



### **A Message from Gus**

Thanks to everyone for a terrific job in Fiscal Year 2005. We met or exceeded nearly all our goals. Here are a few examples. We reported a savings of over 73,000 acre feet of water through implementation of irrigation efficiencies. That was over 450% of our goal. We reported a reduction of erosion by nearly 686,000 tons. That was nearly 400% of our goal. We created, restored, or enhanced 1761 acres of wetlands, 135% of the goal. And the list goes on.

We didn't write quite as many Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) that we'd expected. Our goal was to write 46; we only wrote 45. Bummer! We met 98% of that goal. But considering the changes and uncertainty surrounding the AFO/CAFO situation, I reckon we can live with that one.

All these good things happened because of you. In Washington, we have the best staff around. You are dedicated, hard-working, knowledgeable, and (most importantly) willing. I am very proud of you and your work. Thank you.

We also know that our partners help us make this happen. The cooperation of FSA, RD, and the other USDA agencies is critical. We couldn't do what we do without the cooperation and support of the conservation districts. The supervisors and staff provide us with guidance, technical assistance, and help us broaden our thinking. We need to make sure we thank them enough for their help.

We have been working with the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) and the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) to find ways to streamline and improve our operations. We have exciting possibilities in FY06 to leverage TSP funds with State funds to expand opportunities to get even more conservation on the ground this year.

That idea is very much in line with the Chief's guidance for us to use FY06 to consolidate our gains. We've contracted an enormous amount of money in the past few years. Let's see how much we can get installed this year.

Thank you again for all your hard work. Enjoy your holidays.

#### **Inside this Issue.....**

- 2. HR News**
- 3. Earnings & Leave Statement**
- 3. Mission Falls II**
- 4. Regional Design Team News**
- 5. Tribute to NRCS Veterans**
- 5. RC&D News**
- 6. Dry Hydrant Fever**
- 7. FFA Land Judging Contest**
- 7. WHIP Project in Ferry County**
- 8. Soil Erosion in the Palouse**
- 9. Canon Envirothon**
- 10 South Central Team News**
- 11. Revisiting NRCS Projects**

# HR News

## GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK

**Neil Peterson**, State Soil Scientist, Spokane State Office, retired effective 10/03/05

**Bruce Williams**, District Conservationist, Mount Vernon, selected as an RC&D Coordinator with NRCS in Weaverville, California, effective 10/16/05

**Barry Southerland**, Soil Conservationist, Spokane State Office, selected for the Fluvial Geomorphologist position with the West National Technical Support Center in Portland, Oregon effective 11/13/05

**Ross Lahren**, Assistant State Conservationist (Programs), Spokane State Office, selected as the Branch Chief for the Easement Support Branch in National Headquarters, effective 11/13/05

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW EMPLOYEES!

**Dannelle Aleshire**, Soil Conservationist, Zillah Field Office, effective 09/18/05

**Clark Bishop**, Office Automation Clerk, Pullman Plant Materials Center, effective 5/29/05

**Corey Bensen**, Soil Conservationist (Career Intern Program), Yakima Field Office, effective 09/18/05

**Kathryn Smith**, reassigned/promoted from Forest Service in Arkansas to the forester position in the Mount Vernon Field Office, effective 09/18/05

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION!

**Steve Becker**, Soil Conservation Technician, Ritzville Field Office, effective 11/13/05

**David Brown**, Assistant State Conservationist (Programs), Spokane State Office, effective 11/27/05

**Jeff Kuhlmann**, Soil Conservationist, Spokane State Office, effective 10/16/05

**Paul Majer**, Agricultural Engineer, Ephrata Field Office, effective 09/18/05

**Ron Myhrum**, State Soil Scientist, Spokane State Office, effective 10/30/05

**Steve Nissley**, District Conservationist for the Northwest Team, effective 11/13/05

**Chris Bove**, Resource Conservationist, Ellensburg Field Office, converted to permanent position, effective 12/14/05

## LOCATION REASSIGNMENT

**Paul Gleason**, Student Trainee (Soil Conservation), Olympia Field Office effective 10/2/05

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

**Linda Appel**, Range Management Specialist, Okanogan Field Office, has completed her Student Career Education Trainee program and was converted to a permanent position effective 08/21/05. Congratulations

**Sherre Ingle**, Management Analyst, Spokane State Office, has changed her name to Sherre Copeland.

**Gale Mayer**, Resource Conservationist, Everett Field Office, detailed to U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baton Rouge, Louisiana in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, effective 11/3/05

**Sue Merrell**, Budget Analyst Trainee, Spokane State Office, detailed to Federal Emergency Management Agency in Washington D. C., in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, effective 11/10/05

**Clay Midkiff**, Program Liaison, West Area Office, detailed to NRCS, Louisiana, in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, effective 10/10/05

**Joe Navarro**, Soil Conservation Technician, Pasco Field Office, detailed to U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baton Rouge, Louisiana in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, effective 10/30/05

**Doug Rochester**, Civil Engineer Technician, Colville Field Office, detailed to NRCS, Louisiana, in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, effective 10/16/05

## Earnings and Leave Statements

This is a reminder that your Earnings and Leave Statements (E & L) are available online through the Employee Personal Page (EPP). If you are not already familiar with the EPP, you can find the link in the USDA Employee Resources block (lower right corner) of the NRCS Today tab at my.NRCS. Simply click on the NFC Personal Page then follow the sign on process. New users will find that it is simple to register and begin using the EPP.

You can access the EPP from any computer connected to the Internet at <https://www.nfc.usda.gov/personal/>

You can retrieve E & L statements for multiple years. You can also retrieve W-2s as far back as 1998, or track travel reimbursements. Other information, such as your life insurance coverage and Flexible Spending Account enrollment status is also available.

Employees are encouraged to consider switching from paper copy E & L statements to electronic access through the EPP. Switching to paperless statements will help reduce the recovery efforts at NFC. If you are interested in receiving your statements electronically, follow these steps:

- Access the NFC Personal Page through my.NRCS, or direct access using the above link.
- Login
- Click on the Preferences Tab (3<sup>rd</sup> tab, top row)
- Click on the E&L Paperless Option Tab (far right tab, 2<sup>nd</sup> row)
- Click on the Continue Button
- Click on Stop Mail Button

**Note** – you can revert to paper E&L statements if you find this doesn't work for you. Follow the steps described above.

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### Mission Falls II

*Submitted by Randy Kelley, District Conservationist, Central Highlands Team*

Omak Creek Watershed, one of the last PL-566 Small Watershed projects still active in Washington State, recently saw some “fine-tuning” completed in the Mission Falls gorge to allow passage of federally listed endangered Mid-Columbia Steelhead.

The Omak Creek Watershed lies completely within the boundaries of the Colville Reservation. The Confederated Colville Tribes (CCT) has been the project sponsor since signing the Watershed Plan on April 30, 1996. This plan was developed by Frank Easter's former Watershed Planning staff in the early 1990s. It is the only tributary on the 1.4 million acre Colville Reservation that can reasonably support anadromous fish such as steelhead and Chinook Salmon with fish passage barrier removal and other land conservation treatments such as addressing livestock grazing and roads. Other tributaries on the Reservation like the Little Nespelem River or the Sanpoil River would require huge investments to get the fish around Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams. Not too likely in the near future!

The critical project in this watershed to open up an additional 26 miles of stream habitat for the anadromous fish has been removing the barriers located in a steep narrow gorge with small waterfalls section in lower Omak Creek of 1,600 feet length. The initial work on this project was completed in the fall of 1999. Mission Falls I, as it has become known locally, addressed removal of 28 in-stream sites that consisted of drilling and blasting large boulders and removing them with 40 and 82 ton cranes perched on the edge of the gorge. Many of these boulders and other rock debris had been blasted into the gorge during construction of a narrow gauge railroad track used for hauling out logs to a mill back in the 1920s. Additionally, two old railroad crib walls were removed from the railroad grade. An estimated 3,900 cubic yards of boulders and

Continued on Page 4

## Mission Falls II.....continued

broken boulder pieces were removed to allow fish passage. Stan Janowicz was the contract inspector and Joe Lange was the contract engineer. These two, plus the engineering staff at the State Office and the Regional Design Team, provided the survey and design muscle.

It was well known at the time Mission Falls I was being planned that there would have to be a Mission Falls II. Being able to get it completely right the first time just wasn't a very high likelihood of occurring given the challenges of the sites in the gorge. After several years of monitoring by the CCT fish biologist, Chris Fisher, two additional sites were determined to require follow-up treatment. Working with Chris, Joe Lange NRCS Central Area Engineer completed a challenging instream survey and design. Construction at these sites was completed in early November of this year. Unlike Mission Falls I which was mostly rock removal, the main effort required installation of material to create a step-pool effect allowing the anadromous fish to surmount the remaining barrier.

After providing close to \$550,000 in cost-share assistance for Mission Falls fish passage barrier removal and many, many hours of engineering assistance, we will know for certain how successful this work has been come next spring when the steelhead begin moving up Omak Creek. The Tribal Fish Biologists will have fish traps set up above the Mission Falls gorge. With the early arrival of significant amounts of moisture and snow we have good feelings about a good run-off next spring to assist in getting the steelhead and Chinook back upstream to where they once could go. We are keeping our fingers crossed!

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### Spokane Regional Design Team Announces Release of NRCS Geo-Hydro for use in Washington State

For the past year, members of the Spokane Regional Design Team (RDT) have been working to develop GIS databases and regional hydraulic geometry curves in support of the hydraulic modeling tool NRCS Geo-Hydro. NRCS Geo-Hydro runs the Win TR-20 hydrologic model in a GIS environment, thus saving the user several days worth of time that would normally go toward identifying landuse, hydrologic soil groups, runoff curve numbers, watershed slope, and time of concentration.

The RDT developed statewide DEM, landuse and hydrologic soil group databases (Figure 1) and completed pilot studies in the Wenatchee River, Green River, and Cedar River watersheds for the development of regional hydraulic geometry curves (Figure 2).

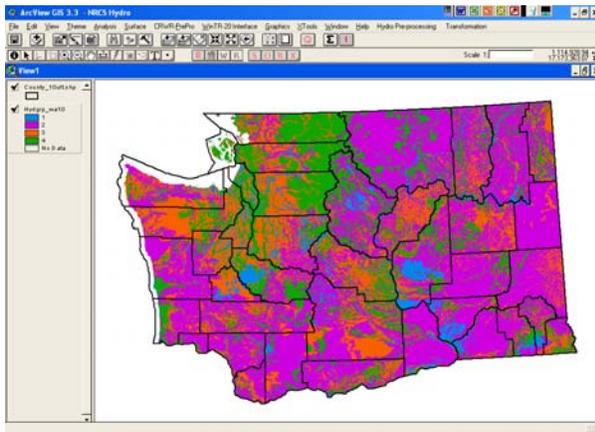


Figure 1. Hydrologic Soil Groups

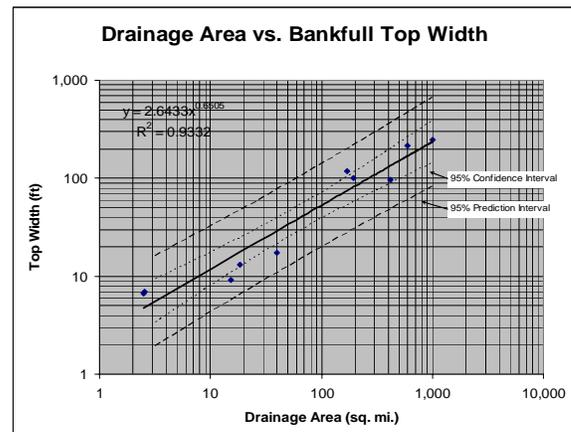


Figure 2. Regional Hydraulic Geometry Curve

On 18 May 2005, the RDT presented a demonstration of NRCS Geo-Hydro to the Washington state office engineering staff and received strong encouragement to develop this tool for use in Washington. By the beginning of August and with the help of Dave Brower, we were able to distribute NRCS Geo-Hydro and the supporting GIS databases to all field engineers and a few civil engineering technicians. This was followed by a day of formal training at the state office on 10 August 2005.

For more information visit the National Water and Climate Center's website at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/hydro/nrcs-geo-hydro.html> or contact your local field engineer.

*“And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.” [John F. Kennedy](#), Inaugural address, January 20, 1961*

**In honor of Veterans Day, NRCS Washington would like to thank the listed employees for their dedication and service to their country.**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Branch of Service</u>
Allen A. Aronica	Ellensburg Service Office	United States Army
Mark Bareither	Waterville Service Center	United States Army
		WA State Air Nat'l Guard
Beverly A. Burnley	West Area Office	United States Army
Kathleen E. Callum	East Area Office	United States Army Reserve
Kathleen Dickerson	State Office	United States Air Force
Paul C. Dorning	Upper Columbia RC&D	United States Navy
Chad S. Dunnahoo	State Office	United States Navy
Belarmina G. Espinoza	State Office	United States Navy
John Gillies	Lynden Service Office	United States Navy
Larry L. Hooker	Snake River Team	United States Navy
Ronald L. Joyner	State Office	United States Navy
		United States Air Force
Herb Klug	Mt. Vernon Service Office	United States Air Force
Ron Myhrum	State Office	United States Air Force
Dave Myra	South Central WA RC&D	United States Army
Martin R Rodriguez	Zillah Service Office	United States Army
Dennis J. Robinson	State Office	United States Coast Guard
Jerry Rouse	State Office	United States Army
Ray Schuler	Chehalis Service Center	United States Army
Ralph Scott	State Office	United States Navy
Paul Taylor	State Office	United States Army

### **News from North Central Washington RC&D**

*Submitted by Jay Kehne, RC&D Coordinator*

*The following article is from a press release*

**By Richard Uhlhorn**

The **North Central Washington Economic Development District** (NCW-EDD) is seeking \$7 million in grants and loans for 11 top priority economic development projects which will go along way to improving the regions economy.

The recently reorganized NCW-EDD is the federally designated economic development district for Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan Counties. The NCW EDD formed through a partnership with the **NCW Resource Conservation and Development Council**. Over the past three years, the NCW EDD & NCW RC&D governing board of directors, consisting of elected officials from the three-county region and the Colville Confederated Tribes, cities, Port Districts, individuals, private businesses and non-profit organizations, have been aggressively working towards creating economic development projects.

After being re-designated as a viable EDD and receiving a \$50,000 Economic Development Administration capacity building grant, the group hired the grant writing team of Community Minded Enterprises in Spokane, Washington to research funding leads for the 11 top priority economic development projects in the region.

Continued on Page 6

## News from North Central Washington RC&D continued

Community Minded Enterprises created a grant/loan funding matrix based on extensive research into the type of funding available for each project. The projects are:

- VIA 97 Marketing and Promotion – This regional project is an international effort to bring visitors and tourists to the Highway 97 corridor from I-90 to Vernon, BC with an eye on becoming the alternate of choice for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Whistler, BC.
- Similkameen Connector Trail – A trail project in Okanogan County.
- Wenatchee Waterfront Plan - Land Acquisition for Farmer's Market – This project will develop a large farmer's market capable of serving up to 109 local area farmers.
- Douglas County Sewer District No. 1 – A sewer-line extension into the Baker Flats area needed for economic development infrastructure.
- Lake Chelan Marina & Trails project – A public trail project linking Chelan's Don Morse Memorial Park with Lakeside Park.
- Columbia Breaks Fire Center – To promote the creation of locally based forest partnerships and a training/visitors center in Entiat.
- Baker Flats Water Storage project – To create water storage for fire protection in the Baker Flats area so more development can take place.

The other projects on the priority list not selected for this round of funding requests remain on the back-up list along with other equally viable projects.

The NCW-EDD and NCW RC&D are dedicated to helping bring economic stability to the North Central Washington area through aggressive but coordinated planning for individual county and regional needs.

The NCW-EDD and NCW RC&D meet on the second Wednesday every other month at the Chelan Fire Station. The next meeting will be on December 14, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. For more information, contact Resource Conservation & Development Council coordinator Jay Kehne at (509) 682-8284 or by email at [jay.kehne@wa.usda.gov](mailto:jay.kehne@wa.usda.gov).

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### Dry Hydrant Fever Takes Hold

*By Mark Simpson, Resource Conservationist, Newport*



Chris Smith, Chief and Jim Hiebert, Commissioner of Fire District #8, Lake Of the Woods Dry Hydrant

After the Pend Oreille Fire District #3 installed three dry hydrants in 2003, dry hydrant fever has taken hold and several other fire districts are getting on board incorporating this conservation practice into their fire fighting program. This year Pend Oreille Fire Districts #2, #6, and #8 installed five more dry hydrants. The fire districts have been obtaining monies to install the projects from the Washington Department of Natural Resource's State Fire Assistance Western Wildland Urban Interface grant. Since the fire districts are also part of Pend Oreille County government, Pend Oreille County road

department offered to volunteer their construction equipment and earth materials (gravel, rock and

sand) to install the hydrants. Fire district volunteers provided the manual labor, permits, dry hydrant materials and volunteer coordination. NRCS provided the technical assistance with a design meeting WDFW fish passage requirements thanks to Roberta Lewis, Area Engineer, and Kristi Yasumiishi, past State Office Civil Engineering Technician.



Bead Lake Homeowners Association Dry Hydrant

Yes, dry hydrant fever is spreading and has even taken hold in Spokane County as well. The Waterview Terrace Homeowners located along Long Lake are planning to install a dry hydrant as soon as the lake level reaches its minimum pool elevation this winter. Paul Dorning, RC&D Coordinator, reports interest in dry hydrants for several more locations.

## FFA Land Judging Contest in Columbia County

*Submitted by Jim Shawley, Soil Conservation Technician, Pomeroy*

Columbia County Conservation District hosted the Washington State FFA land judging contest on November 9, 2005. Assisting district employees and local board members and volunteers were NRCS employees from the Pomeroy and Dayton field offices and Chandra Neils, East Area Resource Soil Scientist. Participating in the event were 13 FFA chapters sending 23 teams and individuals. Total team members 113. Results are as follows:



**Team:**

1. Prosser 1	5. Garfield Palouse 2
2. Garfield Palouse 1	6. Rosalia 2
3. Springdale 1	7. Asotin
4. Rosalie 1	8. Ritzville 1

**Individual:**

1. Miles Pfaff, Garfield Palouse	6. Steven Hayter, Prosser
2. Robert Thoney, Prosser	7. Rayan Carter, Springdale
3. Danielle Long, Garfield Palouse	8. Stephanie Zediker, Prosser
4. Amanda Craig, Springdale	9. Travis Dewald, Ritzville
5. Todd Pinter, Garfield Palouse	10. Michelle Perterchick, Rosalia

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## WHIP PROJECT FUNDS SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

*Submitted by Patrice Beckwith, Resource Conservationist, Republic*



In 2004, Ferry County residents John and Cecelia Hamilton were accepted for cost-share on a wildlife pond funded through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). The Hamilton's project was designed to reduce the monoculture of existing non-native vegetation, create open water habitat, provide nesting and brooding habitat for wetland wildlife species and improve adjacent uplands. The targeted waterfowl includes all five species of Washington cavity nesters. These are Barrow's and common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Bufflehead, and Wood Duck. These species require open water and

snags that provide for cavity nesting. An island was included in the design to provide for additional nesting and brooding of waterfowl. There is also a Heron rookery in the vicinity of the pond site. This open water pond provides a feeding site for the Great Blue Heron. On most days heron can be found feeding along the water's edge. Reptiles and amphibians have moved in to provide the evening entertainment.

Targeted upland species include cavity nesting birds, such as Pileated woodpeckers. Pileated woodpeckers are year-round residents in Ferry County. These woodpeckers are a significant component in the forest environment because they create large nesting cavities that are used by several other forest wildlife species. Forests habitat with large standing snags are declining due to commercial harvesting, firewood gathering and shoreline development. The property was logged by the previous owner, but the Hamiltons are maintaining what remains of the large trees and snags. They also have installed nest boxes and perch poles to augment the natural habitat.

In addition to the targeted species, the Hamiltons were interested in stocking their pond with rainbow trout. In the spring of 2005 they had purchased 250 trout of varying age classes. The Hamiltons involved the local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts in a day of revegetation and restoration work. After planting the shoreline with over 20 different species of trees and shrubs including chokecherry, black Hawthorne and red osier dogwood, the boys were invited to fish to their hearts' content. Those lucky Boy Scouts fished

Continued on Page 8

## Whip Project Funds...continued

'til the sun went down. Even then they didn't want to leave; a fair trade for a few hours of planting.

This event was so successful that the Hamiltons decided to host a fund raiser for the Curlew School. This October they held a Fishing Derby for area youth and their families. They asked for donations to assist students in acquiring musical instruments during the school year. Much to the delight of those in attendance, the creel survey came in at 88 fish. The largest fish caught was a 19 inch, 2.5 pound rainbow trout!

The Hamiltons are still looking for ways to improve the habitat. They will be adding boulders and logs for structure in the pond and will continue to revegetate the shoreline. They have also applied for a permit to plant sterile, grass-eating carp to help keep the system healthy. Surely, Hamiltons will host future community outings, perhaps to take a census on the amphibian population. We expect to find some state candidate species such as the spotted frog taking up residence.

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### Soil Erosion in the Palouse River Basin: Indications of Improvement

*Dennis Roe, Ecological Sciences Staff*



Have you seen sheet and rill erosion or wind erosion in the Palouse lately? You have? But, is it as prevalent as it was 30 or 40 years ago? Likely not, according to some events and reports in recent years. And if so, what are some of the reasons?

Since the Palouse River Basin was first farmed in the late 1800s, soil erosion from runoff water and gusty winds has been an ongoing problem. The erosion problem became particularly acute in the early 1900s when steep lands once used for grazing were converted to grain production. It has been estimated that 40 percent of the rich Palouse soils have been lost to erosion.

Farmers in the Palouse, through the conservation districts, responded to Public Law 92-500 in 1978 by listing Best Management Practices (BMPs) that were feasible and reduced erosion. Controlling erosion began to benefit more than just the farm; it also benefited community water supplies.

Since the passage of the Food Security Act of 1985, farmers have been required to apply conservation practices to be eligible for financial assistance. Prior to these events up to the present, the U.S. Geological Survey has been monitoring the sediment at Hooper in the lower Palouse River since 1962. The USGS data shows a downward trend in sediment delivery in the Palouse River. On February 10, 1963 enough sediment passed by Hooper in 24 hours to cover 1100 acres one foot deep.

Direct seed farmer, John Aeschliman, states that 40 years ago county roads were closed for periods of up to two weeks in March because of continuous mudflows on the roads. He used to walk to the school bus ankle deep in mud from fields. But, not now, he says. My fields are always under cover now and seeded without tillage. Most of my neighbors' land around me is also direct seeded. I have more wildlife, like elk, deer, and pheasants, now that I have more cover.

Rancher, Bill Harder, who pastures cattle near the mouth of the Palouse River, said of the status of the River, "There isn't so much mud going over Palouse Falls now like there used to be."

Findings by the USGS shows conservation practices applied since the 1970s have reduced erosion in the Palouse River Basin. Many thousands of acres of such practices as grass buffers, direct seeding, divided slopes, and CRP grass and shrubs are now seen on the "Land of a Thousand Hills," as it was known by the pioneers. So the next time you visit the Palouse, enjoy the picturesque landscape, and watch out for the moose, elk, deer and pheasants.

## Clarkston High School Goes to Canon Envirothon



**2005 Washington State Canon Envirothon Team** Members: Melanie Goforth, Marie Ferrigno, Mike Poirier, TJ Orr and Miles Olszko

The Canon Envirothon, North America's largest high school environmental education competition, was held in Springfield, Missouri July 17 – 23, 2005. Fifty teams from the United States and Canada competed and five students from Clarkston High School attended the competition as representatives of Washington State. Don Dotson and Steve Kirking accompanied their environmental science students to the Canon Envirothon as did Washington State Envirothon committee members Cheryl Sonnen from Asotin County Conservation District and Russ Fletcher from Pend Orielle Conservation District.

The team earned the honor of representing Washington State by winning at the local and state levels. Students are tested in their knowledge of forestry, wildlife, soils, aquatics and current environmental issues. Conservation districts

throughout the state hosted one-day regional competitions in April and May. The state competition was hosted by Benton Conservation District at Camp Roganunda on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. As you can tell, the level of competition becomes more difficult at each stage.

Another aspect of the Envirothon competition is an oral presentation resolving an environmental issue. This year's topic was cultural landscapes, which proved to be challenging. At the competition in Missouri, the team was presented with the problem of managing Wilson's Creek National Battlefield for conditions that existed in 1861. Wilson's Creek is a Civil War battlefield site where 535 Union and Confederate soldiers were killed. At the time of the battle, the vegetation was mainly grass with a few trees and shrubs.

This picture shows the current condition of the site. It was taken from the John Ray house that was used as a Confederate hospital during the battle. John Ray was able to watch most of the battle from his porch, but the action would now be hidden from view.



The team's assignment was to develop a presentation for a public meeting to make recommendations on how to restore the 1861 conditions, taking into consideration the overall vision of the Park and sustain long-term management and interpretation. A balance between resource preservation and visitor use must be included with consideration to impacts on soils, forestry, wildlife and aquatics.

Attending the Canon Envirothon was a tremendous learning experience. The team learned about the resource management issues in Missouri, toured a cave that represents the karsts geology of the area and even took a tour through the Bass Pro Shop. While there was a great deal of work there was also some fun and great memories.

## Developments in Klickitat County

Patrick Beres, Rangeland Management Specialist, Goldendale



EQIP contract customer George Hathaway and other customers are working hard to complete their individual CINs before it snows. In this picture, George is standing next to his mountain fence where I slipped and slid GPSing the fence length while doing his fence inspection. The fence goes down a 35 to 45 degree ridge from Wahkiacus Heights to the Klickitat River; from oak savanna through heavy forest and into a blackberry patch, which was of course full of berries to be inspected.



Centerville rancher John Garner's excellent EQIP Cross/fence construction in the Columbia Hills south of Goldendale. He cements in each and every fencepost, exceeding eFOTG specifications.



### Two dudes outstanding in their field.

Chris Johnson, District Conservationist for the South Central Team and Sergio Paredes, Resource Conservationist in Goldendale.



Rancher Don Slater puts the finishing touches on his 700 gallon EQIP-funded tire trough south of Bickleton as I inspect the trough for payment.

**Revisiting NRCS Projects from the Past**  
*Submitted by Rob Ryan, Soil Conservationist, Renton*



In March of 1997, the NRCS Urban Team partnered with Pierce County Stream Team and a group called Citizens for a Healthy Bay to restore 1.0 acre of industrial land back to wooded vegetation. The blackberry and Tansy choked site was located at the mouth of Hylebos Creek and Commencement Bay in Tacoma. The site was previously filled and built up. We first grubbed out the blackberries and Tansy with a D-4 tractor. Then we covered one half acre with 5 inches of topsoil and incorporated it into the existing ground.



Stream Team and Citizens for Healthy Bay volunteers and NRCS set out potted plants to be planted. The next weekend about 50 to 75 volunteers braved the rain and mud to plant trees and shrubs. Most of the plants survived the first year. The next year, Stream Team and Healthy Bay volunteers replanted what did not make the first year.

In 1997 and 1998, the Stream Team and NRCS Urban Team worked on about 12 stream planting projects. In 1998 Stream Team won the Earth Team Field Award from the NRCS chief.

Since those days, NRCS has been too busy to look back at what we have accomplished. A retired NRCS employee, Al Zulauf, recently reminded me to take a look at this planting from 1997. Going back to this site again helped remind me that we are leaving a lasting positive impact on our land.

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**Recipe for All Year Long**

Take a heap of child-like wonder  
That opens up our eyes  
To the unexpected gifts in life  
Each day a sweet surprise.



Mix in fond appreciation  
For the people whom we know;  
Like festive holiday candles,  
Each one has a special glow.



Add some giggles and some laughter,  
A dash of holiday food,  
(Amazing how a piece of pie  
Improves our attitude!)

Stir it all with human kindness;  
Wrap it up in love and peace,  
Decorate with optimism, and  
Our joy will never cease.



If we use this healthy recipe,  
We know we will remember  
To be in the holiday spirit,  
Even when it's not December.



**U.S. DEPT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**316 W. Boone Avenue, Suite 450**  
**Spokane, Washington 99201-2348**