



Winter
2017

CONSERVATION CONNECTION

Ferry Conservation District

Our mission is to safeguard the rural lifestyle and sustainable use of natural resources of Ferry County for present and future landowners, residents, and visitors by offering technical and financial assistance, outreach, and education through partnerships.

Mark Your Calendar

- Voluntary Stewardship Program Meeting on **Thursday, February 16**, (Meetings every 3rd Thursday) at **6:00 PM** . Commissioners' Office, Republic (see box below)
- Our Board of Supervisors will meet on Wednesday , Feb 22 at 5:30. (Meets every 3rd Wednesday.)
- Firewise Workshops: Thurs., March 2, 7 PM, former fire hall, Curlew; Wed., March 15, 7 PM, Fire Hall, Republic; Sat., April 22, 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM, Ferry County Fairgrounds.
- Spring Plant Sale Pre-Order Pickup, April 21-22, Ferry County Fairgrounds.
- Spring Conservation Fair, Ferry County Fairgrounds, Sat, April 22, 10 AM-1 PM

2017 Spring Plant Sale to Feature Natives, Ornamentals and Edibles

Planting trees, shrubs and berries on your property provides multiple benefits. Plants will beautify your property and add to its value. The foliage and fruits of plants provide food for wildlife and for your family. Flowering shrubs attract pollinators, such as butterflies and bees, enhancing the entire ecosystem. Trees can provide shade or act as a windbreak. Reforestation trees enhance the landscape and provide timber and firewood for harvest in the future. Planting in riparian are-

as (river and stream banks) helps protect river and stream banks, preventing erosion and degradation of water quality.

For its 2017 Spring Plant Sale, the Ferry Conservation District is offering a variety of plants carefully selected for use in our particular climate. Except for asparagus (from Michigan) all plants have been purchased from Northwest nurseries.

Natives

Native trees and shrubs are an important part of the sale. Why

natives? Natives are the plants naturally occurring in an area. This means they are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions and need

Woods Rose



less irrigation and fertilization than non-native plants. They are more resistant to pests and disease and will better provide food and shelter for native wildlife.

(2017 Plant Sale - cont. on Pg. 3)

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Agriculture, Water, & Local Control

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED AND NEEDED!

The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) is the final step for Ferry County to opt out of the Growth Management Act (GMA). It is about making rules locally to fit local needs.

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 16

6:00pm - Every Third Thursday
County Commissioners' Office - Republic

For more information
Call (509) 775-3473 ext 5



Volunteering to participate means :

- We maintain local control, instead of following State mandated regulations.
- Our priority is to maintain the economic viability of Ferry County agriculture.
- Participation in the program is voluntary.
- The program recognizes the good stewardship of Ferry County's farmers, ranchers and land owners.
- There will be incentives provided to participants upon completion of the program report.



FERRY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Sanpoil River Riparian Restoration: a New Piece to the Puzzle

The Sanpoil River is one of the major watersheds in Ferry Conservation District. A primary environmental concern for the watershed is high water temperatures caused largely by excessive sedimentation.

Landowners also face the issue of losing agricultural land to erosion. In 2010, a landowner contacted us for help with their erosion problem. We could help them meet their needs and also meet our goals of sediment reduction and overall water quality improvement in the Sanpoil Watershed.

The project was a good match for our Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water Fund grant, the Sanpoil Cooperative Implementation Project.



Top: Steep high banks are prone to crumbling in to the stream, unleashing tons of sediment. Bottom: Banks have been resloped and the toes protected with woody material. The banks and surrounding buffer will be revegetated. Protective fencing has been installed.

The district also received financial assistance from a State Conservation Commission capital grant (non-shellfish). The project is meeting grant requirements and helping the landowner, making it a win-win for everyone.

The project involved building in-stream log barbs that shifted the current away from vulnerable banks. The banks are also re-sloped to make them less susceptible to being undercut.

The riparian buffer was fenced to keep livestock from damaging the stream bank. The final step will be replanting the disturbed stream banks and the buffer when the ground thaws in the spring.

“We could help them meet their needs and also meet our goals of sediment reduction and overall water quality improvement in the Sanpoil Watershed.”

Firewise Program Takes Shape

Three Public Firewise events are scheduled for March and April in Republic and Curlew.

The free workshops, presented by Guy Gifford of the Washington Dept. of Natural Resources, will teach participants the principles of “defensible space”, i.e., developing a safe zone around the home to help prevent ignition from an ember storm or a flame front during a wildfire. The concepts of fire-resistant landscaping and forest fuel reduction will be covered.

The Ferry Conservation District is sponsoring these workshops in collaboration with the Republic and Curlew Fire Districts: On Thursday, March 2 at 7 PM at the Republic Fire Hall on Keller St. and on Wednesday, March 15 at 7 PM at the former fire hall on River St in Curlew. In addition, a workshop will be offered



Are You Prepared for This? (Image by Firewise)

at the Spring Conservation Fair at the Ferry County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 22.

Workshop participants may sign up for free home assessments (to determine measures needed to make homes more defensible) and for cost-share projects to reduce forest fuels on their property (thinning and pruning).

In addition, participants may purchase emergency address sign-

age for a reduced cost. (Private road signs and identifying numbers to help emergency vehicles are required by county ordinance.)

District staff will also offer Firewise information at upcoming community events, including the Ferry County Fair, the Spring Conservation Fair, Prospector’s Day and Friday Market.

Firewise is an educational program providing important information to private landowners and communities about actions they can take to prepare for and prevent damage to their home and property from wildfire.

District staff recently attended a two-day Firewise workshop in Alger, WA, presented by The Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Skagit Conservation District and the Washington State Conservation Commission.

2017 Spring Plant Sale to Feature Natives, Ornamentals and Edibles

(continued from Pg.1)

Wood's Rose (*Rosa woodsia*). A native deciduous shrub, growing to 6 feet. The pink flowers and red fruit (hips) attract birds, mammals and pollinators. The hips, which were used by Native Americans, are a good source of vitamin C and can be made into jams and jellies.

Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*) grows to 9 feet tall, with large clusters of fragrant white blossoms. Because of its fragrance (similar that of orange blossoms), consider planting near a walkway or driveway. The nectar-rich blossoms of this native deciduous shrub will attract pollinators.

This year we are again offering **Ponderosa Pine** (*Pinus ponderosa*) for reforestation. The Ponderosa (reaching 50'-100' and sometimes much higher) grows abundantly in our area on dry south-facing slopes and is very tolerant of high summer temperatures. The Ponderosa Pine, a major source of timber in our region also provides important wildlife habitat, recreation use and aesthetic value.

For the first time in several years, the District is offering **Douglas Fir** (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) as a reforestation tree. This is an attractive conifer whose abundant seeds provide food for many birds and small mammals. The Douglas fir is a valuable timber tree which typically grows to a height of 150 feet and sometimes reaches 200 feet.

Ornamental Trees and Shrubs

Common Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*). This familiar shrub grows to 20' (up to 12' wide), producing beautiful fragrant purple flowers in late May.

Hungarian Lilac (*Syringa josikaea*). This ornamental shrub blooms later than common lilac. Deep violet buds open to pale lilac blooms in early summer. Plant grows to height of 7- 13'.

The Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*) is a bluish-green conifer which may reach a height of 50 feet or more. The distinctive color and generally even shape of this conical tree make it an attractive ornamental.

Edible Fruit and Berries

Liberty Apple (*Malus domestica*) Produces a medium-sized fruit, sporting brilliant red color over yellow. The flesh is pale yellow and juicy.

Ruby Jonathan Apple (*Malus domestica*) A medium sized sweet apple, with a touch of acid, good for eating fresh and for cooking.

Manchurian Crab Apple (*Malus baccata*). Fragrant white flowers open from pink buds in spring. Small fall fruit attract birds and may be made into jelly. Manchurian crab apple will pollinate many apple varieties, including the Liberty and the Red Jonathan.

Chinese Apricot "aka Mormon" (*Prunus armeniaca*) An early blooming and early bearing variety. The fruit is small to medium, with yellow to orangeish skin and flesh, and sweet mild flavor.

Wenatchee Moorpark Apricot (*prunus armeniaca*) Bears large-sized fruit, yellow in color, with greenish-yellow flesh. Good for drying and home canning.

Albion Strawberry. This large firm strawberry has an excellent sweet flavor. A "day-neutral" berry, it will produce fruit from July to October.

Shuksan Strawberry. Developed at Washington State University in 1970, produces ripe berries for a three-week period in late June and early July. These deeply red berries have a wonderfully sweet flavor.

Top Hat and the **North Country** blueberries. These "half-high" varieties are the perfect size for growing in containers. Blueberries demand very acidic soil and plenty of moisture for good growth. Garden soil can be prepared for growing these plants, but proper acidity will be easier to maintain in containers.

Asparagus

Back by popular demand, the District is including **asparagus** at the 2017 plant sale. **Mary Washington Asparagus**, touted as the best all-around variety for home garden use, will grow in acid, alkaline, clay or any type of black soil.

At publication, the District is sold out of many of these plants. However a number are still available. Please visit our website (ferrycd.org) or call us at 509-775-3473 ext. 100 to inquire about availability or for more information. Pre-ordered plants will be available for pick-up on Friday and Saturday, April 21 and 22, at the Ferry County Fairgrounds.



Ponderosa Pine

“The Ponderosa Pine, a major source of timber in our region also provides important wildlife habitat, recreational use and aesthetic value.”

Ferry Conservation District

84 East Delaware Ave.
PO Box 1045
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(509)775-3473 Ext. 5

Conserving Natural Resources Since 1947

Ferry Conservation District Partners with Colville Tribes

The Ferry Conservation District recently partnered with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) Environmental Trust Department on a project replacing unused stream-adjacent roads with riparian vegetation to improve water quality along Thirty Mile Creek and Bridge Creek in the Sanpoil River watershed. Note: Other access roads have been constructed that meet CTCR Forest Practices requirements for Riparian Management Zones. These newer roads allow for continued use of these Tribal Forest Districts for production of forest products and wildland firefighting in addition to ranching, hunting, fishing, gathering and firewood-cutting.

15.6 acres of riparian habitat were restored improving soils, hydrology, and riparian habitat. A total of 78 acres of Forest Practices buffer benefitted from this project.

The Sanpoil River will benefit in several ways from restoration of tributaries in its watershed:

- Hydrologic modification reduced.
- Water temperature/dissolved oxygen improved.
- Turbidity reduced.
- Sediment delivery reduced.
- Aquatic habitat condition improved.

Cost-share funding was provided for this project through a Water Quality Grant from the Washington Department of Ecology.



This unused streamside road has just been seeded. This riparian restoration will improve water quality.

EQIP Deadline Feb. 17

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers cost share funding for conservation projects on private agricultural and forest land through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The application deadline for round two of 2017 funding is February 17. Contact Patrice Beckwith, NRCS Resource Conservationist at (509)775-3473 ext. 102 or at patrice.beckwith@wa.usda.gov for more information.

We're on the Web. Visit us at :

<http://www.ferrycd.org>

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A Winter Wonderland

Ferry Conservation District is a non-regulatory agency. Our services are available to all without discrimination.