

FOSTER CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024-25 Featured accomplishments



Summer camp success in the shrubsteppe

Camp Sagebrush gives middle schoolers a free, hands-on summer camp in North Central Washington's shrub steppe. For four years, 143 campers have explored soils, plants, wildlife, and more while learning from tribes and partners about ecology, fire-adapted communities, and careers. Plans are underway for year five in 2026.

Photo Caption: Campers explored geological wonders of the coulee on a hike at Lake Lenore Caves. Here they are learning about Indigenous use of caves that were carved out by ice age floods.



The little creek that could

Foster Creek, once ravaged by the 2020 Pearl Hill Fire, is showing how collaboration drives recovery. Since then, nine miles of stream have been restored with 523 beaver dam analogues and 5,000+ native plants. State, local, private, and landowner partners are improving water quality, stream health, and habitat to help this "little creek that could" thrive again.

Photo Caption: A before and after of one of the nine restoration sites along Foster Creek, showcasing the immense change on the landscape these restoration efforts have started to provide since the Pearl Hill fire of 2020.



Voluntary Stewardship Program

Foster Creek Conservation District and the Douglas County Voluntary Stewardship Program support agricultural viability by helping farms stay successful, protect resources, and adapt to challenges. In the 2023-25 biennium, FCCD invested \$1.5 million in cost share; supporting direct seeding on 1,262 acres, 15.9 miles of wildlife-friendly fencing, two watering upgrades, and 500+ acres of noxious weed surveys.

Photo Caption: Producers and partners explore a cover crop field planted to control noxious weeds, increase soil health, and reduce chemical inputs within current crop rotations. This tour is part of a field series that helps support area specific climate smart activities and local ag viability.

Other accomplishments



Developed a "Ditch the Classroom" learning opportunity that brought 195 high schoolers into the local riparian area to learn about wildlife classification, soil texturing and land use, water quality and stream restoration through hands on experience.



In 2025, 20+ partners and volunteers installed 1,990 native plants 4,000+ stream feet. Volunteer event attendance has steadily increased due to more outreach and engagement work with the local community through the WRIA 50 watershed plan update.



Collaborated with partners to update the 10+ year old Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan, and built understanding of the shrub steppe ecosystem through special imagery and monitoring. Provided cost share to help remove burned fencing and install 15.9 miles of wildlife friendly fencing in Douglas County.

📍 Congressional district 4 📍 Legislative district 7

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