



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Pomeroy Conservation District

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Board Chair: Kyle Pearson

Other Accomplishments



Implementation and monitoring of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

and other riparian restoration programs increased over the last year. The Pomeroy Conservation District hired Mike Denny as the area riparian restoration coordinator. Mike will cover the Pomeroy Conservation District along with several districts in Whitman County in assisting with the implementation of additional CREP acres.



The Pomeroy Conservation District obtained an Aerial View Camera to monitor the implementation of CREP projects. Before, during, and after videos and pictures will be taken with permission from the landowner. The camera — a DJI Phantom Vision Plus — is pictured above.

2014 Feature Accomplishment:

Rainfall simulator demonstrates benefits of crop residue retention

RESOURCE CHALLENGE The Pomeroy Conservation District, with assistance from USDA: Natural Resources Conservation Service, took the lead on purchasing a Rainfall Simulator. The District solicited sponsors from other conservation districts in the area and local businesses to get the funds needed for the purchase of the trailer and simulator.



PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS The simulator was obtained to demonstrate the importance of the implementation of crop residue retention best management practices (BMPs). Crop residue refers to leftover field or process materials, such as stalks, leaves, roots, and husks. The main focus is the importance of residue cover and soil permeability. The impacts of severe rainstorms on the dryland areas of the state can be devastating to our soil structure and lead to severe erosion, runoff, and water quality degradation. The simulator produces an artificial rain storm producing between three-quarters to one inch of rain in a five-minute period. Very similar rainfall amounts

fall in that time period when thunderstorms move through the area. The importance of the amount of residue cover and the resulting soil moisture retention are shown during the demonstration. The simulator will be available to the sponsors for their county fairs and other farm-oriented activities, agriculture shows, school agriculture classes, soil judging activities, local Envirothons, and other educational activities in the area. The District hopes to train sponsors to operate the simulator so the local atmosphere is retained as the simulator is demonstrated in the area.

KEY PARTNERS: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Asotin, Columbia, Palouse, Palouse-Rock Lake, and Walla Walla Conservation Districts; Tri State Steelheaders; McGregors; Pomeroy Grain Growers; Farm and Home Supply; Shepherd Foundation; FastSigns

More Work to Do!

- Continue to introduce the newest technology and practices to producers.
- Use the rainfall simulator in sponsoring districts' information/education programs throughout the area to show the benefits of effective residue management and soil health programs.
- Intensify the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in the area to get more riparian areas protected for improved water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.
- Continue to house the Engineer for southeast-area conservation districts.