

# KLICKITAT CONSERVATION SUMMER 2011

## Central & Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts

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### **COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (CCPI)**

CCPI is a cost share program operated by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, and made available to qualified irrigators in the Little Klickitat and Swale Creek watersheds through a grant secured by Central Klickitat Conservation District. Since 2009, CCPI has provided over \$550,000 to help upgrade ten irrigation systems in the District.

NRCS recently announced an additional \$150,000.00 for CKCD, which will help fund three center pivot conversions from wheel lines. If you have an irrigation system that needs upgrading, please call Jim at (509)773-5823 ext. 5.



### **NOTICE TO HISPANIC OR WOMEN FARMERS & RANCHERS: COMPENSATION FOR DISCRIMINATION**

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. You may be eligible if:

1. you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing from USDA during that period; and
2. the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
3. you believe these actions occurred because you are Hispanic or female.

In order to participate, you must submit a claim to the Claims Administrator. If you are currently represented by legal counsel regarding allegations of discrimination against USDA or in a lawsuit claim-

*continued*

### **WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

Both Districts have been busy addressing the issue that is consistently identified by our constituents as one of the top resource concerns in the county: *water quality*.

Thanks to grant funding provided by the Washington State Department of Ecology, we continue to monitor water quality (and quantity) in streams throughout both districts, establishing baseline information and documenting the effects of various conservation practices. In the last year we have also provided design expertise and cost share assistance for the installation of over four miles of livestock exclusion fencing, three off-stream livestock watering facilities; a livestock access bridge; nearly a mile of riparian plantings; a wildlife watering and runoff-control pond; and modification of a livestock heavy use area to protect surface water and improve livestock handling.

Staff have made presentations at schools and scientific conferences and hosted stake-holder meetings for Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA) 31, which includes the Rock Creek watershed. We also helped fund the Water On Wheels program, presented by Franklin CD, at Bickleton and Goldendale schools.

Currently, we are working on two stream bank stabilization projects, including partnering with the City of Goldendale at Ekone Park, and planning an extensive survey of Rock Creek in preparation for several in-stream improvement projects in partnership with the Yakama Nation and Washington Department of Ecology.

### **CLAIMS, *continued***

ing discrimination by USDA, you should contact your counsel regarding this claims process. *USDA cannot provide legal advice to you.* You are not required to hire an attorney to file a claim, but you may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider .

If you want to register your name to receive a claims package, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov).

**CENTRAL & EASTERN KLICKITAT  
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

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**FY 12 COST SHARE OUTLOOK**

Despite current economic difficulties, Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts both remain financially stable and committed to promoting wise use conservation by offering free information and technical assistance to land users. We will also strive to make as much cost share money as possible available to help offset the expense of implementing eligible conservation projects. Here are some of the practices on which we currently offer cost share:

- Stream bank stabilization
- Riparian habitat enhancement
- Spring development
- Livestock exclusion fencing & watering
- Permanent vegetation establishment
- “Precision Ag” technology (EKCD)
- Livestock heavy use protection areas
- Other soil erosion control measures

If you need technical assistance or are interested in implementing a conservation practice, please call Jim Hill at (509)773-5823 ext. 5 or e-mail [cdoffice@gorge.net](mailto:cdoffice@gorge.net).

**DID YOU NOTICE?**

We removed the word “**Quarterly**” from our title.

One of the ways we are tightening our belts is to drop one newsletter issue. Publishing three newsletters a year instead of four will save us over \$400.00, not including staff time. If you would like to help us save a little more, you can choose to receive this newsletter electronically. It is also available on our web sites, [ekcd.org](http://ekcd.org) and [ckcd.org](http://ckcd.org). To sign up for e-mail delivery, please call Mindy at (509)773-5823 ext.5, or e-mail your request to [cdoffice@gorge.net](mailto:cdoffice@gorge.net).

*Pictured here is an example of livestock exclusion fencing with off-channel watering and riparian plantings. These Best Management Practices protect water quality, and were partially funded with cost share from Central Klickitat CD.*

**ENVIRONMENTAL MARKETS**

Environmental markets (also referred to as ecosystem service markets) represent a way for our growing communities to offset or mitigate for the unavoidable impacts of growth and development at the lowest reasonable cost. At the same time, they can provide supplemental income for our farmers and ranchers, improving their economic viability, and providing the funding necessary for them to protect their land and remain in agriculture.

The Office of Farmland Preservation (OFP) is engaged in a broad effort to develop and improve the ability for farmers to access a wide variety of existing and emerging Environmental markets. These include carbon sequestration, water quality trading, wetland mitigation, wildlife habitat mitigation, renewable energy, water transactions, flood mitigation, and more.

OFP hopes to make as many different kinds of conservation market opportunities as possible available across the broad spectrum of agriculture so that, in the years ahead, selling environmental services becomes a meaningful part of the everyday business of agriculture. For more information, see [www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org).

**“Economics of Growing Canola for Biodiesel in Our Valley”** There will be an informal meeting with Whole Energy & Mariah Energy Group at Windy Ridge, 113 W. Main Street in Goldendale, on Monday, August 15th at 6:00 pm. For more information please call 773-3604.

