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## Washington State Natural Resources Conservation Service



## Local Work Group Updates

Nick Vira

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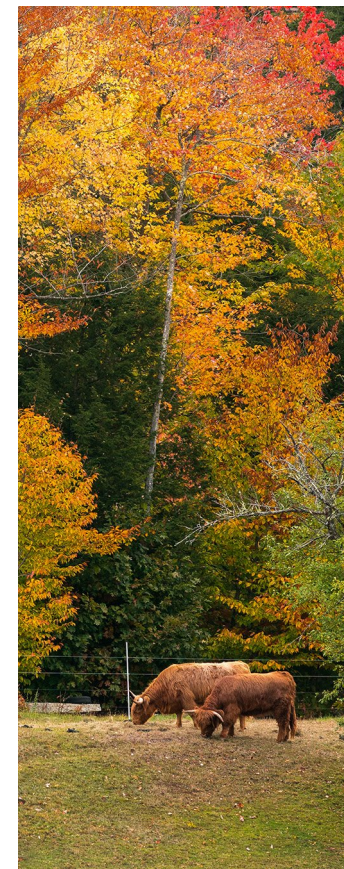




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# LWG Membership

- Producers
- Agriculture or Environmental Groups
- Tribes
- Units of Government
- Conservation District Board Members
- FSA County Committee and CED
- Cooperative Extension
- Local Elected Officials
- Others with interest in conservation



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# Washington Local Work Groups



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# 2025 LWG Results

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/washington/washington-local-working-groups>



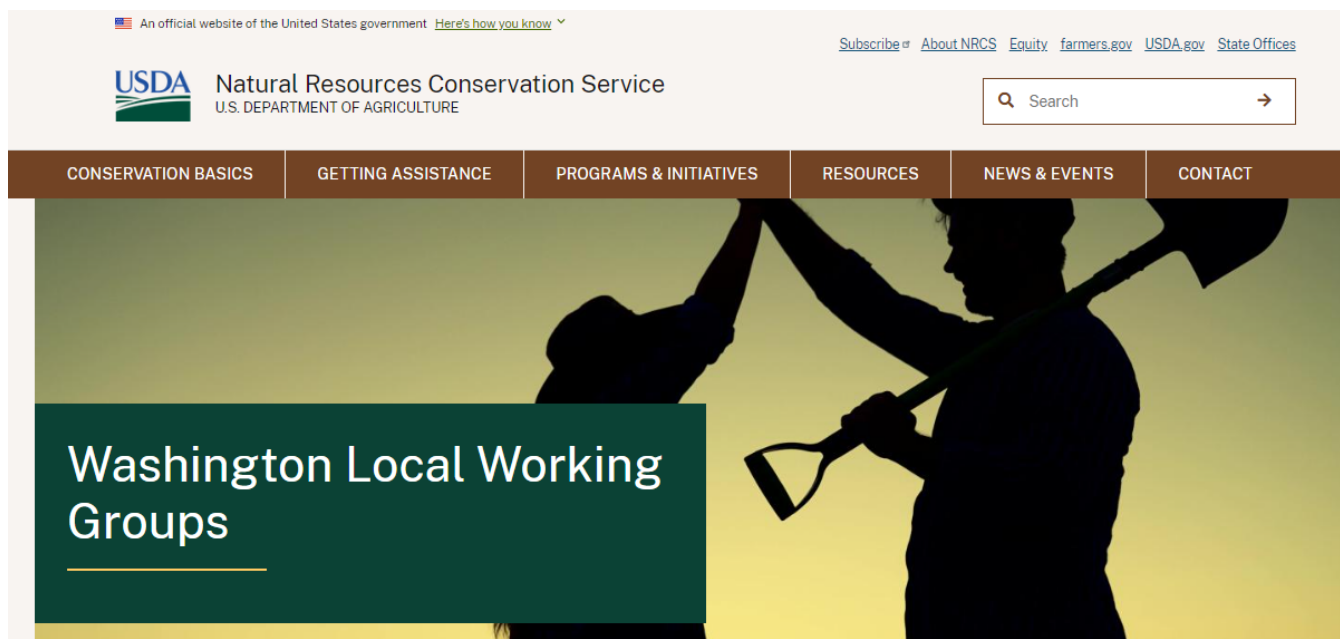
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# LWG Webpage



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# LWG Meeting Dates

## Big Bend Local Working Group

**Area:** Columbia Basin CD, & Kittitas.

**Chair:** Mark Moore

**District Conservationist:** Jon Paul Pierre

jonpaul.pierre@usda.gov

(509) 925-8585

**Local Working Group Meeting:** Feb. 13, 2024 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Location:** USDA-NRCS Ephrata Service Center 2145 Basin St. SW Ephrata, WA 98823

## North Central Local Working Group

**Area:** Okanogan, Foster Creek, South Douglas, & Cascadia.

**Chair:** John McClean

**District Conservationist:** Sarah Troutman

sarah.troutman@usda.gov

(509) 422-2750

**Local Working Group Meeting:** Feb. 21, 2024 from 4 to 7 p.m.

**Location:** Chelan School District Office, 309 E. Johnson Ave, Chelan, WA 98816

## Northeast Local Working Group

**Area:** Stevens, Pend Oreille, & Ferry.

**Chair:** Andy Kroiss

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# LWG Annual Report

## West Palouse Working Group

**Area:** Lincoln & Adams.

**Chair:** Jeff Schibel

**District Conservationist:** Carolyn Edenbo


carolyn.edenbo@usda.gov


(509) 659-1761

**Local Working Group Meeting:** February 25, 2025 from 10 a.m. — 12noon

**Location:** Lincoln County Public Works meeting room 27234 WA-25, Davenport, WA 99122

## Local Working Group Annual Reports

 [2025 LWG Annual Report](#) (17.3 MB)

 [2024 LWG Annual Report](#) (8.31 MB)



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# EQIP Fund Pools by Team

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## Big Bend Team

### *Big Bend Fund Pool*

LANDUSES	RESOURCE CONCERNS	QUESTIONS	POINTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crop</li><li>• Pasture</li><li>• Range</li><li>• Associated Agriculture Lands</li><li>• Farmstead</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plant productivity and health</li><li>• Plant structure and composition</li><li>• Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution</li><li>• Feed and forage balance</li><li>• Inadequate livestock shelter</li><li>• Surface water depletion</li><li>• Inefficient irrigation water use</li><li>• Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities</li><li>• Energy efficiency of farming/ranching practices and field operations</li></ul>	Is the applicant following an NRCS approved Grazing Management Plan OR will be contracting prescribed grazing (528) for a minimum of 2 years	60
		Will the applicant be planting a mix of native species?	10
		Will livestock water quantity, quality, and distribution be improved?	30
		"What is the efficiency gain from going from current irrigation system to planned system (reference Table WA6-2 from the WA irrigation guide to make determination, <a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/WA-Irrigation-Guide_4.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/WA-Irrigation-Guide_4.pdf</a> )?"	50
		Does the plan include (449) Irrigation Water Management (required for 2 growing seasons, with moisture sensors and data logger)?	20
		Does the producer have an approved conservation activity plan (CAP) or approved VSP plan? (CAP= agEMP or Audit completed that meets NRCS standards) and does the proposed project implement at least one practice within the applicable plan?	30

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# State Initiatives

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## State Initiatives

### West Palouse Team

#### Priority 1: Updated Soil Survey For Adams County

**Objective:** Current soil survey predates ash deposition from Mt. St Helens. Soil survey needs to be updated to be relevant.

#### Priority 2: TSP Training

**Objective:** Provide coordinated training for TSP's as none currently exists.



### Palouse Team

#### Priority 1: Greater number of contracts.

**Objective:** Consider funding a greater number of smaller contracts to achieve greater participation. Revisit practice or contract holdowns. Improve acceptance rate.

Conservation Practices		
Code	Name	Hold Down \$
345	Residue Management- Reduced Tillage	\$100,000
590	Nutrient Management	\$100,000
595	Integrated Pest Management	\$50,000

#### Priority 2: Low payment rate for 805 practice

**Objective:** Soil amendment with Lime is a (interim) practice with growing interest, but LWG brought up that the cost far exceeds what is paid through FA programs. LWG would appreciate an updated economic analysis based current material and transport/ application cost and considering typical prescribed application rates for lime in the inland NW, where it is believed that Idaho for example has a greater payment rate for the practice.

#### Priority 3: Facilitate Livestock Grazing of Cropland

**Objectives:** PLWG sees growing interest in grazing crop aftermath and cover crop under a "regenerative agriculture" trend but the temporary nature of the grazing event and loose ties to defined Resource Concerns limits ranking score competitiveness for FA program funds. It is believed that greater ranking and environmental benefit is accrued from manure and animal impact of grazing cropland than currently given. Specifically LWG would like better FA program access to funding for temporary fencing and livestock watering structures, and even permanent watering infrastructure.

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# NWQI Planning Phase Watersheds

## National Water Quality Initiative

### Big Bend Team

#### Current Conditions and Objectives

Conditions include grazing land, pastureland and some cropping, as well as Federal and State lands primarily for parks and wildlife. Saddle Gap and Royal Lake-Lower Crab Creek contribute sediments and turbidity to the Crab Creek drainage which is one of the water quality concerns listed by WDOE and negatively impact priority habitat for Chinook Salmon in Lower Crab Creek. Other included HUC are on the 303d list for pH, sediment, DO, and temperature. Improvements to Middle Crab Creek will positively benefit habitat and water quality in Lower Crab Creek which is already a NWQI reach.

#### Priority 1

- ♦ Middle Crab Creek - Crab Creek Lateral  
(HUC 170200151007)
- ♦ Royal Lake - Lower Crab Creek  
(HUC 170200151006)
- ♦ Saddle Gap  
(HUC 170200151005)
- ♦ Hutchison Lake - Lower Crab Creek  
(HUC 170200151004)
- ♦ Herman Lake  
(HUC 170200151003)

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# Conservation Practices

## Needed New Conservation Practices

### West Palouse Team

Conservation Practice Title: Straw Application

Description: Soil cover for wind and water erosion prone areas.



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# IRA Project Proposals



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# IRA Project Proposals - \$27m

- Northwest - Forest Health: \$656,099
- Northwest - Soil & Pasture: \$131,826
- Snake River - Forest Health: \$1,000,000
- Snake River - Nutrient Mgmt. \$10,000,000
- Snake River - Pest Mgmt.: \$10,000,000
- Snake River - Plant Health: \$750,000
- West Palouse - Soil Health: \$5,000,000

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# IRA Projects Awards

- Awaiting funding allocation information
- Selections & Notifications TBD



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# Changes

- Increased LWG Allocations
- LWGs each get ONE Fund Pool



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# 2026 Local Work Group Overview



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# NEXT YEAR

- NWQI Watershed
- Conservation Practices
- Special Initiatives
- New Fund Pools
- 2 Fund Pools for Tribal Work Group

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# 2026 LWG Key Dates

- LWG Kickoff:
  - November
- Meeting Dates Set:
  - January
- Meetings Held By:
  - Mid May
- Reports & Proposals Due :
  - End of May

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# Questions?



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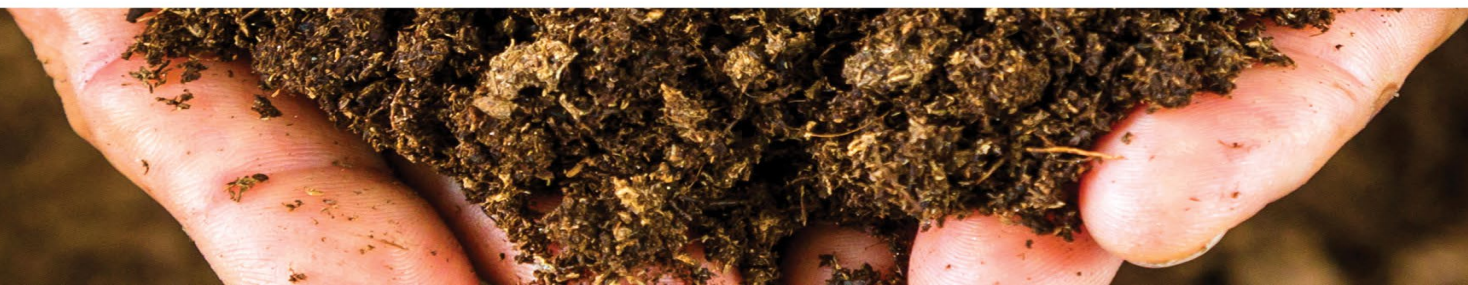




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# Thank you!



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