



Franklin Conservation District

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Legislative District: 9, 16 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments



Drain Rangers and JR. Drain Rangers are new stormwater education programs, tailored to eastern Washington by the FCD. Photo by Kara Kaelber



FCD staff are overseeing the implementation of 24 irrigation water management plans covering 3,171.4 acres. Photo by Mark Nielson



FCD completed two irrigation conversions on 102 acres, with Conservation Commission funding, allowing for 70 ac-ft of water to be saved annually. Photo by Heather Wendt

Priorities for 2019...

- ▶ Conduct status reviews of 25 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Stewardship Program contracts.
- ▶ Continue implementation and data collection for Franklin County's Voluntary Stewardship Program.

2018 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Technology Aids Critical Area Tracking and Protection

Resource Challenge

Under Washington State's Growth Management Act, critical areas that intersect agricultural lands are to be protected while also maintaining agricultural viability through the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP). Franklin County's VSP work plan was approved in February 2018. The work plan outlines the course of action and benchmarks that Franklin Conservation District (FCD) needs to reach for VSP to be successful. The primary challenge is how to effectively track changes to critical areas.

Project Summary and Results

FCD is monitoring the success of VSP by utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS) data. Utilizing Esri's ArcGIS software, FCD can track critical area or agriculture changes that have occurred. When new aerial imagery and critical area data is provided, FCD can use ArcGIS to measure these changes for meaningful tracking of critical area and agricultural viability protection. Additionally, the District can use ArcGIS apps to collect data from agricultural producers about conservation practices being implemented, adding to the measurement of success of VSP.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission



Conservation Technician Shaina Zollman and Conservation Dog Angus map a wildlife habitat planting for VSP.

Photo by Mark Nielson