

Pine Creek Conservation District

Raymond Brown, District Manager
401 South SR 27 Oakesdale, WA 99158
(509) 285-5122 | pinecreekcd@frontier.com | www.pinecreekcd.com
Board Chair: Tom Henning



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

2016 Feature Accomplishment

Technology aids in rapid planning for local landowners

RESOURCE CHALLENGE

Very few general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts were renewed in Pine Creek Conservation District (PCCD) during the most recent federal general CRP signup. This potentially could result in thousands of acres of highly erodible and environmentally sensitive land being returned to production. Many landowners contacted PCCD asking for assistance and options for farming this land again. In addition to those who contacted the PCCD, we reached out to other landowners whose CRP contract was not renewed and offered them assistance also.



An existing filter strip protecting water quality

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

Using simple Geographic Information System (GIS) commands of buffering, intersection, drawing, and overlays, the district was able to rapidly develop scenarios where some of the most environmentally sensitive land on the expiring contracts could be enrolled in the continuous CRP practices of filter strips and grass buffers. We delivered maps illustrating the eligible land, acre amounts, and potential land rental payments from the USDA Farm Service Agency. We developed two scenarios for each field, one with the maximum allowed acres and the other showing the minimum amount of acres required to enter the program. We then presented the information to the landowners.



An existing general CRP field at risk of not being protected by a grass cover crop in the future

KEY PARTNERS: USDA Farm Service Agency; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Landowners

Other Accomplishments

- Promoted and provided technical assistance to landowners for direct seeding.
- Participated in local land judging and Envirothon for local youth.
- Contacted and presented scenarios to landowners whose land may be eligible for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).
- Worked with other conservation districts on the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP).
- Provided GIS maps and on-the-ground GPS surveys to local landowners.

More work to do!

- Work with landowners to develop new best management practice (BMP) cost-share proposals.
- Continue to improve water quality through the promotion and implementation of more direct seeded acres, grass buffer areas, and filter strips.
- Continue to build partnerships with other districts and entities.