



FOSTER CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
 JULY 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7/10/2024 **FCCD Board Meeting** 6 PM, Pioneer Hall, Mansfield, WA
- 7/20/2024 **FloodFest**, Dry Falls Interpretative Center, Coulee City, WA
- 8/22-25/2024 **NCW Fair**, Waterville, WA



CAMP SAGEBRUSH 2024

In the heart of Dry Falls State Park is Camp Delany where Camp Sagebrush annually hosts over thirty 5th-7th grade students with bunk cabins and regular meals at no cost to their families. This one-of-a-kind program brings summer camp flare to environmental education and natural resource careers. Between free time for crafts, games, or swimming, campers rotate through multiple hands-on educational activities packed with playfulness, curiosity, and team-building.

Tuesday's activities included tie-dying camp T-shirts, a forestry game from Cascadia Conservation District, a wildlife table full of bones and pelts from the WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife, and a geology and history hike before dinner guided by archaeologist Mark Amara.

Wednesday started with a native and First Foods plant walk with Colville Confederated Tribes, alongside a soil lesson by our staff, and a conservation lesson by Columbia Basin Conservation District. We finished with water quality education that zoomed in from a river basin and watershed to the fish that live there and the macroinvertebrates that indicate water quality. Campers led an impromptu talent show and the evening closed with a movie.

By Thursday, everyone wore their tie-dye camp shirts and spent the morning learning about wildfire preparedness by playing a special game of corn hole, and hands-on wildland fire training with WA State Parks.



FREE AND FUN(DED)!

Camp Sagebrush is only possible with generous funding from FEMA and RCO-NCLI grants, prioritizing wildfire preparedness and enhanced learning and creativity through outdoor education.

Over a dozen volunteers and partner organizations assisted with camp operations to ensure a safe and positive environment. This allowed campers to connect with local natural resource professionals who are passionate and knowledgeable about life in the shrubsteppe.

GROWING EVERY YEAR

Camp Sagebrush debuted in 2022 in pursuit of fire safety and shrub-steppe conservation. Our partnerships continue to grow, kids and parents value the experience, and our third year was the best yet! Stay updated for next year by following our social media or visiting our website.



YEAR-ROUND EDUCATION PROGRAM

Throughout the year, we are at community events, in classrooms, and coordinating with partners to bring engaging and relevant natural resource education to our community. Contact us to find out more or get involved.

Maggie McGillivray, Program Coordinator
 509-888-6374 info@fostercreekcd.org

VIRTUAL FENCING FOR WILDFIRE RESILIENCE



In 2022, we partnered with Conservation Northwest and Vence to eliminate the need for costly barbed wire for ranchers in the wildfire burn scars. Our pilot program has seen great success with the technology and cost reductions when paired with NRCS prescribed grazing practices.

Douglas County producer, Douglas Poole shared his experience with virtual fencing at Washington State's Virtual Fence Conference this past June. If you're interested in learning more or pursuing funding, we can provide cost-share opportunities and technical assistance.



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DYER HILL PRODUCER TOUR RE-CAP



On May 21st, twenty-seven Douglas County farmers and ranchers visited Dyer Hill to learn from eight speakers about innovative agricultural practices. Presenters came from near and far, including several Douglas County producers.

The highlight of the tour was hearing from three ranches about their experiences using virtual fencing. Other topics included new crop trials, soil health, and cropland carbon sequestration.

After a great turnout, we're already thinking about our next tour! Where should we host this one? What do you want to learn more about?

TOPICS & SPEAKERS

- Virtual Fence Demo - McCalley Cunningham
- Virtual Fence Panel - Douglas Poole, Dan Cavadini, Dave Ruud
- Soil Health - Michael Nester
- Managing Herbicide Resistant Weeds - Ian Burke
- Carbon Sequestration - Claire Phillips




FCCD Board of Supervisors

- John McLean – *Chair*
- Lee Hemmer – *Vice-Chair*
- Douglas Poole – *Auditor*
- Wade Troutman – *Board Member*
- Kelsey Tanneberg – *Board Member*

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- Krystal Sadler – Financial Manager
- Maggie McGillivray – Program Coordinator
- Jackson Moody – Voluntary Stewardship Program
- Desiree Elliott – Natural Resource Technician
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