participate?

The CBP will help protect water sources that many producers rely on, but there are also economic benefits and security beyond conservation. The Commodity Buffer Program has these benefits:

1. Pays producers based on adjacent crop price and yield. The program ALWAYS has a payment minimum, so even if a crop price falls drastically, the enrolled land still provides income.  
It's not only a physical buffer, but a financial one as well.
2. Is flexible and allows cutting, maintenance, grazing, and even HARVESTING of the buffer.
3. Helps with erosion issues from roads or the edges of fields.
4. Helps producers voluntarily improve water quality and avoid cumbersome regulation.

### How do I enroll?

Contact Grant Traynor at 509-956-3767 or [grant.traynor@wwccd.net](mailto:grant.traynor@wwccd.net) to learn more.

Additional information: <http://www.wwccd.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Commodity-Buffer-Program.pdf>





## Thank You, Past Supervisors!

Our mission here at the Walla Walla County Conservation District is to be 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. This would be impossible without the expert guidance we receive from our Board of Supervisors. With hearts full of gratitude, we would like to thank Ed Chvatal, Todd Kimball, and Pat McConnell for their many years of service to their community through guiding local conservation efforts. Thank you all for providing the district with such an impressive range of local knowledge. Serving on the WWCCD Board of Supervisors is a tough volunteer role and you all served admirably with dedication and tenacity to support the needs of our community. You are all greatly appreciated but sorely missed!



Todd Kimball, Board Supervisor from 2006 to 2021



Left: Rick Jones, former District Manager, recognizing Pat McConnell upon his retirement from the board, seated next to Ed Chvatal. Combined, these two men served over 45 years on the WWCCD board, demonstrating outstanding leadership and commitment to the preservation of natural resources through voluntary on-the-ground conservation projects on working lands.



“Conservation means development as much as it does protection. I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us.”

– Theodore Roosevelt, 26<sup>th</sup> U.S. President

Thank you, Pat McConnell, Ed Chvatal, and Todd Kimball, for guiding conservation efforts in Walla Walla County.



## Walla Walla Wildlife

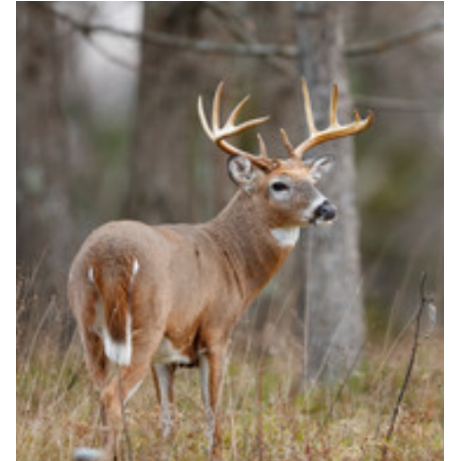
**Elk** (*Cervus elaphus*), pictured below, are distinguishable from most other large ungulates commonly seen in Walla Walla County by their large size, dark necks and light tan tails and hindquarters.



**Mule deer** (*Odocoileus hemionus hemionus*) are smaller than elk and a bit larger than whitetail deer but are distinguishable by their light-colored hindquarters, ears as long as their faces and dark coloration on their foreheads and tail tips.



**Whitetail deer** (*Odocoileus virginianus ochrourus*) are easily identified when on the run by “flagging” their tails which are white on the underside. Their hindquarters are tan and their ears are shorter than their faces.



### Walla Walla County Conservation District

#### District Staff

Renee Hadley, District Manager  
Audrey Ahmann, Assistant Manager: Finance  
Jeff Klundt, Burn Permit Coordinator  
Joanna Cowles Cleveland, CREP Scientist  
Lynda Oosterhuis, Conservation Technician  
Grant Traynor, VSP Program Coordinator  
Alison Crowley, Mill Creek Program Manager  
Cat Garza, Conservation Technician

#### Board of Supervisors

Annie Byerley  
Alyson Buckley  
Jim Kent  
Jeff Schulke



[www.wwccd.net](http://www.wwccd.net)

### Our USDA SERVICE CENTER partners

#### NRCS Staff

Tracy Hanger, District Conservationist Snake River Team  
Bryce Krueger, WW area Resource Conservationist  
Katy Walters, Snake River Team Program Support

#### FSA Staff

Kelley Betts, County Executive Director for WW & Columbia  
Nicole Armijo, Program Technician  
Norma Colunga, Program Technician  
Jill Monetta, Program Technician

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