



GRAYS HARBOR CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Manager: Mike Nordin Board Chair: Carl Waara
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Legislative District: 19, 24, 35 Congressional District: 6

Other accomplishments:



GHCD Service Forester wrote 12 forest management plans and the Chehalis Basin Watershed Landscape Master Forest Stewardship Plan. Photo by Dave Houk



GHCD implemented six projects, and also provided technical assistance for 18 farm producers and 25 forest producers. Photo by Megan Martin-Aust



Kim Smith, GHCD watershed planner, talks to local students about the importance of stream health.

2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

SATSOP RESTORATION BEGINNINGS

Resource challenge

This project addressed two fish passage barriers in the West Fork Satsop River system that blocked access to over nine miles of upstream habitat for at-risk fish species. Undersized culverts had created outfall drops and high velocity that restricted passage by salmon. Correcting fish barriers is an important objective in the Grays Harbor Conservation District (GHCD) five-year plan. The Satsop River system is a high priority watershed within the Chehalis Basin. The project benefits chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat and bull trout.

Project summary and results

GHCD partnered with Weyerhaeuser to complete the West Fork Satsop project. We secured funds from the Washington Coast Restoration Initiative, and Weyerhaeuser provided matching funds. Working with Weyerhaeuser, GHCD was able to remove two fish barrier culverts and replace them with a bridge and an arch culvert. Weyerhaeuser provided engineering and construction oversight, while GHCD provided technical assistance and grant management. Our partnership with Weyerhaeuser allowed them to complete this fish work ahead of schedule.

The new crossings allow for unimpeded fish passage upstream and downstream, as well as natural transport of gravel and wood.

Key partners: Weyerhaeuser Corporation; Salmon Recovery Funding Board; Washington Coast Restoration Initiative



Top: Middle Fork Satsop before project implementation with culvert that restricted fish passage. Bottom: Site after bridge installed allowing for fish passage.

MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Complete the Church Road Family Forest Fish Passage Program and the Hoquiam Tidal restoration projects.
- ▶ Construct three farm pads in the lower Chehalis River Basin to protect farm equipment and livestock from floods.
- ▶ Implement the Grays Harbor Voluntary Stewardship Program work plan.