

CONSERVATION CONNECTION

Winter 2018



Mark Your Calendar

- Voluntary Stewardship Program meeting on Monday, March 5 (Meetings usually every 3rd Monday at 5:00 PM.) Ferry County Commissioners' office, Republic (see box pg. 4)
- Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting on Wednesday, February 28, 5:30 PM (Regular meetings held every 4th Wed.)
- Spring Plant Sale orders due January 31. Plant pickup April 20-21.
- Ferry County Pride Month, April (see box this page.)
- Spring Conservation Fair, Fairgrounds, Sat., April 21, 10 AM – 2 PM.

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Ferry Conservation District

Our mission is to safeguard the rural lifestyle and sustainable use of natural resources of Ferry County for present and future landowners, residents, and visitors by offering technical and financial assistance, outreach, and education through partnerships.

2018 Spring Plant Sale

Ferry Conservation District Event to Offer Natives, Ornamentals

This year, the Ferry Conservation District is again offering a variety of plants carefully selected for our local climate.

Four native plants.

Blue elderberry (*Sambucus cerulea*) is a native deciduous plant



(reaches 12'+) which produces creamy white blossoms followed by powder blue berries. The edible berries

can be made into wine, jam, or pie. Its flowers attract pollinators and many mammals and birds eat the fruit and leaves.

The **Ponderosa pine** (*Pinus ponderosa*) which may reach 50-100 feet or higher grows abundantly in our area on dry south-facing slopes. A major source

of timber in our region, it also provides important wildlife habitat, recreation use and aesthetic value.



Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) is an attractive native conifer whose abundant seeds provide food for many birds and small mammals. The Douglas fir is a valuable



timber tree which typically grows to a height of 150 feet and sometimes reaches 200 feet. It likes warm, dry sites, but is more shade tolerant than Ponderosa pine.

Our only native deciduous conifer, the **Western larch** (*Larix occidentalis*) may grow to 150 feet with a trunk up to 3 ft. in diameter. The needles of the

larch (also known as tamarack) turn a beautiful



golden color in October before dropping off. A popular reforestation tree, it thrives in deep, moist porous soils with northern or western exposure.

Quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) is a deciduous broad-leaved tree which grows well in moist sites. It provides aesthetic appeal with its early brilliant green foliage and its bright yellowish-gold fall foliage. Aspen also has great conservation value, providing nesting



opportunities for birds, browse for mammals and soil stabilization

and shade for streams and other bodies of water.

(2018 Plant Sale, cont. on pg. 3)



Pride Month is Coming!

Celebrate Ferry County natural resources with us in April. Activities will feature the the Ferry County Conservation Fair and the Conservation District Plant Sale as well as roadside litter pickups, and a number of resource-related workshops. Look for the Pride Guide in your mailbox and on our website. (ferrycd.org) by late March.

Kettle River Riparian Restoration



This riparian zone on the Kettle was once more forested, but due to historic agricultural practices, the buffer has been greatly reduced. In late Spring of 2017, a prolonged flooding event scoured the streambank and resulted in increased erosion and nonpoint pollution into the Kettle.

Riparian buffers are vegetated areas next to rivers, streams, and lakes which hold water, slow surface runoff, trap nonpoint source pollution (nutrients, sediments, fecal coliform) and provide bank stabilization and aquatic and wildlife habitat.



“In late Spring of 2017, a prolonged flooding event scoured the streambank and resulted in increased erosion and nonpoint pollution into the Kettle. “



The landowners, wishing to prevent further property loss, restore riparian habitat, and improve Kettle River water quality, partnered with the Conservation District during Summer and Fall 2017 to reshape and stabilize the riverbank through bioengineered techniques such as installing these large woody debris structures.

The final (and perhaps) most important step, was to restore the riparian habitat by spreading native grass seed and planting over 700 native plants. This will re-establish a deep root system which will reinforce the soil, making it better able to resist erosive flows. Bank stabilization and riparian planting will reduce the risk of future bank erosion and ultimately re-create a healthy riparian zone.



This natural resource enhancement project could not have happened without conservation-minded landowners and the efforts of local contractors.

When funding is available, the Ferry Conservation District can provide financial and technical assistance for eligible conservation projects on your property.



2018 Plant Sale (cont. from pg. 1)

One ornamental shrub and one vine.



Meadowlark forsythia (*Forsythia x 'Meadowlark'*) has bright yellow spring blooms, and an upright arching habit. After a long, cold winter, the bloom of the forsythia is a welcome early sign of spring.

Cascade hops (*Humulus lupulus*). A new plant in our sale this year, hops are used in the brewing of beer, providing its distinctive flavor and aroma. The Cascade variety is often used in the brewing of pale ale. Even if you are not planning to brew beer, you will find the fast-growing vine, with its cone-like fruit, to be an attractive addition to your landscape.



Edible fruits, berries and vegetables



The **Cortland apple** (*Malus domestica*), a close relative to the McIntosh, originated in the Finger Lakes area of New York State over 100 years ago. This large, red apple with white flesh is juicy and sweet, with a hint of tartness. It is an all-purpose apple, good for eating raw, or used in salads and pies.

The **Lodi apple** (*Malus domestica*), related to the Transparent, produces a similar, though larger fruit. This apple was developed in the Geneva, New York area almost 100 years ago. An early season favorite, it is sometimes ready to harvest by late July or early August. With its sharp, sweet-tart flavor, it is an excellent sauce, juice or pie apple, but does not keep well.



The **Lapins** (*Prunus avium*) is a large mahogany-red **cherry** developed in nearby Summerland, British Columbia. The fruit is sweet and split resistant.

The **Redhaven peach** (*Prunus persica 'Redhaven'*) is the standard by which all early peaches are judged. It has an attractive red and golden, nearly fuzzless skin and a firm, yellow, smooth-textured, juicy, sweet flesh. It is semi-freestone and is excellent for canning. The Redhaven is vigorous and early bearing.



The **American filbert or Hazelnut** (*Corylus Americana*). This round-topped shrub produces nuts for human and/or wildlife consumption. The nut is eaten raw or roasted, or ground into a paste. The Filbert has dark green summer foliage, which turns to light yellow-green, sometimes with reddish tints in fall.

Albion strawberry. This large firm strawberry has an excellent sweet flavor. A "day-neutral" berry, it will produce fruit from July to October.



The **Shuksan strawberry**, developed at Washington State University in 1970, produces ripe berries for a three-week period in late June and early July. These deeply red berries have a wonderfully sweet flavor.

Back by popular demand, the **Mary Washington asparagus** is touted as the best all-around variety for home garden use.



Grapes are back



The **Himrod** (*Vitis vinifera*) is a seedless grape which makes wonderfully sweet raisins with a little bite to them. The wine from this variety is light and dry. The plant is extremely vigorous, growing up to 20 feet in a year.

The **Manukka** (*Vitis vinifera*) is a medium black seedless table grape with excellent, crisp, sweet flavor. It is a hardy European grape variety with a long history of cultivation for wine and table use. Good fresh or for raisins. Excellent used as an ornamental, for summer shade, arbors or leafy walls.



Ordering plants

To order plants, look for our flyer in the mail or find it on the District website at www.ferrycd.org. Complete the form and mail it back to the District without payment by January 31, 2017. Orders will be filled on a first come-first served basis. Confirming invoices will be sent out detailing the plants ordered and the cost. Most plants arrive as dormant, bare root stock (plugs and potted plants are noted on brochure). Plants will be available for pick-up at the Ferry County Fairgrounds on Friday, April 20 from 10am – 4pm and on Saturday, April 21, from 9am – 1pm. If you have any questions regarding plant availability or what type of plant(s) would best suit your needs, please contact the District at 775-3473.

“The Cortland (is a) large, red apple with white flesh (which) is juicy and sweet, with a hint of tartness.”

Ferry Conservation District

84 East Delaware Ave.
PO Box 1045
Republic, WA 99166
(509)775-3473 Ext. 5

Conserving Natural Resources Since 1947

The 2018 Spring Plant Sale is Right Around the Corner!

Take your mind off the cold and get ready for spring. To order plants, use the flyer you received in the mail or find it on our website. Once again, we'll be offering many natives, ornamentals and edibles.

We're on the Web. Visit us at:

<http://www.ferrycd.org>

Agriculture, Water, & Local Control

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED AND NEEDED!

The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) is the final step for Ferry County to opt out of the Growth Management Act (GMA). It is about making rules locally to fit local needs.

Next Meeting

Monday, March 5, 5:00 pm

County Commissioners'
Office - Republic

For more information
Call (509) 775-3473 ext. 5



Volunteering to participate means :

- We maintain local control, instead of following State mandated regulations.
- Our priority is to maintain the economic viability of Ferry County agriculture.
- Participation in the program is voluntary.
- The program recognizes the good stewardship of Ferry County's farmers, ranchers and land owners.
- There will be incentives provided to participants upon completion of the program report.



FERRY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Board of Supervisors

Eric Bracken, *Chair*
Dave Konz, *Vice Chair*
Charlotte Coombes, *Auditor*
Dave Hedrick, *Member*
Scott Palmer, *Member*
Bowe Brown, *Associate*
John Hamilton, *Associate*
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Staff

Lloyd Odell, *Manager*
Liz Carr, *Water Quality Specialist*
Candy Lammon, *Financial Administrator*
Bill Chamberlin, *Resource Assistant*
Patrice Beckwith, *NRCS Resource Conservationist*



Winter scene near Sherman Pass

Ferry Conservation District is a non-regulatory agency. Our services are available to all without discrimina-