



State Legislative District #7  
Congressional District #5

# Ferry Conservation District

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Board Chair: Dave Konz

## Other Accomplishments



Riparian fencing is our most cost effective water quality improvement tool.



Help from our friends: A Job Corps student prunes plants in our wild plant nursery.

### 2014 Feature Accomplishment: Protecting the Sanpoil River corridor

**RESOURCE CHALLENGE** The Sanpoil River winds for 70 miles through Ferry County. Forty miles of that distance is through the Reservation of Colville Confederated Tribes. Most of the Reservation land is open range. To fence a traditional riparian (streamside) buffer (100 feet wide) to exclude livestock and protect water quality would cost at least \$1.6 million. Ferry Conservation District faced a challenge: how could we protect the riparian corridor at a reasonable cost? We were contacted by Colville Tribal Range Management with a proposal that met our needs.



Guardian walls of the Sanpoil River Valley

**PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS** The Sanpoil River Valley has steep rock walls, and just a few narrow canyons pass through those walls. The Tribal Range Management plan was to install cattle guards in those canyon roads and then build fences from the cattle guards to the canyon walls. They had the plan. What

they needed was financial assistance. For less than 20 percent of our original cost estimate, we will have adequate livestock exclusion. In addition we will have a much wider and more natural riparian corridor. This is the largest project that we have ever undertaken in cooperation with the Colville Confederated Tribes.



From the edge of the road, this fence line stretches to the canyon wall

**KEY PARTNERS:** Colville Confederated Tribes; Bureau of Indian Affairs; WA State Conservation Commission; USDA: Natural Resources Conservation Service; Colville Reservation Conservation District

## More Work to Do!

- Forest health and wildfire danger remain a serious problem. The Colville Reservation was hit by a 26,000 acre wildfire in August 2014. We are reaching out to landowners within the burned area to offer assistance.
- Continue to work on water quality improvement projects in the Sanpoil Watershed.