



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Whitman Conservation District

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Other Accomplishments

- Partnered with a farmer with visual impairments to install equipment in his tractor to prevent over application of fertilizers and pesticides. Now he can drive the tractor, spray weeds, and reduce application of chemicals.
- Cost shared to direct seed spring barley into a 150 acre field. The goal: reduce/prevent risk of precipitation from harsh summer storms, creating soil to erode into storm water drains, basements, and the Palouse River.
- Partnered with a rancher to install a frost free water system to provide water to livestock and wildlife, eliminating over flow, muddy areas in pasture, and water runoff to a nearby stream.

2014 Feature Accomplishment:

Apple Pie Water Project: Weed suppression and grazing practices

RESOURCE CHALLENGE A local landowner in the Palouse River watershed was experiencing several resource issues on their property that were impacting water quality, wildlife, and weeds. A stream on the property was choked out by reed canarygrass, and weeds prevented native vegetation from re-establishing. And, their pasture borders Highway 26, where deer are hit by vehicles. The landowner asked Whitman Conservation District to help with a management plan that would address weed control, enhance livestock management, reduce reed canarygrass without chemicals, and reduce wildlife mortality on the highway.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS The District wrote the management plan and worked with the landowner to implement cross fences, water facilities, and a livestock grazing plan. Timing of cattle movement is used to eliminate weeds and reduce reed canarygrass. Native rushes, sedges, and woody vegetation are reestablishing. Alternative water on slopes has reduced deer migration across the highway. Yellow star thistle has been eliminated, and native grasses are increasing. More cross fences and water facilities are planned. Water quality improved with the reestablishment of native vegetation that reduced temperature, sediment, and pathogens. The land manager is pleased with the increase of pasture productivity.



Top: Stream area where cattle drank water before installation of practices.
Bottom: Stream area after installation of water and fencing upstream of road crossing.

KEY PARTNERS: Washington State University Extension

More Work to Do!

- Install water facilities, fences, and implement an intense grazing management plan.
- Native planting to enhance a wildlife project.
- Host workshops on soil health and livestock issues.
- Educate public on benefits of livestock grazing to enhance wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and native Palouse prairie.
- Begin a cooperative project with farmers and ranchers for alternatives to deal with crop residue, weeds, and grazing issues.