



# SOUTH DOUGLAS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Coordinator: Carol Cowling Board Chair: Eddie Greer  
206 N Chelan Ave, Waterville, WA 98858  
(509) 745-9160 | carol.cowling@gmail.com | www.southdouglascd.org  
Legislative District: 12 Congressional District: 4

## Other accomplishments:



Provided cost-share for fire recovery projects, such as replacing fencing destroyed in 2015 wildfires.



Installed micro-sprinklers in local cherry orchard to increase irrigation efficiency using cost-share dollars.



Installed cattle guard to help control animal movement using cost-share.

## 2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

### FIREWISE COST-SHARE PROJECT MITIGATES WILDFIRE RISK

#### Resource challenge

A local landowner had an eight-acre forest in East Wenatchee. This unique piece of property provides green space, wildlife habitat, and privacy in a developed residential neighborhood. However, the trees and vegetation were overgrown and presented a potential wildfire hazard.

#### Project summary and results

South Douglas Conservation District assisted the landowner by providing cost-share for projects to reduce the fuel load and improve the health of the plants. Trees were thinned, which allowed sunlight to access the forest floor. Lower tree limbs and dead branches were removed and will reduce wildfire impact should a fire ignite. This work will help protect the landowner's property and the neighborhood.

**Key partners:** Washington State Conservation Commission



Left: Before the Firewise project, overgrown trees and branches on the property presented a potential wildfire risk to the landowner and surrounding neighborhood. Right: After the Firewise project, thinning of trees and branches creates defensible space and reduces wildfire fuels.

## MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Continue to develop Firewise Program in Douglas County, and increase awareness of fire risks and prevention.
- ▶ Assist landowners with cost-share projects and technical support for rural and urban cooperators.
- ▶ Provide education and outreach programs for all citizens.