



State Legislative District #15 (14)
Congressional District #4 (3)

Central Klickitat Conservation District

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Board Chair: Dan McCarty

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Rock Creek Straight to Implementation Plan (STI)



SCC-funded project, before and after exclusion fencing

Resource Challenge: Rock Creek is listed as a Category 5 stream on the Washington Department of Ecology’s 303(d) list, needing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for elevated temperatures. The Central Klickitat Conservaiton District (CKCD) is working with Ecology and Klickitat County to implement best management practices in the watershed to meet the goals of the management plan. Projects that fall on the west side of the Rock Creek watershed are in CKCD, while Rock Creek itself and the east watershed are in Eastern Klickitat Conservation District.

Project Summary and Results: This project is an exclusion fence for a large tributary to Rock Creek in the west watershed. The seasonal stream

flows through the landowner’s winter feeding area, depositing contaminated water and silt into Rock Creek. Paid for with Capital funding from the WA State Conservation Commission (SCC), this is the second of three phases to complete livestock exclusion fencing through this property. Additional funding for this phase was paid through cost shares with CKCD which came from SCC Implementation funds. A four-rail steel fence was constructed with a 35 foot buffer and two hardened crossings, which allow access to both sides of the creek. Steel is used because it is virtually maintenance-free forever. To date, 3,144 feet of fence has been built, the third and final phase will add an additional 675 feet. This is our priority for SCC Capital funding. This project employed the landowner plus two employees for 2 weeks.

Key Project Partners: CKCD has several partners in the (Total Maximum Daily Load) process for Rock Creek, Swale Creek, and the Little Klickitat River. Most important are the willing landowners that cooperate by approaching the District about their water quality problems and allow us to design solutions. We have excellent working relationships with Klickitat County Natural Resources and Commissioners; the City of Goldendale; WA Department of Ecology (who funds most of our in-stream work); WA Department of Fish and Wildlife for permitting; Army Corps of Engineers for permitting; and Yakama Nation Fisheries, who help with project identification.

Other Accomplishments

Swale Creek STI Plan

A series of eight riffles were constructed on Swale Creek to slow the rush of water and allow more time for the water to be absorbed into the surrounding alluvium. One mile of exclusion fence was built, with riparian plantings along 1,500 feet of stream reach. Three jobs were created during the construction phase, six WCC crew were used during fencing and planting and one district staff employed.

Little Klickitat River TMDL

Additional riparian plantings were installed on the Ekone Park Project that was constructed in 2012. Ponderosa Pine and native shrubs were planted and protective wire installed around each cluster to protect from deer and beaver. A WCC crew of six worked for five days on the project.



More Work to Do!

The Total Maximum Daily Load for the Little Klickitat River and its tributaries has been a major focus for the District since the Detailed Implementation Plan was finalized in March 2005. The District has been working in conjunction with the WRIA 30 Planning Unit and Ecology to implement strategies to mitigate the temperature TMDL.

