



Palouse Conservation District

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Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments



30 volunteers participated in restoring riparian habitat for Orca Recovery Day, enhancing downstream water quality. Photo by Catherine Belme



As a foundation for sediment deposits, woody debris is installed behind this bank stabilization project. Photo by Emily Novack



500 Spalding's Catchfly plants are planted on Steptoe Butte, one of the largest known Palouse Prairie remnants. Photo by James Riser

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Big Conservation in a Small Canyon Stream



Assessing the stream. Photo by Anthony Hatcher

Resource Challenge

Tucked in the steep canyon walls of the Snake River Canyon, a meandering stream that serves as an oasis to migrating Snake River steelhead, has seen a transformation as livestock and road development have dominated the landscape. Cattle grazing, stream bank erosion, and runoff from heavy use areas for livestock has affected water quality for downstream habitat and motivated the landowners to seek help from the district.

Project Summary and Results

In an effort to isolate the impacts of cattle grazing in riparian habitat and improve water quality, 8,000 feet of livestock exclusion fencing was installed along the stream corridor. In partnership with the Washington State Conservation Commission, the District was able to provide financial assistance to install the fencing, and develop a long-term heavy use area protection and stream crossings that will maintain the viability of the landowner's cattle operation. The District will continue working with landowners and agency partners along this Snake River tributary to implement practices that help livestock producers and migrating steelhead.



Fencing installed with funds from the Conservation Commission and Department of Ecology. Photo by Jodi Prout

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission; Washington State Department of Ecology

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Develop a modeling tool to measure the effectiveness of conservation practices at a watershed scale.
- ▶ Capture voluntary efforts of the agricultural community through an interactive map to protect critical areas with the Voluntary Stewardship Program.
- ▶ Conduct a watershed assessment to engage producers in improving water quality with the National Water Quality Initiative.