



# Spokane Conservation District

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State Legislative District #3,4,6,7,9  
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## Other Accomplishments



Fueled by the dangerous wildfire season that swept through the state, the SCD Firewise Program completed more than 60 home site assessments in 2014. Photo: Jim Armstrong, 2014 Wildfire on Spokane's South Hill



Before: Fish passage and water quality were affected by livestock crossings. The SCD assisted in the design and construction of a livestock bridge.



After: An 8' wide livestock bridge was installed on the Kummer Ranch to protect Bear Creek. An emergency watering site was also installed.

## 2014 Feature Accomplishment: On Site Septic System Financial Assistance Program

**RESOURCE CHALLENGE** An estimated 15 percent of septic systems in Spokane County are considered failing and need to be repaired, replaced, or connected to the sewer system. Many of these homeowners cannot financially make this important home improvement. This presents a risk to ground water quality and the health of local watersheds. In order to help landowners protect water quality, the Spokane Conservation District (SCD) launched the On Site Septic System Financial Assistance Program.



This photo was taken during the installation of a connection to the municipal sewer system.

**PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS** The SCD launched the OSS (On-Site Septic System) Financial Assistance Program on May 1, 2014. As of August 2014, more than 80 landowners had contacted the SCD for information and applications. Eight municipal sewer connections were installed, and seven projects are pending. The average cost per project was approximately \$3,500. Landowners in the OSS program are grateful. Many are not financially able to complete septic improvements without the program and would be fined by Spokane County. All taxpayers of Washington State will reap the benefits in the protection of water quality and in return on investment through loan revenue.



The landowner said, "Working with Barry Tee at the SCD was a great experience. I don't know what I would have done without this program."

**KEY PARTNERS:** WA State Department of Ecology; Spokane Regional Health District; Spokane County Utilities Division; Spokane County Community Development; Spokane Neighborhood Action Program (SNAP)

## More Work to Do!

- 200 people attended the 2013 Small Farms Conference (SFC). Record attendance is anticipated on Nov. 1, 2014 for the 4th Annual SFC: Farm-a-Palouse-A.
- With the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association and other agencies, SCD is establishing a Direct Seed Certification to give producers greater marketing potential.
- With continued funding, SCD will assist landowners with their livestock and land implementation projects.