



State Legislative District #9  
Congressional District #4

# Adams Conservation District

District Manager: Cara Hulce  
118 East Main Avenue Ritzville, WA 99169  
509-659-1553 | chadamscd@hotmail.com | www.adamscd.com  
Board Chair: Curtis Hennings

## Other Accomplishments



A pump system, 6,000 feet of pipe and a watering trough were installed off of Cow Creek to help protect water quality and expand grazing capability.



Our annual 5th grade field day included presentations about soil characteristics, weather monitoring, electrical safety, and water pollution.



We were proud to host 290 Future Farmers of America (FFA) students at this year's county soil judging contest. Bright minds and sun made for a wonderful morning in the dirt!

## 2014 Feature Accomplishment: Protecting Palouse River from impacts of grazing

### RESOURCE CHALLENGE

The Palouse River does not meet Washington State's water quality standards for the following parameters: dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform bacteria, temperature, and pH. These parameters threaten local fishing, habitat, and recreation use on the Palouse River and downstream as it flows into the Snake River. Since the Palouse River is considered an impaired water body, Adams Conservation District acquired funding to implement better management practices along the river to help improve water quality.



Livestock exclusionary fencing along the Palouse River helps to protect the riparian area from degradation.

**PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS** Five miles of exclusionary fencing was installed on the main stem of the Palouse River to help protect water and riparian (streamside) areas from the impacts of grazing cattle. Over the past decade the operator has been modifying his grazing strategy to minimize riparian access. During this time vegetation on gravel bars and banks has increased dramatically. The operator is glad for this development and requested our assistance in helping him install fencing to fully protect the riparian zone. We hope to take cuttings from current vegetation and plant them along banks and side channels in the fall.



Willow growth along the river is helping to improve water quality by reducing erosion, filtering pollutants, and increasing shade.

**KEY PARTNERS:** WA State Department of Ecology

## More Work to Do!

- Riparian planting: Cow Creek
- Riparian planting: Palouse River windbreaks