

Chuck Schrader



JOHN FRANCIS MUNFORD RANCH (est. 1870)- Hall Creek

Chuck Schrader's Great Grandfather homesteaded the 360 acres on Hall Creek in the 1870's. The land was passed down to Chuck's Grandfather and then his mother. His mother had six children and the property was divided into ~ 40 acre parcels. Chuck Schrader now manages his 37 acres and his sister's 40 acres. The houses on his property are historic; over 100 years old. Most of his family has either been born at home or died in the same house. His brother and his Dad are still living on Hall Creek Road.

Chuck's Great Grandfather managed the ranch by raising cattle and harvesting timber. Chuck explained that there was no replanting done, but the logging was selectively harvested in low volumes therefore the landscape was allowed to regenerate naturally and family members were able to make a profitable living off the land.



Coos SWCD 2008 Outstanding Cooperator of the Year

Chuck Schrader was approached by the Coquille Watershed Association (CWA) and was personally asked about having the CWA do some riparian fencing in 2006. Chuck said that at first a lot of his neighbor's and friends told him not to let the CWA on his property and told him things like, he would lose his water rights if he was to fence off his creek. He was also told that it would be harder to manage his place and that he would have to pay a lot to supply his cows with water. After considering everything he decided to let the CWA fence off Hall Creek on both sides, put in a new bridge, plant the fenced off area, put logs and boulders in the creek to help fish habitat, and build a water system to supply his cows with water.



Chuck Schrader's new fence



New Bridge



Restoration work

There were a lot of phases to this project and a lot of different organizations helped out. Along with the CWA, Jen Feola, *Restoration Biologist* from ODFW helped out with the restoration project design and oversaw the completion. The logs and boulders were placed in the creek by crew members of the CWA. The wood and boulders were placed in the creek to provide fish habitat by scouring deeper pools and creating places for fish of all species to find shelter from predators. Even after only one winter there has been very positive changes to the creek, with noticeable visual changes that Chuck agrees are very beneficial.



This photo was taken October 14, 2008: Chuck said that is area was normally only a few feet deep at the end of the summer and now this pool measured ~ 6 feet deep at the creeks lowest water depth period.

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The segment of Hall Creek on Chuck Schrader's place before this project had very few trees, a lot of Himalian Blackberry bushes and some signs of erosion. From a water quality perspective not just a fish perspective Chuck would admit that his place needed some work.



5-2006: Before the project



10-2008: After project (left side)



10-2008: After project (right side)

Chuck Schrader said that working with the CWA was great and with the OWEB grant that was written for this project he got a well built fence for little cost to himself and felt that overall it was a win win for both himself and the landscape. He said that he was treated well and that he has no problem letting the CWA and other organizations monitor and visit his project. Chuck said that even the renters are happy with the riparian fencing. They feel better that the calves will not hurt themselves by falling into the creek. Chuck admits that it will be a few years before he truly reaps all the rewards from this project, but with the CWA promising to make sure that if the desired amount of trees do not survive for whatever reason, they will be back to replant. Chuck also said that his property is actually easier to manage now that the creek is fenced off. He has been able to easily divide his pastures and continues to rotate his cows to the areas with the best forage. He said that this was a blessing to have all this work done for a low cost to himself and done by friendly professionals.

Chuck Schrader has let a lot more than just the CWA crew and myself be part of this project he has a allowed permission for the CWA inmate crew from Shutter Crew help do maintaince for the trees. By them cutting the grass around each individual tree this allows the trees their best chance for maximum growth and survival. The inmate crew also helped clean up and burn the black berry piles that were collected during the project.



2008 Annual Meeting, Coos SWCD

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The planting and the entire project were finished on Feb. 28, 2008 with the help of the Forestry class and Native Species Group from Powers High School. A total of 1,005 trees were planted as well as 140 elderberries. Even though a high number of trees have either been browsed heavily by deer and elk or died for unknown reasons, with the number of trees planted and the size of the area to plant insure that the riparian should look very healthy in the years to come. Chuck mentioned to me that Klein's place located only a few miles upstream on Hall Creek is having better success with tree survival, because the trees were tubed and staked to better protect the young trees from damage until they get established.



Chuck values his property for many reasons and how he manages it now will better conserve this historic land well into the future. My name is Eric Himmelreich and I am the Watershed Technical Specialist for the Coos Soil and Water Conservation (SWCD) and I have had a chance to work on Chuck's place from 2006 through 2008 when I was the Monitoring Specialist for the Coquille Watershed Association, and I would have to say I am very pleased how the project has turned out. Chuck has been very cooperative with everyone and he speaks well of everyone involved. I feel privileged that I have been able to continue my relationship with Chuck Schrader with the Coos SWCD and look forward to seeing his place continue to improve into the future.

Congratulations to Chuck Schrader for being the Coos SWCD's 2008 Outstanding Cooperator of the Year.