



SOUTH YAKIMA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Manager: Laurie Crowe Board Chair: Dirk Van Slageren
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Legislative District: 14, 15 Congressional District: 4

Other accomplishments:



Salmon in the Classroom, Water on Wheels, and Wheat Week reached 2,272 students and 115 teachers from six schools. Photo by Rachel Little



Co-hosted a nutrient management workshop that provided producers with tools to improve nutrient management. Photo by Rodney Heit



Completed a 10-year report on the first operating dairy digester in eastern Washington (funded through the WSDA Energy Freedom Program). Photo by Andgar Corporation

2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

"RANGE 12" FIRE BURNS THOUSANDS OF RANGELAND ACRES



The "Range 12" fire burned around 176,000 acres of rangeland in Yakima and Benton Counties. Photo by BLM Fire Fighters-InciWeb

Resource challenge

The Range 12 fire burned a large area of grazing and rangeland and most of the fencing for one rancher in our area. The South Yakima Conservation District (SYCD) was approached to provide cost-share assistance to repair and replace approximately 172 miles of owned/leased interior and boundary fencing. As a first step, it was extremely important to replace

the northern boundary fence to keep cattle in the grazing area. SYCD received cost-share from the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) Fire Recovery Program to replace six miles of fence.

Project summary and results

Our biggest challenge was to complete this project — from start to finish — by the end of the state fiscal year. Thankfully, the SCC and their governing board quickly approved the project. Staff from our partners at Cascadia Conservation District worked diligently to submit a cultural resources survey for approval by May 2017 so the project could move forward. After receiving additional approval from the Washington DNR, the project began. Working as quickly as possible, we installed 4.5 miles of fencing before the project was stopped due to high temperatures that presented a fire hazard. In the end, the rancher was very thankful with what we completed!



New fencing installed on the northern border of project area. Photo by SYCD

Key partners: Landowners; Cascadia Conservation District; Washington State Conservation Commission; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Yakama Nation; Washington DNR

MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Implement the Voluntary Stewardship Program work plan to enhance sustainable agriculture while protecting and enhancing critical areas.
- ▶ Continue to provide educational workshops for dairies and local growers on the importance of soil health, nutrient management, and irrigation water management.
- ▶ Provide technical assistance to implement the Groundwater Advisory Plan to reduce nitrates in the groundwater.