

Klickitat Conservation Newsletter

SUMMER 2014

Central & Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts
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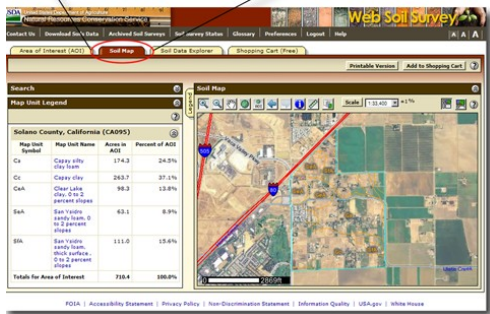
Fire Wise Assessments

It's that time of year again, when extra precautions and steps are needed to prevent forest fires. As the temperatures rise, moisture levels decline, causing vegetation to dry out. Low moisture levels create ideal fuel sources for fires to burn hot and fast. Is your property fire safe? That is what Kerry Bodily was busy determining over the months of May and June. Eighty-two assessments of different small forest landowner properties were made in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Kerry assessed private lands for the availability of the three different types of fuel sources (ground, surface, and crown) and then reported back to the DNR, who will make recommendations on how to create a more fire safe property. If you are interested in knowing more about the assessments or have questions about your property, please contact the DNR at 509-773-5588.



Public Seminar on Web Soil Survey

Konrad Bomberger, NRCS Range Specialist, will be conducting an educational seminar on how to use the Web Soil Survey tool located on the USDA's website. This information is great for small landowners and farmers, along with real estate agents needing to assess land value. This tool provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world, with soil maps for 95 percent of the nation's counties. Konrad will be demonstrating what types of information can be found through the Web Soil Survey and how to use the information to your benefit. Please join him for this hour long presentation on September 9th at 6:00 pm, in the Goldendale Library's Camplan Room. Please contact Konrad with questions or for more information at 509-773-5822.



Soil map was adapted from <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.html>

Saying Goodbye



Andy Juris and Doug Grabner share a laugh at EKCD's 2014 Annual Meeting.

Doug Grabner has stepped down after serving on the Eastern Klickitat CD board of supervisor for **30 years**, selflessly volunteering hundreds of hours of his time. Not only is he a great person to work with, his vast knowledge of Eastern Klickitat County that he has shared with us has been priceless. We are going to miss you, Doug!

(Anyone interested in serving on the EKCD board, please contact the district office at 509-773-5823, ext. 5)

We also had to say goodbye to Martha Blair, who is leaving us to work for the USDA Farm Service Agency in Sherman County, Oregon. Martha worked for us for seven years, first as the water quality monitor, and most recently as the resource technician. Her many contributions to the programs of both districts will be sorely missed.





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WRIA 31

An ongoing watershed management plan for Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 31, also known as Rock-Glade watershed, involves the cooperation of three different counties (Benton, Klickitat, and Yakima) with Klickitat County designated as lead agency. Funding for this management is provided by a grant from the Department of Ecology (DOE), continuing the activities that were initiated by previous grants. The primary focus of the grant is Rock Creek, which is listed by DOE as a Category 5 impaired stream because of high temperatures, but will also address water quality issues in other streams in WRIA 31 within the Eastern Klickitat Conservation District.

Twenty sites are currently being monitored by new hire Kaci Kreps (*right*), with help from Jess Davenport, who has taken over the resource technician position. This grant places high priority on projects with the potential to reduce water temperature and will be implementing the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Some of these BMPs include the development and protection of four springs to reduce water pollutants. Four additional livestock BMP projects are also required, which can include construction of offsite water troughs, exclusion fencing, hardened water gaps, and creating filter strips. To provide shade and erosion control for streams in the watershed, riparian plantings have been planned and/or implemented with volunteer landowners.



Pictured here is a riparian buffer planting completed in April of this year. This area was affected by the Cleveland Fire in 1998 and since then natural re-establishment of vegetation has occurred to a very limited degree. The newly planted riparian buffer on an un-named seasonal tributary to Pine Creek will not only provide shade for this tributary, but will help to re-establish habitat for wildlife.

The Conservation District has also been busy working with Klickitat County Natural Resources (KCNR) to install new stream gauge stations on Rock Creek and Squaw Creek, and to take over the DOE stream gauge station already in place at the Highway 8 bridge. Currently, there are no stream gauge stations being monitored in EKCD. These stations will allow for year-round monitoring of stage height and discharge levels, and will give us a better understanding of the characteristics of these streams.

