



# Benton Conservation District

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[www.bentoncd.org](http://www.bentoncd.org)

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## 2015 Drought Local Assistance

Governor Inslee declared a statewide drought emergency. The Yakima River has been fluctuating near historic low levels since spring. Everyone's worried about the drought, but what can people do? Contact Benton Conservation District (BCD).

BCD is a local agency dedicated to wise stewardship of natural resources including water. BCD staff are your neighbors, people with a combination of technical, professional expertise and local knowledge. BCD offers many programs and free services to help residents conserve natural resources on private property, whether the property is a working agricultural operation, a small farm or a home in town. BCD's drought-related programs for homeowners include low-water-use landscaping, Heritage Gardens or Xeriscaping. Drought conditions often lead to elevated fire danger, a potential concern for both agricultural and residential properties. BCD's Firewise program can help landowners prepare and manage property to make it less vulnerable to wildfires. BCD's drought-related programs for agriculture include irrigation water management, irrigation conversions, irrigation water conveyance, mulching, cover crops, pond sealing/lining, residue management, livestock water facilities and more.

BCD staff is available to visit private property, if requested, to provide free custom site-specific no-obligation recommendations. For agricultural best management practices ONLY partial cost-reimbursement may be available (contact BCD for applicable requirements). BCD's website at [www.bentoncd.org](http://www.bentoncd.org) has further details and background information. Contact Benton Conservation District today with your drought concerns and find out about specific programs to help protect your property.

Jack Clark, Chair

Mike Sackchewsky, Auditor

Michael Crowder, Member

Dan Downs, Vice Chair

Nicole Berg, Member