

KLICKITAT CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/FALL 2015

Central & Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts

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- *Ecology grant funds planning for control of invasive aquatic weeds in Rock Creek.*
- *Dealing with drought*
- *Native wildflower bulb and seed mix sale*
- *Pollinators in peril*



Low summer flows in the Little Klickitat River

Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan for Control of Eurasian Waterfilfoil in Rock Creek

Eastern Klickitat Conservation District (EKCD) has secured funding through the Washington State Department of Ecology to develop an Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP) for Rock Creek. The plan, which is being developed with input from the Klickitat County Noxious Weed Control Board, Yakama Nation, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and local citizens who have attended the public meetings, focuses on selecting methods to control Eurasian watermilfoil and other invasive aquatic weeds found in the slack water area of Rock Creek.



On July 30th EKCD staff, along with Marty Hudson, Klickitat County Noxious Weed Coordinator; Jenifer Parsons, botanist for the Department of Ecology; and Scott Kraynak, Park Ranger with the Army Corps of Engineers, performed an aquatic vegetation survey in the pool at the mouth of Rock Creek. Plants identified in the survey included natives and non-natives, but Eurasian watermilfoil dominated the upper portion of the pool where the boat launch and the confluence with Rock Creek are located.

This is of particular concern because the presence of Eurasian watermilfoil has been shown to increase populations of bass that prey on salmonids, and Rock Creek and its tributaries are the only salmon-bearing streams in Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 31. In fact, they have been designated by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as critical habitat for Mid-Columbia steelhead, and the State of Washington has already funded several water quality improvement projects in WRIA 31 for the express purpose of benefiting salmonids.

Recommended control methods will be based upon data collected in the vegetation survey and will be incorporated into the IAVMP. Please feel free to contact EKCD at 509-773-5823 x 5 or e-mail cdoffice@gorge.net for more information.



Minimize the Effects of Drought on Your Operation

Save the Soil. Farmers without access to adequate water to produce a crop may find themselves thrust from a water crisis to a dust crisis. Options for protecting fields vulnerable to erosion include cover crops, surface roughening, residue management, converting to crops that use less water, mulching, or other practices.

Conserving Rangeland. Ranching with limited water supply is difficult. For some ranchers, managing the livestock to take advantage of available grass while protecting areas from overuse may be easier with tools such as livestock watering systems, piping, troughs, and fencing. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with ranchers to develop grazing management plans to make the best use of what forage remains on the ranch.

Stretching Every Drop. Farmers who have access to water and want to make every drop count should develop irrigation water management plans with their NRCS conservationists or other consultants. Assistance is available to improve irrigation systems to help farmers working to produce a crop with a smaller allocation of water.

(excerpt from "[Minimize the Effects of Drought on Your Operation](#)" by the USDA NRCS)

CENTRAL & EASTERN KLICKITAT
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NATIVE WILDFLOWER BULBS AND SEEDS for fall planting

Catalogs are available [on-line](#), by [e-mail](#), and by post

Accepting orders now through September 25th

Pick up at the USDA Service Center in Goldendale

8:00 am - noon and 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

Bulbs: September 24th or 25th / **Seed:** now thru September 25th

(Delivery is available by request)

Call (509)773-5823 x 5 or e-mail cdoffice@gorge.net

We accept cash, checks, credit cards, and debit cards

Support Your Local Pollinator

Pollinators are an important part of our community. While many pollinators may seem like just annoying insects, they are actually a critical part of the web of life upon which we all depend. Pollinators form the underpinning of a healthy and sustainable future for food and the environment, but they have shown disturbing signs of decline in recent years. When pollinators shrink in number, many plants either produce less seed or no seed at all. The bottom line is, when pollinators start disappearing, plants start disappearing. Most plants depend upon pollinators to reproduce. While animals can travel and move around to find mates and reproduce, plants are rooted to one spot. Therefore, plants depend on from their anthers to their are more than 100,000 bees, flies, moths, butterflies pollinators. There are also animals such as birds, rep- ing bats, that pollinate the most important crop



Using native plants in your great way to support local

water and pest control usage, since natives are naturally adapted to local conditions. Use flowering trees and shrubs, as well as wildflowers, to provide three seasons of nectar and pollen sources to attract a variety of pollinators. Here are some ideas for native plants that will benefit pollinators: serviceberry, pea shrub, deerbrush, rabbitbrush, hawthorn, mock-orange, chokecherry, currant, wild rose, monardella, snowberry, elderberry, aster, blanketflower, penstemon, flax, clover, globemal- low, buckwheat, maple, black locust, and hazelnut.

pollinators to move pollen stigma. On planet Earth there species of insects, including and beetles, that work hard as over 1,000 species of other tiles, and mammals, includ- plants. Bees, however, are pollinators.

landscaping is not only a pollinators, it also reduces

Speaking of wildflowers, be sure to check out our booth in the Still Life Building at the **Klickitat County Fair**, August 20-23. This year's theme is "**Wildflowers and Wagon Wheels.**" We'll have information on CKCD and EKCD services and activities, and (of course) pollinators.

