



# LEWIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Legislative District: 19, 20 Congressional District: 3

## Other accomplishments:



Fronia Creek – before (top) and after (bottom) fish barrier was replaced with bridge.



Completed fish passage project on tributary to Independence Creek.

## 2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

### REMOVING FISH BARRIERS IN CHEHALIS RIVER BASIN

#### Resource challenge

The Lewis County Conservation District began to survey and replace fish-blocking structures (e.g. undersized culverts) in 2000. The Chehalis River Watershed has over 2,000 documented fish passage barriers, which are located on private lands and public roads. Replacing barriers with larger culverts or bridges allows fish of all ages to freely swim up and down stream, but projects can be extremely expensive for landowners.

#### Project summary and results

Using funds from the Washington State Conservation Commission, the Lewis County Conservation District worked with nine landowners and a homeowners' association to apply for and receive grants that covered 11 fish passage projects. These projects opened 75 miles of salmon habitat for spawning and rearing. Funding came from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Family Forest Fish Passage Program, and Chehalis River Habitat and Protection dollars. Projects were put out for bid, and four contractors completed all 11 projects between July-September 2016.

**Key partners:** Washington State Conservation Commission; Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife; Washington Recreation and Conservation Office; Washington Department Natural Resources; Salmon Recovery Funding Board; Family Forest Fish Passage Program; Beaver Glen Homeowners' Association; local landowners



Fox-Middle Fork Newaukum – before (top) and after (bottom) fish barrier removal

## MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Complete more irrigation water management plans, conservation plans, and provide more fish screens to cooperators.
- ▶ Continue to apply for and implement fish passage projects and flood damage relief projects.
- ▶ Continue to work with cooperators on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and enroll new landowners in this vital program. There currently are 76 CREP contracts in Lewis County, protecting 909 acres along 55 miles of stream.