

Stream and Habitat Restoration Efforts in Central and Eastern Klickitat County

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Abstract

The Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts have been putting conservation efforts on the ground since the early 1940's. Landowners work with the Districts on a voluntary basis to accomplish on-the-ground conservation of soil, water and related natural resources. Initially concerned primarily with soil erosion losses from improper farming practices, the focus in recent years has been on habitat restorations, water quality and farm efficiency upgrades. The Districts have been relatively unnoticed until just the past few years, content to work quietly in the background with the agricultural community and streamside landowners. In response to water quality concerns presented in recent years, the Districts have secured grant funding, increased landowner cooperation and formed partnerships to better accomplish and support stream restoration efforts and Best Management Practice implementation. On occasion, the opportunity arises to mention the good work the Districts are doing in Klickitat County. This presentation will be a brief synopsis of District activities tied to water quality in the past 5 years. The presentation will focus on stream projects, livestock improvement cost-share projects, irrigation efficiency upgrade projects, improved farming practices and monitoring.