

COWLITZ CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024-25 Featured accomplishment



Cowlitz River Channel Migration Pre Project: Vertical bank height 20 feet, Upper half of bank dredge spoils, channel migration 130 feet.



Cowlitz River Channel Migration Post Project: Piling structures, bank shaping/erosion control, willow and red osier dogwood shrubs.

Resource concern

Sediment load from Mt. St. Helen's resulted in a bar deposit forming within the project reach, that encouraged lateral migration. The river has migrated about 130 feet. Landowners approached the District with interest in arresting the lateral migration. Ten landowners banded together to create a project. Resource concerns include the loss of riparian function and fine sediment delivery to the Cowlitz River.

Featured project

The District proposed a project that would require all landowners to participate. The primary objective was to establish riparian function (root strength) along the riverbank. The vertical bank would be sloped to a 2:1 grade, protected with erosion control fabrics, and planted with shrub species. To prevent continued erosion by the Cowlitz River, the riverbank was protected through installation of piling structures about 100 feet apart. River energy was immediately reduced along the riverbank. Root strength from planted shrub species has established well.

Costs & partners

Total project cost was \$280,000. Cowlitz County contributed \$100,000, the State Conservation Commission's Salmon Riparian Fund contributed \$100,000, and the Natural Resources Investment program contributed \$100,000.

Other accomplishments



Completed the Stacy Channel Migration Project, which encompassed 1,200 feet of left bank Cowlitz River downstream of Castle Rock.



Removed an undersized circular pipe at the Heron Fish Passage, and replaced it with a 75 foot Rapid Span bridge, correcting a fish barrier.



Installed piling structure, bank shaping and erosion control, and shrub planted Heron Bridge as part of the Stacy Post Project.