

Grant County Conservation District

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Board Chair: Dave Stadelman



State Legislative District #9, 12, 13
Congressional District #4

2016 Feature Accomplishment

Moses Lake shoreline stabilization



Permits were obtained and cultural resources review completed so that work could be started while the lake level was low. Photo: Lyle Stoltman

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Competition for water resources is fierce. Clean water is needed for drinking and hygiene. Water is also important for wildlife, aquatic life, irrigation, recreation, fire control, and industry. It benefits all to implement best management practices (BMPs) to improve water quality. Shoreline stabilization is a BMP that can prevent sedimentation, improve habitat, and protect shorelines. The Grant County Conservation District provided financial and technical resources to a project to stabilize part of the Moses Lake shoreline.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

Changing water levels and recreational uses are eroding shorelines. Riprap and armor isn't the main choice of stabilizing anymore — a “softer” approach is now preferred. This project was engineered using thousands of compost-filled bags stacked in a terrace. The bags were anchored with special staples. The site was hydroseeded to get grasses growing quickly. A tackifier in the mulch helped with erosion control. Trees and shrubs were planted and nesting boxes put up. The landowner is pleased with the outcome and insists on letting politicians and the public see the alternatives available to protect the banks of Moses Lake.



Almost finished with the project — trees were planted later and waterfowl nesting boxes put back up. Photo: Lyle Stoltman

KEY PARTNERS: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; City of Moses Lake; Grant County; Moses Lake Irrigation District; US Bureau of Reclamation; Washington State Conservation Commission

Other Accomplishments

- Several lined lagoons to maintain nutrients and protection of ground water.
- Polyacrylamide to reduce soil dislodgement and erosion applied through irrigation system.
- Fourty-two-foot Agipump for manure transfer and treatment.
- Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) pumps for more efficient irrigation and energy savings.
- Buried outlet pipe to protect erosion on slope.
- Two shoreline restoration projects to protect shoreline erosion and degradation and enhance wildlife.
- Direct Seed Workshop, Othello Sandhill Crane Festival, and Eco-Gardening Symposium.
- Lead Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP).

More work to do!

- Soil health: Prevent erosion, increase organic matter, and conserve moisture through cost-share, technical assistance and educational field days.
- Water quality and quantity: Maintain water quality by minimizing contaminants through cost-share, technical assistance, and educational field days.
- Wildlife and plant habitat: Improve through cost-share, technical assistance, and educational field days.