

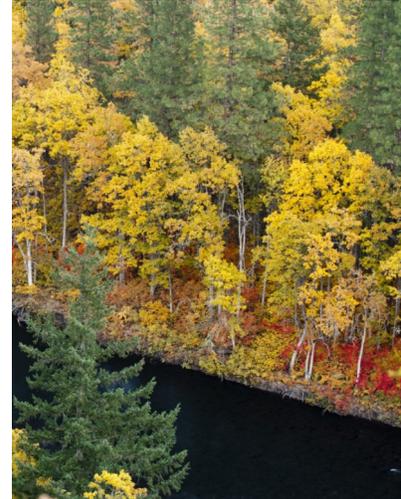
KLICKITAT CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015/2016

Central & Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts

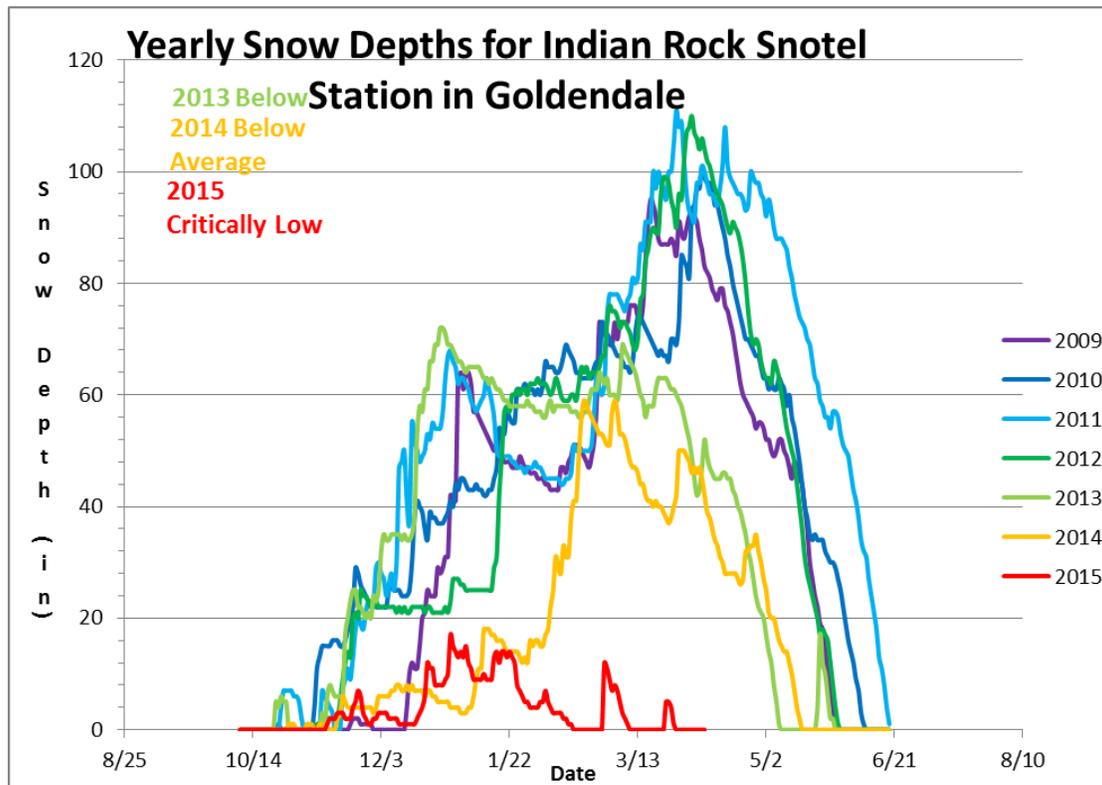
IN THIS ISSUE:

- Addressing the Little Klickitat River TMDL
- Local district staff recognized state-wide for outstanding service
- Post-Wildfire technical assistance available
- Upcoming meetings, elections, and plant sale



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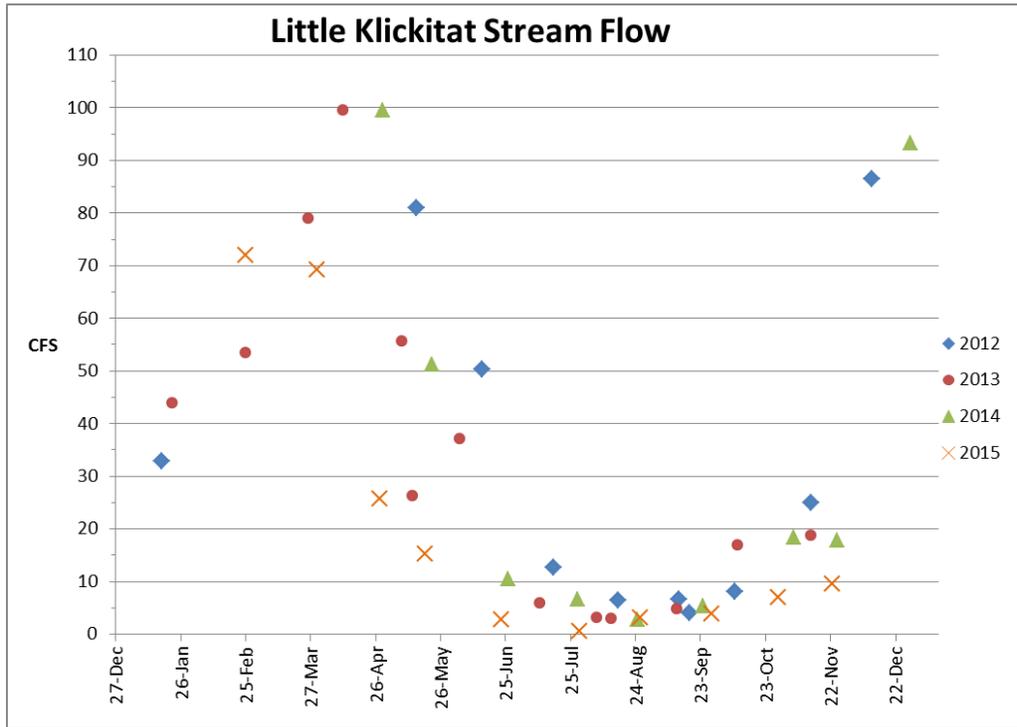
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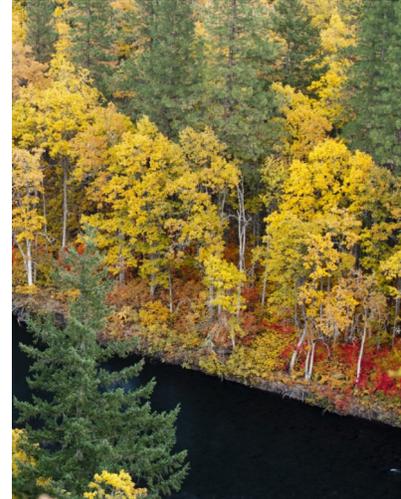
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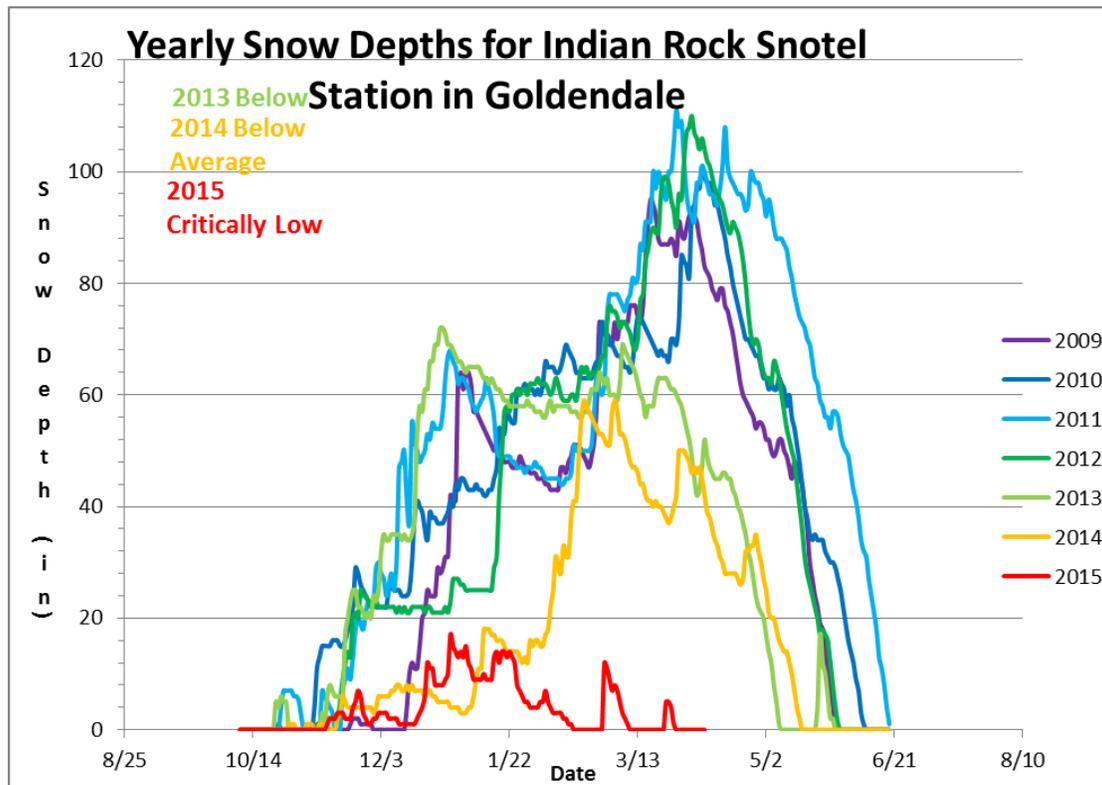
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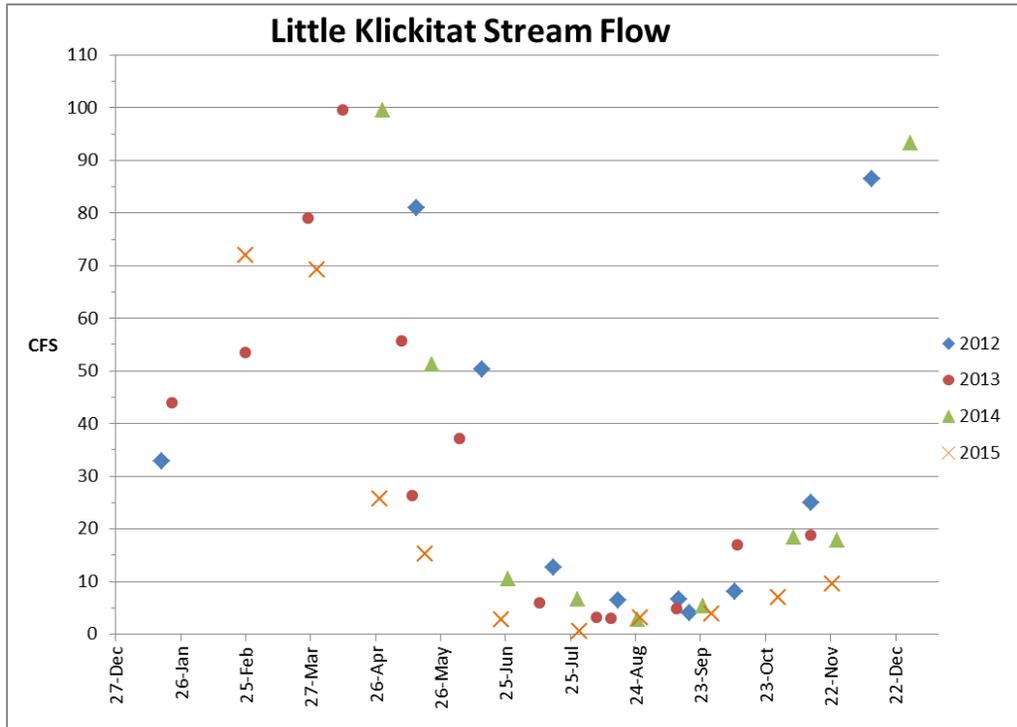
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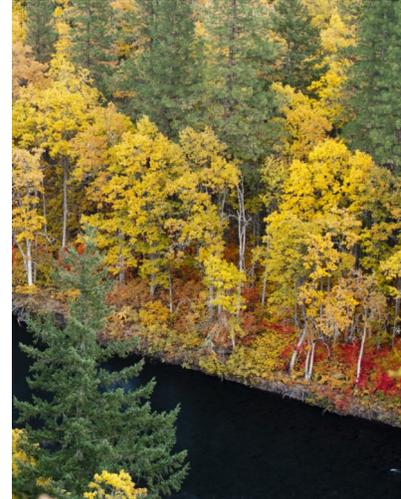
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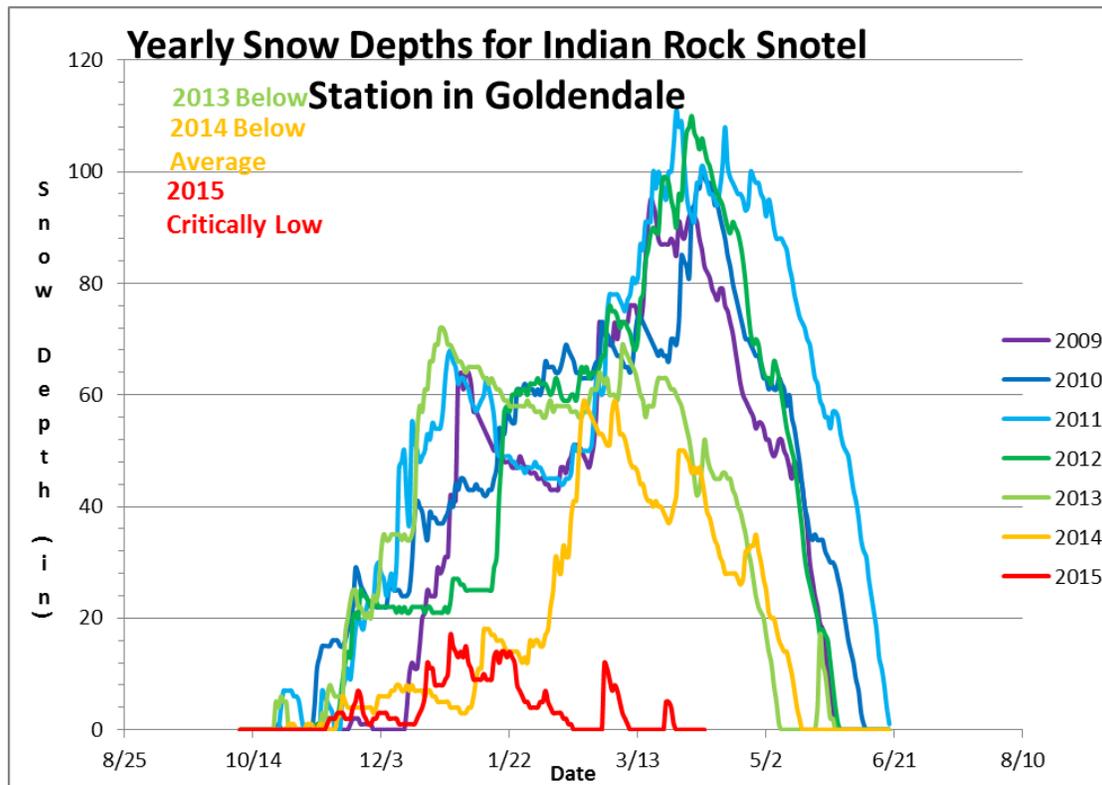
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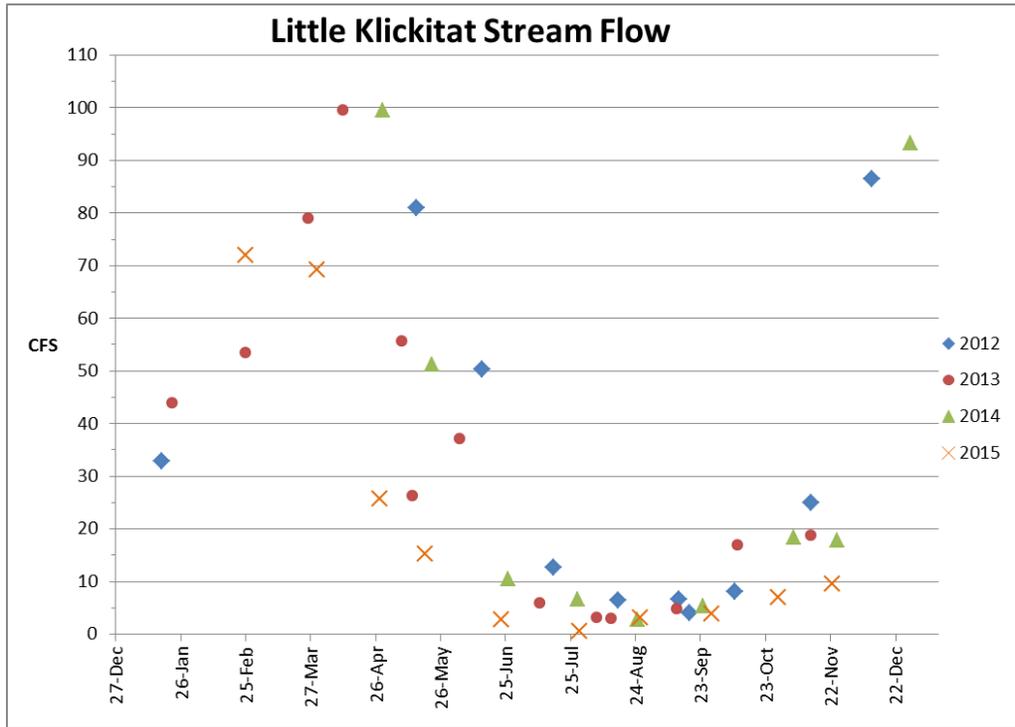
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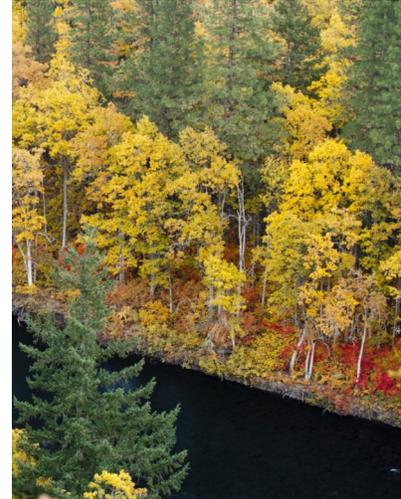
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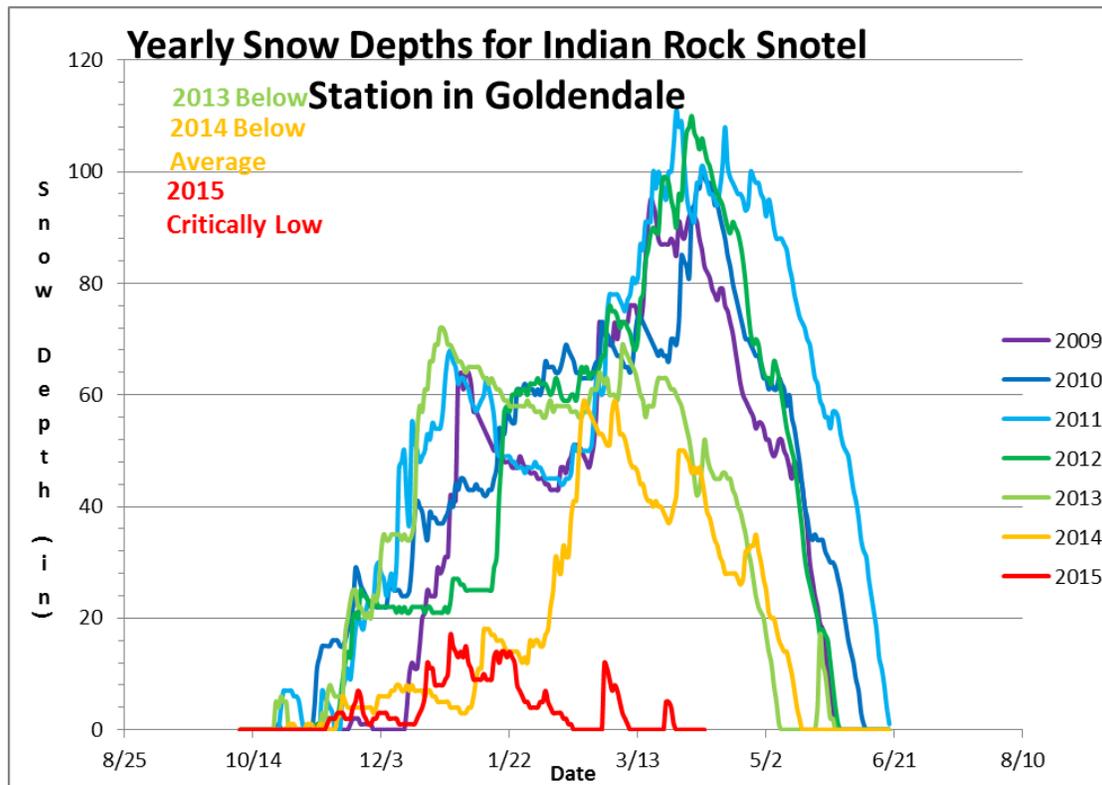
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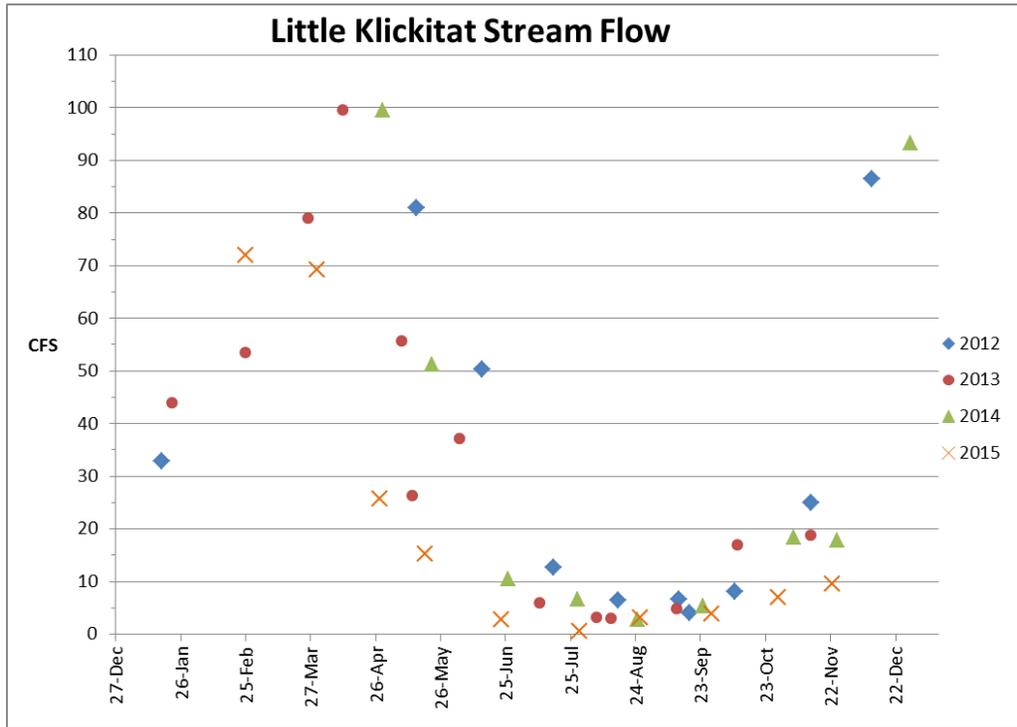
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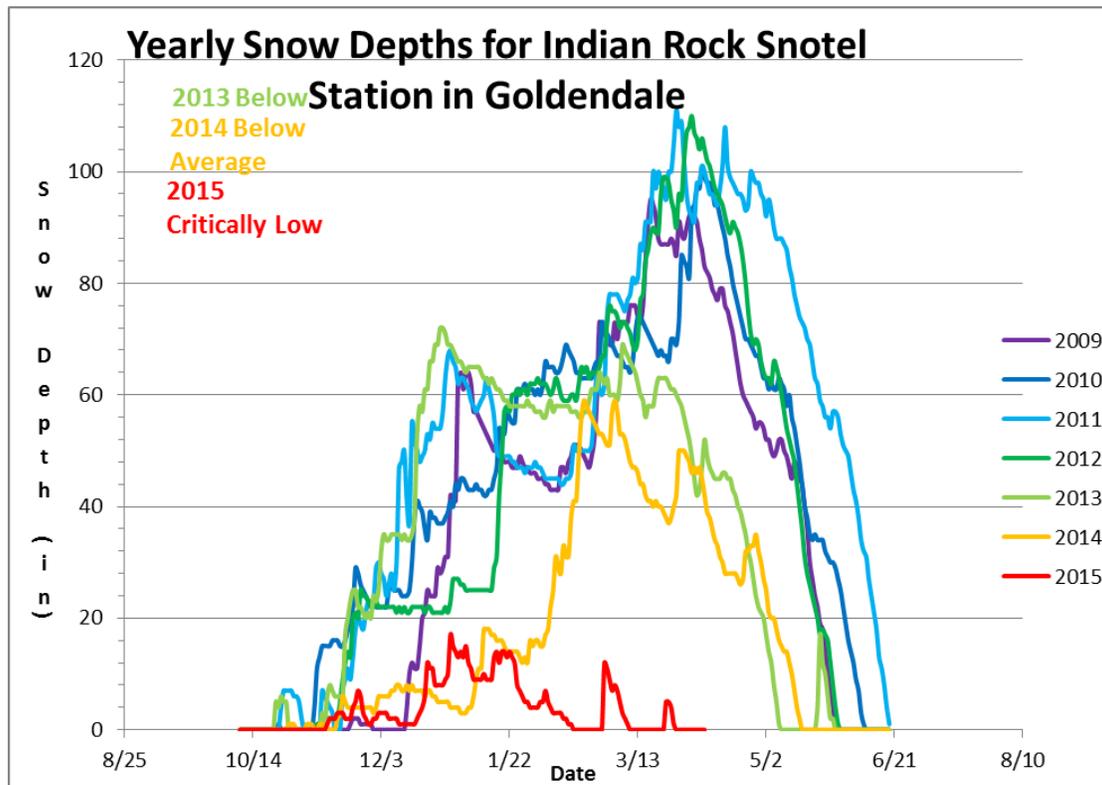
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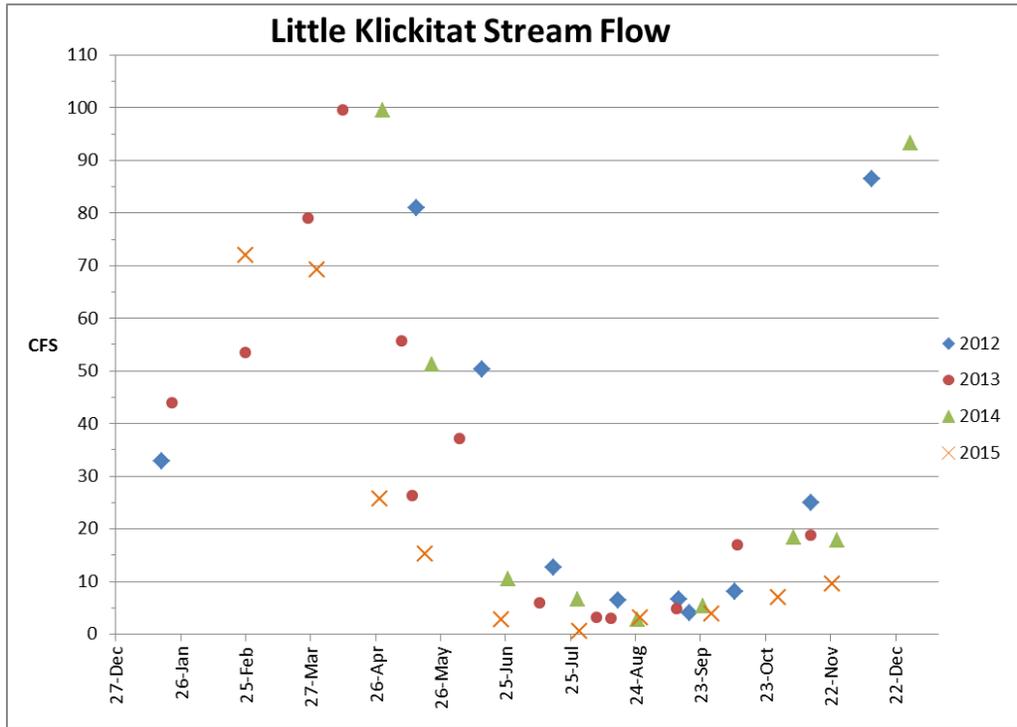
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Cast your vote in the Board of Supervisors election.

Eastern Klickitat CD - Thursday, February 11th / 8:15 AM - 3:45 PM
at the Alder Creek Grange Hall in Bickleton.

Central Klickitat CD - Tuesday, February 16th / 8:15 AM - 3:45 PM
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KLICKITAT CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015/2016

Central & Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts

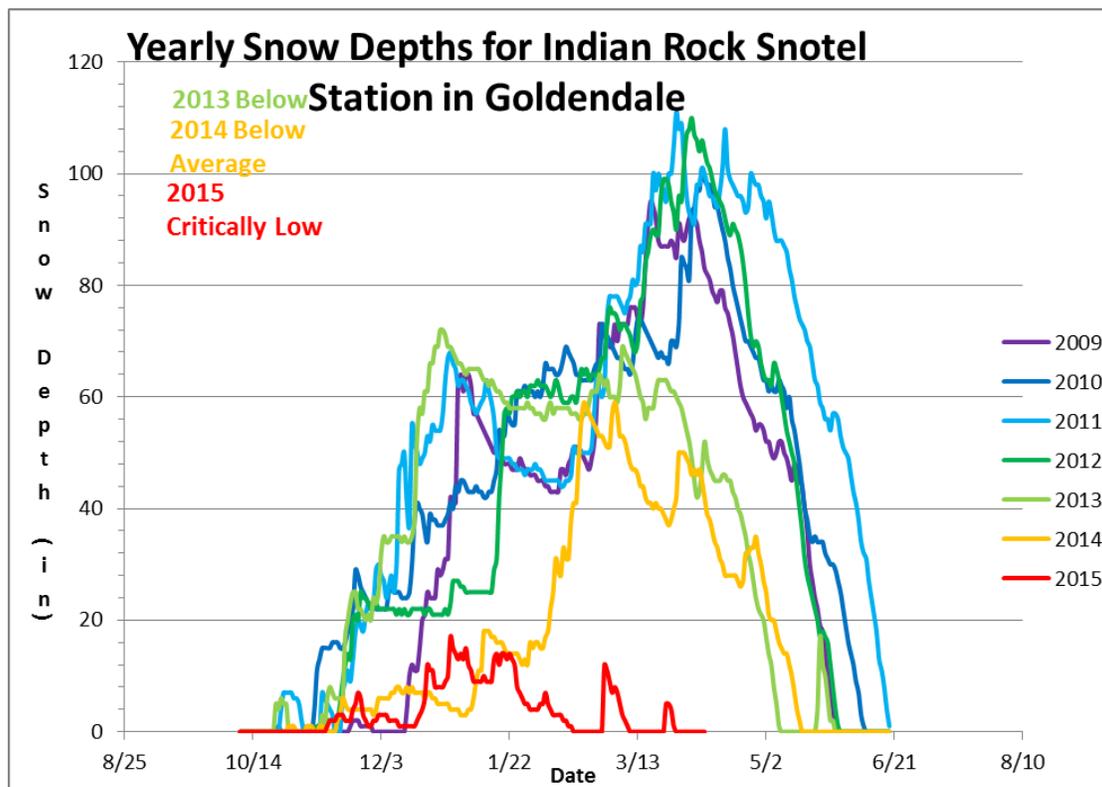
IN THIS ISSUE:

- Addressing the Little Klickitat River TMDL
- Local district staff recognized state-wide for outstanding service
- Post-Wildfire technical assistance available
- Upcoming meetings, elections, and plant sale



Garry oaks and Douglas-fir trees along the Klickitat River

Addressing the Little Klickitat River TMDL



Many people probably noticed below-normal stream flows across the county this past year, and it's an unfortunate trend that we may continue to see if weather patterns do not cooperate. The lack of snow pack has effected many streams where a spring runoff was not present, thus flows tapered off more quickly than usual. At many sites we had record low flows, and ephemeral streams dried up two weeks earlier than normal. These low flows are taxing on farmers who rely on the water for crops and livestock, and for the ecology of the stream itself. Lower flows tend to correlate to higher water temperatures, lower dissolved oxygen levels, and higher pH levels.

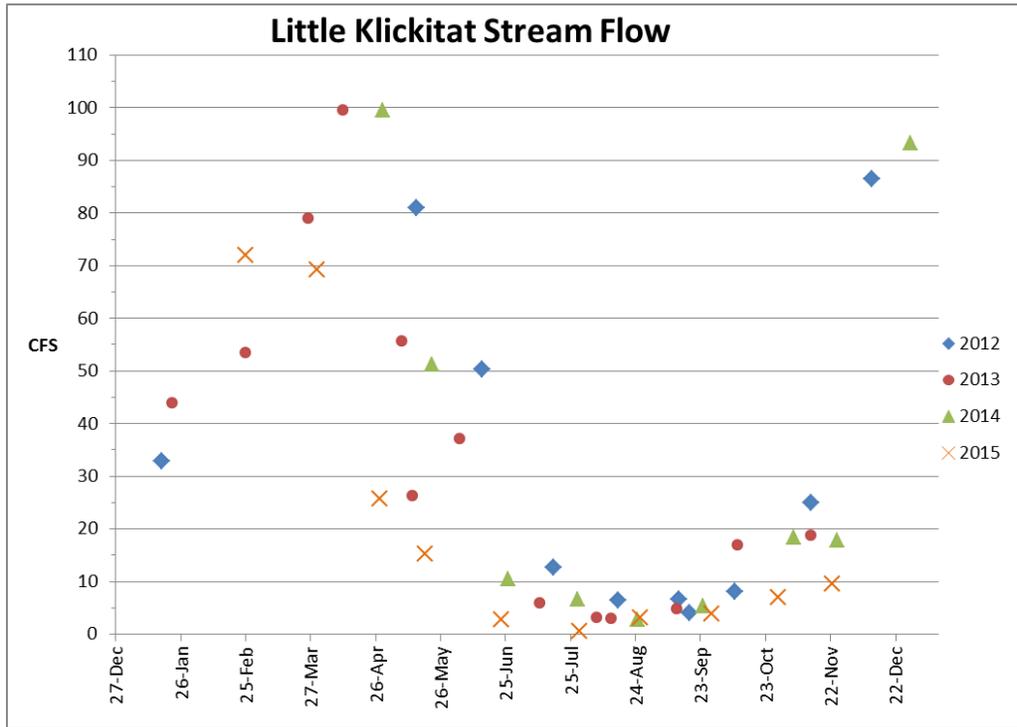
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Little Klickitat River TMDL

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These conditions make it difficult for native aquatic life to survive. Often, invasive species start to take over.

The district has worked with many landowners over the years to complete projects intended to help lower stream temperatures. Banks have been



stabilized; grasses, shrubs, and trees have been planted; and best management practices (BMPs) have been enacted to reduce traffic in streams. Collectively, this work has brought down the average stream temperatures in many segments, but there is still room for improvement. The greatest impacts on stream health are shade and sedimentation. Erosion of banks increases the amount of sediment in the stream, which in turn reduces water depth and increases the area exposed to warm air temperatures. Lack of shade increases evaporation rates and warms the stream. Installing riparian vegetation to stabilize banks and increase stream shading is one of our most effective and commonly-used conservation practices.

The Washington State Department of Ecology has established a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) restriction for temperature in the Little Klickitat River watershed. Recently, Central Klickitat Conservation District has been working with the City of Goldendale to implement two planting projects in the Little Klickitat River watershed. These projects are mitigation plantings for the City’s newly installed sewer system. The first planting project was completed this fall using a Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) planting crew funded by the Department of Ecology through the AmeriCorps program. The second project is set to commence in the spring of 2016. These projects will combat bank erosion and rising stream temperatures by providing bank stabilization and shade, and in turn improve flows in that section.



Post-Wildfire Assistance



Please contact the Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts to report losses incurred during the 2015 fire season. We are currently working on obtaining funding to help cost share on losses incurred from these fires.

Jim Hill Named Area Manager of The Year, Retires

Jim E. Hill recently wrapped up twelve-and-a-half years of service as the manager of both Central Klickitat Conservation District and Eastern Klickitat Conservation District (prior to which time he served on the CKCD Board of Supervisors), and was also recently named District Manager of the Year by the South Central Area Association of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts.

Jim oversaw the growth of the districts from small operations with a combined budget of about \$50,000, to two actively functioning districts with combined annual budgets (all grant-funded) of over \$800,000. He was instrumental in obtaining new and innovative sources of technical and financial assistance for land users in both districts, and his local friendships and knowledge of farming in this area made it possible for him to easily connect with people, understand their issues, and effectively assist them with their projects. Happily, Jim has agreed to continue to assist the districts, on an as-needed basis, with our conservation easement projects.

Jess Davenport, who joined the district as the Water Quality Monitoring Technician in October of 2012 and later moved into the position of Conservation Technician, will serve as the Interim Manager until the spring.

District Engineer Receives WADE and Cattlemen Honors

Loren Meagher, PE, has been with CKCD for almost seven years as the Area Engineer, providing engineering services and project oversight for CKCD, EKCD, North Yakima CD, and Underwood CD. This past summer, the Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) named Loren the statewide District Employee of the Year for his outstanding service to conservation districts and their constituents, and for his contributions to natural resource conservation in the state.

He was recently honored again at the Washington Association of Conservation Districts' Annual Meeting, where Washington Cattlemen's Association's Executive Vice President, Jack Fields, presented golden shovels to Loren, and also Brian Schmidt of North Yakima CD, in recognition of their exceptional work with livestock producers.

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*1107 S. Columbus Ave.
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**CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
OF WASHINGTON STATE**

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509-773-5823 x 5

cdoffice@gorge.net

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2016 Native Plant Sale ***Saturday, March 19th***

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

Pick up plants at the Goldendale Grange Hall

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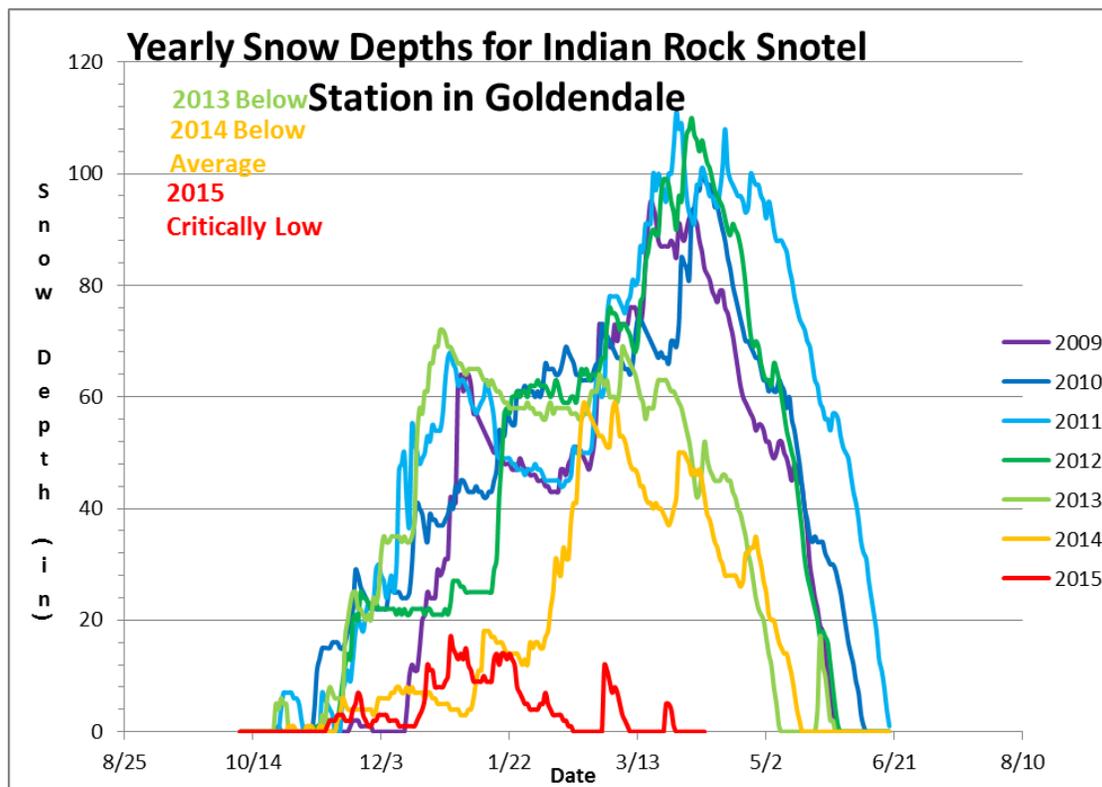
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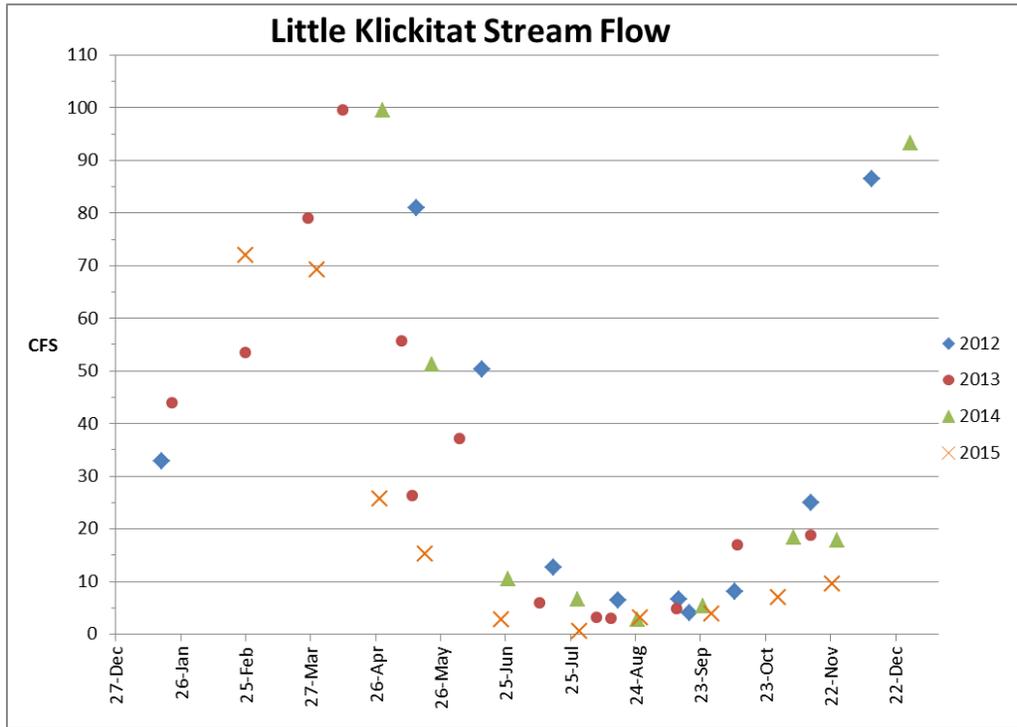
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