

Asotin County Conservation District

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State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

2014 Feature Accomplishment: Empowering Tenmile Creek landowner to protect spawning steelhead

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Tenmile Creek is more than a corridor for anadromous fish (fish that migrate from saltwater to freshwater to spawn). Steelhead aren't just swimming through — they're spawning. Some redds were perilously close to a rocky ford used as a water crossing for 300 cow-calf pairs and heavy equipment used in the spring pasture. It was imperative to find a solution. Realizing ESA-listed steelhead were nearby, the landowner eagerly worked with Asotin County Conservation District to address the water crossing issue.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS Asotin County Conservation District helped the landowner install fencing along seven stream miles to prevent cattle from accessing the creek. To fund the project, the District used their cost-share program and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), which provides financial incentives to landowners who restore and protect riparian (streamside) habitat on their property. The District also installed a bridge that spans roughly 55 feet to serve as a crossing for cattle and equipment. The landowner now uses a higher percentage of the pasture since the cattle previously would graze the riparian corridor.

KEY PARTNERS: WA State Conservation Commission; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; USDA Farm Service Agency; Bonneville Power Administration; WA State Department of Ecology



Before project implementation



After bridge is installed for livestock and equipment access

Other Accomplishments

- 42 cooperators received cost-share for best management practice (BMP) projects that improved natural resources as well as supported contractors and the local economy.
- Developed six Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) for livestock producers. CNMPs are site-specific plans for animal feeding operations that address both landowner and natural resource conservation objectives.
- Received Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grants to remove a fish passage barrier on Rattlesnake Creek in the Grande Ronde watershed and enhance the riparian habitat on Charley Creek in the Asotin watershed.

More Work to Do!

- Seek additional funding to achieve natural resource goals.
- Continue technical and financial assistance to landowners for successful projects that result in landowners being spokespeople for conservation district work and services.
- Work with local experts and landowners to complete strategic planning that allows the District to better work with funding sources, enhance customer service to landowners, and ensure our projects yield high environmental benefits.