



# STEVENS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Administrator: Dean Hellie Board Chair: Andy Kroiss  
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Legislative District: 7 Congressional District: 5

## Other accomplishments:



Firewise outreach - Youth at a 4H event learning how to exit a house during a fire and protect the house from a wildfire.



Streambank stabilization on the Colville River will reduce sediment and protect productive agricultural ground.



Senator Short presenting awards at the State Forestry Contest held in Stevens County.

## 2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

### STEVENS COUNTY FIRE RECOVERY



Landowner on Marble Valley Fire planted 1,000 Western larch and Ponderosa pine seedlings on five acres. Photo by SCCD

#### Resource challenge

2015 was one of the worst wildfire years for Stevens County. There were over 100 brush and forest fires. The two largest encompassed over 75,000 acres and impacted around 300 small private landowners. The majority of the rest of the fires were from five to 300 acres, predominately on private lands. The loss of timber, grass, and fencing was devastating. And, the loss of ground cover on steep slopes increased the risk of further losses and damage to private lands.

#### Project summary and results

After the fires, Stevens County Conservation District (SCCD) received requests for assistance from over 60 private landowners. SCCD made site visits and provided technical information on restoration and protection measures. Twenty landowners completed fire recovery cost-share projects using state funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission.



Landowner on Carpenter Road Fire replaced .75 mile fence. "Good fences make for good neighbors" - M. Newbill. Photo by SCCD

With this funding, SCCD was able to partner with landowners to: plant 64,000 trees; apply three tons of grass seed to 240 acres; treat 385 acres with woody residue using dead trees and brush to prevent soil erosion; rebuild 3.2 miles of fence; restore 8.8 miles of road, and; restore an irrigation system.

**Key partners:** Washington State Conservation Commission; Landowners; Department of Natural Resources; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Berrigan Forrestry

## MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Fire recovery and prevention through education, technical assistance, and implementation.
- ▶ Flood management and steambank stabilization.
- ▶ Education and outreach on agricultural practices and impacts to water quality and critical areas.