



Stevens County Conservation District
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February 19, 2016

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors and staff members of Stevens County Conservation District, you are invited to attend a conservation project and partnership tour on Wednesday, March 16, 2016. The purpose of the tour is to share a cross-section of conservation projects and natural resource issues in Stevens County.

The tour will begin 12:30 pm at the Stevens County Agricultural Trade Center (Fairgrounds) located at 317 Astor Ave, Colville, WA. You can expect unpredictable weather in March. It could be cold, rainy and muddy so warm clothes and good footwear is highly recommended.

Here are the tour highlights:

- Local timber industry professionals will come to the Trade Center and discuss the impacts of the regional fires the ability to salvage the timber. There will also be discussion on future needs for private landowners to restore the lands.
- We will tour Vaagen Brothers sawmill. They have a state of the art HewSaw system with the ability to process small logs at high speed.
- Weather permitting we will tour the Marble Valley fire area. We will visit one property where one of the Chewelah FFA chapter helped the landowner rebuild some fence so they were able to bring back their horses. We will also visit a salvage logging site.
- As we are driving around we will point out some of Stevens County's critical areas and discuss how VSP will benefit the local agricultural producers.
- We will tour the Colville Fish Hatchery, no longer operated by WDFW. Local high school students spend ½ day there raising fish and receive science and math credits. The fish raised are sold to pay the mortgage as the County is buying back the property.
- After the tour, the bus will take guests back to the Agricultural Trade Center. **If you cannot join us for the tour, you can still meet us for dinner at 6:00 pm.**
- Dinner will be at Stephani's Oak Street Grill 157 N Oak St, Colville WA 99114. Dinner cost is \$23.00 per person and can be paid at time of dinner.

If you would like to attend the tour and/or interaction dinner, please RSVP to Lori Gonzalez at the Conservation Commission no later than March 10 by clicking this link: <https://www.formstack.com/forms/?2052729-5w8z5tM1mS>.
If you have questions about the tour please contact: Dean Hellie at the Stevens County Conservation District 509-685-0937 extension 110 or by email at dhellie@co.stevens.wa.

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