

Underwood Conservation District

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Board Chair: Jacob Anderson



State Legislative District #15
Congressional District #3

2014 Feature Accomplishment: Little Wind River habitat enhancement, Phase 2



View looking downstream at Phase 2 work showing constructed pool habitat and log jams in the distance and on left bank.

Photo: Dan Richardson, UCD Technician

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Underwood Conservation District (UCD) is working with the Gundersen family along the Little Wind River, a special tributary to the Wind River that provides habitat for wild Wind River steelhead, Coho, and Chinook salmon. The habitat has degraded over past years of intensive logging, road building, and landslides that decreased aquatic habitat complexity, spawning gravels, and instream refuge. UCD constructed Phase 1 of an in-stream habitat enhancement project here in 2012. In 2013, UCD carried out Phase 2.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS UCD teamed up with renowned restoration designers to plan and implement this exciting project. In Phase 2, UCD's contractor placed 34 logs to create extensive log jams and refuge habitat for fish. Multiple pools, riffles, and glides were also constructed to provide habitat, including spawning gravels for recovering salmon and steelhead. The entire project area was seeded and mulched to stabilize soils, and about 400 native trees and shrubs were planted at the site in an effort to re-establish native vegetation for riparian habitat restoration and future large wood recruitment in the stream. Phase 3 is being constructed in 2014!

KEY PARTNERS: Bonneville Power Administration Fish and Wildlife Division; Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area; Port of Skamania; Gundersen Family; Salmon River Engineering; Bair LLC; Crestline Construction



View looking upstream at Phase 2 work showing constructed log jams, riffle, pool, and spawning habitat. Spawning Coho salmon is seen in the forefront.

Photo: Dan Richardson, UCD Technician

Other Accomplishments



Muddy horse paddock before Strom cost share project.



Strom cost share project, after heavy use area (with geotextile fabric and gravel) is installed.

Photos: Carly McNeil, UCD Technician

More Work to Do!

- Secure district-wide funding for the Firewise and Forest Health Program.
- Construct the Cannavina Creek Fish Passage Project.
- Construct the Mill Creek Fish Passage Project.
- Plan and implement livestock water quality improvements in the White Salmon River watershed.
- Secure funding for the Buck Creek irrigation diversion project.