

# Columbia Conservation District

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State Legislative District #16  
Congressional District #5

## 2016 Feature Accomplishment

### Tucannon River salmon habitat recovery - Project Area 24



Top: Pre-construction levee area illustrating the lack of floodplain connectivity and habitat complexity.  
Bottom: Following levee removal, a perennial flow path was reconnected, and a LWD bar apex jam was constructed to aid in splitting flows.

Photos: Kris Buelow,  
Tucannon Programmatic Coordinator

of low-lying floodplain. In total, the project improved nearly one mile of habitat and floodplain for winter/summer rearing for ESA-listed spring Chinook and steelhead, and winter rearing for bull trout.

**KEY PARTNERS:** Howard Family Ranch LLC; Bonneville Power Administration; Salmon Recovery Funding Board; USFS-Pomeroy Range District; Anchor QEA LLC; Royse Hydroseeding & Excavation

### RESOURCE CHALLENGE

Columbia Conservation District designed and installed Project Area 24 (PA-24) on the Tucannon River to increase floodplain capacity and channel complexity. PA-24 is located within the active channel and floodplain of the Tucannon River, from river mile 28.25-27.5. A tier 1 project in the Tucannon Conceptual Restoration Plan, PA-24 was sighted for isolated habitats and low Large Woody Debris (LWD) compared to goals in the Salmon Recovery Plan for southeast Washington (2011). The project site was confined by levees and riprap and lacked pool-forming LWD.

### PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

PA-24 has positively impacted two regional recovery goals. Installation of 24 LWDs and 20 single rootwad tree structures has increased instream habitat complexity, juvenile fish refuge, and pool development. The project also increased floodplain capacity by modifying/removing two existing levees, enhancing and creating 0.64 miles of side channel habitat, and reconnecting 5.04 acres

## Other Accomplishments



Dormant riparian planting at Tucannon River Project Area 15 following installation of a salmon habitat enhancement project.  
Photo: Justin Pearson, CCD Planner/Tech



Demonstration of advancing drone technology benefits for use in production agriculture at the district's Spring Producer Tour.  
Photo: Justin Pearson, CCD Planner/Tech



Application of Calcium Carbonate to raise pH in the soil shows greater root and larger plant development demonstrating potential for increased yields.  
Photo: Gary Wegner, Columbia River Carbonates

## More work to do!

- Re-enroll expiring Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) sites to maintain environmental gains.
- Continue soil health improvements through application of calcium carbonate.
- Continue implementing salmon habitat recovery projects in the Tucannon River.
- Develop the Touchet River Conceptual Design Plan for ESA-listed salmon habitat recovery.