

# PEND OREILLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2024-25 Featured accomplishments



### Rocky Gorge project spotlight

A Pend Oreille County landowner partnered with Pend Oreille Conservation District to complete a 40-acre mastication project at Rocky Gorge. By masticating dense underbrush and fir stands, the effort reduced wildfire risk, improved forest health, and created safer, more resilient habitat showing how cost-share programs protect landowners, neighbors, and entire communities.

*Photo Caption: In winter 2024-spring 2025, the District worked with a local landowner to complete a 40-acre mastication project in the Rocky Gorge area of Pend Oreille County.*



### Riparian Plant Propagation Program

Entering its third season in 2025, the District's nursery through the Washington State Conservation Commission's Riparian Plant Propagation Program expands access to native plants for riparian restoration in Pend Oreille County. A partnership between the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and Pend Oreille Conservation District, the nursery is located at the Kalispel Natural Resource Annex, which serves as the hub for growing and testing native plant propagation.

*Photo Caption: Located at the Kalispel Tribe's Natural Resource Annex, the Indian Creek Community Forest, the District has implemented a riparian plant nursery.*



### Family forest fish passage project

In September 2024, the District led the Helm Project on the Little Spokane River, replacing failing culverts with a 60-foot bridge to restore fish passage and wetland flow. Once fragmented by a private road, the site now reconnects four miles of habitat. Trout were seen using the channel almost immediately, highlighting the project's swift ecological impact.

*Photo Caption: In September 2024, the District worked with a local landowner and agency partners to replace failing culverts with a 60-foot bridge to restore fish passage in the Little Spokane Watershed.*

## Other accomplishments

- Through the State Conservation Commission's Forest Health and Wildfire Resiliency Program during the 2023-25 biennium, the District worked with five landowners to treat 125 acres with practices such as non-commercial thinning, mastication, debris removal, pruning, and chipping.
- Through the Forest Health and Wildfire Resiliency program during the 2023-25 Biennium, the District completed seven new Forest Stewardship Plans covering 138 acres, providing technical assistance to 19 landowners.
- The district held the inaugural Forestry Competition for area high school students in October of 2024 at the Indian Creek Community Forest. 77 students from Pend Oreille, Stevens and Ferry counties attended the event.
- The District was awarded the Tribal Partnership Award by the Washington Association of Conservation Districts during the WACD annual conference in December 2024. The District has a strong working relationship with the Kalispel Tribe's Department of Natural Resources.