



PALOUSE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Director: Jennifer Boie Board Chair: Larry Cochran
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Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 5

Other accomplishments:

- ▶ Through the newly established Soil Health Program, landowners and Palouse Conservation District staff are working together to identify region-specific indicators of soil health for the Palouse River Watershed. This will support changes in management that can improve soil health.
- ▶ In cooperation with partners, an extensive paired watershed study has been established to examine water quality improvements associated with voluntary, incentive-based conservation practices installed through the Palouse RCPP.
- ▶ Emergency fire recovery funds were provided to ranchers to implement conservation practices.

2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

PALOUSE WATERSHED REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP



District staff and interns work with landowners to plant a restoration site funded by RCPP. Photo by Jerry Prout

issues and provide landowners with multiple funding options to implement conservation practices.

Project summary and results

Palouse Watershed RCPP partners have leveraged federal, state, and local funds to implement over \$4.8 million in conservation practices. This has enabled landowners to implement 105 acres of streamside vegetation to protect water quality and 21,108 acres of conservation tillage to reduce erosion and improve soil health. Local communities, landowners, and partners are improving soil health, water quality, and habitat in the watershed while preserving prime farmland to ensure the Palouse landscape remains healthy for generations.

Key partners: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Washington State Conservation Commission; Palouse-Rock Lake, Adams, Spokane, Lincoln County, Whitman, and Pine Creek Conservation Districts; Latah Soil and Water Conservation District; Department of Ecology; Palouse Land Trust; PNW Direct Seed Association; Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife; Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Washington State University; University of Idaho; Nez Perce Tribe; Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute

Resource challenge

Loss of native wildlife habitat, poor soil health, and water quality degraded by high temperatures, nutrients, and sediments threaten local wildlife and aquatic species in the Palouse watershed and listed anadromous fish species of the Snake River. The Palouse Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) was formed to work across the watershed to more effectively address these



Financial assistance provided to landowners from RCPP supports conservation tillage, cover crops, and precision agriculture. Photo by Stephen Johnson

MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Connect producers interested in cover crops through a series of cover crop symposiums planned for 2018, 2019, and 2020.
- ▶ Increase awareness of the district's Cultural Resources Program to help partners increase capacity to implement more conservation projects throughout eastern Washington.
- ▶ Expand financial and technical assistance for producers interested in cover crops and precision agriculture.