

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024-25 Featured accomplishment



Cover crops thriving on a grain farm outside Cheney, Washington. Photo by Alex Case-Cohen, Project Lead, Spokane Conservation District.



Cattle grazing in a managed pasture with new fencing installed to support rotational grazing near Cheney, Washington. Photo by Alex Case-Cohen, Project Lead, Spokane Conservation District.

Resource concern

On a grain farm near Cheney, compacted soils and low organic matter made it hard to grow healthy crops and feed livestock. Water access was also unreliable, putting both productivity and the farmer's future at risk. Spokane Conservation District partnered with the landowner to restore soil health and provide the infrastructure needed to sustain the farm.

Featured project

Working together with the landowner, the District planted hundreds of acres of cover crops to rebuild soil and provide healthy grazing. New fencing allowed cattle to rotate, giving fields time to recover. More than 10,000 feet of pipeline, storage tanks, and an automated water system were installed to ensure reliable livestock water. These efforts improved soil health, increased forage, and strengthened the farm's long-term resilience.

Costs & partners

Funded by a grant from the Washington State Conservation Commission's Sustainable Farms & Fields program, this \$265,626 project included a 25 percent cost share investment from the landowner.

Other accomplishments



SCD partnered with landowners along Hangman Creek to restore 39 miles of streambank, planting 45,000 native trees and converting farmland into buffers that protect soil, water, and wildlife.



SCD opened Spokane's first year-round farmers market May 31, featuring 90+ ag-centric vendors, 12 new jobs, and \$400K in sales within its first two months.



SCD launched a Natural Resource Apprenticeship Program last year; now seven students are in their second year, planting 1,500+ trees while earning AAS degrees in natural resource careers.

📍 Congressional district 5 📍 Legislative district 4

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