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.”

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.


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.
tion standards, certifies that they are using sustainable prac-
tices, 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 re-
search, policy, and support group that would develop profitable
cropping systems technologies for controlling cropland soil ero-
sion 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 man-
agement, cover crops, carbon credits from tilled and no-tilled
winter wheat, and earthworm density, to name a few.
- The PNDSA provides additional communication and out-
reach 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 climatechange concerns, including reducing
carbon and nitrogen emissions, increasing soil organic mat-
ter, and creating healthy soil that creates a more reliable crop-
ning 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 in-
tegrating the separate research project and determining overall
outcomes and impacts, the PNDSA looks forward to continuing
to support REACCH.