



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District

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Board Chair: Clinton O’Keefe

Other Accomplishments



Soil Health Tour brings landowners together to learn how healthy soils improve sustainability and profits.



Specialized equipment can measure how improved soil health can increase water infiltration and improve moisture retention.



Landowner utilizing the Washington Conservation Corps to build fence along a riparian forest buffer project along Pine Creek.

Photos: James Schierman

2015 Feature Accomplishment: High residue drill demonstration

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Soil erosion is the highest resource concern in the Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District. The loss of productive soil decreases farm income, negatively impacts water quality, and decreases wildlife habitat. Higher levels of residue (plant stubble) on land reduce impacts from water and wind that create erosion. Seeding crops into high levels of residue requires specialized equipment, called direct-seed drills. This project used five different drills to seed into high residue areas and allowed farmers to compare results.



Cooperators observing the Shelborne Reynolds Stripper header in operation

Credit: James Schierman



Direct seed drill owners describing their equipment. Credit: James Schierman

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

The demonstration on the Tracy Eriksen Farm was designed to show how five direct-seed drills would seed into high amounts of winter wheat stubble harvested with the stripper header. The header only harvests the kernels of grain off the plant, leaving all the straw for future use. The purpose of using this type of combine header is to increase residue, which will improve moisture conditions at seeding. Each of the drills used, either disc or hoe, were able to seed into the residue dependent on how a cooperator would manage the residue after harvest. By increasing residue, the low rainfall area can now utilize direct seeding.

KEY PARTNERS: USDA Agriculture Research Service Pullman; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Lenskov Farms; Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association; LM Farms; Kile Farms; Willada Farms; Westfield Property

More Work to Do!

- Install 25 miles of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) work along streams and rivers.
- Complete six miles of work through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)-Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).
- Implement 5,000 acres of direct seed through the RCPP Kamiak Creek EQIP Project.
- Complete 40 “Farmed Smart Certifications” with the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association.