



SCD January 2013 Newsletter

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SCD is taking orders now through March 15th. Don't miss out!

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Exercise your right to vote Tuesday March 12, 2013

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509.535.7274
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THINK GREEN, THINK SPRING THE TREE SALE IS COMING!

Believe it or not, but as you shovel your sidewalk (again) or burrow under your comforter looking for that last pocket of warmth, now is the time to start thinking about your spring plantings! Whether it's your backyard garden or a row of trees to shield you from your neighbors, we can help!

That's right; it's time again for the Spokane County Conservation District's Annual Tree & Shrub Seedling Sale. **We are accepting orders now through Friday, March 15, 2013.** Our seedlings are priced as low as 5 for \$6!

We have over 30 species of plants available this year that are suitable for a variety of uses, including:

- Being grown for use as Christmas trees
- Beautifying your urban landscape
- Establishing a lush riparian buffer or stabilizing stream banks
- Reforesting large rural acreage
- Creating screens and windbreaks

The grow-low sumac will be the featured species once again this year. This is an extremely hardy plant that can be used to address erosion issues in the landscape. If you want to see one in person, drop by our office and see our grow-low sumac in the storm garden demonstration site.

To receive an order form and brochure either go online and download one at www.sccd.org or call the District office and we will put one in the mail for you. You can then order your plants one of two ways:

1. Mail your order form and deposit
2. Stop by the District office and order in person

Remember, the deadline is March 15, 2013 and species do sell out so it is best to order early! Your plants will be ready for pick up during the spring distribution days of April 5th and 6th.

Have a question about the sale or about the specific shrubs and trees? Call the Conservation District at 509-535-7274 today!



FROM THE
GROUND UP



SCD “Saddles” New Livestock Owner Assistance Program; Livestock & Land



SCD names new director Vicki Carter:

Vicki Carter, a veteran of 22 years with the District was recently selected as the District Director, replacing Rich Baden who retired in December, 2011.

Vicki began with the District in February, 1991, and has proven herself to be a most valued employee. She wasted no time leading the staff forward to work through what has turned out to be the most successful year ever for the District. Add in the efforts to bring the Smithsonian exhibit “Dig It! The Secrets of Soil” to Spokane’s Museum of Arts and Culture for a record setting eight month visit, while implementing several new conservation programs, it quickly became obvious that the Board could not have made a better decision.

Thanks Vicki and good luck!

In eastern Washington, many livestock owners are struggling with the same old issues of mud and manure on their ranches and farms. As the temperature drops, livestock owners are reminded of the difficult times ahead in managing their animals. It’s time to make those nasty winter chores easier and the Spokane Conservation District (SCD) is here to help.

Our Livestock & Land Livestock Owner Assistance program helps livestock owners improve their facility and management through workshops, site assessments and more. Recent participants to a local Livestock & Land workshop noted that it had, “Great presentations with benefits to experienced and new livestock owners alike.”

As a result of recent fall and spring workshops, the SCD conducted more than 30 site assessments and worked with numerous landowners to develop plans, purchase materials, engineer facilities, and install 25 different Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Livestock Management. These BMPs will protect water quality, improve the health of the livestock, and make chores easier and more efficient for the landowner. Most of the participants were able to take advantage of the available program cost-share of up to 75%! Most practices were cost-shared at 50%.

“If it were not for the cost-share, I would not have been able to complete the projects and make my ranch a better place for my animals and still protect water quality at the same time,” said one participant.

Interested in improving your livestock management? Contact Walt Edelen at (509) 535-7274 or e-mail at walt-edelen@sccd.org. Landowners can call the SCD and receive a FREE site consultation that includes a recommendation report. These reports are non-mandatory and confidential to the landowner. Contact us today and start improving your operation.



BEFORE



AFTER





FEATURED PROJECTS

Family Forest Fish Passage Program (3F2P)

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program (3F2P) is a voluntary program through which landowners can receive financial and technical assistance for removing or repairing man-made fish blockages on forestland.

In 2012, the SCD completed a fish passage project on Coulee Creek that opened up approximately 32 miles of habitat for red-band rainbow trout. As you can see from the photos below, there was a significant outfall drop from the end of the culverts. This drop prevented fish from migrating upstream during summer low-flow conditions that frequently dry up the stream in the lower reaches of the watershed.

Since 2005, the SCD has worked with 10 private forest landowners to complete 13 fish passage barrier corrections, with three new barrier corrections funded/scheduled for 2013. A total of 63.65 miles of DNR Type F (fish use) stream habitat has been made accessible since SCD began sponsoring projects in 2005.

The Spokane County Conservation District is pleased to offer the citizens of Spokane County local technical assistance in the areas of fish passage barrier assessment and project sponsorship for this highly valuable program. For more information about culvert assessment, program enrollment or project sponsorship in Spokane County, please contact your local FFFPP Project Representative: Daniel Ross at (509) 535-7274 ext. 229 or email dan-ross@sccd.org



3F2P Before



3F2P After

Eloika Lake Aquatic Weed Management

Public safety has been a major concern for those who enjoy the beneficial uses that Eloika Lake has to offer. Several tragic drowning incidents involving weed and/or mud entanglement over the past 10 years have emphasized these concerns. Unfortunately, historic land use practices and activities in the upper watershed have significantly accelerated the natural eutrophication (aging) process in Eloika Lake. This process has been compounded into an unbalanced cycle that generates nutrient rich sediment, continually reduces lake depth, produces periodic algal blooms, and promotes excessive annual macrophyte (aquatic plant) populations (both native and invasive).

In 2008, the Spokane Conservation District (SCD) partnered with the Eloika Lake Association (ELA) and sponsored a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology's Aquatic Weeds Management Fund (AWMF) to support the development of an Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP) for the lake.

In addition to the current Implementation Project, many other efforts are being pursued to restore the beneficial uses of the lake and return the system to a more natural balance. Long-term strategies are identified in the IAVMP to address these and other concerns. If you are interested in learning more about Eloika Lake management strategies, please visit the Eloika Lake Association (ELA) website, www.eloikalake.com. Contact Daniel Ross (dan-ross@sccd.org) or Walt Edelen (walt-edelen@sccd.org) for current information about the project.

Are you interested in more information about the Conservation District?

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[facebook.com/spokaneconservation](https://www.facebook.com/spokaneconservation)
twitter.com/SpokaneConserve



Eloika Lake



Congratulations Stacey!

The Spokane Conservation District is proud to announce the 2012 Employee of the Year is our Education Coordinator, Stacey Selcho. Stacey has been with the District since 2009 and has made an enormous positive impact on the lives of the students in the area.

Stacey maintains the highest quality of work while reaching thousands of students each year. Her teacher evaluations prove that she is a fantastic educator and valued by those who have seen her teach. She has received 100% affirmation by teachers when answering the question, "would you have this lesson again in your classroom?" This reaction certainly indicates a high degree of skill and professionalism on Stacey's part. It is readily apparent that what she's doing is of the highest quality. Thanks Stacey!

ELECTIONS ARE COMING TO SCD

The Spokane Conservation District is a political sub-division of Washington State Government, guided by a five member Board of Supervisors; three of them are elected and two positions are appointed by the Washington State Conservation commission. The Supervisors serve voluntarily with each term being three years in length. The District holds a special election each year for one of the three elected positions. The election in 2013 has been set for Tuesday, March 12. Voting will be at the District Office located at 210 N. Havana. The position up for election is currently held by Jaki Shrauger, a school teacher and farmer in the Deer Park area.

The District is an assistance agency for landowners, public and private for natural resources and environmental issues. The role of the Supervisors is to establish natural resource priorities and set policies. It is up to the District staff to design and implement programs to address those issues. The Supervisors do not receive any compensation but are eligible for reimbursement of expenses incurred while doing the business of the District. The stated mission of the Spokane Conservation District is; "To promote the sustainable use of natural resources in Spokane County".

If you are interested in this position, learn more about becoming a Board Supervisor by contacting the Elections Officer, Jim Armstrong at (509) 535-7274 x218 or by email, jim-armstrong@sccd.org You must be a landowner or land occupier, be a registered voter, and live within Spokane County to run for this office. People living within the boundaries of the City of Deer Park cannot vote or hold office unless they also own land in Spokane County outside of Deer Park.

SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Gerald (Jerry) Scheele, Board Chair

Randy James, Board Vice-Chair

Jaki Shrauger, Board Auditor

Tom Miller, Board Member

Mary Sullivan, Board Member

The Spokane Conservation District is located on the southwest corner of the Spokane Fairgrounds at:
210 North Havana Street, Spokane WA 99202

Our office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30pm

509-535-7274 (phone) | 509-535-7410 (fax)

To contact a specific staff person by e-mail, please consult our staff directory located on our website at: www.sccd.org

**FROM THE
GROUNDUP**