



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District

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Board Chair: Clinton O’Keefe

Other Accomplishments



Planting along Palouse River between St. John and Endicott. A total of 12,000 plants were planted along watersheds in 2016.



State Representative Mary Dye capturing the crowd from a drill at the Direct Seed Demonstration hosted by Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District.



A drill in action at the PRLCD Direct Seed Demonstration. For a bird’s eye view of the drill demonstration, see the drone videos at www.prlcd.org

2016 Feature Accomplishment

Improving water quality in Kamiak Creek watershed

RESOURCE CHALLENGE

Soil erosion is the highest resource concern in the Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District (PRLCD). Loss of productive soil decreases farm income, negatively impacts water quality, and decreases wildlife habitat. Reduction of erosion through increased utilization of direct seed systems and creek buffers will dramatically reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. Live monitoring of Kamiak Creek will quantify water quality improvements as a result of the implementation of best management practices.



Direct Seed field being harvested.
Photo: James Schierman



Aerial drone image of Kamiak Creek. View video footage from this and other flights: www.prlcd.org
Photo: James Schierman

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

Through the Palouse Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and with additional funding from the Department of Ecology and State Conservation Commission, PRLCD partnered with nine producers who are direct seeding 5,068 acres of the 12,185-acre Kamiak Watershed to improve water quality in Kamiak Creek. This partnership provides additional cost-share incentives for producers, enhanced wildlife habitat, and cleaner conditions for salmon spawning downstream. It also limits fertilizers and herbicides from entering the stream because these practices decrease and filter soil erosion. An influx of producers implemented direct seed practices with more expected to join soon.

KEY PARTNERS: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association; Kamiak Watershed Producers; Lincoln County Conservation District; Washington State Conservation Commission; Washington State Department of Ecology

More work to do!

- Install 3.36 miles of fence and 12,400 plants along Goose Creek.
- Plant over 50,000 plants for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) cost-shares.
- Increase direct seeded acres from 45 percent to 70 percent of the cropland acres.
- Increase acres of riparian buffer strips from 15 percent to 40 percent of eligible riparian acres.
- Enhance off-site watering facilities for livestock away from the streams and rivers.