

NORTH YAKIMA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024-25 Featured accomplishment



Purdin Ditch Project - Roughened Channel, Head Gate and Fish Screen. Photo by Michael Tobin, North Yakima Conservation District.



Purdin Ditch Project - Fish Screen. Photo by Michael Tobin, North Yakima Conservation District.

Resource concern

The North Yakima Conservation District suffers from inadequate water supply and drought that effects water rights holders and the environments connected to that water. Lack of water in tributaries is especially impactful and of concern to local farmers and critical to fish recovery efforts of the State. Protection of fish from irrigation withdrawal is also a critical resource concern.

Featured project

The District assisted the Purdin Ditch Association and their 26 water right holders by removing a passage barrier, providing a compliant fish screen and replacing the open canal delivery system with pipe and turnouts. North Yakima Conservation District designed, permitted and constructed a new concrete diversion structure, a roughened channel, compliant 12 cfs fish screen and 4 miles of pipeline. The project resulted in maintained creek flow where none had existed for over 100 years, protected critical fish species and enhanced the delivery of irrigation to 852 acres.

Costs & partners

The project was funded by the Washington State Conservation Commission's Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program, the Washington State Department of Ecology's Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, Natural Resources Conservation Service's Regional Conservation Partnership Program, the State Conservation Commission's Regional Conservation Partnership Program, North Yakima Conservation District's Yakima Tributary Access, and Bonneville Power Administration's Habitat Improvement Program.

Other accomplishments



Continued a successful Forest Health and Community Wildfire Resiliency Program, chipping over 2,762 cubic yards of material throughout the Highway 12/410 Community Wildfire Protection Plan area.



The District's Conservation Easement program completed its seventh landowner easement. Working with the Emerick family, permanent protection of 2,582 acres of rangeland agriculture was implemented.



Partnered with Benton Conservation District to implement the Heritage Garden Program. The program is dedicated to helping residents create water-wise landscapes that incorporate native plant species.