



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Pomeroy Conservation District

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Board Chair: Kyle Pearson

Other Accomplishments

- The Pomeroy Conservation District was identified as the lead for the Garfield County Voluntary Stewardship Program by the Garfield County Commissioners. Our district has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Palouse Conservation District for the services of Brad Johnson to assist in the writing of a county plan to address critical areas in the county and to maintain the viability of agriculture.
- Pomeroy Conservation District is working with other conservation districts in the southeast area to demonstrate the rainfall simulator at county fairs, schools, agriculture conferences, and other groups that are interested in residue management.

2016 Feature Accomplishment

Alpowa and Pataha Creeks instream restoration projects



One of 202 post-assisted log jams placed in Alpowa Creek for steelhead habitat

Photo: Brad Johnson

RESOURCE CHALLENGE

The Alpowa and Pataha Creek watersheds have been implementing upland and riparian best management practices through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and other grants for decades. However, Alpowa Creek lacked pool habitat and instream woody material for summer steelhead. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife stated that improving instream habitat will allow for better juvenile survival during freshwater life stage. Pataha Creek has low flows and high stream temperatures, which jeopardizes rearing habitat for summer steelhead.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

With funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Pomeroy Conservation District worked with the Asotin County Public Utilities Department and Palouse Conservation District to install 202 post-assisted log structures for instream habitat in the Alpowa for steelhead. With funding from the Department of Ecology, over 1,560 feet of streambank protection using soft bio-engineering with trees was completed. In the Pataha Creek Watershed, eight beaver dam analogues were constructed to test the effectiveness of these structures at increasing habitat diversity, reducing incision, and reconnecting floodplain habitat in the lower reaches. This will restore stream processes promoted by beavers.



Aerial view of one of eight beaver dam analogues on lower Pataha Creek as test sites

Photo credit: Duane Bartels

KEY PARTNERS: Palouse Conservation District; Asotin County Public Utility District; Salmon Recovery Funding Board; US Forest Service - Pomeroy Ranger District; Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; Eco Logical Research; Washington Conservation Corps; Archer Farms; Sam Ledgerwood

More work to do!

- Continue to work with producers to implement additional acres of direct seeding and reduced tillage.
- Continue to construct beaver dam analogues, post-assisted log structures, and stream bank stabilization structures on streams to demonstrate the benefits of beaver dam analogues and other structures in increasing aggradation, reducing sediment and erosion, and increasing habitat diversity, and their cost-effectiveness of improving water quality.