



Ripple Press



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Update for Doane, Dolan and North Fork Deep Creeks Landowners

Volume 2

Got bugs?

You may have noticed folks in orange vests looking under rocks and kicking the sediment in Doane and North Fork Deep Creeks in early October. Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District hired them to collect data on macroinvertebrates. Macroinvertebrates are organisms without a backbone that are large enough to be seen with the unaided eye. They live in a waterbody or stream for an extended period of time, are sensitive to habitat loss, chemical pollution, and excessive sediment in the water. This makes them good indicators of overall stream health.



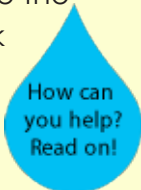
photo credits Haft, Walter Siegmund, Jeff Webb

What kind of macroinvertebrates are in the stream?

Macroinvertebrates can be divided into three groups. The first group is sensitive to warm water temperatures and acidity. This group needs high levels of oxygen in the water. This group includes mayfly, caddisfly, and stoneflies. The second group is more tolerant of pollutants in the water. They include dragonfly, damselfly and scuds. The third group is tolerant of polluted water that is warm, may have too much sediment in the water, too high or low acidity, and not enough oxygen. This group includes aquatic worms and midge larvae.

What did we find?

With the exception of our reference site on Tickle Creek near Sandy, the stream sites sampled in this "watershed check-up" support macroinvertebrate species able to tolerate degraded conditions. Very few sensitive macroinvertebrates (mayfly, caddisfly, and stoneflies) were found. We did find species able to tolerate elevated sediment loads and increased water temperatures. The index used to score the macroinvertebrate community conditions rate all sites as severely disturbed, except Tickle Creek that was rated slightly disturbed. Our consultant concluded that elevated water temperature and sediment load were problems at all sites.



What can you do?

Recovery of the macroinvertebrate community depends on improving stream conditions. The most economical and easiest restoration actions you can take are planting trees, shrubs, and grasses in the streamside area. Native vegetation provides many benefits including sediment and pollutant filtration, shading, insect food sources, bank stability, and eventually large wood for the stream. Other beneficial actions include erosion control practices on fields and barnyards. View the full report on our website: www.conservationdistrict.org



Who is the Clackamas River Basin Council?

The Clackamas River Basin Council is a nonprofit watershed council with the mission of fostering partnerships for clean water and to improve fish and wildlife habitat and the quality of life for those who live, work, and recreate in the watershed. The Council partners with private landowners, agencies, businesses, and volunteers in projects throughout the watershed.

The council was established in 1997.

Who is Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District?

The Clackamas County SWCD provides technical assistance to property owners regarding maintenance and improvement of soil and water quality, forest, crops and wildlife habitat. We help solve problems related to natural resource management. Our services are free and voluntary to all county residents.

The District was established in 1958 .

Working together for the protection and enhancement of natural resources.

One person can do a lot to help improve the health of their stream. Just think what many people can do!

Macroinvertebrate communities recover fairly quickly when their habitat conditions improve. This is one reason they are a good indicator of stream health. If sediment loads and warm stream temperatures are the problem, controlling erosion and keeping the stream shaded are things that you can do to improve the health of your stream.

We can help you control erosion on your property and create a beautiful shaded streamside. Our assistance is free and we often have financial programs to help.

Call the **Conservation District at (503) 210-6000** to find out more about this opportunity!

Clackamas River Basin Council also provides riparian plantings at no cost to the landowner. Call them at **(503) 303-4372**.

