



FOSTER CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
 JANUARY 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1/9/2024 **Community Wildfire Preparedness Planning Meeting** 11AM-1PM, Waterville Library, Waterville, WA
- 1/10/2024 **Foster Creek Board Meeting** 1-3PM, Pioneer Hall, Mansfield WA
- 2/14/2024 **Foster Creek & South Douglas CDs' Annual Meeting** 8AM-3PM, Pioneer Hall, Mansfield, WA
- 2/21/2024 **NRCS Local Working Group Meeting** 4PM-7PM, Chelan School District Office

YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW

As the year wrapped up, we paid our Direct Seed Cost-Share program participants, providing 75% cost-share for eligible acres via the Department of Ecology's Water Quality Combined Funding Program. Direct seeding reduces soil erosion by as much as 95% and dryland farmers report up to 25% more water in their soil. While your soil builds moisture, nutrients, and resistance to erosion, you may require less fertilizer and benefit waterways through reduced sediment runoff. Find out why more farmers are converting to direct seed and no-till practices from the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association.



TWO SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTEER PLANTINGS

FCCD hosted two volunteer planting events this fall along Foster Creek. These events had 37 volunteers getting 469 native riparian plants in the ground in just a few short hours. This restoration project will help combat stream bank erosion and improve water quality on Foster Creek!



WHAT DOES VSP MEAN FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY?

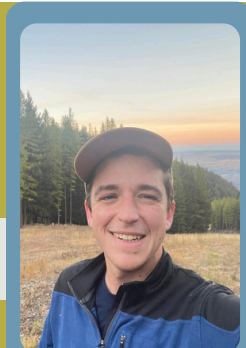
You may have heard about the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP,) but you may still be a little confused about what it really means for you and your land. In its simplest terms – **The VSP is a way we can showcase the conservation ethic of Douglas County.** When the State Legislature passed the Growth Management Act in 1990 one of the provisions required increased protection of critical ecological areas. Agricultural producers across the state found it was difficult to adhere to extra regulations and still operate viable farms. After hearing their concerns, the state created VSP as the answer.



Under VSP we are subject to less state regulation. It allows producers to implement conservation on **their** terms. If we can continue to meet our participation benchmarks and protect degradation of ecological areas, we will enjoy relaxed regulations and be allowed to decide what conservation projects work best for our individual operations.

If you haven't worked with us already, please reach out! We would be happy to talk about what programs are right for you and your land.

Contact our Program Coordinator: jmoody@fostercreekcd.org



WHAT IS A CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

Conservation Districts are non-regulatory entities that help connect local landowners and community members to resources to address natural resource concerns and implement projects. Let our team help you reach your land management goals. Reach out to start a project today!

MODELING EROSION

Eroded sediment may be the dominant pollutant in Foster Creek. To address water quality concerns, we are modeling the watershed to determine how much of this erosion is natural and where to prioritize water quality protection. This will inform our priorities, goals, and interventions while designing a new watershed plan for Foster Creek, WRIA 50. During the planning process, we need your input to ensure our work continues to align with the needs and visions of our community. Join the planning committee as a landowner, producer, or citizen-at-large to have a direct impact on how we manage our natural resources.

Email delliott@fostercreekcd.org for more information about the committee or planning process.



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FCCD SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Join us in congratulating our Grants & Program Manager, Ryan Lefler, in receiving the North Central Area Special Recognition Award from the Washington State Conservation Commission.

“Through your work you have been integral in pushing the district forward in bringing new ways for your cooperators to participate in conservation programs.” - Sarah Groth, WSCC

WILDLIFE HABITAT RESTORATION FUNDS

Do you have wildlife habitat on your property? We are looking for ideas for restoration projects in northern Douglas County to be funded through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Up to \$25,000 is available for habitat restoration and enhancement related to greater sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, and mule deer. FCCD technicians can work with you to design and implement the project. Project ideas need to be submitted by February 28th, 2024.



For more information, please contact Ryan Lefler: rlabler@fostercreekcd.org


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