Palouse Conservation District

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Board Chair: Larry Cochran

State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

2015 Feature Accomplishment:

Livestock facility relocation and improvements

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Palouse River Watershed residents are working together to address local water quality concerns. Local landowners are redesigning livestock facilities to improve their operations, remove livestock direct access to the river, and reestablish trees and shrubs along the river to improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat. These projects improve water quality by reducing runoff from surrounding land uses, stabilizing eroding stream banks, and providing shade to reduce water temperatures.

Off-stream heavy use area includes fencing, off-stream water, shelter, access road, and waste storage facility.
Credit: Drew Schuldt

Riparian buffer including native trees and shrubs was established along South Fork Palouse River at the previous location of the livestock facility.
Credit: Drew Schuldt

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS
Palouse Conservation District staff worked with landowners to understand their goals and then design and implement a project that would both improve water quality and maintain a profitable livestock operation. This was achieved by relocating the livestock facility area away from the South Fork Palouse River. The improved off-stream livestock facility includes a heavy use protection area with off-stream watering, livestock shelters, fencing, access road, and a waste storage facility. Native trees, shrubs, and grass were established along the South Fork Palouse River providing a riparian buffer to improve water quality and habitat.

KEY PARTNERS: Local landowner with funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission

Other Accomplishments

Ecology Conservation Crew, AmeriCorps, and community volunteers work together to restore riparian habitat on Union Flat Creek. Credit: Jennifer Boie

Expanded direct seed cost share program helps more producers reduce erosion and increase soil health. Credit: Terry Travis

Small acreage livestock improvements: 1 acre perimeter fence to exclude livestock from river, 425′ off-stream water pipeline, and riparian restoration.
Credit: Drew Schuldt

More Work to Do!

- Palouse Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Pilot to expand CREP eligibility in the Palouse River Watershed.
- Palouse River Watershed Implementation Partnership (funded through NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program) to increase producer options and incentives for conservation tillage, riparian buffer establishment, and agricultural conservation easements.
- Snake River Salmon Recovery funded projects to remove anadromous fish barriers and improve fish habitat.