

Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

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Board Chair: Rhon Raschko



State Legislative District #14, 15
Congressional District #3, 4

2016 Feature Accomplishment

Agricultural conservation easements in Rock Creek Watershed



Wildlife corridor in the Rock Creek Basin

RESOURCE CHALLENGE

Preserving Klickitat County's rangeland and cropland is vital for the future of local livestock and agriculture industries. As development pressures and financial challenges increase, farmers and ranchers are turning to agricultural conservation easements (ACE), which allow them to sell their right to develop their property. They're paid the portion of the property

value that the development right represents. This keeps working lands intact and affordable for future generations of farmers and ranchers. Eastern Klickitat Conservation District (EKCD) was approached by a local rancher for help with the ACE process, which led to neighboring ranchers pursuing easements as well.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

More than 21,600 acres of high-quality rangeland and wildlife habitat in Klickitat County is transitioning into conservation-preserved lands. This is thanks to two ranchers (currently in negotiations) pursuing easements with EKCD, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife recently purchasing timber land that will be co-managed by Eastern and Central Klickitat conservation districts. These properties represent a unique region of transition between three biological communities: Ponderosa pine, the eastern extent of Oregon white oak habitat, and interior shrub steppe/grassland.



Spring development, fence maintenance, and pasture enhancement implemented to maximize forage production and utilization for wildlife and cattle

KEY PARTNERS: Central Klickitat Conservation District; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Landowners; Washington State Conservation Commission; Office of Farmland Preservation; Klickitat County Commissioners

Other Accomplishments



Survey of Eurasian watermilfoil in Rock Creek is complete. This year we'll finalize a control plan and apply for funding to implement it.



District staff worked with students in Bickleton to design and install a restoration project using native plants.



Staff performed post-wildfire site evaluations, recommended restoration strategies, and applied for emergency cost-share funding.

More work to do!

- Farmland preservation
- Water quality
- Rangeland, forest, and habitat management
- Wildfire prevention