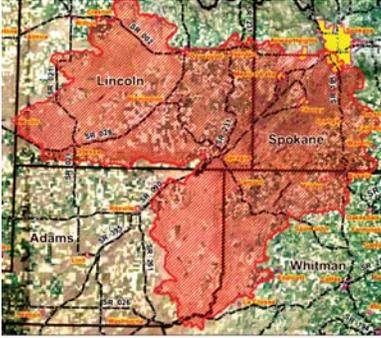




Lincoln County Conservation District

District Manager: Elsa Bowen Board Chair: Mike Carstensen
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Legislative District: 13 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments



Provided financial incentives to assist landowners within the Channeled Scablands Cooperative Weed Management Area (see map) with noxious weed control and prevention.



Planted over 870 native plants with the City of Davenport along state highway 25. Photo by Val Vissia



Lincoln County Voluntary Stewardship Plan (VSP) was approved in April. LCCD is the lead for VSP in Lincoln County. Photo by Marlena Falk

2018 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Sage-Grouse and Fire: Unique Wildfire Reduction Program

Resource Challenge

Lightning, recreation, and equipment ignite around seven wildfires per year in Lincoln County. To mitigate wildfire risk, Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD) launched an effort to assist landowners with creating fuel breaks (strips of land where flammable vegetation is removed or reduced). Fuel breaks could help protect landowners' property, protect sage-grouse habitat in the 22,000 acre Swanson Lake Wildlife Area, and improve access for firefighters. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) agreed to cover 100 percent of project costs, but more outreach was needed to engage landowners. Meanwhile, the fires kept coming.

Project Summary and Results

When LCCD engaged the first landowner to create several miles of fuel break, the project served as a catalyst for more participation. Other landowners saw that not only is sage-grouse habitat being protected, but having large amounts of sagebrush removed along roads and fence lines makes it easier to maintain fences, provide more grazing for cattle, and create defensible space for their property. As of June 2018, LCCD has successfully created eight miles of fuel breaks and is waiting for funding to complete three more miles. The BLM now plans to fund 17 more miles in this area.

Key Partners

BLM; private landowners; agricultural producers; Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife; Lincoln County Road Department; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; volunteer fire departments



Before (left) and after (right) removal of sagebrush, which created a roadside fuel break.

Priorities for 2019...

- ▶ Secure fire resiliency funding needed for home assessments, project implementation, education and outreach, and administrative costs.
- ▶ Provide cost share for five landowners currently waiting for wildfire fuel reduction funding.