



State Legislative District #19  
Congressional District #3

# Wahkiakum Conservation District

Darin Houpt, District Manager

957 Steamboat Slough Road Skamokawa, WA 98647

(360) 795-8240 | ccdadmin@teamelect.com | <https://cowlitzcd.wordpress.com>

Board Chair: Joe Florek, Jr.

## Other Accomplishments

- Completed the second year of knotweed treatment in the Skamokawa Creek Community Watershed.
- Completed two restoration projects in the Elochoman River Community Watershed.
- Applied for funding for three projects in the Elochoman River Community Watershed and three projects in the Skamokawa Creek Community Watershed.

### 2016 Feature Accomplishment

## Skamokawa Creek community watershed restoration project

### RESOURCE CHALLENGE

Wahkiakum Conservation District (WCD) collaborated with landowners in the Skamokawa Creek Watershed to address resource concerns including salmon recovery, water quality, loss of property due to erosion, economic viability, and invasive weeds. WCD attempts to implement two, design two, fund two, and initiate planning for two projects each year. To date, there are restoration projects implemented encompassing about 70 percent of Middle Valley, and 40 percent of East Valley of the Skamokawa Creek Watershed.



Top: Before project implementation, car body armor in the stream bank.  
Bottom: After implementation, debris jam in place of car body armor  
Photo: Wahkiakum Conservation District

### PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

WCD installed wood-based structures within the East Valley of the Skamokawa Creek Watershed to promote instream habitat, improve water quality, and to protect actively eroding stream banks. A forested riparian buffer was planted to continue to provide long term habitat, water quality, and stream bank stability. The structures met these objectives through the 2015 - 2016 winter storm events.

The previous property owner decided to sell the property. And, the new landowners are delighted with the project and continue to collaborate on buffer maintenance and a plan to maintain one instream structure.

**KEY PARTNERS:** Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board; Washington State Conservation Commission; Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; Army Corps of Engineers; Richards Excavation; RK Reforestation, Inc.

## More work to do!

- Working on Conservation Reserve Enhanced Program contracts in cooperation with four landowners encompassing about 60 acres of forest riparian buffer.
- Designing and permitting two project sites, one in the Skamokawa Creek Community Watershed and one in the Grays River Watershed.
- Successfully solicit project funding for up to six project opportunities.