

LANDOWNER PARTNERSHIPS: PREPARING FOR ANADROMY IN THE WHITE SALMON AND OTHER WATERSHED PROJECTS.

Jamie Gomez, Watershed Resource Technician & Emily Plummer, Fish Passage Technician

Underwood Conservation District
170 NW Lincoln Street P.O. Box 96
White Salmon, WA 98672
509.493.1936
UCD@gorge.net

Abstract: Underwood Conservation District's mission is "to enhance the level of natural resource stewardship for landowners, managers and resource users in the district." To this extent, Underwood Conservation District (UCD) is actively working to build partnerships with private landowners to assist in conservation project planning and implementation. UCD is currently working on 5 fish passage correction projects on Kanaka Creek, Cannavina Creek, Whisky Creek (Wind River watershed), Indian Creek (White Salmon River watershed) and the W. Fork Major Creek. Additionally, UCD is working on two upland headwater channel incision restoration projects on Simmons Creek (Snyder Creek sub-watershed, Klickitat River watershed) and Castle Springs (Rattlesnake Creek sub-watershed, White Salmon River watershed). UCD recently began the initial phase of a salmonid habitat enhancement project on the lower Little Wind River and will be facilitating a reconnaissance study of a potential project to improve Trout Lake's complex system of irrigation diversions and canals. Finally, UCD is working with landowners in the potentially anadromous areas of the White Salmon River watershed to identify fish passage barriers and other potential habitat protection, enhancement and restoration opportunities. In 2009 UCD staff used WDFW's *Fish Passage & Surface Water Diversion Screening Assessment & Prioritization Protocol* to survey streams in the White Salmon River watershed. UCD contacted all landowners prior to conducting the survey and was granted permission by 65% of landowners while 12.5% of landowners denied permission and 22.5% of landowners contacted did not reply to requests for access. To date UCD has surveyed 30.9 stream miles, identified eight culverts and dams as fish passage barriers, assessed 12,565 square meters of rearing habitat and 6,747 square meters of spawning habitat upstream of those passage barriers, identified 30 water diversions in need of screen assessments, and documented numerous potential protection, enhancement and restoration projects. UCD plans to continue its survey in 2010 by contacting 42 landowners on the remaining portions of streams not surveyed in 2009, equaling approximately 28 stream miles. Once the 2010 surveys are complete, UCD will begin to prioritize these barriers for potential corrective action. Finally, the district will begin to develop high priority habitat protection, enhancement and restoration projects in the White Salmon River and throughout the district – an effort that will undoubtedly require strong partnerships with numerous landowners.