



North Yakima Conservation District

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Board Chair: Gail Thornton

State Legislative District #13, 14 15
Congressional District #4

Other Accomplishments



Wenas Creek before installation of Beaver Dam Analog used to enhance and restore stream function.



Wenas Creek after installation of Beaver Dam Analog. Note the wood posts pounded into the stream channel.



Washington Conservation Corps crew member "weaving" willow whips into the Beaver Dam Analog to accelerate the function of the structure.

2014 Feature Accomplishment: Cowiche Creek water users barrier removal and trust water project



Construction of pressurized "on-farm" delivery system serving 395 acres.

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Irrigation withdrawals impact habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed steelhead and threatened bull trout within the high-priority Cowiche Creek Watershed. This was causing low flows, check dams that impact fish passage, and lack of compliant fish screening at the point of water diversion. The goal of this project was to address each resource issue while maintaining viable agricultural lands. The true challenge was for North Yakima Conservation District to facilitate our creative solution through multiple entities.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

The project eliminated 2 check dams and 2 fish screens on Cowiche Creek. These dams were the last full barriers on the Creek. The project also placed 16 individual water rights into the state's Trust Water Program for instream flow (7.915 cubic feet per second), while establishing 16 new water rights out of the Tieton River for continued irrigation. These actions addressed critical needs for survival of ESA-listed steelhead and bull trout. The new water is being "wheeled" via the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation Districts pressurized delivery system to a newly constructed "on-farm" delivery system serving the 16 water right holders.



Dedication ceremony signifying first delivery and establishment of the Trust Water Right.

KEY PARTNERS: Cowiche Creek Water Users Association; WA Water Project of Trout Unlimited; WA Recreation and Conservation Office – Salmon Recovery Funding Board; Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District; US Bureau of Reclamation; WA State Department of Ecology; WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife

More Work to Do!

- Continue to implement and expand our successful Firewise Program.
- Develop stream restoration projects in high priority watersheds, including the Ahtanum.
- Implement our Farmland Preservation Program, and partner with WA State Conservation Commission on program.
- Participate in the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Implementation Process.