

CENTRAL & EASTERN KLINKITAT
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

1107 S. Columbus Ave.
Goldendale WA 98620



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ckcd.org

ekcd.org

2013 SUPERVISOR ELECTION RESULTS

Members of a conservation district board are called supervisors. Each district board is made up of five supervisors; three are elected and two are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission. By state law, at least three of the five must be landowners or operators of a farm within the district. Associate supervisors can be appointed by a district board, and represent the board at official functions, but do not have a vote.

Both Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts conduct their elections in conjunction with their Annual Meetings in February, but elections are not final until approved by the WSCC in May.

In Central Klickitat CD, Doug Miller, who has been serving as an associate supervisor, was elected to the seat being vacated by out-going supervisor Mike Norris. Doug is retired from Klickitat PUD and is a landowner in the Goldendale area. Doug has also donated his time as a volunteer for the district, assisting for one summer with the water quality monitoring program, and helping us prepare for the plant sale for the last two years.

In Eastern Klickitat CD, Ron Juris was automatically re-elected by reason of being the only candidate. In addition to serving on the EKCD board since 1982, Ron has also served as president of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts. Ron is a life-long farmer from Bickleton.

Our booth at the
2013 Goldendale
Home & Garden
Show.



KLINKITAT
CONSERVATION
NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2013

Central & Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts

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Our new water monitoring
technician, Jess Davenport



CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water.

CREP addresses high-priority conservation issues of both local and national significance, such as impacts to water supplies, loss of critical habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife species, soil erosion, and reduced habitat for fish populations such as salmon. CREP is a community-based, results-oriented effort centered around local participation and leadership. Like CRP, CREP contracts require a 10- to 15-year commitment to keep lands out of agricultural production. CREP provides payments to participants who offer eligible land. A federal annual rental rate, including an FSA state committee-determined maintenance incentive payment, is offered, plus cost-share of up to 50 percent of the eligible costs to install the practice. Further, the program generally offers a sign-up incentive for participants to install specific practices.

For the landowner, CREP is not just a cost-effective way to address rural environmental problems and meet regulatory requirements; it can provide a viable option to supplement farm income as well.

CREP supports increased conservation practices such as filter strips and forested buffers. These conservation practices help protect streams, lakes, and rivers from sedimentation and agricultural runoff. CREP also helps landowners develop and restore wetlands through the planting of appropriate groundcover. By maintaining clear goals and requiring annual monitoring, CREP helps participants measure progress and ensure success.

For more information on the CREP program, contact district resource technician Martha Blair at (509)773-5823.



Here we see the progression of one
CREP site over a period of seven years.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Noxious weeds are plant species that have been designated "noxious" by law. They are non-native plants that have been introduced to Washington through human action. Because of their aggressive growth and lack of natural enemies in the state, these species can be highly destructive, competitive or difficult to control. These plants crowd out the native species that fish and wildlife depend on. While ordinary weeds may be annoying, noxious weeds are a genuine threat to the natural resources, ecology and economy of our state. The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board establishes which plants are noxious in Washington State.

Infestations of noxious weeds are devastating and have far-reaching impacts. They can create monocultures that destroy native plant communities and animal habitat, reduce crop yields, damage recreational opportunities, poison humans and livestock, lower land values, and clog waterways. Noxious weed infestations are the second leading cause of wildlife habitat loss.

Most of our noxious weed species are native to Eurasia and/or the Mediterranean region and were transported to the United States both accidentally and intentionally. They came in the ballast of ships, in the fleece and hair of livestock, in clothing, as contaminants in seed lots, and as ornamental plants. In addition, these invaders were introduced without the natural enemies, such as insects or diseases that helped keep their populations in check in their native land.

Humans and their vehicles also spread noxious weeds. They hitch rides on hiking boots, clothing, tires, boats, etc. Wildlife and domesticated animals also spread weed seeds either through their digestive systems or when seeds are carried in their fur. Weeds have been found as contaminants in flower seeds, and hay or straw. They can also be spread by wind and by water.

To protect our land and resources many weed species have been placed on a special list in Washington State that mandates their control (WAC 16-750). The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board develops the list each year. **RCW 17.10.140 holds landowners responsible for controlling noxious weeds on their property.** Noxious weeds are everyone's problem. When one landowner fails to control them, they spread to others' property where they can cause great harm and reduce property values. Weed laws are needed to ensure that we all do our part to prevent this from happening. The weed board will provide assistance in identifying noxious weeds, and advice on control options. Voluntary compliance with Washington's weed law is encouraged. If a landowner refuses to control their noxious weeds the weed board, as authorized by state law, can arrange for the control work to be done and bill the landowner for costs incurred.

Because some plants are extremely difficult to control once established, early detection and prompt control is very important. Successful long-term management of noxious weeds relies on a combination of methods: cultural, mechanical, biological (insects), herbicide use, and prevention activities. Often, you may obtain the best results by using several of the control methods together. Whichever method or combination of methods is used, if it is employed for only one season, the weeds will most likely be back in a year or two.

Be careful what you plant; since half of all our noxious weeds are escapees from gardens, ask questions before you buy plants or seeds. Be careful when you travel; seeds ride along in wheels, stick to your shoes, boots, clothing and pets. Clean these items before and after you travel or go hiking. If you have a boat, be sure to clean it thoroughly between trips, so that you don't spread plant fragments from one lake or stream to another. If you have invasive plants on your property, control or eradicate them so they don't spread to your neighbors, to roadsides, or to natural areas.

Contact Marty Hudson at the Klickitat County Weed Control office for help with identification and control options. He can be reached at (509)773-5810.

Adapted from <http://www.klickitatcounty.org/weedcontrol>

2nd and 5th GRADE TREE PLANTING FIELD TRIPS

Students from Goldendale Primary and Middle Schools and Goldendale Christian School participated again in CKCD's annual tree planting field trips. District staff visited each class prior to the field trip to speak to the children about the importance of trees, and how trees can help to improve water quality and fish habitat by slowing soil erosion. The district provided 800 Ponderosa pines and also paid for the school busses to transport the kids to the planting sites.



The fifth graders also helped to clean up seedling protector tubes from an older planting



The 2nd graders' field day wasn't sunny, but it was still nice!



5th graders from the middle school and Goldendale Christian School enjoyed a gorgeous morning!

