



Other Accomplishments

2009-2010 Tree Sale

The annual tree and shrub sale was a success with over 90,000 seedlings sold to more than 500 customers! The sale was featured on a local TV station's morning news program (*below*).



FFFP Projects

SCCD offers technical assistance for fish barrier assessments through the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. We currently have four barrier removal projects in progress for 2011 and have completed nine similar projects since 2007.

Before



After



Avista Shade Tree Program

The District has partnered with Avista Utilities to offer free shade trees to eligible homeowners to help reduce residential cooling costs. 33 trees were planted in fall 2009, 50 were planted in spring 2010 and another 50 are scheduled for this fall.

2010 Feature Accomplishment

Direct Seed Mentoring Project

Resource Challenge

The adoption rate of direct seeding in the Pacific Northwest is low compared to the rest of the United States and internationally, where direct seeding is the standard farming method. The low adoption rate is primarily due to the lack of expertise and support available to those transitioning to direct seed systems, the high cost of new equipment, and concern about potential yield losses. The purpose of the project was to address those barriers.



A no-till operation in standing wheat stubble. The ground is virtually undisturbed and is incapable of contributing to soil erosion and nutrient runoff.

Project Summary and Results

Funded by the State of Washington, in FY 2010 there were a total of eight experienced direct seeders (mentors) teamed with 10 producers looking to make the switch from conventional tillage. The mentors offered education about direct seeding and provided equipment and custom seeding services. A financial analysis of the project was completed and showed:

Direct Seed vs. Conventional Tillage (spring grain crop)

- 50% **reduction** in labor costs
- 42% **savings** for fuel and lubrication
- 20% **reduction** in repairs (parts & labor)
- 25% **increase** in capital recovery
- Approximate overall savings of **\$13.50 per acre**

Key Project Partners

Ag Pilots Program, State of Washington
Dennis Roe
Dr. Kate Painter, University of Idaho
Dr. Hans Kok, Former Conservation Tillage Specialist, Washington State University/University of Idaho
Palouse Conservation District
Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District
Washington State Department of Ecology

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Dixie Riddle, Auditor
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Mary Sullivan, Member

More Work To Do

Groundwater Study: In 2010 we began a groundwater study in the Hangman Creek watershed. Wells were drilled in four key areas. The monitoring will provide us with information about groundwater resources in the Hangman basin.

Soil Testing: The District is in the process of opening an on-site soils testing lab; in the meantime we are providing free soil testing kits for customers to send their samples to an outside lab.

Direct Seed Loan Program: We are now able to offer low-interest agriculture equipment loans to growers in 17 counties including one in North Idaho, with more counties in the works.