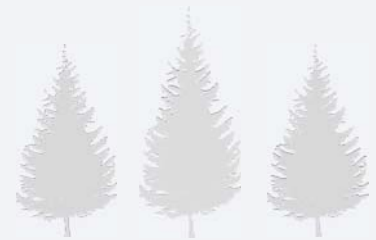


80

YEARS OF
CONSERVATION



Rooted in:
accountability • expertise • innovation • partnerships

2019 Annual Report

Anniversary Edition



Washington State
Conservation
Commission



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
OF WASHINGTON STATE

your window to healthy lands

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Jim Kropf,
2019 Conservation Commission Chair



Carol Smith,
SCC Executive Director

Message from Our Leaders

Dear friends,

Consider the following facts about our great state:

- ▶ Over half the land in Washington is privately owned.
- ▶ There are nine eco-regions in Washington, each with distinct climate, landforms, hydrology, and soil.
- ▶ Over a third of our state is agricultural land.
- ▶ Washington is home to dozens of plants and animals listed as either threatened or endangered.
- ▶ Washington also is home to over 35,000 farms, and our farmers produce over 300 different commodities.
- ▶ Our population is over 7 million people. Rapid growth — especially in our largest metropolitan areas — is expected to continue.

That’s just a glimpse into the diversity of people, agriculture, and natural resources in our state, and that diversity is an asset. That said, there are opportunities and challenges associated with the facts listed above.

The opportunities are great. If we conserve our natural resources in a way that allows our communities, agriculture, and environment to prosper, Washington will thrive. Our challenge is, in order to be effective and work on the ground, our conservation solutions can’t be “one-size-fits-all.” Solutions must be tailored to local conditions and cultures.

Conservation districts were created in the 1930s to provide these precise, community-based solutions for natural resource management. In 2019, the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) celebrated our 80th anniversary of supporting conservation districts as they serve this vital role.

There are many reasons why the approach used by the SCC and conservation districts has continued to work across our diverse landscapes and communities for 80 years. In this, our *2019 Annual Report – Anniversary Edition*, we’d like to highlight four of them:

Accountability: The SCC and conservation districts are committed to exceeding expectations and delivering transparent, high-quality service to Washingtonians.

Expertise: Conservation district technicians are professionally trained and have first-hand knowledge of local people and conditions, giving them expert ability to assist landowners with effective natural resource solutions.

Innovation: We employ new technology and approaches that deliver multi-benefit outcomes for communities, agriculture, and our environment.

Partnerships: The SCC and conservation districts are a partner of choice. No one is required to work with us — all our programs and services are voluntary. We work hard to cultivate trust so people want us as a partner.

We hope this report illustrates how these four elements of our work help us meet the diversity of conservation needs in Washington. It’s an approach we’ve been proud to develop and deliver for eight decades, and we look forward to expanding in the decades ahead.

Thank you to the conservation districts, landowners, and countless other partners who make this work possible. It’s a pleasure to work beside you.

Yours in conservation,

Jim and Carol



expertise



accountability



innovation



partnerships



Who We Are

In the 80 years that we've been in the business of voluntary conservation, we've learned what it takes to engage people voluntarily with natural resource stewardship.

Our commitment to accountability, expertise, innovation, and partnerships has been key to the success of the Conservation Commission and conservation districts.

Meet the Washington State Conservation Commission

The Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) coordinates and administers voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs and solutions for our state.

How we do this:

- ▶ Provide financial and operational support and oversight to our state's 45 conservation districts.
- ▶ Design policy and program structures that can be customized to address site-specific natural resource conditions and landowner needs.
- ▶ Facilitate collaborative solutions that meet state natural resource priorities and work on the ground.



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OF WASHINGTON STATE

your window to healthy lands

Meet the Conservation Districts

Conservation districts partner with landowners to voluntarily take action to keep our air, water, and soil healthy.

They're community-based hubs of expertise and funding that are led and staffed by locals who have first-hand knowledge of the landscapes and fellow community members that they serve.

Conservation districts provide:

- ▶ Non-regulatory services that are tailored to meet the needs of local communities and natural resources.
- ▶ Grant funding and free or low-cost services that make practicing conservation more affordable.
- ▶ Technical expertise for project planning, permitting, and construction.

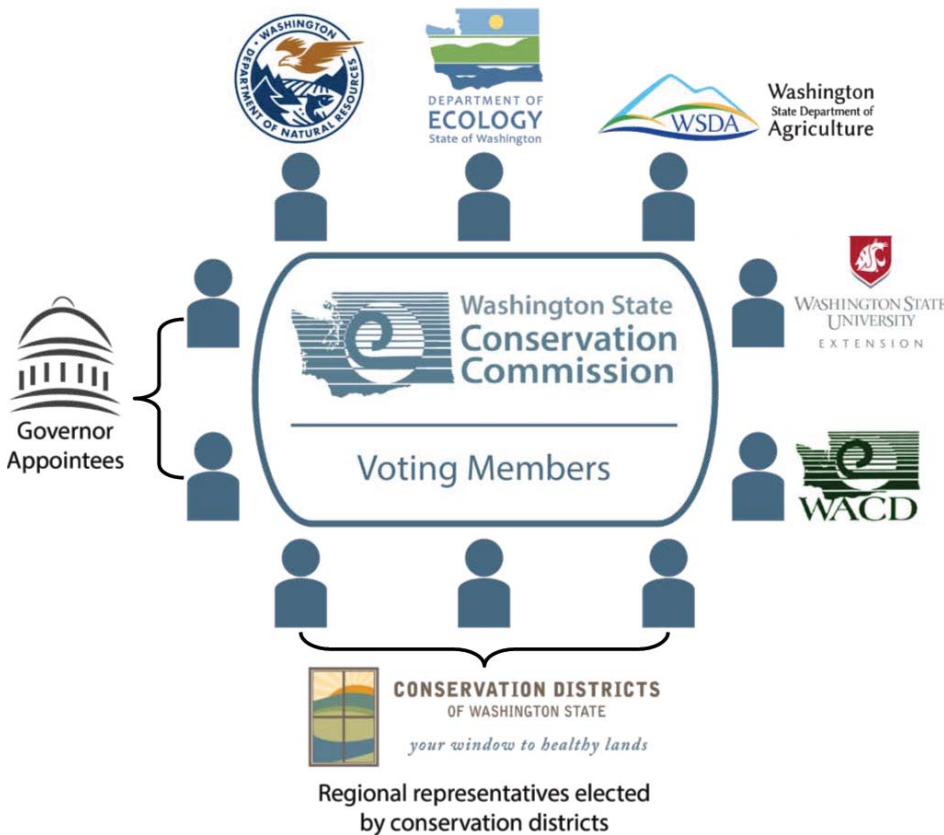
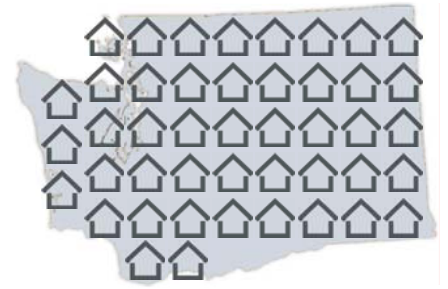
Some examples of conservation district areas of service include:

- ▶ Habitat restoration and enhancement.
- ▶ Livestock and nutrient management.
- ▶ Soil, forest, and rangeland health.
- ▶ Natural disaster preparedness and recovery.
- ▶ Irrigation water management.
- ▶ Stormwater management.
- ▶ Environmental education.
- ▶ Urban agriculture.

Structure of Conservation Districts and SCC

45 Conservation Districts

- ▶ Governed by a board of local volunteers, called *supervisors*, who have expertise in natural resources and agriculture.
- ▶ Assess local natural resource priorities.
- ▶ Develop trusting relationships with landowners and learn about their goals for their property.
- ▶ Provide financial incentives and expertise to engage fellow community members with voluntary actions that conserve natural resources and achieve property goals.



10-Member SCC Board of Commissioners

- ▶ Govern the SCC, provide oversight, and set priorities.
- ▶ Enact collaborative solutions to meet state and local natural resource and land use needs.
- ▶ Appoint two members of each conservation district board of supervisors.
- ▶ Certify elections of three conservation district supervisors.

SCC Agency Staff

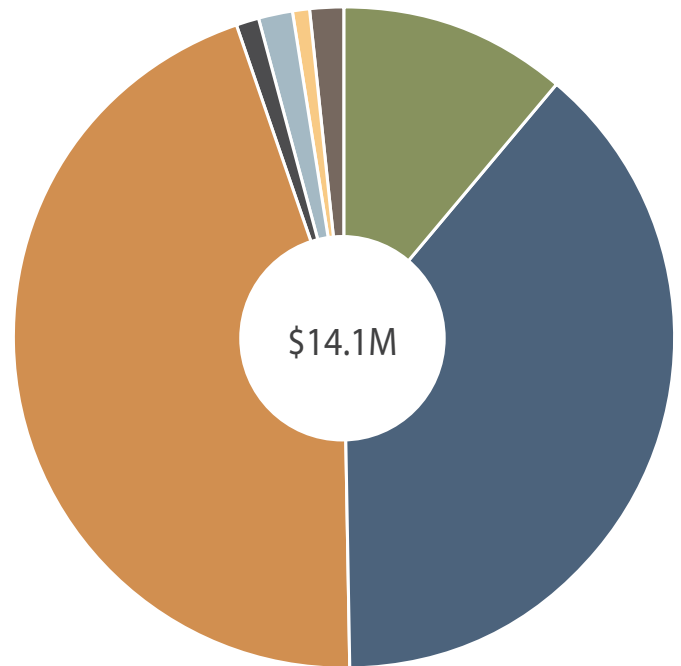
- ▶ Design and allocate funds for voluntary conservation programs.
- ▶ Coordinate and promote conservation district services; provide operational and accountability oversight.
- ▶ Serve as a bridge between conservation districts and state decision-makers to ensure Washington's conservation policies are informed by local conditions and work on the ground.
- ▶ Track outcomes of conservation efforts and adaptively manage approach.



Budget and Expenditures

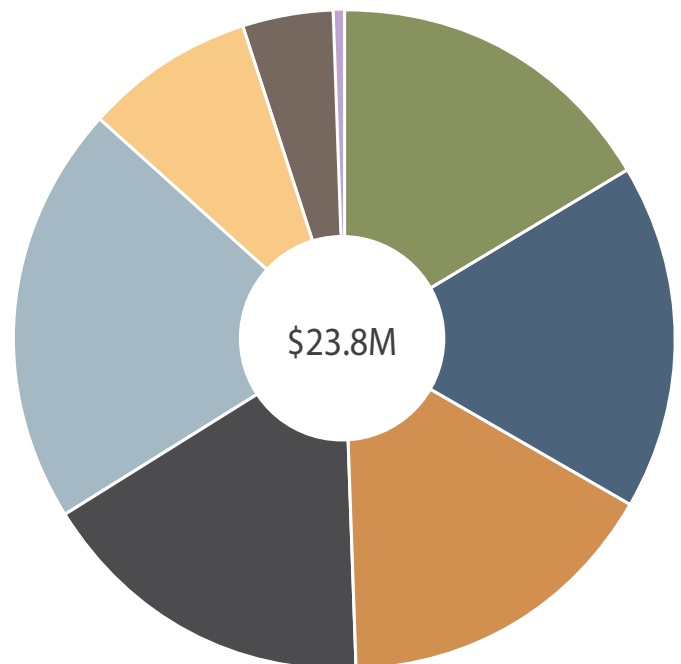
2017-19 Operating Expenditures

- SCC Operations - \$1,561,599
- Conservation District Operations - \$5,403,178
- Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), statewide program administration - \$6,301,269
- Pension Funding Stabilization Acct Salaries and Expenses - \$254,000
- Conservation District Grants and Technical Assistance - \$250,000
- Food Policy Forum - \$100,000
- Water Quality Improvements - \$225,000



2017-19 Capital Expenditures

- Natural Resource Investments - \$3,975,522
- Shellfish Program - \$3,998,797
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (Riparian Contract, Cost Share, and Loan Program) - \$3,831,787
- Dairy Distillation Grants - \$4,000,000
- Match for Fed. Regional Conservation Partnership Program - \$4,928,618
- Agricultural Conservation Easements - \$1,991,054
- Toxics Account - \$1,000,000
- R&D Grant, Deep Furrow Drill - \$127,855





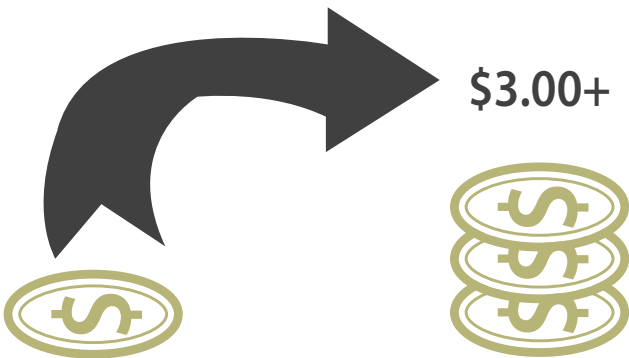
Outstanding Stewardship of Public Resources

This year the SCC received the State Auditor’s Office (SAO) Stewardship Award (pictured above) for “outstanding accomplishment in accountability, transparency, and good stewardship of public resources.”

We were recognized for:

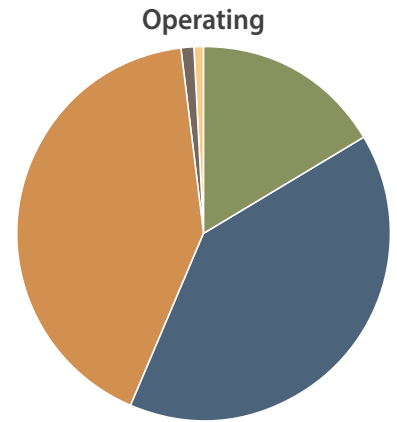
- ▶ Working with conservation districts to maintain strong internal controls, such as through our Conservation Accountability and Performance Program (accountability requirements that conservation districts must meet to receive state funding from our agency), and
- ▶ Coordinating with the SAO and assisting conservation districts with completing audits and following through on recommendations.

Leveraging State Dollars

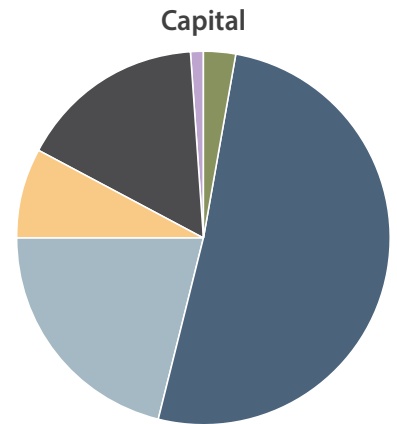


On average, every state dollar invested in conservation districts through the SCC leverages at least three dollars from other funding sources.

2017-19 Funding Distribution



- SCC Operations, 16.5%
- Conservation Districts, 40.1%
- Counties (VSP), 41.5%
- Microbial Source Tracking, 1.3%
- Food Policy Forum, 0.6%

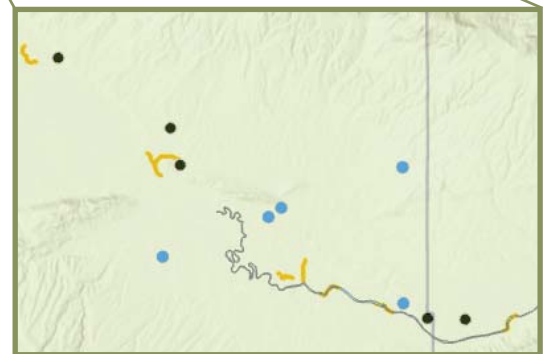
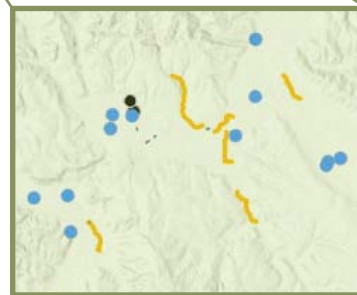
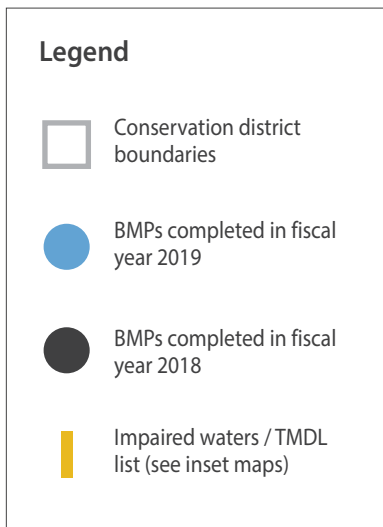
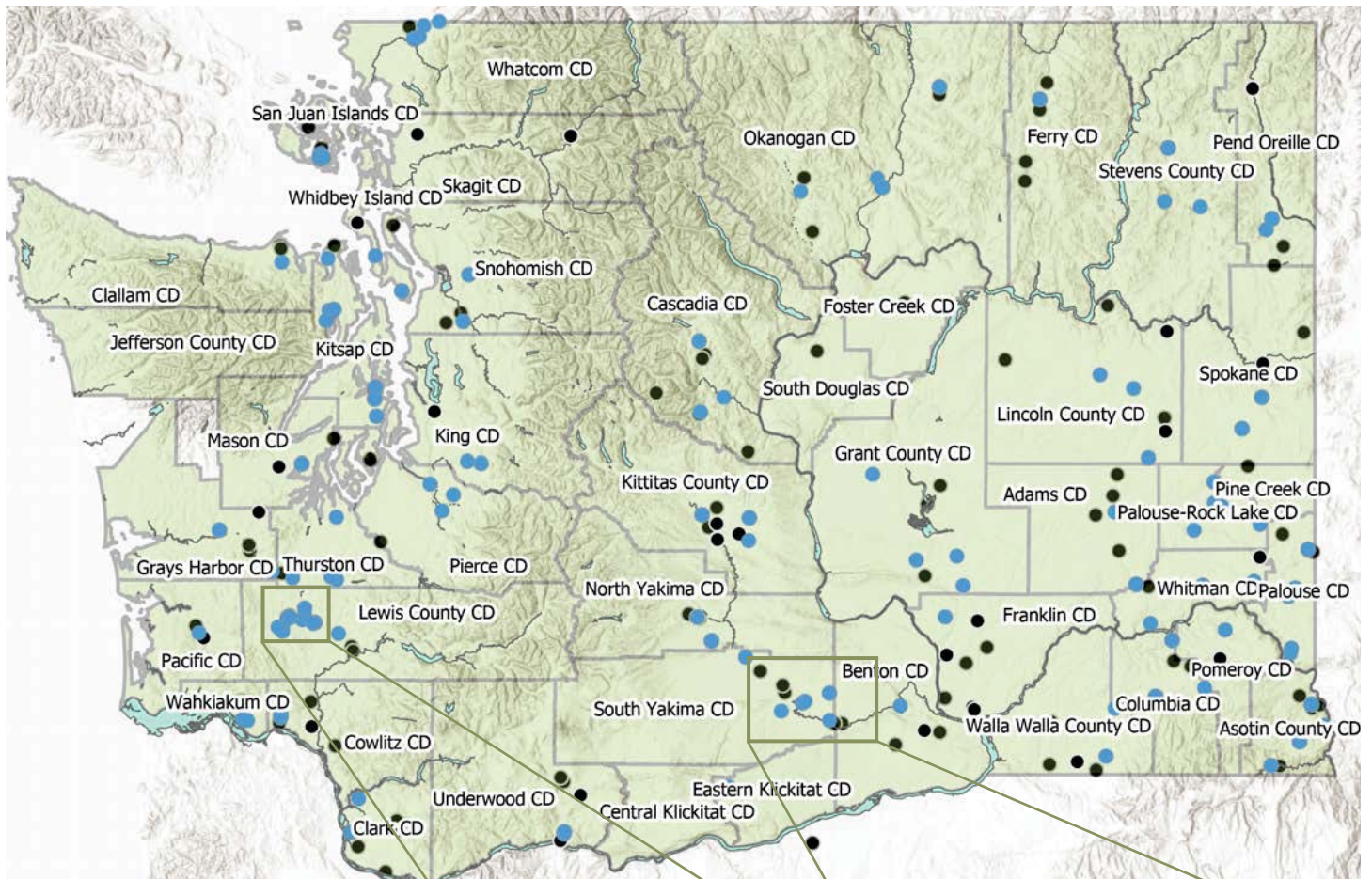


- SCC Administration - 2.8%
- Conservation District Grants - 51.4%
- RCPP Project Leads - 20.7%
- Agricultural Easements - 8.3%
- Dairy Distillation Grants - 16.3%
- R&D, Deep Furrow Drill - 0.5%

Natural Resource Investments (NRI)

Conservation districts use NRI funding to cover a portion of the cost of best management practices (BMPs) as an incentive for landowners to implement them on their properties. BMPs advance progress toward natural resource objectives, such as improved water quality and habitat, and are farm-friendly.

Funding expended in FY19: \$3.4M



- ▶ NRI projects are strategically located to address natural resource concerns.
- ▶ For example, many water quality projects are located along impaired water bodies where pollutant levels exceed the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), as shown in the inset maps above.

Success Stories



Lewis Conservation District leveraged NRI funding from the State Conservation Commission and secured multiple grants to help landowners install 26 screens on irrigation diversions in the Chehalis Basin that protect fish from being drawn into pump intakes.

The TMDL (total maximum daily load) Plan for Hangman Creek in Spokane County identifies loss of riparian function as one of the major reasons for water quality degradation in this watershed.

Spokane Conservation District leveraged NRI dollars and other funding to complete streambank stabilization and restoration projects along approximately two miles of Hangman Creek.

Projects have improved fish habitat and water quality.

Photos show project site before (top) and after project implementation (bottom).



2019 Highlights



235
best management
practices installed



24,497
trees and shrubs
planted



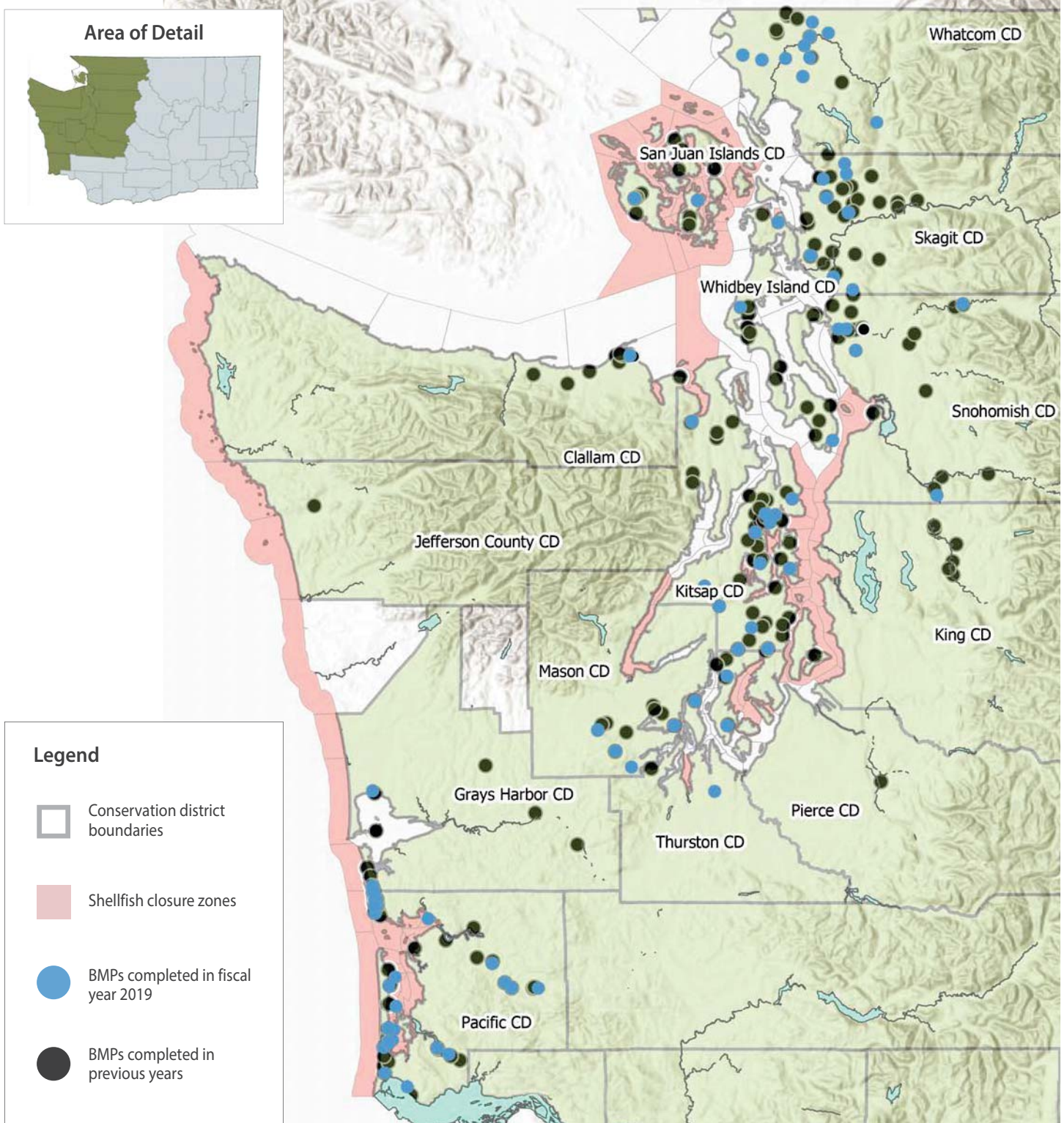
49,471
feet of stream
protected

Learn more about NRI:
www.scc.wa.gov/nri

Shellfish Program

Our Shellfish Program uses a targeted approach to invest in best management practices (BMPs) implemented by conservation districts and landowners that build cumulative results for shellfish recovery. Priority is given to “project clusters” within a watershed where there’s a water quality concern.

Funding expended in FY19: \$3.8M



Success Stories



Project site before (top) and after (bottom) Whatcom Conservation District assisted a landowner with installing a heavy use area and watering facility for livestock in order to prevent polluted runoff.

The property is in the Deer Creek Watershed, a tributary to the Nooksack River, which drains to Portage Bay shellfish growing areas.



The District also used Shellfish Program funding to assist the landowner with roof runoff structures, underground outlets, and a covered manure storage facility.



Pacific Conservation District helped lead a multi-partner effort to address erosion at “Washaway Beach” that was on the verge of causing serious damage to drainage infrastructure. The Grayland area and local cranberry bogs were at high-risk for flooding, which would carry pollutants to hundreds of acres of shellfish growing area.

The District used Shellfish Program funding to construct a stone cobble berm, called a dynamic revetment, that protects the shoreline.

Last winter — for the first time in 100 years — no ground was lost at this project site.

Now the District is working to raise the revetment to 21 feet to address climate change predictions and will plant it with native vegetation.



2019 Highlights



150

best management practices installed



3,021,283

gallons of liquid manure per day safely transferred away from waterways



4,080

square feet of pervious surface installed to filter stormwater



Conservation districts have used Shellfish Program funding for projects that were part of efforts that resulted in the upgrade of thousands of acres of shellfish growing areas in Dungeness Bay, Birch Bay, and Drayton Harbor.

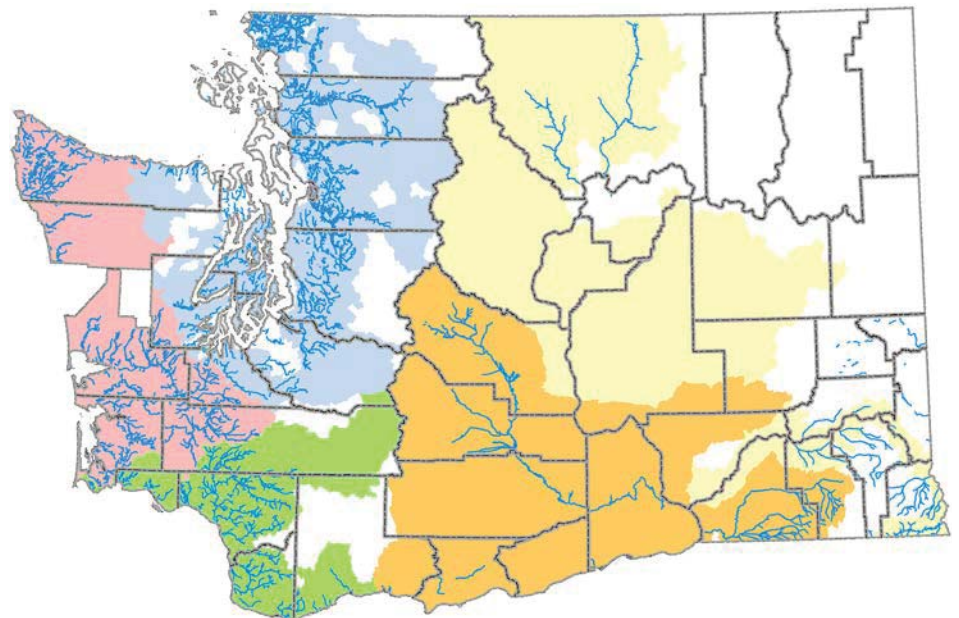
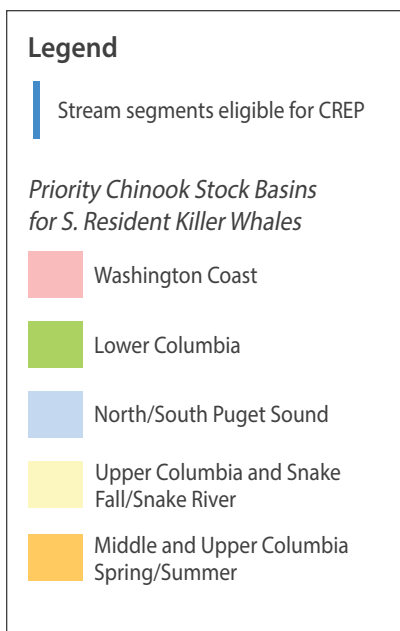
Learn more about the Shellfish Program:
www.scc.wa.gov/shellfish

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

2019 marked the 20th anniversary of CREP, the largest riparian restoration program in Washington. Farmers are compensated for voluntarily growing native vegetation along streams, rather than crops, through this federal and state funded program. The vegetation forms a buffer between agricultural land and salmon streams, keeping water clean and cool and improving salmon habitat.

Good for Salmon, Good for Orca

Nearly all CREP-eligible streams are within priority Chinook stock basins for our Southern Resident Killer Whales.

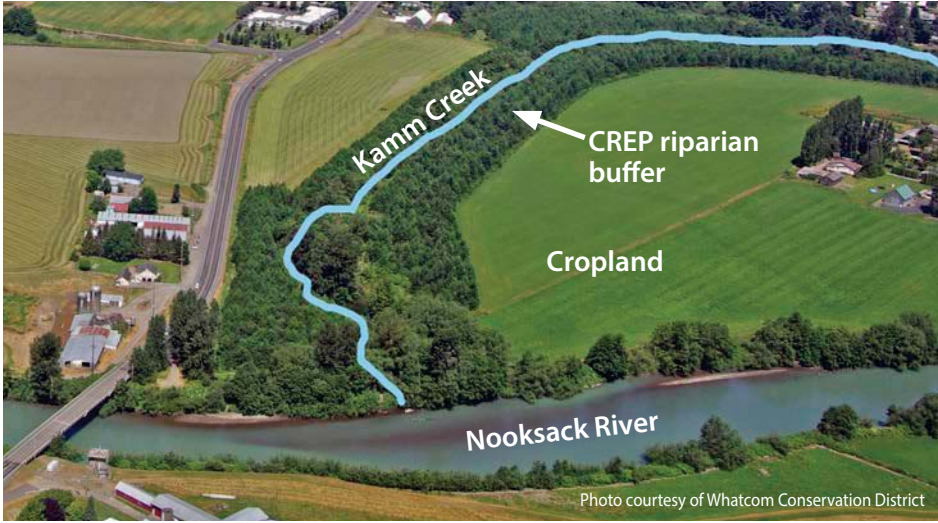


NOAA and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2018) Southern Resident Killer Whale Priority Chinook Stocks Report. Retrieved from: https://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/protected_species/marine_mammals/killer_whales/recovery/srkw_priority_chinook_stocks_conceptual_model_report__list_22june2018.pdf

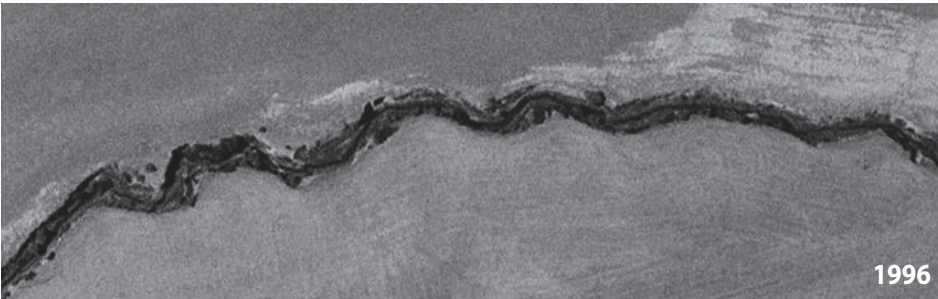
- ▶ Chinook salmon are the primary prey of our endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales.
- ▶ In watersheds with high levels of participation in CREP, Chinook returns have increased.
- ▶ This makes CREP vital to Washington’s strategy to save our orcas.



What Does a Riparian Buffer Look Like?



Success Story



Thanks to willing landowners and Walla Walla County Conservation District, there are over six contiguous miles of buffer along a stretch of Dry Creek where there are several cattle operations. Buffers are keeping cattle away from streambanks and filtering contaminants.

Celebrating 20 Years - Highlights to Date



1,375
agricultural sites voluntarily enrolled in CREP



925
miles of stream enhanced for salmon... that's the distance from Seattle to the Grand Canyon!



5.9 million
native trees planted



142
average width of riparian forest buffers (in feet)

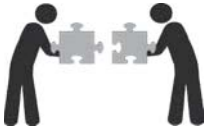
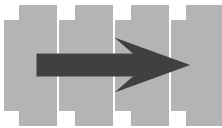

Learn more about CREP:
www.scc.wa.gov/crep

Dairy Nutrient Management Grants

The SCC funded five projects in FY19 to evaluate use of innovative technologies to turn dairy manure into nontoxic by-products that can be used on-farm or sold to other markets. The goal is to reduce potential environmental and financial costs of dairy manure management.

Funding expended in FY19: \$4M

Overview of technology tested by each project and resulting by-products

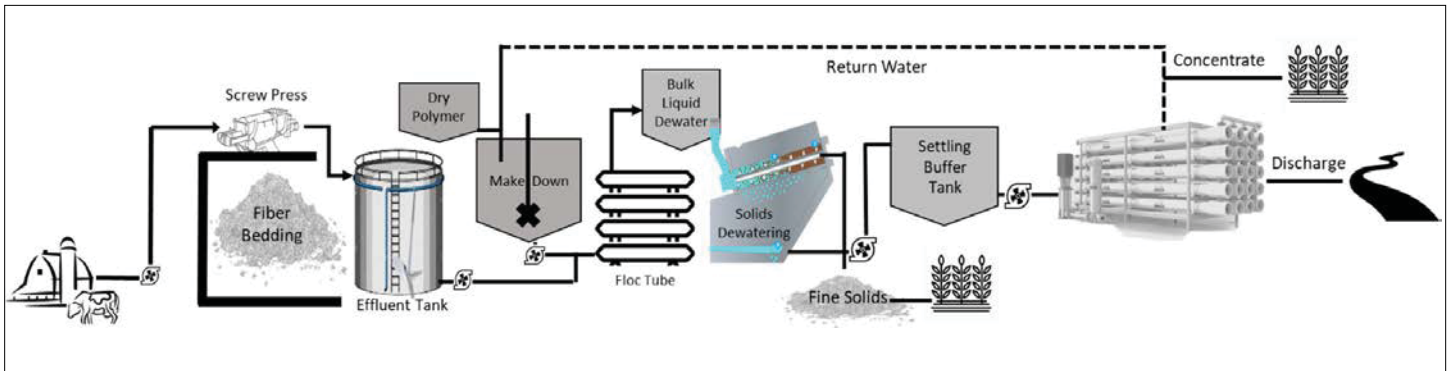
 Lead Partner(s)	 Filtration System	 By-products
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Coldstream Farms ▶ Regenix 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Fine solids separator ▶ Clean water membrane system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Clean, dischargeable water ▶ Liquid and dry fertilizer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ George DeRuyter & Sons Dairy ▶ DVO, Inc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Anaerobic digester ▶ Lagoon-based nitrification / denitrification process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Renewable natural gas ▶ Liquid fertilizer ▶ Animal bedding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Organix ▶ J&K Dairy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ BioFiltro BIDA® System (aerated worm bin) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Worm “tea” (can be used for irrigation) ▶ Worm castings (fertilizer)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians ▶ Janicki Bioenergy ▶ Natural Milk Dairy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Vapor Re-compression Distillation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pathogen-free water (for livestock drinking or farm reuse) ▶ Liquid and dry fertilizer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ WSU - Puyallup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mobile struvite system (nutrient recovery system) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Struvite (non-toxic, mineral fertilizer)

Right: Eric Powell (Regenix) shows different stages of filtration as raw dairy manure from Coldstream Farms is treated to produce clarified water.

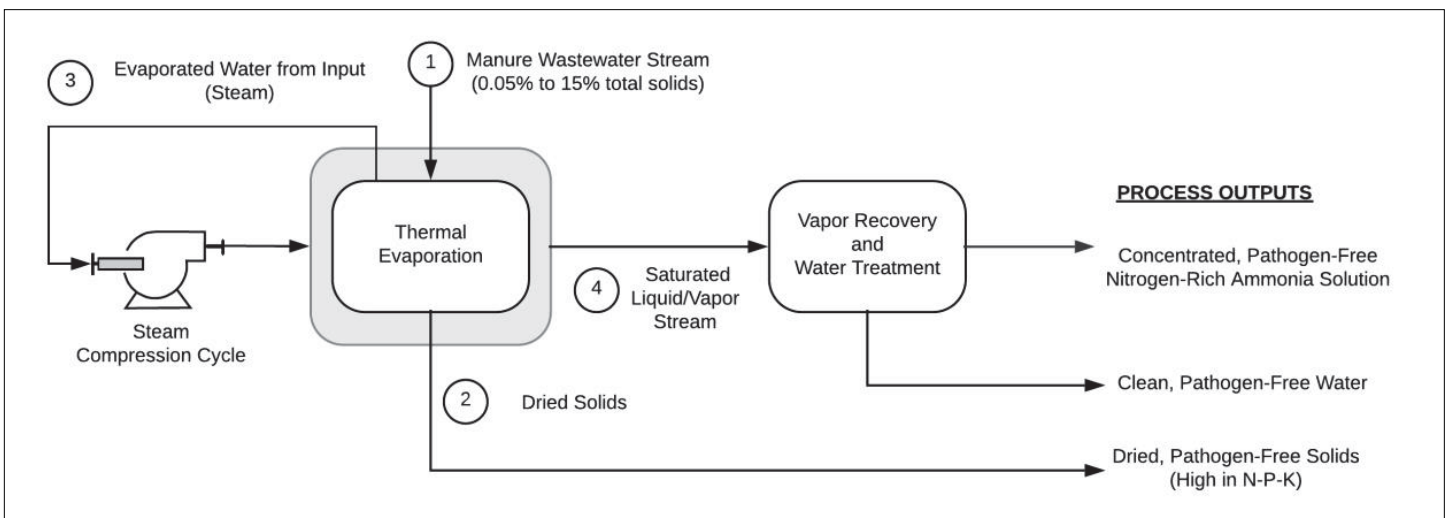
Bottom: Organix BioFiltro BIDA® System uses worms and worm castings to turn manure into a “tea” that can be used for irrigation.



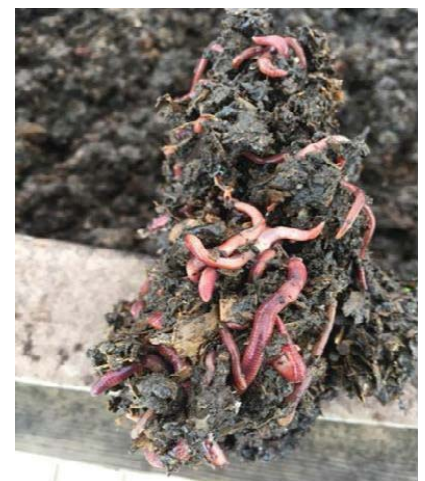
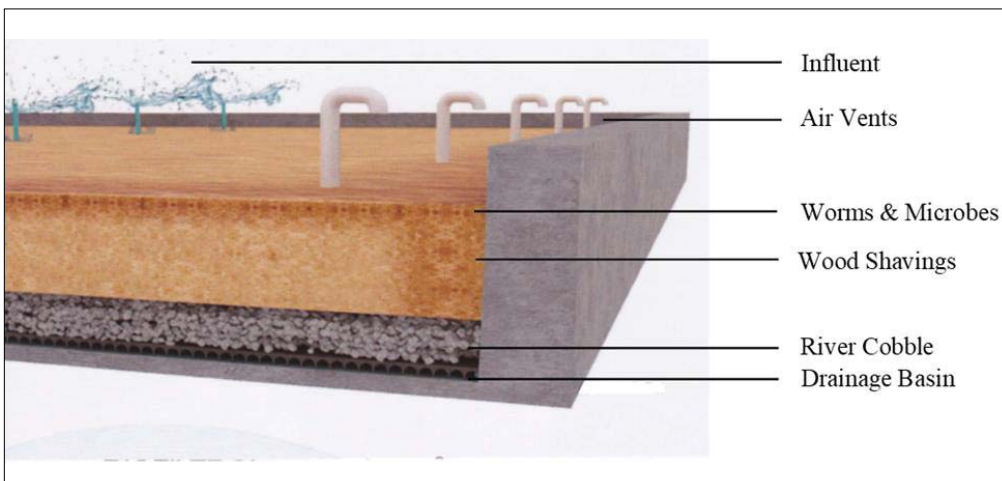
How Do the Filtration Systems Work?



Regenics clean water treatment system installed at Coldstream Farms.



Sedron Technologies Advanced Vapor Recompression Distillation system installed at Natural Milk Dairy.



Left: BioFiltro BIDA® aerated worm bin installed by Organix at J&K Dairy. Right: Red worms (*Eisenia foetida*) and wood shavings from BIDA® System bed.

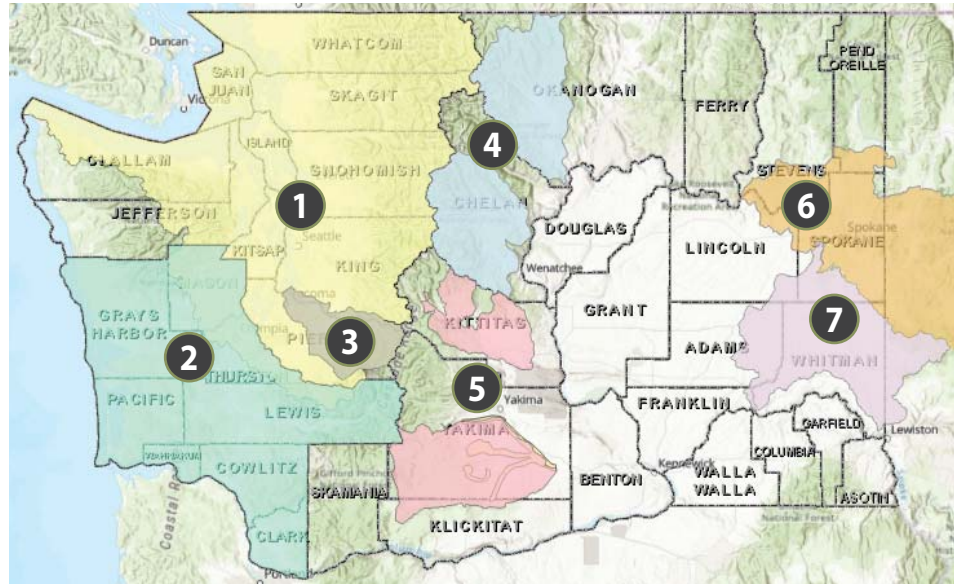
For more information on these and other filtration systems and to read final project reports, visit: www.scc.wa.gov/dairydistillation_0819.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

RCPP brings millions of federal dollars to Washington to address priority natural resource issues. Farm Bill funds are invested in regional projects where multiple partners coordinate efforts, engage voluntary landowner participation, and leverage funding to maximize results. The SCC has been the lead on one RCPP project and designated to pass-through state matching funds for six other projects.

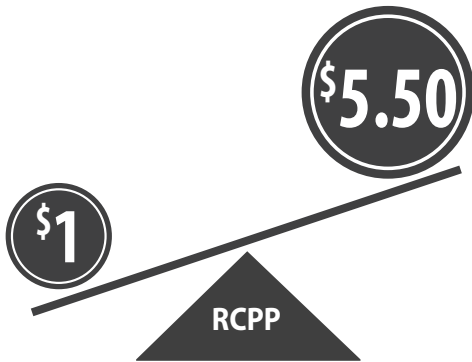
State match expended FY16-19: \$6.2M

RCPP projects that receive state match through the SCC stretch across Washington, improving natural resources conditions and generating hundreds of associated jobs for our communities.



- 1. Precision Conservation for Salmon and Water Quality in Puget Sound** *(Lead partner: State Conservation Commission)*
Engaging landowners in high-priority areas in the Puget Sound region with conservation projects that improve water quality and habitat for at-risk species, including Chinook salmon.
- 2. Southwest Washington Small Forest Lands Conservation Partnership** *(Lead partner: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)*
Assisting small forest landowners with development and implementation of forest stewardship plans that improve habitat, protect water quality, improve forest resiliency, and keep working forests working.
- 3. Puyallup Watershed Partnership** *(Lead partner: Pierce Conservation District)*
Working to permanently conserve 1,000 acres of prime farmland and assist landowners with restoration activities to enhance salmon habitat and preserve the economic and ecosystem benefits that farmland provides.
- 4. Upper Columbia Irrigation Enhancement Project** *(Lead partner: Trout Unlimited)*
Assisting large irrigators and irrigation districts with efficiency improvements that modernize water delivery infrastructure. Resulting enhanced stream flows benefit ESA-listed fish in critical Upper Columbia tributaries.
- 5. Yakima Integrated Plan – Toppenish to Teanaway Project** *(Lead partners: Yakama Nation and Kittitas County Conservation District)*
Completing projects that accelerate recovery of threatened Mid-Columbia steelhead by targeting high-priority watersheds, which currently produce over 50 percent of the wild steelhead run in the Yakima River Basin.
- 6. Greater Spokane River Watershed Project** *(Lead partner: Spokane Conservation District)*
Engaging landowners with projects that reduce sediment carried to the Spokane River Watershed, reduce nutrients, voluntarily resolve water quality issues, and protect wildlife and fish habitat.
- 7. Palouse River Watershed Implementation Project** *(Lead partner: Palouse Conservation District)*
Using incentives to voluntarily engage agricultural producers with implementing the Palouse River Watershed Management Plan through projects that improve water quality, soil health, and habitat.

RCPP Partners Leverage Funding and Maximize Results



On average, every state dollar invested in RCPP projects leverages over \$5.50 in federal and other partner contributions.



"We want to be good stewards for everybody. We're worried about the salmon and shellfish, that's part of our community... Having programs like this helps us move the environmental responsibility ball forward without losing farmers."

- Ben Smith, owner of Maple View Farm in Sequim, on how RCPP allowed he and his brother to invest in proactive, water quality-friendly upgrades to their dairy.

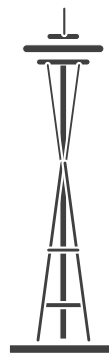
Testimonial courtesy of Alliance for Puget Sound Natural Resources

Photo courtesy of The Nature Conservancy

Farmers using conservation tillage practices as part of the Palouse River Watershed Implementation Project RCPP have prevented 103,500 tons of sediment from entering the watershed.



That's enough to fill dump trucks lined up back-to-back from the Olympia Capitol Building to the Space Needle!



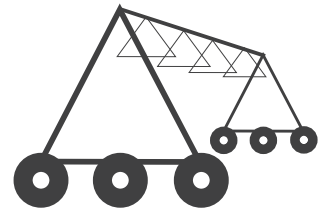
Highlights

What's been accomplished through RCPP so far?



57,000

acres converted from conventional to conservation tillage — that's roughly the same area as the City of Seattle!



700

acres of cropland converted to more efficient irrigation



772

acres treated to reduce soil erosion

Learn more:
www.scc.wa.gov/rcpp-in-wa

and more!

Other Highlights

Every year the conservation districts and SCC accomplish far more than can fit in a report. Here are a few more examples of our work from this fiscal year.



Center for Technical Development (CTD)

The CTD provides resources and training to ensure all conservation districts have the expertise and resources to consistently plan and implement conservation programs. In FY19, the CTD worked with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide needed training to district staff and launched three CTD Planner Certifications (dairy, farm, and riparian). The CTD also began designing a mentorship program to enhance professional development for district employees. Learn more: www.wactd.org



Food Policy Forum

In 2019 the Washington State Food Policy Forum (administered by the SCC, our Office of Farmland Preservation, and the Washington State Department of Agriculture) released a Recommendations Report that offers solutions to encourage healthy food access, markets, and availability. The report is the result of a two-year effort that — for the first time — brought together diverse food system practitioners who reached agreement on a set of policy recommendations. Learn more: www.scc.wa.gov/food-policy



Microbial Source Tracking

When fecal bacteria contaminate our waters and threaten the health of people, salmon, and shellfish, how do we make our water clean again? The SCC funded two studies that explored methods for gathering data to help trace fecal bacteria back to its source (e.g. human sewage, livestock, wild/ domestic animals). Both projects were conducted in areas of Puget Sound, one in Pierce County and one in Whatcom County, where concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria impact shellfish harvest. Read the final reports: www.scc.wa.gov/mst_0719



Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)

Administered statewide by the SCC, VSP gives counties the option to use voluntary, incentive-based tools to engage landowners with farm-friendly actions that protect critical areas on agricultural land and meet growth management requirements. Community stakeholders develop work plans, set benchmarks, and report results. As of FY19, all 27 participating counties have state-approved work plans, and they're working with local landowners to meet benchmarks. Learn more: www.scc.wa.gov/vsp

Conservation District Accomplishments

The following pages showcase accomplishments from each of Washington's 45 conservation districts during fiscal year 2019. All this work was completed voluntarily and in collaboration with countless landowners and partners.

These stories further demonstrate the vital role that accountability, expertise, innovation, and partnerships play in our work.



Girl Scout Daisy/Brownie Troop 41706 helps plant 1,000 trees and shrubs on Vashon Island at Orca Recovery Day. Learn more on page 36.
Photo by Nikki Wolf, King Conservation District



Adams Conservation District

509-659-1553 | chadamscd@hotmail.com | www.adamscd.com
Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments



Conducted water monitoring to determine feasibility for wetland and riparian projects. Photo by Ducks Unlimited



Hosted FFA State Land Judging Contest.



Installed livestock watering facility and water storage to increase grazing capabilities.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Cow Creek Pruning Project

Resource Challenge

Excess vegetation in Cow Creek was clogging the waterway. This caused flooding of an upstream lake, which affected the adjacent city and landowners. Failure of the lake to drain properly also reduced water availability downstream to operators, fauna, and flora.

The City reached out to Adams Conservation District and neighboring Lincoln County Conservation District to help implement projects to mitigate flooding.

Project Summary and Results

Working together with our neighboring conservation district, we were able to assist with pruning and removing 20 acres of overgrown vegetation for the two landowners at the head of the creek. Clearing this debris allows the lake to drain better, reduces flooding issues in the future, and helps ensure sufficient water downstream for irrigation and wildlife habitat. We also expect to see improved water flow from this project in the data collected downstream next spring, which will help determine whether wetland areas for migrating waterfowl can be expanded.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission



Top (before): Dead and overgrown vegetation clogged Cow Creek.

Bottom (after): The creek flows freely after vegetation was removed, reducing flooding and increasing water availability downstream.

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Assist operators with implementing reduced tillage practices, precision technologies, and installing livestock watering facilities.
- ▶ Work with partners to find funding to help landowners improve streamside and wetland habitat.
- ▶ Expand outreach efforts to educate and support our community and operators' needs.



Asotin County Conservation District

509-552-8117 | info@asotincd.org | www.asotincd.org
Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments



Planted over 28,000 trees and shrubs throughout Asotin County.



Provided over \$630,000 in cost share to landowners to voluntarily implement practices that address natural resource concerns.



Completed Voluntary Stewardship Plans and Assessments to assist landowners with protecting resources while maintaining agricultural viability.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep Protection



Bighorn sheep herd in Asotin County near Heller Bar on the Snake River.

Resource Challenge

Domestic sheep and goats are frequently raised on private lands within Hells Canyon bighorn sheep range. They can carry the *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (*M. ovi*) bacteria, which is lethal to bighorn sheep if transmitted. Two transmission events have been associated with pneumonia outbreaks in populations of Hells Canyon bighorn sheep in the past two decades despite ongoing efforts

by wildlife agencies in all three bordering states. The agencies don't have the staffing to dedicate to this dynamic situation.

Project Summary and Results

A two-year pilot project was developed to reduce the risk of another outbreak within the Hells Canyon bighorn sheep from domestic sheep and goat flocks. Asotin County Conservation District is working with domestic owners in the Hells Canyon area to test flocks for *M. ovi* and implement management practices that benefit bighorn sheep and the flock owners to reduce the risk of disease spread to bighorn herds. The District maintains testing records to regularly monitor distribution of domestic sheep and goats in proximity to bighorn sheep. Educational materials have been developed to inform flock owners of things they can do to help.



Goat herd in Asotin County being tested for *M. ovi*. Results showed herd is *M. ovi*-free.

Key Partners

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife; Idaho Department of Fish & Game; Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife; Washington Wild Sheep Foundation; Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation; Oregon Foundation of North American Wild Sheep

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Develop plans for instream habitat projects identified in the Asotin County Conceptual Restoration Plan to be implemented in 2020. Material sourcing for these projects will come from forestry-fuel reduction projects.
- ▶ Assist livestock owners with manure application to improve soil health.
- ▶ Continue writing and implementing agricultural stewardship plans for landowners.



Benton Conservation District

509-736-6000 | mark-nielson@conserveva.net | www.bentoncd.org
Legislative District: 8, 16 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments



Alayne Blicke of Horses for Clean Water led this year's Small Farms Workshop about Firewise™ and pasture and manure management. Photo by Melissa Pierce



Benton County Voluntary Stewardship Program funding was used to install water control structures at Mast Farms to increase floodplain functionality. Photo by Bob Montgomery, Anchor QEA



Expanded Heritage Garden program into Yakima County thanks to funding provided by Ecology and the Municipal Subgroup of the YBIP. Photo by Ann Autrey

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

A Champion for Working Lands and Working Waters

Resource Challenge

The public does not understand the connection between local dams, agriculture, salmon, and local quality of life. The system of dams provides irrigation water, renewable power, efficient barge transportation, fish passage, and flood control. Benton County's \$1.5 billion agriculture and food processing industry, families, and other businesses rely on these dams to generate 80 percent of the electricity used in the County. Without adequate information residents cannot best manage local natural resources.

Project Summary and Results

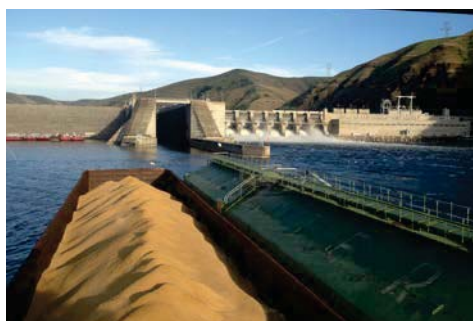
Benton Conservation District (BCD) rallied over 50 organizations to educate the public at an event called RiverFest: Our Rivers, Our Way of Life. BCD facilitated the event, bringing leadership, technical expertise, and partnerships to the lengthy process of planning, coordination, and communication. Power utilities, agricultural commodity groups, and ports participated. BCD recruited other agencies, non-profit and conservation groups, businesses, recreationists, and volunteers. Over 3,000 people attended, learning how wisely managed rivers can become working waters, providing multiple benefits.



A young RiverFest attendee shows off his built transmission tower in front of a renewable energy exhibit. Photo by Bonneville Power Administration

Key Partners

Pasco Chamber of Commerce; Washington Grain Commission, Idaho Wheat; Oregon Wheat; Washington Potato Commission; Benton and Franklin PUD; Ports (Whitman, Pasco, Benton, Walla Walla); Columbia-Snake River Irrigators; Lamb Weston; Shaver Tugboat



A wheat barge approaches a dam's boat lock from downstream. Photo by Tidewater Barge Lines

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Implement the Badger Coulee Groundwater Nitrate Centennial Grant.
- ▶ Continue working with the Department of Ecology's Air Quality Division to address PM10.
- ▶ Continue working with landowners to develop conservation plans and best management practices for the Voluntary Stewardship Program.



Cascadia Conservation District

509-436-1601 | mikec@cascadiacd.org | www.cascadiacd.org
Legislative District: 12 Congressional District: 8

Other Accomplishments



Cost share for irrigation upgrades helps conserve water and maximize crop efficiency.



Bureau of Reclamation's Rolling Rivers stream model at Women's Service League Touch a Truck event to benefit homeless/poor youth.



Volunteers help students start seeds for their school garden.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

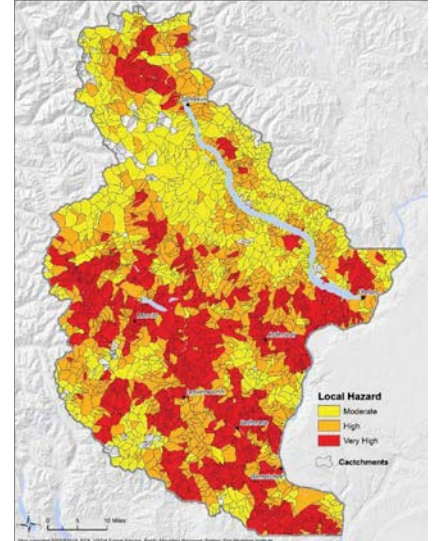
Becoming Fire Adapted

Resource Challenge

Dramatic pictures of flames consuming a hillside against a darkened sky will grab headlines, but the reality of forest health and wildfire work at the local level is much less sensational, and every bit as important. Our entire region ranges from moderate to very high wildfire risk. In addition, over 80 percent of the land in Chelan County is publicly owned — and much of it is forested. Our partnerships to address wildfire are not only productive, they are essential to the future of our communities.

Project Summary and Results

Cascadia's forestry program offers free wildfire risk assessments, chipping events, brush disposal days, Firewise™ Community and technical assistance, educational materials, post-fire assessments, and cost share. Like forest roots, our other efforts are seldom seen but vital to success, such as our contract management support for the Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration on public land. We're also working with research agencies and local fire practitioners to share expertise and build capacity to become more adapted and resilient to wildfire.



All of Chelan County is at moderate (yellow), high (orange), or very high (red) wildfire risk. Map courtesy of USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station



Key Partners

Resource Conservation and Development Council; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Ecology; State Conservation Commission; The Wildfire Project

Left: Forestry Program Manager Patrick Haggerty explains fire history in tree growth rings at a Kids in the Forest field day.

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Secure funding to expand education and outreach programs to K-12 students county-wide.
- ▶ Secure technical assistance funds to cultivate one-on-one relationships with landowners, and deliver consistent cost share for irrigation upgrades, water conservation, forest health, and upland habitat projects.
- ▶ Provide cost share and support for 100 Acre Healthy Woods Challenge (group projects for forest neighbors).



Central Klickitat Conservation District

509-773-5823 x5 | lm@ckcd.org | www.ckcd.org
Legislative District: 14 Congressional District: 3

Other Accomplishments

- ▶ Working on phase two of a project started in 2017 along the Little Klickitat River. Additional native plantings and instream habitat structures are scheduled to be installed in Spring of 2020. This project will protect eroding banks, direct flow toward historic side channels, and provide cover for salmonids.
- ▶ CKCD participated in a two-day composting workshop at the local Home & Garden Show, educating local landowners on the importance of utilizing their manure for compost.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Simcoe Acquisition: New Model for Working Lands Management

Resource Challenge

Central Klickitat Conservation District (CKCD) has received funding to acquire land located within the Simcoe Mountains north of Goldendale, Washington. This acquisition is important because it gives CKCD the opportunity to implement valuable management strategies that would otherwise be unavailable under alternative ownership scenarios. It will demonstrate a new model of working lands management and foster many future projects supporting the local economy, natural resources, recreation, and wildlife habitat.

Project Summary and Results

Once the acquisition is finalized, the property will be brought into management under forest and rangeland management plans. This project will maintain and improve this working landscape for its economic and natural resource benefits to Klickitat County and the state. It also will provide the opportunity for public recreation and conservation of natural resources in the Rock Creek and Little Klickitat watersheds. Conservation of natural resources within these watersheds will maintain high water quality, conserve habitat for wildlife, and conserve this valuable landscape in Klickitat County.

Key Partners

Washington State Legislature

The Simcoe Unit offers habitat complexity with multi-aged Ponderosa Pine stands scattered throughout.

Photo by Kaci Bartkowski



Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Work with local schools to educate students on natural resource conservation and opportunities for participation in conservation efforts through volunteer work and careers in conservation.
- ▶ Increase public awareness of Central Klickitat Conservation District programs, services, and staff.
- ▶ Provide education and assistance with Agricultural Conservation Easements.



Clallam Conservation District

360-775-3747 x5 | info@clallamcd.org | www.clallamcd.org

Legislative District: 24 Congressional District: 6

Other Accomplishments

- ▶ Shellfish Program cost share funds were used to help repair two failing onsite septic systems near Dungeness Bay, and four more repairs are in the design phase.
- ▶ One irrigation ditch piping project was completed, and four more are in the design phase for implementation in 2019-2020.
- ▶ Ten new cooperators signed up to request assistance, and 10 conservation plans were completed.
- ▶ US Forest Service Sitkum Road upgrade design was completed, and salmon recovery proposal for implementation was approved.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Sustainable Landscaping Outreach and Education

Resource Challenge

Large lot residential development — common in rural areas — often results in large expanses of lawn, frequent mowing, and the seemingly obligatory irrigation, fertilization, and weed control. These landscapes demand substantial resources and labor, but contribute very little in return for our environment.

Project Summary and Results

Since 1990, Clallam Conservation District has promoted natural landscaping as an alternative to traditional landscaping. In 2004, we began offering courses to coach homeowners through the process of designing more sustainable landscapes. This past year, a whopping 394 people participated in 18 sustainable landscaping courses and workshops we held. In addition, we shattered our record for native plant sales this year with almost 400 orders and nearly 20,000 plants sold.

Key Partners

State Conservation Commission



Landscaping with Native Plants Field Workshop.

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Implement high priority irrigation water conservation projects.
- ▶ Provide cost share funding to help repair failing septic systems.
- ▶ Implement a rainwater harvesting demonstration project in Forks.



Clark Conservation District

360-859-4780 | staff@clarkcd.org | www.clarkcd.org
Legislative District: 14, 17, 18, 20, 49 Congressional District: 3

Other Accomplishments



Oregon Grape in a 625-foot hedgerow on a newly planted hazelnut farm. Photo by Ashley Smithers



Students in a Watershed Stewardship class learn about native plant identification. Photo by Ashley Smithers



Manure storage facility completed on a cattle operation. Photo by Doug Fenwick

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

A Conservation District Rebuilds



Resource Specialist Ashley Smithers discusses land management with Watershed Stewardship class graduates on their property. Photo by Alisha Jucevic, The Columbian

Project Summary and Results

Clark CD set out to secure stable funding through a county rates and charges system (per parcel fee). While we didn't secure rates and charges, the real success story was how our partners banded together to support the work of the District. Through financial support and increased partnership opportunities, Clark CD was able to fill a vacant Resource Specialist position and hire a Stewardship Forester — a position in high-demand by our community, but difficult to find funding for.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife; Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

Resource Challenge

Previous years showed that Clark County needed a conservation district with increased staff and sustainable funding. The goal of Clark Conservation District (CD) is always to provide for the natural resource services needed by our local community. Available grants increasingly didn't mesh well with the needs of the people we serve. Grants often can be bounded by watershed, proximity to streams, and may not include all landowners that need assistance.



Stewardship Forester Jeff Paulson measures the diameter of an old growth tree protected from future harvest.

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Seek funding to expand farm planning, best management practice implementation, and education programs that address water pollution.
- ▶ Write and implement 20 Forest Management Plans.
- ▶ Install a bridge eliminating a fish passage barrier.



Columbia Conservation District

509-382-4273 x102 | tb-ccd@daytonwa.net
 Legislative District: 16 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments

- ▶ Continued Soil Health Ph/micro-nutrient monitoring through testing.
- ▶ Initiated the Touchet River Geomorphic Assessment and Conceptual Restoration Plan.
- ▶ Initiated the update of the Tucannon River Habitat Restoration and Prioritization Plan.
- ▶ Performed salmon habitat instream project maintenance on Project Area 24.
- ▶ Augmented the Little Tucannon Pole Assisted Log Structures Project.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Tucannon River Salmon Enhancement - Project Area 28

Resource Challenge

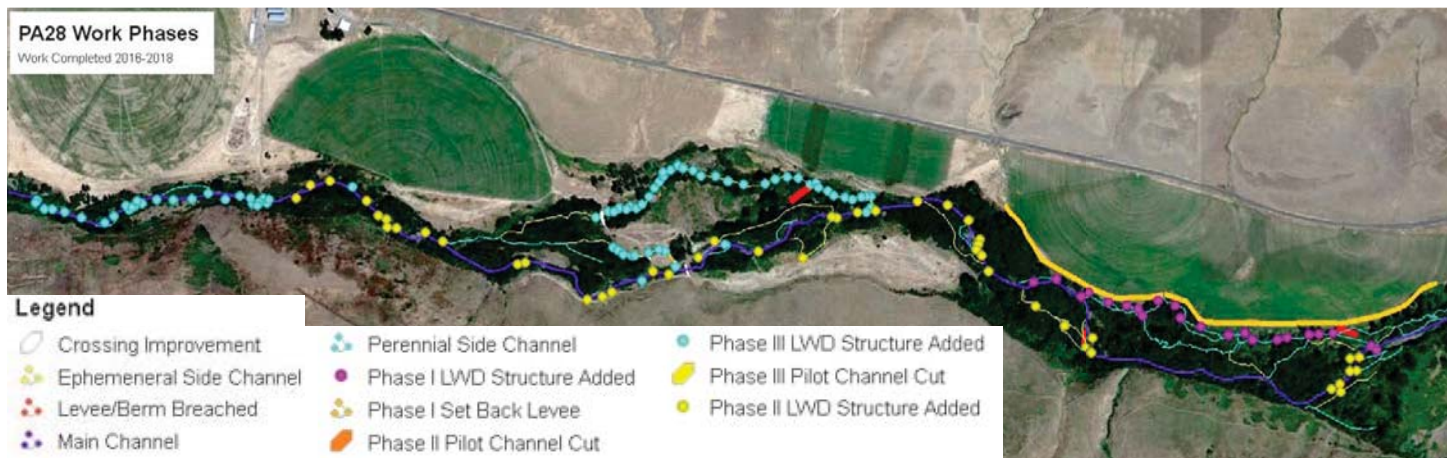
Home to three salmonid species listed in the Endangered Species Act, this project area in the Tucannon River lacked floodplain connectivity, channel complexity, and access to historic channels. Columbia Conservation District is working to increase instream habitat complexity, stream form and function, floodplain connectivity, reconnection of existing historic flow paths, and construction of an offset floodplain levee. Habitat elements increase complexity and capacity for critical salmonid life-history stages while providing protection for agricultural production fields and infrastructure.

Project Summary and Results

The large project scope and scale required phasing over three years (2016-2018). Biological benefits are showing immediately, and newly emergent channel processes are expected over time. Habitat benefiting enhancements include: 3,400-foot offset floodplain levee; 806 large wood logs (rootwads attached) in 93 multi-log and 16 single-log structures; 127 pools created; two floodplain multi-log structures; 41 side channel single-log placements; 1.95 miles of perennial side channels reconnected; 1.6 miles of high flow channels; 4.3 total perennial stream miles; 25 acres conservation grass seeding; and 4,500 native trees and shrubs planted.

Key Partners

Bonneville Power Administration; Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Recreation & Conservation Office; State Conservation Commission; Broughton Land Company



Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Complete the Tucannon River Habitat Restoration and Prioritization Plan Update.
- ▶ Complete the Touchet River Geomorphic Assessment and Conceptual Restoration Plan.
- ▶ Continue with the District Soil Health Program.
- ▶ Support Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program efforts.
- ▶ Continue design work for 2020 instream salmon habitat projects.



Cowlitz Conservation District

360-425-1880 | ccddmgr@teamelect.com | www.cowlitzcd.wordpress.com
Legislative District: 19, 20 Congressional District: 3

Other Accomplishments

- ▶ Designed and permitted another project in the Germany Creek Watershed. This builds on the two project sites featured this year.
- ▶ Developed a conceptual project in the Germany Creek Watershed that was funded through Salmon Recovery Funding Board.
- ▶ Met with three additional landowners interested in pursuing a natural resource improvement project on their farms.
- ▶ These three projects will collectively treat four contiguous miles of Germany Creek addressing all of the resource concerns identified earlier.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Community Watershed Approach Continues



Instream wood structure creates fisheries habitat, improves water quality, and protects streambank so trees can establish.

Resource Challenge

Local landowners have shared their natural resource concerns with Cowlitz Conservation District through many venues. This includes long-range planning sessions, annual meetings, and community watershed meetings. The priority concerns are very similar regardless of the group setting. They typically include flooding and associated property damage, water quality, fisheries resources (salmon recovery), farm viability (timber land and agriculture), and invasive weeds.

Project Summary and Results

Solving priority resource concerns for Cowlitz County requires working on a scale greater than an individual farm. Our community watershed process allows the Conservation District to complete multiple projects that collectively improve resource conditions. Our project area encompasses two adjoining farms — one agriculture and the other a forestry enterprise. The agriculture site included salmon recovery, Conservation Reserve Enhanced Program (stream buffers), livestock exclusion fence, watering facilities, and improved pasture management. The forestry site includes salmon recovery and riparian restoration.



Livestock Watering Facility: Livestock excluded from surface water and riparian vegetation installed.

Key Partners

Salmon Recovery Funding Board; Washington State Conservation Commission (Natural Resource Investments and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program); USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (EQIP); Private landowners

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Complete riparian restoration practices on about 20 acres of stream buffer on three project sites.
- ▶ Successfully plan and fund two river restoration projects (Kalama River and Lewis River).
- ▶ Successfully initiate a Cowlitz River Mitigation project.



Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

509-773-5823 x5 | lm@ckcd.org | www.ekcd.org

Legislative District: 14, 15 Congressional District: 3, 4

Other Accomplishments

- ▶ Held a no-till workshop in June 2019 focusing on the challenges and management of no-till agriculture. The workshop invited residents of Klickitat County to learn about no-till agriculture and how they can integrate these conservation practices into their own operations.
- ▶ Completed a design to remove a levee on Walaluks Creek, which is constricting over 300 feet of the bank. A dynamic natural drainage pattern is prevented by the levee, and salmonid populations are unable to use the floodplain for spawning and rearing habitat.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Rock Creek Eurasian Watermilfoil Management

Resource Challenge

Eurasian watermilfoil is a non-native invasive plant introduced to North America by the aquarium industry. It forms very dense mats of vegetation on the water's surface, impairing water quality, recreation, and native fish habitat. We developed a plan to address the infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil at the mouth of Rock Creek with an objective to reverse negative impacts to stream ecology, improve recreational use, and increase public awareness of methods to prevent further spread of the invasive species.

Project Summary and Results

A steering committee decided to recommend application of the herbicide Renovate® Max G to address the infestation. Renovate® Max G is approved for use in salmon-bearing waters. We installed signage prior to treatment to ensure that potential users were not affected by the herbicide. The Conservation District will continue to monitor and address any recurrence of Eurasian watermilfoil in the next year. This project has resulted in significant improvement of salmon habitat and increased recreational value.

Key Partners

Department of Ecology; Klickitat County Weed Board; Army Corps of Engineers



The mouth of Rock Creek prior to herbicide treatment (left) and one year post treatment (right). Photo by Marty Hudson, Klickitat County Weed Board

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Continue to support the soil health initiative with continuous education and technical assistance with conservation tillage.
- ▶ Participate in the development of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and Klickitat County Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- ▶ Sustain a source of base funding to support district operations and pursue grant funding.



Ferry Conservation District

509-775-3473 x5 | dave.hedrick@conserveva.net | www.ferrycd.org
Legislative District: 7 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments



Assisted a Ferry County landowner in building 3,300 feet of fencing to exclude livestock from a riparian area.



Sponsored two Family Forest Fish Passage Projects that replaced fish barriers, such as this culvert, with bridges.



Sold hundreds of plants at our annual sale, including native trees and shrubs, reforestation trees, fruit trees, and berries.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Republic/Curlew Schools Greenhouse Construction Project

Resource Challenge

Resource-based industries — including agriculture — have historically provided employment for a segment of Ferry County’s local high school graduates. Recognizing the challenge of providing academic offerings for students with an interest in agriculture, the Curlew/Republic School superintendent approached the Ferry Conservation District (FCD) for assistance in siting and construction of a large greenhouse on FCD-owned property. The facility will be used to teach Agricultural Science/Mechanics.



Students from Curlew and Republic Schools put finishing touches on greenhouse to be used for agriculture/horticulture program.



Completed greenhouse with FCD property in the background, some of which will be available for school agriculture program.

Project Summary and Results

The FCD worked with the schools in preparing the site, drilling a well, and laying water line to the greenhouse. Students who assisted with the construction of the building learned invaluable building skills. Interest already generated by the greenhouse project has led to the establishment of an FFA chapter in the Curlew school. The long-term goal is to develop a school run “demonstration farm.” The realization of this goal will be a “win-win,” as the FCD enhances the use of its

property while providing the school districts more opportunity for students to pursue their interests in agriculture.

Key Partners

State Conservation Commission; Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ During the implementation stage of the Voluntary Stewardship Program, the FCD will help landowners implement conservation practices to protect critical areas.
- ▶ The FCD will promote conservation projects that will improve water quality.
- ▶ We will seek funding for our Firewise program to help landowners defend their homes and property from increasingly destructive wildfire.



Foster Creek Conservation District

509-888-6372 | award@fostercreekcd.org | www.fostercreekcd.org
Legislative District: 12 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments



Multiple Species General Conservation Plan: Completed and submitted one site plan, a second is almost completed, and a third is underway.



Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): Implementation underway, work completed on 50K acres, and submitted second year report. Photo by A. Orpet



Completed water quality monitoring under the first of three Ecology grants and sent reports out to landowners. Photo by A. Orpet

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Douglas County Direct Seed Program

Resource Challenge

In a region of low rainfall, highly erodible soils, and plenty of rocks, many dryland farmers in Douglas County actively seek management practices to improve soil health and crop yields. Foster Creek Conservation District (FCCD) provides assistance through funding from the Washington Department of Ecology's Clean Water Program. In 2015, with the first of three grants, FCCD started a cost share program to help farmers afford the transition from high soil disturbance conventional tillage practices to a low disturbance, direct seed system.

Project Summary and Results

The first grant was successfully completed in June 2019. FCCD continues to work with the Department of Ecology to maintain this program through future grants to help farmers implement practices that benefit soil and water health. Since 2015, 27 participants have enrolled in the program, establishing over 7,500 new direct seeded acres. Their new practices provide multiple benefits to the farmer, including reduced operation costs; less soil erosion (wind and water); reduced evaporation; improved soil structure, microbial activity, and water infiltration; and increased organic materials in the soil.

Key Partners

Washington Department of Ecology; Landowners, operators, and farmers



Wheat almost ready for harvest, northern Douglas County.
Photo by A. Ward

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Assist producers who are still recovering from the devastating Grass Valley Fire. Planned services include weed control, re-seeding native grasses, and creating a series of wildfire education modules.
- ▶ Complete development of a Douglas County Cooperative Weed Management Plan, supported by a volunteer steering committee, and provide education programs like "Early Detection, Rapid Response."



Franklin Conservation District

509-416-0440 | mark-nielson@conserveva.net | www.franklincd.org
Legislative District: 9, 16 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments



Our Salmon in the Classroom program reached 20 schools and 1,880 students during the 2018-2019 school year in Franklin County. Photo by Kara Kaelber



Fifteen watering facilities for wildlife were installed through the Voluntary Stewardship Program. Photo by Riley Zionce



Landscaping with native plants allows for 2.67 acre-feet per acre of water to be conserved compared to traditional landscaping. Photo by Heather Wendt

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Voluntary Stewardship Program Supports Agricultural Viability

Resource Challenge

Kris Butcher owns 50 acres of pasture nestled along the banks of a South Columbia Basin Irrigation District waterway. For part of the year, Kris' property is home to 75 heifers who graze this rolling landscape. The property has two out of five critical areas identified in the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP). Kris's concerns for his property included the erosion of the steep slopes along the waterway, seasonal wetlands, and how to better actively manage grazing of the pasture.

Project Summary and Results

The Butcher Project was one of several funded by the Franklin County VSP Workgroup to protect critical areas and agricultural viability in Franklin County. 5,948 feet of exclusion fencing was installed to exclude cattle from the banks of the waterway to prevent erosion. A livestock watering system was installed to provide water to the cattle now that their water source — the waterway — was no longer accessible. 4,347 feet of cross-fencing was installed to assist Kris in actively managing his pastures and to exclude cattle from seasonal wet areas, as necessary.



Butcher site before (top) and after installation of fencing (bottom) as part of this VSP Project. Photo by John Fazio

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission; Kristopher Butcher

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Conduct status reviews of 28 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Stewardship Program contracts, and oversee the implementation of 15 Irrigation Water Management contracts.
- ▶ Partner with the City of Pasco on the design of low water-use landscaping at Fire Station 83.



Grant County Conservation District

509-765-9618 | marie-lotz@conserveva.net | www.columbiabasincds.org
Legislative District: 9, 12, 13 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments



Installation of another lined dairy lagoon near the Adams-Grant County line. Photo by L. Stoltman



Advances and leadership in soil health led to the Grant County CD being featured on the "Soil Health" episode of the show Washington Grown. Photo by M. Lotz



Partnered with Quincy Irrigation District and local landowner to bury an irrigation ditch in pasture preventing contamination and bank erosion. Photo by L. Stoltman

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Preventing Dust and Contaminated Runoff on Feedlots

Resource Challenge

Even the best land stewards can't fully implement a conservation plan in just one year. It may take many years. Camas U., owner of C&G Cattle Co, completes a project each year to work towards completing his plan. His 2019 project was to reduce dust and minimize runoff even more than before. Moving and feeding cows in feedlots stirs up a lot of dust. Old water troughs that don't shut off cause contaminated runoff. Both of these issues contribute to unhealthy air and water quality in local communities.

Project Summary and Results

Because Grant County Conservation District was able to secure funding to help share the cost of the practices, Camas was able to act quickly to construct the conservation projects, which were easy to install and offer high environmental payoff. The challenge was to order and get the equipment to the feedlot quickly.



Inspecting new water troughs at the feedlot. Replacing old, leaky troughs saves water, energy, and prevents contaminated runoff. Photo by L. Stoltman



Improving air quality at feedlots. Spreading wood chips on heavy use areas and watering prevents excessive dust problems. Photo by L. Stoltman

The District and Camas worked together to install mulching in areas of high animal and equipment use, a water station where tankers could be filled quickly, and new water troughs. All these projects make a positive difference in dust control and water quality, as well as water conservation.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission; Voluntary Stewardship Program

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Lead and facilitate Moses Lake Watershed Council.
- ▶ Provide cost share for 12 conservation projects.
- ▶ Update three dairy and one feedlot plans.
- ▶ Complete 50 Voluntary Stewardship Program plans.
- ▶ Present Wheat Week, Trout-In-The-Classroom, and Drain Rangers lessons for 20 elementary classes.
- ▶ Organize Garden Symposium, Sandhill Crane Festival, Farming For Our Future, and Moses Lake Water Coalition.



Grays Harbor Conservation District

360-875-6735 | plutroll@willapabay.org | www.graysharborcd.wordpress.com
Legislative District: 19, 24, 35 Congressional District: 6

Other Accomplishments

- ▶ Staff worked with landowners, state agencies, the Flood Authority, and non-governmental organizations in the Satsop and Wynoochee Watersheds to help with flood, fish, and habitat solutions. Lower Satsop, in particular, has had some catastrophic erosion, of which staff have been working diligently to find solutions. Summer 2019 strategy is now in place, and a first phase is in construction.
- ▶ Continued working with local agricultural producers toward successful implementation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program to protect local critical areas and agriculture.
- ▶ Finished another 30+ Forest Management Plans through our Forestry Program.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Grays Harbor/Willapa Bay Sediment Mitigation Project



Whitcomb Spit lost 700 acres of prime shellfish farming ground.

Resource Challenge

In Grays Harbor, 700 acres of productive shellfish growing ground has been lost since dredging in 1990 caused excessive erosion and sedimentation accumulation. Sediment issues also are a major issue in Willapa Bay. Both bays are infested by invasive species, adding to sediment issues. All of these issues have adversely affected the industry with an annual loss of revenue in millions of dollars and catastrophic loss of jobs.

Project Summary and Results

Shellfish growing beds need stable tidelands for growing shellfish, such as oysters. When certain activities (dredging, flooding, degradation from invasive species, etc.) or environmental conditions (e.g. excess wave energy) occur, excess sedimentation and erosion can have the adverse effect of covering up or wiping out existing shellfish growing beds. Shellfish growers can no longer use their growing beds when this occurs. Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties and the two local conservation districts have teamed up and partnered with others to identify new management practices that will solve these issues.



Our goal is to help safeguard shellfish farming, the health of the bay, and Port of Grays Harbor shipping needs — a win-win solution.

Key Partners

Washington Capital Budget Funds; State Conservation Commission

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Continue successful implementation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program by getting 25 Individual Stewardship Plans completed and 10 practices on the ground, including the newly acquired No-Till Drill for rental.
- ▶ Work on hiring an Education/Outreach Specialist to connect natural resource groups and schools with natural resource producers.
- ▶ Start construction on the Hoquiam Tidal Plain Project.



Jefferson County Conservation District

360-385-4105 | info@jeffersoncd.org | www.jeffersoncd.org
Legislative District: 24 Congressional District: 6

Other Accomplishments



Manure management system for a cattle operation improving water quality in Quilcene Bay.



Stormwater management and livestock watering tank for a sheep operation improving water quality in Discovery Bay.



Part of the 5,000 feet of fencing installed on a cattle ranch to improve water quality on two salmon-bearing streams.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Fish Passage Barrier Removal on Naylor's Creek

Resource Challenge

A small culvert under a private road was preventing salmon from returning to spawning grounds on Naylor's Creek. Jefferson County Conservation District gained the property owner's approval to replace the culvert with a bridge.

Project Summary and Results

Jefferson County Conservation District secured funding to purchase and install a 40-foot bridge and contracted with a small Olympic Peninsula construction firm to make the improvements.

Because of the improved salmon habitat value on Naylor's Creek, Jefferson County Department of Public Works was awarded \$200,000 for the removal of three fish barriers upstream of the project. When complete, this will create two and a half miles of barrier-free, high-value salmon habitat.

Key Partners

State Conservation Commission; Recreation and Conservation Office's Family Forest Fish Passage Program



Naylor's Creek fish passage barrier before (left) and after removal (right).

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Provide livestock technical assistance to a backlog of customers referred by county agencies and non-governmental organizations.
- ▶ Install two working buffers on Chimacum Creek.
- ▶ Assist agriculture producers with drought resiliency improvements through cost share and other funding sources.



King Conservation District

425-282-1900 | district@kingcd.org | www.kingcd.org

Legislative District: 1, 5, 11, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48 Congressional District: 1, 7, 8, 9

Other Accomplishments



Partnering with Burien and the University of Washington to monitor invertebrates in beach sediments after armor removal to assess its effectiveness. Photo by Jason D. Toft



Partnering with a Boeing team who volunteers at the KCD Native Plant Nursery tending native plants for habitat projects. Photo by Nikki Wolf



Supporting Lake Alice residents in organizing a chipper day to reduce wildfire fuels on their properties and update their fire plan. Photo by Mark Dostal

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Empowering Individuals to Address Orca Crisis

Resource Challenge

The Southern Resident Killer Whales of Puget Sound are struggling. Malnutrition, polluted waters, and stress from local boat traffic are negatively impacting these iconic creatures. Lack of awareness of how people can contribute individually and collectively is a hurdle to improving conditions for orcas. Rivers and streams that once supported the salmon the orcas depend on for food face over-development and depletion of streamside vegetation.

Project Summary and Results

On November 10, 2018 conservation districts across the Puget Sound region held events that brought people together to work on projects that help our struggling orca population. King Conservation District (KCD) hosted a volunteer planting event on Vashon Island. Over 35 volunteers came to help. Most had never heard of CDs before, including Girls Scouts Daisy/Brownie Troop 41706 from Auburn. Vashon-Maury Island Trust partnered with KCD to do the planting on a property along Judd Creek, which bisects one of Vashon Island's two salmon-bearing creeks. The volunteers worked with KCD's Conservation Corp crew to plant an astonishing 1,000 trees and shrubs in four hours.



Girl Scout Daisy/Brownie Troop 41706 helps plant 1,000 trees and shrubs on Vashon Island. Photo by Nikki Wolf



Key Partners

Vashon-Maury Island Trust; Puget Sound Conservation Districts Caucus

Left: Volunteers pitch-in to restore a five-acre property owned by the Vashon-Maury Land Trust on a cold November day.

Photo by Nikki Wolf

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Work with stakeholders to develop and fund our next five-year strategic plan to ensure our work is responsive to the needs of our communities and reliable in its delivery.
- ▶ Develop a toolkit, based on our successful work restoring native vegetation in backyards, for cities to use in developing their own backyard health programs.



Kitsap Conservation District

360-204-5529 x113 | kcd@kitsapcd.org | www.kitsapcd.org

Legislative District: 23, 26, 35 Congressional District: 6

Other Accomplishments



Provided training on cisterns (larger scale versions of rain barrels) to interested citizens and Stream Stewards.



The GRACE Garden Project on-site at the Conservation District office teaches conservation methods, low-flow irrigation design, and season extension techniques.



Our Rain Garden Program provides green stormwater practices to landowners.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Sharing Costs of Conservation Improves Farms and Water Quality

Resource Challenge

Intensive farming on small acreages requires strict efficiency by the farmer. It also can lead to problems of manure management, erosion control, and polluted stormwater runoff. Verified by windshield surveys, Kitsap County has 2,561 small farms. This land use contributes to water quality challenges. While many landowners intend to farm in an environmentally safe way, there still are those who lack knowledge and the tools to protect water quality. Best Management Practices (BMPs) mitigate this exposure.

Project Summary and Results

Skilled staff from Kitsap Conservation District (KCD) can assist landowners at any stage of their farm development or management. Coupled with the ability to share the costs of BMPs that may not otherwise be affordable, KCD provided financial and technical assistance to high-priority farms to clean up and manage livestock waste, stormwater, and soil erosion.

Seventeen small farms with problems ranging from enforcement conditions to prevention strategies received funding through programs funded by the State Conservation Commission. In total, KCD directed \$829,494 to technical assistance and installation of BMPs to correct pollution issues.

Key Partners

State Conservation Commission; Kitsap County



Top: Livestock holding area before KCD provided financial and technical assistance for BMPs. Mud and manure were uncontrolled in this area.

Bottom: Same site after construction of a Heavy Use Area. This BMP prevents mud and runoff and allows clean-up and safe storage of manure.

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Develop demonstration site for energy conservation for small farms.
- ▶ Cultivate climate resilience on Kitsap farms.
- ▶ Promote orca-friendly practices to farmers and landowners.



Kittitas County Conservation District

509-925-3352 x201 | a-lael@conserveva.net | www.kccd.net

Legislative District: 13 Congressional District: 8

Other Accomplishments



659 acres converted to more efficient sprinkler irrigation with funding from the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) and State Conservation Commission.



Protected fish by providing screens for four irrigation diversions with RCP and Bonneville Power Administration funds.



Organized the 18th annual Elementary Agriculture Appreciation Day in April including all the 3rd grade classrooms in the county.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

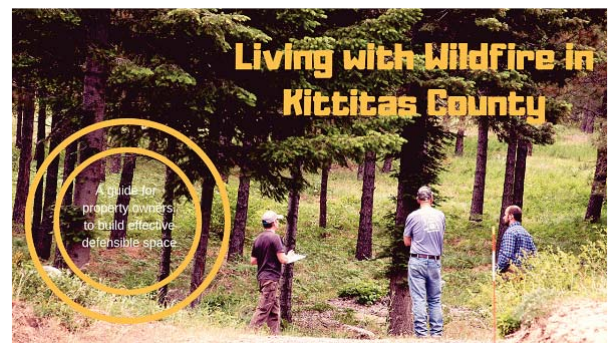
Building Fire Adapted Communities

Resource Challenge

Large wildfires in Kittitas County are increasingly common. The Jolly Mountain Fire in 2017 threatened communities along Lake Cle Elum down to Ronald, Roslyn, and Cle Elum as well as the Teanaway. Hundreds of homes were on a level 2 evacuation notice for several days, and the smoke impacted everyone in the County for weeks. Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) is part of the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition (KFACC) who are working together to improve our community's understanding of wildfire.

Project Summary and Results

During the Jolly Mountain Fire, social media was an effective communication tool. The same platform was used to premier three videos while the fire experience was fresh in everyone's minds. Two of the videos were published in late 2018 and early 2019. They provide instructions on how to prepare for a fire by creating and maintaining defensible space around homes and how to plan for an emergency evacuation. Both videos starred local residents and first responders who shared their experiences. The Facebook posts for these videos were viewed 7,000 times and shared more than 100 times.



This video instructs landowners on defensible space. www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1Y2Hne1y3o



Key Partners

Suncadia Fund for Community Enhancement; Puget Sound Energy Foundation - Powerful Partners; City of Ellensburg Community Fund; Washington Department of Natural Resources

Left: "Ready, Set, GO!" video instructs on emergency planning and evacuation. www.youtube.com/watch?v=uflicipfD5ul&t=2s

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Work with 11 producers to convert 750 acres of cropland from rill to sprinkler irrigation.
- ▶ Contact 150 producers to complete Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) on-line surveys, and assemble custom VSP inventories for 50 producers.
- ▶ Contact 200 landowners through an on-line map for Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition: <https://kittitasfireadapted.mapseed.org>.



Lewis Conservation District

360-996-4560 | bob.amrine@wa.usda.gov | www.lewisconservation.wordpress.com
Legislative District: 19, 20 Congressional District: 3

Other Accomplishments



Forming the walls of a dry stack wall on a structure used to safely store livestock manure. Photo by Nikki Atkins



Newly installed bridge over King Creek. Photo by Kelly Verd



Dry stack for safe waste storage on a horse farm. Photo by Kelly Verd

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Irrigation Fish Screening Project – Phase 2

Resource Challenge

Inadequate fish screens emerged as a problem when the Lewis Conservation District first started working with Chehalis Basin irrigators in 2015. The farmers need to get water on their fields to make a profit, and they also wanted to protect fish from being drawn into pump intakes. The District was able to install 13 fish screens in the first round of this project, many of which were in Chinook-bearing waters. Saving these fish directly benefits our imperiled orca population. We needed to install more screens.



Newly installed fish screen in the South Fork Chehalis River. Photo by Kelly Verd



Newly installed fish screen in the Chehalis River. Photo by Kelly Verd

Project Summary and Results

Some of the early adopters were skeptical about the project. However, they saw that — in addition to keeping fish out — the screens also kept out debris and helped with efficiency. One large acreage farmer was not interested in the program. His son received a fish screen in the first round. After the family saw how well the screens worked, suddenly he was interested and signed up for the program. The District received a grant from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for 15 more screens. The State Conservation Commission provided matching funds, and we were able to install 13 additional fish screens.

Key Partners

State Conservation Commission; Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Install more fish screens in the Chehalis Basin.
- ▶ Implement Aquatic Species Restoration in the Chehalis Basin by starting the early action reaches.
- ▶ Complete more fish passage projects.
- ▶ Continue to spread the word about the Voluntary Stewardship Program.



Lincoln County Conservation District

509-725-4181 x3 | ebowen@wadistrict.net | www.lincolncd.com

Legislative District: 13 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments



Lincoln County Sustainable Water Supply Study, funded by the Office of the Columbia River. Photo by Jeff Schibel



Over 60 years of history archived or donated to the Lincoln County Museum. Funded by the State Auditor's Records Management grant.



Collaborative project with Adams Conservation District with landowners in adjoining counties and partnering with U.S. Fish & Wildlife. Photo by Val Vissia

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Wetland Reserve Program Conservation Easement

Resource Challenge

Too little rain, late-season plantings, hungry wildlife, and bare-root stock created ongoing re-plantings of a 121-acre conservation easement through the Wetland Reserve Program on Crab Creek. The Wetlands Reserve Program offers landowners a voluntary opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD) partnered with the landowner and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to modify planting methods in order to help deliver success at this site.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife installing Beaver Dam Analogs. Photo by Jeff Kuhlmann, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Project Summary and Results

In the last two years, LCCD and partners double-mulched and planted over 15,000 potted trees at this restoration project with excellent results. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife installed 23 Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA) along Crab Creek as part of this restoration. BDAs help streams that have been eroded deep in their beds by building artificial dams that reverse the damage.

Plantings will continue through early spring of 2020 with an additional 5,000 trees. This project is projected to be completed by 2024.

Key Partners

Private landowner; U.S. Fish & Wildlife; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Washington Department of Natural Resources; Airway Heights Correctional Center



Right: DNR Planting Crew, Airway Heights Correctional Center. Photo by Val Vissia

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Wetland exchange project with Lincoln County Roads Department.
- ▶ Continue to secure fire resiliency funding for home assessments, project implementation, education and outreach, and the continuation of our roadside fuel breaks program.
- ▶ Implementation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program.



Mason Conservation District

360-427-9436 | accounting@masoncd.org | www.masoncd.org
Legislative District: 35 Congressional District: 6, 10

Other Accomplishments



Built a constructed wetland and installed native plants to filter nutrients that would otherwise end up in an adjacent creek.



Built a waste storage structure to prevent nutrient runoff that includes drain pipes to capture rainwater for garden use.



Treated knotweed and planted over 32,000 native plants along waterways on 625 acres.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Promoting Sustainable Use to Mason County Youth

Resource Challenge

Educational resources that promote sustainable use, conservation, and restoration in our community continue to be unavailable to our youth. Without access to the types of learning materials that prepare students to be responsible stewards, they will be unprepared to effectively manage the future of our resource-based economy. Mason Conservation District (MCD) bridges this gap by promoting youth education and preparedness through the development of educational materials and by working directly with students in and out of the classroom.



Fifth-grade students exploring the forest.

Project Summary and Results

The District works with multiple stakeholders including the Shelton School District, Green Diamond Resource Company, Pacific Shellfish Institute, Skokomish Indian Tribe, and Pacific Education Institute to develop field experiences that teach students about local natural resources topics and align with state educational standards. By coordinating stewardship actions and providing environmental education opportunities throughout the year, the District taught over 1,100 students about sustainable environmental practices and behaviors.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission (Implementation Grant)



Left: Evergreen Elementary students planting along the Skokomish River.

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Develop five Forest Stewardship Plans, participate in four outreach events, and conduct 20 forestry site visits.
- ▶ Achieve Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Plan implementation targets of increasing operator participation levels by 50 percent, creating 16 new Farm Plans, and protecting more than 30 acres of critical wetlands, 21 acres of priority species habitat, and hundreds of acres of aquifer recharge areas.



North Yakima Conservation District

509-454-5743 x5 | mike-tobin@conservewa.net | www.northyakimacd.wordpress.com
Legislative District: 13, 14, 15 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments



NYCD-funded Fuels Reduction Program: The District sponsored a Conservation Corps crew to use our chipper to reduce fire hazard risk within communities. Photo by Michael Tobin



Established Fish Detection sites within the Wenas Watershed, which is part of salmon recovery and Voluntary Stewardship Program efforts in the watershed. Photo by Michael Tobin



With Yakima County, NYCD is helping to restore large-scale floodplains as part of "Floodplains by Design" and water quality efforts. Photo by Brian Schmidt

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Ahtanum Creek Fish Screening and Floodplain Enhancement

Resource Challenge

The Ahtanum Valley is predominately used for irrigated cropland and pasture. Unscreened irrigation diversions pose grave threats to both adult and juvenile fish that swim into the diversion ditches and become stranded. This south bank diversion was one of the last remaining unscreened gravity diversions in the watershed. Providing a compliant fish screen at this site will protect juvenile fish rearing in the area and migrating adults traveling upstream to spawn.



Constructing the rotary drum fish screen that will prevent fish from becoming stranded in irrigation diversion ditches. Photo by Michael Tobin



Finished headgate and fish screen installed at point of diversion. Photo by Justin Bader

Project Summary and Results

Through the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program, the North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) was able to work with the Yakama Nation and a private irrigator to implement a new rotary drum fish screen that eliminated stranding of fish and at the same time allowed for continued irrigation of agricultural lands. In addition, the irrigation ditch before the screen was modified to help the irrigator divert water to the screen. The second phase of the project will install several log jam-type features in the creek that will improve fish habitat and aid in restoring floodplain function.

Key Partners

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Regional Conservation Partnership Program; Bonneville Power Administration - Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Seek funding to continue implementation of our successful Firewise / Fuels Reduction program throughout the Highway 12 and 410 corridors.
- ▶ Implement our Farmland Preservation Program and partner with the Washington State Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation.
- ▶ Provide technical service for the Yakima County Voluntary Stewardship Program.



Okanogan Conservation District

509-422-0855 | craig@okanogancd.org | www.okanogancd.org
Legislative District: 7, 12 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments



Okanogan River water quality protection project to remove garbage and replant with native species. Photo by Amy Martin



Livestock watering trough reduces impacts on nearby surface waters and improves grazing in the Okanogan Highlands. Photo by Mindy Untalan



Newly installed gutters on a micro-dairy as part of a dairy nutrient management plan project in the Methow Valley. Photo by Allisa Carlson

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Building Fire Adapted Communities in Okanogan County

Resource Challenge

High wildfire risk and significant losses in recent years make fire adaptation a high priority in Okanogan County. Okanogan CD provides a comprehensive Fire Adapted Community (FAC) program to help residents, starting with outreach events and education programs. We provide wildfire risk consultations for homeowners, or community risk assessments for neighborhoods. Recently, we added cost-share funding for “home-hardening” practices that reduce structure ignition risk, and to remove larger diameter trees near homes.



House located in Twisp with wood siding and overgrown vegetation. Photo by Mindy Untalan

Project Summary and Results

We also began offering community chipping programs so that fuels reduction leads to less air pollution. Finally, we train contractors interested in fuels reduction, home hardening, and wildfire response. We have completed 117 Individual home risk assessments, two new Firewise Communities USA, seven chipping events equaling 181,500 pounds of debris chipped, eight home hardening projects, 11 individual fuels reduction plans for work to be implemented in Fall 2019, 12 workshops, and 14 outreach booths at community events. We continue to adapt our program with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Okanogan County Emergency Management.



Landowner participated in a home-hardening cost share program to add three to five feet of gravel perimeter around the home. Photo by Mindy Untalan

Key Partners

United States Forest Service (USFS)
Secure Rural School Act: Title III
Okanogan County Funds; United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/DNR Joint Chiefs Initiative, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network; Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Pollution Prevention Program; Wenatchee Valley College

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Assist irrigators with programs that will improve water use, efficiency, and water quality.
- ▶ Work with Okanogan County to update the Okanogan Watershed Plan to identify water demand and mitigation for domestic water.
- ▶ Continue to work with landowners to improve water quality.



Pacific Conservation District

(360) 875-6735 | plutroll@willapabay.org | www.pacificcd.wordpress.com
Legislative District: 19 Congressional District: 3

Other Accomplishments



Chemical storage and mixing sheds – a new practice opened up through the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) for cranberry farmers' water quality program. Photo by Courtney Hagain



Crib and cover – a reliable practice for cranberry farmers. Photo by Courtney Hagain



VSP has become a “go-to” program in Pacific County helping all agricultural producers! Photo by Megan Martin-Aust

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

North Cove “Wash-A-Way” Dynamic Revetment Project

Resource Challenge

Shoreline erosion has been a disastrous problem for the North Cove community for over 100 years. Two-by-six square miles of land has been devoured by the ocean. If nothing was done, erosion would have continued until it engulfed State Route 105. This would have resulted in a loss of hundreds of acres of homes and the valuable cranberry farming ground that stretches from Willapa Bay to Grays Harbor. Historic dredging and riprap armoring are believed to have contributed to changing drift currents and sediment transport.

Project Summary and Results

This project represents a new approach to addressing erosion at the site and emulates natural process along the upper Washington coast and Oregon coast. Work consisted of placing cobble against the existing erosion scarp to create a porous, dynamic revetment. The revetment dissipates wave and tidal energy by allowing individual rocks to move and absorb the wave energy, rather than deflecting energy like a typical revetment. The dynamic revetment helped protect existing vegetation and beach sands from scour/erosion during storm events. Large woody debris was installed to help reduce lateral erosion.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission; Drainage District; Pacific County; Local Citizens WECAN; Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe; North Willapa Harbor Grange; Grayland Cranberry Association; Washington State Departments of Transportation, Ecology, Parks and Recreation, and Fish and Wildlife



North Cove – before.



North Cove – after. Photo by Mike Nordin

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Continue to provide Forestry Technical Assistance to 10-20 small forest landowners.
- ▶ Provide cost-share funds for eight to 16 livestock, dairy, cranberry, and shellfish producers.



Palouse Conservation District

(509) 332-4101 | palousecd@palousecd.org | www.palousecd.org
Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments



30 volunteers participated in restoring riparian habitat for Orca Recovery Day, enhancing downstream water quality. Photo by Catherine Belme



As a foundation for sediment deposits, woody debris is installed behind this bank stabilization project. Photo by Emily Novack



500 Spalding's Catchfly plants are planted on Steptoe Butte, one of the largest known Palouse Prairie remnants. Photo by James Riser

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Big Conservation in a Small Canyon Stream



Assessing the stream. Photo by Anthony Hatcher

Resource Challenge

Tucked in the steep canyon walls of the Snake River Canyon, a meandering stream that serves as an oasis to migrating Snake River steelhead, has seen a transformation as livestock and road development have dominated the landscape. Cattle grazing, stream bank erosion, and runoff from heavy use areas for livestock has affected water quality for downstream habitat and motivated the landowners to seek help from the district.

Project Summary and Results

In an effort to isolate the impacts of cattle grazing in riparian habitat and improve water quality, 8,000 feet of livestock exclusion fencing was installed along the stream corridor. In partnership with the Washington State Conservation Commission, the District was able to provide financial assistance to install the fencing, and develop a long-term heavy use area protection and stream crossings that will maintain the viability of the landowner's cattle operation. The District will continue working with landowners and agency partners along this Snake River tributary to implement practices that help livestock producers and migrating steelhead.



Fencing installed with funds from the Conservation Commission and Department of Ecology. Photo by Jodi Prout

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission; Washington State Department of Ecology

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Develop a modeling tool to measure the effectiveness of conservation practices at a watershed scale.
- ▶ Capture voluntary efforts of the agricultural community through an interactive map to protect critical areas with the Voluntary Stewardship Program.
- ▶ Conduct a watershed assessment to engage producers in improving water quality with the National Water Quality Initiative.



Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District

(509) 648-3680 ext. 109 | palouserocklake@gmail.com | www.prlcd.org
Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments



Awarded a National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Urban Ag Grant for new Endicott Community Garden. Construction of site is currently underway. Photo by Andrew Wolfe



Installed 33.5 acres of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) riparian buffer on nearly one mile of Cottonwood Creek with over 15,000 native plants. Photo by James Schierman



Installed 14 acres of CREP riparian buffer on over a quarter of a mile of Downing Creek with 8000 native plants. Photo by James Schierman

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Resolve Kamiache Creek flooding issues that have caused damage to Ewan residential property, county roads, and adjacent farm land.
- ▶ Address flooding caused by Rebel Flat Creek east of the town of Endicott that threatens to undermine the newly constructed railroad track for the Endicott grain terminal.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

GPS Precision Guidance System Grants



GPS unit with rear facing camera for visual inspection to ensure equipment is operating correctly and accurately. Photo by James Schierman

entering streams and ground water.

Project Summary and Results

Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District (PRLCD) offered an equal amount of grant funding to each producer to purchase equipment that would make their farming operations more accurate and environmentally-friendly. Many producers expressed excitement after testing the newly installed equipment. The results showed no more skips, precise tracking, and less overlap. This funding allowed an opportunity to provide assistance to producers that don't normally request funding or technical help from the District. With more interest than funding, PRLCD intends to offer another round of GPS Precision Guidance System Grants in the near future.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission; Palouse Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Resource Challenge

Financial assistance was needed for producers wanting to reduce soil disturbance, compaction, and excess chemical and nutrient application. With the Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, producers can follow the line of their last pass with accuracy and keep record of important data to eliminate overlapping passes and unnecessary inputs to the field to reduce the cost of seed, fuel, labor, chemicals, and fertilizers. GPS technology helps reduce sediment and pollutants



Automatic valve shutoff controls for sprayer to reduce overspray from overlapping passes. Photo by James Schierman



Pend Oreille Conservation District

(509) 447-1155 | davidm@pocd.org | www.pocd.org
Legislative District: 7 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments



Helping local schools make watersheds concepts into projects. This class helped a landowner with planting 285 willows in one hour!



2,000 White Pine planted in Newport. Project from contract to reimbursement took less than 60 days and was Conservation Commission-funded.



POCD pays for 100 percent of professional engineering services - a critical component in the bank stabilization planning process.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Bank Stabilization in Pend Oreille County



Example of mass bank failure on the Pend Oreille River.

Resource Challenge

Waterfront landowners in Pend Oreille County are growing more concerned as property taxes are rising on parcels that are slowly disappearing. A combination of wave action erosion, dam activity and removal of native vegetation are all contributing to the mass failure of banks on the Pend Oreille River. As banks erode, landowners lose the natural beauty of their property and habitat is degraded.

Project Summary and Results

To better address these resource concerns, Pend Oreille Conservation District (POCD) is partnering with their Public Utility District (PUD) and county offices to provide voluntary landowners with the technical and financial resources needed to make measurable progress. Funding for this effort is provided by the PUD through a five year agreement, and provides the opportunity for up to ten landowners per calendar year to plan, permit and implement bank stabilization practices. In 2019, 11 projects we're implemented, treating over 1500 feet of shoreline.



Bank stabilization practices on Davis Lake. An example of maintaining aesthetics while addressing erosion.

Key Partners

Pend Oreille County Public Utility District; Kalispel Tribe; Pend Oreille County-Community Development Office; Washington State Conservation Commission

Photos by David Marcell

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Improve the bank stabilization project experience by building tools and resources to better manage high volumes of project requests.
- ▶ Secure general partnership agreements with the Washington State Departments of Ecology, and Natural Resources.
- ▶ Work with tribes, non-profits and municipalities to implement a citizen lead air quality monitoring program in Pend Oreille County.
- ▶ Increase our outreach to local farmers through the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP).
- ▶ Exceed our goals and Benchmarks as outlined in our VSP workplan by cataloging previous, current and future best Management Practice implementation throughout the county.



Pierce Conservation District

(253) 845-9770 | info@pierccd.org | www.pierccd.org

Legislative District: 2, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31 Congressional District: 6, 8, 9, 10

Other Accomplishments



Our Farm Team conducted a prioritization to focus our work on nine sub-watersheds that will lead to the greatest impact.



Our Environmental Education programs had a record year, reaching 10,818 K-12 youth with in-class and field based lessons.



Our Urban Tree Program transitioned from a grant funded to a jurisdiction funded program reaching hundreds of residents.

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Secure the first agricultural easement as part of our Regional Conservation Partnership Program.
- ▶ Break ground on South Prairie Creek Preserve Floodplain Reconnection Project.
- ▶ Begin delivering technical and financial assistance under our new Shore Friendly Program.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Orca Recovery Day

Resource Challenge

In August of 2018, Tahlequah (J35) captured the world's attention with her 17-day, 1,100 mile tour of grief with her dead calf. Pierce Conservation District wanted to give people a chance to do something about this tragedy and bring awareness to the work conservation districts do everyday to improve water quality and recover orcas' primary food source, Endangered Species Act-listed Chinook salmon.



Orca Recovery Day was an overwhelming success in connecting people to the work conservation districts do everyday.

Project Summary and Results

Responding to this crisis, in 2018 Orca Recovery Day united 11 conservation districts and 27 other organizations in effort to bring out over 800 volunteers across 17 restoration events and plant over 5,000 native plants. In 2019, Orca Recovery Day grew to a Pacific Northwest region wide event, uniting 109 organizations across 65 events that stretched from British Columbia to Napa Valley, California. All told, over 2,300 people joined us to restore over 33 acres of vital salmon habitat and plant over 17,000 native plants. Our statewide promotional campaign reached over 2 million people, encouraging them to reach out to their local conservation district to find out how they could be part of the solution.



Thousands of volunteers all across the Pacific Northwest came out to support the effort to restore habitat essential to Orca recovery.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission; Milgard Family Foundation



Pine Creek Conservation District

(509) 285-5122 | pinecreekcd@frontier.com
Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments

- ▶ Provided technical assistance to farm operators implementing direct seeding.
- ▶ Provided mapping and GIS services for landowners/operators.
- ▶ Tested a drone for mapping and survey use.
- ▶ Administered an Ag Burn Program through the Washington State Department of Ecology for district operators.
- ▶ Cooperated with Whitman County and neighboring Conservation Districts in implementing the local portion of the Voluntary Stewardship Program, mainly by contacting landowners/operators to inform and educate about the program.
- ▶ Cooperated with Lincoln County CD in Direct Seed Cost Share Program.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Cost-Share Program Protects Water Quality

Resource Challenge

Farmland in our district is some of the most productive and potentially some of the most erosive land in the nation. Such high production usually requires high inputs of chemicals and fertilizers. Conventional application of these inputs combined with the rolling and steep topography can result in runoff of excess chemicals and fertilizer into streams and groundwater. Precision Agriculture (Ag) is getting the right product in the right place at the right time at the right rate.

Project Summary and Results

Partnering with other districts and agencies, we were able to obtain Regional Conservation Partnership Program funding to cost share precision agriculture equipment and technology for five farm operators. The District assisted with cost share applications, evaluation/ranking, technical advice, program administration, and coordinating distribution of funds. These five farmers will now use precise application of chemicals and/or fertilizers on approximately 15,000 acres per year, projected to last at least 10 years, which is a definite benefit to streams and groundwater in the District.

Key Partners

Washington State Department of Agriculture; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Washington State Conservation Commission

Top left: GPS signal antenna on top of cab and control equipment in cab of tractor.

Bottom left: Complex application controls on application equipment behind tractor.



Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Continue Precision Agriculture Cost-Share Program.
- ▶ Re-vamp and obtain funding for the District's Ag Energy Efficiency Program.
- ▶ Continue assisting the town of Oakesdale, WA with flooding issues.
- ▶ Integrate Precision Drone mapping with the District's Geographic Information System (GIS).



Pomeroy Conservation District

(509) 843-5008 | pcdistrict@qwestoffice.net | www.pomeroycd.com
Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments



Open bottomed culvert on Meadow Creek to remove high sediment with the need to cross the creek all year round. Photo by Duane Bartels



Electrical for livestock watering facility on Deadman Creek. A well was drilled and pipeline installed to move livestock from the stream. Photo by Duane Bartels



Frost Free watering trough allows year-round use so livestock no longer need to access Deadman Creek. Photo by Duane Bartels

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Producers Implement Practices that Protect Critical Areas

Resource Challenge

The spread of noxious weeds has been a problem in our district for years. The county weed board has limited funding to help address this problem. This problem has been set as a major resource concern by the Pomeroy Conservation District (PCD) Board of Supervisors in our current Five-Year Conservation District Plan. The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Committee agreed, and we began a program to address the problem. New technology is changing agriculture and we want to assist farmers and ranchers in utilizing this technology and best management practices to stay effective and efficient.



Aerial spraying of noxious weeds. Photo by Duane Bartels



The rewards of a viable agriculture. Photo by Seth Claassen

Project Summary and Results

The Pomeroy Conservation District has used \$82,000 of its 2019 VSP funding to cost share 23 producers with practices in critical areas throughout the county. The funding was used for noxious weed control on over 3,100 acres, residue management practices on 2,000 acres, precision agriculture practices; such as guidance and variable rate control with five producers, livestock feeding and watering systems with three producers, and a pipeline installation with one producer. All of these practices coupled with improved management will help to keep the viability of agriculture in Garfield County.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission; Garfield County landowners

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Utilize funding recently awarded to PCD to upgrade and install 16 of the district's weather stations, which will upload weather data onto the internet.
- ▶ Provide cost-share to landowners with implementation and VSP funds to improve our rangeland with control of noxious weeds.
- ▶ Continue implementing practices for cropland erosion reduction and soil health improvement.



San Juan Islands Conservation District

(360) 378-6621 | sjicd@sjicd.org | www.sanjuanislandscd.org
Legislative District: 40 Congressional District: 2

Other Accomplishments



SJICD has a long history of providing effective cost-share opportunities to local agriculture producers. This is a before photo of a heavy use area on one of our cost-share projects. Photo by Matt Claussen



After photo of the new heavy use area. Photo by Matt Claussen

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

San Juan Islands Forest Health Collaborative

Resource Challenge

The San Juan Islands are a diverse ecosystem that have adapted to fire as a natural and human-induced disturbance process. Over a century of wildland fire suppression and past resource management practices (i.e. timber, agriculture, and mining) have altered plant community succession and resulted in dramatic shifts in the fire regimes and species composition. As a result, some forests have become susceptible to catastrophic wildfire posing a threat to life, property, and natural resources.



McConnell and Coon Islands - San Juan Islands, Wash.
Historic forest conditions on McConnell and Coon Islands. Photo courtesy of Saltwater People Historic Society

Project Summary and Results

In August of 2019, San Juan Islands Conservation District (SJICD) launched the San Juan Islands Forest Health Collaborative represented by local, state, and federal land managers; timber interests; utility providers; conservation groups; and elected officials. This group is working together to obtain the resources and community support to accelerate landscape-scale forest restoration within the islands. The purpose is to advance forest health through transparent actions that reduce wildfire risk and improve fire resiliency, preserve and protect terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat, promote utilization of natural resources, and support the economy.



Forest conditions in 2016 on McConnell and Coon Islands. Photo credit: Washington State Department of Ecology, Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program.

Key Partners

Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network; Bureau of Land Management; Washington State Conservation Commission

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Provide 12 Individual Stewardship Plans (Farm Management Plans) to landowners on the waiting list.
- ▶ Provide cost-share to four landowners for a variety of best management practices to landowners.
- ▶ Provide four Forest Management Plans to landowners interested in conducting thinning and fuels reduction projects.



Skagit Conservation District

(360) 428-4313 | skagitcd@skagitcd.org | www.skagitcd.org

Legislative District: 10, 39, 40 Congressional District: 1, 2

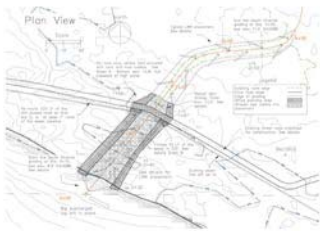
Other Accomplishments



Volunteers sample the Samish River for dissolved oxygen, water temperature, turbidity and fecal coliform levels.



Students participate at the Forest Protection station hosted by the Department of Natural Resources at the 2019 Skagit Youth Conservation Tour.



Detailed grading plan for Skagit Forks wetland reconnection project.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Connecting with Landowners

Resource Challenge

The Skagit Conservation District (SCD) had been experiencing a decline in implementing best management practices (BMPs). There had been massive outreach and education efforts with successful outcomes when the Clean Samish Initiative started. The District was key in social marketing and connecting with the landowners. There continues to be great participation in water quality sampling by over 70 volunteers annually and outreach programs and workshops are still popular. However, we weren't satisfied with BMP implementation addressing bacteria.

Project Summary and Results

The District is focusing on quality customer service. We are providing timely and courteous responses when a cooperators asks for assistance, and we take the time to listen to the customer and integrate their ideas in our recommendations. Our partnerships have grown and the value of our non-regulatory role is increasing with more referrals. The SCD was down to one cost share BMP completed in 2018; however, in the first half of 2019, 13 cost share related BMPs are already completed. Requests for our services are on the increase from our customers sharing their positive experiences.

Key Partners

Landowners; Volunteers; Washington State Conservation Commission; Washington State Department of Agriculture; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Farm Service Agency; Skagit County; Skagit Land Trust



Broken slab (before)



New slab and roof runoff diversion system

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Develop an implementation strategy for the Skagit County Voluntary Stewardship Program through the advisory board.
- ▶ Seek adoption of our Rates and Charges program to hire a forester and fully fund diverse programs identified through post-training/workshop evaluation responses.
- ▶ Continue our efforts to be more involved in water conservation, irrigation efficiencies and super gauge installation.



Snohomish Conservation District

(425) 335-5634 | outreach@snohomishcd.org | www.snohomishcd.org
Legislative District: 1, 10, 21, 32, 38, 39, 44 Congressional District: 1, 2, 7

Other Accomplishments



"Foothills Wetland Preserve" was named by five 7th graders in Monroe to mark restoration work off Hwy 2. Photo by Carson Moscoso



The ClimeTime Initiative helped fund climate change education for teachers, including a video featuring local farmers - <https://snocd.org/climetime>.



Students at St. Mary Magdalen School in Everett learned about stormwater, jobs in engineering, rain gardens and planted their own. Photo by Lily Cason

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Agriculture Resilience Plan

Resource Challenge

"Resilience" is defined as the ability of something to withstand change or difficulties. Farmers have honed this skill - constantly adapting to changes in markets, regulations, and weather over the years. Now climate change has introduced new difficulties. We have already experienced increased temperatures and higher intensity rainfall events. These and other impacts are expected to continue into the future.

Project Summary and Results

Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) is working with our agricultural community to develop an Agriculture Resilience Plan for Snohomish County that will be a road map for adapting to these changes. After securing funding and completing studies on the impacts of the rising sea level and flooding on our farmland, SCD hosted community meetings to share information and ask farmers what they will need to remain viable into the future. The plan represents the highest priority on-the-ground projects of our farming community and will inform the Sustainable Lands Strategy effort to address farm, fish, and flood needs.

Key Partners

The National Estuary Program; Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Community-Based Restoration Program; Stillaguamish River Lead Entity Capacity Funding; Floodplains by Design



The Steering Committee, comprised of 11 Snohomish County farmers representing various types, sizes, and locations of farms, helped develop the Agriculture Resilience Plan that was completed in December 2019.

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Increased tracking of our work with cooperators, and evaluation of the effectiveness of our outreach and educational efforts utilizing Salesforce.
- ▶ Encouraging self-reporting and storytelling through the Conservation Action Map.
- ▶ Tied to our five-year strategic plan, continued evaluation of our staffing and capabilities after key departures.



South Douglas Conservation District

(509) 745-9160 | southdouglascd@conservewa.net | www.southdouglascd.com
Legislative District: 12 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments



Cattle Guard - cost share project



Spring Chipping Day



Orchard sprinkler system update - cost share project

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Windbreak Establishment

Resource Challenge

A new home for a young farming family was built on former wheat ground. No protection from soil erosion caused by wind, no snow management, and no shelter for structures and people were present on the open ground.

Project Summary and Results

Our cost share program was used to establish a four row windbreak with drip irrigation. Siberian pea shrubs, poplars, pine trees and lilacs were planted which will reduce wind and soil erosion, manage snow accumulation, protect the homestead from northwest winds, and provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators.

The windbreak will begin to provide protection within five years. Prior to that, the green plants and drip irrigation will reduce fire danger and provide habitat.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission



Windbreak planted.



Planting a windbreak for future generations.

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Continue to develop a Firewise program in Douglas County.
- ▶ Provide cost share assistance to seven landowners for irrigation upgrades, fuels reduction, erosion control, and best management practices.
- ▶ Expand education and outreach to urban and rural landowners.



South Yakima Conservation District

(509) 829-9025 | office@syacd.us | www.syacd.us

Legislative District: 14, 15 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments



A newly constructed dairy settling basin with a concrete slab for easier clean-out. Manure solids are separated and composted.



Surface/riill irrigated grapes before upgrade to a solid-set irrigation system. Benefits are irrigation efficiency and soil savings.



After: Overhead solid-set irrigation system.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Educational Workshop for Dairy Producers/Applicators

Resource Challenge

Due to new and innovated technologies, agricultural productivity has doubled over the last 50 years along with more regulations to reduce the potential impacts of nutrient losses to surface and groundwater quality. Agricultural producers have a balancing act to maximize their crop production by applying an adequate supply of nutrients while minimizing nutrient impacts to the environment. Conservation Districts can assist producers with the tools and practices needed to decrease losses.

Project Summary and Results

The all-day workshop included 25 participants with six presenters speaking on the following topics: record keeping for the Dairy Nutrient Management Program, how to interpret your soil/nutrient results, types of cover crops specific to Eastern Washington, proper mortality composting, soil health and irrigation efficiencies. When nutrient management follows the “4R” approach for best management practices (right source, right rate, right time, right place) the producer will have improved soil health, better crop performance and decreased impacts to the environment, surface and ground water.

Key Partners

Washington State
Department of
Agriculture



Training workshop to provide all agricultural producers who apply manure to cropland with the tools to protect water quality.

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Provide cost-share to 8 landowners for irrigation system upgrades.
- ▶ Hire a full-time Natural Resource Technician to assist with workload.
- ▶ Update/develop 14-16 Dairy Nutrient Management Plans.



Spokane Conservation District

(509) 535-7274 | info@sccd.org | www.sccd.org

Legislative District: 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments



SCD has initiated Edge of Field Monitoring to compare sediment and nutrient runoff contributions from different tillage operation.



SCD's Commodity Buffer Program is protecting 105 miles of waterways in just three years of enrollment.



The SCD completed 3,200 feet of bioengineered streambank stabilization and 6.5 acres of riparian restoration on Hangman Creek.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

South Spokane Farm Corridor



A young consumer of the South Spokane Farm Corridor and supporter of Vets on the Farm. Photo by Vicki Carter

Resource Challenge

United States Department of Agriculture Census cites that since the 1950s, farmland in Spokane County has decreased from 72 percent to 47 percent of our total land available. In the decade of 2002-2012, it is estimated that Spokane County lost over 106,000 additional acres of farmland. Today, less than 200 acres remain in the city limits of Spokane. Protecting farmland, natural resources, educating the public about our food system and local farming operations is a high priority and the impetus for the formation of this project.

Project Summary and Results

Spokane Conservation District (SCD) has embarked on a new pilot project to bring about awareness, build community, and connect our farmers with our end-user, the consumers. Through programs like the South Spokane Farm Corridor, Spokane is on its way to a more vibrant local food and farm system. Although we live in an area with strong agricultural roots and good soil, local farming remains under-supported. Our goal is to continue to grow additional programs throughout our county bringing together our growers and eaters – each sharing in the mutual benefit of healthy food and a healthy economy.



Members of the South Spokane Farm Corridor: Beth of Snapdragon Flower Farm, and Grant and Duane of Vets on the Farm.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Provide cost-share to 20 homeowners who have had recent Firewise assessments indicating the need for high-impact zone practices to be implemented.
- ▶ Focusing efforts in the Hangman Creek Watershed to work with several stakeholders and 19 different landowners to address erosion, sediment, and streambank stabilization issues.



Stevens County Conservation District

(509) 684-7579 | SCCD@stevenscountywa.gov | www.co.stevens.wa.us/cons_district
Legislative District: 7 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments



Snow Investigations – NRCS snow survey team showing students the elements of snow survey.



SCCD hosts an Annual Forestry Contest where local high school and junior high students participate in a state contest for the FFA.



SCCD coordinated an agency pre-permit site visit for creek restoration project.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Streambank Stabilization and Restoration

Resource Challenge

Marvin Hopp owns two miles of the Colville River. The property is grain farmed and pasture ground. The landowner contacted the district for help with mass wasting and the river taking out the fences and farmable ground. Stevens County Conservation District (SCCD) hired an engineer and identified 21 spots of erosion dumping on average 500 dump truck loads of soil into the river every year impacting water quality.

Project Summary and Results

In 2014, the District included this property in its farm tour showing the need for streambank stabilization to protect the farm ground and improve water quality. Two of the 21 erosion sites were corrected utilizing cost share funding through the Conservation Commission in 2016 and 2018. Root wads, large woody debris, and rock and plantings were engineered and installed to stabilize the bank, reducing erosion and providing fish habitat.

The District continues to work with the landowner to look for funding and new ideas to correct the remaining 19 sites.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission



Site before (top) and after project implementation (bottom).

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Coordinate up to five workshops and demonstration sites that will focus on soil health education to improve crop and forage production, which would increase soil water retention and reduce drought impacts.
- ▶ Promote the Voluntary Stewardship Program in Stevens County.



Thurston Conservation District

(360) 754-3588 x136 | tcdadmin@thurstoncd.com | www.thurstoncd.com
Legislative District: 2, 20, 22, 35 Congressional District: 3, 10

Other Accomplishments



Thurston CD led the implementation of our Voluntary Stewardship Program to increase agricultural viability and assist local farmers.



Attendees of a Grazing and Fencing Systems Workshop at Riverbend Ranch learn about range management and native prairie conservation. Photo by Nora White



Students learn about ocean acidification on field trips lead by South Sound GREEN as part of climate literacy and monitoring efforts. Photo by Stephanie Bishop

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Help 150 producers currently on waiting list for technical assistance, conservation planning and/or cost-share.
- ▶ Apply for and leverage funding to facilitate working lands easement program in Thurston County area, while protecting Endangered Species Act-listed species.
- ▶ Launch local riparian planting landowner incentive program in partnership with Thurston County.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Building a Bridge Between Farms and Fish

Resource Challenge

Degraded culverts on a Delphi Valley farmer's driveway blocked fish passage and stream flow on the East Fork of McLane Creek in the Eld Inlet watershed.

The creek ran the risk of over-topping the driveway, washing out, and further limiting fish passage. The East Fork of McLane Creek supports Cutthroat Trout, Olympic Mud Minnow, Coho and Chum Salmon, and steelhead. The blocked culverts prevented fish from accessing habitat, and jeopardized access to half of the farm property.



A clear before and after of the blockage, and resulting open flow of the creek. Photo by Nora White

Project Summary and Results

The project removed the deteriorating culverts and replaced them with a bridge that fully spans the creek. The bridge allows for fish to move freely while also letting trees and debris move down the creek during winter storm events. The removal of these culverts opened up an additional 1.2 miles of McLane Creek for salmon spawning and rearing of juvenile salmon. Additionally, this small farm has a safe crossing for

equipment and vehicles. Livestock exclusion fencing preceded the bridge installation, while youth field trips to plant a native riparian buffer along the creek followed.

Key Partners

Salmon Recovery Funding Board; Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund (administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office); Puget Sound Partnership



An Olympia Mud Minnow is found during the "fish-out" where fish are removed from the creek during the bridge installation. Photo by Mara Healy



Underwood Conservation District

(509) 493-1936 | info@ucdwa.org | www.ucdwa.org
Legislative District: 14 Congressional District: 3

Other Accomplishments



UCD Firewise landowner assistance project, before fuels reduction work was done. Photo by Nicole Thompson



UCD Firewise landowner assistance project, after fuels reduction work was done. Photo by Nicole Thompson



Building a logjam for salmon and steelhead habitat on Rattlesnake Creek. Photo by Dan Richardson

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

White Salmon Irrigation District Phase 1a Pipeline

Resource Challenge

Buck Creek, a tributary to the White Salmon River, can be flow-limited during the summer, which poses a problem for salmon and steelhead that are recolonizing the stream since the removal of Condit Dam. Buck Creek provides water for the City of White Salmon and to the White Salmon Irrigation District, a group of nearly 100 landowners. Underwood Conservation District (UCD) has been involved in helping coordinate the piping of the irrigation system, conserving nearly 2.5 cubic feet per second of water for fish in Buck Creek.

Project Summary and Results

Over the last decade, UCD has worked with the irrigation district to plan a project that saves water for Buck Creek, while also providing safe fish passage and improving the irrigation system. UCD led the planning, design, permitting and funding efforts, and finally the first phase of work was built in the late summer of 2018. More than 5,000 linear feet of 18-inch high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe was installed, along with a new water filter and water meter. In summer 2019, the remaining 3,000 linear feet of pipe will be installed along with a fish screen and fish passage in Buck Creek.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission; Washington State Department of Ecology



Installing the filter. Photo by Carly Lemon



Installing 18-inch HDPE pipe. Photo by Carly Lemon

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Completion of Phase 1b for White Salmon Irrigation District, which will save water for Buck Creek and provide safe fish passage for salmon and steelhead recolonizing the stream.
- ▶ Complete design and permitting for the Stabler Bend Side Channel Project.
- ▶ Funding and implementation of robust Small Farm, Forest Health, and Firewise programs.
- ▶ Design planning for Buck Creek habitat improvement.



Wahkiakum Conservation District

(360) 795-8240 | ccdmanager@ccdandwcd.com | <https://cowlitzcd.wordpress.com>
Legislative District: 19 Congressional District: 3

Other Accomplishments

- ▶ Designed two projects, permitted three projects, constructed one project in the Skamokawa Creek Community Watershed.
- ▶ Designed three projects and permitted one project in the Elochoman River Community Watershed. WCD plans to construct all three in 2020 hydraulic window.
- ▶ Treated knotweed in the Elochoman River Community Watershed. This project includes the entire watershed to the presumed upper extent of the invasive weed.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Community Watershed Project Ongoing



Looking upriver into the CREP buffer. We are attempting to enroll recently acquired land into the program.

Resource Challenge

Addressing watershed community high priority resource concerns, including water quantity (flooding), water quality, salmon recovery, farm viability, and noxious weeds without dedicated funding as been a challenge. The landowner contacted Wahkiakum Conservation District (WCD) over ten years ago concerned for senescing alder in the river buffer and signs of streambank instability. We have been working collaboratively for the last ten years attempting to develop a solution.

Project Summary and Results

The project merged funding from a wide range of sources to address the landowner’s resource concerns. Unfortunately, funding requirements do not always allow for sequencing of a project in the most logical and effective way. WCD worked with the landowner to establish a riparian buffer and were able to secure partial funding from the State Conservation Commission’s Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for the river restoration. A second river restoration opportunity presented itself which the district was able to successfully obtain additional funding for. WCD leveraged the river funds with landowner contributions and capital project funds from the Washington State Conservation Commission.



WCD held a Legislative Tour of the project.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission; Salmon Recovery Funding Board; Washington Coast Restoration Initiative; landowner

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Construct three projects in the Elochoman River Community Watershed.
- ▶ Construct two projects in the Skamokawa Creek Community Watershed.
- ▶ Continue treating knotweed in the Elochoman River Community Watershed.



Walla Walla County Conservation District

(509) 956-3777 | information.cd@wwccd.net | www.wwccd.net
Legislative District: 16 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments



Installed two fish screens on irrigation systems to protect endangered salmon.



Presented information about soil erosion and conservation at 11 community events, 16 elementary classes, and six college classes.



Restored portions of Garrison Creek at two middle schools

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

McCaw Phase B Restoration on the Touchet River

Resource Challenge

The endangered Steelhead salmon use this river as habitat and feeding grounds but conditions were less than ideal. Each year the river moved and washed soil into the Touchet River. After 15 years, over three acres of streamside trees and valuable farm ground was lost. The landowner worked with the Walla Walla County Conservation District for more than a decade to design and construct log structures to create a fish-friendly river.

Project Summary and Results

The project involved installing 23 log structures. These structures helped slow the river, reduce erosion, and develop pools for fish. The benefits include a more resilient river and increased habitat for fish.

"I couldn't be happier with the project and working with the conservation district." - Jack McCaw, landowner



Log structures add habitat components to improve habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed salmon on the Touchet River. Photo by Lisa Stearns



Crews planted over 3,000 willow whips that will grow and shade the river. Photo by Lisa Stearns

Key Partners

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office; Washington State Conservation Commission; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Provide cost-share to remove three fish passage barriers on Russell Creek to open up five miles of habitat.
- ▶ Provide technical assistance to five of the 38 landowners currently on a wait list for stream restoration and flood prevention projects.



Whatcom Conservation District

(360) 526-2381 | wcd@whatcomcd.org | www.whatcomcd.org

Legislative District: 40, 42 Congressional District: 1, 2

Other Accomplishments



WCD started an Equipment Loan program to support Whatcom county farmers, further gaining trust through relationship building.



WCD worked with 33 landowners to restore 190 acres of riparian habitat and remedy 10 fish passage barriers on priority streams. Photo by: Gabriella Mednick, Whatcom CD



WCD completed a pollution source characterization project by collecting 27 different fecal types to build a reference catalog.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Whatcom Clean Water Program: Shellfish Success Story



Recognizing and highlighting leaders of farm stewardship, like Western Waves Dairy, promotes conservation behavior. Photo by Gabriella Mednick

Project Summary and Results

The Whatcom Clean Water Program (WCWP) was formed in 2012 to coordinate the work of local, state, tribal, and federal agency partners. Leveraging funding, expertise, and legislative priorities, the WCWP is a comprehensive, data-driven pollution prevention program that has led to the upgrade of nearly 1000 acres of commercial and tribal shellfish harvest since late-2016, with another 765 acres expected to be upgraded by late 2019. As a key partner, WCD is the lead for technical assistance, data coordination, and education and outreach to landowners in Whatcom County.

Key Partners

Whatcom County Departments of Public Works, and Health and Development Services; Washington State Departments of Agriculture, Ecology, and Health; Washington State Conservation Commission; Lummi Nation; Nooksack Indian Tribe; Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Province of British Columbia

Resource Challenge

Portage Bay, Birch Bay, and Drayton Harbor are significant shellfish harvest areas valuable to the Lummi Nation, Nooksack Tribe, our community, and our many visitors. While nearly 1000 acres have been opened over the last three years, many remain closed seasonally. All are vulnerable to closure from bacterial contamination given our high rainfall and large number of septic systems and livestock in their respective watersheds. Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) has been involved since their initial closures over two decades ago.



Paramount to the voluntary stewardship program is the Farm Speaker Series where peers and experts share knowledge each month. Photo by Michele Bennett

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ A mobile monitoring unit will be added to the Conservation Practice Effectiveness Monitoring program.
- ▶ Education and technical assistance for irrigators and urban audiences to promote water use efficiency.
- ▶ Implementing Orca Task force recommendations in the Nooksack watershed through riparian restoration, fish passage barrier removal, and fish screens.



Whidbey Island Conservation District

(360) 678-4708 | wicd@whidbeycd.org | www.whidbeycd.org

Legislative District: 10 Congressional District: 2

Other Accomplishments



The goals of a three-generation sheep dairy include “nurturing the land, our family, and our livestock.”



Before: The dairy leveraged a Tilth grant with WICD’s cost-share program to implement best management practices (BMPs) focused on protecting nearby water and shellfish resources.



After: Cost-shared BMPs include installing a livestock waste storage facility and heavy use area protection.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Partnerships Support Local Farm Businesses and Farmland

Resource Challenge

Farmland conversion is an increasing problem on Whidbey Island. Agricultural lands are removed from Current Use at an average annual rate of 3 percent with a total of 20 percent removed since 2010. These lands are at risk of being converted and developed. While Whidbey Island Conservation District’s (WICD) programs and incentives help farmers maintain operations and steward natural resources, a larger network of partners is necessary for farms to ensure their long-term viability and capacity to withstand the pressures of development.

Project Summary and Results

WICD partnered with local farmers, businesses, and organizations to launch the “Whidbey Island Grown” brand and form the Whidbey Island Growers Association (WIGA) as a collective marketing, sharing, and leveraging cooperative for local agricultural based products. Whidbey Island Grown products are now found in local stores and WIGA membership is on the rise. WICD also partnered on a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funded project to connect new and military veteran farmers with resources, mentors, and available farmland at risk of conversion. These efforts are expected to improve farming opportunities and reduce farmland conversion.

Key Partners

Island County Assessment; National Institute of Food and Agriculture/USDA; Washington State Conservation Commission; Organic Farm School; Washington State University Extension; Northwest Agricultural Business Center



Whidbey Island Growers Association members tour a local farm and receive valuable information related to running a successful farm business.



WICD helped launch the “Whidbey Island Grown” brand to market locally produced food and agricultural products.

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Carry out a grant-funded project to promote and support BMP implementation in the Penn Cove watershed.
- ▶ Coordinate development of an Algae Management Plan as an initial step toward minimizing toxic algae blooms in Lone Lake.
- ▶ Continue supporting a local homeowners’ association to explore options for addressing a derelict tide gate through estuarine habitat restoration.



Whitman Conservation District

(509) 288-4644 | brianwhitmancd@gmail.com | www.whitmancd.org
Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments



Snake River Funding Board project on a Steelhead bearing stream provides greater habitat complexity.



Providing wildlife habitat complexity plantings along an eroding bank.



Getting schools involved in the restoration projects provides great outreach throughout the community.

2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Exclusion Fencing and Rotational Grazing Go Together

Resource Challenge

Livestock traditionally had unlimited access to over two miles of river for watering and uncontrolled access to 230 acres of rangeland. The river banks had become compromised in some areas, habitat complexity was minimal, and potential excess for nutrients in waterways was present. The rangeland has become overgrazed and weed pressure is very high without a grazing management plan. The district became involved after seeing non-compliance letters from the Washington State Department of Ecology (ECY) and an interest from the producer.

Project Summary and Results

The District facilitated the producer through the planning process with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, acted as the liaison between ECY and producer, and helped locate contractors for certain aspects of the project.



Exclusion fencing: Good for rivers and creeks because it allows for greater rotational grazing potential.

The livestock now have no access to the river and the original 230-acre pasture has been divided into 13 different pastures. The subdividing of the larger pasture into smaller parcels will allow for rotational grazing where the livestock are moved from pasture to pasture in order for the more palatable plants to rest from being overgrazed, which leads to less weed pressure.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



When pastures are subdivided, more watering troughs need to be installed also.

Photos by Brian Bell

Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ Continue working on riparian habitat projects on approximately four miles of rivers and creeks in Whitman County.
- ▶ Assisting county parks with forest health issues and enhancement of their natural resources.
- ▶ Continue cover crop trials and outreach among dryland wheat producers.

Acronyms

BMP Best Management Practice

BPA Bonneville Power Administration

CD Conservation District

CNMP Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan

CREP Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

CRM Coordinated Resource Management

CTD Center for Technical Development

DNR Washington Department of Natural Resources

DOE Washington Department of Ecology

EPA US Environmental Protection Agency

EQIP Environmental Quality Incentives Program

ESA Endangered Species Act

FFFP Family Forest Fish Passage Program

FSA USDA Farm Services Agency

FY Fiscal Year

IEGP Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program

IWM Irrigation Water Management

LID Low Impact Development

NFWF National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

NRCS USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

OFP Office of Farmland Preservation

PIC Pollution Identification and Correction

RCO Recreation and Conservation Office

RCPP Regional Conservation Partnership Program

RCW Revised Code of Washington

SCC State Conservation Commission

SRFB Salmon Recovery Funding Board

TMDL Total Maximum Daily Load

TSP Technical Service Providers

USDA US Department of Agriculture

USFS US Forest Service

USFW US Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS US Geological Services

VSP Voluntary Stewardship Program

WACD Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WADE Washington Association of District Employees

WCC Washington Conservation Corp

WDFW Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

WRIA Water Resource Inventory Area

WSU Washington State University

Leadership and Staff

2019 SCC Board of Commissioners



Jim Kropf, Chair
WSU Extension



Dean Longrie, Vice Chair
Western region representative (elected)



Perry Beale
Washington State
Department of Agriculture



Larry Cochran
Eastern region representative
(elected)



Harold Crose
Central region representative
(elected)



Jeanette Dornier
Washington Association of
Conservation Districts, President



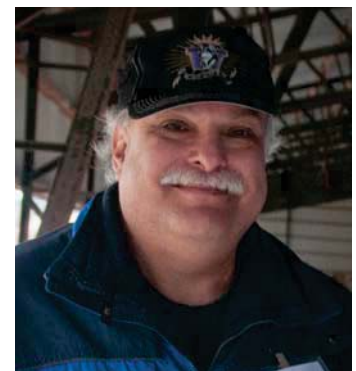
David Giglio
Washington State
Department of Ecology



Julie Sackett
Washington State
Department of Natural Resources



Sarah Spaeth
Governor-appointed,
Jefferson Land Trust



Daryl Williams
Governor-appointed,
Tulalip Tribes

Agency Staff and Organizational Chart

The work of the SCC is carried out by a small and efficient staff.

The majority of our staff is based out of our headquarters office in Lacey, Washington. Some work in regional offices across the state.

Want to learn more about our staff?

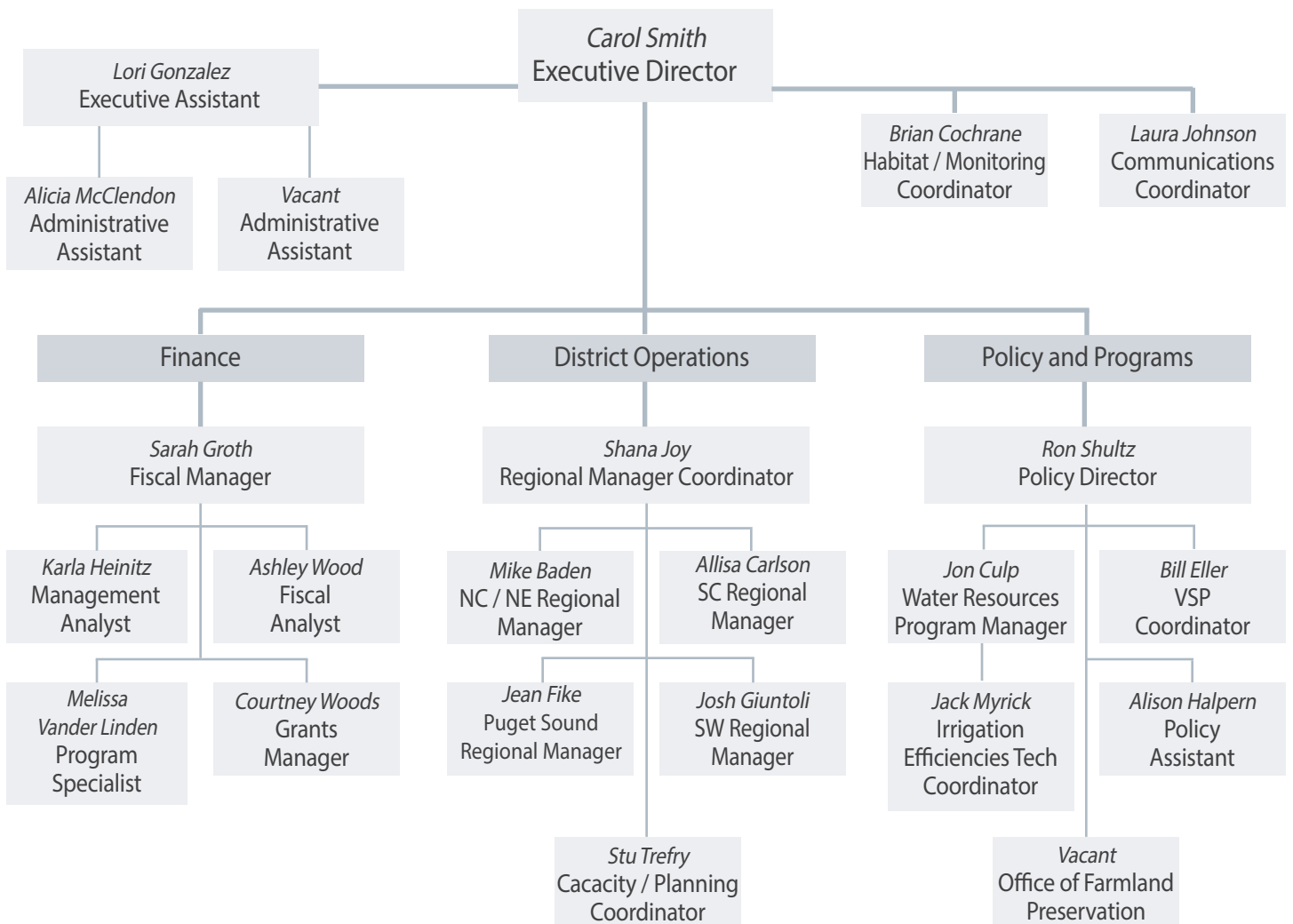
Please visit our website: www.scc.wa.gov/commission-staff

Give us a call!

360-407-6200



Carol Smith
SCC Executive Director



Thank You to Our Partners!

The SCC is proud to recognize the following partner agencies and organizations represented on our Board of Commissioners. Thank you for your leadership and collaboration!

Jefferson Land Trust

Tulalip Tribes

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Washington State Department of Ecology

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Washington State University – Extension

We also want to acknowledge the following agencies for serving in an advisory role at our Commission meetings. We value your contributions and partnership!

US Environmental Protection Agency

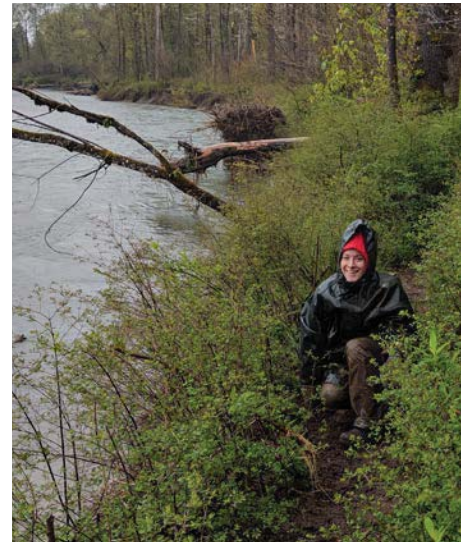
USDA Farm Service Agency

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

The work of the SCC and conservation districts would not be possible without the help of many, many partners, including landowners, tribes, local government, state agencies, federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

Thank you for your support!





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