

2006 Annual Report (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006)

Underwood Conservation District



Washington Conservation Districts
assisting land managers with their
conservation choices

Featured Natural Resource Accomplishment of the Year

Conant Riparian Enhancement Snowden, Washington

Resource Challenge:

The landowner has approximately 10 acres of understocked forest and a severely incised stream that crosses his property. Lack of riparian vegetation promotes further cutting of the streamside and potentially increases peak flows from increased surface runoff. The deeply incised stream channel limits the stream's ability to dissipate high flow energy into the adjacent floodplain.

Project Summary:

Results and Accomplishments:

UCD has worked with the landowner to a) plant trees along and in the incised riparian channel; b) plan for further reforestation in the unstocked upland stands; and, c) manage a small stand of 60-year old forest. We continue to work with the landowner with future plans to reforest the stream channel with conifers, hardwood trees and shrubs.

Innovation / Highlight:

One of our challenges is establishing working relationships with absentee landowners who own small tracts of land, and who often lead very busy lives. This landowner lives in Portland, Oregon, and travels frequently as part of his business. We have been able to gain his acceptance, work with him to establish plantings, offer advice on thinning of existing conifer stands, and plan future reforestation and stream restoration work. We have also been able to begin working with a neighbor, who shares the same stream with similar resource concerns.



Conant property with incised stream, unstocked field

Key Partners Involved:

Underwood Conservation District
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Roy and Rebecca Conant, Landowners

For More Information Contact:

Jim White, Underwood CD
P.O. Box 96, White Salmon WA 98672
509-493-1936
ucd@gorge.net

Underwood CD Board of Supervisors:

Paul Newell
Bill Schmitt
Bill Anderson
Sherry Penney
Don Gensler

Legislative Districts:

State Legislative District # 15
Congressional District # 4

Annual Status Report of Natural Resources

Underwood Conservation District

Background Summary of the Underwood Conservation District

§ The Underwood Conservation District began serving the public in 1940. The District covers Skamania County and the western third of Klickitat County, including about 1,000,000 acres of public land and 360,000 acres of private land. Major watersheds are the White Salmon River, Wind River, and the Klickitat River. Major population centers in the District are White Salmon/Bingen, North Bonneville, and small unincorporated communities. A large portion of the forested District is Federal (mainly the Gifford Pinchot National Forest) or State (Washington Dept. of Natural Resources). Agriculture centers are in the White Salmon and Glenwood valleys, and in the Appleton area.

Mission of the Underwood Conservation District

The mission of the Underwood Conservation District is to enhance the level of natural resources stewardship for landowners, managers and resource users in the district by

- § direct conservation action;
- § facilitation of conservation action by providing technical assistance and cost-sharing opportunities to landowners;
- § promotion of better stewardship by conducting citizen involvement and environmental education projects; and
- § evaluation of project and environmental results for purposes of measuring progress and adapting programs to meet changing needs.

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

By 2010, establish 2 linear stream miles of riparian buffer.

By 2010, identify and complete 5 critical habitat projects to improve viability of target species.

By 2010, establish and implement working partnerships with County weed boards.

By 2010, establish a systemic solution in critical areas of the Wind River and White Salmon River for bank stability and erosion.

By 2008, assess the needs of agriculture and timberland parcel holders, and research solutions from other districts and agencies.

By 2010, in coordination with others, implement ways to fill data gaps on water quantity identified in the WRIA watershed plans in UCD.

By 2007, coordinate with other agencies to implement strategies for residential fire hazard reduction.

By 2007, offer assistance to county health departments for maintaining and repairing septic systems.

Information – Education Priorities and Goals:

By 2010, educate 75% of the district's elementary school students on natural resource issues and support one Envirothon team each year.

Critical Geographic Areas:

Wind River, downstream of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

White Salmon River and tributaries, Trout Lake Creek and Rattlesnake Creek

Klickitat River tributaries, Snyder Creek, Logging Camp Creek

Natural Resources Information & Status

§ The majority of the District is forested, with Federal, State, and Private Industry forest occupying the majority of our lands. Small ownerships (landowners with 40 acres or less) are increasing fast. Technical assistance to these landowners is becoming our biggest job. We currently have a backlog of about 50 landowners that would like technical assistance and help with planning. Agriculture consists of hay and pastureland, orchards and vineyards, 3 Dairies (all organic) and 2 organic Herb farms. Recreation is important in the District with opportunities for hiking, fishing, hunting, biking, whitewater rafting, and mountain climbing. The Wind River has a TMDL for temperature, and portions of the White Salmon River and tributaries have concerns for temperature and fecal coliform.



Volunteer Planting at Bear Creek, spring 2006