



North Yakima Conservation District

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Board Chair: Gail Thornton

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

Other Accomplishments



Aerial view of a portion of the Ahtanum Creek Riparian Enhancement Project area, which is part of the Yakama Nation RCPP-funded Floodplain Project.

Photo: Mike Tobin



State Conservation Commission-funded riparian fencing and planting project with Gus Olson on Cowiche Creek.

Photo: Brian Schmidt



Post Assisted Willow Structures (PAWS) functioning during high flows on Wenas Creek. Note how the series of instream structures deflect high water.

Photo: Brian Schmidt

2016 Feature Accomplishment

Lust and Stevenson Farms water quality project on Cowiche Creek



Typical project riparian buffer area along Cowiche Creek. Note the lack of shading on the southside of the stream.

Photo: Mike Tobin

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Cowiche Creek is impacted by water quality issues related to high water temperatures, bacteria, and sedimentation. Cowiche Creek is also a key watershed for salmon recovery in the Yakima River Basin. This water quality project will correct the temperature, bacteria, and sedimentation problems associated with this stream reach and is part of a strategic process to complement other on-going water quality and salmon recovery projects that have been implemented by the North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) within the Cowiche Watershed.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

The project encompasses 3,402 feet of stream and 715 feet of a spring feeding the creek. NYCD and landowners evaluated the natural resource needs and land use practices and decided that re-creating and enhancing the riparian buffers, fencing the buffers, and constructing off-stream watering facilities would be the best alternatives to implement. The landowner and NYCD partnership also recognized that the project would enhance previously implemented fish passage and in-stream flow enhancement projects on Cowiche Creek. Piecing these actions together, NYCD is addressing the overall natural resource needs of the watershed.



NYCD's Washington Conservation Corp Crew planting riparian plants along buffered area of Project. Note fencing also constructed by the Washington Conservation Corps crew.

Photo: Mike Tobin

KEY PARTNERS: Washington State Department of Ecology; Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson; Lust Family Farms

More work to do!

- Continue to implement and expand the North Yakima Conservation District's successful Firewise Program to other needed areas.
- Implement our Farmland Preservation Program and partner with the Washington State Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation.
- Begin looking at implementation strategies that will complement the Yakima County Voluntary Stewardship Plan in high priority watersheds.