



State Legislative District #9  
Congressional District #5

# Pomeroy Conservation District

Duane Bartels, District Manager

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Board Chair: Kyle Pearson

## Other Accomplishments



Rainfall Simulator after demonstration showing the big difference between soil that is projected with residue where water is allowed to infiltrate.

Credit: Duane Bartels



Trailer used to store and transport Rainfall Simulator.

Credit: Duane Bartels

## 2015 Feature Accomplishment: Using Beaver Dam Analogs in Pataha Creek



Ecological crew installing one of eight BDAs on lower Pataha Creek

Credit: Duane Bartels

**RESOURCE CHALLENGE** Pomeroy Conservation District began using artificial beaver dams, known as Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs), to improve stream habitat for salmon and steelhead in Pataha Creek. Areas adjacent to the BDA structures are showing an increased water table in subsurface zones beneath and alongside the river, leading to a greater success of natural riparian restoration. This may show that a simple, economical, and effective practice can help heal some of the damage done over the years.

## PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

The district applied for and received funding from the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board to complete BDA projects. While it's still early in project implementation, results from similar projects have indicated that BDAs help improve riparian habitat in a natural and economical way. This year, the district completed a demonstration, testing, and data gathering period. Over the next two years, over 200 BDAs will be installed throughout the Pataha Watershed in partnership with numerous landowners. The data gathered this year will inform where to place additional structures and how they affect different areas.



Aerial photo of completed artificial beaver dam on lower Pataha Creek

Credit: Duane Bartels

**KEY PARTNERS:** Ecological Services Inc.; Recreation and Conservation Office; Snake River Salmon Recovery Board; State Conservation Commission; Archer Farms; Ray DeRuwe; Robert Cox

## More Work to Do!

- Continue to offer cost share to farmers and ranchers to help them implement the best and most effective conservation practices available to reduce erosion.
- Continue to work in partnership with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency to enroll more riparian areas into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) on those streams that are eligible; Work to encourage re-enrollment in the program.
- Assist County Commissioners in starting the Voluntary Stewardship Program.