

The Dirt

Conservation Practice Spotlight: Sediment Basin

DEFINITION: A basin constructed with an engineered outlet, formed by constructing an embankment, excavating a dugout, or a combination of both.

PURPOSE: To capture and detain sediment-laden runoff, or other debris for a sufficient length of time to allow it to settle out in the basin.

LOCATION: Sediment basins provide the last line of defense for capturing sediment when erosion has already occurred. When possible construct the basin prior to soil disturbance in the watershed. Choose the location of the sediment basin so that the basin intercepts as much of the runoff as possible from the disturbed area of the watershed. Choose a location that minimizes the number of entry points for runoff into the basin and interference with construction or farming activities. Do not locate sediment basins in perennial streams.

Contact our resource technicians for planning and cost-share assistance.

Field Work



While we are still coping with the changes COVID-19 has brought us, we are still here for you. Our resource technicians are planning, scheduling and completing field work. If you have a resource concern, please contact us for a site visit or even simple technical assistance. Projects are continuing to hit the ground during our busy summer months. All of our staff are following safety guidelines to keep everyone safe. We are here for our landowners, farmers, and ranchers! Please visit our website for contact information for our staff. <https://asotincd.org/staff>.

Instream Fish Screens

Do you have a fish screen in need of upgrading or replacement? Or do you want to put in a new fish screen? Give us a call, ACCD is preparing to inventory fish screens to assist with ensuring they are compliant with current requirements designed to protect juvenile salmon/steelhead. We are seeking landowners with a valid water right for pumping who are interested in cost share assistance in upgrading, replacing, or installing new fish screens.



If your fish screen is near 10 years old, it is probably time to have it repaired or replaced. Contact ACCD to schedule a site visit to determine the status of your fish screen. Based on your responses and our site visits, we will determine if there is a need and seek funding to cost share on fish screens.

Instream Construction



PALS (Post-assisted log structures) and BDA's (beaver dam analogues) habitat enhancements are low-cost, hand-built structures which mimic a stream's natural process of wood accumulation (much like a beaver dam) which improves fish habitat. They will also improve water quality by reducing stream temperatures in addition to fish habitat improvement. Low-tech process-based restoration method could improve cost effectiveness of wood restoration in small streams. Provide guidance for buffering climate change impacts on small streams. Low-tech restoration actions are intended to initiate processes and nudge the system toward the ultimate goal of building a resilient, self-sustaining riverscape. We will be installing PALS in several project areas within Asotin County in the Summer of 2020.

LOW-TECH STRUCTURE DEFINITIONS



PALS
POST-ASSISTED LOG STRUCTURES
■ PALS are handbuilt structures that mimic and promote the processes of **wood accumulation**.
■ Woody material of various sizes pinned together with untreated wooden posts driven into the substrate.



BDA's
BEAVER DAM ANALOGUES
■ BDAs are handbuilt structures that mimic and promote the processes of **beaver dam activity**.
■ BDAs are a permeable, channel-spanning structure with a constant crest elevation, constructed with a mixture of woody debris and fill material to promote temporary ponding of water.

<https://lowtechpbr.restoration.usu.edu/>