



State Legislative District #18, 19  
Congressional District #3

# Cowlitz Conservation District

Darin Houpt, District Manager  
2125 8th Avenue Longview, WA 98632  
(360) 425-1880 | ccddmgr@teamelect.com  
Board Chair: John Keatley

## Other Accomplishments

### Coweeman River Community Watershed Project Implementation



Pre-project: 2009 flood flow filled one of the most productive Chinook and steelhead spawning channels.



Post project: Wood structure installed and channel reconnected.



Concerns for accelerated erosion and water quality degradation has resulted in a salmon recovery proposal

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

## Community Watershed Planning and Implementation

*Resource Challenge:* Salmon recovery, water quality, and invasive weeds are but a few of the resource challenges that do not recognize property lines. Obtaining a measurable response typically requires implementation of a wide range of best management practices over a large spatial area managed by highly diverse interests.



*Project Summary and Results:* The principles of Coordinated Resource Management are being used to work with landowners at the community watershed scale in the Coweeman River and Arkansas Creek Watersheds. Salmon recovery issues include habitat complexity, channel stability, fish access, and improving riparian function. Stream temperature, dissolved oxygen, and fine sediment delivery are the primary water quality concerns. Japanese Knotweed is spreading in local watersheds at an alarming rate.

This past year the Conservation District has:

- Partnered with Cowlitz Noxious Weed Board to treat knotweed (three miles of stream) and restore native riparian vegetation in the Arkansas Creek watershed and begin a knotweed assessment to schedule treatment of knotweed in the Coweeman River Watershed (40 miles of stream).
- Planned three salmon recovery projects encompassing about three miles of river for construction in 2014.

- Planned, designed, and permitted a salmon recovery project on Monahan Creek in the Arkansas Creek Watershed that encompasses 3000 feet of stream for construction during summer 2013.
- Prepared and successfully submitted a salmon recovery project proposal in the Arkansas Creek Watershed that encompasses two miles of Delameter Creek.

An average salmon recovery project employs a local contractor (~3-4 person crew) for two weeks each.

*Key Project Partners:* Funding sources include WA State Conservation Commission grant funds; the Salmon Recovery Funding Board; and local partners.

## **More Work to Do!**

- Implement three funded river restoration projects encompassing 3.5 miles of the Coweeman River.
- Assess effectiveness of knotweed treatment in the Coweeman River Watershed and schedule follow up treatment for 2014.
- Work with at least two landowners to develop and submit project proposals for funding.
- Locate additional capacity to initiate a community watershed level project in one of the other 12 priority watersheds.
- Continue to assist cooperators throughout the county with technical assistance as necessary.