

Pend Oreille Conservation District

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State Legislative District #7
Congressional District #5

2015 Feature Accomplishment:

Livestock exclusion fencing and off-site watering in Pend Oreille



One of two newly installed off-site watering facilities. Credit: Mark Simpson, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Historic resource extraction, agricultural clearing, poor land management practices, and development pressures have resulted in significant impacts to water resources and water quality in Pend Oreille County. Sections of the Little Spokane River and its tributaries do not meet Washington state water quality standards for fecal coliform, temperature, and turbidity due to issues such as riparian vegetation losses, stream bank erosion, and forestry and agricultural practices.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS To address these water quality concerns, Pend Oreille Conservation District (POCD) installed two miles of exclusion fencing and two off-site watering facilities on a small livestock operation in Pend Oreille County. By excluding livestock surface water access, the potential for fecal coliform contamination will be reduced. Additionally, the offsite watering facilities will attract livestock away from high traffic areas while improving herd health with consistent, cleaner water. To prevent further water contamination, POCD intends to write and implement a nutrient management plan for the same landowner.

KEY PARTNERS: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Exclusion fencing will keep livestock and manure away from the slough below.

Credit: Mark Simpson, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Other Accomplishments

- After a temporary closure this past spring, POCD is now operating and assisting landowners again after the hire of new District Manager, David Marcell.
- POCD partnered with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop plans for a riparian buffer project that will eliminate three acres of invasive reed canarygrass and establish over 5,500 native riparian plants.
- POCD continued to establish riparian plantings at the Verbrugge Environmental Center. This project will serve as a demonstration education site for Whitworth College students interested in natural resource restoration and conservation.

More Work to Do!

- Increase partner outreach and continued planning with Kalispel Indian Tribe to establish a local, native plant nursery.
- Develop a Small Farm Program focusing on nutrient management and irrigation efficiencies.
- Increase education and outreach efforts, targeting landowners that have not yet utilized conservation district programs.