

# FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

## Wauters/Olson Livestock Water Installation

### *Resource Challenge*

A rancher leases 132 acres of hay land along the Kettle River, which he also uses as winter pasture for 350-400 head of cattle. The landowner and the rancher want to protect water quality by restricting stock access to the river, but also have to provide drinking water for the cattle.

### *Project Summary*

This turned out to be the first step in a multiple-stage project. In the fall of 2005, the land users sought help from Ferry Conservation District for a water delivery system and troughs sufficient for 400 head of cattle. With the District's cost-share assistance, the rancher and owner installed ¼ mile of pipeline and three 1500-gallon stainless steel tanks. They placed the tanks far away from the river to limit runoff during spring thaw. During the first winter, cattle were kept off the river banks with temporary fencing. In the summer of 2006, the landowner proceeded to permanently fence off the river and the riparian area, but that is another story.

### *Project Results*

Four hundred cows, plus their calves, no longer have to drink directly from the river. This has resulted in less manure in the water and on the banks, and healthier riparian areas because of reduced impact. This is also a case of a respected rancher setting a good example for others to follow.



One of the troughs installed as part of a project to restrict cattle access to the Kettle River.

## More Information

### *Contact*

Patricia Hamod, District Manager  
PO Box 1045  
Republic, WA 99166  
(509) 775-3473  
[patricia-hamod@wa.nacdnet.org](mailto:patricia-hamod@wa.nacdnet.org)



### *Key Partners Involved*

Landowner  
Leasee

### *Ferry C.D.*

#### *Board of Supervisors*

John Hamilton, Chair  
Bowe Brown, Vice-Chair  
Randy Sage, Auditor  
Ed Windsor, Member  
Gordon Lee Hall, Member



## Other District Information

### *Background*

Ferry Conservation District (FCD) began in 1947 as the Curlew Conservation District and later consolidated with South Ferry to form the Ferry Conservation District. With a population of approximately 7,200 people and a land area of 2,204 square miles, Ferry County has the lowest population density in the State of Washington. Large tracts of the Colville National Forest in the northern half of the district, along with the Colville Indian Reservation to the south, limit the amount of privately owned land to 15%. On the Reservation, FCD shares jurisdiction with the Colville Reservation CD. The Colville Reservation CD is not yet affiliated with WACD or WSCC.

### *Mission Statement*

The conservation of renewable natural resources is a key element in providing conditions conducive to sustainable rural lifestyles, profitable local businesses, and a healthy environment.

### *Natural Resource Priorities and Goals*

- By December 2007 assist landowners in implementing three bank stabilization projects, plus two miles of riparian fencing and ½ mile of channel reconstruction on the San Poil River.
- By December 2007 re-establish a wildlife passage corridor across the south end of Curlew Lake.
- By December 2009 identify and address four water quality issues in the Kettle River watershed.

### *Information – Education Priorities and Goals*

FCD will continue to provide timely relevant information to the public regarding natural resources issues. Efforts will be focused on both youth and adults.

### *Adult-Focused Education/Information Goals:*

- Provide CD activity information to local, state, and federal government decision makers.
- Have an information/education booth at the Ferry County Fair.
- Continue our lead role in Ferry County Pride Month and the Ferry County Spring Conservation Fair.



Streambank Stabilization on Kettle River

### *Youth-Focused Education-Information Goals:*

- Provide educational support for local school districts and home schoolers throughout the Conservation District.
- Participate in The Lake Roosevelt Water Festival.
- Present education program at local Arbor Day celebration.

### *Critical Geographic Areas*

- Kettle River Valley and watershed
- Curlew Lake/Curlew Valley
- San Poil River Watershed and Valley

### *Natural Resources Information and Status*

#### *Forest Lands:*

- 1,186,000 acres of commercial forest land. Approximately 63,000 acres is privately owned.

#### *Agricultural Lands:*

- 299,000 acres of agricultural land, with 207 working farms.
- Most agricultural activity is cattle and hay related.

A major issue facing Ferry County, and the FCD, is the conversion of agricultural and commercial forest land to low-density residential use.

