



State Legislative District #13
Congressional District #8

Kittitas County Conservation District

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Board Chair: Mark Moore

Other Accomplishments

- 526 acres of sprinkler system installation through cost share agreements with 7 landowners, reducing sediment and nutrient movement and improving water quality in the Upper Yakima (WRIA 39).
- 165 acres of irrigation system improvements through “small project” cost share agreements with 10 landowners improving irrigation water use efficiencies.
- 301 acres of Firewise implementation through cost share agreements and roving chipper program reducing fuel loads in the wildland urban interface.
- Assisted 12 communities with achieving or maintaining Firewise USA Community status.

2014 Feature Accomplishment: Manastash Creek restoration project — Pipeline installations

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Unscreened irrigation diversions and low instream flow in Manastash Creek impact Mid-Columbia River Steelhead, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). More than 20 miles of habitat are blocked in this watershed considered a “minor spawning area” necessary for long-term recovery. ESA listing means significant liabilities for local irrigators. The Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) has facilitated the Manastash Creek Restoration Project since 2003.



Top: Installation of the 30 inch diameter MWDA and Consolidated Pipelines near Manastash Creek. Excavation is monitored by an archaeologist (orange vest). Bottom: Construction of the outlet structures on the MWDA Ditch. Multiple vaults contain valves and flow meters.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

Three pipelines were installed in 2013/2014 as part of the continuing effort to restore Manastash Creek. One was constructed by the KCCD, one by the US Bureau of Reclamation, and the third cooperatively by KCCD and Reclamation. More than 32,000 linear feet of PVC pipe was installed. One pipeline allowed 2 irrigation diversions that were unscreened to be relocated to an already constructed fish screen facility. The third and last unscreened diversion was removed from the creek by Reclamation. Instream flow improvements included approximately 4 cubic feet second (CFS) from the Reclamation portion and 1.7 CFS from KCCD portion.

KEY PARTNERS: WA Department of Ecology; US Bureau of Reclamation; Kittitas Reclamation District; Salmon Recovery Funding Board; Bonneville Power Administration; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

More Work to Do!

- 450 acres of sprinkler system implementation to reduce sediment movement and improve water quality in the Upper Yakima (WRIA 39).
- 430 acres of sprinkler system implementation through the Irrigation Efficiencies Program to reduce irrigation diversions and benefit instream flow in Cooke Creek, Caribou Creek, Manastash Creek, and Reecer Creek.
- 200 acres of Firewise/fuels reduction in the wildland urban interface to reduce risk.