

# Underwood Conservation District

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Board Chair: Jacob Anderson



State Legislative District #14  
Congressional District #3

## 2015 Feature Accomplishment: Little Wind River habitat enhancement – Phase 3



One of the recently constructed log jams and pools, providing habitat to salmon and steelhead in the Little Wind River.

Credit: Dan Richardson, UCD Technician

**RESOURCE CHALLENGE** Underwood Conservation District (UCD) has been working with the Gundersen family for several years 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 this instream habitat enhancement project in 2012 and Phase 2 in 2013.

**PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS** UCD teamed up with renowned restoration designers to plan and implement this exciting project. Work was primarily directed by Loren Meagher, P.E. of UCD, and secondarily by contractor Brian Bair, principal of Bair LLC. In Phase 3, UCD's contractor — Aquatic Contracting of Portland, Oregon — constructed temporary access trails, performed worksite dewatering, placed a total of 35 logs (including two engineered log jams and additional habitat features and floodplain roughness elements), excavated two pools and an off-channel refuge feature, opened up two side channels, and constructed two riffles and two spawning glides.

**KEY PARTNERS:** Bonneville Power Administration Fish and Wildlife Division; Clark-Skamania Flyfishers; Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area; Gundersen Family; South Central Area Engineering Cluster; Salmon River Engineering; Bair LLC; and Aquatic Contracting



A spawned out salmon in a recently-constructed side channel on the Little Wind River.

Credit: Dan Richardson, UCD Technician

## Other Accomplishments



A road culvert being assessed for fish passage by UCD technicians.

Credit: Jan Mehaffy, UCD Technician



UCD provided cost share to help pay for a micro-irrigation system for an Underwood vineyard.

Credit: Carly McNeil, UCD Technician

## More Work to Do!

- Secure long-term, district-wide funding for the Firewise and Forest Health Program.
- Continue to assist public and private road owners with restoring fish passage at barrier stream crossings.
- Plan and implement livestock water quality improvements in the White Salmon River watershed.
- Secure funding for the construction of Buck Creek irrigation system improvements.