



Adams Conservation District

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Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments



Hosted North Central Area Meeting.



Our fair booth displayed common conservation practices and their benefits, such as rangeland livestock watering facilities.



Provided funding for operator to convert to reduced tillage through the WRIA 34 Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

2018 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Cow Creek Wetlands Water Monitoring Project



Retention structure on Cow Creek above water monitoring locations.

Resource Challenge

Water availability is a resource challenge on Cow Creek. There are places on the creek where water is limited or nonexistent during low precipitation years, which limits landowner water right usage. Lack of water also disconnects floodplains from the stream, reducing wetland wildlife habitat and sub-irrigation. Landowners are looking for ways to improve water availability and habitat, so they contacted our district and Ducks Unlimited for assistance.

Project Summary and Results

All partners believe using retention structures along the creek to capture water during high flow and then strategically releasing it could potentially, 1) increase surface and groundwater availability, 2) increase stream side, wetland and grassland habitat, and 3) improve water quality. A pilot project was implemented to monitor water levels and temperature in the stream and floodplain below an active retention structure. Visual assessment of habitat development and wildlife presence will also be monitored to help determine if the strategic use of retention structures improves water availability.



One of several floodplain areas that could be inundated during high flow to create waterfowl habitat.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission

Priorities for 2019...

- ▶ Provide operators with assistance to implement reduced tillage practices and install livestock and wildlife watering facilities.
- ▶ Work with partners to find funding to help landowners improve streamside and wetland habitat.
- ▶ Expand outreach efforts to educate and support our community and operators' needs.