



State Legislative District #18, 19
Congressional District #3

Cowlitz Conservation District

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Board Chair: Russ Kastberg

Other Accomplishments

- Continued providing technical assistance to customers outside community watershed project areas.
- One additional project has been funded in the Abernathy Creek drainage encompassing 2,000 feet of mainstem and 800 feet of off-channel habitat.
- Working with Germany Creek to develop project proposals that will treat 5,000 feet of mainstem create 500 feet of side channel habitat.
- Two project sites have been funded in the Arkansas Creek Community Watershed. Surveying and design is underway.

2014 Feature Accomplishment: Community watershed projects



Large woody debris roughness structure: Creates pool, tail-out, and undercut bank habitat for spawning and rearing salmonids

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Most natural resource issues do not recognize property boundaries. Examples of this include water quality, salmon recovery, and invasive weeds. Resource improvement cannot typically be realized on a farm-by-farm basis. Cowlitz Conservation District utilizes a community watershed approach to effectively communicate, collaborate, coordinate, and implement restoration projects on a more comprehensive basis. This approach effectively generates enough focused implementation to realize a measureable difference.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS Cowlitz Conservation District has been working with the Coweeman, Arkansas, and MAG (Mill, Abernathy, and Germany) watershed communities. Predominant resource concerns include salmon recovery, water quality, and invasive weeds. Landowners have additional concerns including protection of their properties and infrastructure. Last year the District designed three projects and completed the second year of treatment for invasive knotweed in the Coweeman River. The District also implemented one stream restoration project, developed funding proposals for two projects sites, and began surveying and design for two project sites in the Arkansas Creek.



Porous debris jam: Designed to limit occupation of side channel by creek yet still keep side channel active (critical rearing habitat)

KEY PARTNERS: WA State Conservation Commission; WA Department of Fish and Wildlife; Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Board; Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

More Work to Do!

- Working on partnership with Cowlitz County to develop an in-lieu fee wetland mitigation program in Cowlitz County.
- Working with Cowlitz Public Works to provide technical assistance for their wetland mitigation efforts.
- Expand Community Watershed Program into additional watersheds (Toutle River).