

# Walla Walla County Conservation District NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023  
Volume 26, Issue 2

325 North 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
PHONE: (509) 956-3777

Unsubscribe? [Contact information@wwccd.net](mailto:Contact information@wwccd.net)



## In This Issue

- Staff Updates
- Tree of Heaven
- Plant Sale
- Riparian Project
- Walla Walla County Irrigation Efficiency
- Rain Gauge Volunteers
- VSP
- Board Meetings

## Staff Updates:

The District would like to welcome out newest staff members Eila Chin, Jenny Freer, and Nicole Kelly. The District would like to welcome back Cat Garza.



Jenny is our newest bookkeeper. Jenny is a recent graduate of Walla Walla Community College's Bachelors program for Business Management.



Cat has a background in natural resource conservation and fish habitat enhancement projects within the Walla Walla Basin and is a WWCC Plant and Soil Sciences graduate. She assists with riparian projects, soil health projects, riparian and upland surveys, and is very excited to be part of the Walla Walla County Conservation Districts' team!



Eila is a recent graduate from Whitman College, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Biology-Environmental Studies. At the WWCCD Eila mainly works on riparian projects, although she also assists with other programs and projects. Don't hesitate to reach out to her with any questions!



Nicole is a rising senior at Whitman College and am currently an intern with the Walla Walla County Conservation District. She is majoring in Psychology and Environmental Studies and am playing volleyball for Whitman. She is still figuring out what I want to do post-grad, but ideally would like to work with people to find ways to protect our environment. She loves the outdoors, animals, and meeting new people. She also recently returned from New Zealand after a semester abroad! She is super excited to be here and to continue to learn about the conservation process.

# Tree of Heaven- (*Ailanthus altissima*) and Spotted Lantern Fly



The District is currently working on Tree of Heaven (ToH) trials to determine the most effective means of treating adult reproducing trees. This tree is a threat to our local agricultural community because the tree is called a “host species” for the highly invasive insect Spotted Lanternfly. Spotted Lanternfly is currently residing on the east coast and is moving 2-3 states a year westward. The Spotted Lanternfly focuses on grapes and orchard fruits and can devastate crops.

Treatment of ToH varies depending on the age of the tree, however cutting the stump of the tree even with herbicide is not recommended. The cutting of the tree can generate more tree shoots which makes it harder to control the tree.

Once an effective means of control has been established the District will make an announcement.

---

## Annual Plant Sale

The Walla Walla County Conservation District will be holding our first in a long time, Plant Sale this coming fall 2023. The purpose of the Plant Sale is to provide access to trees and shrubs, to provide guidance for landowners, producers, and organizations to create habitat, improve water quality, and support soil health. The plant list will be made available as the sale nears. If you would like to be added to the mailing list contact Joanna Cowles-Cleveland at [joanna.cowles@wwccd.net](mailto:joanna.cowles@wwccd.net). In order to increase survival, plants should be planted as soon as possible after receiving them (weather permitting).





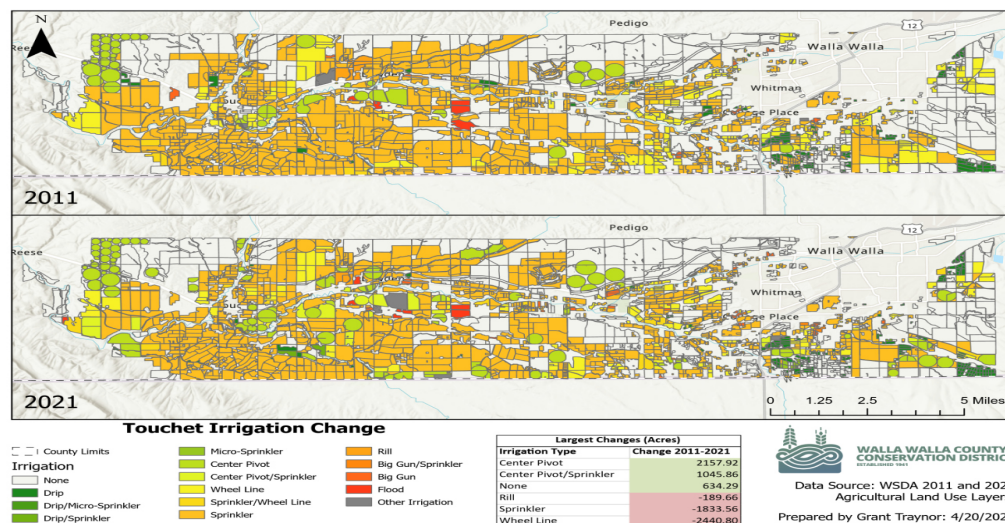
## Riparian Restoration Project Updates

For the 2021-2023 biennium, WWCCD staff were able to implement many riparian projects thanks to intensive outreach and technical assistance efforts. From in-house projects alone, WWCCD staff and partners were able to plant approximately 27,700 stems on about 106 acres adjacent to waterways. Staff are also currently conducting outreach to reach producers in upland areas, including exploring purchasing a seeding drill and applying through Sustainable Farms and Fields to help landowners with some requested projects.



## Walla Walla County Irrigation Efficiency

Every couple of years, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) conducts surveys of agricultural acres to determine how farming practices and crops are changing throughout the state. The Walla Walla County Conservation District looked at some of this public data to see how irrigation systems have changed in the county over time. Results show between 2011 and 2021, irrigators in the county moved towards more efficient systems of irrigation. More producers invested in micro-sprinkler and center pivot irrigation, while wheel lines and sprinkler acres fell in the county. If you are interested in reading the full report or have questions about project cost-share and monitoring, reach out to Grant Traynor at 509-956-3767 or [grant.traynor@wwccd.net](mailto:grant.traynor@wwccd.net).



# Rain Gauge Volunteers Needed

Calling all citizen scientists within Walla Walla County! Volunteer to join our rainfall gathering program to receive a CoCoRaHS compatible rain gauge for your home and annual precipitation maps for Walla Walla County will be made using your data and mailed to your door annually. This type of rain gauge will enable you to join our county rainfall gathering program as well as a nationwide network of CoCoRaHS Observers. Only 6 gauges left! First-come, first-served. Questions? Email or call Cat Garza ([cat.garza@wwccd.net](mailto:cat.garza@wwccd.net) or 509-956-3747)



## Voluntary Stewardship Program

Walla Walla County's Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) is always seeking agricultural producers to join the VSP Work Group. VSP is Walla Walla County's alternative to environmental regulation on agriculture. The VSP Work Group is a local committee that directs small conservation projects and environmental monitoring in Walla Walla County. Please contact Grant Traynor ([grant.traynor@wwccd.net](mailto:grant.traynor@wwccd.net) / 509-956-3767) if you are interested.

## WWCCD Board Meetings

The District holds monthly meetings that occur on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. These meetings provide a round table of district updates and in-depth discussions current projects. These meetings are open to the public, if you are an interested community member or have topics to be discussed contact the District Manager, Renee Hadley at [renee.hadley@wwccd.net](mailto:renee.hadley@wwccd.net)

### Walla Walla County Conservation District

#### District Staff

Renee Hadley, District Manager  
Audrey Ahmann, Assistant Manager: Finance  
Jenny Freer, Bookkeeper  
Jeff Klundt, Burn Permit Coordinator  
Joanna Cowles Cleveland, CREP Scientist  
Annie Byerley, Conservation Scientist  
Eila Chin, Conservation Technician  
Grant Traynor, VSP Program Coordinator  
Alison Crowley, Mill Creek Program Manager

#### Board of Supervisors

Jesse McCaw  
Alyson Buckley  
Jim Kent  
Jeff Schulke  
Don Schwerin

### Our USDA SERVICE CENTER partners

#### NRCS Staff

Tracy Hanger, District Conservationist Snake River Team  
Bryce Krueger, WW area Resource Conservationist  
Cameron Toerner, WW area Soil Conservationist  
Katy Martin, Snake River Team Program Support

#### FSA Staff

Kelley Betts, County Executive Director for WW & Columbia  
Norma Colunga, Program Technician  
Tally Ross Program Technician

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

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
99324  
Permit #44

Walla Walla County  
Conservation District  
325 North 13th Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362