



NORTH YAKIMA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Manager: Michael Tobin Board Chair: Gail Thornton
1606 Perry Street, Suite C Yakima, WA 98902
(509) 454-5736 x5 | mike-tobin@conserve.wa.net | northyakimacd.wordpress.com
Legislative District: 13, 14, 15 Congressional District: 4

Other accomplishments:



Began working with Yakima City Irrigation to replace a siphon that causes fish barriers on Cowiche Creek.



Installed Post Assisted Willow Structures (a.k.a., beaver dam analogs) to assist in floodplain connection portion of Nedrow Project.



Washington Conservation Corp crew conducted fuels reduction activities as part of the NYCD's Firewise Program.

2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

AHTANUM CREEK PROJECT - PARTNERSHIP DELIVERS RESULTS



Typical wood structures used in project to stabilize streambank, create habitat, and allow flood water to access floodplain.

Resource challenge

Ahtanum Creek has multiple resource challenges and needs, including ESA-listed fish species, flooding, impacts to homes and infrastructure, erosion, loss of farmland, and limited riparian habitat. Each issue affects several stakeholders in different ways. North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) coordinated with stakeholders to ensure each understood how they would benefit and respect how others would mutually benefit from a collaborative project to address resource challenges.

Project summary and results

Partnership was the key to success for this project. By bringing together landowners, the Yakama Nation, and state and federal partners, the NYCD was able to design and implement a "reach scale" project. The project enhanced over 26 acres of floodplain and constructed 63 wood structures that stabilize eroding streambanks and allow flood flow to access intact floodways. Over 4,700 riparian plants were established and 6,530 feet of riparian exclusion fencing was constructed throughout the 7,200-foot project reach. These efforts have improved in-stream habitat and water quality, averted flood damage on site, and are of value to the landowners' agricultural uses.



Wood structures with plantings and livestock exclusion fencing. Plantings provide stream shade and improve stream function.

Key partners: Jack Field; Charles Vetch; Morton Farms; Yakama Nation Fisheries; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Continue to implement and expand the NYCD's successful Firewise Program to other needed areas.
- ▶ Implement NYCD's Farmland Preservation Program, and partner with the Washington State Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation.
- ▶ Begin looking at implementation strategies that will complement the Yakima County Voluntary Stewardship Program work plan in high priority watersheds.