

Grant County Conservation District

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Board Chair: Richard Leitz



State Legislative District #9, 12, 13
Congressional District #4

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Voluntary Cooperation Leads to Cleaner Waterway



Resource Challenge: Uncontrolled access to waterways by livestock breaks down stream banks, increases sedimentation, and can impair water quality due to nutrient inputs. Restricting livestock and developing offsite watering facilities helps a landowner manage their livestock and natural resources.



Project Summary and Results: Jeff of JR Ranches has been a friend of the District for several years. During that time he has implemented many practices from his conservation plan. He had always wanted to restrict his cattle from a perennial irrigation ditch but knew it would be too cost prohibitive. Grant County Conservation District helped JR Ranches get approval for cost-share assistance from the Washington State Conservation Commission. Jeff was then able to install 7,153' of New Zealand-style electric riparian fencing—including gates—to help with his pasture rotation and grazing plan. A conservation-friendly solar watering system was installed consisting of a used recycled rubber tire from a large piece of construction equipment. A local fencing company completed the work. In total, three jobs were created to implement this project.

Key Project Partners: JR Ranches and the WA State Conservation Commission.

Other Accomplishments

- Water on Wheels (WOW) Educational Program: 115 lessons taught to 2,410 students at nine schools.
- Irrigation Water Monitoring: 145 participants covering 150,000 acres.
- Concrete waste storage slab at dairy. 
- Construction of new lined dairy lagoon. 
- Installing new nozzles for conservation. 
- Adopted Sandhill Crane Festival as official education/outreach program.



More Work to Do!

- Ten projects on waiting list pending funding from the SCC's Capital Cost-share program.
- Expand Irrigation Water Management (IWM) program.
- Work with WA Department of Ecology and farmers to process burn permit applications.
- Develop and/or revise Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs).
- Continue growing interest in Othello Sandhill Crane Festival.
- Promote the District's small farms program and identify cost share opportunities that conserve natural resources.
- Continue to grow Water on Wheels (WOW) educational program in schools.
- Continue Crop ID Program with WA Department of Agriculture.