

Grant County Conservation District

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Board Chair: Dan Roseburg



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

2014 Feature Accomplishment:

Improved pasture management - working with what you have

RESOURCE CHALLENGE In an area where irrigated land is usually reserved for the production of high value crops, one finds most un-irrigated pastureland often overgrazed, weedy, weak, or devoid of vegetation. Forage grasses cannot perform as intended. Bare ground in this part of Washington often leads to runoff, soil erosion, and large deposits of animal waste where cows tend to gather. Dust storms are a frequent occurrence, and contaminants are easily picked up and transported with the soil.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS Bruce Wilson heard about conservation districts from a neighbor. Bruce knows good grass raises great beef. And, he also wants to protect water quality. His pasture is under a center pivot sprinkler, making fencing and rotations difficult. He contacted Grant County Conservation District and requested grazing expertise, cost-share, and construction specs to ensure the system would last. Circular paddocks were created between the wheel tracks. He has the main herd broken into groups by age and management needs. Now he can rotate easier with the ability to irrigate and maintain the grass after planned grazing periods. Runoff is eliminated, and the forage is healthy and able to recycle nutrients.

KEY PARTNERS: WA State Conservation Commission



Left: Before rotational grazing scheme, cows were allowed to overgraze preferred areas and under graze others. Right: Separate grazing units created using breastblock method. Posts were driven to save time and money. Photos: Grant County CD

Other Accomplishments

- No-Till Drill Rental
- Othello Sandhill Crane Festival Coordinators
- Water on Wheels/Wheat Week Education
- Irrigation Water Management Cost-Share Program
- Energy Audits

More Work to Do!

- Moses Lake - Lake Shoreline Restoration
- Best Management Practices
- Cost Share Assistance
- Information and Education Outreach
- Seeking an Assessment