

# Walla Walla County Conservation District NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024  
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## Mill Creek In-Stream Restoration Project

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As a community, you have shared your concerns about soil health, erosion, flooding, declining salmon population, and challenges around agriculture whether regulations or aging equipment. At the Walla Walla County Conservation District, we hear your concerns and apply for grant funds to do projects that aide in solutions to these problems. This summer we are working on four projects dealing with erosion, flood risk and salmon habitat.

In recent years, the Walla Walla watershed has encountered frequent flooding, specifically within Mill Creek. Due to these events, community members have voiced concerns about the fate of the river. As a result, Walla Walla County Conservation District (WWCCD) applied for grants to fund a large-scale restoration project, approximately 1.5 river miles. WWCCD is wrapping up this 3-year project along upper Mill Creek. The upper Mill Creek project is located just above the confluence with Blue Creek near the Mill Creek Fire Station.

The project will to improve floodplains and salmon habitat by installing bio-engineered large woody debris structures. These structures decrease the velocity of the flow of water, protect stream banks from increased erosion, and enhance habitat for various fish species. In addition to installing the structures, WWCCD will be restoring the surrounding habitat known as the riparian zone. Planting native species such as Coyote willows, Snowberry, and Red Osier Dogwood along the riparian zone is imperative for aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The shade from the trees reduces the water temperature, and native plant roots go deep to retain the stream bank during high flows.

The project cost was approximately \$765,000. WWCCD received 4 grants; 3 from the Department of Ecology and 1 from the Washington State Conservation Commission. WWCCD partnered with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Walla Walla County Public Works, and Walla Walla Emergency Management. This project is an example of how WWCCD, partnering organizations, and community members can work together to improve our watershed.



# Yellowhawk Stream Flow Update

Many of you have reached out to WWCCD and partner affiliates in the basin regarding the reduced flow in Yellowhawk Creek. Scanning the QR code will take you to the full update from the Department of Ecology's website.

There are over 30 agencies in the greater Walla Walla basin who know of the water shortages and increasing drought conditions in our area. These agencies have been fighting for solutions and implementing projects for over 25 years regarding water. That isn't going to stop but we are all working together to make improvements. If you have suggestions, please contact Renee.Hadley@wwccd.net or [Annie.Byerley@wwccd.net](mailto:Annie.Byerley@wwccd.net) or 509-956-3777.



# Farewell Jeff Klundt

WWCCD bids Jeff Klundt a fond farewell as he embarks on his retirement, with all the best wishes. Jeff is an irreplaceable IT support guy who worked on the agricultural burn permit applications, the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and helps with all aspects of District work. His 17 years at the district will forever be remembered.



# Request for Projects

WWCCD is a soft-funded agency, meaning to fund projects WWCCD must apply for grants. We have several waiting lists for projects including in-stream (flood and habitat), riparian, forest, livestock, and more. With an influx of funds from both state and federal sources, WWCCD has worked our way through a few waiting lists. This is where we need your help. If you have needs for **livestock** (a single horse, a handful of goats, or up to several heads of cattle), **soil**, and **forestry** (thinning, disease, or other).

If you have any project ideas please contact Renee.Hadley@wwccd.net or Annie.Byerley@wwccd.net or 509-956-3777. Funding may not be available at the time of contact. However, knowing the needs within the community gives us a focus when pursuing funding.



# GET YOUR FREE WILDFIRE READY PLAN TODAY!



WALLA WALLA COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ESTABLISHED 1941



## DEW-DROP RENTAL



Need a no-frills, easy to tow, 3-foot-wide no-till drill? Look no further! The Dew Drop is an easy-to-use, no-rows pattern planter that can be towed with a 4-wheeler or UTV. The Dew Drop has a low center of gravity to allow access to hard-to-reach areas and the twin seed boxes accommodate for multiple cropping options. The disk angles can range from 0 to 10 degrees, allowing you to customize the current soil disturbance that works best for your planting.



Twin seed boxes accommodate multiple cropping options including warm and cool-season grasses, small and large grains, wildflowers, forbs, legumes, and many commercially available food plot mixtures. \$100 will get you a 2-day rental. The Dew Drop can be delivered by the WWCCD at \$1/mile.

Reach out to Annie Byerley at [annie.byerley@wwccd.net](mailto:annie.byerley@wwccd.net) or 509-956-3764 to reserve the Dew Drop today!



Wildfire is a fact of life. But when we come together as neighbors, we can reduce the risk wildfire poses to our properties, homes, and communities. By working together, everyone benefits. Sign up today to get your free Wildfire Ready Plan and schedule a consultation from our local wildfire experts.



## Riparian Maintenance Workshop



Do you or someone you know have a creek in the backyard?

This workshop is for property owners interested in learning more about urban riparian areas, have had restoration projects done on their property, or are interested in developing a maintenance plan for the long-term health of the ecosystem. There will also be a free tour on Sept 28th for all workshop participants (more information available at the workshop).

Local experts will provide information on the following topics:

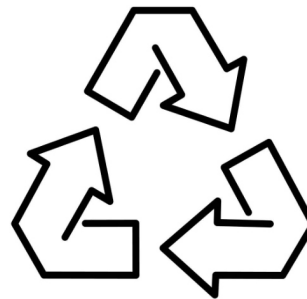
- The importance of riparian areas in our local ecosystems
- Learning the value of and how to identify plant species in your riparian area
- How to develop and implement a maintenance plan
- Planning for all species, including: fish, insects, and beavers
- The importance of riparian restoration in CTUIR's Department of Natural Resource's First Foods Management Approach

This **FREE** workshop will include morning presentations inside and afternoon hands-on activities outside. **No RSVP required**, just show up!

Lunch is not provided, so please bring your own or plan accordingly.

Questions about this workshop can be sent to: [gardencbwmps@gmail.com](mailto:gardencbwmps@gmail.com)

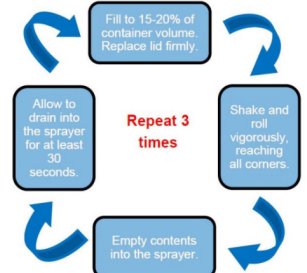
When: Saturday, September 21st from 10am-3pm  
Where: Water & Environmental Center at WWCC



## EMPTY PESTICIDE CONTAINER COLLECTION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 | 7:30-11:30 AM  
MILTON FARM | 83753 EASTSIDE RD | MILTON-FREEWATER, OR

- ✓ Bring **empty, triple-rinsed** pesticide containers for **free** disposal
- ✓ Containers still containing pesticide will not be accepted
- ✓ Remove lids and pamphlets
- ✓ Triple rinse containers



Questions? Call OSU Extension Service at **(541) 938-5597**





## WWCCD Board Member Recruitment

We are seeking 2 board members to join our governing Board of Supervisors. Supervisors are volunteers who oversee the large-scale direction and operations of the Walla Walla County Conservation District.

The commitment includes reviewing board materials, participating in monthly board meetings occurring on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month, and acting on 1 committee (1-3 hours) yearly.

Candidates must be registered voters within Walla Walla County. Please contact [Renee.Hadley@wwccd.net](mailto:Renee.Hadley@wwccd.net) for additional details.

### Walla Walla County Conservation District

#### District Staff

Renee Hadley, District Manager  
Jenny Freer, Bookkeeper  
Joanna Cowles Cleveland, CREP Scientist  
Annie Byerley, Conservation Scientist  
Eila Chin, Conservation Technician  
Grant Traynor, VSP Program Coordinator  
Alison Crowley, Education and Outreach Coordinator  
Cat Garza, Conservation Scientist

#### Board of Supervisors

Jesse McCaw  
Jim Kent  
Jeff Schulke  
Don Schwerin

#### Our USDA SERVICE CENTER partners

##### **NRCS Staff**

Tracy Hanger, District Conservationist Snake River Team  
Bryce Krueger, WW area Resource Conservationist  
Katy Martin, Snake River Team Program Support  
Ryan Foley, Natural Resource Specialist  
Trevor Shea, Natural Resource Specialist

##### **FSA Staff**

Kelley Betts, County Executive Director for WW & Columbia  
Norma Colunga, Program Analyst  
Stephanie Kaping, Program Analyst  
Brooke Barich, Program Analyst  
Samantha Castoldi, Program Analyst

[www.wwccd.net](http://www.wwccd.net)

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Conservation District  
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