

KLICKITAT CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

Central & Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts

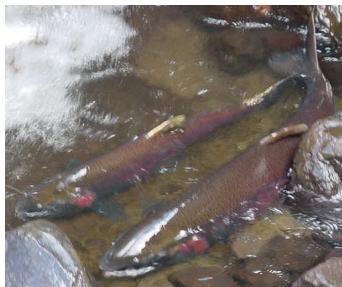
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Water Quality TMDLs

A total maximum daily load (TMDL) is a numerical value representing the highest amount of pollutant a surface water body can receive and still meet state water quality standards. Water bodies which are deemed by the Washington State Department of Ecology to be impaired due to pollution – including elevated temperatures – are classified as Category 5 and placed on the state’s 303(d) list. The federal Clean Water Act requires that states develop a TMDL clean-up plan for each water body on the 303(d) list. Here in Klickitat County we have three watersheds impacted by these rules, all for elevated temperatures.



In Central Klickitat Conservation District (CKCD), the Little Klickitat River and its main tributaries – East Prong, West Prong, and Butler Creek – were included on the 303(d) list in 1996 for elevated temperatures which directly affect the habitat of resident rainbow trout and downstream steelhead, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. A Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) has been in place since 2005, and calls for increased riparian vegetation and improvements to channel morphology and in-stream flows. Swale Creek is also on the 303(d) list, and Ecology, with input from CKCD

and Klickitat County Natural Resources, is in the process of developing a Straight to Implementation (STI) Plan for it, which is less restrictive than a TMDL. The goal of the STI is to identify the most likely stream reaches for improvement and to recommend implementation and monitoring strategies to lower stream temperature.

In Eastern Klickitat Conservation District (EKCD), Rock Creek is on the 303(d) list because one section in the upper watershed is Category 5 for elevated temperatures. It was de-listed in 1996 but re-listed in 2005. Like all other streams in this part of the county, Rock Creek ceases to flow in the summer except for localized spring-fed reaches. The lower reaches of most of the creeks in the district have potential spawning and rearing habitat for indigenous Rock Creek summer steelhead, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Ecology imposed an STI for Rock Creek in 2010, but it is on hold pending recognition from the Environmental Protection Agency.



Both CKCD and EKCD receive grants from the Department of Ecology to implement the activities specified in the DIP and STI plans. These grants pay for water quality monitoring programs, education and outreach efforts (like this newsletter, pamphlets, school presentations, and landowner meetings), and technical and financial assistance to landowners who install BMPs that address the TMDL issue. Some common BMPs for our districts are riparian area plantings to increase shade; livestock exclusion fencing and off-stream watering facilities to reduce trampling and sedimentation; spring development to augment in-stream flows; and streambank stabilization to address severe erosion.



If you own property along the Little Klickitat River, Swale Creek, Rock Creek, or one of their tributaries, and are interested in working with the district to address a resource concern associated with the TMDL, please call us at (509)773-5823 x 5 or come by the district office to discuss available assistance.

CENTRAL & EASTERN KLICKITAT CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

1107 S. Columbus Ave.
Goldendale WA 98620



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
OF WASHINGTON STATE
your window to healthy lands

509-773-5823 x 5

cdoffice@gorge.net

www.ckcd.org

www.ekcd.org

Who We Are and How to Contact Us

EKCD Board of Supervisors:

Web site: ekcd.org

Steve Matsen Chair

Ron Juris Supervisor

Rhon Raschko Supervisor

Karen Van de Graaf-Erickson Supervisor

Vacant Supervisor

Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month, at 7:00 PM April through November and 5:00 PM December through March (except for Feb, when it follows the Annual Meeting). Every other month we meet via web/phone conference. Please check the web site to confirm time and location.

The EKCD Board of Supervisors has a vacant elected position. This seat may be filled by appointment until expired (May, 2017). Anyone interested in serving on the board is asked to please contact the district office or a current board member for more information or to request an application.

CKCD Board of Supervisors:

Web site: ckcd.org

Dan McCarty Chair

Steve Cunningham Vice Chair

Doug Miller Auditor

Tom Tasto Supervisor

Dave Guenther Supervisor

Marty Hudson Associate Super.

Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month, at 5:00 PM in the district office (except for Feb, when it follows the Annual Meeting).

District Staff:

District Office:

Jim Hill Manager

Located in the USDA Service Center

(509)773-5823 x 5

Loren Meagher Area Engineer

1107 S. Columbus Ave.

Jess Davenport Resource Technician

Goldendale WA 98620

e-mail: cdoffice@gorge.net

Kaci Bartkowiak Water Quality Monitor

Office hours are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Mindy Pomerinke Admin. Assistant

We are pleased to introduce Eastern Klickitat CD's newest board member, Karen Van de Graaf-Erickson, who was appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission on May 21st.

Karen grew up in a cattle ranching family and holds a degree in economics from Washington State University. Now she helps run the family's "natural GAP level 4" (in the Global Animal Partnership's animal welfare rating standards for beef cattle) cow/calf operations in Klickitat, Yakima, and Kittitas Counties, and their farm in Bickleton. Additionally, she is the founder and manager of a commercial manure compost operation in Sunnyside, which is certified for use on organic crops. Welcome, Karen!



Mike Copenhefer, two-term member of the Eastern Klickitat CD Board of Supervisors, passed away on April 11, 2015. Mike will be long and fondly remembered by his family and friends for his loyalty, mischievous spirit, and dedication to the Bickleton-Glade community. In addition to his work with EKCD, he was a member of the Glade fire department and the driving force behind Bickleton's new city water system.