

Foster Creek Conservation District

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Board Chair: John McLean



State Legislative District #12
Congressional District #4

2014 Feature Accomplishment: Douglas County Multispecies General Conservation Plan



Over the past 50 years the Greater Sage Grouse in Douglas County have fallen from 100,000 to a little more than 700

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Douglas County is blessed with an abundance of natural resources in addition to land managers who appreciate the resources and work to protect them. These people drive the county's economy. Circumstances have developed that will most likely lead to the declaration by USFWS that the Greater Sage Grouse in Douglas County is endangered. To preserve the Greater Sage Grouse Habitat while preserving farming in Douglas County, the Douglas County Multiple Species General Conservation Plan was designed.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS The USFWS and Foster Creek Conservation District (FCCD) developed an agreement that will allow FCCD to administer the Section 10 permit (Incidental Take Permit) process

in the county. This will ensure local control over the rules that the USFWS would normally promulgate to protect the species, such as idling large tracts of public land, which would devastate the economy in Douglas County. This agreement allows FCCD to develop and approve farm plans, assist with permit acquisition, monitor implementation, and amend plan elements. This agreement will maintain local control over actions that affect the economic well-being of the county and enhance Sage Grouse Habitat.

KEY PARTNERS: Bureau of Land Management; WA Department of Fish and Wildlife; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Farm Service Agency; Douglas County; South Douglas Conservation District; Department of Natural Resources; US Fish and Wildlife Service; Douglas County Wheat Growers; Douglas County PUD; Douglas County Cattlemen Association



Farming is vital to the economy in Douglas County.

Other Accomplishments



35 landowners released 60,000 bioagents to control invasive species such as Dalmatian Toad-flax, Knapweed, and Canada Thistle.



Approximately 300 students participated in a Wheat Week Educational Program.

More Work to Do!

- Implementation of the Douglas County Multiple Species General Conservation Plan (MSGCP) where 20 Section 10 Permits will be processed.
- Continue implementation to control invasive weed species on approximately 25 properties in Douglas County.
- Participate in educational outreach events that will attract approximately 100 land managers, on use of soil testing and health that involves cover and rotational crops.