



## EASTERN KLICKITAT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Manager: Board Chair: Rhon Raschko  
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Legislative District: 14, 15 Congressional District: 3, 4

### Other accomplishments:

- ▶ Partnered with the US Department of Agriculture, Department of Ecology, Washington Association of Wheat Growers, and local seed companies for a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Field Day event. The event provided CRP monitoring and maintenance training to agency staff and 20 farmers with CRP contracts.
- ▶ Identified potential restoration sites and recommended best management practices to improve water quality and salmonid habitat in the Rock Creek Watershed (WRIA 31).
- ▶ Hosted a native plant sale and provided residents with an affordable source of native plants, which are not readily available from local retail nurseries.

### 2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

## COLLABORATING FOR CONSERVATION



View of the Simcoe Mountains Conservation Area

### Resource challenge

When a large forest property went up for sale in the Simcoe Mountains, there was potential that the results of long-term conservation practiced on the property could be at risk.

Generations of sustainable livestock grazing and timber harvest in the Simcoe Mountains has resulted in

healthy forestland. These forests are resistant to wildfires and beetle infestations that impact Klickitat County. They also provide habitat for wildlife and fish.

Natural resource and working lands management is part of Klickitat County's heritage. It's highly valued by residents and a critical component of the local economy. With the land up for sale, a new management solution was needed.

### Project summary and results

The seller reached out to Eastern Klickitat Conservation District (EKCD) for help in achieving that goal. The district partnered with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), who is purchasing the property in phases, to co-manage the property and author a property management plan through a Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) process. EKCD is facilitating the process, which includes incorporating input from local citizens who are intimately familiar with the property and invested in seeing that it's well cared for. This ensures that WDFW has the information needed to manage the property in a way that meets the needs of both the natural resources and the local citizens.

**Key partners:** Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife; Central Klickitat Conservation District; Klickitat County; Yakama Nation; local ranchers; Klickitat County residents

## MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Continue negotiating three conservation easement proposals that could protect 18,000 acres of range, forestland, and riparian areas with prime wildlife and fish habitat. These lands include white oak communities that provide critical habitat.
- ▶ Continue water quality monitoring at two permanent stream gauge stations using Washington State Conservation Commission funding and EKCD reserves. A new Centennial Clean Water grant from the Department of Ecology will permit additional monitoring at 18 seasonal stations.