

KLICKITAT CONSERVATION QUARTERLY

FALL 2010

Central & Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts

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Rock Creek, the dividing line between Central & Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts, is the subject of an upcoming habitat, shade, and morphology study.



WRIA 31 UPDATE

Eastern Klickitat Conservation District is in Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 31, which encompasses the Rock Creek (pictured above) and Glade Creek watersheds. The WRIA 31 Planning and Advisory Committee is in the process of reviewing a draft Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) which will provide a framework for scheduling and executing specific actions to achieve the prioritized objectives described in the Watershed Management Plan (approved by the Boards of County Commissioners in Benton, Klickitat, and Yakima counties in 2008).

The goal of the DIP is to facilitate the achievement of the water quantity, water quality, and aquatic habitat objectives identified in the WMP. Eastern Klickitat CD is one of the parties responsible for carrying out the DIP and has secured a grant from the Dept. of Ecology, G0800398, for water quality assessment and remediation. Our activities include stream monitoring, partnering with other entities (like Klickitat County Natural Resources) to fund assessments and projects, and assisting with the design and installation of Best Management Practices like riparian plantings, off-stream watering, and livestock exclusion fencing. This year, EKCD is continuing the monitoring program and providing cost share assistance for the construction of 1.1 miles of exclusion fencing to keep cattle out of Rock Creek. We are preparing now to assist with a habitat, shade, and morphology study of Rock Creek. One of the benefits of this study will be the identification of potential new sites for BMP installations, which could include the restoration of eroded stream banks.



This severely eroded bank is a prime candidate for restoration

As mentioned in the last issue of Klickitat Conservation Quarterly, a thermal refugia study was recently conducted in the Little Klickitat River, which is in Central Klickitat CD and WRIA 30. The results of that study, partially funded by CKCD's Centennial Clean Water Grant G0800396, have not yet been published. We will report those findings in a future issue.

Landowners and operators in both Eastern and Central Klickitat Conservation Districts who are interested in improving their operation's impact on water quantity and/or quality can receive free technical assistance and may qualify for cost share assistance on approved BMPs through their CD. Conservation Districts are non-regulatory agencies and program participation is completely voluntary.

2010 CRP SIGN-UP

The USDA Farm Service Agency in Washington has accepted 182,255 acres under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up. 94 offers were accepted in Klickitat County, enrolling 22,556.2 acres. 12,088.7 of those acres are currently enrolled in CRP but due to expire in September, 2010. The selections preserve and enhance environmentally sensitive lands while providing payments to property owners.

Under CRP, farmers and ranchers plant grasses and trees in crop fields and along streams or rivers. The plantings reduce soil erosion, which leads to a reduction in sedimentation and nutrient run-off into waterways and improved air quality. They also provide valuable habitat for wildlife. Nation-wide, CRP has restored more than two million acres of wetlands and associated buffers and reduced soil erosion by more than 400 million tons per year.

USDA selected offers for enrollment based on an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) comprised of five environmental factors plus cost. The five environmental factors are: (1) wildlife enhancement, (2) water quality, (3) soil erosion, (4) enduring benefits, and (5) air quality. In addition, the land must have an erodibility index of at least 8. The minimum acceptable EBI level for this signup was 200. The average EBI in Klickitat County is 283.6, with an average rental rate per acre of about \$45.00. The average rental rate in the state is about \$49.00.

If you need help reducing soil erosion on your property, technical assistance is available free-of-charge from the Conservation Districts as well as the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, both located in the USDA Service Center in Goldendale.



We're on the Web

ckcd.org / ekcd.org

ANNUAL PLANT SALE COMING SOON

The next issue of the Klickitat Quarterly will feature the catalog for our annual plant sale, and we will begin taking orders in January. Once again, the emphasis will be on natives. If you are wanting to increase pollinator habitat on your property, we will have plenty of flowering plants for you to choose from. Look for the honeybee icon to help you easily find the plants that are particularly pollinator-friendly.

If the plant you're looking for is not on our list, please feel free to call Mindy at 773-5823 ext. 5. We're always happy to try to accommodate your needs, and the earlier we start looking, the better our chance of finding what you want. (Minimum quantities may apply)



Add some color to your landscape. Here is a small sampling of some of the many colorful varieties we will be offering:

Arctic <i>blue</i> willow	<i>Green's</i> mountain-ash
<i>black</i> (Douglas) hawthorn	<i>mockorange</i>
<i>black</i> cottonwood	Oregon <i>white</i> oak
<i>black</i> locust	<i>purple</i> coneflower
<i>blue</i> columbine	<i>red</i> columbine
<i>blue</i> elderberry	<i>red-flowering</i> currant
<i>blue</i> spruce	<i>redstem</i> ceanothus
common <i>purple</i> lilac	<i>silver</i> buffaloberry
desert <i>purple</i> sage	<i>silver</i> maple



WATER MONITORING VOLUNTEER

Water quality technician Martha Blair (*left*) has been assisted with her monitoring chores this summer and fall by Doug Miller (*right*). Many of you will recognize Doug, as he comes from a long line of Goldendale-area landowners and is recently retired from the PUD. In addition to the assistance he provides to Martha, Doug's volunteer hours count towards the District's match requirements on several grants from the Department of Ecology.



CRM TOUR

Conservation District staff participated in the Simcoe-Grayback Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) tour this last July.

Last summer (2009) the CRM commissioned a rangeland survey, which was conducted by CKCD in cooperation with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Our survey used the same methodology as surveys conducted on the same sites over the past 57 years.

Shelby Kayser, Brad Cameron, Jim Sizemore, Butch Ogden, Bruce Davenport, Ned Kayser, and Jim Hill.

