



# Entiat Watershed Planning Unit (EWPU)

Cascadia Conservation  
District

December 2009

## Make Your Voice Heard

After 15 years of collaboration in the Entiat Valley, the EWPU feels that it is time to reflect on the status of our natural resource issues. The Landowner Steering Committee is in the process of re-visiting issues identified by the initial Coordinated Resource Management Plan, or CRM. Public surveys will be circulated throughout the valley in the coming months. It is our hope to re-focus on issues that were tabled in the initial effort, discover new concerns, and help identify contacts at various natural resource agencies for residents with natural resource questions. We encourage residents to

participate in the survey, so that we can adapt to community needs. Current concerns include the seemingly singular focus on water issues and fish habitat, the identified need for game and predator management, and the lack of personal contacts for Entiat residents at natural resource agencies. We will use adaptive management to include these issues in future efforts.



Adaptive management is an evolving process often characterized as "learning by doing". Cascadia Conservation District and the Entiat Watershed Planning Unit will use adaptive management to help direct public outreach, coordinate information sharing and identify local residents' needs. Please contact the Conservation District at (509) 664-9370 to identify issues you would like tracked or if you do not receive a survey and would like to participate. The survey will also be available on Cascadia's website at [www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org).

CASCADIA  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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[www.cascadiacd.org](http://www.cascadiacd.org)

### SUGGEST ARTICLE IDEAS

Help make this publication better by submitting article suggestions, comments, and pictures.

**SAVE THE DATE !**  
**Open Public  
EWPU Meeting**  
**January 6th at 9am**  
**at Entiat Grange**

## Cascadia Conservation District at Work: Update on Recent Projects



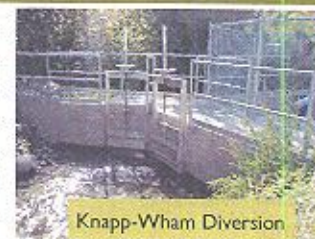
Small Log Jam near Keystone

Many residents driving along Entiat River Road this summer noticed construction projects located around mile markers 1.5 and 5. These projects are excellent examples of grant funded, designed, and constructed projects that benefit farmers by increasing irrigation efficiencies, as well as providing salmon habitat. Near

the Keystone Bridge Cascadia constructed two small and one large engineered log jams, and seven boulder clusters. These structures will provide multiple benefits to steelhead and salmon populations like providing shade, refuge for juvenile fish in high water flows, and trapping fine sediment. A diversion structure was also installed to limit the number of



Keystone Trash Rack



Knapp-Wham Diversion

fish mortalities from annual maintenance and provide a more stable source of irrigation water. Currently, upgrades are being made to the settling basin, and riparian planting will be completed next spring.

The Knapp-Wham irrigation system, near mile marker 5, also received improvements which included the installation

of a concrete diversion structure in 2008. This summer, a rock wing-dam was constructed to ensure the supply of water to the ditch and provide channel habitat for larger fish. A sluice box and trash rack were also installed to reduce sediment in the diversion channel and ensure flow to the irrigation ditch. These changes allow the ditch to serve dual purposes: both agriculture and off-channel fish habitat. These projects reflect multi-year, collaborative efforts by Cascadia Conservation District and other project partners. The projects also support EWPU's dedication to local farmers' needs and continued support for the Detailed Implementation Plan.

Show your Support:  
Steelhead Season Still Open

The Landowner Steering Committee has written a letter to express their gratitude for the re-opening of steelhead fishing on the Entiat River. Local citizens are invited to sign a letter to the Director of the

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Phil Anderson. Please take some time to stop by City Hall or Cooper's Store to sign this letter and show your support for Entiat Fisheries.



Entiat valley residents often ask Cascadia staff about the strips of plastic flagging hanging from trees and brush surrounding the banks of the Entiat River. The plastic flags mark the location of egg nests, called redds, of spring and late run Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout. These

threatened and endangered fish species lay eggs in gravels located throughout the length of river valley at varying times of the year. Biologists recommend that people avoid disturbing the river bed and banks in these areas because they are critical to fish survival in the Entiat River. They also ask that residents do not remove or alter flags because they contain population survey information and mark study areas they need to visit multiple times throughout the year. At this time many different agencies including the US Forest Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and US Fish and Wildlife Service use this flagging method.

Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW): Problems, Solutions and Strategies

Pacific salmon and steelhead populations in the Upper Columbia River have a greater than 55 percent chance of extinction in the next 100 years. **The problem** is that millions of federal, state and non-profit dollars are spent each year to reverse this trend but there is no clear understanding of which restoration actions result in increased populations. The Entiat IMW is attempting to provide a **solution** by designing a schedule of specific habitat actions which are followed by intensive monitoring efforts. Construction will take place every 3 years, starting in the Preston Reach area in 2011. **The IMW strategy** is that after each construction year, monitoring will take place in the immediate project area and downstream in order to collect data on productivity, juvenile fish abundance, growth and survival. When the IMW is completed we should be able to answer the following questions:

- Did restoration increase fish populations in the watershed?
- What was the impact of varying restoration types?
- Can we use this information to design future projects?

