

Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

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Board Chair: Steve Matsen



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

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Livestock Best Management Practices to Improve Water Quality

Resource Challenge: Rock Creek has been listed on the 303(d) list for violations of water temperature criteria. Eastern Klickitat Conservation District (CD) is involved in the WRIA 31 planning unit's effort to develop a 4(b) Water Clean-up Plan or a Water Quality Improvement Project Plan (WQIPP) for the entire planning area. Our water quality data and assessments provide information needed to support the development of that plan.

Project Summary and Results: Eastern Klickitat CD is working with landowners to implement best management practices that are identified as action items toward recovery goals for the WRIA 31 planning area. A spring-fed water trough in a winter feed area adjacent to Rock Creek was threatening to send contaminated mud and water into Rock Creek. A solution was designed to surface the area around the trough to minimize muddy conditions, reduce overflow from the trough and route water that springs from the ground above the trough around to a newly installed culvert. At the headwaters of Chapman Creek, a spring was being collected in an old collection box that flowed into a pool where livestock would water. Overflow from the pool would flow into Chapman Creek, negatively impacting water quality. A spring enhancement project constructed a new collection box and system, piping water from the collection box to a tire water trough, where overflow is directed through an internal piping system into the creek, where it enters clear and cold. These projects employed four people.



Rock Creek Trough Project
Before and after

Other Accomplishments

A network of 20 stream monitoring sites are visited each month by our water quality technician to download stream temperature data and measure pH, conductivity, turbidity, and stream flow. This information is down loaded into the Department of Ecology's EIM database.

A Rock Creek assessment is being performed, funded by Salmon Recovery Funding Board, in partnership with Yakama Nation Fisheries, to understand the true nature of this unique watershed. The assessment will identify potential in-stream and/or riparian area restoration projects with the greatest chance of successful implementation, maintenance, and meaningful results. An on-the-ground survey is scheduled for fall 2013 that will confirm the results of the LiDAR and high resolution photo flights completed last fiscal year.

Key Project Partners: Our success depends greatly on the strong working relationships and trust that we have developed with landowners and operators in our district. We also appreciate contributions of funds and/or expertise from the WA State Conservation Commission; WA Department of Ecology; Recreation and Conservation Office's Salmon Recovery Funding Board; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Yakama Nation Fisheries.

More Work to Do!

Farmland Preservation has emerged as our top natural resource priority. Eastern Klickitat CD has been active in facilitating funding opportunities for the purchase of development rights or conservation easements for critical landowners in the Rock Creek and Chapman Creek watersheds.

Eastern Klickitat CD has been awarded DOE grant funds that will enable us to continue addressing water quality issues on WRIA 31 streams by promoting resource conservation through cooperation with willing landowners, and maintaining our water quality monitoring program.

