



## CENTRAL KLICKITAT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Manager: Loren Meagher Board Chair: Steve Cunningham  
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Legislative District: 14 Congressional District: 3

### Other accomplishments:

- ▶ Installed 600 feet of exclusion fence to protect a water catchment drain constructed to divert clean water away from a winter feed lot so it flows directly into Swale Creek.
- ▶ Installed 2,500 feet of exclusion fence to protect 1,500 feet of the Little Klickitat River that provides critical habitat to ESA-listed steelhead. 86,000 square feet of streambank habitat was planted with native shrubs and trees to enhance water quality.
- ▶ Hosted the CKCD Annual Meeting that drew 42 attendees and provided local producers with information on farm worker safety, biotechnology in agriculture, farmland preservation and succession planning, and much more. Producers with pesticide application licenses earned four continuing education credits, and funds were raised through a silent auction for a greenhouse that CKCD is working on with the local middle school.

### 2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO INCREASE WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

### Resource challenge

Through active fire suppression over the last 100 years, our public and private forests have developed into densely overgrown stands that compete for limited resources. This results in widespread disease, drought stress, beetle infestations, and catastrophic fires. As more people move into the wildland urban interface (WUI), more families live with the threat of wildfire. Many landowners moving to the Goldendale area are unaware of fire danger on their own property.

### Project summary and results

The Firewise Program was created to educate landowners living in the WUI. Central Klickitat Conservation District (CKCD) has been involved with Firewise over the years when funding is available. This year, the district partnered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and received funds from the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) to promote Firewise. CKCD assisted the DNR in developing two Firewise communities — High Prairie and Keystone Acres. Forty-two people attended two workshops held by the district in conjunction with DNR. Staff completed 32 individual Firewise assessments. And, 22 people participated in a CKCD-sponsored mobile chipping program that treated 59 acres for wildfire fuels reduction.

**Key partners:** Washington DNR; SCC; Klickitat County residents



Left: Ladder fuels (e.g. tree branches that allow fire to travel vertically) and brush adjacent to a home that increased risk of wildfire damage. Right: Same site after fuels were removed to create a fire resistant buffer.

### MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Continue to assist in developing Firewise communities.
- ▶ Continue to offer technical assistance to develop and implement livestock and water quality improvement projects.
- ▶ Assist landowners interested in the mobile chipping program and cost-share to implement fuels reduction around their homes.