



SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER!

BUILDING STRONGER LANDS, HEALTHIER FORESTS & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Our NEW Forestland Grazing & Silvopasture Program

This new program is intended to help producers improve the productivity, health, and resilience of their forested lands through integrated grazing and vegetation management. By introducing livestock into forest environments and, where appropriate, transitioning to more structured silvopasture systems, the program promotes active, intentional land stewardship while gathering direct input from producers.

This engagement allows POCD to better understand local needs, challenges, and goals as well as identify future projects for demonstration and cost-share funding that are aligned with real, on-the-ground priorities.

Any local producers are encouraged to take the next step by sharing their interests or project ideas through the inquiry form on the program page at pocd.org or by emailing stephena@pocd.org for more information.

Your input plays a key role in shaping future programming and bringing additional resources to support productive, resilient working lands across Pend Oreille County.

CURRENT PROGRAMS!

POCD Equipment Rental

- Landpride 5' All-Purpose Seeder
- ABI 85 GD Manure Spreader

8' landpride No-Till Seeder Demo Program

Includes planning support + hands-on guidance

POCD Cost-Share Program

- Forest Land
- Agricultural Land
- Riparian & Shoreline



Pend Oreille Conservation District



Supervisor John W. Floyd Retired in May 2026. POCD thanks him for his years of tireless service!

Join Our Board of Supervisors!

The Pend Oreille Conservation District is accepting applications July 1-29 to fill a mid-term vacancy on the Board of Supervisors.

Applications will be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors, and an appointment to fill the vacant elected position is expected to be made during the August 2026 Monthly Board meeting. The appointed supervisor will serve the remainder of the current term, which ends May 18, 2027.

Conservation District Supervisors are local public officials who serve without compensation, providing leadership and policy direction for the district's natural resource conservation programs.

Applicants must be registered voters residing within the boundaries of the Pend Oreille Conservation District. Depending on the current composition of the Board, this position may be required to be filled by a landowner or farm operator.

If the appointed supervisor wishes to continue serving after the current term ends, they will need to file as a candidate in the next regular Conservation District election, which will be held in March 2027.



Plan, Plant, Protect: Helping Landowners Restore Local Streams



POCD launched the **Plan, Plant, Protect Program** in March 2026, an outreach effort designed to help local landowners improve streamside habitat and support healthier waterways across the county.

Built around a simple, step-by-step approach, the program guides participants through the full restoration process. Landowners learn how to plan a project by assessing their property and understanding riparian areas, plant using proven techniques and protect their investment through long-term care and maintenance.

Through the program, participants can attend workshops (next workshop is Fall 2026), learn from restoration professionals and Tribal partners, and see real-world examples at local sites. In addition to group learning, POCD offers technical assistance, educational resources, and connections to local contractors who can help bring projects to life.

For landowners with property along salmon-bearing streams, there may also be opportunities to receive native plants from POCD's riparian nursery, helping reduce costs and support a successful project.

The Plan, Plant, Protect Program is a collaborative effort that includes partnership with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, whose staff contribute expertise in restoration practices and local ecological knowledge.

Plan thoughtfully. Plant with purpose.
Protect what matters

Applications are available at pocd.org/elections or by contacting Mary Malone, Executive Director, at mmalone@pocd.org or 509-671-3110.



www.pocd.org



admin@pocd.org



509-447-1155

Riparian Program Updates

It is a busy Spring and Early Summer season for the Pend Oreille Conservation District (POCD) Riparian Program as our team is actively out in the field conducting site visits and working directly with landowners on co riparian project planning.



(Image 1. Skookum Creek Irrigation Project June 2026, Instream Site Assessment and Planning)

Back at the nursery, we have successfully propagated an additional row of cuttings in preparation for upcoming projects during this season's instream work window on the Pend Oreille River.



(Image 2. – Testing New Shade Cloth Structure- Riparian Plant Propagation Program Native Plant Nursery at Kalispel Natural Resource Department on Indian Creek)

We are also proud to announce the completion of one of our large-scale restoration projects along the Pend Oreille at Sandy Shores. Moving forward, we will be closely monitoring this site's success to adapt and refine our strategies, ensuring we understand what works best so we can apply those proven practices to future riverfront projects.



(Image 3. Sandy Shores Bank Stabilization Project Aerial View High Water Event within Project Reach May 2026)

In addition to our fieldwork, the POCD is continuing to manage the PUD Erosion Control Rebate Program, and we highly encourage waterfront landowners to reach out to see if their property qualifies for assistance. (Please note that while our main office is currently undergoing renovations, the POCD Riparian program has temporarily relocated to the Pend Oreille County WSU Extension Office

We would love to discuss what the Conservation District can do to help with your natural resource conservation planning; please give us a call or send an email to schedule a time to come in and connect with us at our temporary location. Or come see us at the Annual Pend Oreille Noxious Weed Board Aquatic Weed Workshop on July 10th at the Camas Center.



Life After Fire: Reflections From My First Post-Wildfire Site Visit

By: Stephen Allen, POCD

In May of 2025, I visited my first post-wildfire site to examine the damage and recovery on a homeowner's property that had been directly in the path of the Oregon Road Fire in 2023. I visited this area once a few months prior to the fire. What I remembered as a robust mosaic of ponderosa pine- and Douglas-fir-dominated forestlands had been transformed into an unrecognizable shrub-steppe landscape that I barely recognized. For someone new to post-wildfire recovery, it cuts you to the core to see the scarred land and the remnants of people's lives scattered across the landscape, even years after the disaster.

What made this experience even more meaningful was hearing directly from the people who lived through the wildfire. For those of us who work either to prevent future disasters or to respond in their aftermath, it can be difficult to truly grasp what it means to endure such an event. Yet the stories these residents shared were marked by intense emotion, palpable fear, and extraordinary courage. Even attempting, for a moment, to step into their experience evoked a mix of deep fear, profound sadness, and, at times, a sense of uneasy relief.

What I took from this, and what I will carry with me, is that accepting the stark reality of loss does not mean giving up on the preservation of life. Nor does it mean accepting that what remains after the smoke clears is all there will ever be. We walked to the site and saw planted seedlings, regeneration along the creek bed, buildings rising from the rubble, and a community working together to bring back a forest that most of us will not live long enough to fully enjoy. It was all grounded in a social contract and a promise to future generations.

Moments like this that make me proud of the community I get to work alongside: the dedicated landowner asking for assistance, the government agency staff and private contractors restoring the land, the fire district crews ready at a moment's notice to put themselves in harm's way, or even newcomers like me, still learning the ropes. We are all doing what we can to help our neighbors, with a shared mission to leave things a little bit better than we found them.



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