



# Pomeroy Conservation District

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Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 5

## Other Accomplishments

- ▶ Finished Garfield County Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Work Plan. Submitted and presented the plan to the VSP state committee, and it was approved.
- ▶ Submitted two Natural Resources Investment projects to the Washington State Conservation Commission that were approved for funding. Projects include an open span culvert on Meadow Creek and an off-site livestock watering facility on Deadman Creek.
- ▶ Continued to build the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) by securing seven new enrollments and 13 re-enrollments to date.
- ▶ Provided cost share to landowners for four direct seed projects.

## 2018 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

### Restoring Riparian Habitat Using Beavers



Post-assisted log structures showing increased riparian growth from hyperic movement after one month after installation. Photo by Duane Bartels

### Resource Challenge

For the last three years, the Pomeroy Conservation District has been working with Ecological Research Inc. in using beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and post-assisted log structures (PALS) to store water behind these manmade dams. This increases flow throughout the year by increasing groundwater and riparian habitat. One challenge is that in many cases, beavers naturally migrate to these structures and may cause immediate damage to adjoining willow and other tree colonies.

### Project Summary and Results

The District addressed this by explaining the overall benefits of having these structures in place with or without beaver activities. We showed how the storage of runoff can improve ground storage during runoff periods and the benefits for riparian habitat and irrigation of releasing this water during the low flow periods of the year. Data collected at stream gauges have shown an increase in the instantaneous low flows on the Alpowa Creek over the last two years. The beaver management plan on the Tumulum should allow increased flow further down the stream that has went underground for several years.



First beaver dam analog installed in 2015. Since then, 100 have been installed on Lower Pataha Creek. Photo by Duane Bartels

### Key Partners

Washington Department of Ecology; Washington Recreation and Conservation Office; Washington State Conservation Commission

## Priorities for 2019...

- ▶ Provide cost share to six landowners for direct seed and livestock watering facilities with continuation of BDA and PAL implementation.
- ▶ Educate farmers on the importance of leaving straw on field during a portion of their wheat rotation program to improve soil organic matter and soil health.
- ▶ Implement the county Voluntary Stewardship Program work plan.