



PALOUSE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1615 NE Eastgate Blvd. Suite H, Pullman, WA 99163 509-332-4101

April 20, 2018

On behalf of the Whitman County conservation districts (Palouse CD, Palouse-Rock Lake CD, Pine Creek CD, and Whitman CD), I would like to invite you to participate in a field tour featuring projects in Whitman County on Tuesday, May 15, from 12:30-5:30 p.m. This tour is being held prior to the Conservation Commission annual planning session on Wednesday, May 16, and the Conservation Commission regular business meeting on Thursday, May 17 in Pullman, WA.

We will look at projects implemented in Whitman County through the Palouse Regional Conservation Partnership (RCPP). The Partners of the Palouse RCPP have leveraged federal, state, and local funds to implement over \$4.8 million in conservation practices since 2015. These funds have helped landowners implement 105 acres of streamside vegetation to protect water quality and 21,108 acres of conservation tillage to reduce erosion and improve soil health. Together, local communities, landowners, and partners are increasing soil health, water quality, and habitat on the Palouse while preserving prime farmland to ensure that the lands of the Palouse remain healthy for generations to come. The tour will highlight the power of partnerships to amplify conservation efforts on the Palouse:

Pioneer Stock Farm – Alkali Flat Creek – Department of Ecology funds and Washington State University Extension support were combined for conservation activities that include: livestock management, riparian plantings, direct seed, and cover crop trials.

Monitoring Partnership– Kamiache Creek – Landowners are working with Palouse RCPP partners including CDs, Department of Ecology, Washington State Conservation Commission, Washington State University, and University of Idaho to support local monitoring efforts to measure the effectiveness of tillage practices on water quality. Farmed Smart certified producers showcase conservation efforts.

Steptoe Butte – Overview of Palouse landscape and Palouse RCPP conservation efforts. Enjoy a spectacular view of the Palouse and learn about partnerships to protect and restore native Palouse prairie vegetation.

Farnsworth – Dry Creek – Washington State Conservation Commission RCPP cost share used to implement riparian planting, livestock fencing, watering, and wildlife habitat.

Oakesdale Bridge –Spring Creek – Bridge removal, stream restoration.

Each site is fairly accessible, but comfortable walking shoes are recommended. As always, be prepared for unpredictable spring weather on the Palouse!

The field tour will be followed by a no-host interactive dinner meeting with the Conservation Commission at Banyans on the Ridge in Pullman. Cost is \$23 per person at the door or you may send payment ahead of time to the Palouse CD Office at 1615 NE Eastgate Blvd, Suite H, Pullman, WA 99163.

We hope that you or a member of your organization will be able to participate in this tour. To help us plan transportation and notify the restaurant of attendees, we would appreciate your response by May 8, letting us know whether or not you will be able to accept our invitation. Please use this RSVP link to reserve your seat: <https://www.formstack.com/forms/?2853946-5w8z5tM1mS> or you may contact our office by phone at 509-332-4101 x 101 or by email at PCD@PalouseCD.org.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Boie

Director, Palouse Conservation District