

Celebrating successful tribal partnerships

- ▶ Tribes are a critical partner helping conservation districts and the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) empower people to care for and sustain natural resources.
- ▶ This partnership advances mutual conservation goals — including salmon and shellfish recovery — and enhances the value of programs and services provided by all.



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
OF WASHINGTON STATE

your window to healthy lands

WASHINGTON STATE PARTNERSHIP EFFORT SPURS NATIONAL TRIBAL OUTREACH GROUP

- ▶ 2013: Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) appoints Tribal Outreach Task Force to increase communication and cultural exchange between tribes and conservation districts.
- ▶ 2015: WACD Tribal Outreach Task Force and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service host two-day tribal relations workshop for Washington conservation districts (sponsored by SCC).
- ▶ 2016: WACD Tribal Outreach Task Force hosts Tribal Session at National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual meeting.
- ▶ 2017: NACD forms and hosts first meeting of the national Tribal Outreach and Partnership Resource Policy Group.

LUMMI NATION AND FARMERS BENEFIT FROM SCC SHELLFISH GRANTS

- ▶ Members of the Lummi Nation depend on Portage Bay for commercial, ceremonial, and subsistence shellfish harvest.
- ▶ Shellfish beds have been closed in Portage Bay for part of the year since 2014 due to elevated fecal coliform levels.
- ▶ The SCC Shellfish Grant Program has funded projects to improve protection of water quality and conditions of shellfish growing areas in Portage Bay:
 - » Whatcom Conservation District received funds for 10 cost-share projects that help dairy farmers install manure transfer and storage systems that prevent impacts to water quality.
 - » The Lummi Nation received a \$150,000 grant to enhance and restore shellfish growing areas.



"This grant is important to the future of our shellfish harvesters and our entire community... it also demonstrates that by working together farmers and the Lummi Nation can accomplish much more than we can independently or by opposition."

- Lummi Indian Business Council chairman Tim Ballew II on receiving an SCC Shellfish Grant in partnership with Whatcom Conservation District



Quote used with permission from:

Bratt, Calvin. (2017, February 8). Farmer-tribe partnership announces two farms to lead water plan process. Lynden Tribune. Retrieved from <http://www.lyndentribune.com>



North Yakima Conservation District helped rancher Jack Field install a solar-powered livestock well and watering troughs on land Jack leases from the Yakama Nation. The watering system and new fencing keep cattle from accessing Ahtanum Creek.

Watch a video about the project: <https://vimeo.com/205969388>

YAKAMA NATION AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT PARTNER TO RESTORE SALMON HABITAT

- ▶ Ahtanum Creek is a tributary to the Yakima River and forms the northern boundary of the Yakama Nation Reservation.
- ▶ The creek provides critical habitat for salmon and resident trout.
- ▶ The Yakama Nation partnered with North Yakima Conservation District to engage voluntary landowner participation in a floodplain restoration project.
- ▶ Projects create in-stream habitat for salmon and help landowners stabilize streambanks.
- ▶ The Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) presented their annual Tribal Partnership Award to the Yakama Nation in 2016.

The SCC has provided over \$75,000 for conservation districts to conduct cultural resource surveys on project sites during the 2015-17 state biennium.

VOLUNTARY EFFORT LED BY CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND TRIBE RESULTS IN UPGRADED SHELLFISH GROWING AREAS

- ▶ 1,700 acres of shellfish harvest area in Dungeness Bay were downgraded in the early 2000s due to high bacteria levels.
- ▶ Clallam Conservation District and the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe led a voluntary effort to identify and fix pollution sources.
- ▶ The conservation district offered cost-share for landowners to repair failing septic systems, install livestock best management practices, and pipe over 21 miles of irrigation ditches.
- ▶ By the end of 2016, this effort resulted in nearly 1,500 acres of shellfish harvest area upgrades in the bay.
- ▶ The WACD presented their annual Tribal Partnership Award to the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe in 2015.



Clallam Conservation District and the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe have worked together for over 15 years to improve water quality in Dungeness Bay.

Watch a video about their success: <https://vimeo.com/205970871>



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