



Franklin Conservation District

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Legislative District: 9, 16 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments



Our Salmon in the Classroom program reached 20 schools and 1,880 students during the 2018-2019 school year in Franklin County. Photo by Kara Kaelber



Fifteen watering facilities for wildlife were installed through the Voluntary Stewardship Program. Photo by Riley Zionce



Landscaping with native plants allows for 2.67 acre-feet per acre of water to be conserved compared to traditional landscaping. Photo by Heather Wendt

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Voluntary Stewardship Program Supports Agricultural Viability

Resource Challenge

Kris Butcher owns 50 acres of pasture nestled along the banks of a South Columbia Basin Irrigation District waterway. For part of the year, Kris' property is home to 75 heifers who graze this rolling landscape. The property has two out of five critical areas identified in the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP). Kris's concerns for his property included the erosion of the steep slopes along the waterway, seasonal wetlands, and how to better actively manage grazing of the pasture.

Project Summary and Results

The Butcher Project was one of several funded by the Franklin County VSP Workgroup to protect critical areas and agricultural viability in Franklin County. 5,948 feet of exclusion fencing was installed to exclude cattle from the banks of the waterway to prevent erosion. A livestock watering system was installed to provide water to the cattle now that their water source — the waterway — was no longer accessible. 4,347 feet of cross-fencing was installed to assist Kris in actively managing his pastures and to exclude cattle from seasonal wet areas, as necessary.



Butcher site before (top) and after installation of fencing (bottom) as part of this VSP Project. Photo by John Fazio

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission; Kristopher Butcher

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Conduct status reviews of 28 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Stewardship Program contracts, and oversee the implementation of 15 Irrigation Water Management contracts.
- ▶ Partner with the City of Pasco on the design of low water-use landscaping at Fire Station 83.