



State Legislative District #9, 16
Congressional District #4

Franklin Conservation District

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Board Chair: Scott Moore

Other Accomplishments

Education Programs Growing

Franklin CD has hired two new educators to cover Skagit, Whatcom, Pierce, Thurston, Mason, and Grays Harbor counties. This brings the total number of Wheat Week educators statewide to 12. Our goal for the coming school year is to educate 10,000 students through the Wheat Week Program.

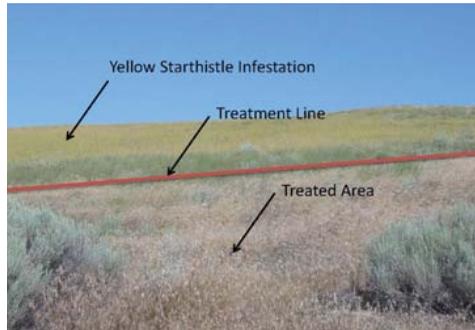
Livestock Best Management Practices Protect Water Quality

Four livestock facilities implemented best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality with funding from the SCC. Two waste storage structures and two manure transfer systems were designed and installed to NRCS standards and specifications.



Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Waging War on Noxious Weeds



The Franklin Conservation District (CD), with funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC), implemented a cost-share program to assist producers with controlling noxious weeds in the dryland and rangeland areas of Franklin County.

Resource Challenge: Noxious weeds are invasive, non-native plants that threaten agricultural crops, local ecosystems, and fish and wildlife habitat. Through implementation of integrated pest management, the District was able to address four primary noxious weed species as identified by the Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board: Yellow Starthistle, Rush Skeletonweed, Scotch Thistle, and Diffuse Knapweed. These are class B weeds on the State and Franklin County weed list.

Project Summary and Results: Within two weeks of Franklin CD advertising their cost-share program, 20 producers signed-up with a desire to treat over 17,000 acres. Due to the limited amount of cost-share available the actual acres treated were 9,285. Many producers treated additional acres bringing their cost-share allocation well below 50 percent.

By implementing Integrated Pest Management, noxious weeds populations were controlled; off-site pesticide risks to water quality from leaching, solution runoff, and adsorbed runoff losses were prevented or mitigated; and off-site pesticide risks to soil, water, air, plants, animals, and humans from drift and volatilization losses were prevented or mitigated.

Key Project Partners: WA State Conservation Commission; Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Franklin County Association of Wheat Growers; and Franklin County Producers.

More Work to Do!

Franklin CD continues to assist USDA with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Filter Strips inspections and Irrigation Water Management Program implementation. District staff completed field inspections and conservation plans on 53 fields covering 706.7 acres of CRP filter strips and 91 fields covering 4,288 acres under irrigation water management.

Franklin CD is seeking funding for a pilot aquifer recharge study that will identify the hydrologic linkages that exist in the Kahlotus Coulee area; determine how to revitalize Kahlotus Lake; and contribute to base flows on the Snake River.