



State Legislative District #15
Congressional District #3

Central Klickitat Conservation District

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Board Chair: Dan McCarty

Other Accomplishments

- Charlotte Martin Foundation funding for Centerville School riparian planting on Swale Creek.
- Phase 3 of a livestock exclusion fence along a tributary to Rock Creek. Total on this farm is now 1,550 feet.
- Fish barrier removal with Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFPP) funding.
- Funding from Bonneville Power Administration to educate Goldendale School students about energy production in Klickitat County.
- Funding from Department of Natural Resources to assist them with assessments for wildfire prevention for 100 property owners.
- Water quality monitoring and well monitoring with Klickitat County Natural Resources.

2014 Feature Accomplishment: Swale Creek cleanup and planting

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Swale Creek is on the state 303(d) list — the list of impaired or threatened bodies of water — for elevated temperatures. Projects that address sedimentation, shading, and fish habitat are necessary to improve water quality in Swale Creek. Projects in the lower 3.1 miles are especially important because of the year-round flow and presence of steelhead. A local landowner and Klickitat County requested assistance from the Central Klickitat Conservation District to remove possible contaminants and install shade plants in the riparian (streamside) area of Swale Creek.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS The project removed a pile of railroad ties that was left behind when the old railroad line was removed many years ago. The creosote — a wood preservative and potential source of pollution — raised concern about possible leaching into the creek only about 10 feet away.



Railroad ties along Swale Creek before (top) and after removal (bottom)

“I have been trying for years to get these removed, ever since we purchased the property,” said Bardel Bybee, the landowner. “I was concerned a large flood could wash them into the creek. Not to mention the fact they were an eyesore and the canyon is a much more beautiful place now. The Conservation District’s involvement is the difference that allowed their removal. It could not have been done without them.”

KEY PARTNERS: Klickitat County Natural Resources; Regional Disposal Company; WA State Parks; WA Department of Ecology

More Work to Do!

- Two projects on the Little Klickitat River will stabilize 2,800 feet of stream bank to be planted with native shrubs and grasses.
- Exclusion fence will eliminate livestock from 1,200 feet of stream.
- The District’s commitment to Farmland Preservation will be in the forefront as we begin the process of acquiring funding to purchase development rights on several farms.
- 12,900 feet of exclusion fence planned on Swale Creek tributary.