

PINE CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024-25 Featured accomplishments



Education emergence

Pine Creek Conservation District recognized a need for more awareness of conservation options for farmers and land managers. To bridge this gap and increase participation in voluntary conservation, we built staff capacity to develop school education, social media outreach, conservation workshops, and increase direct involvement in community events.

Photo Caption: Josilyn Watson, Pine Creek Conservation District staff, gives a lesson on water quality in Pine Creek for Rosalia citizens in collaboration with Whitman County Libraries.



Custom built conservation

Land managers have unique goals and perspectives that guide the tailored approach we take in developing projects. We completed two projects that shared goals of improving wildlife habitat and erosion along creeks that border agricultural fields. One is a 50 foot grass strip with trees and shrubs, the other is a single hedgerow. The hedgerow meets the goals while limiting loss of production acres.

Photo Caption: On the left is a 50 foot-wide grass stand planted with trees and shrubs along Thorn Creek. On the right is a single row hedgerow planted between Pine Creek and the edge of the field in canola production.



Igniting community wildfire resiliency

Wildfire is an increasingly recognized threat in our communities and improved resiliency is a need that we can help meet. To this end, we partnered with towns, fire districts, and landowners and provided financial and technical assistance with fuels reduction using rotational grazing of goats, wood chipping, forest stewardship planning, and home ignition zone assessments.

Photo Caption: Pine Creek Conservation District and Department of Natural Resources crews work on a woody residue treatment project for forest improvement and fuels reduction near the town of Malden.

Other accomplishments

- Educated 322 students on conservation and agricultural viability through the Wheat Week Program, Fish in the Classroom, FFA, 4H and more.
- Engaged 977 community members at 15 events in communities across the District.
- Initiated a social media campaign, which gained more than 30,000 views since August 2024.
- Enabled 1,280 acres of conservation tillage resulting in reduced erosion and improved soil health.
- Improved farmstead energy efficiency through completion of a windbreak project and cost share on two GPS precision guidance upgrades.
- Reduced fine fuels on 80+ acres using rotational grazing of goats in a high risk community.
- Improved 22 acres of habitat with seeding and planting on farms along Thorn Creek, Pine Creek, and Little Hangman Creek.

📍 Congressional district 5 📍 Legislative district 9

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