



State Legislative District #19, 20
Congressional District #3

Cowlitz Conservation District

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Board Chair: Jim Scott

Other Accomplishments

- Completed two other restoration projects, similar to our feature project, in the Coweeman River Community Watershed.
- Completed third treatment of knotweed within the Coweeman River Community Watershed. This work encompasses the entire watershed and results in treatment of knotweed along 40 miles of stream.
- Constructed one restoration project and designed another in the Arkansas Creek Community Watershed (before and after project photos below).



2016 Feature Accomplishment Coweeman River restoration project

RESOURCE CHALLENGE

Cowlitz Conservation District is working with landowners in the Coweeman River Watershed to address resource concerns using a Community Watershed Approach. Resource concerns identified by the community include salmon recovery, water quality, property protection (streambank erosion and flood damages), invasive weeds, and garbage dumping. The emphasis of the project is to address stream temperature concerns arising from splash dams operating in the watershed at the turn of the century.



Typical river reach - bedrock dominated, wide and shallow



Post project photo - note sediment along margin and downstream of structure

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

Major resource impacts often require major restoration efforts to address the damage. Splash damming scoured the channel down to bedrock and created a wide, shallow channel geometry. Bedload (sediment) in the watershed moves through the system like marbles on a sidewalk. Cowlitz Conservation District is working with landowners to anchor wood in bedrock reaches to narrow and deepen the channel and trap sediment to insulate the bedrock. These structures have effectively achieved these objectives. The district intends to use the project site as a demonstration area for others with bedrock-dominated channels.

KEY PARTNERS: Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board; Washington State Conservation Commission; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Army Corps of Engineers; landowner; Fowler Contracting; Campbell Contracting

More work to do!

- Implement a stream restoration project in the Arkansas Creek Community Watershed.
- Implement a stream restoration project in the Abernathy Creek Community Watershed.
- Design two projects for construction in 2017 in the Germany Creek Community Watershed.