DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

From Watershed Evaluations to Implementation:
Project successes in the eastern region

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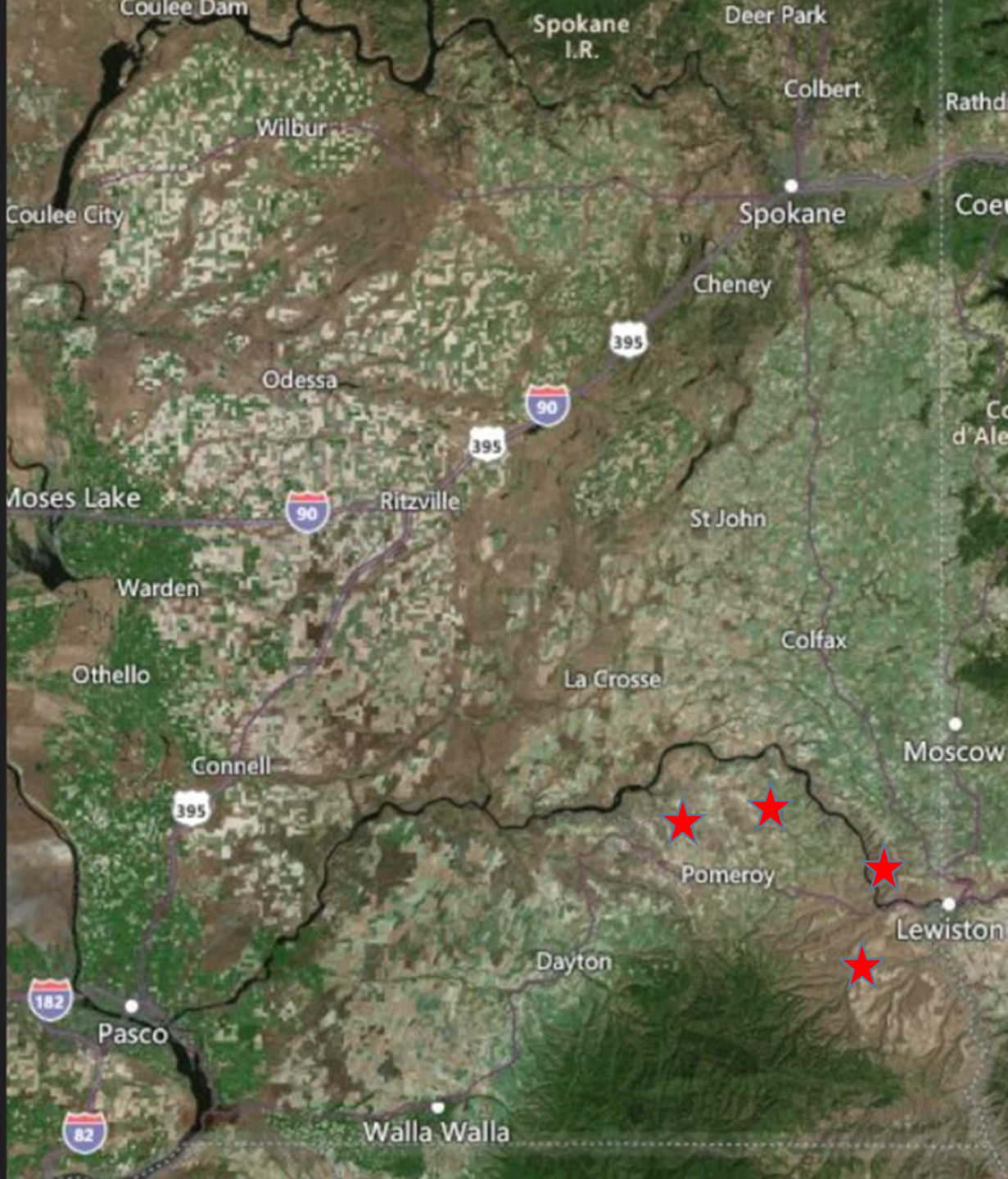
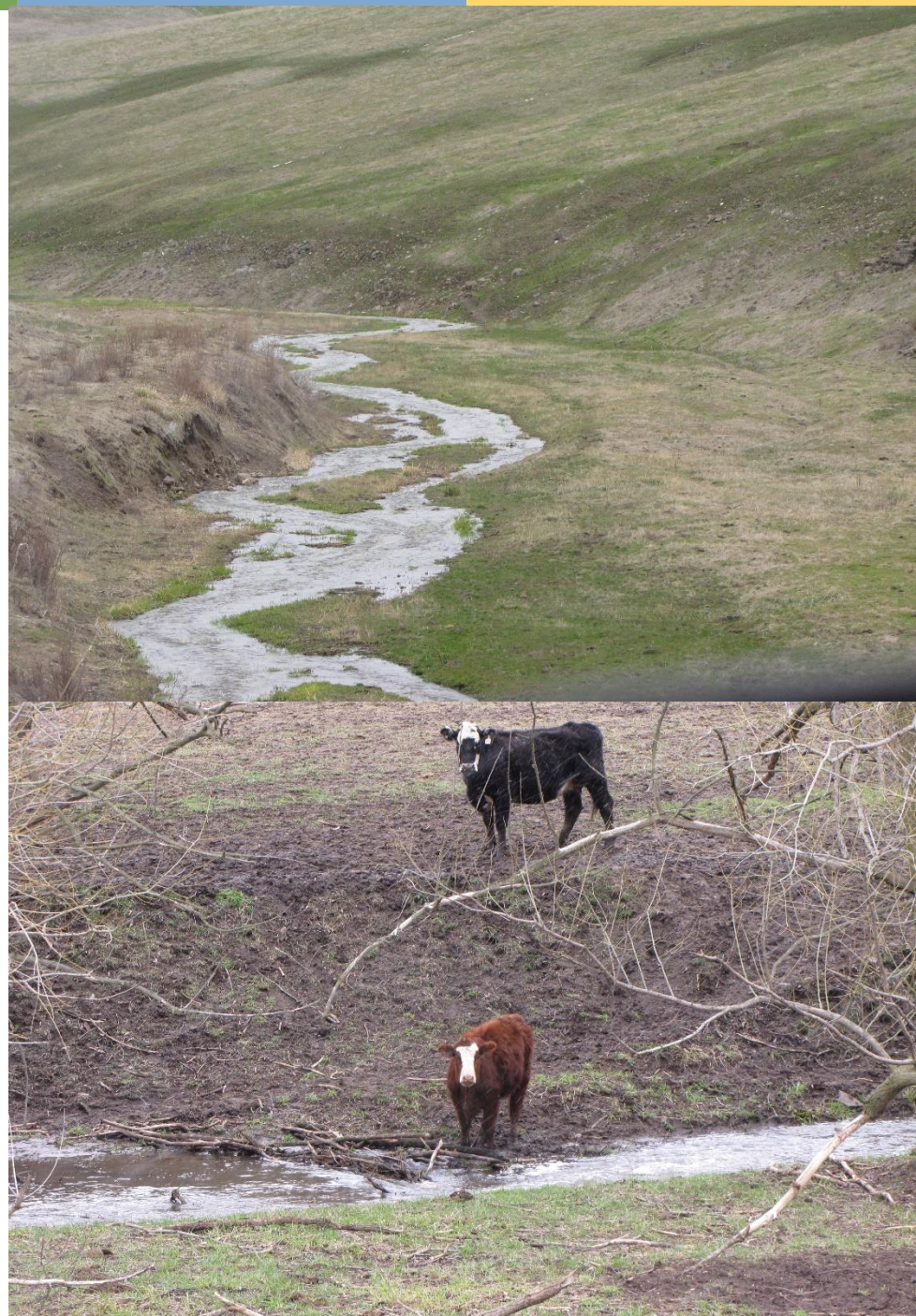
Snake River Watershed Projects

Examples of some successful projects



Deadman Creek Livestock BMPs

- Livestock access to Deadman Creek, riparian area degraded
- Deadman Creek provides habitat for ESA-listed Snake River Steelhead and fails state water quality standards
- Partnered with landowner, Pomeroy Conservation District, and local NRCS

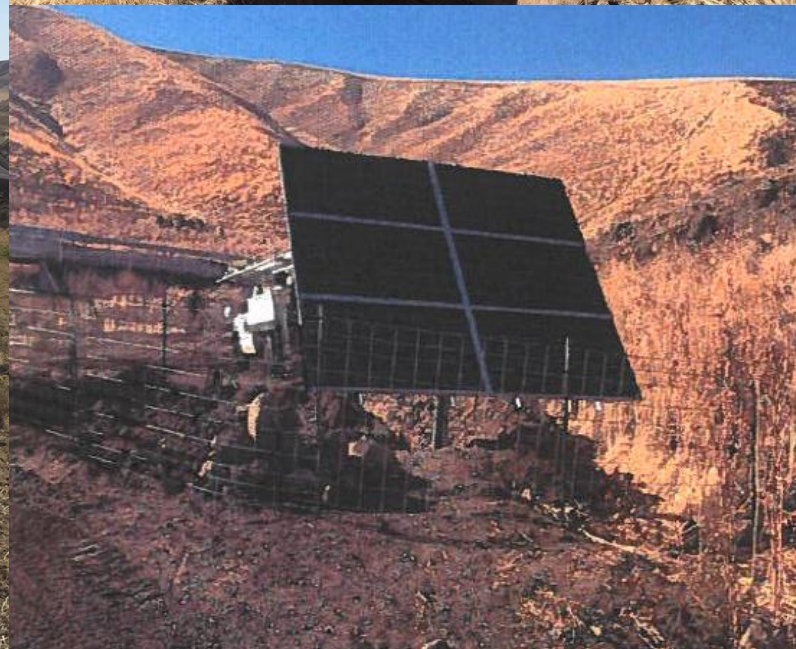


Deadman Creek Livestock BMPs

- 2.5 miles of stream protected/restored
  - Fencing
  - Off-stream water
  - Planting

Deadman Creek Livestock BMPs

- Leveraged Ecology funds along with CREP to fully protect water quality
- Each project poses unique challenges and opportunities

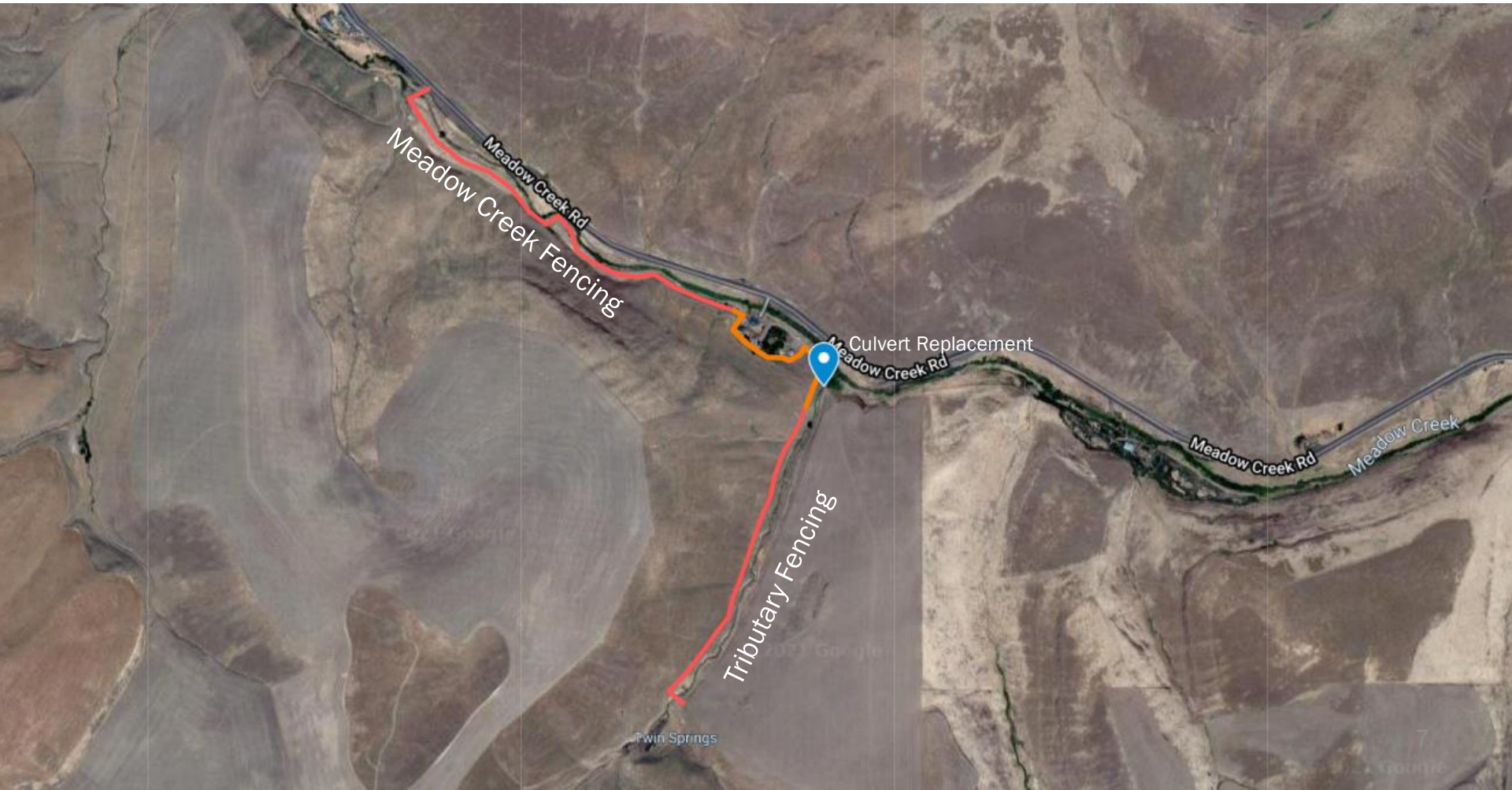


Meadow Creek Livestock BMPs

- Livestock access to Meadow Creek and small spring-fed tributary
- Meadow Creek habitat for ESA-listed Snake River Steelhead and fails state water quality standards
- Partnered with landowner and Pomeroy Conservation District

Meadow Creek Livestock BMPs

- Over 1 mile of creek protected/restored
  - Fencing
  - Culvert replacement
  - Corral improvements

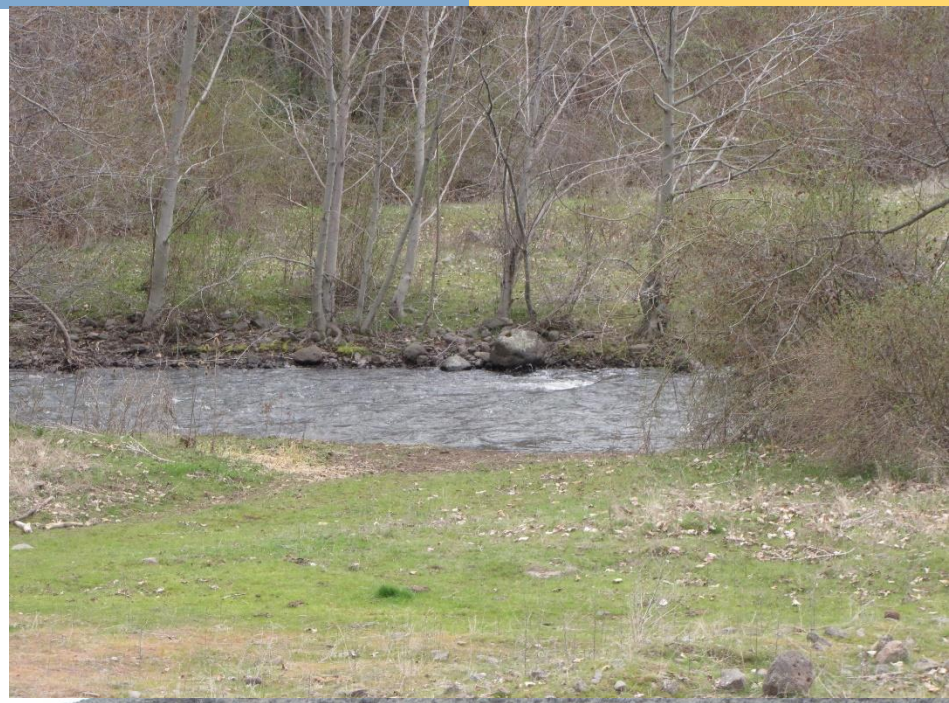


Meadow Creek Livestock BMPs

- Continuing to partner with Pomeroy CD on projects throughout the Deadman/Meadow Creek Watersheds

Asotin Creek Livestock BMPs

- Livestock access to Asotin Creek
- Asotin Creek provides habitat for ESA-listed Snake River Steelhead, Spring Chinook Salmon, and Bull Trout and fails state water quality standards
- Partnered with landowner, Asotin Conservation District, and local NRCS



Asotin Creek Livestock BMPs

- Over 6 miles of creek protected/restored
  - Fencing
  - Bridge Installation
  - Off-stream water
  - Planting

Asotin Creek Livestock BMPs

- Large project leveraged with CREP provided robust water quality protection

Steptoe Creek Livestock BMPs

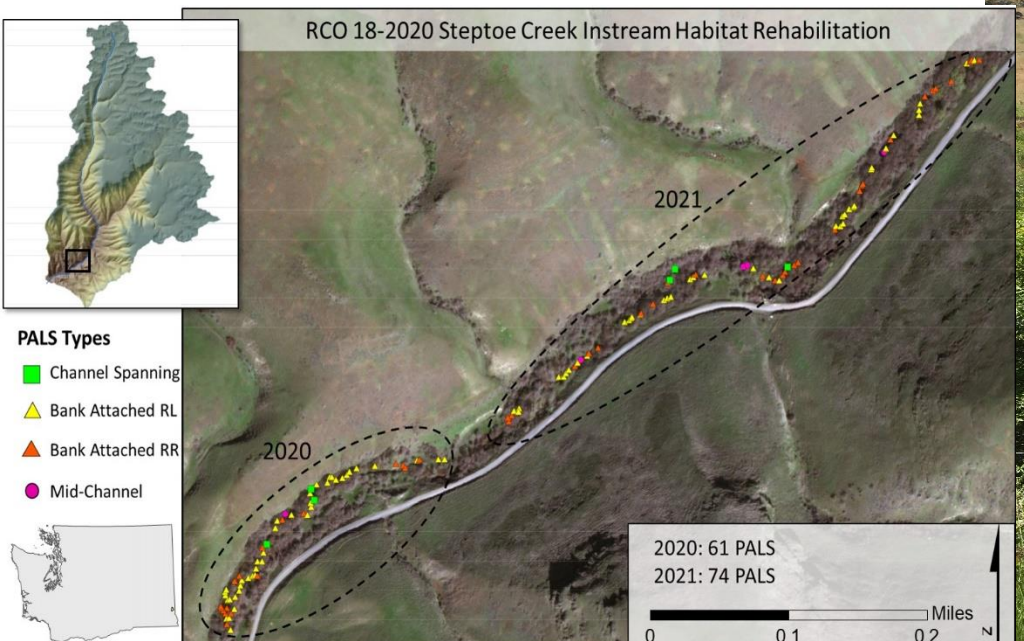
- Livestock access to majority of Steptoe Watershed
- Partnered with landowners, Palouse Conservation District, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, Whitman County, NRCS, and more

Steptoe Creek Livestock BMPs

- Over 4 miles of creek protected/restored
  - Fencing
  - Off-stream water
  - Plantings
  - Bridge Installation
  - In-stream log structures

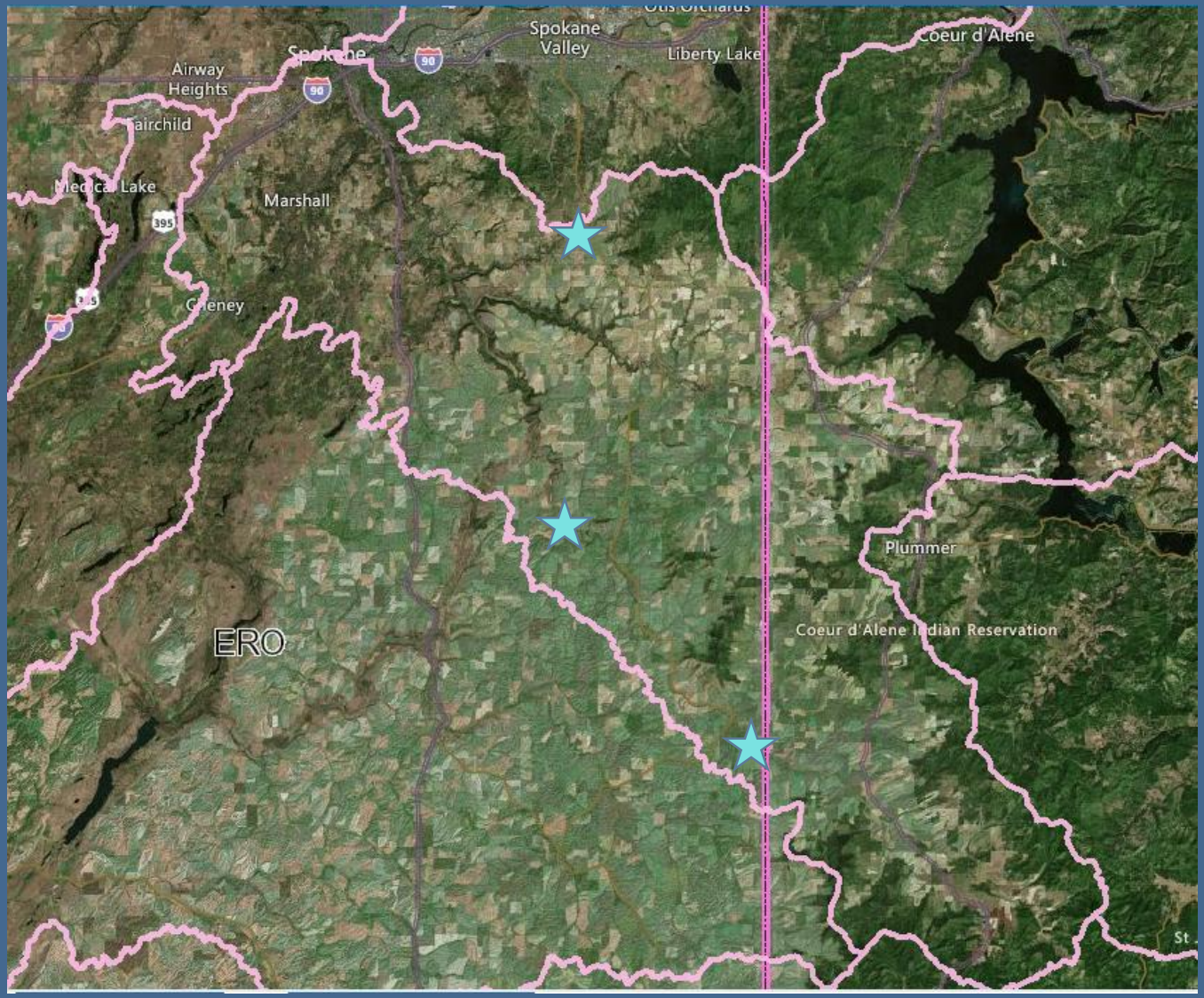
Steptoe Creek Livestock BMPs

- Working with multiple landowners and various partners to ensure watershed scale protection
- Additional livestock BMPs coming in 2022-2023



Hangman Watershed Projects

Examples of some successful projects



California Creek Livestock BMPs

- Livestock pollution to California Creek, riparian area degraded
- California Creek only endemic population of Redband trout, WA Hangman
- Met with landowner several times, found funding and project partner – Spokane Falls Trout Unlimited

California Creek Livestock BMPs

- 2,200’ of California Creek protected/restored
  - Fencing
  - Off Stream Watering
  - Riparian Planting

California Creek livestock BMPs

- Coeur d'Alene Tribe assisted with riparian planting
- Ecology working on supplemental grant with Spokane Tribe for riparian enhancement and maintenance

Upper Hangman Riparian Restoration

- Dryland agricultural production along Hangman mainstem
- Degraded riparian corridor
- Met with landowner several times, found funding, project partner – Spokane Tribe

Upper Hangman Riparian Restoration

- 1 acre buffer along 850’ section of Hangman Creek planted/landuse setback
- Additional 5.3 acre conifer planting in degraded riparian area

Upper Hangman Riparian Restoration

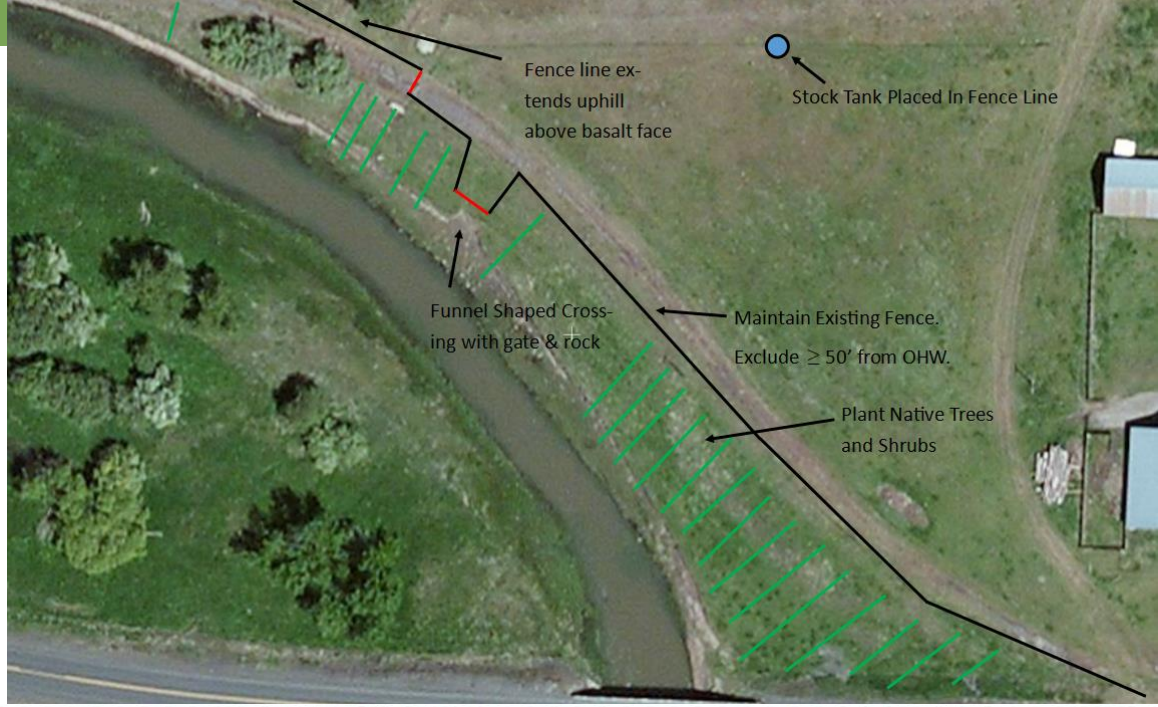
- Ecology working on supplemental grant with Spokane Tribe for riparian enhancement and maintenance

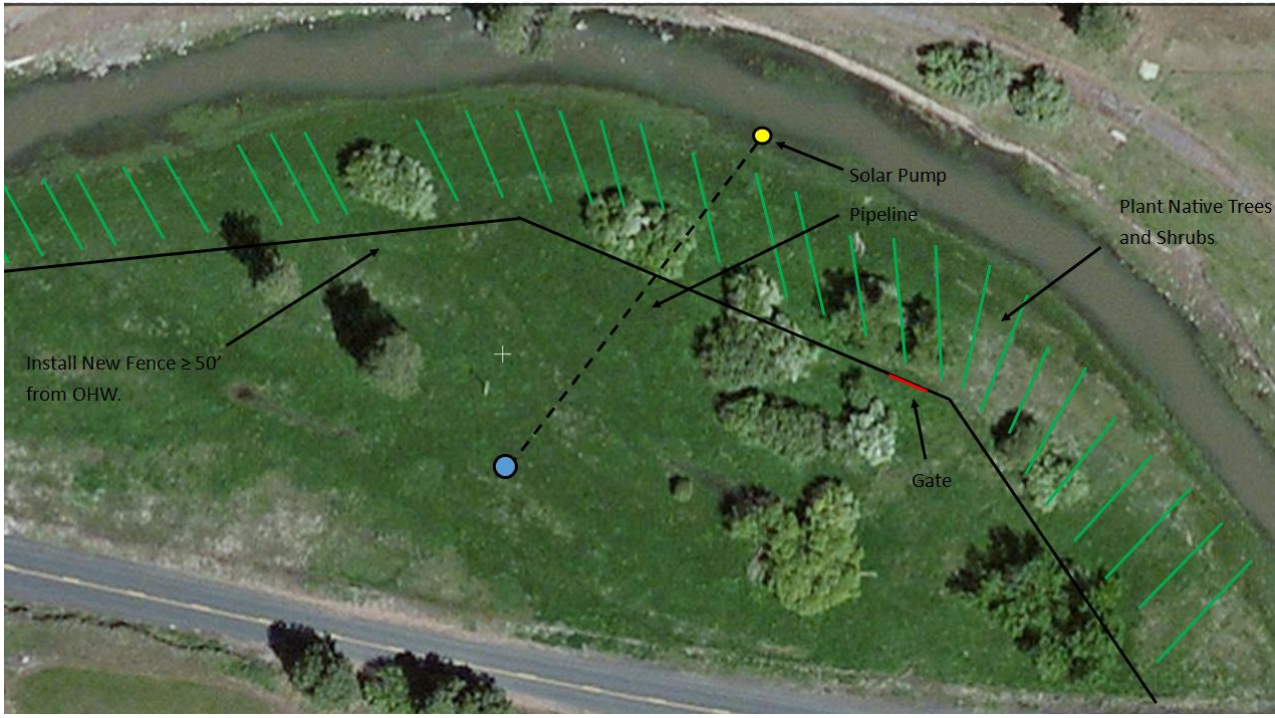
Hangman Mainstem Livestock BMPs

- Livestock pollution to Hangman mainstem, riparian area degraded
- Met with landowner several times, found funding and project partner – Spokane Conservation District and the Lands Council

Hangman Mainstem Livestock BMPs

- Protection/restoration 2,200’ reach of Hangman mainstem
  - Fencing
  - Hardened crossing
  - Off-stream watering
  - Riparian planting



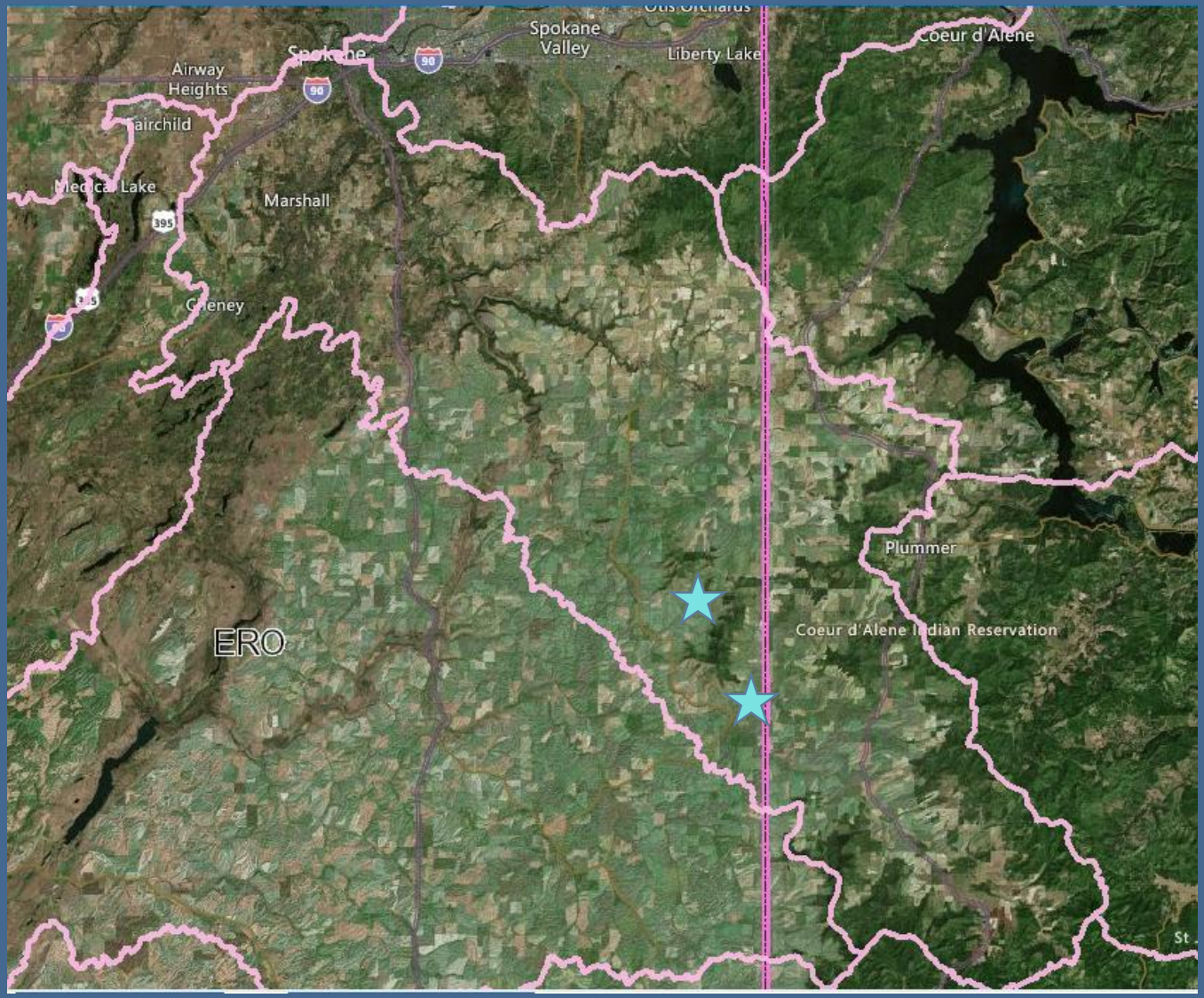


Hangman Mainstem Livestock BMPs

- Looking to work with landowner on additional plantings and planting maintenance

Hangman Watershed Projects

Examples of some future projects



Little Hangman Riparian Restoration - 2022

- Met with Landowner several times, found project partner
- Spokane CD grant awarded 2020

Little Hangman Riparian Restoration 2022

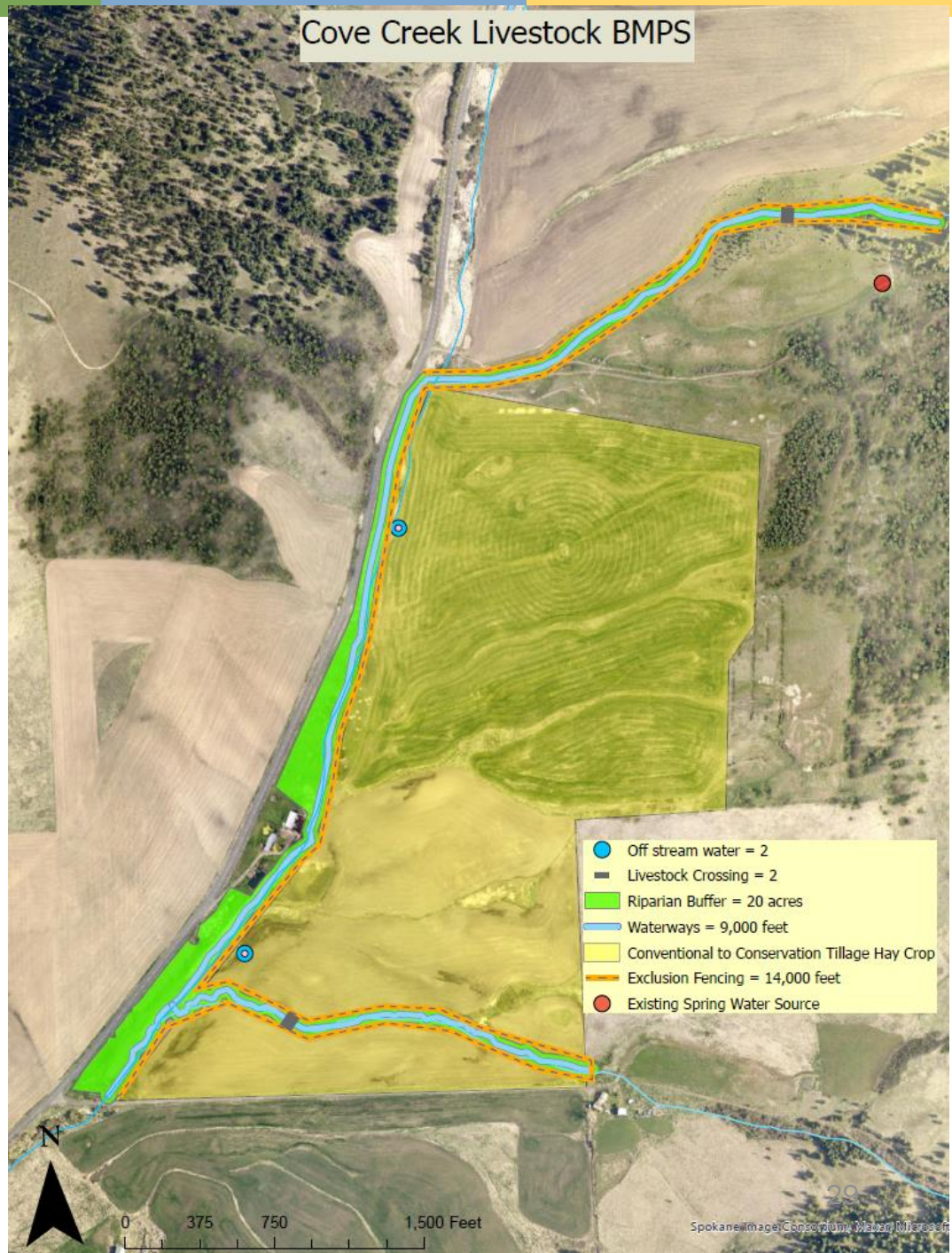
- 4,200’ L. Hangman Creek restored/protected
  - Streambank stabilization
  - 10 acre riparian planting
  - Commodity buffer program
  - Design 2021, construction 2022

Cove Creek Livestock BMPs - 2023

- Met with landowner several times for livestock pollution and dryland ag erosion concerns
- Found partners and seeking funding
- Working on plan with landowner, NRCS, Spokane CD

Cove Creek Livestock BMPs – 2023/2024

- Protection/restoration 9,000’ of Cove Creek mainstem and tributaries
  - Fencing
  - Off-stream watering
  - 20 acre riparian planting
  - Conventional to conservation tillage
- Enrolling into NRCS’ Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)
- Supplemental grant with Spokane CD – FY23 grant application



Outreach and Education

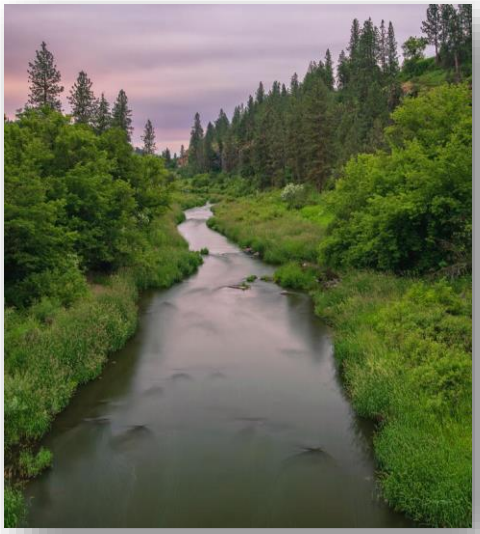
Implementing the Hangman Outreach Strategy

Highway Signs

- Partnership with The Lands Council/ WSDOT
  - Funded by 319 grant
- 7 signs at crossings
  - Hangman Creek
  - Little Hangman Creek
  - Cove Creek
  - Rock Creek
- State Routes 27 and 278

Purpose

VS.



Latah Creek Golf Course

- Riparian planting and educational sign
- Partners: Spokane County and The Lands Council
- Funded by Terry Husseman Account and 319 grants

Landowner Interviews & Listening Session

- Understand barriers to implementing riparian buffers
  - Ecology experience
- Partnered with UI social scientists
- One-on-one interviews
- Virtual listening session
- Final report in July 2021

Information → Action

- Common barriers by theme
  1. Land/operational management
     - Increased complexity, time, and labor from taking land out of production
     - Weeds, fuel load, nuisance wildlife
  2. Programmatic
     - Complicated, paperwork-intensive
     - Lack of sustained funding, payments not timely
     - Maintenance not provided
  3. Economic
     - Payments insufficient for land value, loss of the most productive land
     - Unanticipated costs
  4. Aesthetic/socio-cultural
     - Woody buffers look “messy” or out of place
- How: conceptual Hangman riparian pilot project
  - Hybridized rental rate program
  - $1M for pilot project implementation

Hangman Creek Riparian Restoration Program

Pilot Project

Key Program Elements

- Benefits to water quality
  - Targeted at pollution-priority parcels on fish-bearing streams
  - Planted and maintained with long term contracts
  - 15-20 year commitment; add enrolled acres to land deed
  - Development of a permanent riparian program in Hangman watershed
  - Progress towards meeting Settlement Agreement
- Benefits to landowner
  - 15 -20 year contract length provides assurance
  - NRCS Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)
  - Rental rate received for land taken out of production - $350/acre ($275 on top of CCRP); upfront and lump sum payments
  - Planting and maintenance provided by contract crews (WCC)
- Work with trusted partner to implement program (SCD)

Thank you