

Palouse Pulse

Quarterly newsletter of Palouse Conservation District · Winter 2020

Local solutions for your conservation goals

YEAR-TO-DATE



68

cost share agreements
signed by landowners



40

Acres of riparian buffers
completed



12,665

Acres of conservation
tillage implemented



35,000+

Native trees and shrubs
planted

Look to the Future: A New Long Range Plan for PCD

JENNIFER BOIE, DIRECTOR

Palouse CD is celebrating 80 years of serving the community as a local resource for land managers in Whitman County! Our Long Range Plan serves as the road map on how we respond to community needs, and this year, we are releasing a new plan to guide us for 2020-2025. The work of Palouse CD is community driven and we have been hard at work collecting community input as the foundation.

The majority of community input has come through participation in our Annual Meetings over the past 3 years. During these meetings, we collected input from attendees to better understand the vision that the community has for how Palouse CD can better meet local natural resources conservation needs. Following community input, Palouse CD staff participated in work sessions to build goals to best meet conservation needs and determine measures of success to monitor our progress in reaching conservation goals. In February, the Palouse CD Board of Supervisors held a work session to review and finalize the content of the Long Range Plan for 2020-2025.

Mission

Fostering the voluntary conservation of natural resources by providing the tools, education, technical expertise, and financial assistance to support our local community.

Vision

Be the trusted resource for voluntary conservation of natural resources resulting in healthy ecosystems.

Guiding Values

Community driven · Wise use of natural resources · Quality education and technical assistance · Collaborative approaches for problem solving to reach conservation goals · Local government that is responsive & responsible · Efficient and effective use of public resources · Alignment of land manager goals with conservation needs · Respect all voices and perspectives · Trust through transparent communication · Be of service to our community

Top priority natural resource conservation areas identified include:

1. Soil Health and Erosion Reduction
2. Water Quality (all sources)
3. Replenishing the Landscape (habitat, vegetation, prairie, pollinators, aesthetics)

Additional priority natural resource conservation areas include:

Climate Change · Urban Development (protection of habitat and working lands) · Small Acreage Issues · Invasive Species Control · Anadromous Fish Recovery and Aquatic Passage · Air Quality · Energy Conservation

To see the full Long Range Plan, head to our website at www.PalouseCD.org.

We are honored to be your trusted partner in the voluntary conservation of natural resources and we are committed to continue building our programs and services based on your input and vision for the Palouse! Thank you for sharing your vision for the future of Palouse CD as we celebrate 80 years of serving the community and look forward to many more!

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CHRIS HEITSTUMAN, Vice-Chair

MARY COLLINS

SHILO SPROUSE

SHERYL HAGEN-ZAKARISON

Palouse CD Staff

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Conservation Coordinator

AUDREY MARTINEZ

AmeriCorps Education/Outreach &
Restoration Technician

BRADLEY JOHNSON

Middle Snake Watershed Manager/VSP

CAILIN O'MALLEY

Conservation Intern

CAITLIN HINRICHS

Special Projects Coordinator

DREW SCHULDT

Conservation Coordinator

ELIZABETH SEBO

Education & Outreach Specialist

ERICA JANSEN

AmeriCorps Education/Outreach &
Restoration Technician

GARRETT LACIVITIA

Conservation Planner

JOSHUA JOHNSON

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JODI PROUT

Education & Outreach Coordinator

NICK HARRIS

Research & Monitoring Specialist

PATRICK WALLIN

Resource Conservation Technician

RANDY STEVENS

Conservation Coordinator

RYAN BOYLAN

Research & Monitoring Coordinator

SHELLEY SCOTT

Finance & Administration Manager

STEPHANIE HARPER

Conservation Coordinator

TAMI STUBBS

Conservation Coordinator

TERI RENEE

Finance Specialist

Palouse Conservation District

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday January 19th | 6:00-7:00 PM

Online presentation via Zoom



Join our Palouse Conservation District Staff and Board
for a presentation on the conservation highlights from 2020
and our plans for helping our community
meet conservation goals in 2021.

Register at PalouseCD.org

*Palouse Conservation District's mission is to foster
the voluntary conservation of natural resources by providing
the tools, education, technical expertise, and financial assistance
to support our local community.*



SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Garrett LaCivita

Seeking candidates for Palouse CD Board of Supervisors

Candidate filing due January 9, 2021

Find out more information at www.PalouseCD.org

Supervisors are public officials who direct the activities of the conservation district. Although they serve without compensation, they are eligible to be reimbursed for appropriate expenses. Candidates must be registered voters residing in the conservation district, and may be required to own land or operate a farm.

**Interested candidates can file by contacting:
ShelleyS@PalouseCD.org or (509) 332-4101, option 9**

REQUEST A BALLOT

**A mail-in election for a
board seat on the PCD
Board of Supervisors
will be held on
February 9, 2021.**

*Registered voters who reside within
the Palouse Conservation District
boundary
are eligible to vote.*

*Ballots are available upon request for
eligible voters, but must be
requested on or before
4:00 PM on January 19, 2021.*

Please contact the District office
at (509) 332-4101, option 9 or
request a ballot at
[www.palousecd.org/board-
elections-and-appointments](http://www.palousecd.org/board-elections-and-appointments).



PALOUSE

Pulse

Palouse Pulse Podcast keeps locals informed

Keep informed with local conservation work with the Palouse Pulse podcast. The premise of the podcast is to shed light and bring awareness to the local conservation programs being carried out by the District. Programs work towards the enhancement of our water and soil quality, by implementing best management practices that promote the protection of water quality and quantity for humans and wildlife.

Podcasts feature accounts from Palouse CD staff and board members, as well as local landowners and community members who are dedicated to the conservation of natural resources on the Palouse. Landowners share the challenges and successes on projects, as well as provide perspective on where they see the future of conservation headed.

Palouse Pulse was produced by Alison Crowley, AmeriCorps member serving with Palouse CD. All six episodes of the podcast are current available at www.palousecd.org/palouse-pulse-podcast.



A Grande Ronde-vous of Water Resource Literacy on the Palouse

PCD awarded competitive EPA Environmental Education Grant

ELIZABETH SEBO, EDUCATION & OUTREACH SPECIALIST

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected Palouse Conservation District to receive funding under the EPA's Environmental Education Grant Program. Through a combination of community projects and agricultural education, the District will use the grant to create new opportunities for students and community members to engage with the water quality and quantity issues present in the Palouse River Watershed. Palouse Conservation District was one of just four organizations chosen to receive this grant in the EPA's Region 10 in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska.



The District plans to utilize the \$100,000 grant to develop new opportunities for K-12 students to experience hands-on water quality and conservation programming in the virtual classroom and out in the field. The grant also aids the facilitation of District-led backyard water conservation workshops, demonstrations, and volunteer projects for community members, as well as the creation of a citizen science watershed monitoring program along the South and North Fork of the Palouse River.

The District will work in close partnership with community organizations and entities to implement education initiatives including Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC), the City of Pullman, the City of Palouse, Washington State University, and Pullman and Garfield-Palouse School Districts, as well as many other non-profit or government agencies.

Palouse CD has also awarded \$5,000 in subawards to the following organizations pursuing local water conservation measures or resource literacy initiatives: Palouse Discovery Science Center, Phoenix Conservancy, Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee, and Washington State University School of the Environment. Initiatives include enhancing Palouse pocket prairies in Pullman, water festival at Rose Creek Preserve, and a rebate program focused in rural Whitman County.

No one knows your land better than you

Share your agricultural stewardship with the Voluntary Stewardship Program

BRADLEY JOHNSON, MIDDLE SNAKE WATERSHED MANAGER

The Whitman County Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) sincerely thanks the 73 Whitman County landowners who have taken the time to tell their story through the VSP Action Map, documenting stewardship strategies that protect and restore critical natural resource areas.

As an alternative to the Growth Management Act, VSP is **an innovative approach for reporting the protection of critical areas**, such as highly erodible lands, wetlands, frequently flooded areas, and fish and wild habitat, on agriculture lands. VSP works under the assumption that complex environmental problems can be solved through voluntary cooperation. The program hopes to demonstrate that voluntary stewardship works in Whitman County, while also **promoting the viability of agriculture**. Participating in VSP reduces regulation and maintains local control and more certainty, gives landowners more flexibility in solving problems, and promotes a positive image of agriculture. Many producers are taking action to help protect these areas, without realizing it. Stewardship strategies might include:

- Tillage management plan using a no till, direct seed or single pass system
- Pest management practice, including weed control
- Nutrient management practice: soil or plant tissue tests
- Managed grazing
- Conservation crop rotation
- Cover crops
- Permanent conservation vegetative cover
- Planting vegetation to stabilize eroding land
- Grassed waterways or streambank protection
- Tree or shrub establishment
- Wildlife management in wetlands or upland habitat
- Livestock fencing

We need your help to tell the story that voluntary stewardship can protect critical areas. VSP is the story book. Landowners, farmers and ranchers are the story tellers. Any information you report will be reported at a watershed scale, keeping all landowner contact information private. You may choose to have your stewardship actions public or private but all personal information remains confidential.

Reporting is right at your fingertips! Share your story of stewardship at **WhitmanCountyVSP.com** or call **Bradley Johnson at (509) 553-1841**.



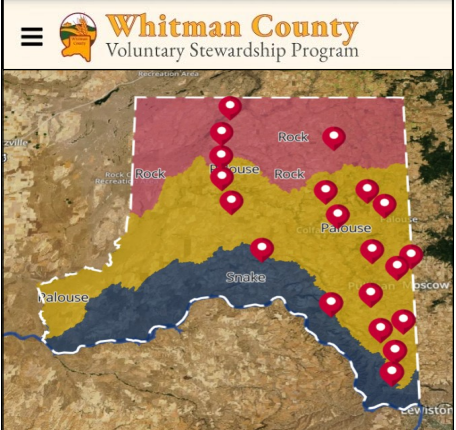
The Whitman County VSP Work Plan was adopted in 2017 by the VSP Work Group, which includes agriculture, environmental, and other stakeholders in Whitman County. The Work Group oversees the Work Plan implementation, which can be found at WhitmanCountyVSP.com.



**Reporting is right
at your fingertips!**

Share your stewardship at
WhitmanCountyVSP.com

www.WhitmanCountyVSP.com



All information will remain confidential

**Looking to add more
stewardship practices to your
property?**

**We can help! Contact your
local agency for assistance:**

Palouse CD

Palouse Rock Lake CD

Pine Creek CD

Whitman CD

Cattlemen's Association

***We are here to help meet
your stewardship goals.***

FUNDING AWARDED TO REDUCE TOXICS IN PALOUSE RIVER WATERSHED

PCD focuses on surface water monitoring as part of the Columbia River Basin Funding Assistance Program

RYAN BOYLAN, RESEARCH AND MONITORING COORDINATOR



In partnership with Washington State Department of Agriculture, EPA Region 10's Manchester Environmental Laboratory, and Clean Harbors, PCD has been awarded competitive EPA funding for surface water monitoring of pesticides, waste pesticide collection, and outreach to producers within the Palouse River and Yakima River watersheds.

These grants are the first from the Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program which was established by Congress in 2016, as an amendment to the Clean Water Act, in part to reduce toxics that have long affected the health of the waters throughout the

basin. It established both a Funding Assistance Program and a working group made up of state governments, tribal governments, industry representatives, and others.

Human activities have significantly altered the Columbia River Basin's ecosystem where dozens of local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, universities, conservation districts, community groups, and NGOs have spent decades mitigating impacts on fish and wildlife. The Palouse and Yakima watersheds have been chosen because each is a unique agricultural production region in Washington and are located, upstream from critical habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed species. Sampling will look for more than 150 legacy and currently used pesticides, including DDT and its breakdown products.


Under the Clean Water Act, water quality is addressed by reducing pollution, including toxics that can accumulate in water, sediment, and fish tissues. Tribal people and other populations who rely on fish for a substantial portion of their diet can be particularly affected by pollution in the basin.

Have you ever wanted to know more about what goes into producing crops or raising livestock sustainably on the Palouse?

Then join us **Thursday, January 7th at 6:00 pm** for our next installment of the Conservation Talk Series!

Tami Stubbs, Palouse CD Conservation Coordinator and local producer, will provide an introduction to the agricultural systems of the Palouse region and some of the conservation practices that farmers, ranchers and landowners are implementing to protect and enhance the working lands of the Palouse.

This event is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. For more information and to register, please visit palousecd.org/conservation-talk-series.



PCD CONSERVATION TALK SERIES

CONSERVATION AG 101



PROTECTING THE PALOUSE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7TH AT 6:00 PM

JOIN TAMI STUBBS, CONSERVATION COORDINATOR FOR THE PALOUSE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, AS SHE PROVIDES AN INTRODUCTION TO THE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS OF THE PALOUSE.

This talk is free and open to the public. It will be hosted via Zoom.

To register, please visit:
www.PalouseCD.org/Conservation-Talk-Series



JOIN PALOUSE CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR

SOIL HEALTH

SIT DOWN

*Promoting healthy soils
and profitable farming*

Pour yourself a cup of coffee and
join us virtually!

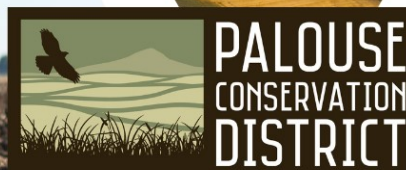
January 20, 2021
February 17, 2021
7:00 - 8:00am

Register now at [PalouseCD.org/
Soil-Health-Sit-Down](https://PalouseCD.org/Soil-Health-Sit-Down)

A monthly conversation with producers, industry
professionals, and researchers about soil health.

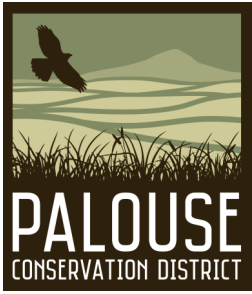
This producer-driven event is to encourage dialogue
surrounding cover crops, companion crops, and
alternative cropping systems on the Palouse.

Raffle items will be given away to those in attendance.



Thank You Sponsors





Local solutions for your conservation goals.

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Pullman, WA 99163
(509) 332-4101
PalouseCD.org

In response to the COVID-19, the PCD office is closed to the public.

Our staff are working remotely and ready to help you. Visit PalouseCD.org for contact information or call (509) 332-4101.

Upcoming Events

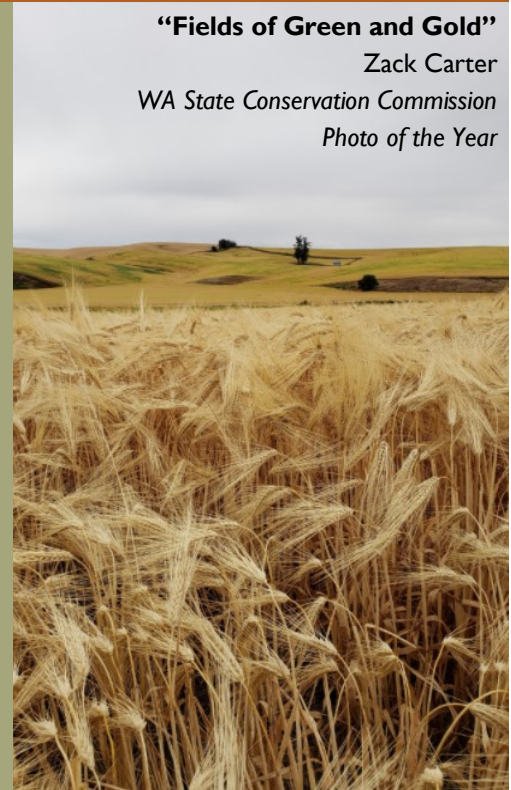
- January 7 Conservation Ag 101: Protecting the Palouse | 6:00p**
Conservation Talk Series via Zoom, Register at www.PalouseCD.org
- 10 Palouse CD Tree Sale Pre-Orders Due**
- 12 Palouse CD Board Meeting | 6:00p**
Microsoft Teams, Link at www.PalouseCD.org
- 19 Palouse CD Annual Meeting | 6:00-7:00p**
Zoom, Register at www.PalouseCD.org
- 20 Soil Health Sit Down | 7:00-8:00a**
Zoom, Register at www.PalouseCD.org/Soil-Health-Sit-Down
- February 4 Everyday Water Conservation | 6:00p**
Conservation Talk Series via Zoom, Register at www.PalouseCD.org
- 17 Soil Health Sit Down | 7:00-8:00a**
Zoom, Register at www.PalouseCD.org/Soil-Health-Sit-Down
- March 11 Composting for Farms and Gardens | 6:00p**
Conservation Talk Series via Zoom, Register at www.PalouseCD.org

"Fields of Green and Gold"

Zack Carter

WA State Conservation Commission

Photo of the Year



Be a conservation hero! Sign-up for our newsletter at PalouseCD.org