

Pine Creek Conservation District

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Board Chair: Tom Henning



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

2015 Feature Accomplishment:

Cooperative effort launches pilot riparian project

RESOURCE CHALLENGE During the 1930s-50s, most of the trees and shrubs along Pine Creek were removed and the grass plowed up because the land was so productive for dryland crop farming in the Palouse region. This led to minimal stream shading, streambank erosion, and rapid entry of field soil erosion into the creek during storm events. Consequently, water leaving Pine Creek and entering the Snake and Columbia River system is often high in temperature and loaded with sediments and possibly pesticides.



Planting trees along Pine Creek with school kids.



A few areas along Pine Creek remain in near native condition.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

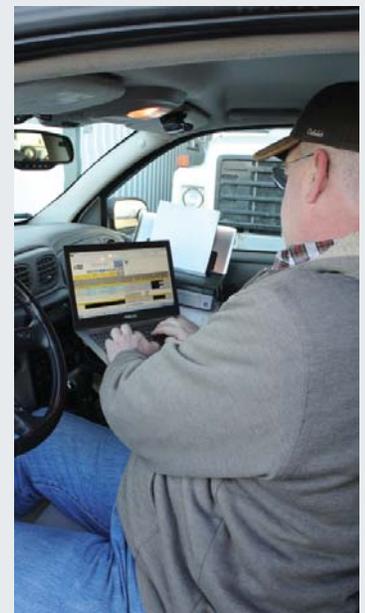
Pine Creek Conservation District worked with the Palouse and Palouse Rock Lake Conservation Districts to create a pilot Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) project to restore riparian areas along targeted streams in the Palouse Basin, such as Pine Creek. Through CREP, landowners in this area will have the opportunity to receive financial incentives for restoring riparian areas on their property. The goal of this pilot project is to see if we can provide a measurable reduction in sediment and temperature of the water eventually entering salmon bearing streams. This project was approved recently, and we are working on our first CREP project along Pine Creek.

KEY PARTNERS: USDA Farm Service Agency; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Washington State Conservation Commission; Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District; Palouse Conservation District

Other Accomplishments



Conversion to direct seed systems is a high priority for the district.



Manager completing an on-site field inventory.

More Work to Do!

- Continue promotion and implementation of direct seed systems.
- Implement the federal Regional Conservation Partnership Program to get more conservation projects on the ground.
- Continue and expand the district's assistance with implementing precision agriculture and variable rate technology adoption by producers.
- Continue to build partnerships with other entities.