



North Yakima Conservation District

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Legislative District: 13, 14, 15 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments



Project development for fish screening and floodplain enhancement project on Ahtanum Creek. Photo by NYCD Air 1 - Pilot Justin Bader



NYCD's Washington Conservation Corps crew building livestock management fencing at Ahtamun Creek - Field's Project. Photo by Brian Schmidt



NYCD has begun working with landowners and partners on natural resource needs of the Wenas Watershed. Photo by NYCD Air 1 - Pilot Mike Tobin

2018 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Cowiche Siphon Protection and Fish Passage Project



Exposed siphon creating fish passage barrier during low flow. Photo by Mike Tobin

Resource Challenge

The lower Cowiche Creek has been impacted by roads, development, and channelization by levee construction. This increased channel erosion during high flow, which in turn exposed the irrigation siphon. During the summer months, the exposed siphon created a drop of over one foot. This condition presented a barrier to juvenile Chinook and coho salmon, as well as federally listed steelhead. The exposed siphon also created a risk of failure of irrigation service to over 700 acres in the City of Yakima.

Project Summary and Results

Through the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program, the North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) was able to work with the Naches Cowiche Canal Association and other partners to design and construct a 120-foot, 48-inch diameter replacement siphon that was lowered four feet below the streambed. In addition, around 100 feet of the streambed was rebuilt through the project site to provide year-round passage for juvenile salmon and steelhead.



Finished project showing replaced siphon and reconstructed streambed. Photo by Justin Bader

These activities have provided much needed improvements to fish passage in Cowiche Creek and provided the Canal Association reliable irrigation infrastructure.

Key Partners

Naches-Cowiche Canal Association; City of Yakima; Bureau of Land Management; Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; Salmon Recovery Funding Board; Bonneville Power Administration - Yakima Tributary Habitat and Access Program

Priorities for 2019...

- ▶ Seek funding to continue implementation of NYCD's successful Firewise/Fuels Reduction program throughout the Highway 12 and 410 corridors.
- ▶ Implement NYCD's Farmland Preservation Program and partner with the Washington State Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation.
- ▶ Partner with Yakima County to implement the Voluntary Stewardship Program.