

Stevens County Conservation District

Dean Hellie, District Administrator
232 Williams Lake Road Colville, WA 99114
(509) 685-0937 x3 | SCCD@co.stevens.wa.us | www.co.stevens.wa.us/cons_district
Board Chair: Andy Kroiss



State Legislative District #7
Congressional District #5

2016 Feature Accomplishment County wildfire preparedness



Wildfires 2016 - are you ready?
Meeting Agenda (subject to change)

Speakers	Topic
Jim Caruso Stevens County Director of Emergency Management	Recap 2015 fires. Why are we here tonight?
Stevens County Sheriff's Office	Hyper-reach and evacuation levels.
Local fire chiefs	Status of their district. Becoming a volunteer firefighter.
Department of Natural Resources	How do DNR agreements work? Training requirements. DNR vs. Federal Agreements
Stevens County Conservation District	Property plan to prepare for disaster.
Department of Natural Resources/Firewise	DNR landowner assistance program and Firewise communities.

Wrap-up and Q&A



RESOURCE CHALLENGE

2015 was the worst wildfire year in the recent history of Stevens County. Many lessons were learned on how to help landowners be prepared, reduce the impacts, and speed up the restoration time when dealing with the natural resources. Everyone wanted to help, but it was soon evident that there was a lot of overlap and some missed areas to help landowners.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

The Stevens County Conservation District worked with Stevens County Emergency Management Director and Stevens County Washington State University Extension to develop and present a series of workshops to help the landowners of Stevens County be better prepared in the event of wildfire or other common natural disasters. Eight community workshops were held throughout the county in February 2016 to explain the different roles of the local agencies and answer questions. 257 local citizens and landowners attended the workshops. Many got information for their neighbors and followed up with questions later.

KEY PARTNERS:

Stevens County Commissioners; eight fire districts; two city fire departments; Department of Natural Resources; Stevens County Sheriff; Red Cross; The North East Washington Incident Command Center



Carpenter Road fire heat split the rock

Other Accomplishments



"BioBlitz-ing": getting youth outdoors to discover and explore nature with trained "ologists" on hand to answer questions they come up with.



Eight months after the fire there are signs of life but a lot more work is needed to make the land healthy and productive again.



Crew planting 13,000 ponderosa pines on steep slope overlooking Lake Spokane.

More work to do!

- Assist landowners with wildfire rehabilitation of their properties.
- Work with other county and regional natural resource agencies in natural disaster preparedness and be able to provide better and quicker assistance to landowners.
- Participate in the Voluntary Stewardship Program to develop the county plan and assist individuals with stewardship plans to protect critical areas while fully utilizing their property.