



Stevens County Conservation District

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Legislative District: 7 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments



Hosted a pre-permit meeting for a landowner's flood control habitat enhancement project.



Sponsored "Big Tree" contest and auction where youth learn about forestry and raise money for their organization. Pictured Panorama 4 Paws 4H group with 3rd place tree purchased by Columbia Cedar.



Installed floating wetlands. The logs break waves, which reduces shoreline erosion. Plants will be harvested, removing phosphorus from Lake Spokane. Photo by Charlie Kessler

2018 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Eastern Washington Forestry Internship Program

Resource Challenge

The local natural resource industry is struggling to find motivated, career-minded employees. At the same time, area youth ages 16-24 face barriers to employment. Stevens County Conservation District joined with partners to provide an opportunity for youth to explore the forestry industry through a Forestry Internship Program.

Project Summary and Results

The Forestry Internship Program combines STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) with career readiness training so that our youth are prepared to step into living-wage jobs in the forestry industry. Youth were offered 90-hour paid experiences working in the forestry and natural resource fields with local industry and agencies, such as the Stevens County Noxious Weed Board, Little Pend Oreille Wildlife Refuge, National Forest Service, Columbia Cedar, and Boise Cascade. In addition, they were paid 32 hours to conduct a FieldSTEM™ investigation supervised by Stevens County Conservation District. Youth presented research findings from this investigation to a group of local community members. This program is available in Stevens, Ferry, and Pend Oreille counties in 2018 and 2019.

Key Partners

Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (funding); Rural Resources; Workforce Development Council; Washington STEM; Colville National Forest; Boise Cascade; Colville School District



Left: Rick from Boise Cascade works with two interns to determine the age of a Douglas Fir tree. Right: Interns analyze the forest soil profile. Photos by Dana Bowers



Priorities for 2019...

- ▶ Flood prevention and protection of farm ground and structures: Over 10 landowners have contacted the District to request assistance for stream channel maintenance and streambank stabilization to protect farm ground and structures. Assistance is needed for developing plans, funding, and working through the permit process.
- ▶ Forest health and forest fuels reduction.