



Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association's partnership with REACCH

Kay Meyer (pndsa@directseed.org), Executive Director, Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association
For more information, visit www.directseed.org/

The mission of the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association (PNDSA) is to bring partners together within WA, OR, and ID to advance direct seeding practices, specifically to “provide information exchange, advocacy on conservation policy issues, and research coordination that supports the adoption of environmentally sustainable and economically viable direct seed cropping systems.”

IMPACT

The Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association brings together producers, researchers, agencies, and industry experts to advance sustainable farming practices in the Pacific Northwest.

The PNDSA's major initiatives include:

1. Providing outreach and training to address direct seed production strategies, soil health, weed and disease management, and the latest research at our

annual conference, direct seed breakfasts and field days, and monthly electronic newsletters and the Direct Link hardcopy newsletter.

2. Participating in policy advisory committees with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other state and national conservation and agriculture policy groups.
3. Coordinating and supporting research needs for direct seed producers, including relationships with REACCH, Washington State University, University of Idaho, Oregon State University, NRCS, and private agribusinesses.
4. Developing and implementing the Farmed Smart Sustainable Agriculture certification program, which offers farmers a consumer brand to promote their adherence to defined conserva-



Chuck Schmidt, Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association board member and farmer, seeding into wheat stubble with his Horsch Anderson direct seed drill near Rosalia, WA. Photo by Mortimer Productions.



Direct Seed field day at St. John, WA, to review direct-seed test plots, hosted by the Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District, Cook Agronomy Farm, and the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association. Photo by Kay Meyer.

tion standards, certifies that they are using sustainable practices, and develops markets for certified sustainable products.

The PNDSA was formed in 2000 after the Solutions to Environmental and Economic Problems (STEEP) program was complete, yet the need continued for an interdisciplinary research, policy, and support group that would develop profitable cropping systems technologies for controlling cropland soil erosion and protecting environmental quality. The REACCH project further expands and supports these causes by involving scientists, educators, producers, and stakeholders throughout WA, ID, and OR.

Specific areas of collaboration and beneficial aspects between REACCH and PNDSA are as follows:

- Many of the producer stakeholders involved with REACCH studies are direct-seed producers and PNDSA members.
- Research that REACCH is focusing on is very pertinent and directly relates to direct-seed cropping systems, including the effects of conservation management on soil organic matter, nitrogen cycling in crop rotations, precision nitrogen management, cover crops, carbon credits from tilled and no-tilled winter wheat, and earthworm density, to name a few.
- The PNDSA provides additional communication and outreach channels for REACCH to inform direct-seed producers on the results and application of this research to improve their operations.
- The Farmed Smart Sustainable Agriculture certification program will be able to use REACCH's scientific results to further quantify the benefits of direct-seed cropping systems

for mitigating climate change concerns, including reducing carbon and nitrogen emissions, increasing soil organic matter, and creating healthy soil that creates a more reliable cropping system and greater moisture retention.

- PNDSA has invited REACCH committee members to be a part of the PNDSA conference committee to integrate oral and research poster presentations into the 2015 conference with an estimated reach of 600 attendees.
- PNDSA showcases the REACCH farmer-to-farmer case study videos at agricultural trade shows and seminars to promote REACCH projects and highlight the conservation agricultural practices included in the study.

As the REACCH program moves into the final stages of integrating the separate research project and determining overall outcomes and impacts, the PNDSA looks forward to continuing to support REACCH.

