

Stevens County Conservation District

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State Legislative District #7
Congressional District #5

2014 Feature Accomplishment: Little Loon Lake railroad tie removal project



Before: Railroad ties in and at the edge of the wetland.

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Little Loon Lake is a wetland that feeds the southern end of 1.7 square mile Loon Lake in central Stevens County. Loon Lake is a primary water recreation area with summer and year around residences. During railroad track repair operations over the years, contractors routinely cast old ties over the fill slope into the wetlands. Members of the Loon Lake Land Conservancy

and the Loon Lake Property Owners Association approached Stevens County Conservation District (SCCD) seeking assistance in getting the ties removed.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS SCCD staff contacted a Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad engineer concerning the project and was directed to the regional environmental manager and a local contractor for further discussion. After a site meeting, it was decided that BNSF would conduct the cleanup and pay for all permits. The one request was that the landowners obtain the permits. SCCD staff worked with residents to fill out a Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application (JARPA) for the project. Cleanup work was conducted in September when the water level was down, and the ties were readily visible and accessible. This project was a good example of the positive impact of a few dedicated people concerned about where they live.

KEY PARTNERS: Loon Lake Land Conservancy; Loon Lake Property Owners Association; BNSF Railroad; Sandry Construction of Spokane; WA Department of Fish and Wildlife



The claw removing decades of used railroad ties cast off from repairs from Little Loon Lake wetland.

Other Accomplishments



Chamokane Watershed Council tour visit to tribal fish hatchery discussing the importance of clean water coming from the headwaters.



Spokane Tribal fish hatchery fish pen



6th Grade Conservation Tour - fifty second of year kids outdoors learning about the environment.

More Work to Do!

- Promote working lands.
- Conservation on the ground with landowners.
- Coordination with local agencies and agricultural commodity groups.
- Offer complete resource management planning.
- Provide current technical information on best management practices.
- Work with WSU Extension for education and outreach.
- Profitable, stable agricultural producers are better equipped to protect the environment and comply with environmental regulations.