



## UNDERWOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Manager: Tova Tillinghast Board Chair: Paul Newell  
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Legislative District: 14 Congressional District: 3

### Other accomplishments:

- ▶ Assisted 10 landowners with Firewise cost-share projects.
- ▶ Provided mobile tree and branch chipping service to more than 100 landowners to reduce wildfire fuels.
- ▶ Sponsored three local presentations of “The Era of Mega-Fires.”
- ▶ Mailed Firewise program information to more than 6,000 local homeowners.
- ▶ Provided technical expertise, field work, and landowner coordination for the Wind River Habitat Strategy.
- ▶ Updated and printed a district-wide Landowner Handbook.

### 2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

## MILL CREEK FISH PASSAGE PROJECT



Former fish barrier culvert under Lakeview Road, considered a 100 percent barrier due to its slope and outfall drop.

### Resource challenge

Mill Creek is a tributary to the White Salmon River above the former Condit Dam. In 2009, Underwood Conservation District (UCD) technicians assessed the Mill Creek culvert under Lakeview Road. The culvert was found to be a full barrier to fish passage due to its slope and outfall drop. Fish recolonizing the White Salmon River watershed were unable to reach over 4.5 miles of habitat upstream of this culvert.

### Project summary and results

After a two-year design, permitting, and funding process, construction on the project began in the summer of 2016. The old culvert under Lakeview Road was removed and replaced with a new 19.9-foot wide, open-bottom box culvert. The streambed was reconstructed to simulate a natural stream. Now salmon, steelhead, and other fish can access more than four miles of the cold, clear waters of Mill Creek. The White Salmon River watershed is currently recolonizing with salmon and steelhead since the removal of Condit Dam in 2011-12. Access to high-quality habitat in Mill Creek is integral to recovering fish populations.



The newly constructed modular box culvert with a constructed streambed to simulate a natural stream for fish.

**Key partners:** Washington State Conservation Commission; US Fish and Wildlife Service; Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board; Yakama Nation Fisheries Program; Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery; Clark-Skamania Flyfishers; Tenneson Engineering Corporation; Inter-fluve, Inc.; James Dean Construction; Skamania County

### MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Continue planning, final design, and permitting of the White Salmon Irrigation District Irrigation Efficiencies, Fish Screen, and Fish Passage Project.
- ▶ Continue planning, final design, and permitting of the Little Wind River Habitat Enhancement, Phase IV Project.
- ▶ Pursue and secure district-wide Firewise program funding.
- ▶ Implement multiple livestock, water quality, and stream health best management practices.