

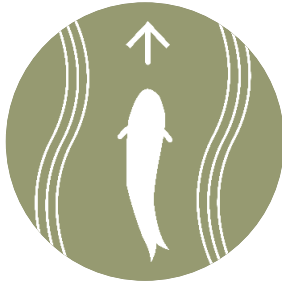


# Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

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Legislative District: 14, 15 Congressional District: 3, 4

## Other Accomplishments



Developing conceptual designs for fish passage at the confluence of Pine Creek and the Columbia River.



Successfully held our 2020 Native Plant Sale, despite COVID challenges.



Implemented a system of rates and charges to provide long term sustainable funding for EKCD operations.

## 2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

### Simcoe Unit Acquisition

#### Resource Challenge

Eastern Klickitat Conservation District (EKCD) is comprised of primarily shrub-steppe landscape and contains only 10% of forested land. The local community relies on range and forest as working lands that provide local economic benefit. Ranchers have used this open space for generations to support their livelihoods, contribute to the economy, and produce food resources used far outside the region. Conservation of these lands also is vital for wildlife habitat, protection of open space, protection of water resources, and provision of recreational opportunities. However, these lands are currently at risk for development and subdivision.

#### Project Summary and Results

EKCD partnered with neighboring Central Klickitat Conservation District (CKCD) to purchase and conserve approximately 4,500 contiguous acres of forest and rangeland located north of Goldendale in the Simcoe Mountains. This working land was acquired and conserved for its economic and natural resource benefits for Klickitat County and Washington State. Within the acquisition lie the headwaters to Rock Creek, an important tributary to the Columbia River and habitat resource for mid-Columbia ESA-listed steelhead. Conservation of the Rock Creek watershed is a priority for EKCD.

#### Key Partners

Washington State Legislature



Left: EKCD's recent land purchase will protect 2,280 acres of forest and rangeland from subdivision and development. Right: Pine forest located within EKCD's recent land purchase in the Simcoe Mountains, north of Goldendale.

## Priorities moving forward...

- ▶ Bring newly acquired property into management under forest and rangeland management plans.
- ▶ Implement a water quality and fish habitat improvement project.
- ▶ Complete a conservation easement to protect agricultural values and ecosystem services of the land.