

COLUMBIA BASIN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024-25 Featured accomplishments



Moses Lake phosphorus mitigation project

In 2024, Columbia Basin Conservation District implemented a \$3.1 million phosphorus mitigation project to improve water quality and reduce harmful algal blooms in Moses Lake. This pilot effort resulting in notable benefits was made possible through strong local partnerships and community project funding secured through Congressman Dan Newhouse's office and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Photo Caption: Project partners meeting with Representative Alex Ybarra to discuss the Moses Lake Phosphorus Mitigation Project on Rocky Ford Creek in August 2025.



Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program

The District helped implement the first of Natural Resources Conservation Service's nearly \$60 million investments in the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program with completion of the OGWRP EL 86.4 irrigation system. In April 2025, 5,426 acres were converted from deep well irrigation to surface water via the Columbia Basin Project, taking 16 wells offline and conserving 5.3 billion gallons of water in the Odessa Aquifer each year.

Photo Caption: Installation of on-farm pumps and pipes in January 2025, utilizing cost share from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, secured through Columbia Basin Conservation District for the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program EL 86.4 system.



Crab Creek Summit - past, present, and future

Building on the State Conservation Commission's Ripple Effect Campaign, the District hosted the Crab Creek Summit in June 2025, bringing together more than 80 landowners, farmers, agency partners, conservation professionals, and tribal representatives for a two-day event at the Wanapum Heritage Center and in the field for meaningful conversation, learning, and connection focused on the past, present, and future stewardship of the Crab Creek watershed.

Photo Caption: Landowners and agency staff learn how to plant riparian vegetation during the Crab Creek Summit in June 2025.

Other accomplishments



Developed individual stewardship plans for 79,000 acres in Grant and Adams counties through the Voluntary Stewardship Program.



Implemented over \$1.7 million in cost share through the State Conservation Commission with 42 producers, including 18 difference conservation practices. Secured \$1.5 million through the Bonneville Environmental Foundation for mobile drip irrigation systems.



Completed 39 Heritage Garden plans in Grant and Adams counties, and provided administrative support for the Moses Lake Watershed Council and the Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Coalition.

📍 Congressional districts 4 & 5 📍 Legislative districts 7, 13 & 15

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