
Final Report
Regional Livestock Inventory (G0600179)
January 2009

Total Cost of Project \$ 319,500
Grant Amount \$ 239,625
Project Start Date 01/01/2006
End Date 12/31/2008

Submitted to State of Washington Department of
Ecology

Submitted by Clark Conservation District

Denise Smee, District Manager
Rebecca Meats, Financial Administrator
Mandy Clark, Resource Technician

INTRODUCTION

In partnership with Clark County Public Works, Vancouver-Clark Parks, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Clark Conservation District began implementing the Regional Livestock Inventory (Grant No. G0600179). The project was funded through the State of Washington Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water Fund.

This project created a database of livestock information for more targeted water quality projects. The livestock in the county was inventoried and existing data gathered. The information was compiled in a database compatible with GIS programs and mapped.

The focus of this project was on education and technical assistance to provide tools for landowners to plan and implement conservation plans and practices for improved water quality.

SCOPE OF WORK SUMMARY

Task 1 – Project Administration/Management

We administered and managed this project effectively by maintaining project records, submitting vouchers and progress reports in a timely manner, and carrying out this project in accordance with the required performance items and completion dates.

Task 2 – Survey Project Implementation and Outreach

Task 2A. Existing data was gathered and data gaps identified. We found very little information relating to livestock in the county. The Clark County Executive Horse Council conducted a mail survey in 2004. Although relevant, there were no locations provided with the CCEHC survey. The USDA Ag Census from 2002 was also considered in this initial data gathering. Community groups, 4-H groups, and state livestock associations were given member surveys. Example survey form and associated letter are below. The results of the survey are graphed below.

A. Example survey letter to community groups

Clark County Executive Horse Council
ATTN: Sue Svendsen

Thank you very much for participating in the AFO/CAFO survey and handing out the questionnaires to your Horse Council members. I have included both club and individual questionnaires. If individuals from the clubs want to fill them out, they can either make copies or call our office, and I will mail them as many questionnaires as they need. After the questionnaires have been filled out, you can either drop them off at our office (same building as the WSU extension office, eastern most door, Suite 400) or call us at (360) 883-1987 Ext 118 and we will come pick them up.

B. Example of individual survey

Livestock Questionnaire

Clark Conservation District is a non-regulatory, non-enforcement sub-entity of the state (like a fire district or school district except that we do not get local funding) and supported entirely by grants. **We do not enforce any regulations, nor does the conservation district report any violations.** We provide the community with farm planning, BMP (best management practices) workshops, a manure spreader for rent, and cost share programs. All services provided by the Clark Conservation District are free and without obligation. Filling out this questionnaire helps us determine where we should focus our efforts. Thank you for your participation.

Personal Information

Name _____

Phone Number (optional) _____

Address (optional) _____

Mailing Address (optional) _____

Cross Streets (mandatory) _____

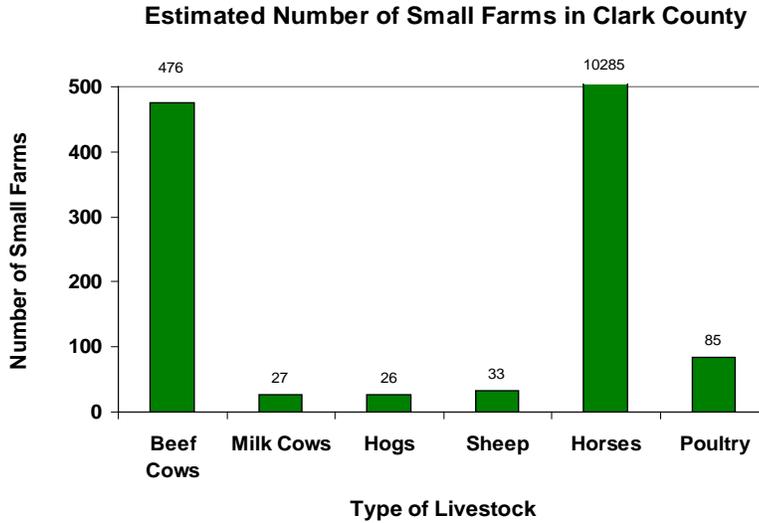
Livestock Information

1. How many horses does your family own? _____
2. Do you have other livestock? If so, what and how many? _____
3. How many acres do you live on? _____
4. Is there a waterway (stream) that runs through your land? _____
5. Are your horses watered via water trough or stream? _____
6. Are your horses housed in a barn, large pastures, or small fenced enclosure (if all three, approx how much time in each?) _____

7. Do you have a waste storage facility (If not, what do you do with your manure?) _____

8. Would you be interested in an informational workshop addressing livestock influenced water quality or AFO/CAFO (Animal Feeding Operation/Confined Animal Feeding Operations)?

9. Would you be interested in farm planning (off-site watering, fences, gutters, drainage, waste storage facilities, grazing management plan, mortality plan) from Clark Conservation District? If so, which practice (be specific) are you interested in? _____



Task 2B. A matrix, or priority index, was created to prioritize landowners for cost-share funding. The matrix gives points to characteristics important to water quality and fish habitat, and also considers the potential success of the project. The matrix is attached as Appendix A.

Task 2C. Outreach activities included meetings with the 4-H leaders group, Clark County Executive Horse Council, Salmon Creek Watershed Council, Clark County Farm Forestry, and Clark Cowlitz Farm Bureau. We gathered livestock landowner contact information through the field survey (Task D). Letters containing information on Clark Conservation District’s services and resources were then sent out to all land owners with livestock present at the time of the survey. A sample letter is Appendix B.



Task 2D.

Livestock data was gathered via windshield survey of the County. Data was entered by parcel into a spreadsheet for analysis and documentation. We also conducted an air survey. We contracted with a pilot to fly staff over the county. They marked livestock on a map and compared and added it to the data from the windshield survey.

Task 2E.

The livestock information was put into a standard Excel database to be easily accessed and compatible with other agencies and groups. The livestock information was converted to a GIS layer and compiled with Clark County GIS layers to generate maps. These GIS layers can be easily accessed and updated. Maps were produced and printed for easily viewing the information. A copy of the watershed maps are attached as Appendix D, E, F, and G.

Task 3 – Riparian Restoration

Task 3A, 3B, 3C, & 3D. Vancouver Clark Parks and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) partnered to enhance and restore a site along the LaCenter Bottoms section of the East Fork of the Lewis River. Multiple sites at LaCenter are owned by Vancouver Clark Parks and available for public access. A map of the planting site for this project is attached as Appendix C.



Kiosks were created along a walking nature trail that surrounds the LaCenter Bottoms area for public information on the resource conservation activities being implemented. An example of an information sheet is below.

A Grass of Controversy

The most common grass you see now at LaCenter Bottoms is **Reed Canary Grass**, (*Phalaris arundinacea*). It was planted here because it is a good food source for cattle. Reed Canary Grass is also very adaptable. In addition to being drought and frost tolerance, it does well in wet, poorly drained soils. Reed Canary Grass grows in large mats and does not permit other plants much space. Native plants are not used to this competition and fare very poorly against Reed Canary Grass. When one species out competes all the others it is called a monoculture. Monocultures are considered unhealthy because they provide less forage and habitat for native wildlife.



With the reconnection of LaCenter Bottoms to The East Fork of the Lewis River, additional water is expected to be too wet for Reed Canary Grass. Look out for a more diverse ecosystem with the re-emergence of native grasses such as **Rice Cut Grass** (*Leersia oryzoides*).



A field of Reed Canary Grass.

There were 7,650 native trees and shrubs planted in riparian areas to protect water quality and enhance fish and wildlife habitat at the project site under this grant. The non-native invasive plants were removed and the site prepared prior to planting. All the Best Management Practices implemented under the terms of this grant are consistent with the current NRCS standards.

Task 4 – Water Quality Monitoring

The District partnered with Clark County to conduct water quality monitoring. The Ecology-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) had been approved prior to any monitoring activities and sampling was in accordance to the QAPP. The data from this monitoring has been entered into the Ecology Environmental Information Management System.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Priority Matrix

Appendix B: Example letter to landowners

Appendix C: Shriver site map

Appendix D: Northern watersheds map

Appendix E: East Fork Lewis River and Salmon Creek watersheds map

Appendix F: Southern watersheds map

Appendix G: Western watersheds map

Landowner Name: _____ Date: _____
 Watershed: _____ Practice: _____ Phone: _____
 Legal: _____ Address: _____

Issue:	Points Possible	Score
Overall Concerns:		
Is this parcel associated with the following concerns:	All concerns:	
a. Salmon (ESA)	0 - 5 points	a. _____
b. 303d listed stream		b. _____
c. Other _____		c. _____
	Subtotal:	_____

Specific Concerns:		
a. Is the potentially affected water source fish bearing or adjacent to a fish bearing stream?	All Concerns: 0 - 3 Points unless Specified	a. _____
b. Has the landowner completed practices prior to this project?	0-No, 1-Yes	b. _____
c. How likely is the project to prevent water quality degradation?		c. _____
d. Is this project part of an interagency partnership?		d. _____
e. Will this project have HIGH visibility?	0-No 1-Yes	e. _____
f. Will this landowner promote his/her project to the community or be a demonstration site?		f. _____
g. When will work begin on this site?		g. _____
h. Are the needed designs done?	0-No, 1-Yes	h. _____
i. Are required permits in hand?	0-No, 1-Yes	i. _____
j. will this project likely be completed in 30 days?	0-No, 1-Yes	j. _____
	Subtotal:	_____

Cost Share Rating	Total:	_____
Priority Rating	Total:	_____

Concerns	Points	Factors in Determination
a. Salmon (ESA)	0	No Effect
b. 303d listed stream	1	Minor Concern
c. Other	3	Moderate Concern
	5	Direct Impact/Effect
Specific Concerns:		
a. Is the potentially affected water source fish bearing or adjacent to a fish bearing stream?	0	No Effect
	1	Minor Concern
	2	Moderate Concern
	3	Direct Impact/Effect
b. Has the landowner completed practices prior to this project?	0	No
	1	Yes
c. How likely is the project to prevent water quality degradation?	0	Not Likely
	1	Likely
	2	Very Likely or Preventative
	3	Will Improve a Known/Verified Problem
d. Is this project part of an interagency partnership?	0	No
	1	Yes
e. Will this project have HIGH visibility	0	No
	1	Yes
f. Will this landowner promote his project to the community or be a demonstration site?	0	Not Likely
	1	Likely
	2	Very Likely
g. When could work begin on this site?	0	Undetermined
	1	90 days
	2	60 days
	3	30 days
h. Are the needed designs done?	0	Not completed
	1	Completed
i. Are required permits in hand?	0	No
	1	Yes
j. Can this project be completed in 30 days?	0	No
	1	Yes



Clark Conservation District

Assisting Landowners with Natural Resource Conservation

March 2008

Dear Landowner,

Clark Conservation District would like to assist with your land and livestock management. *We currently have funds that may be available for projects on your property.*

Our grant may give you the opportunity to have a Farm Plan or livestock plan developed for your small farm. This grant also provides funds for Best Management Practices, including streambank planting, fencing, and a livestock watering facility.

In addition, we have a manure exchange program that puts gardeners searching for free organic fertilizer in contact with livestock owners that have excess manure. If you have more manure than you can use, or are looking for some to use as garden fertilizer, contact us and let us know what your needs are. We also have a small manure spreader available for your use, free of charge. I have enclosed a brochure with more information.

The district operates entirely on grant funds. We are self-governed by local residents and have **no regulatory or enforcement power.**

If you are interested in discussing options for your property or others services we provide, please contact us at 883-1987 ext. 118 or 883-1987 ext. 5. You can contact us by going to www.clarkcd.org or E-mail staff@clarkcd.org. I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Denise Smee
Clark Conservation District

SCHRIBER PLANTING PLAN

Date: 8/31/2005

Customer(s):
 District: CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Field Office: BRUSH PRAIRIE SERVICE CENTER
 Agency: USDA/NRCS

Legal Description: T4N R1E Sec. 11

Appendix C



Legend

- Townships
- wrp



Image: Clark County Ortho Photo



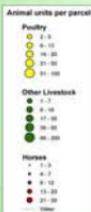
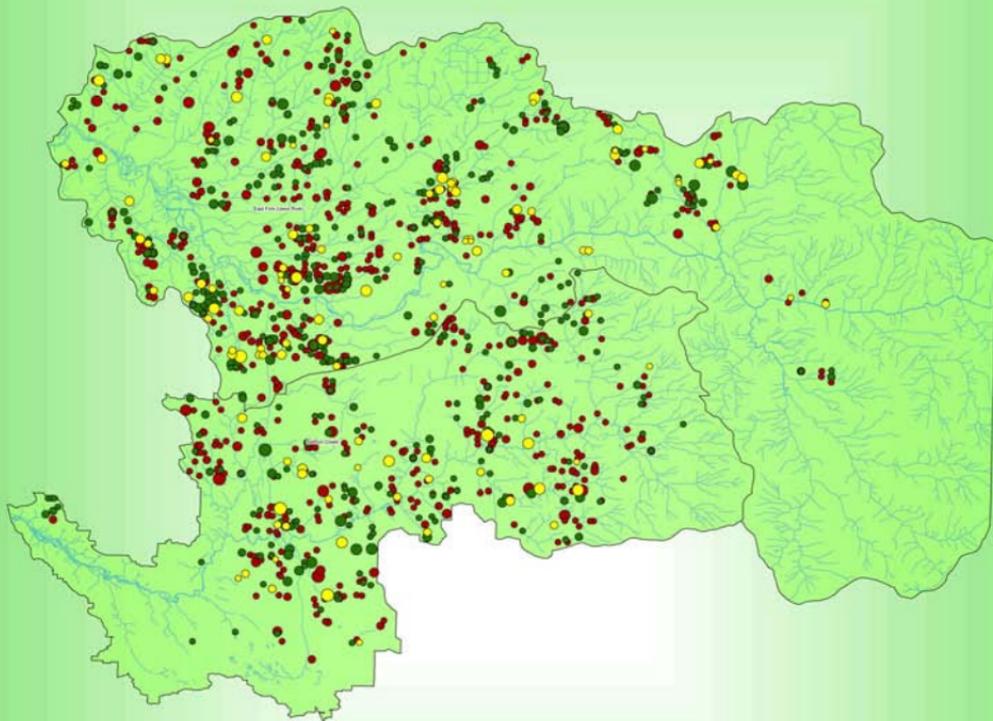
Clark County Washington Livestock

Appendix D



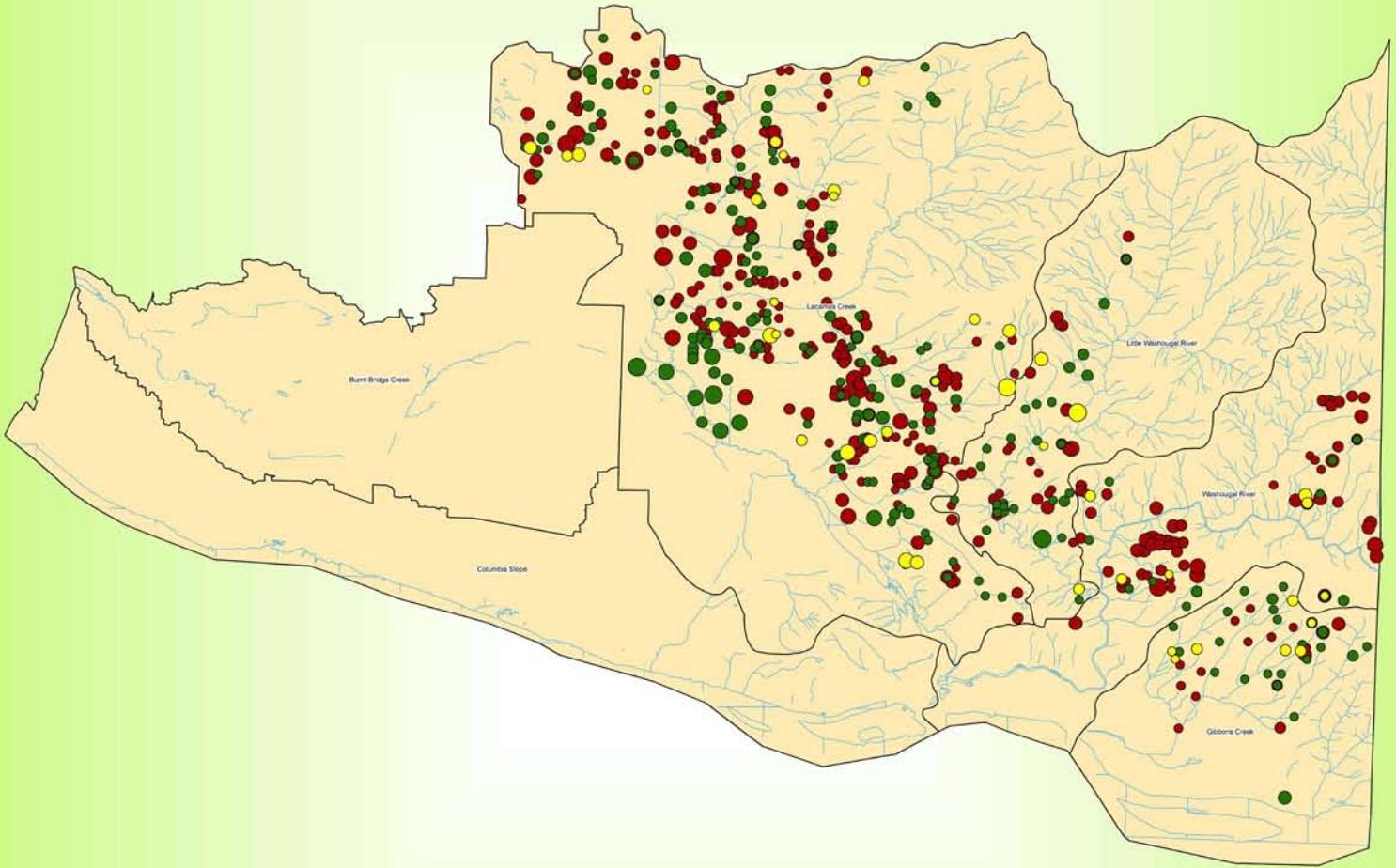
Clark County Washington Livestock

Appendix E



Clark County Washington Livestock

Appendix F



Clark County Washington Livestock

Appendix G

