

Pend Oreille Conservation District *Winter Newsletter*



WE ARE HIRING!!!

The Pend Oreille Conservation District is currently looking to fill the position of Agriculture Program Coordinator.

The Ag Program Coordinator manages programs such as the Voluntary Stewardship Program and Sustainable Farms and Fields. This position additionally works with staff to implement the NRCS Equity in Conservation Outreach and similar programs. This is a full-time (40 hr/week) position located in Newport WA. See the full job description on our website at pocd.org!

POCD ELECTIONS

The POCD election season is underway. To run for a position on the Board of Supervisors or to learn how to vote, **see page 2** for details, or visit pocd.org.

Stop by the District office to pick up a "Vote Conservation" yard sign!

POCD ANNUAL PLANT SALE & PLANTING NATIVE SPECIES WORKSHOP: COME GROW WITH US!

By Stephen Allen, POCD Communications Manager

Get ready for the 2025 Pend Oreille Conservation District's Annual Plant Sale by attending our "Planting Native Species" workshop! This special event is designed to help community members, including those purchasing plants through our sale, learn the best practices for successful planting and approach project design. The workshop will be held Saturday, April 5th, at the Camas Center in Usk, WA. Doors will open at 9:30 a.m., and the event will run until 3 p.m.



This year's workshop offers a comprehensive look at essential topics for a successful planting season. Throughout the day, local specialists will discuss effective weed management strategies to identify, control, and prevent invasive species that threaten native plants. Attendees will learn how to prepare and improve soil

to promote healthy growth and water retention, as well as techniques for handling bareroot seedlings and live cuttings, including proper storage, planting, and care.

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PLANT SALE & WORKSHOP

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The workshop will also delve into riparian planting project design, providing insights into planning and executing restoration projects that improve water quality and create habitat for wildlife.

Whether you're purchasing plants from our sale or simply looking to enhance your planting knowledge, this workshop is the perfect opportunity to connect with conservation experts and like-minded community members. While it is not required to register for this event, you may email the POCD Communications Manager, Stephen Allen, at Stephena@pocd.org to ensure you receive any updates and information about the event.

This year's plant sale will take place on Earth Day weekend, making it the ideal time to celebrate and invest in conservation. Pre-sale of plants is currently available on our website at POCD.org – look for the "Plant Store" button. Good news! We have new additions to our sale, so we have extended the pre-sale through the end of February.

We are also thrilled to partner with the Creative Arts District to participate in their Earth Day Artwalk, taking place in the park next door to our office. We are located at 121 N Washington Ave. in Newport. After the workshop, you can enjoy eco-themed art displays, planting seedlings with kids and celebrating the beauty of nature in creative ways.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to grow your skills, beautify your land, and support local conservation efforts. We'll see you there!

POCD 2025 ELECTION

It's election season for the Pend Oreille Conservation District, and we have one position up for election on the Board of Supervisors.

The current Supervisor whose position expires in May is Jon Paul Driver, who is running again. Anyone who would also like to run for this position can do so until February 14, 2025.

Qualified candidates must be registered voters residing in Pend Oreille County and reside within the boundaries of the conservation district (Pend Oreille County, Town of Metaline, Town of Lone, and City of Newport) and may be required to own land or operate a farm. Interested candidates must file their candidate required information at the district office: 121 N. Washington Ave., Newport, WA 99156.

To vote in the election, ballots can be requested by email, phone, or in person at the district office. Eligible voters must also reside within the boundaries of the district as listed above.

 Stay Connected with POCD!

Be sure to follow us on social media for real-time updates, event announcements, and conservation tips!

Facebook: @PendOreilleConservation

Instagram: @POCD_Conservation

Website: www.pocd.org

Thank you for your continued support of conservation in our community. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and working together for a sustainable future!

The deadline to request a ballot is 5 p.m. on February 26, 2025. Ballots may be requested by emailing mmalone@pocd.org, calling 509-447-1155, or stop by and see us during regular office hours.

Completed ballots must be returned to the district office or postmarked by 5 p.m. on March 19, 2025. Mail-in ballots can be sent to POCD: PO Box 465, Newport, WA. 99156.

Additional information and forms can be found on our website at pocd.org/elections.

POCD RECEIVES TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP AWARD

By Mary Malone, POCD Executive Director

The Pend Oreille Conservation District (POCD) and Kalispel Tribe of Indians were awarded the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Tribal Partnership Award in December.

The award ceremony took place during WACD's Annual Conference at the Northern Quest Casino in Spokane. The award specifically represents the partnership between POCD and the Kalispel Natural Resources Department (KNRD). This partnership is a shining example of collaborative conservation efforts aimed at engaging the local community in sustainable land management practices. Initiatives at the Indian Creek Community Forest—a 350-acre site dedicated to outdoor environmental education and recreation—demonstrate a commitment to preserving natural resources for all.



“We are thankful for our partnership with the Conservation District,” said Mike Lithgow, KNRD Director of Policy and Outreach. “By working together, we accomplish more than we could alone.” Two years ago, POCD partnered with KNRD to expand the Tribe’s nursery at the Indian Creek Community Forest. This collaboration has enabled the addition of locally sourced riparian plants for bank stabilization projects. Recently, a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) facilitated the addition of 1,000 plants by POCD to the nursery stock, enhancing the community’s capacity for restoration projects.

Another initiative is the Skookum Creek Fish and Farm Enhancement Project. This project aims to restore a historical irrigation ditch used by local farmers. The ditch, which has filled in over time, will be revitalized to return water to Skookum Creek, a cold-water tributary of the Pend Oreille River. This initiative supports local agriculture while also contributing to the Tribe’s salmon recovery efforts. KNRD has taken a leading role in this project, which is currently in the design phase.

Other collaborative efforts include education and outreach events, such as the inaugural Pend Oreille Forestry Competition and a two-day professional development workshop, both held at the Indian Creek Community Forest in 2024. The forestry competition provided educational stations for students and educators, fostering hands-on learning about forestry and preparation for regional and state competitions. The educator workshop also focused on forestry, featuring hands-on activities, expert discussions, and nature walks, providing valuable information for the educators to take back to their classrooms.

These initiatives not only engage the community in sustainable practices, but also prioritize education, especially for underserved communities and youth. This award recognizes both entities for their contribution and dedication to natural resources and shared conservation goals.

Pend Oreille Conservation District: Dedicated to preserving our natural resources for future generations.