



North Yakima Conservation District

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Board Chair: Gail Thornton

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

Other Accomplishments



NYCD's chipper and Washington Conservation Corp (WCC) crew performing fuels reduction and "Firewise" planning as part of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for citizens of the Highway 410 and 12 corridors (with financial assistance from DNR).



NYCD's WCC crew removing Black Hawthorn as part of the "NYCD Apple Maggot Host Reduction Project" funded by the WSDA in cooperation with Yakima Co PCB.



Master Gardeners Foundation of Yakima Co's Annual Plant Sale held each spring in cooperation through a Memorandum of Agreement with NYCD.

2015 Feature Accomplishment: Jack Field riparian enhancement project - Ahtanum Creek

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Ahtanum Creek is impacted by grazing, erosion, high temperatures, bacteria, lack of shade, and a multitude of other issues. North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) approached land operator Jack Field with a progressive farm plan to address all of the issues on his property, which borders the creek. Together, we decided the first steps in correcting the natural resource issues were to fence and manage the riparian areas and to provide an alternative off-stream watering system that would enhance the operator's grazing management needs.



District Engineer Loren Meagher and landowner Jack Field construct one of eight livestock watering facilities.



NYCD Natural Resource Specialist Brian Schmidt with solar panel / pump and well head for livestock watering facility.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

A well with solar pump and eight livestock watering troughs were constructed to protect the creek from livestock access. In addition, 20 acres of managed riparian pasture and six rotational upland pastures were established with fencing. The first steps of this progressive farm plan have been very successful and led to the next phase of implementation. Working with adjacent landowners at a reach scale

(7200') with all associated riparian floodplain acres, NYCD will design and implement a stream restoration project in partnership with the Yakama Nation to address the natural resource issues impacting Ahtanum Creek.

KEY PARTNERS: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation; Washington State Conservation Commission

More Work to Do!

- Continue to implement and expand our successful Firewise Program to other areas.
- Develop stream restoration and floodplain connection projects in high priority watersheds.
- Implement our Farmland Preservation Program and partner with the Washington State Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation.