

CENTRAL & EASTERN KLICKITAT CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

1107 S. Columbus Ave.
Goldendale WA 98620



2013 PLANT SALE

It's that time of year again! The plant sale catalog is now available, and we will be accepting orders January 7th through March 15th, for pick-up on Saturday, March 23rd. This year, in an effort to reduce costs and paper use, the catalog is being mailed by request only (unless you are a previous customer, in which case we automatically send you one). It will also be available at the Goldendale Farm Store, Market Street Café in Bickleton, the Goldendale Library, and the district office. If you prefer to go paperless, you can view and download it from our web sites—ckcd.org and ekcd.org. To request a catalog, call Mindy at (509)773-5823 x 5.

We continue to focus on plants native to Klickitat County, or otherwise proven appropriate for this area, and we get our stock from growers in comparable climates and using appropriate seed sources. Klickitat County enjoys a wide variety when it comes to climate and geography, so our plant selection reflects that; we have included perennial wildflowers, shrubs, and trees for different growing conditions and planting purposes—from wetland to xeric, shade to sun, ornamental to erosion control. Offerings include bare-root conifers and “conservation grade” plants available in larger quantities at very low prices for large-scale conservation plantings, as well as specimen plants, berries, and flowers for your yard. Burke Museum's *Plants of Washington Field Guide* (www.burkemuseum.org) is a good resource for anyone wanting to get more information on many of the plants we offer.

A 5% discount is available when you pre-order “singles” (plants priced per each) in bundles of five. Whatever is not pre-sold will be available for sale on pick-up day, but quantities are limited and all sales are on a first-come, first-served basis, so order early for best selection.

Please note: when you read that a particular species of plant is drought-tolerant, keep in mind that it is only after the plant is established. *Every new plant needs regular, sufficient water for at least the first growing season.* It is also important to consider weed control. Without it, plants will be slow to establish, or may even fail. Seedlings that don't have to compete with weeds grow quickly and are less vulnerable to wind damage, browsing, and disease. So when planning your project, please remember to account for regular water and weed control.

KLICKITAT CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2012/2013

Central & Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts

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*CKCD Associate Supervisor and
Klickitat County Natural Resources
Program Coordinator, John Foltz,
taking measurements at a perma-
nent stream gauge station moni-
tored by the County and CKCD.*



2012 in Review

2012 was a busy construction year for us. CKCD provided engineering, construction oversight, and cost share assistance on three bank stabilization and riparian restoration projects on the Little Klickitat River and a riffle installation with riparian plantings on Swale Creek. Those four projects improved 4,000 linear feet of stream bank, installed one mile of livestock exclusion fencing, and planted 3.5 acres of riparian areas to native vegetation. In EKCD, a degraded spring collection box and a trough in a muddy livestock handling area were replaced with a new collection box and heavy-use area, and the trough over-flow piped directly towards Rock Creek. That project not only improves livestock handling conditions, it reduces the amount of sediment and excess nutrients entering the creek, as well as reducing the amount of water lost to evaporation before reaching the creek. District engineer Loren Meagher also provided engineering and project oversight for the other districts in the South Central Engineering Cluster, North Yakima CD and Underwood CD.

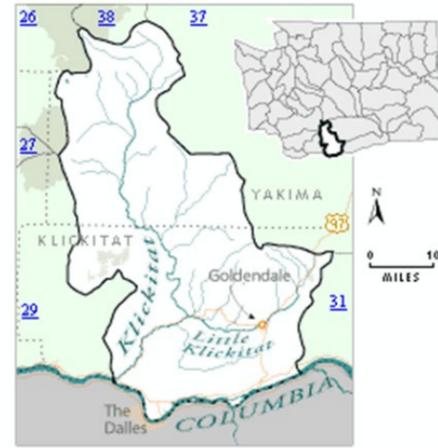
EKCD secured grants from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Washington State Conservation Commission, along with an existing grant from the Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water program, to acquire aerial LiDAR and orthoimagery data and conduct an exhaustive literature review on Rock Creek. This information, combined with on-the-ground survey data from this project as well as previous years, will establish baseline data to assist future decisions regarding use in and along Rock Creek. EKCD is using the data now to determine potential sites for in-stream and riparian area projects that have the greatest probability of improving water quality in Rock Creek. The next step will be contacting each landowner whose property is identified as a potential project site, to determine if they wish to work with the district to implement suggested actions. EKCD, like all conservation districts, is non-regulatory and works only with willing landowners.

In an effort to help rural property buyers make good choices concerning their property, ed/outreach technician Kerry Bodily developed a workshop for real estate agents, to educate them on issues of importance to rural landowners; familiarize them with Federal, State, and local agencies that can assist those property owners; and make them aware of the ways that conservation programs improve property values and benefit landowners.

Most recently, we have hired Jess Davenport to take over the water quality monitoring program as Martha Blair transitions into the role of resource technician, where she will be assisting Loren Meagher with project implementation.

Hydrologic Assessment in the Little Klickitat Watershed Supports Local Watershed Planning Efforts

In 1976, the state of Washington was divided into 62 Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) in an effort to delineate major watersheds for environmental administration and planning purposes. The Klickitat watershed is referred to as WRIA 30, and includes the Little Klickitat subbasin. Although the Department of Ecology (Ecology) is responsible for the environmental management of these watershed units, watershed planning takes place locally to involve stakeholders in addressing water quality and quantity concerns. Your local Conservation Districts and the Klickitat County Natural Resource Department help facilitate this process, along with the Department of Ecology. The WRIA 30 Water Resource Planning and Advisory Committee (WRPAC) meets quarterly. They are currently in the process of implementing strategies to address water quantity, water quality and aquatic habitat issues identified in the watershed management plan, approved in 2006.



A high priority issue for the Little Klickitat subbasin is to ensure that adequate water supplies are available to meet current and future water demands for in-stream and out-of-stream use. The challenge lies in that naturally low stream flow conditions, and in general groundwater levels, occur in summer, when there is also an increased demand for water. One must also take into consideration that low summer stream flow is a contributing factor to elevated stream temperatures, which negatively impact aquatic species that are present in the system.

To address the issue of water quantity, the management plan recommended refining estimated water budgets (including actual use) as well as documenting flow conditions in the Little Klickitat River. In 2011, the Klickitat County Natural Resource Department secured funding through the Department of Ecology to perform a hydrologic assessment in the Little Klickitat subbasin. This study will effectively pull together available water quantity data in order to develop a hydrologic conceptual model evaluating the basin-scale water balance, availability of groundwater and surface water, and important information needed for potentially appropriating new water rights. Data sources include a network of approximately 100 wells for groundwater level monitoring, three stream flow gaging stations and a snowpack monitoring (SNOTEL) site in the Simcoe Mountains, at the headwaters of the Little Klickitat River.

Some of the field work for this assessment was performed in fall 2011 by hydrologists with Aspect Consulting, assisted by local conservation district and county natural resource department staff. Stream flow was measured simultaneously at different points in the Little Klickitat River and at confluences with tributaries to determine reaches that are losing or gaining surface flow. This was done during stable, low-flow conditions, after the irrigation season was complete. Continuous stream flow data from gage stations on the Little Klickitat River, operated by the Conservation District and Ecology, have also been incorporated into the study. Groundwater level monitoring data, collected semi-annually and continuously by Klickitat County Natural Resource Department staff, has been used

Do you live in eastern Klickitat County? A Watershed Management Plan and Detailed Implementation Plan are also in place in WRIA 31 for Eastern Klickitat County watersheds. Efforts are underway to implement strategies outlined in the plans.

along with surface flow and precipitation data to determine the basin-scale water balance. The water balance analysis compares groundwater use with recharge. Surface water use is compared with stream discharge. Categories of human water use are being evaluated and water use estimates are being refined. The Little Klickitat subbasin hydrologic assessment report is due to be completed in June 2013.

To learn more about local watershed planning efforts underway and strategies to address water quantity and quality issues, contact John Foltz with the Klickitat County Department of Natural Resources at (509) 773-2353 (or by e-mail: johnf@co.klickitat.wa.us). The Conservation District performs stream monitoring and restoration work in support of the watershed planning process; contact us at (509) 773-5823 ext. 5.

Annual Meetings and Supervisor Elections

Both Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts will be hosting their Annual Meetings in February. Annual Meetings are a chance for you to meet district supervisors and staff, learn more about our programs, hear from other agricultural agencies, enjoy a free lunch, and even earn some pesticide applicator credits.

Annual Meetings are also the polling locations for our supervisor elections. Each conservation district in the state is governed by a five-member volunteer board; three elected by citizens of the district and two appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission. Supervisors set priorities for the district, give guidance to district staff, and oversee the disbursement of funds. If you would like more information about conservation district elections, feel free to call the district office, or check out the Conservation Commission's web-site at www.scc.wa.gov.

Both districts will adopt elections resolutions at their December board meetings; the resolutions will name board members whose terms are expiring, name the election supervisor, list the filing deadline and location; and list the polling date and location.

Eastern Klickitat CD's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 9:00 am at Alder Creek Grange Hall in Bickleton.

Central Klickitat CD's Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 9:00 am at the Centerville Grange Hall.

Cost Share Opportunities

Rebates for Irrigation and Lighting Efficiency Upgrades are Available Now

Programs are available for agricultural producers to implement a wide variety of energy-saving measures, especially irrigation and lighting. The *Save Water Save Energy* (SWSE) program is a partnership with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Klickitat PUD, and the Central Klickitat CD. Upgrading to Variable Frequency Drives and other equipment or repair projects can dramatically increase efficiency and savings. Upgrading shop or barn lighting can result in significant savings. Visit or contact us at 1107 S. Columbus, Goldendale, or call Kerry at 509-772-5823 x 5 for information or an on-site evaluation.

Forest Health – Firewise Happenings Alert

CKCD is currently working with the Washington Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) to implement various cost-share programs available to communities and individual landowners. Visit us or contact Kerry at 509-773-5823 x 5 for information or an on-site evaluation.