

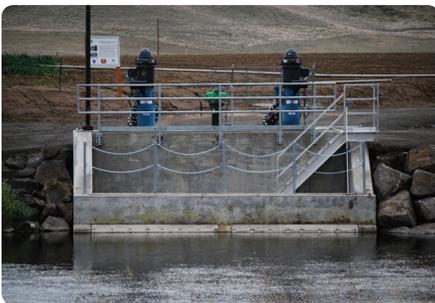
# Walla Walla County Conservation District

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Board Chair: Ed Chvatal, Chair



State Legislative District #16  
Congressional District #5

## 2014 Feature Accomplishment: Bergevin-Williams/Old Lowden diversion consolidation and piping



Top: The Old Lowden Ditch gravel push-up dam — one of two such dams eliminated by the consolidated structure. Bottom: The new Bergevin-Williams/Old Lowden consolidated diversion structure and fish screen on the Walla Walla River.

Photos: Larry Hooker, Ag. Projects Coord., WWCCD

including an automated fish screen. Inefficient delivery ditches were replaced with 9.6 miles of buried pipeline serving 1,840 acres. This resulted in 2,404 acre-feet of water (over 780 million gallons!) saved through conveyance efficiency and put into Trust for fish. Farmers got a reliable delivery system allowing more efficient water management.

**KEY PARTNERS:** Bonneville Power Administration Fish & Wildlife Program; WA Department of Ecology Water Resources Program; WA Department of Fish and Wildlife; Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; WA State Conservation Commission; Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership

**RESOURCE CHALLENGE** The Walla Walla River is home to Mid-Columbia Basin steelhead and bull trout — both listed as “Threatened” under the Endangered Species Act — as well as reintroduced spring Chinook salmon. Yearly construction of gravel “dams” built to feed irrigation water into the Bergevin-Williams and Old Lowden irrigation systems often resulted in obstructions to fish passage and an imminent threat of “take”. Local irrigators sought assistance from Walla Walla County Conservation District (WWCCD) to obtain grants and build a new diversion.

**PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS** Removal of two push-up dams/obstructions was made possible through funding by Bonneville Power Administration for a consolidated diversion. In-stream flow enhancement through the piping of irrigation ditches was funded by the Department of Ecology. As a result, a diversion structure was constructed includ-

## Other Accomplishments



One of two large engineered log jams constructed on the McCaw Reach of the Touchet River to improve water quality and fish habitat.



One of two apex log jams constructed on the McCaw Reach of the Touchet River to activate a secondary flow channel and improve fish habitat.



Over 1,000 ft. of secondary channels were developed to improve flood plain connectivity on the McCaw Reach of the Touchet River.

Photos: Larry Hooker, Ag. Projects Coord., WWCCD

## More Work to Do!

- Jones Fish Habitat Enhancement and Screening Project
- McCaw Fish Habitat Restoration Project, Phase B
- Titus Creek Diversion Fish Passage and Screening Project
- Garden City/Lowden 2/Mud 7 Complex Irrigation Piping Project