

Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

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Board Chair: Steve Matsen



State Legislative District #15
Congressional District #3

2014 Feature Accomplishment: Agricultural conservation easement purchase



Upper Rock Creek pasture

After the vote EKCD began accepting applications for funding to purchase development rights to protect farmlands, and two landowners approached us to purchase their development rights.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS EKCD worked with the WA State Conservation Commission: Office of Farmland Preservation to apply to the WA Wildlife and Recreation Program for funding to purchase conservation easements on 18,000 acres of rangeland. We are awaiting news of the ranking and funding amount. EKCD will use these two properties as demonstration projects, and we anticipate further applications from other interested landowners in future funding cycles. EKCD was also asked by Western Pacific Timber to purchase grazing and timber rights in coordination with a land purchase on 23,000 acres by WA Department of Fish and Wildlife to maintain the historic grazing and forestry traditions of the property.

KEY PARTNERS: WA State Conservation Commission: Office of Farmland Preservation; WA Department of Fish and Wildlife; Central Klickitat Conservation District

RESOURCE CHALLENGE

In April of 2013, the Eastern Klickitat Conservation District (EKCD) Board of Supervisors voted to make protection of farmland their number one priority. The loss of farmland to non-agricultural uses is a growing concern in Klickitat County, which has grown at a rate of 2.79 percent the past three years, compared to the statewide average of 2.02 percent. After the

Other Accomplishments

- Exclusion fencing and spring enhancement on Wood Gulch Spring enhancement and offsite water trough on headwaters of Chapman Creek.
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants for studies and assessments on Rock Creek.
- Successful application to Salmon Recovery Board for Conservation Easement purchase on 850 acres of riparian area on Rock Creek and Squaw Creek.



Squaw Creek

More Work to Do!

- Work with WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Western Pacific Timber, and others who have signed up for conservation easements.
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants are still in effect and studies and assessments will be completed.
- Spring enhancements and livestock best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented in the Rock Creek basin.
- Seasonal Water quality monitoring to continue.
- Assist Klickitat County Natural Resources install two new permanent gauging stations on Rock Creek.