



FRANKLIN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Manager: Mark Nielson Board Chair: Brad Bailie
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Legislative District: 9, 16 Congressional District: 4

Other accomplishments:



Wheat Week education program broke records last school year reaching 26,063 students and 1,094 teachers in 327 weeks. Photo by Kara Kaelber



The Heritage Garden Program continues to grow, one garden at a time, saving water and reducing pesticide and nutrient inputs. Photo by Heather Wendt



The Franklin County Water Conservancy Board, with technical assistance from the Franklin Conservation District, processed its 100th Water Right Change/Transfer.

2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

SECURING NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH FIRE RECOVERY



The Kahlotus and Palouse Falls Fires in August 2016 decimated fences and farming infrastructure. Photo credit: Erin Hightower

Resource challenge

In August 2016, two fires — the Palouse Falls Fire and Kahlotus Fire — ripped through the coulees and rangeland in northeastern Franklin County, burning over 26,000 acres. The fires destroyed native vegetation and laid waste to the fences, watering facilities, and farm infrastructure needed to support historic cattle grazing operations in the area. Loss of infrastructure also left vital natural resources at risk to wind and water erosion.

Project summary and results

After assessing affected areas and infrastructure, the Franklin Conservation District applied for funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) Fire Recovery and Natural Resource Investments programs to re-build fences that were destroyed. The district assisted landowners with the cultural resource review process and provided oversight during construction.



Cost-share from the SCC allowed producers to re-build infrastructure and protect natural resources. Photo credit: Heather Wendt

This project allowed the district to assist three landowners with the installation of almost 24 miles of fencing. The fences will prevent livestock from accessing surface water and promote rotational grazing.

Key partners: Harder Farms; James D. Moore Farms; Dick and Melette Moore; Pearson Farm and Fence; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Cascadia Conservation District; Washington State Conservation Commission

MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Begin implementation of Franklin County Voluntary Stewardship Program work plan.
- ▶ Conduct final evaluation of Deep Furrow Conservation Drill prototypes.
- ▶ Oversee the implementation of 20 irrigation water management contracts in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.