



A quarterly newsletter produced and distributed by the Palouse Conservation District— bringing you news and updates on conservation efforts within SE Whitman County

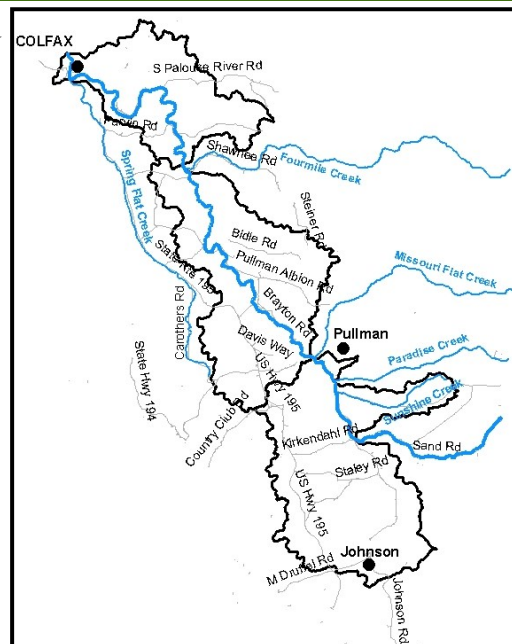
Palouse News

NRCS Announces Water Quality Conservation in South Fork Palouse River Watershed

Washington State Conservationist Roylene Rides at the Door launched the National Water Quality Initiative on May 9th. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide funding to landowners in selected watersheds (see map) within the South Fork Palouse River watershed in Whitman County.

Initiative will be to treat pollutants from agricultural operations, through voluntary landowner participation in conservation activities. Through this effort, eligible producers in the South Fork Palouse River watershed will invest in voluntary conservation practices to help provide cleaner water for their neighbors and communities.

The NRCS, Colfax office and Palouse Conservation District will be accepting applications for funding consideration. Applications must be received by **June 15, 2012**. Please telephone PCD at 509-332-4101 for more information. To view a more detailed map of the project areas please visit our website at www.palousecd.org.



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for a way to get involved with your local watershed this summer? The Palouse Conservation District has the following volunteer opportunities available this summer:

- Tree and shrub planting
- Watering native trees and shrubs
- Weed control
- Restoration site maintenance

Please contact Drew at 509-332-4101 or drews@palousecd.org to get involved.



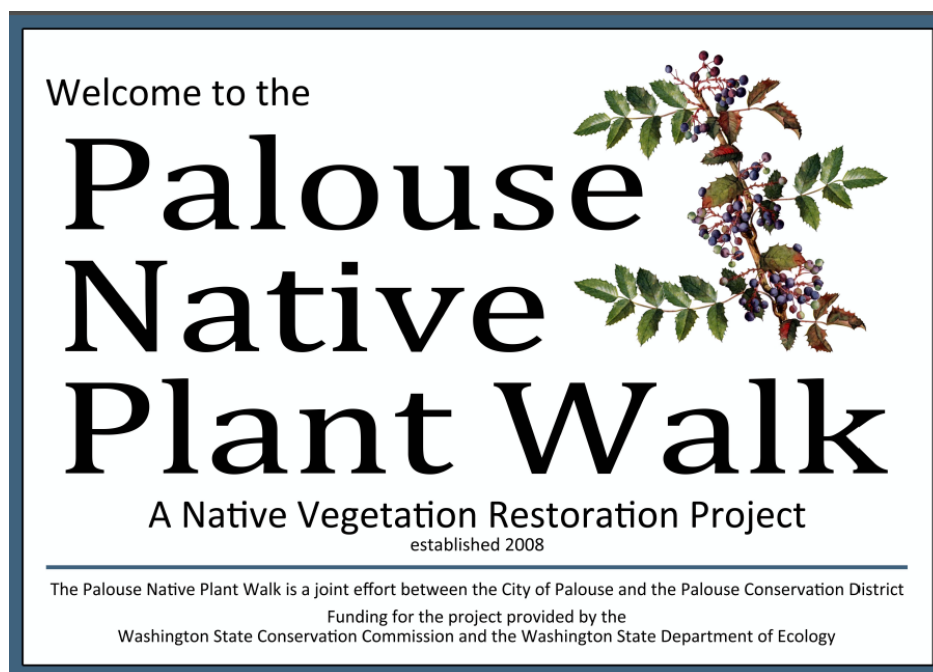
Did you know that you can receive the Palouse News electronically right to your e-mail Inbox?

Simply call or email our office and we will put you on our electronic mailing list. You can also go to our website: www.palousecd.org where you will find the Palouse News filed under "Newsletters".

If for any reason you want to be removed from our mailing list please let us know.

Palouse Native Plant Walk

The Palouse Native Plant Walk will soon have a new entry sign and two new interpretive signs. These signs have been designed to inform people about the project and the importance of native plants and riparian buffers for stream bank stabilization, enhanced water quality, and wildlife habitat. We are currently working with students at Garfield-Palouse High School to design and construct a kiosk that will house the new entry sign and provide information on the park. We hope that you will take some time this spring to enjoy a stroll through the Palouse Native Plant Walk or rest on one of the benches along the North Fork of the Palouse River.



Sign designed by Carrie Kyser

Storm Drain Marking Project Update

The Palouse Conservation District partnered with Pullman Storm Water Services and WSU Center for Civic Engagement students to implement a storm drain marking project to inform citizens that materials dumped in storm drains goes untreated into our local waterways. As you travel around Pullman and Garfield, keep your eyes open for marked storm drains!



USDA AFRI Grant to Research Processing and Marketing Strategies for Livestock Producers

The University of Idaho received a USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) grant to research processing and marketing strategies for livestock producers in Eastern Washington and North Idaho. The goal of the project, *Developing Strategies to Increase Prosperity for Small Farms through Sustainable Livestock Production, Processing and Marketing*, is to **find ways to increase revenues for small and medium-sized livestock producers, while maximizing economic benefits to local rural economies.**

USDA funded this project because many local producers are interested in different production, processing and marketing options. We have put together a team at the University of Idaho to look into a number of these strategies. How many local producers are interested in USDA-inspected local processing? How many head of livestock would potentially be processed? How many producers are interested in a cooperative marketing model? We'll be working towards answering these questions and others to build a foundation for determining the costs and benefits of various strategies.

To make this project work, we need the ongoing participation of livestock producers committed to keeping the processing, distribution, and sale of their livestock local. Livestock producers who are committed to this goal can help guide the project beyond the research stage. The first step is to determine the potential supply for various local processing options. We would like to invite you to attend one of our upcoming meetings for local livestock producers who would like to be involved as the project moves beyond the research stage. These meetings will provide an opportunity for livestock producers to network and share basic information such as the types and number of animals they would like to commit to a local processing and marketing model.

Upcoming meetings include a meeting at the Cottonwood Community Hall at 506 King St. in Cottonwood, ID on May 30, 2012 at 5:00. We will also have a meeting in Coeur d'Alene, ID in June (exact date to be announced soon). If you cannot make any of these meetings, but are interested in being involved in the future, please complete the short survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LivestockSupply> or please contact Darin Saul at dsaul@uidaho.edu or 208-885-6034. These meeting will also serve as a venue for us to share our preliminary results regarding local consumer demand for local livestock products and estimates of benefits and risks associated with different processing and marketing strategies.

To learn more about the project, or join our email distribution list, please go to <http://uidaho.edu/livestockproject>.

Thanks for your time, and if you have any questions, please get in touch!

Darin Saul



Office of Community Partnerships
University of Idaho



Burning Issues: Permit Fees to Change

New fees expected to take effect July 1, 2012

New Agricultural Burn Fees have been proposed as follows:

Field Permits

Old Fees:	Field up to 10 acres	\$30.00
	Field 11 acres+	\$30.00 + 3.00/acre
New Fees:	Field up to 10 acres	\$37.50
	Field over 10 acres	\$37.50 + \$3.75/acre*

Pile Burning Permits

*each acre over 10 acres

Old Fees:	Pile up to 100 tons	\$80.00
	Pile over 100 tons	\$80.00 + \$.50/ton

New Fees:	Pile up to 80 tons	\$80.00
	Pile over 80 tons	\$80+\$1.00/ton**

**each ton over 80 tons

The Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force determined the fees will be \$3.75/acre for field burning and \$1.00/ton for pile burning. The new fees equal the cap set by the legislature. The funds generated from permit fees help pay for Ecology's smoke management system, local permitting agencies, and fund research into alternatives to agricultural burning.

Please send your comments to Paul.Rossow@ecy.wa.gov or by mail at :

Washington Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office, Air Quality Program
4601 N. Monroe St.
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

For more information, visit our website at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/agburnpermitpage.htm>

Regional Envirothon Competition

The Regional Envirothon competition was held at Klemgard County Park on Tuesday, April 24th, 2012. During the competition, students visited seven “in-the-field” test stations (forestry, wildlife, soils, water quality, current environmental issue, presentation prep, and team presentation), staffed by career professionals, where written, oral, and hands-on problem solving was required along with formulating a strategy for increasing public awareness. The Garfield-Palouse High School team that placed first at the Regional Envirothon competition will continue on to the Washington State Envirothon event which will take place May 30-31, 2012, at the Lake Wenatchee YMCA Camp, Leavenworth, WA. The winning team from the Washington State Event will have the chance to compete at the Canon North American Contest to be held July 22-28, 2012, at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.

Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental education competition. Envirothon is a great opportunity for students to compete in a team setting, meet people who work in natural resource-related careers, and have a good time while learning more about natural resource topics! The Regional Envirothon competition is open to teams of 9th-12th graders from Whitman County and surrounding areas. Please contact Jennifer at jenniferpcd@palousecd.org if you are interested in fielding a team next year.

Find out more about Envirothon at: www.envirothon.org.



Students identify wildlife props at the wildlife station.



Regional Envirothon 1st place team
Garfield-Palouse H.S. Team #1

Team advisors:
Buddy Carter and George Landle

Team members:
Heidi Jamison, Missy Johnson, Sarah
Bofenkamp, Addy Hamilton,
and Emma Akin



A team examines tree leaves and cones at the forestry station.

****PLEASE NOTE****

**Our office can only accept checks and/or exact cash
for ALL transactions
including Burn Permits**

Spring Planting: Thank you Volunteers

Palouse Conservation District volunteers have been hard at work in and around the district. So far, **38** volunteers have donated **293** hours this spring. They have worked inside and out, through rain, wind, snow, hail, and mud. We have worked with groups from Washington State University, Washington Conservation Core, plus a few dedicated individuals. Here are a few highlights to date:

- * **Approximately 5,000 plants planted in local restoration sites**
- * **Thousands of plants prepared and sorted for the surplus tree sale**



Washington Conservation Core volunteers plant along the South Fork of the Palouse River



Next time you are out for a stroll on the Chipman Trail, check out our new Plant the Palouse signs.

The Palouse Conservation District Needs Your Support

The Palouse Conservation District is asking for your support. Every year we provide opportunities for local businesses and community members to support various programs that the Palouse Conservation District offers to area residents. These programs increase conservation education within our communities while enhancing the watersheds in which we live.

Your financial support goes directly to fund important conservation efforts on the Palouse including local stream cleanup events, riparian restoration projects, storm drain marking projects, service learning opportunities for students and community members, educational programs for K-12 students, regional Envirothon competitions, educational tours, a quarterly newsletter, and community conservation workshops.

In addition to accepting general donations, opportunities for advertisement in our quarterly newsletter are also available. When you advertise your business in our quarterly newsletter, you reach the very people who do business with you while sending a message that you support locally led conservation.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to actively participate in addressing the conservation needs of our local community. With your support, we are able to better serve the local community by putting more conservation on the ground.

If you are interested in becoming a Palouse Conservation District sponsor or advertising in our newsletter, please contact Jennifer at jenniferpcd@palousecd.org.

Donations can be sent to **Palouse Conservation District, 1300 NE Henley Ct. #6, Pullman, WA 99163**

Connecting People With Nature

The Palouse Conservation District was awarded funding for two proposals from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Connecting People With Nature Program. The proposals that were funded were for Family Science Saturdays and Sunnyside Field Days.

Family Science Saturdays

Family Science Saturdays will promote Palouse Conservation District restoration sites as opportunities to experience the science of native plant and wildlife habitat restoration hands-on. The Saturday events, will be led by knowledgeable volunteers, local experts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife staff, Palouse Conservation District staff, and Palouse Discovery Science Center staff, to provide family-oriented activities for children and adults. Approximately 100 parents and pre-K through elementary aged children are expected to attend these fun and informational events. These events will involve hands-on projects such as installing bird and bat houses, planting native trees and shrubs, and exploring nature through interactive Palouse based activities. Offering Family Science Saturdays at our restoration sites will enhance local education programs by encouraging outdoor science that is “out of the box.” Event dates include Saturday, September 8th and Saturday, November 3rd. Please call the Palouse Discovery Science Center at (509) 332-6869 for more information or if you would like to sign up for an event.

Sunnyside Field Days

The second Annual Sunnyside Field Days will take place at Sunnyside Outdoor Classroom for all of the students and teachers at Sunnyside Elementary School and surrounding Pullman schools (see photos below from the 2011 Sunnyside Field Days event). The Field Days will be two consecutive days in October and will be planned in coordination with staff at Sunnyside Elementary, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

During the Field Days, staff from Palouse Conservation District and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will lead students through different stations to learn about their local watershed, native plants, Palouse habitats, wildlife, and water quality.

The Palouse Conservation District strives to enable members of our community to find effective and sustainable solutions to local and regional natural resource issues. The District’s educational goal is to teach students in the Palouse region about their natural environment, focusing on local natural resources, native Palouse habitats, soil conservation, and water quality. Goals of this larger educational effort include encouraging exploration, investigation, and understanding of the watershed; engaging community members in service projects that benefit our watershed; and instilling a sense of place. A large event such as Sunnyside Field Days engages all of these educational goals.





Palouse News
Palouse Conservation District
1300 NE Henley Ct.
Pullman, WA 99163

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South Fork Palouse River
funding available

CALL NOW TO SIGN UP!

Details Inside

Meet Our NEW Resource Technician



Drew Schuldt is our new Resource Technician. Drew spent last year as our AmeriCorps Riparian Restoration and Outreach Intern. Drew will work on projects including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife program and our riparian buffer program. Drew is excited to be back working for the district and very eager to meet new people and make a difference on the Palouse.

The Board of Supervisors meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at the District Office (call for meeting time)
There is no meeting in August.

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)
Dave Stout (2010)
Al Bruns (2011)
Patrick O'Neill (2011)
Kim Weerts (2012)
Ben Moehrle (2012)

District Staff

Mary Rosen, District Manager
Pam Furchtenicht, Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Boie, Information & Education Coordinator
Drew Schuldt, Resource Technician

Contact Information:

(509) 332-4101 phone
(509) 332-0459 fax
palousecd@palousecd.org