



# Palouse News



## Keep Cover Crops on Your Radar!

The Palouse Conservation District is excited to announce that we have received a soil health grant from the Washington State Soil Health Committee focusing on cover cropping. The overarching goal of the grant is to connect producers on the Palouse that are currently running cover crop and grazing trials or utilizing cover crops as alternative cropping systems. The idea is to provide a forum for discussion and education through a series of cover crop symposiums. Lovina Englund and Ryan Boylan are planning to hold the first symposium in January 2018 and two more to follow in the winters of 2019 and 2020. A planning committee has been formed and includes local producers, conservation district employees, extension agents, members of the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association, and employees from NRCS. Once the committee has a date for the first symposium finalized we will be sure to let you know. Please contact **Ryan** ([ryanb@palousecd.org](mailto:ryanb@palousecd.org)) or **Lovina** ([lovina@palousecd.org](mailto:lovina@palousecd.org)) if you have any input in regards to producers, researchers, or topics that you would like to learn more about. We hope to see you this winter!

## Fire Recovery Program Takes the Heat Off of Landowner Pocketbooks

The 2016 Snake River Fire came through southern Whitman County with a force, damaging and destroying many miles of fences on private property. Fence replacement is a huge expense, but an important one to make sure that livestock are staying where they belong and helping producers manage their pasture rotations to sustain healthy rangelands and maintain viable agricultural operations.

The state legislature provided \$6.8 million to address pressing resource concerns on lands impacted by wildfires during the 2014-2016 fire season. The Fire Recovery Program funds, administered by the Washington Conservation Commission, allows Conservation Districts to work directly with cooperators to identify fire-related losses and implement approved projects. Under the program, the Palouse Conservation District was able to help offset the financial burden of fence replacement for three producers.

Building fence on the breaks of the Snake River is not a job for the feeble person – this canyon country is tough and the terrain unrelenting. Roads are few and far between making access difficult and getting fencing materials in even harder. Some did the work themselves and others hired contractors. One producer resorted to hiring a skilled horse packing contractor to get concrete, posts, braces, and wire rolls into difficult access areas. All these factors make fencing very expensive and time intensive.

Getting these emergency funds to the people in our district is just one way that we at PCD continue to serve local conservation needs in our community. Contact Lovina Englund, Agricultural Resources Coordinator, with questions about agricultural and livestock projects, [lovina@palousecd.org](mailto:lovina@palousecd.org) or 509-332-4101 x 103.



*Francisco Perez with FP Fence takes a break from building fence above steep draw*

### Thank you to our RCPP Sponsors for making out tour a great success!

The support from PNW farmers Co-op, Northwest farm credit services, Hyperspud sports, Helena Chemicals, Ott Hydromet/Sutron, and Buy Local Moscow allowed us to have South Fork Public House cater our event, putting money back into our local economy!



*Ryan rocks the crowd*

**STOP**

OR

**PROCEED**

...with confidence, an MOU, and quite possibly the best archaeological services ever!

Palouse CD Archaeology Staff:

**Jon Meyer**  
JonM@PalouseCD.org  
(509)710-2080 (cell)

**Susan Ellis**  
Susan.E@PalouseCD.org  
(509)338-0990 (cell)

**DON'T DIG WITHOUT CLEARANCE**

**Cultural Resources**

Washington State Executive Order 05-05 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act require a qualified archaeologist's clearance prior to ground disturbance. Failure to do so may result in project disqualification.

Palouse Conservation District  
Since 1940

1615 NE Eastgate Blvd., Suite H  
Pullman, Wash. 99163  
(509)332-4101



## A Mid-term board seat on the Palouse Conservation District is available

for appointment by the Palouse Conservation District Board of Supervisors and the Washington State Conservation Commission from September 2017 to May 2019. Conservation district board supervisors are public officials who serve without compensation and set policy and direction for the conservation district. An applicant must be a registered voter in the Palouse Conservation District, and may be required to own land or operate a farm. Mid-Term Application Form (available upon webpage at [palousecd.org](http://palousecd.org)), resume (2-page max.), and supporting materials must be submitted to the Palouse Conservation District office no later than August 31, 2017.

### The following skills, qualifications, and expectations will be consistently required of any candidate seeking a board position:

- a) Willingness and ability to work and communicate effectively with a team;
- b) Willingness to fully participate in board discussions and decisions in open, public meetings;
- c) Willingness and ability to be respectful of Staff and other Supervisors;
- d) Functional knowledge of Conservation Districts;
- e) Willingness and ability to meet all Supervisor requirements set forth in appropriate Board of Supervisors policies;
- f) Willingness and ability to participate in various leadership roles, if needed, such as special committees or board officer position;
- g) Willingness and ability to represent the District to other public entities and policymakers upon request of the board;
- h) Willingness and ability to complete a Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission) orientation within 90 days of assuming office;
- i) Willingness and ability to complete the Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Management training within 90 days of assuming office;
- j) Having a basic working knowledge of email and internet; and,
- k) Willing and able to serve the best interest of the citizens of the District and County, with the ability to put aside personal issues and grievances.



### **Continued Conservation with RCPP**

Since June 30, 2015, the Partners of the Palouse Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) have provided \$4,851,122 in benefits to soil health, water quality, and habitat in the Palouse watershed. These funds have in part helped landowners implement 105 acres of riparian buffer acres and 21,108 acres of conservation tillage. In addition, nine incredible conservation stewards have become Farmed Smart certified, and a greater number of additional producers are interested in becoming certified. The RCPP has had another successful round of applicants looking to do conservation work in the Palouse River watershed. We have over 25 applicants interested in conservation tillage on over 12,000 acres, installing riparian buffers on 80 acres, and other possible projects that include habitat enhancements, windbreaks, and alternative crops. Over the next few months, planners will be working closely with landowners to outline their current and future conservation goals, and projects will be financed based on available funds, and prioritized depending on how they benefit water quality, soil health, and habitat.

Please contact your local conservation district if you are interested in learning more about this program. If you missed our last sign-up but are interested in applying, we will continue to accept new applicants for the next funding cycle until Spring of 2018.



**Palouse Conservation District**  
**1615 NE Eastgate Blvd. Section H**  
**Pullman, WA 99163**

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### Be sure to visit our webpage!

Though our webpage has undergone many changes, our address remains the same! Take a peek at **[www.palousecd.org](http://www.palousecd.org)**.

If you would like to switch to our e-newsletter, please add your email address to our contact list by visiting our webpage, calling the district, or sending an email to [pcd@palousecd.org](mailto:pcd@palousecd.org)!

*Palouse Conservation District has cost-share available for projects that improve soil health, reduce erosion, improve grazing lands, establish or enhance native vegetation, restore riparian areas, improve wildlife habitat...*

**Protect valuable natural resources and improve your land and/or operation**

*Projects must meet NRCS standards and specs*

**Call today to start a cost-share application (509)332-4101**

The Board of Supervisors meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (call or check our website for meeting time/location)

#### **Board of Supervisors**

Larry Cochran, Chair (1990)  
Chris Heitstuman (1998)  
Keith Kopf (1997)  
Mark Whitmore (1998)  
Joan Folwell (2010)

#### **Associate Board Members**

Greg Jones (1992)

#### **District Staff**

Jennifer Boie, District Administrator  
Laura Heinse, Conservation Partnership Manager  
Bradley Johnson, WRIA 35 Watershed Manager  
Pam Furchtenicht, Administrative Coordinator  
Randy Stevens, CREP Coordinator  
Drew Schuldt, Natural Resource Coordinator  
Jodi Prout, Education and Outreach Specialist  
Tami Stubbs, Conservation Ag & Farmed Smart Coordinator  
Janesse Julson, Conservation Planner  
Ryan Boylan, Research and Monitoring Coordinator  
Lovina Englund, Agriculture Resources Coordinator  
Andrea Watts, Research and Monitoring Technician  
Bryana Cope, Field Crew Lead  
Susan Ellis, Archaeologist  
Jon Meyer, Archaeologist  
Stephen Johnson, RCPP Coordinator  
James Riser, Botanist