

SOUTH YAKIMA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024-25 Featured accomplishments



Irrigation efficiency

151 acres of farmland were converted from rill/furrow and wheel line to a pivot irrigation system with drip corners, the landowner also removed a non-fish compliant intake structure. This new irrigation system should alleviate 40 percent loss of allotted water that was historically returned as field runoff to the nearby drain, improving water quality and use efficiency.

Photo Caption: Pumping Plant Station, VFD, Filter, and delivery system for pivot and drip corners. Photo by Rodney Heit, South Yakima Conservation District.



Nutrient assessment and planning project

South Yakima Conservation District performed Deep Soil Sampling on 43 fields to assess nutrient levels at depth within the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area. The District provided irrigation water management tools, nutrient management planning and technical assistance to landowners with the goals of reducing nutrient loading to underlying groundwater.

Photo Caption: Deep Soil Sampling with UTV mounted Giddings machine. Photo by Melanie Redding, Washington State Department of Ecology.



Riparian planting and habitat restoration

This 85-acre property bordering the Yakima River supports a small cattle grazing operation. Cattle exclusion fencing was installed that parallels a new 100-foot wide riparian buffer along the river. Additional native tree and shrub plantings with mulch were placed along the bank of the cool pool, which is also surrounded by cattle exclusion fencing.

Photo Caption: Mulch rings surrounding plantings to protect and shade cool pool habitat. Photo by Savannah Crnick, South Yakima Conservation District.

Other accomplishments



Performed a spring assessment and implementation of access control and hardened surface areas for habitat protection and erosion control in the shrub steppe.



Implementation of over two miles of manure transfer piping to assist landowner with nutrient management and application through pivot irrigation systems on a local dairy farm.



Working with a local irrigation district and farmers to plant native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and wildflowers for pollinator and wildlife habitat.

📍 Congressional district 4 📍 Legislative districts 14 & 15

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