

Cascadia Conservation District

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Board Chair: Josh Koempel



State Legislative District #12
Congressional District #8

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Wildfire and Flood Recovery

Project Summary: After the devastating fires in our region in fall 2012, the legislature made funds available to help local landowners through the Conservation District delivery system. Cascadia was able to assist with post-fire risk awareness and recommended actions, as well as the installation of rain gauges to provide early warning and detailed precipitation date. The gauges were installed on public lands in steep drainages above communities most vulnerable to flooding as a result of the fires. The work served as match to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Protection program. Ten gauges were placed in locations upstream of potential flood areas. The gauges are maintained by the US Geological Survey (USGS) and tied to the National Weather Service network for monitoring. During a heavy rain event in one of the drainages, the warning system is activated to send alerts to smart phones in the service area, as well as notifications through the regular channels for emergency weather information. Although there is little time to spare between a downpour and the resulting flash flood, those few minutes can allow residents to get out of harm's way and be aware of the danger from sudden, powerful mud and debris flows down the canyons.



New rain gauge installed with state emergency funding.
Photo courtesy USGS



Rocks and debris from post-fire flood events are prevented from filling and damaging culverts with trash racks.

Existing radar detection was limited for the area, and ineffective for monitoring current conditions or predicting rain events. The gauges represent the first real-time, accurate precipitation data available for much of the area. Other work included trash racks and culvert upgrades to help protect homes and infrastructure, such as roads and utilities during sudden high flow events.

Key Project Partners: USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and Forest Service; Chelan County-Natural Resource Department and Public Works Department; WA Department of Natural Resources.

More Work to Do!

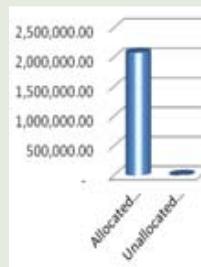
- Wildfire site restoration, flood prevention and protection, firewise programs, and fuels reduction to help prevent future fire/flood damage.
- Upland habitat, urban/general resource restoration, technical assistance and cost share for landowners.
- Non-salmon stream habitat restoration, water quality protection, and riparian revegetation.
- Landowner education and outreach contacts, events, and publications.

Other Accomplishments

Using SCC programs, Cascadia's archaeology staff continued to provide cultural resource investigations and reporting to our Natural Resources Conservation Service partners and other conservation districts in our area. We also helped landowners with technical assistance and cost share to improve farm operations, water conservation and delivery efficiencies, and wildlife habitat.

Our 70+ projects included irrigation water intake and fish passage structures, instream habitat, floodplain reconnection, riparian restoration, livestock exclusion fencing, conservation outreach and education, wildfire fuels reduction, river cleanup projects, fish habitat project effectiveness studies, and project planning and development.

Economic impact: General funds



were less than 1% of the overall budget. Over \$2.6 million, or 11,841% of our basic funding, was leveraged for projects. **37+**

jobs were created or maintained through this grant-funded work.