

# CONSERVATION CONNECTION

Summer/Fall 2019



*Soil analysis by the Conservation District helps local gardeners make decisions about improving soil health.*

## Mark your calendar:

- **Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting, Wednesday, August 28, 5:30 PM, District Office.**
- **Visit our booth at the Ferry County Fair, August 30, 31, September 1.**
- **VSP Work Group—Next meeting date and time TBD. Ferry County Commissioners' Office.**

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## 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.

## Welcome to the Ferry Conservation District!

**(We are the administrators of Ferry County's new Voluntary Stewardship Program!)**

Though the Ferry Conservation District has been supporting natural resource conservation in Ferry County for many decades, most county residents have little understanding of who we are and what we do. In an effort to raise our profile in the community, and to make landowners more aware of how we can help them be good stewards of the land, we are mailing this newsletter to mailbox holders and rural delivery customers around the county. Please take the time to look through these few pages and learn about your conservation district. The captioned photos offer a cross-section of some of the education/outreach programs in which we have participated, as well as some of the technical and financial assistance we have provided. For more information on our programs and accomplishments, visit our webpage at [ferrycd.org](http://ferrycd.org) or visit us on Facebook. Better yet, come into the office and visit us in person. We look forward to meeting you!

## What is a Conservation District?

In the early 1930's, following a severe and sustained drought in the Great Plains, that region's soil began to erode and blow away. This was the environmental disaster we know as the Dust Bowl. The dust storms reached from Texas



*Replacing barriers to fish passage in area streams enhances habitat for local species. State grant funds spent on all Ferry Conservation District projects go into the local economy.*



*Riparian restoration projects protect streambanks and enhance water quality.*

to New York. Dust was even reported sifting into the White House and onto the desk of Franklin D. Roosevelt. As a result of the Dust Bowl, Congress passed legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. However, Congress knew the only way to ensure that conservation work was successful would be to enlist

active, voluntary support from private landowners.

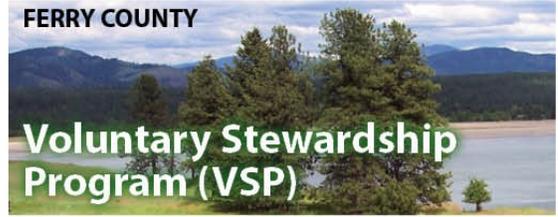
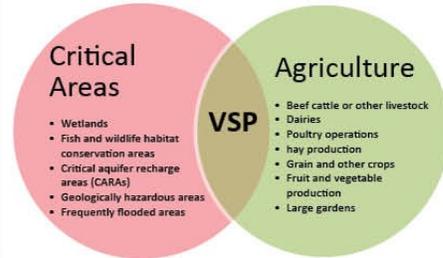
President Roosevelt wrote the governors of all the states recommending legislation that would allow local landowners to form soil conservation districts and even developed draft (What is a Conservation District?, cont. on pg. 3)



*Outreach/education programs for students of all ages spread the conservation message.*

# Ferry County Voluntary Stewardship Program

**VSP can help you implement conservation on your property.**



## How can VSP help you?

The Ferry County Voluntary Stewardship Program is a collaborative process that helps Washington communities ensure healthy landscapes and strong farms today and for the future. If you own or operate agricultural land with critical areas on or near it, you can benefit from this program.

Through the VSP program, the Ferry Conservation District will provide technical and cost-share financial assistance for eligible conservation practices.

## A few examples of assistance offered by VSP:

### Are you a cattle rancher?

#### VSP can help you:

- Reseed pasture.
- Fence for riparian protection.

### Do you own timber land and use it for grazing?

#### VSP can help you:

- Manage your understory to balance pasture and forest reproduction.
- Thin/prune for fire protection and forest health.

### Own horses, sheep, goats, llamas or other animals?

#### VSP can help you:

- Build cross fencing to manage grazing.
- Develop an off-stream watering facility.

### Do you grow hay or grain, an orchard or large garden?

#### VSP can help you:

- Improve weed management.
- Improve irrigation efficiency (new gaskets, measurement of water use).

To find out about additional eligible conservation practices or to schedule a site visit contact the Ferry Conservation District:

Lloyd Odell, VSP Coordinator  
 (509)775-3473 ext. 100  
 lloyd.odell@conserveva.net

## Critical Areas



### Wetlands

Areas inundated by surface water or groundwater for at least part of the growing season and support vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.



### Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

Lands and waters that provide habitat to support fish and wildlife species throughout their life stages.



### Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

Areas that have a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for drinking water, including aquifers vulnerable to contamination.



### Geologically Hazardous Areas

Areas susceptible to erosion, sliding, and other geological events. Geologic hazards related to agricultural activities are primarily associated with erosion from summer wildfires.



### Frequently Flooded Areas

Includes floodplains and floodways, and often includes the low-lying areas adjacent to rivers and lakes that are prone to inundation during heavy rains and snowmelt.

*“The Voluntary Stewardship Program is a collaborative process that helps Washington communities ensure healthy landscapes and strong farms for today and for the future”*



FERRY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Washington State Conservation Commission

## What is a Conservation District? *(cont. from pg. 1)*

legislation (Standard States District Act) for each state. The legislation ensured that there would be continuity between the states and that the districts would all have the same basic purpose. The formation of these locally governed districts allowed states to receive assistance from the federal Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS]). District boards identified local soil conservation priorities and informed the local public about new practices that could save soil and improve the profitability of farms. They also facilitated communication between local landowners and the federal government.



*Reforestation after fire or wind damage restores the landscape.*

Like conservation districts across Washington State, the Ferry Conservation District is considered a subdivision of state government. However, we are not a state agency and do not receive an ongoing operation budget from the state general fund. We are independently governed by a five member board of local supervisors, who are either elected or appointed to serve three year terms. Supervisors must be landowners or occupiers within the conservation district, and as such are in the best position to identify local resource issues. Conservation districts truly are grassroots organizations setting our priorities based on local needs and communicating those needs with governmental agencies, such as the NRCS.

Conservation districts are able to design solutions to address almost any problem relating to natural resources, such as air quality, groundwater contamination prevention, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, streambank stabilization, irrigation water management, forestland improvement, and erosion control. Powers of conservation districts include: conducting surveys and research; dissemination of information; conducting demonstrations; carrying out prevention and control measures; acquiring land and property; and developing/administering programs that ensure the conservation of renewable natural resources within the district.



*Cross-fencing helps with livestock management—reducing soil erosion and keeping the landscape healthier. Exclusion fencing keeps livestock off stream streambanks and out of streams, in order to protect water quality and habitat.*

Conservation districts do not have any regulatory authority and do not report to any regulatory agency. They only make recommendations to landowners about how to improve or conserve natural resources. They also provide assistance, in the form of technical advice and cost-share funding opportunities, for the design and implementation of conservation projects. Conservation districts, are the only organizations, public or private, that design and apply on-the-ground solutions to nonpoint water quality problems on privately owned agricultural lands.

Today there are 45 conservation districts in the state of Washington. 35 of them share the same boundary as the county they are in. Four Washington counties have more than one district. Ferry County originally had six conservation districts. In the early 1950's, these were consolidated into one, the Ferry Conservation District.

Ferry Conservation District really is your conservation district. All meetings are open and we encourage the public to participate. Grassroots government only works when local people participate. Find out more about what programs are available. Each of us can have a voice in how we manage our resources locally. Please call 775-3473, ext. 100 for more information.

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*“...Ferry Conservation District really is your conservation district...Grassroots government only works when local people participate. .”*

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## Ferry Conservation District

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(509)775-3473 Ext. 5

Conserving Natural Resources

Since 1947

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**Visit us at the County Fair!**

**August 30, 31, September 1**



*The new Voluntary Stewardship Program helps ensure healthy landscapes and strong farms (see pg. 2).*



*Thousands of native and ornamental trees and shrubs, fruit and nut trees, berries and other plants have been purchased at our annual Spring Plant Sale.*

*The Conservation District recently collaborated with The Curlew and Republic School Districts to construct a greenhouse on CD property for the schools' agriculture/science programs.*



## FERRY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### District Staff

Dave Hedrick, *Manager*  
Lloyd Odell, *Ferry County, VSP Coordinator*  
Candy Roman, *Financial Administrator*  
Bill Chamberlin, *Resource Assistant*



*Left to right: Dave Hedrick, Lloyd Odell, Candy Roman, Bill Chamberlin*

### Partner Agency Staff

Celeste Accord, *FSA County Executive Director*

### District Board of Supervisors

Eric Bracken, *Chair*  
Dave Konz, *Vice Chair*  
Charlotte Coombes, *Auditor*  
Scott Palmer, *Supervisor*  
Position 5, *Open*

We're on the Web. Visit us at:

<http://www.ferrycd.org>

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