

Connecting People to Conservation



Washington State
Conservation Commission

2013 Annual Report

CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR	1
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR	2
WHO WE ARE	3
MEET THE COMMISSION	3
MEET THE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS	3
WHAT WE DO	5
INCENTIVE-BASED CONSERVATION	5
OUR PROGRAMS	6
POLICY ENGAGEMENT	8
OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND TOURS	10
WHY IT WORKS	11
WE’RE EFFICIENT—GETTING THE MOST OUT OF EVERY DOLLAR	11
WE’RE EFFECTIVE—MAKING AN IMPACT ON THE GROUND	13
WE’RE ACCOUNTABLE—SETTING STANDARDS FOR SUCCESS	13
CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUCCESS STORIES	15-61
ACRONYMS	62
WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION STAFF	63-64
COMMISSION MEMBERS	65-66

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Jim Peters, Commission Chair

What are the benefits of taking a voluntary, incentive-based approach to conservation in Washington State? This 2013 Annual Report certainly demonstrates the measurable, on-the-ground impacts of the approach. However, it's more difficult to measure another key benefit of voluntary conservation, which is its ability to promote stewardship.

Stewardship is more than just the planning and management of the environment. It's about fostering or rekindling a relationship between landowners and land users with the natural resources of our state. This relationship requires an exchange. We depend on natural resources for our health, food, culture, recreation, economy, and transportation. In turn, natural resources depend on us to understand, support, and enact certain protections that conserve resource sustainability and ecologic function. Establishing this relationship often requires direct, positive experience between person and place.

The system for conserving Washington State's natural resources consists of two major parts: the regulatory approach and the voluntary, incentive-based approach. Both approaches are vital to the success of conservation efforts and must work together to accomplish resource goals. However, the voluntary approach provides a platform for the direct, positive experiences that encourage long-lasting stewardship. As Chair of the Washington State Conservation Commission, I am proud to work with and support the 45 conservation districts in our state that are not only achieving conservation results but also are building a citizenry of stewards.

As we look to the years ahead, there will always be more conservation challenges on the horizon, often coupled with challenges to budget needs and capacity-building. But, as conservation districts continue to get work done and engage Washington landowners, districts will also be fostering the stewards who will drive conservation efforts in the future.

Thank you for your on-going support during my service as Chair. I'm proud to be part of this community.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Mark Clark, Executive Director

I value many things about my role as executive director of the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC), but one benefit of the job really stands out—I get to witness the collective, statewide impact conservation districts are making towards natural resource protection. That’s why I’m so proud each year to present our agency’s annual report. It demonstrates the work conservation districts are doing every day, in all corners of Washington State. In this, our 2013 Annual Report, I’m pleased to again share a snapshot of accomplishments that we—the SCC and Washington’s 45 conservation districts—have achieved this year.

I want to recognize all the conservation districts for their on-going commitment to this work. You are the link that turns our state’s investment in conservation into real, measurable results on the ground. On behalf of the SCC staff, I want to thank you and offer my

congratulations for all your achievements. I’d also like to thank other partner agencies and organizations that we’ve worked with this year. Your collaboration and support are invaluable.

Over the past 12 months, the SCC worked hard to improve our services and increase conservation districts’ and landowners’ capacity to address local and state natural resource priorities. Here are some of our agency achievements:

- Our Office of Farmland Preservation facilitated a series of meetings across the state that covered a variety of topics, including open space taxation, agricultural conservation easement funding, and information for new and beginning farmers.
- The SCC sponsored three all-district “2021” work sessions to discuss the path forward for our future conservation services and voluntary, incentive-based program delivery.
- Our financial staff increased our payment processing efficiency by instituting monthly payment requests, requiring districts to establish EFT (electronic fund transfers), and allowing districts to scan and deliver voucher payment requests via email.
- During the 2013 session, the legislature provided funding for two initial counties to implement the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), which is administered by the SCC. In the 2014 session, the SCC will request supplemental funding for an additional five counties.
- We continued to provide guidance on conservation district elections and appointments, and SCC staff gave a presentation about our district election procedures and policy at the National Association of State Conservation Agencies Annual Meeting.

In 2014, the SCC will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. With that in mind, I encourage those reading this report to remember that—while there are many success stories in this report—this publication only shows one or two examples of work being done in each conservation district this year. Now imagine the impact we’ve made conserving Washington’s natural resources over the course of nearly 75 years.

Again, thank you to all the conservation districts, and keep up the great work!

Who We Are



Mission:

To lead the citizens of the state in the wise stewardship, conservation, and protection of soil, water, and related natural resources

MEET THE COMMISSION

The Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC)—together with 45 partner conservation districts—empowers citizens to protect their natural resources with incentive-based conservation programs and support. Our programs are voluntary. Over the last 74 years, this voluntary approach has earned us the reputation as the non-regulatory, agency-of-choice for private landowners.

Our work addresses and integrates two levels of conservation directives:

1. Statewide natural resource priorities (targeted, large-scale efforts, such as restoration of Puget Sound), and
2. Local, landowner-driven projects (projects that citizens initiate on their property, such as installing livestock exclusionary fencing or energy saving measures on a farm).

By addressing both state- and landowner-driven conservation goals, we help citizens become active and informed participants in the effort to protect Washington's natural resources, while at the same time ensuring progress on natural resource concerns at the state level.

The Commission consists of a ten member governing board representing conservation districts, other state agencies, and Governor appointees. SCC staff carries out the direction of the board, provides direct service to conservation districts, and coordinates the work of the Commission and districts with local, state, federal, and tribal agencies.

For more information, visit the SCC website: <http://www.scc.wa.gov/>.

MEET THE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

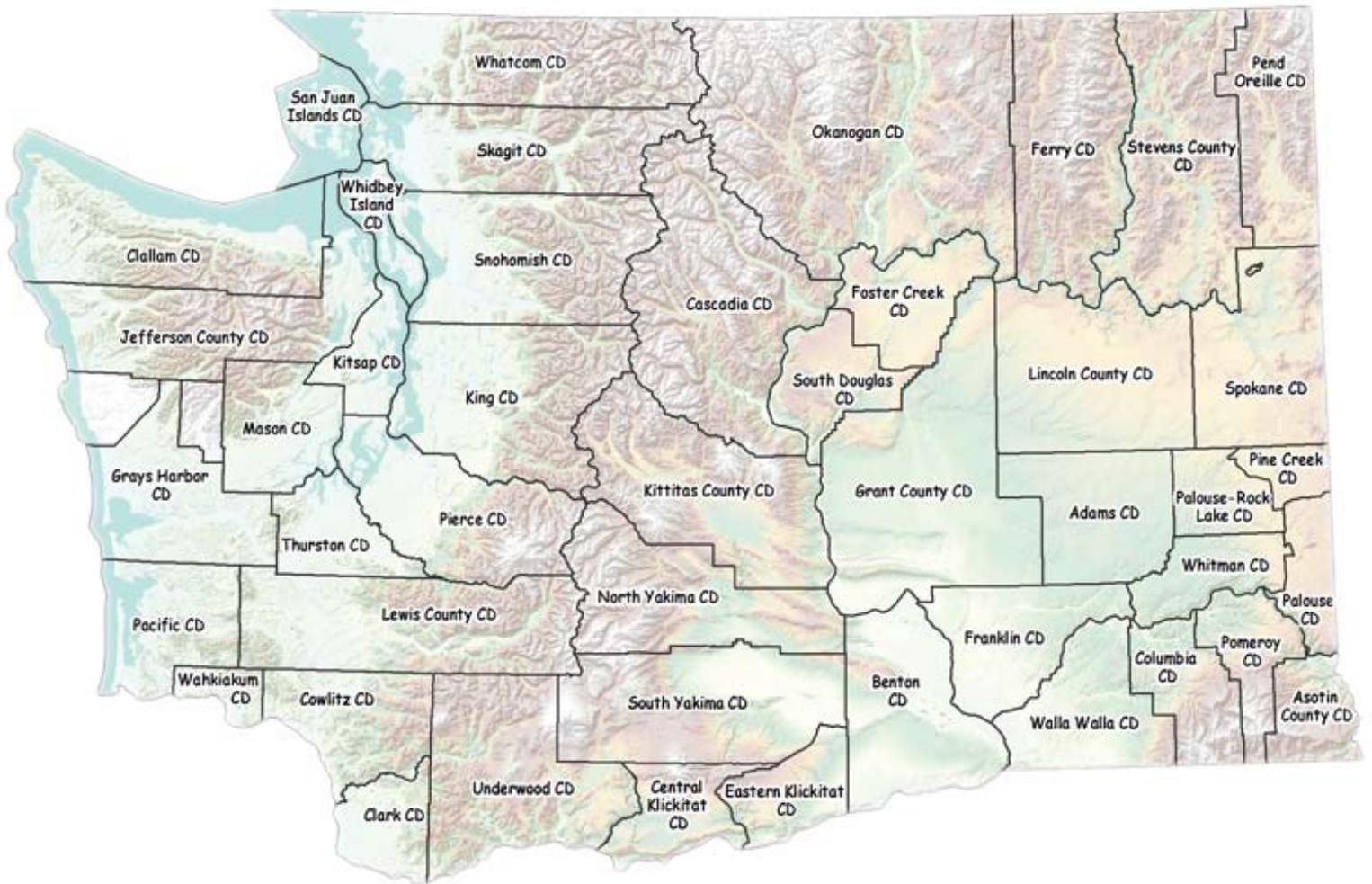
Conservation districts turn state investment in natural resource protection into local action on the ground. Districts provide financial and technical assistance to landowners who voluntarily adopt wise land use practices that serve broad conservation goals. With 45 conservation districts implementing projects statewide, that adds up to a major, on-the-ground impact for resource conservation in Washington State.

Each conservation district is directed by a five-member board of supervisors. Three members are elected locally, at least two of whom must be landowners or operators

of a farm. The SCC appoints the remaining two members, including at least one landowner or farm operator.

The legislature adopted the statute enabling conservation work in Washington in 1939 (see Chapter 89.08 of the Revised Code of Washington).

Conservation District Map



Washington State has 45 conservation districts

What We Do

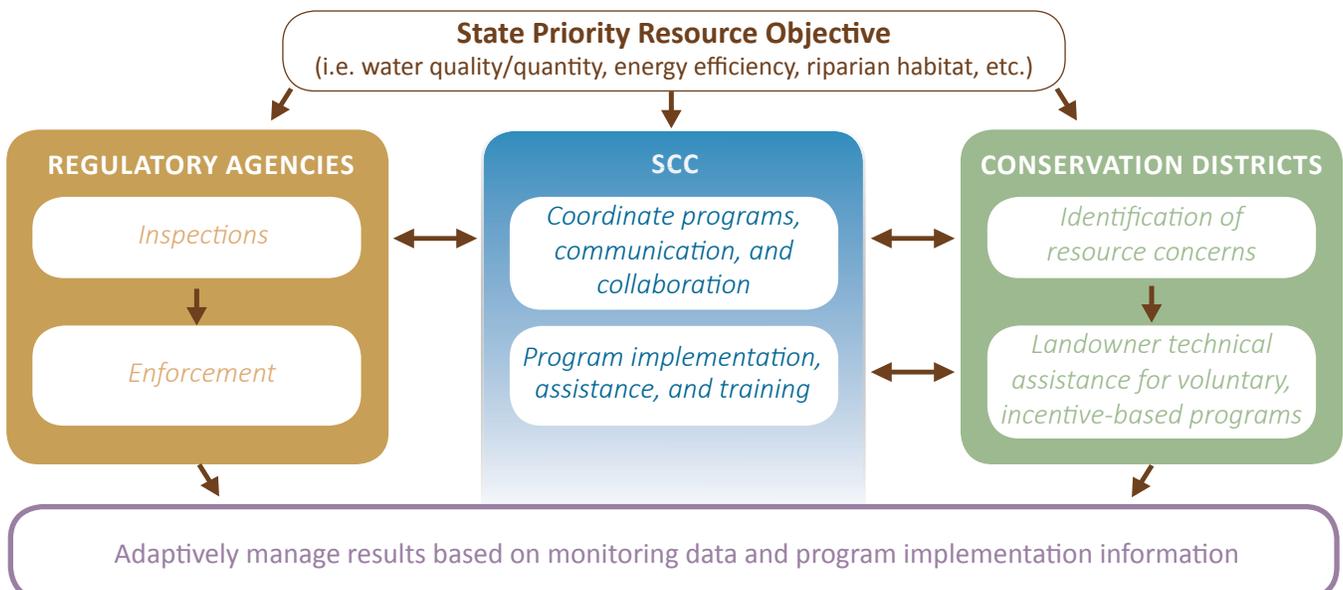


INCENTIVE-BASED CONSERVATION

The system for conserving Washington's natural resources takes a two-pronged approach: the regulatory approach and the incentive-based approach. The SCC seeks to coordinate these two approaches to target and address resource concerns, and the conservation districts implement the incentive-based approach.

Incentive-based conservation not only yields measurable results, it also:

- *Accelerates voluntary compliance.* Many Washington citizens are interested in adopting wise land use practices, but limited time and money may prevent them from taking next steps. Our incentive-based programs provide funding and support that help willing landowners put their interest in conservation into practice.
- *Encourages open communication.* Without the threat of regulation, landowners feel comfortable reaching out to us to find resource-friendly solutions for their land use issues.
- *Builds bridges between public and private interests.* By enrolling in SCC and conservation district programs, landowners experience the benefits of public-private partnerships. We reward landowners who adopt wise land use practices, and in doing so create positive working relationships that open doors for more collaborative conservation work in the future.



OUR PROGRAMS

The SCC offers a suite of financial and technical assistance programs that conservation districts use to implement on-the-ground conservation work:

SCC Grant Programs

- *Capital Cost-Share Investment:* Provides grants for capital projects that result in long-term conservation investment, boost the local economy, and create jobs within each conservation district. In FY 13, the legislature appropriated \$5 million to the SCC to create natural resource jobs. As a result, 451 jobs were created.
- *Implementation:* Funds a range of conservation district priorities, including general operations, district elections, and implementation of cost-share programs with local landowners. Cost-share programs funded through this grant are used to implement best management practices listed in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide for Washington State.
- *Livestock Technical Assistance:* Funds technicians at the conservation district-level who work with livestock owners to develop, implement, and update their farm plans to better control soil, water, air, plants, and animals at their facility. The majority of this work is done on facilities with less than 50 acres and less than 100 animals, which can include cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, llamas, and others. It takes technicians an average of six gate visits with the farmer or producer to complete each farm plan.
- *Professional Engineering:* “Clusters” of conservation districts who have similar natural resource issues apply for funding to hire and share the services of a professional engineer. Engineers provide oversight to district planners and technicians and help implement a variety of projects, including fish passage improvement, stream bank stabilization, and low impact development (LID) practices. The SCC currently funds 12 engineers who cover 9 “clusters” that represent all 45 conservation districts.

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Our incentive-based programs provide funding and support that help willing landowners put their interest in conservation into practice.

(What We Do: Our Programs, continued)

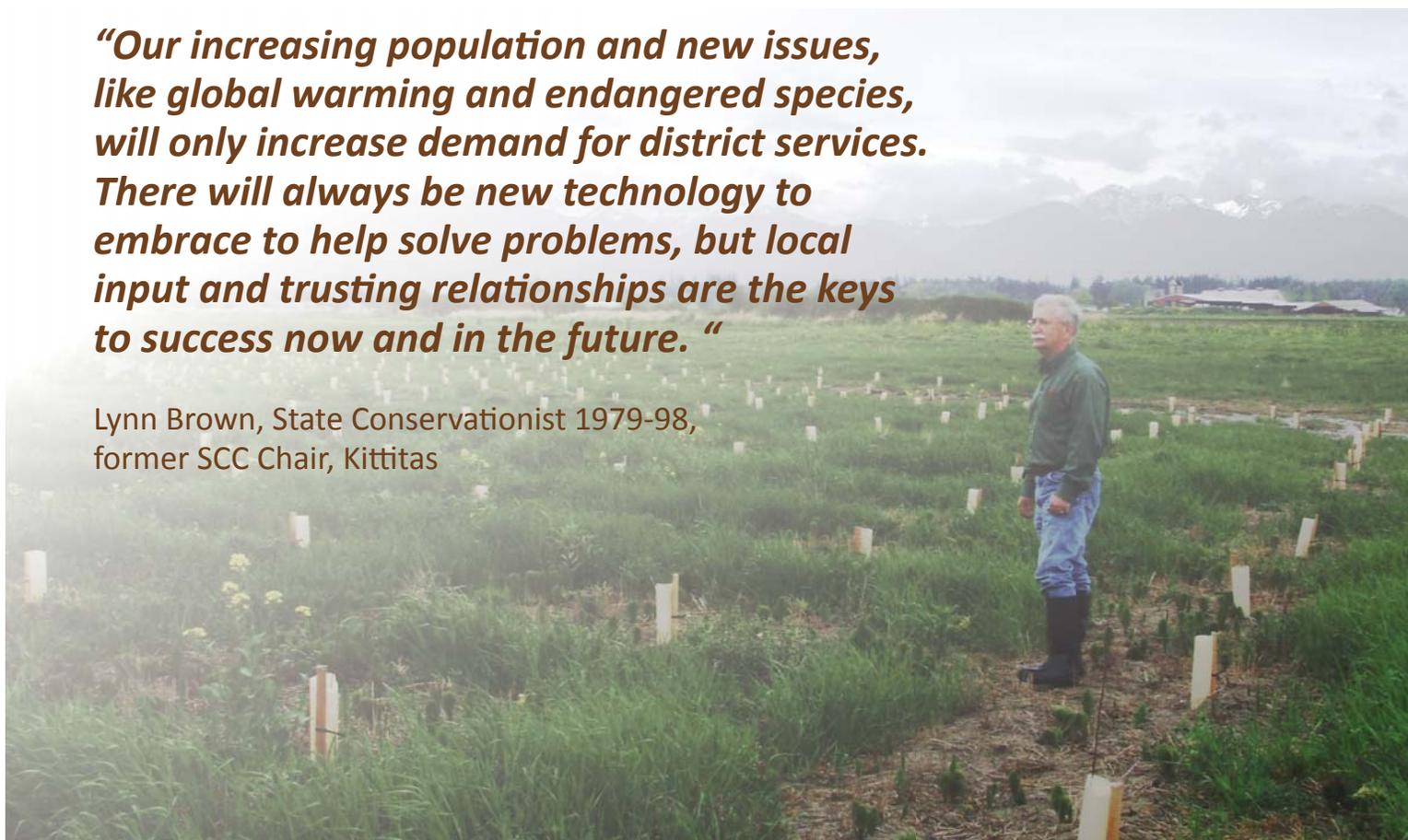
Grant Programs Co-funded / Co-administered by the SCC)

- *Community Firewise*: Promotes local solutions that help communities and individuals prevent and respond to wildfires. Firewise funds cost-share programs with local landowners for implementation of fire prevention practices and fire recovery, as well as public workshops, risk assessments, and fuel reduction projects. In response to the 2012 Taylor Bridge Fire near Ellensburg, 55 landowners signed agreements with the Kittitas County Conservation District to implement Firewise practices, and as of 2013, 30 of those landowners have already started and/or completed those practices. *Partners*: WA Department of Natural Resources and Skagit Conservation District.
- *Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)*: Restores riparian (streamside) habitat for salmon and protects that habitat for 10-15 years. The SCC administers CREP funds and monitors projects. CREP projects cover 13,662 acres along 735 miles of stream, likely the largest riparian restoration program in Washington State. *Partners*: USDA – Farm Service Agency.
- *Critter Pads*: Funding for man-made, raised-earth plateaus that provide escape and safe containment for livestock during flood events. In the Chehalis River Basin alone, completed critter pad projects have the capacity to protect over 1,400 livestock from flooding. *Partners*: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the WA Office of Financial Management.

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“Our increasing population and new issues, like global warming and endangered species, will only increase demand for district services. There will always be new technology to embrace to help solve problems, but local input and trusting relationships are the keys to success now and in the future. “

Lynn Brown, State Conservationist 1979-98,
former SCC Chair, Kittitas



- *Irrigation Efficiencies*: Private landowners work with conservation districts to increase the efficiency of on-farm water application and conveyance delivery systems. The water saved is used primarily to enhance stream flows in 16 drought-critical basins throughout Washington. To date, the program has issued 57 cost-share agreements with a total annual water savings of 15,500 acre feet at 64 cubic feet per second. *Partners*: WA Department of Ecology.
- *Technical Service Providers (TSP)*: SCC facilitates task order agreements between the NRCS and conservation districts for implementation of the Farm Bill program. Districts use funding to implement Farm Bill practices and/or plans—such as constructing roof runoff structures or developing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans—and in doing so help achieve local, state, and federal conservation goals. The SCC leverages NRCS federal funding for TSP with a 50 percent state match. *Partners*: NRCS.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Working with conservation districts and landowners affords SCC staff the opportunity to share the perspectives of Washington citizens with those working on conservation policy, whether at the county courthouse, the state legislature, or Congress and all agencies in between. Over the years we've contributed to many policy initiatives, ranging from food policy to irrigation efficiency. We also work with other conservation agencies—regulatory and non-regulatory—to encourage cooperation and collaboration in administering conservation activities.



As an independent state agency, the SCC also implements several unique programs that utilize coordinated approaches to address natural resource concerns, including:

- *Coordinated Resource Management (CRM)*: Facilitators and/or coaches work with local landowners and natural resource stakeholders to form coalitions that resolve land use and conservation issues through collaborative problem solving. This often leads to effective solutions that generate strong local support. (co-administered by the SCC and a partnership of many state and federal agencies)

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(What We Do: Policy, continued)

- *Office of Farmland Preservation (OFP)*: Established by the Governor and legislature in 2007 to address the rapid loss of working farm and forest lands in Washington. This SCC program identifies the factors contributing to the loss of farmland and recommends policy approaches to stem the loss; supports and sponsors agricultural conservation easements; develops farm transition programs; and, provides technical assistance for the development and implementation of programs and tools that encourage retention of agricultural lands. In 2013 OFP developed a workbook for Washington specialty crop farm succession planning. In 2014 OFP will host a series of succession planning training workshops.
- *Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)*: A component of Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA), this program allows counties to designate and protect critical areas (e.g. wetlands, flood plains, salmon habitat) while maintaining economically viable agriculture. The SCC works with county-designated watershed groups to develop and approve work plans that address critical areas through outreach to landowners and voluntary programs.

The SCC is currently engaged with the following policy initiatives:

- *Agriculture and Water Quality – Director Talks*: Since 2011, these meetings have brought together the directors of Ecology, Agriculture, and the SCC to coordinate the state's best management practices for water quality, nutrient pollution, inspections, and monitoring protocols.
- *Puget Sound Action Agenda*: The SCC plays a key role in implementing near-term actions in the Puget Sound Action Agenda, addressing diverse topics such as an evaluation of incentive programs, implementing ecosystem markets in the Puget Sound basin, and assisting in the development of an agriculture strategy for the region.
- *Salmon Recovery*: The SCC is an active member on the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, and staff serves on the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.
- *Stormwater Workgroup*: SCC staff serve as a key leader in the state's Stormwater Workgroup and the Ag and Stormwater subcommittee, coordinating with others to develop management practices and monitoring protocols to address stormwater inputs from agriculture.



OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND TOURS

While the top priority of the SCC and conservation districts is on-the-ground conservation, we also see education and outreach as a valuable tool for encouraging collaboration, efficiency, and public support for conservation. Our work in this arena is extensive. Conservation districts use SCC funds and support for a variety of events and programs across the state.

The following list shows just a sample of the hundreds of events that the SCC and districts provide and/or contribute to:

- Wheat Week
- Water on Wheels
- Salmon in the Classroom
- Water quality testing workshops
- Mother Earth News Fair
- Air quality tours
- Stream teams
- Soil testing and judging contests
- Field days and demonstration tours
- Forestry land judging
- Small Farms Conference



Why it Works



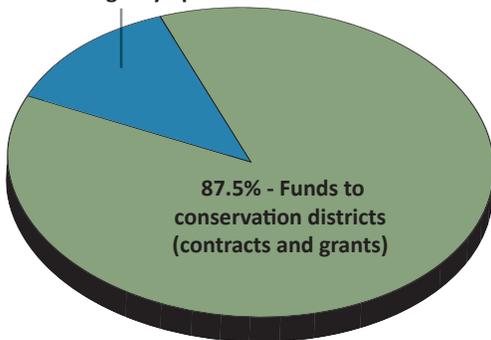
WE'RE EFFICIENT—GETTING THE MOST OUT OF EVERY DOLLAR

The SCC and conservation districts take pride in getting the most out of every dollar we spend. By offering cost-share programs to landowners, we leverage our funds and help landowners maximize their personal investment in conservation practices. In fact, every dollar the SCC invests in conservation district projects is leveraged an average of four times!

State Conservation Commission Budget Spending Staff/Objects/Funds History - Operating and Capital							
	1999-01	2001-03	2003-05	2005-07	2007-09	2009-11	2011-13
Staffing/Salaries:							
Average Annual FTEs	15	16	14	16	22	19	17.5
Objects of Expenditure	(Dollars in Thousands)						
Salaries and Wages	1,406	1,601	1,503	1,692	2,647	2,420	2,175
Employee Benefits	308	321	313	427	728	695	692
Personal Service Contracts	391	655	4	428	430	236	225
Goods and Services	1,023	1,221	802	849	1,046	937	880
Travel	216	222	174	216	375	281	279
Capital Outlays	79	197	124	114	185	3	7
Grants, Benefits, and Client Services	16,390	23,322	18,905	20,575	24,460	17,907	22,959
Interagency Reimbursements	-756	-2,646	-4,268	-5,616	-5,547	-3,139	-2,264
Total Objects	19,057	24,892	17,556	18,685	24,324	19,341	24,953
Source of Funds:							
General Fund-State (001-S)	14,090	19,059	9,582	14,766	16,357	14,031	13,209
State Bldg Constr-State (057-1)	1,732	5,679	7,700	3,630	3,524	2,044	8,293
General Fund-Federal (001-F)	0	10	20	117	528	1,084	1,616
St Tax Bldg Constr-State (355-1)	0	0	0	0	0	1,220	1,760
Conservation Assist-State (552-1)	0	0	253	141	104	266	75
Water Quality Cap-State (11W-1)	0	0	0	0	3,693	667	0
Other Funds	3,236	144	0	31	118	30	0
Total Funds	19,057	24,892	17,556	18,685	24,324	19,341	24,953

\$31,368,743 to districts for conservation work

12.5% - District services and agency operations

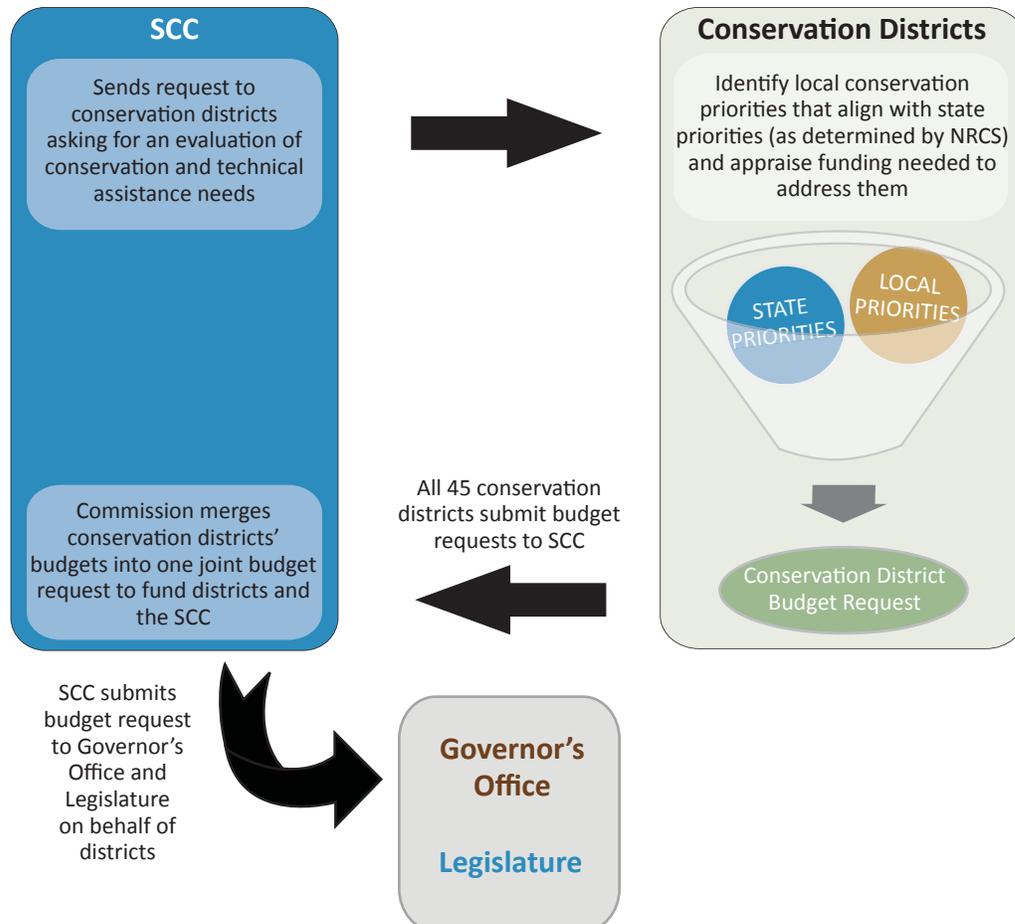


13-15 Biennium Budget Detail, Distribution, and Proposed FY14 Budget

Total appropriations and contracts for 13-15 biennium	Total funds	Funds to conservation districts
General Fund Dollars	14,579,000	11,329,506
Capital Dollars	15,351,000	14,890,470
Irrigation Efficiencies	4,000,000	3,500,000
NRCS Contract	1,000,000	900,000
RCO Easement Contract	476,420	425,000
Specialty Crop Grant	86,856	0
Chehalis Basin CRM	120,000	90,000
OFM Critter Pads	137,867	133,767
Firewise	114,500	100,000
TOTAL	35,865,643	31,368,743
District Services and Agency Operations	(4,496,900)	

Each year our financial staff adopts several efficiency practices. In 2013 we proposed—and the State passed—legislation allowing conservation districts to use Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT) for payroll requests. We also eliminated mid-biennium close on district grants and implemented electronic submittal of annual and long-range plans from districts.

How We Build Our Budget



Every dollar the SCC invests in conservation district projects is leveraged an average of four times

(Why It Works, continued)

WE'RE EFFECTIVE—MAKING AN IMPACT ON THE GROUND

Conservation districts turn the financial and technical assistance they receive from the SCC into real, positive impacts on the ground.

In FY 2013, districts:

- Assisted 8,555 landowners
- Implemented projects that protected 65.5 miles of streams and 256,962 acres of land
- Installed 2,790 best management practices
- Saved 1,258 acre feet of water into trust
- Planted 329,314 trees and shrubs



Performance Measure	Fiscal Year 2012	Fiscal Year 2013
Conservation district grant payments	1,634	2,154
Payment processing days	2.15	2.52
Total conservation district payments	\$8.197 million	\$12.468 million
Total practice installation on private lands	284	180*
Private landowners with installed practices	192	483
Cost-share practice payments to landowners	\$577,604	\$5,323,856
*reflects Commission lifting maximum cost limit per landowner (2013 only, in accordance with State funding directed for natural resources jobs)		

In 2013, State investment in conservation district work resulted in the creation of 451.28 jobs!

WE'RE ACCOUNTABLE—SETTING STANDARDS FOR SUCCESS

The SCC works with conservation districts to define measureable outcomes for every project we fund. We also ensure that projects address issues that have been identified as natural resource priorities for Washington State. When projects are implemented, SCC and district staff monitors progress to ensure work is on target and in compliance with all rules and standards.

We're also accountable when it comes to processing conservation district grant payments. **Our payment processing averages 2.52 days.** This rapid payment assists landowners who must pay for project materials and services up front and then wait for reimbursement.

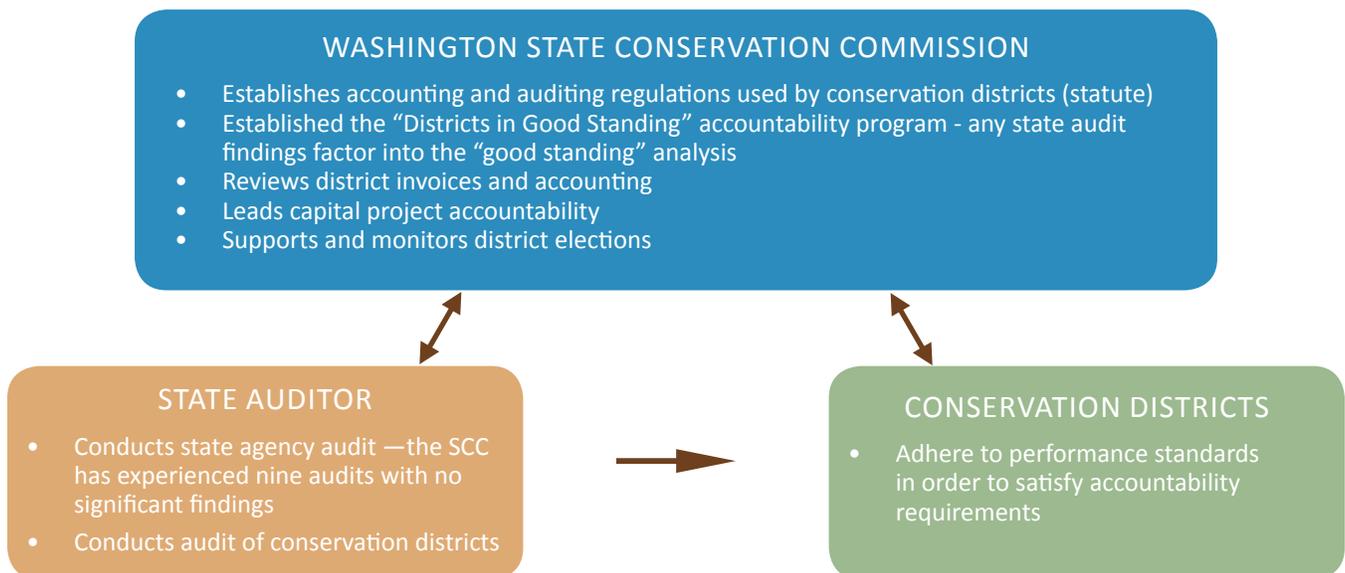
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Our efforts in agency and district accountability have resulted in a successful working relationship with the State Auditor. By statute, the SCC establishes the accounting and auditing regulations used by conservation districts.

Fiscal Year	Number of Payment Requests from conservation districts	Conservation Commission Processing Time (3 FTEs)
FY09	1,355	2.25 days
FY10	1,763	2.24 days
FY11	1,634	2.05 days
FY12	1,677	2.15 days
FY13	2,154	2.52 days

We also implement a “districts in good standing” evaluation tool based on a set of performance standards for districts. Developed by the SCC in 2009, these performance standards serve as guidelines for districts to satisfy accountability requirements. In 2012, the SCC improved this evaluation process by adopting the current Good Governance Policy, in which the SCC states their intention to assist and guide local districts in carrying out programs for resource conservation by:

- Administering fair and transparent performance standards;
- Providing regular feedback to improve district performance;
- Enhancing public confidence in elected and appointed supervisors as well as in district programs and services;
- Ensuring that assistance is available to help districts achieve annual and long-range goals in an effective, efficient, economic, and ethical manner;
- Overseeing impeccable management and stewardship of public funds;
- Assisting districts to engage the public in identifying and measuring desired outcomes; and
- Allocating resources to districts in accordance with demonstrated conservation needs and past performance.



The SCC has experienced nine state audits with no significant findings

Conservation District Success



SEEING IS BELIEVING

With 45 conservation districts implementing on-the-ground projects every day in Washington State, it's difficult to summarize the impact the SCC and our partners have made. This section provides a snapshot of 2013 feature accomplishments—one from every district—as a sample of the vital conservation work being done.

Conservation district pages are listed alphabetically, with a small Washington map at the top indicating where the district is located. Each page includes a detailed feature accomplishment, a sampling of other accomplishments from 2013, a list of more work to do, and district contact information.

s Stories



“One of the biggest accomplishments over the years has been the recognition by agencies and the legislature of who we are and how important our role is in getting work done on the ground.”

- Ron Juris, former SCC Chair and wheat farmer, Eastern Klickitat



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Adams Conservation District

Greg Schuler, District Manager
402 E Main Ritzville, WA 99169
(509) 659-1553 | adamcd@ritzcom.net | www.adamscd.org
Board Chair: Curtis Hennings

Other Accomplishments



5th Grade Field Day at WSU's
Lind Dryland Research Station



Adams County FFA Land Judging
Competition



6th Grade Conservation Essay Contest

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Livestock Watering and Water Quality Monitoring



Livestock Watering - Resource Challenge: Access to a quality water source is imperative to producing healthy livestock. Implementation of off-stream water provides livestock with clean water and minimizes pollution impacts along waterways. Reduced grazing along stream banks allows vegetation to establish. When sufficient vegetation is present it provides erosion control, filters pollutants, helps decrease water temperature, and creates habitat for wildlife.

Project Summary: In 2013 Adams Conservation District (CD) helped provide funding for drilling a well and installing a solar pump system for an off-stream watering site along Cow Creek. This year the District will help the landowner attain troughs and install an additional off-stream watering site.

Water Quality Monitoring - Resource Challenge: Water quality in our county's streams needs to be improved. Impaired parameters include: fecal coliform bacteria, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH.

Addressing Issues: Water quality monitoring of Cow Creek and assessment of riparian vegetation is currently underway. As implementation of exclusionary fencing, off-stream water sites, stream-side planting and rotational grazing practices are installed, we hope to see improvements in water quality. These conservation efforts will also promote livestock health and increase wildlife habitat.



More Work to Do!

- **Soil:** Wind erosion is a large issue in Adams County. Several thousand acres are coming out of the Conservation Reserve Program. Adams CD will continue to provide operators with conservation management options such as direct seeding, windbreaks, and other types of implementation efforts focused on reducing soil erosion.
- **Water:** Our efforts to protect and restore water quality within WRIA 34 continue in partnership with the Department of Ecology.

Asotin Conservation District

Sandy Cunningham, District Manager
720 6th Street, Suite B Clarkston, WA 99403-2012
(509) 758-8012 | sandyaccd@cablone.net | www.asotincd.net
Board Chair: Keith Ausman



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Livestock Impacts Addressed on ESA-listed River/Stream

Resource Challenge: The District began working with the landowner in 2009 to address water quality concerns that were identified by the Department of Ecology. The primary concern was the environmental impacts due to livestock having access to an ESA-listed river and stream. The landowner embraced the opportunities available and has utilized District and Natural Resources Conservation Service cost-share programs, as well as enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and completed a stream bank stabilization project without cost-share assistance.

Project Summary and Results: This project includes 3 CREP projects (2 completed) totaling approximately 50 acres and providing total livestock exclusion from the stream; 11 water developments (5 completed); 3 heavy-use protection areas (1 completed); 16,480 ft. of cross fence (10,580 installed); 16,300 ft. riparian fence (12,100 ft. installed); and 13,000 trees and shrubs (7,500 planted). **This project alone created jobs for 3 people.**

Key Project Partners: Our partners included the WA State Conservation Commission; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Farm Service Agency; Bonneville Power Administration; WA Department of Ecology; and the landowner.



Before project implementation



CREP buffer and plantings installed



Cows in the river



Stream bank erosion



Wood and rock structures installed

Other Accomplishments

- Over \$600,000 was provided in cost-share to improve and conserve natural resources by installing best management practices (BMPs).
- Conducted project tour and presentation during scientific review of Bonneville Power Administration-funded projects.
- Assisted 22 landowners with their fuel reduction efforts and provided over \$80,000 in cost-share.

More Work to Do!

- Provide outreach and education efforts targeting both students and adults: Salmon in the Classroom, workshops, Envirothon, and tours.
- Continue stream temperature monitoring.
- Actively seek additional funding opportunities to achieve our natural resource goals.
- Continue providing technical and financial assistance to landowners to put good conservation projects on the ground.
- Provide assistance to landowners to implement 3 manure management projects for which cost-share funds have been secured from the SCC, Bonneville Power Administration, and the Department of Ecology.



State Legislative District #8, 16
Congressional District #4

Benton Conservation District

Mark Nielson, District Manager
415 Wine Country Road Prosser, WA 99350
(509) 786-1923 x3 | mark-nielson@conservewa.net | www.bentoncd.org
Board Chair: Jack Clark

Other Accomplishments

Administrative Support to Partner Organizations

The Benton Conservation District (BCD) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide administrative support to the Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board. The Weed Board had no active members or management staff and was in peril of being deactivated by the County. The BCD Board recognized the importance of having a functioning weed board and offered to assist by having their management team and financial staff provide administrative support to the organization.

BCD Assists Natural Resources Conservation Service with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

BCD staff conducted field inspections and conservation plans on 120 CRP contracts. The inspections and subsequent plans were to ensure that the plant species and densities met certification criteria for re-enrollment into CRP.



Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

On-farm Water and Energy Conservation Projects Provide Multiple Resource Benefits

Resource Challenge: Water availability for new out-of-stream uses is becoming increasingly difficult obtain. Court rulings regarding Columbia River and Snake River dam operations have reduced water availability for power production. Providing efficient irrigation saves both water and energy. However, Washington water law has not been conducive to water conservation.



Project Summary and Results: During the 2012 irrigation season the Benton Conservation District (BCD) with funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission, provided cost-share funding to implement a water and energy conservation program. 14,625 acres of Irrigation Water Management was implemented, which provided a water savings of approximately 1,985,636,250 gallons or 6,094 acre-feet. BCD has been working with the Washington Department of Ecology and the Columbia Snake River Irrigators Association to implement a program that allows agricultural producers to utilize half of the saved water on additional lands while leaving half of the saved water to remain in-stream for fish and wildlife benefits.

BCD also provided cost-share funds to install a 1,000 horse-power variable frequency drive (VFD) motor on a Columbia River pump station. VFD motors allow for more precise irrigation saving water and reducing energy consumption and thus the need to build more power plants. The new VFD will annually save 646,000 kWh.

Key Project Partners: WA State Conservation Commission; USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service; Benton REA; SC RC&D.

More Work to Do!

A portion of Benton County was included within the Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Area (GWMA). The Benton County Commissioners ultimately decided that this particular process was not in the best interest of Benton County. However, they recognized the importance of implementing a groundwater program within the county. Benton Conservation District will be working with the County and the local Health District to develop a groundwater program with the emphasis on nitrates. Many of the District's current programs (efficient irrigation, nutrient management, small acreage farms, etc.) already result in the reduction of nitrates into the groundwater.

Cascadia Conservation District

Peggy Entzel, District Administrator

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Board Chair: Josh Koempel



State Legislative District #12
Congressional District #8

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Wildfire and Flood Recovery

Project Summary: After the devastating fires in our region in fall 2012, the legislature made funds available to help local landowners through the Conservation District delivery system. Cascadia was able to assist with post-fire risk awareness and recommended actions, as well as the installation of rain gauges to provide early warning and detailed precipitation date. The gauges were installed on public lands in steep drainages above communities most vulnerable to flooding as a result of the fires.



New rain gauge installed with state emergency funding.
Photo courtesy USGS

The work served as match to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Protection program. Ten gauges were placed in locations upstream of potential flood areas. The gauges are maintained by the US Geological Survey (USGS) and tied to the National Weather Service network for monitoring. During a heavy rain event in one of the drainages, the warning system is activated to send alerts to smart phones in the service area, as well as notifications through the regular channels for emergency weather information. Although there is little time to spare between a downpour and the resulting flash flood, those few minutes can allow residents to get out of harm's way and be aware of the danger from sudden, powerful mud and debris flows down the canyons.



Rocks and debris from post-fire flood events are prevented from filling and damaging culverts with trash racks.

Existing radar detection was limited for the area, and ineffective for monitoring current conditions or predicting rain events. The gauges represent the first real-time, accurate precipitation data available for much of the area. Other work included trash racks and culvert upgrades to help protect homes and infrastructure, such as roads and utilities during sudden high flow events.

Key Project Partners: USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and Forest Service; Chelan County-Natural Resource Department and Public Works Department; WA Department of Natural Resources.

More Work to Do!

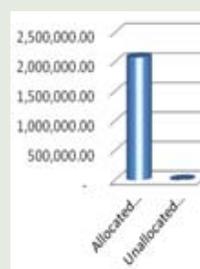
- Wildfire site restoration, flood prevention and protection, firewise programs, and fuels reduction to help prevent future fire/flood damage.
- Upland habitat, urban/general resource restoration, technical assistance and cost share for landowners.
- Non-salmon stream habitat restoration, water quality protection, and riparian revegetation.
- Landowner education and outreach contacts, events, and publications.

Other Accomplishments

Using SCC programs, Cascadia's archaeology staff continued to provide cultural resource investigations and reporting to our Natural Resources Conservation Service partners and other conservation districts in our area. We also helped landowners with technical assistance and cost share to improve farm operations, water conservation and delivery efficiencies, and wildlife habitat.

Our 70+ projects included irrigation water intake and fish passage structures, instream habitat, floodplain reconnection, riparian restoration, livestock exclusion fencing, conservation outreach and education, wildfire fuels reduction, river cleanup projects, fish habitat project effectiveness studies, and project planning and development.

Economic impact: General funds



were less than 1% of the overall budget. Over \$2.6 million, or 11,841% of our basic funding, was leveraged for projects. **37+**

jobs were created or maintained through this grant-funded work.



State Legislative District #15 (14)
Congressional District #4 (3)

Central Klickitat Conservation District

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Board Chair: Dan McCarty

Other Accomplishments

Swale Creek STI Plan

A series of eight riffles were constructed on Swale Creek to slow the rush of water and allow more time for the water to be absorbed into the surrounding alluvium. One mile of exclusion fence was built, with riparian plantings along 1,500 feet of stream reach. Three jobs were created during the construction phase, six WCC crew were used during fencing and planting and one district staff employed.

Little Klickitat River TMDL

Additional riparian plantings were installed on the Ekone Park Project that was constructed in 2012. Ponderosa Pine and native shrubs were planted and protective wire installed around each cluster to protect from deer and beaver. A WCC crew of six worked for five days on the project.



Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Rock Creek Straight to Implementation Plan (STI)



SCC-funded project, before and after exclusion fencing

Resource Challenge: Rock Creek is listed as a Category 5 stream on the Washington Department of Ecology’s 303(d) list, needing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for elevated temperatures. The Central Klickitat Conservaiton District (CKCD) is working with Ecology and Klickitat County to implement best management practices in the watershed to meet the goals of the management plan. Projects that fall on the west side of the Rock Creek watershed are in CKCD, while Rock Creek itself and the east watershed are in Eastern Klickitat Conservation District.

Project Summary and Results: This project is an exclusion fence for a large tributary to Rock Creek in the west watershed. The seasonal stream flows through the landowner’s winter feeding area, depositing contaminated water and silt into Rock Creek. Paid for with Capital funding from the WA State Conservation Commission (SCC), this is the second of three phases to complete livestock exclusion fencing through this property. Additional funding for this phase was paid through cost shares with CKCD which came from SCC Implementation funds. A four-rail steel fence was constructed with a 35 foot buffer and two hardened crossings, which allow access to both sides of the creek. Steel is used because it is virtually maintenance-free forever. To date, 3,144 feet of fence has been built, the third and final phase will add an additional 675 feet. This is our priority for SCC Capital funding. This project employed the landowner plus two employees for 2 weeks.

Key Project Partners: CKCD has several partners in the (Total Maximum Daily Load) process for Rock Creek, Swale Creek, and the Little Klickitat River. Most important are the willing landowners that cooperate by approaching the District about their water quality problems and allow us to design solutions. We have excellent working relationships with Klickitat County Natural Resources and Commissioners; the City of Goldendale; WA Department of Ecology (who funds most of our in-stream work); WA Department of Fish and Wildlife for permitting; Army Corps of Engineers for permitting; and Yakama Nation Fisheries, who help with project identification.

More Work to Do!

The Total Maximum Daily Load for the Little Klickitat River and its tributaries has been a major focus for the District since the Detailed Implementation Plan was finalized in March 2005. The District has been working in conjunction with the WRIA 30 Planning Unit and Ecology to implement strategies to mitigate the temperature TMDL.



Clallam Conservation District

Joe Holtrop, District Manager

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Board Chair: Joe Murray



State Legislative District #24
Congressional District #6

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Sequim Water Conservation and Low Impact Development (LID) Demonstration

Resource Challenge: The Dungeness Water Management Rule went into effect in January 2013. The rule restricts the use of water in eastern WRIA 18, in some cases prohibiting outdoor use of well water. Residents need options for how to landscape with less water.

Project Summary and Results: With \$10,000 worth of donated time, equipment, and labor from numerous individuals and businesses, we established a one-acre low water-use landscaping demonstration site at Carrie Blake Park in Sequim. The site includes over 50 species of drought-tolerant trees, shrubs and groundcovers, sustainable turf, a rain garden, porous asphalt, and interpretive signs. A companion brochure on low water-use landscaping was also produced.

We also conducted a pilot project in which we evaluated landscape irrigation systems to determine potential water savings that can be achieved through system upgrades. The project report is available on our website: <http://www.clallamcd.org/conservation-around-the-house/>.



Before: LID demo site



After: LID demo site

Key Project Partners: WA Department of Ecology; WA State Conservation Commission; EPA (by way of Jefferson County Dept. of Community Development); Sequim High School Future Farmers of America; Hermann Brothers Logging & Construction; other local businesses and individuals too numerous to mention.

Other Accomplishments

- 2 irrigation efficiencies projects resulting in over 2.5 miles of piped irrigation ditch and 2.5 cfs of Dungeness River water savings. These projects created or sustained five construction jobs for the year.
- 2 barriers to fish passage corrected.
- 344 individuals assisted, including 68 soil tests.
- Seven farm plans on 132 acres.
- 33 best management practices installed on 22 farms.
- Riparian planting along one mile of stream, 3.8 miles maintained.
- 2,876 feet of riparian fencing on two farms.
- Heavy use area protection on 11 farms.
- Waste storage structures on two farms.
- Roof runoff management on four farms.
- 239 participants in 10 sustainable landscaping educational events.
- 161 participants in five horse and livestock educational events.

More Work to Do!

- Stormwater Management: Continue Sustainable Landscaping education program.
- Water Conservation: Complete Dungeness Irrigation Group and Sequim Prairie-Tri ditch piping. Partner with Washington Water Trust and irrigators to implement aquifer recharge projects.
- Water Quality: Facilitate development of Pollution Identification & Correction Plan. Continue assisting farms with conservation planning and best management practice implementation.
- Salmon Recovery: Continue to remove and replace barriers to fish passage. Implement new and maintain existing Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program projects.



State Legislative District #15, 17, 18, 49
Congressional District #3

Clark Conservation District

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Board Chair: Dean Longrie, Ph.D.

Other Accomplishments



Worked with SW Amphibian Monitoring Program (SWAMP) to conduct amphibian studies. Amphibian populations can be indicators of water quality and ecosystem health.



Assisted private landowners with erosion control and stream sediment issues. Sediment drains into creeks from stormwater and creates poor water quality and fish habitat.

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Clark County's Farms Conserving Energy

Project Summary: Funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission enabled operators to conserve energy on their farms, as recommended by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service energy audits.

April Joy Farm, an organic operation, converted their creeper tractor from gas to electric. This decreases fossil fuel usage and improves air quality.

Arwana Farms installed a new Green Bedding solids separator and storage shed for their manure. This dries the manure so effectively it can be recycled and reused as bedding material. There is less manure runoff into surface and ground waters and a decrease in nutrient load on their fields by reducing waste moving off of the farm. This also provides a source of bedding that can continually be recycled.



Before the conversion

After conversion to electric power with battery boxes



Left: Wet manure solids and storage before conversion



Right: After the conversion to green separator and storage facility

More Work to Do!

Clark CD is grant funded and depends on partners like the Vancouver Watersheds Alliance and WA Department of Ecology to get projects on the ground. There is a high amount of pressure on our natural resources and an ever increasing need for education and assistance to Clark County landowners.

- Clark County has the 3rd highest number of small farms in Washington State.
- 99% of our drinking water comes from one aquifer.
- Over 34,000 horses reside in the county, along with numerous other livestock.
- 3,625 culverts blocking fish passage into county streams.

Columbia Conservation District

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Board Chair: David Carlton



State Legislative District #16
Congressional District #5

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

pH/Soil Nutrient Management



Resource Challenge: Soil acidity is gradually increasing in the upper soil profile (specifically in the top six inches) as a result of ammonia type nitrogen applications. This gradual reduction of soil pH is not new but has been exacerbated with the reduced tillage practices. Although no-till and direct seed best management practices (BMPs) substantially reduce surface and rill erosion, the concern is to what degree does this also reduce the mixing of deeper soils with shallow soils that may lead producers to increase tillage methods to minimize reduced pH effects ensuring production levels. Additional tillage increases potential soil erosion and water quality degradation.



Top: WSU graduate students taking soil samples in direct seed winter wheat.
Bottom: Student taking soil sample in spring wheat

Project Summary and Results: The project goal is to demonstrate that acidification associated with no-till/direct seed can be managed with monitoring and nutrient management. Implementation of this three-year cost-share program with incentives for producers to implement

intensive soil testing and apply practices and strategies to manage nutrient balances should enable the continued usage of no-till/direct seed practices. This project provided seasonal work for three graduate students (0.11 FTE) and contracted with two separate soil labs to perform 86 sample analysis (76 sites plus 10 controls) involving 35 producers.

Key Project Partners: Private landowners; WA State Conservation Commission; and Washington State University Extension.

Other Accomplishments

Tucannon Off-Set Dike Auxiliary Project Installation



The district installed five off-site livestock watering systems to reduce impacts along 3.2 mile section of the Tucannon River.



Setting the wet well



Solar power used to pump water to troughs.

More Work to Do!

- Develop producer leadership to address current political economic issues in Production Ag and natural resources.
- Implement priority habitat projects to meet the 17 percent gap for Endangered Species Act recovery in the Tucannon River Basin.
- Technical and cost-share assistance to landowners addressing restoration projects identified in the district's annual and long-range plans.
- Secure funding for project implementation.



State Legislative District #18, 19
Congressional District #3

Cowlitz Conservation District

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Board Chair: John Keatley

Other Accomplishments

Coweeman River Community Watershed Project Implementation



Pre-project: 2009 flood flow filled one of the most productive Chinook and steelhead spawning channels.



Post project: Wood structure installed and channel reconnected.



Concerns for accelerated erosion and water quality degradation has resulted in a salmon recovery proposal

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Community Watershed Planning and Implementation

Resource Challenge: Salmon recovery, water quality, and invasive weeds are but a few of the resource challenges that do not recognize property lines. Obtaining a measurable response typically requires implementation of a wide range of best management practices over a large spatial area managed by highly diverse interests.



Project Summary and Results: The principles of Coordinated Resource Management are being used to work with landowners at the community watershed scale in the Coweeman River and Arkansas Creek Watersheds. Salmon recovery issues include habitat complexity, channel stability, fish access, and improving riparian function. Stream temperature, dissolved oxygen, and fine sediment delivery are the primary water quality concerns. Japanese Knotweed is spreading in local watersheds at an alarming rate.

This past year the Conservation District has:

- Partnered with Cowlitz Noxious Weed Board to treat knotweed (three miles of stream) and restore native riparian vegetation in the Arkansas Creek watershed and begin a knotweed assessment to schedule treatment of knotweed in the Coweeman River Watershed (40 miles of stream).
- Planned three salmon recovery projects encompassing about three miles of river for construction in 2014.
- Planned, designed, and permitted a salmon recovery project on Monahan Creek in the Arkansas Creek Watershed that encompasses 3000 feet of stream for construction during summer 2013.
- Prepared and successfully submitted a salmon recovery project proposal in the Arkansas Creek Watershed that encompasses two miles of Delameter Creek.

An average salmon recovery project employs a local contractor (~3-4 person crew) for two weeks each.

Key Project Partners: Funding sources include WA State Conservation Commission grant funds; the Salmon Recovery Funding Board; and local partners.

More Work to Do!

- Implement three funded river restoration projects encompassing 3.5 miles of the Coweeman River.
- Assess effectiveness of knotweed treatment in the Coweeman River Watershed and schedule follow up treatment for 2014.
- Work with at least two landowners to develop and submit project proposals for funding.
- Locate additional capacity to initiate a community watershed level project in one of the other 12 priority watersheds.
- Continue to assist cooperators throughout the county with technical assistance as necessary.

Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

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Board Chair: Steve Matsen



State Legislative District #15 (14)
Congressional District #4 (3)

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Livestock Best Management Practices to Improve Water Quality

Resource Challenge: Rock Creek has been listed on the 303(d) list for violations of water temperature criteria. Eastern Klickitat Conservation District (CD) is involved in the WRIA 31 planning unit's effort to develop a 4(b) Water Clean-up Plan or a Water Quality Improvement Project Plan (WQIPP) for the entire planning area. Our water quality data and assessments provide information needed to support the development of that plan.

Project Summary and Results: Eastern Klickitat CD is working with landowners to implement best management practices that are identified as action items toward recovery goals for the WRIA 31 planning area. A spring-fed water trough in a winter feed area adjacent to Rock Creek was threatening to send contaminated mud and water into Rock Creek. A solution was designed to surface the area around the trough to minimize muddy conditions, reduce overflow from the trough and route water that springs from the ground above the trough around to a newly installed culvert. At the headwaters of Chapman Creek, a spring was being collected in an old collection box that flowed into a pool where livestock would water. Overflow from the pool would flow into Chapman Creek, negatively impacting water quality. A spring enhancement project constructed a new collection box and system, piping water from the collection box to a tire water trough, where overflow is directed through an internal piping system into the creek, where it enters clear and cold. These projects employed four people.



Rock Creek Trough Project
Before and after

Key Project Partners: Our success depends greatly on the strong working relationships and trust that we have developed with landowners and operators in our district. We also appreciate contributions of funds and/or expertise from the WA State Conservation Commission; WA Department of Ecology; Recreation and Conservation Office's Salmon Recovery Funding Board; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Yakama Nation Fisheries.

More Work to Do!

Farmland Preservation has emerged as our top natural resource priority. Eastern Klickitat CD has been active in facilitating funding opportunities for the purchase of development rights or conservation easements for critical landowners in the Rock Creek and Chapman Creek watersheds.

Eastern Klickitat CD has been awarded DOE grant funds that will enable us to continue addressing water quality issues on WRIA 31 streams by promoting resource conservation through cooperation with willing landowners, and maintaining our water quality monitoring program.



Other Accomplishments

A network of 20 stream monitoring sites are visited each month by our water quality technician to download stream temperature data and measure pH, conductivity, turbidity, and stream flow. This information is downloaded into the Department of Ecology's EIM database.

A Rock Creek assessment is being performed, funded by Salmon Recovery Funding Board, in partnership with Yakama Nation Fisheries, to understand the true nature of this unique watershed. The assessment will identify potential in-stream and/or riparian area restoration projects with the greatest chance of successful implementation, maintenance, and meaningful results. An on-the-ground survey is scheduled for fall 2013 that will confirm the results of the LiDAR and high resolution photo flights completed last fiscal year.



State Legislative District #7
Congressional District #5

Ferry Conservation District

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Board Chair: Lee Hall

Other Accomplishments

More Forest Clean-up



Almost all of our work centered on forest health and damage cleanup.



A DNR colleague surveys a landowner's clean-up efforts.



The storm directly affected the District's own property. All we can do is clean up, replant, and move on.

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Forest Cleanup Following Catastrophic Windstorm

Resource Challenge: On July 20, 2012, Ferry Conservation District (CD) was hit by a catastrophic windstorm. By some estimates 20 million board feet of timber were damaged. The storm left a carpet of wildfire fuel in its wake. The district was not used to dealing with this sort of situation, but set out to help landowners.



Project Summary and Results: With a huge boost from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the district assisted 35 landowners with post-storm clean-up. A few hundred words and a few photographs does not adequately portray the damage that confronted us, nor does it show the difference that our help made for the people we reached.



Before and after windstorm cleanup

In most years Ferry CD can use its state funding to leverage five times as much conservation work. \$40,000 in funding can translate to \$200,000 in funds from other sources. \$200,000 infused into our local economy can generate \$1,000,000 in activity. In Ferry County this is significant. Truly we can say we are a significant income generator.

Key Project Partners: WA State Conservation Commission; Natural Resources Conservation Service; and the WA Department of Natural Resources.

More Work to Do!

In the coming year we are looking forward to several major stream bank stabilization projects on the Sanpoil River.



Foster Creek Conservation District

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Board Chair: Josh Koempel



State Legislative District #12
Congressional District #4

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Wildfire Restoration Cost-Share Program



Resource Challenge: The Barker Canyon complex fires—started by a thunderstorm on September 8, 2012—burned over 78,000 acres of private lands in Northern Douglas County. Resulting resource challenges included erosion control issues and loss of pasture, livestock, 565 miles of fencing, sage grouse nesting sites, and over 90,000 bio-control agents (bugs). The cost of the fire was an estimated \$2,290,268. The fire damage suffered by private landowners did not qualify for Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program assistance, and the Emergency Conservation Program was not readily available.

Project Summary and Results: With monies secured from the Washington State Conservation Commission, we organized a cost-share program for the private landowners affected by the wildfires. The two focus areas for restoration efforts included cost-share for grass seed for fire line restoration and a weed control program on the fire area.

Fall 2012—approx. 28.5 acres of fire line was seeded. Landowners contributed approx. \$1,600 to the effort, and the Foster Creek Conservation District (FCCD) cost-share program contributed approx. \$4,700.

Spring 2013—both ground and aerial herbicide was applied to approx. 2,503 acres in order to control weeds. The landowners invested \$11,855.15 to the project, and FCCD cost-share program contributed \$35,565.46.

May/June 2013—approx. 73,000 bio-control agents (bugs) were released on approx. 32,200 acres in the burned area to control invasive species. Private landowner's contributed \$11,285.63 to the project, and FCCD cost-share program contributed \$33,856.88.

As a result of this project, 17 farms were given cost-share assistance for fire restoration efforts.

Key Project Partners: Douglas County private landowners and the WA State Conservation Commission.

More Work to Do!

- Finalize negotiations of the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan with USFWS for 17 threatened, endangered, and/or species of concern on no-federal agricultural lands.
- Continue to implement invasive weed species control on approximately 25 properties in Douglas County.
- Continue implementing the watershed action plan for approx. 1.3 million acres in WRIA's 44 and 50.
- Participate in the Regional Envirothon for fifty area high school students.
- Continue Wheat Week education for 350 students.

Other Accomplishments

- In Douglas County, 345 conservation plans were developed, resulting in approx. 65,000 acres being enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). 
- An additional 65 conservation plans were developed (11,000 acres) and enrolled in the SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement) initiative for sage-grouse.
- In a working relationship with the Bureau of Land Management FCCD  addressed several stresses on Douglas Creek riparian function. This included removing erosive flow from the Douglas Creek Road and the establishment of willow cuttings that will provide cover in the stabilized bank section. Douglas Creek is a perennial stream tributary to the Columbia River supporting rainbow trout and potentially redband trout.
- Installation of a permanent erosion control structure in the Wells Wildlife Area of West Foster Creek was completed. The purpose of this structure is to reduce the advancement of a headcut that was threatening to drain a 10-acre wetland meadow on West Foster Creek and impair downstream water quality and availability for anadromous fish.



State Legislative District #9, 16
Congressional District #4

Franklin Conservation District

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Board Chair: Scott Moore

Other Accomplishments

Education Programs Growing

Franklin CD has hired two new educators to cover Skagit, Whatcom, Pierce, Thurston, Mason, and Grays Harbor counties. This brings the total number of Wheat Week educators statewide to 12. Our goal for the coming school year is to educate 10,000 students through the Wheat Week Program.

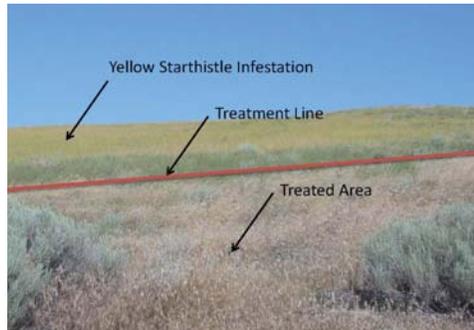
Livestock Best Management Practices Protect Water Quality

Four livestock facilities implemented best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality with funding from the SCC. Two waste storage structures and two manure transfer systems were designed and installed to NRCS standards and specifications.



Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Waging War on Noxious Weeds



The Franklin Conservation District (CD), with funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC), implemented a cost-share program to assist producers with controlling noxious weeds in the dryland and rangeland areas of Franklin County.

Resource Challenge: Noxious weeds are invasive, non-native plants that threaten agricultural crops, local ecosystems, and fish and wildlife habitat. Through implementation of integrated pest management, the District was able to address four primary noxious weed species as identified by the Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board: Yellow Starthistle, Rush Skeletonweed, Scotch Thistle, and Diffuse Knapweed. These are class B weeds on the State and Franklin County weed list.

Project Summary and Results: Within two weeks of Franklin CD advertising their cost-share program, 20 producers signed-up with a desire to treat over 17,000 acres. Due to the limited amount of cost-share available the actual acres treated were 9,285. Many producers treated additional acres bringing their cost-share allocation well below 50 percent.

By implementing Integrated Pest Management, noxious weeds populations were controlled; off-site pesticide risks to water quality from leaching, solution runoff, and adsorbed runoff losses were prevented or mitigated; and off-site pesticide risks to soil, water, air, plants, animals, and humans from drift and volatilization losses were prevented or mitigated.

Key Project Partners: WA State Conservation Commission; Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Franklin County Association of Wheat Growers; and Franklin County Producers.

More Work to Do!

Franklin CD continues to assist USDA with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Filter Strips inspections and Irrigation Water Management Program implementation. District staff completed field inspections and conservation plans on 53 fields covering 706.7 acres of CRP filter strips and 91 fields covering 4,288 acres under irrigation water management.

Franklin CD is seeking funding for a pilot aquifer recharge study that will identify the hydrologic linkages that exist in the Kahlotus Coulee area; determine how to revitalize Kahlotus Lake; and contribute to base flows on the Snake River.

Grant County Conservation District

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Board Chair: Richard Leitz



State Legislative District #9, 12, 13
Congressional District #4

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Voluntary Cooperation Leads to Cleaner Waterway



Resource Challenge: Uncontrolled access to waterways by livestock breaks down stream banks, increases sedimentation, and can impair water quality due to nutrient inputs. Restricting livestock and developing offsite watering facilities helps a landowner manage their livestock and natural resources.

Project Summary and Results: Jeff of JR Ranches has been a friend of the District for several years. During that time he has implemented many practices from his conservation plan. He had always wanted to restrict his cattle from a perennial irrigation ditch but knew it would be too cost prohibitive. Grant County Conservation District helped JR Ranches get approval for cost-share assistance from the Washington State Conservation Commission. Jeff was then able to install 7,153' of New Zealand-style electric riparian fencing—including gates—to help with his pasture rotation and grazing plan. A conservation-friendly solar watering system was installed consisting of a used recycled rubber tire from a large piece of construction equipment. A local fencing company completed the work. In total, three jobs were created to implement this project.



Key Project Partners: JR Ranches and the WA State Conservation Commission.

Other Accomplishments

- Water on Wheels (WOW) Educational Program: 115 lessons taught to 2,410 students at nine schools.
- Irrigation Water Monitoring: 145 participants covering 150,000 acres.
- Concrete waste storage slab at dairy. 
- Construction of new lined dairy lagoon. 
- Installing new nozzles for conservation. 
- Adopted Sandhill Crane Festival as official education/outreach program.



More Work to Do!

- Ten projects on waiting list pending funding from the SCC's Capital Cost-share program.
- Expand Irrigation Water Management (IWM) program.
- Work with WA Department of Ecology and farmers to process burn permit applications.
- Develop and/or revise Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs).
- Continue growing interest in Othello Sandhill Crane Festival.
- Promote the District's small farms program and identify cost share opportunities that conserve natural resources.
- Continue to grow Water on Wheels (WOW) educational program in schools.
- Continue Crop ID Program with WA Department of Agriculture.



State Legislative District #19,24,35
Congressional District #6

Grays Harbor Conservation District

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Board Chair: Carl Waara

Other Accomplishments

Grisdale Green Diamond Project



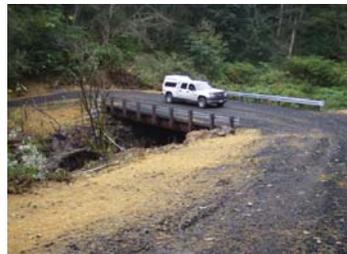
6.6 miles of habitat restored for Coho, steelhead, and cutthroat



GHCD completed 1087 acres of forestry plans and gave perspective of 1069 acres. We also coordinated forestry education for two partner conservation districts.

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Family Forest Fish Passage Programs: Aberdeen Landing-Wilson Creek and Friend-Newskah Creek



Top: Aberdeen Landing-Wilson Creek, before
Bottom: Aberdeen Landing-Wilson Creek, after

Resource Challenge: The Grays Harbor Conservation District (GHCD) sponsored two Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) projects. The Aberdeen Landing fish barrier is on Wilson Creek, a tributary to Grays Harbor on the east side of Aberdeen. There were two culverts at this crossing. Both were in poor condition and the upstream ends of the culverts were nearly submerged in the streambed materials that backed up behind each of them. Also, both had outfall drops that made it difficult for fish to get past this crossing to the upstream spawning beds. The Friend barrier was a corrugated steel culvert that was perched creating an outfall that also blocked upstream passage. The Newskah flows directly into Grays Harbor between Westport and Aberdeen, and this was the last barrier between upstream and downstream.

Project Summary and Results: The Aberdeen Landing Barrier was replaced by a 50' bridge opening up the stream to allow for proper hydraulic flow and provide passage to spawning salmonids. 1.65 miles of habitat for Coho, steelhead, searun cutthroat and possibly chum and Chinook. The Friend barrier was also replaced by a 50' bridge with similar positive results opening up 3.13 miles of habitat for Coho, steelhead, and searun cutthroat trout. **In 2013, this program has created nine jobs.**

Key Project Partners: Streamworks LLC; landowners; and the WA Department of Natural Resources



Top: Friend-Newskah Creek, before
Bottom: Friend-Newskah Creek, after

More Work to Do!

- Water Resources: Continue our work on removal of identified fish passage barriers and with cranberry producers on installation of approved water quality best management practices.
- Forestland: Continue to provide forest management plans, technical assistance, and educational opportunities to nonindustrial private forest landowners.
- Livestock: Continue to provide technical assistance and NMP updates and production to current and new cooperators.
- Cropland: Work with small agricultural producers on conservation plans, and work to ensure shellfish production and water quality in Grays Harbor.

Jefferson County Conservation District

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Board Chair: Julie Boggs



State Legislative District #24
Congressional District #6

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Fish Passage Project, Chimacum Creek



Resource Challenge: Chum salmon swimming up Chimacum Creek have many obstacles with which to contend, but now they have one less hurdle. An old, 8-ft. culvert on a portion of the creek with a BFW that averages 27 feet, was both a perched pipe and, at high fall flows, a velocity barrier for chum salmon. Additionally, because of the undersized culvert, at extreme winter high flows, water would

bypass the culvert and cross over the landowners road.

Project Summary and Results: The landowner—whose organic vegetable farm, home, and timberland are accessed by crossing the stream—was able to get the culvert replaced through the Family Forest and Fish Passage Program with a 40-ft weathered steel bridge with a gravel surface. The project involved evaluating the stream and fish issues and designing a solution that best benefited the needs of both fish and landowner.

Key Project Partners: Salmon Recovery Funding Board; WA Department of Fish and Wildlife; Jefferson County Public Works; Jefferson County PUD#1; John Gunning, landowner; 2-Grade Construction Inc.; and Fisheries Engineers, Inc.



Other Accomplishments



A thriving salmon population is the bottom line of good water quality. Fish trapping by volunteers is a part of the District's Water Quality Monitoring Program. Here a volunteer prepares to set a trap in Chimacum Creek.



This year the District teamed up with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to educate "4-H"ers and other Quilcene School students about the life cycle of coho salmon. Students watched salmon develop from eggs to fry and then released them into the Big Quilcene River.

More Work to Do!

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) hedgerows and other riparian buffer installations and stream channel improvements planned.
- Water quality monitoring in the Quilcene, Puget Sound area.
- Assist landowners with issues affecting water quality, agriculture, and forestry
- Support local efforts targeting farmland protection, and local food sustainability.



State Legislative District 1,5,11,30,31,32,
33,34,36,37, 39, 41,43,45,46,47,48
Congressional District #1, 2, 7, 8, 9

King Conservation District

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Board Chair: Bill Knutsen

Other Accomplishments

Conservation Farm Plans
64 delivered, 2,772 acres



WRIA and Member Jurisdiction Grant Programs – 2012-2013
37 grants awarded for a total of
\$2,883,822 in funding

Landowner Partnership Restoration Projects and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
85 acres of total project area restored,
nearly 2.5 miles of stream/wetland shorelines restored,
87,800 total native plants installed

Volunteer Program
834 volunteers were engaged to apply
2,823 volunteer hours towards 55 projects



Engineering Services
Planned or designed 4 bridges, 2 culverts, 1 bank stabilization and 1 bulkhead removal
Conducted 30 site assessments
Facilitated staff GIS training

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Parr Creek Enhancement

Project Summary and Results: The King Conservation District (King CD), in partnership with the City of Bothell, received a generous grant from the Rose Foundation to enhance a portion of Parr Creek that runs through the Bothell Business Park.



Removing weedy invasive plants and installing native trees and shrubs will shade the creek, creating lower temperatures and improving water quality here and downstream in the Sammamish River. These improvements will also enhance habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife and will beautify the section of the creek that runs adjacent to trails and ball fields.

The Parr Creek Riparian Enhancement project is an excellent example of multiple public and private parties working together to improve natural resources in the region. Property owners partnering on the project include the Woodinville Montessori School (pictured above), the City of Bothell, RH Wright, King County, and the YMCA.

“Working partnerships are critical to the future of environmental stewardship today,” says City of Bothell Public Works Director Erin Leonhart. “Bothell is excited to provide hands-on learning opportunities for children and adults in our community in partnership with the King Conservation District, local educators, and small business.”

Educators from the Cascadia Environmental Center are working with the students at the Woodinville Montessori School to conduct pre- and post-project water quality testing to monitor the creek’s conditions over time. Data collected will be incorporated into the students’ curriculum and will be of interest to the City. The King CD and the City of Bothell will hold an event for the community to raise awareness about the creek in their neighborhood and its role in the larger ecosystem.

King CD hopes to secure additional grant funding to continue improvements downstream.

More Work to Do!

The District continues to see a strong demand for services in urban areas as well as rural communities. In addition to our Member Jurisdiction grant program, the District has a successful Landowner Incentive Program to implement projects with private landowners. We will continue to focus on recovering the health of Puget Sound, maintaining sustainable working farms and forests, and enhancing habitat by working cooperatively with landowners.

Kitsap Conservation District

Joy Garitone, District Coordinator

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Vice Chairs: Jackie Lovely and Albert Allpress



State Legislative District #23,26,35
Congressional District #1,6

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Low Impact Development Stormwater Projects Benefit Puget Sound

Resource Challenge: Like every county in the Puget Sound region, Kitsap County has the responsibility of controlling stormwater quantity and improving water quality before it enters streams and the Sound. Kitsap Conservation District (KCD) has been a member of Kitsap County Surface and Stormwater (SSWM), a county funded stormwater partnership, for nearly two decades. Along with agricultural and habitat technical assistance, KCD has been developing a program for Low Impact Development (LID) technical assistance for urbanizing areas. The resource challenge is to infiltrate and clean as much stormwater as possible coming from private properties.

Project Summary and Results: Projects are sponsored in part by the SSWM program through a grant contract administered by KCD. Important additional funding comes through the Washington State Conservation Commission. Still, landowners play the most important role. Inspired by their desire to prevent pollution from entering Puget Sound, landowners are investing their time and money to install rain gardens, cisterns, and infiltration systems, and removing impervious surfaces around their homes.



KCD offers a variety of incentives for landowners to participate, including matching funds and providing both materials and labor, including: plants, excavation contractors, piping, and amended soil. This holds down the cost

of retrofitting yards and landscapes. KCD is striving for 100 contacts and 50 installations of best management practices (BMPs) per year. The program is growing faster than a native plant! While there are challenges to implementation on every site, KCD has found that most landowners can do something to control their stormwater, and they are gaining a new understanding of bio-retention practices in the process.

Key Project Partners: Kitsap County Surface and Stormwater Program; Washington State University Extension; Kitsap Public Health District; Washington Conservation Corps; and Kitsap County Parks and Recreation.

Other Accomplishments

Kitsap Conservation District completed numerous best management practices (BMPs) and agricultural designs, and provided community education on agriculture and natural resources in FY2013. KCD completed:

- 25 conservation plans
- 23 rain gardens
- 100 BMPs
- 62 educational events
- 98 BMP designs



Bio-retention swales

More Work to Do!

- Retro-fit Kitsap County storm ponds





State Legislative District #13
Congressional District #4

Kittitas County Conservation District

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Board Chair: Mark Moore

Other Accomplishments

Fuels Reduction Projects

Interest in fuels reductions projects spiked after the Taylor Bridge Fire in August 2013. More than 500 individual home site assessments were conducted in the months after the fire. Washington DNR assisted with securing additional grant funds and nearly \$370,000 in cost share and implementation funds were put on the ground in FY 2013.



Fuels reduction, before and after

Fish Screening and Passage

The Bonneville Power Administration funded Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP) continues to be strong in the KCCD. In FY 2013, a project to convert from an unscreened gravity irrigation diversion to a pump station and sprinkler system was completed on Parke Creek. This allows for removal of the old structure in FY 2014.

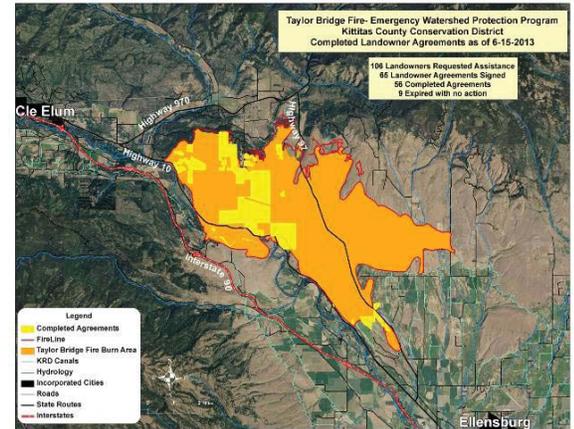


Parke Creek sprinkler and fish screen ("river screen")

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Emergency Watershed Protection – Taylor Bridge Fire

Resource Challenge: On August 13, 2013 the Taylor Bridge Fire ignited, burning more than 20,000 acres in the first 24 hours. When the fire was finally contained, 23,500 acres of primarily private land burned. Sixty three residences were lost along with multiple outbuildings. Erosion was the immediate concern in the burn area.



Project Summary and Results: Map displays burn area, landowners who requested assistance, and completed projects. Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) worked closely with the Kittitas Board of County Commissioners and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to address soil erosion and to search for funding for landowners.



Strawbale dam installed, native seeds aerially broadcast in the burn area

NRCS offered the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. The KCCD was the local sponsor and the required 25% matching funds were provided by the Washington State Conservation Commission. NRCS and KCCD staff conducted more than 100 site assessments and determined that 70% were eligible. Fifty six landowners entered into agreements. A total of \$568,164 was provided to landowners to reimburse the cost of practices including aerial and broadcast seeding; straw bale dams, straw wattles, hand-falling trees across slopes for erosion control; lopping and scattering of burn materials; mulching; and hazard tree removal. An estimated 9.1 jobs were created over the six months that contractors worked with landowners.

Key Project Partners: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; WA State Conservation Commission; Kittitas County; WSU Extension; and Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board.

More Work to Do!

Fish Screening and Passage

- Parke Creek Barriers (4 Projects)
- Caribou Creek Barriers (2 Projects)
- Manastash Creek (1 Project)
- Teanaway River (2 Projects)

Water Quality

- Riparian Planting Projects (8 Acres- Swauk Creek and Whiskey Creek)

Irrigation System Improvements

- Manastash Pipelines (1 Project)
- Small Project Cost Share For Irrigation Upgrades (6-8 Projects)
- Sprinkler Conversion Projects (5 Projects – 425 Acres)

Wildland Fire – Fuels Reduction

- Community Fire Plans (2)
- Roving Chipper (250 Acres)
- Shaded Fuel Break (25 Acres)
- Home Site Assessments (200)
- Defensible Space (150 Acres)

Lewis County Conservation District

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Board Chair: David Fenn



State Legislative District #19, 20
Congressional District #3

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Critter Pads / Evacuation Routes – Protecting Livestock During Future Flood Events



Completed critter pad at dairy

Resource Challenge: With the loss of hundreds of animals during previous Chehalis River flood events, the District was given the opportunity to assist cooperators in constructing pads and evacuation routes to ensure that farmers have the ability to protect their livestock from future flood waters. This proactive approach gives the landowners confidence and assurance the animals will be safe.

Project Summary and Results: The Washington State legislature allocated funds in July of 2012 to begin constructing earthen critter pads in the Chehalis basin. The Lewis County Conservation District (LCCD) had completed an initial assessment and was prepared to begin permitting and constructing pads at seven farms. The Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) was instrumental in allocating previous flood funds enabling us to begin the process before the legislative funds were available. Surveying, permitting and design work began. Lewis County was extremely helpful in securing all the needed permits to begin construction in a timely manner. The legislative funds were approved by the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority and the Chehalis Confederated Tribe for the local conservation districts to use the dollars for all aspects of constructing the pads. In addition, the LCCD received a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service under their Conservation Innovation Grant program to construct two evacuation routes. The SCC provided the 50% match for this grant. One of the initial pads on our list was changed to an evacuation route with the use of this grant.

Five critter pads and two evacuation routes were completed by the end of July 2013. The farms where the projects were completed include 975 milk cows, 425 heifers, 105 sheep and 30 beef cows and calves. The pads and evacuation routes are constructed to give the operators room to store feed for the livestock during a flood event. These projects were all implemented using local contractors creating jobs and bringing dollars to Lewis County. Four separate contractors were hired by the landowners to complete the projects. When the next flood inundates these farms the livestock now have a way to be protected.

Other Accomplishments



Constructed evacuation route at dairy



Construction site of culvert removal and bridge installation project



Project after completion of bridge installation

More Work to Do!

Forest Land: There are approximately 145,774 acres of non-industrial private forest land in Lewis County. To date we have provided very little assistance to these stakeholders due to the lack of funding.

Agriculture Land: There are 357,971 acres of privately owned agriculture land in Lewis County. Landowners are consistently requesting new and updated conservation plans. In addition, we will be constructing additional critter pads during this biennium.



State Legislative District #7
Congressional District #13

Lincoln County Conservation District

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Board Chair: Tom Schultz

Other Accomplishments



Before fuels reduction project,
home through the trees



Odessa Sub-aquifer Passive
Rehydration SEPA process



Assisted NRCS in the completion of
430 Conservation Reserve Program
(CRP) contracts

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Reducing Energy Use on Lincoln County Farms

Project Summary: Developing strong partnerships has proven to be the key to reducing on-farm energy use in Lincoln County. The Lincoln County Conservation District has been working with farmers to reduce the amount of energy they use on their farms. In 2013 farmers reduced their energy use by over 1,919,882 kilowatt hours. This is equivalent to the average household annual energy use for 1,500 homes in Washington State based in data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The District has identified several more opportunities that if implemented could save an additional seven million kilowatt hours.

The Lincoln Conservation County District is fortunate to be in partnership with South Central Washington RC&D Council, Inland Power and Light, Big Bend Electric Cooperative, Upper Columbia RC&D Council, Big Bend RC&D Council and Bonneville Power Administration in an effort called Save Water Save Energy. Save Water Save Energy is designed to assist local public utilities provide conservation incentives to farmers for improvements to shop lighting and insulation, irrigation pumping plants, replacement of worn sprinklers, pressure regulators, and more.



Final inspection of VFD and pumping
plant by NRCS staff Jeff Knutson and
Shawn Woodard

The Lincoln County Conservation District working under a grant from Bonneville Power Administration worked with farmers and Technical Service Providers to complete energy audits and develop energy plans identifying where improvements can be made to reduce energy use. Once completed, energy plans are sent to USDA-NRCS for approval. This is required in order to be eligible for USDA-NRCS EQIP energy cost share. In addition the plan was used to bring energy saving projects to the attention of local public utilities for energy incentive rebates offered through Bonneville Power Administration.

More Work to Do!

- Fort Spokane Fuels Reduction.
- Controlling Leafy Spurge Grant.
- WRIA 53 static well monitoring.
- Save Water, Save Energy Project.
- Scabland Weed Mapping App Project.
- EQIP AgEMP Plans data collection.
- Nitrate water testing, mapping and monitoring, education and outreach.
- Sage Grouse Habitat Fuels Reduction and Education grant.
- Implementation of cost-share projects.
- 6th Grade Conservation Day.

Mason Conservation District

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Board Chair: Bill Burrows



State Legislative District #35
Congressional District #6

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Mason County PUD 3: Johns Prairie Operations Center



Resource Challenge: Development of a new operations center challenged Mason County PUD 3 to strive for the highest of sustainable design standards: LEED Platinum Status (per the U.S. Green Building Council). The facilities and landscape are designed to achieve sustainability, low impact development, habitat enhancement, and long-term stewardship goals as a community model.

Project Summary and Results: Development of the PUD 3 Johns Prairie Operations Center involved extensive planning. In addition to remnants of the former gravel pit and log yard operations, the site included salmon-bearing Johns Creek as well as areas of remnant Garry Oak prairie. To achieve environmental, economic, and administrative goals, PUD 3 built a new campus that models a range of strategies for responsible development: use of sustainable building materials, energy and water conservation methods (rainwater cisterns and solar panels), environmental protection strategies, and wildlife habitat enhancement projects. Mason Conservation District (MCD) worked closely with PUD 3 to design and implement many of its environmental objectives, including:

- Post-construction soils enhancement with compost (10+ acres), to improve plant establishment and stormwater management.
- Planting of over 22,000 plants (80% Pacific Northwest natives, with the addition of pollinator-friendly perennials around the main buildings).
- Construction of 1.8 acres of rain gardens to infiltrate stormwater.
- Salmon habitat enhancement in Johns Creek (riparian enhancement and LWD placement).
- Design of a recreational and education trail with signage and viewing stations.
- District project budget \$1 million.

Key Project Partners: Mason County PUD 3; Buckley Nursery Company; MCD's 2011-12 Washington Conservation Corps crew members; TCF Architecture.

Other Accomplishments

The District implements on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects to support:

- Improved water quality in all watersheds.
- Increased economic sustainability.
- Enhanced regional habitats and land stewardship.
- Collaborative efforts with community members, local non-profits, and local and state agencies.

District programs support on-the-ground conservation and restoration education for both adult and youth. These programs include:

- Informing landowners about Best Management Practices to assist them in achieving goals in agriculture, forestry, habitat enhancement, and stormwater management.
- Coordinating natural resource conservation education events in the community.
- Educating agricultural entrepreneurs about sustainable farming practices and farm business planning by co-sponsoring Cultivating Success courses.
- Supporting environmental education in local schools.

More Work to Do!

The District continues to be a leader in efforts to create a diversified economy, while protecting the natural resource heritage of the community.

- Population growth continues to increase pressure on natural resources and wildlife.
- Water quality in wetlands, rivers, lakes, and marine waters continues to be impacted by increasing nonpoint source pollution in stormwater.
- Agricultural lands are being converted to other land uses, threatening the security and safety of local food system.



State Legislative District #13, 14 15
Congressional District #4

North Yakima Conservation District

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Board Chair: Gail Thornton

Other Accomplishments



Van Wyk Project, a 4,516 acre funded Farmland Preservation Program - Cowlitz Basin



La Salle High School Project, a flood plain re-connection and restoration project partnership between the North Yakima Conservation District and Yakima Nation that establishes 16 acres of functioning flood plain



Washington Conservation Corp work at La Salle High School

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Herke Ranch Fish Screening

Resource Challenge: This project will consolidate two unscreened gravity diversions into one, as well as install a fish screen and water meter. The new diversion will be treated with a modular rotary drum screen, provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Yakima Construction Shop. A designed roughened channel will be constructed to provide passage for all species and life stages of aquatic organisms and to provide water to the irrigation diversion. Screening will bring the landowner into compliance with State law, allow for continued irrigation, and decrease fish entrainment in this high priority stream for restoration of ESA-listed Middle Columbia steelhead and bulltrout.



Project Summary and Results: The project implemented a 100-foot long roughen channel with incorporated boulder ribs to add stability during high flows; a 2 cfs rotary drum fish screen with fish bypass, controlled by a new headwall and headgate; rootwads to provide stability and roughness during high flows; and installed new habitat features to provide off-channel rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and steelhead.

Key Project Partners: Project partners include: the landowner; Bonneville Power Administration – Yakima Tributary Access Habitat Program; WA Department of Fish and Wildlife; Yakama Nation and Recreation and Conservation Office – Salmon Recovery Funding Board.



More Work to Do!

The North Yakima Conservation District's (NYCD) resource priority is to develop programs that maintain agricultural, working lands and open space areas for the multitude of benefits they provide. These benefits include economic stability, fish and wildlife habitat, open spaces, reduced natural resource degradation potential and sense of community. At this time NYCD has identified over 23,000 acres for the State's Farmland Preservation Program (needing \$16 million in funding).

NYCD is developing long-term programs and partnerships to address the threat of wildfire throughout the District, from its rangeland areas to its forested lands.

Okanogan Conservation District

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 Board Chair: Ivan Oberg



State Legislative District #7, 12
 Congressional District #4

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Okanogan River Irrigation Screening

Resource Challenge: Irrigation pump screens were surveyed, evaluated, and locations recorded with Geographic Position System (GPS) points in 2008 and 2009. This survey identified over 140 screens that do not meet current standards as established by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Problems included lack of screens, improperly sized screens, screens that were in need of repair, and other issues.



Non-functional screen needing replacement



Hardware cloth used as a non-compliant fish screen

Project Summary and Results: The District partnered with the Colville Confederated Tribes Fish and Wildlife Department, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board to implement a program to remediate non-compliant screens.



New compliant RiverScreen brand (self-cleaning) fish screen ready to be installed

District staff used the WDFW inventory of screen locations and District GIS to identify irrigators, make contact, and work with willing irrigators to repair or replace screens as needed. To date, we have worked with irrigators to successfully repair or replace 43 screens and have another 24 ready to replace when funding is secured.

Other Accomplishments

People reached w/ technical assistance	106
Plant sale brochures	1,775
Newsletters	7,445
Plants sold	3,474
Conservation plans developed	45
Education – people reached	4,293
Feet of fence installed	5,715'
Feet of pipe installed	2,300'
Spring developments	1
Firewise assessments	8
Feet of ditch lined	1,100
Fish screens installed	9
Plants planted	1,900
Culvert replaced	1
Range transects evaluated	30
kWh Electrical Savings Achieved	75,509
Cost-share \$ put on the ground	\$176,773

More Work to Do!

- Work with forest and range landowners to improve upland watershed health
- Bring 100 irrigation withdrawals up to regulatory standards for “fish-friendly” screens.
- Annually conduct educational events reaching 2,500+ students and 500+ adults.
- Conduct on-farm energy audits and provide technical assistance to improve those energy efficiencies.
- Implement action items of the Okanogan Watershed Plan.



State Legislative District #19
Congressional District #3

Pacific Conservation District

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Board Chair: Mark Ashley

Other Accomplishments



Sopiwnick-Sisson Creek Project

The PCD sponsored the Sopiwnick-Sisson Creek Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFPPP) and contracted with Streamworks LLC to complete the project. Two failing culverts that blocked salmon migration on Sisson Creek were replaced by a 14' x 50' bridge.

Project Summary and Results: This bridge project replaces a barrier directly connecting to the Columbia River and opens up 2.2 square miles of habitat. Crews walked the stream and completed habitat assessment and found that we could open up 6 stream miles with the correction of two culvert barriers. PCD applied for financial assistance through FFPPP.

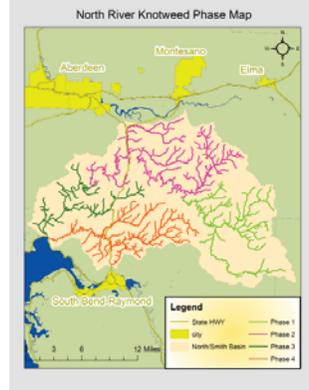
Project Partners: Landowners, RCO, WA DNR, FFPPP.

Jobs: 8 individual jobs were partially funded.



Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

North River and WRIA #24 Knotweed Program



Resource Challenge: The Pacific Conservation District (PCD), the Pacific County Salmon Recovery Group (Lead Entity, WRIA #24), and Pacific County Vegetation Management (PCVM) have not only an interest in knotweed control in Pacific County, but a highly vested interest. The PCD has an ongoing effort to eradicate knotweed in the county working in the Naselle and Willapa river systems. The L.E. WRIA #24 seeks to improve habitat for all salmonids in WRIA #24 as per their strategic plan, and PCVM has a mandate to control knotweed. All three entities work together to fight this noxious weed.

Summary and Results: After the summer of 2013, PCD knotweed crews will have finished the final phases (3 and 4) of the North River Knotweed Eradication Program a year early with a 95% success rate. Much of the North River has been treated more than once. This is a continuing program following the successful Willapa and Naselle knotweed control programs. Though a small Washington State Department of Agriculture grant, PCD was able to survey the entire eastern half of WRIA #24 showing where next steps towards control can be taken in the future. The PCD

will take charge in controlling knotweed in the Nemah, Bay Center, cities of Raymond and South Bend, and to retreat all areas where some small regrowth has occurred. The goal is complete eradication.

Project Partners: WRIA#24 Lead Entity; Pacific County Salmon Recovery Group; WA Department of Agriculture; hundreds of landowners; and WA Department of Natural Resources.

Jobs: In 2013, this program has created 13 positions.

More Work to Do!

- Work with small forest landowners to ensure management plans are received and up to date.
- Create plans and implement 10 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) projects. Work with farmers to ensure management plans are up to date.
- Finish the Johnson project installing 2 bridges that will open 5 miles of salmon habitat.
- Work to ensure shellfish production and water quality in Willapa Bay.
- Work with 62 Landowners in the Naselle River basin to restore salmon habitat by repairing 1.7 miles of stream habitat and replacing 5 failed tide gates with bridges.

Palouse Conservation District

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Board Chair: Larry Cochran



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Wetland Restoration and Education Site Completed

Project Summary: Palouse Conservation District partnered with the Port of Whitman and the Palouse Discovery Science Center to enhance wetlands adjacent to our offices. The partnership also designed and installed interpretive signs and an interactive computer kiosk adjacent to a nature path. In addition to public use, the wetland is used as an outdoor classroom for local natural resource conservation programs. Funding was provided by Washington State Conservation Commission and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



Conservation Tour

The conservation tour highlighted natural resource conservation projects related to direct seed systems, precision agriculture, livestock operation enhancements, Palouse Prairie protection and restoration, streambank restoration, and conservation education.



Other Accomplishments



Direct Seed Incentive and Education Program expanded



Internship program established to provide interns with valuable hands-on experience in natural resources conservation, enhance local participation in conservation, and raise community awareness of local conservation issues.



Palouse Prairie education and outreach campaign launched.

More Work to Do!

- North and South Fork Palouse River TMDL Implementation: Installing riparian buffers and continuing water quality monitoring.
- Palouse Prairie Phase II: Restoring and protecting native plants, migratory songbirds and pollinators with USFWS and WDFG.
- Direct Seed Program: Increasing enrollment, outreach, and monitoring.
- Education and Outreach: Providing conservation education programs to local landowners, residents and schools.
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife: Improving habitat and providing technical assistance to landowners.



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District

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Board Chair: Clinton O'Keefe

Other Accomplishments



Outreach programs during Annual Meeting



Whitman County Soil Judging Contest hosted by PRLCD



Direct Seed Soil Health Seminar

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Direct Seed Outreach Education and Cost Share Program

Resource Challenge: Soil erosion is the highest priority resource concern in the Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District (PRLCD). There are 304,000 acres of cropland that are susceptible to water and wind erosion in the district. Direct Seed, one or two pass seeding and fertilizing will decrease soil loss to less than 1 ton per acre per year. Outreach programs are improving the use of the direct seed system.

Project Summary and Results: A Direct Seed Farming System is where the seed and fertilizer are placed in the soil in one or two passes. This practice can reduce soil erosion by 95% improve air and water quality and decrease the potential pesticides and nutrients from entering streams and rivers. Partner agencies allow their personnel to present ideas, research and demonstrations to direct seed breakfasts, conferences and special events. Beginning in October 2012 and continuing through March of 2013 a monthly breakfast event was held in Colfax WA with a producer presenting his experience with direct seed, good or bad, along with his results and discussing other farm topics of importance. Typically, 30 to 40 producers from the Eastern Washington counties join other growers to exchange ideas and experiences for a total of approximately 240 contacts for the district. In addition, an individual from a university, conservation district or private industry give presentations on the newest trends in direct seed systems. Through cooperators involvement in this type of education along with education projects and our annual meeting over 1200 acres were positively impacted and 14 cooperators participated in direct seed projects.

Key Project Partners: WA State Conservation Commission; Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association; Farm Service Agency; WA Department of Ecology; Natural Resource Conservation Service; USDA-Agricultural Research Service; WA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

More Work to Do!

- Provide outreach education opportunities through the support of direct seed meetings, partnering with our neighboring conservation districts, the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association local schools and cooperators.
- Increase adoption of Direct Seed in lower rainfall areas using increased technology and lower disturbance equipment.
- Demonstrate variable rate fertilizer and seed rates using direct seed technology to increase conservation acreage, decrease potential nutrient loss, and increase farm profitability

Pend Oreille Conservation District

Terry Holloway, District Manager

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Board Chair: Ralph Christiansen



State Legislative District #7
Congressional District #5

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Little Spokane River Watershed Restoration Project

Resource Challenge: The Little Spokane River (LSR) has a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for fecal coliform, temperature, and turbidity. Vegetation removed from riparian areas along large sections of the main-stem LSR cannot shade and cool the water during much of the late spring and summer to adequately protect cold water aquatic species.



2009, before



2013, after

Project Summary: One of the projects on the LSR presented the opportunity to partner with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Whitworth University at the Verbrugge Environmental Center (VEC). Entrusted to Whitworth by a generous donation from the Verbrugge family, the VEC is comprised of 605 acres of forested and riparian meadow ecosystems surrounding the Little Spokane River. The VEC extends Whitworth's mission to educate both the mind and heart by engaging students, teachers, and the community to pursue environmental education, research, and conservation in the region.

Current conservation efforts on the property have been focused on the reestablishment of native riparian species, with the planting of nearly 25 thousand trees and shrubs over approximately 24 acres along the Little Spokane River. Initial planting of the riparian area began in 2009, with a follow up supplemental planting in 2013. Efforts in the future include maintenance of the existing plants, beaver mitigation and rodent control on the conifers within the project area. A lower reach of a tributary on the property has been approximately 90% shaded from successful plant establishment; the Pend Oreille Conservation District will continue efforts to shade the upper reaches of this tributary along with reestablishment of a wetland at its headwaters.

Key Project Partners: WA Department of Ecology; Natural Resource Conservation Service; Whitworth University; WA Department of Natural Resources.

Other Accomplishments



Plans for three bank stabilization projects - Pend Oreille River



Golf hardened crossing



Riparian plantings

More Work to Do!

- Implement the Wheat Week and Water on Wheels program in Pend Oreille County Schools
- Implement a cost-share program for soil testing and host a work-shop to assist Landowners in understanding the results and a soil management/conservation program
- Partner with other conservation districts to increase operating and administrative efficiency



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

Pierce Conservation District

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Board Chair: Jeanette Dorner

Other Accomplishments

PCD continues to keep our eyes and ears open to the water quality of our local streams.



84 volunteers have made 333 monitoring trips to 68 sites on 45 streams in Pierce County.

PCD worked with two local jurisdictions, Buckley and Gig Harbor, to hold three rain barrel workshops. To date, 70 rain barrels have been provided free of charge thanks to Ecology grant funding.

The Kersting Farm project in Longbranch included the installation of over a mile of exclusion fence, 900' of pipeline and three off stream watering locations to remove livestock from Schoolhouse Creek, protect its buffer and improve water quality in Filucy Bay, an important shellfish harvest area. This landowner agreed to remove almost 10 acres from his pasture rotation to protect water quality and improve habitat.

The Scott Farm in Longbranch installed over 350' of cross fence to improve pasture productivity. In addition, 550' of exclusion fence will protect over 1.5 acres of buffer with 450 native trees and shrubs installed by 35 volunteers. This will connect wildlife habitat and improve water quality in Filucy Bay.



Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Conservation District “Greens” Another Pierce County Neighborhood: 8th Avenue NW, Puyallup

Project Summary and Results: The City of Puyallup’s first Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) street was completed in March 2012 (funded by a Department of Ecology Stormwater Grant with matching Pierce Conservation District staff time and Puyallup Stormwater funds). The project includes a porous asphalt roadway, permeable paver and pervious concrete sidewalks, and rain gardens in the public right-of-way. The road and sidewalk are designed to infiltrate 100% of the rainfall on the site, and the road-side rain gardens will capture any excess runoff from the street, sidewalks, and driveways in the event of a significant rain event as an alternative for overflow.

Pierce Conservation District took the lead planting the right-of-way rain gardens, and the District hosted a volunteer event where 90+ volunteers installed over 2,500 plants. The morning was cool and clear as volunteers made quick work of the planting in under three hours! A ribbon-cutting ceremony, hosted by the Puyallup Chamber of Commerce with Mayor Hansen and Puyallup Council members, completed the event. As volunteers looked back at their hard work, the skies opened, and it began to pour! It was a perfect ending; watering-in the newly installed rain garden plants, and allowing the community to see how the road remained free of puddles as the rain came down.



More Work to Do!

- Lead coalition to protect economic viability of family farms
- Lead coalition to advance the improvement of water quality in shellfish growing areas
- Work with industrial property owners to use innovative, green infrastructure techniques to address natural resource concerns.
- Assist the City of Tacoma with their pilot residential rain garden program implementation.
- Continue to partner with Pierce County, the Health Department, and others in concentrated areas to raise the health of water quality in specific streams/lakes in Pierce County.

Pine Creek Conservation District

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Board Chair: Tom Henning



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Agriculture Energy Efficiency Conserves Resources



New lights and fixtures can result in greater than 50% energy reduction and higher quality of light for users.

Resource Challenge: Energy conservation is a new endeavor for many conservation districts. Hydropower provides the majority of electricity generated in the Pacific Northwest, and on-farm energy efficiencies help to conserve our water resources.

Project Summary and Results: Pine Creek Conservation District (CD) partnered with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Inland Power, Clearwater Power, Palouse Rock Lake CD,

Spokane CD, Lincoln CD, Whitman CD, and Palouse CD to provide a farm shop lighting energy efficiency program to Whitman and Spokane Counties. Conservation districts provided the conduit needed to connect BPA and the electric utility's rebate programs to the on-farm end user.

Pine Creek CD contacted end-users to explain the lighting rebate program, provide a shop inventory, and design new lighting systems. The District also assisted with lighting selection and purchase, document completion, rebate applications, and old equipment disposal. To date, the District has contacted 188 end-users, performed 75 energy assessments, and has 49 projects completed or in process.

Initially, BPA provided the funding for the district to perform this work. This BPA funding is now ending, but the District will continue the work through Implementation grant funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission.



Almost half done... new lights on left, old inefficient lights on right



Upgraded lighting results in better light, reduced energy use, water saved behind dams... and happy customers!

Other Accomplishments



District hosted information booth at Ag Expo 2013 in Spokane



Conservation planning with farm operator



On-site work

More Work to Do!

- Soil erosion continues to be the district's highest priority and resource problem. More on the ground implementation of Best Management Practices is needed.
- Improvement in the district's water quality by increasing the direct seeded acres, grass buffer acres, and filter strip acres.
- More energy audits and energy implementation projects to be completed.
- Partnering with other districts to increase district operating and administrative efficiency.
- Continue work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a Technical Service Provider to efficiently protect natural resources.



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Pomeroy Conservation District

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Board Chair: Kyle Pearson

Other Accomplishments



Off site watering facility and spring development to improve livestock pasture management and remove livestock from the riparian area.



Culvert fish barrier being addressed by NezPerce Tribe in upper Pataha Creek.



Harvesting of Canola by WSU of test plot. Canola being used as a rotational crop.

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Continuing No-till Program and Introduction of Overall Improvement of Soil Health

The Pomeroy Conservation District is continuing its program of the implementation of the no-till farming program to its producers. We are entering a new phase of the no-till farming practice by addressing the overall improvement of soil health with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Washington State University (WSU). Although, a current lawsuit by a local rancher against the Department of Ecology has slowed the livestock water quality improvement program, we continue to work with those that are concerned about projecting and improving the water quality and overall environment on their property.



Winter canola in rotation

Project Summary and Results: As part of our no-till program, the district's weed-seeker sprayer is in its fourth year of operation. The data collected has shown a chemical reduction compared to a regular sprayer doing the same job at the same rate of chemical. The chemical reduction depends on the rate and the weed being addressed. Although the cost of the Roundup Herbicide and other chemicals used for chemical fallow has come down in price since the sprayer was introduced in 2010, the reduction of chemicals used still reduces the chemical costs to the farmers. The chemical dealers are also working to address the resistance of some annual and grassy weeds to Glyphosate.

The soil health program is just being introduced by the NRCS and WSU in our area. Some demonstration plots are being placed within the county at different elevations and rainfall areas to determine the best rotational crops that may

work in those areas. The overall benefits of a long term no-till program and the importance of residue cover on improving the microbial activity in the soil is the objective of the program.

The new riparian and upland practices that are now available under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) have allowed more participation by landowners. The district is expecting an increase in the implementation of riparian buffers, hedge rows, and additional grass plantings on some of the uplands.

Partners: WA Department of Ecology; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Washington State University; and farmers and ranchers of Garfield County.

More Work to Do!

The district will continue to introduce the newest technology and practices to its producers. The District will have an area CREP coordinator to continue our efforts here in the Pomeroy Conservation District. He will also travel north into Whitman County to introduce the program to those producers that are eligible for the new practices covered under the program. The district is also planning on obtaining funding to build a rain simulator to demonstrate the importance of residue cover on the soil service along with the importance and ways of getting the moisture into the soil.

The district will continue to house the Cluster Engineer for the SE districts.

San Juan Islands Conservation District

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Board Chair: Ron Zee



State Legislative District #40
Congressional District #2

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Community Conservation Projects Completed!



San Juan County Fairgrounds Compost Facility

In 2012-2013, the San Juan Islands Conservation District provided financial and technical assistance to landowners and residents to implement 12 on-the-ground conservation projects.

- Compost facility at the San Juan County Fairgrounds.
- Forest restoration and rain garden installation for the Bonnie Brae Community.

- Improved manure and nutrient management to prevent groundwater contamination on Lopez.
- Rain gardens at Lavender Hollow Community.
- Green roof restoration at Orcas Village Green.
- Improved irrigation systems for farms on Orcas and San Juan.



Rainwater Catchment Cistern, Orcas Island School Farm-to-Garden Program

Results

- 31 Jobs Created
- 25 Best Management Practices Implemented
- 340 Acres Protected, Improved, or Enhanced



Youth Conservation Corps Installing Green Roof at Orcas Village Green

Other Accomplishments

Biodynamic Farming Workshop on Lopez Island, May 2013



Participants learned techniques on creating a diversified, balanced, and sustainable farm ecosystem, and enjoyed a sumptuous lunch made completely from ingredients produced on the farm.

Growing Great Grass Workshop on San Juan Island, April 2013



Participants learned about pasture management techniques to increase production for horses and livestock as well as prevent weeds and mud.

More Work to Do!

- Our upcoming work focuses on preserving working lands and water quality by promoting sustainable farm and forest management, soil and water conservation, and ecosystem recovery.
- We will accomplish our goals through strategic resource planning, education and outreach, performance measurement, and providing technical and financial assistance to landowners and residents.



State Legislative District #39, 40, 10
Congressional District #1, 2

Skagit Conservation District

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Board Chair: Paul Blau

Other Accomplishments

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - to date

- 581 acres enrolled
- 184,331 stream feet planted
- 35 miles of buffer created
- 60,610 feet of fencing installed
- 261,656 native trees planted

Engineering

- 800 feet of channel reactivation
- 150 feet of stream bank stabilized
- 3 best management practices (BMPs) implemented

Farm Planning

- 255 livestock owners received technical assistance
- 22 new plans written
- 2052.7 acres protected, improved, or enhanced through BMP implementation
- Forestry
- 17 forest plans written
- 32 landowners received technical assistance

Public Outreach and Education

- 3,200+ hours reported by volunteers
- 400+ individuals participated in adult workshops/classes
- 3,000+ visited event display booths
- 1,800+ students participated in youth education programs
- 4 newsletters distributed

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Skagit Conservation District Grows the Firewise Program

Resource Challenge: Our ever increasing population throughout Washington is resulting in more and more development in the wildland-urban interface (where the trees meet the eaves). Because of this, the potential for a wildland fire to become a disaster continues to increase as well. With more people and structures, heavy fuel loads, unhealthy forests, and limited fire suppression resources, personal responsibility becomes essential.



Fuels reduction



Skagit CD staff and partners attend the 100th Firewise Community/USA® award ceremony

Project Summary and Results: Skagit Conservation District (CD) is providing landowners in Skagit County the tools and resources they need to make their communities more resilient to wildfire, such as risk assessments, educational workshops and materials, forest health information, fuels reduction demonstration projects, and guidance on becoming nationally recognized Firewise Communities/USA. There are currently seven recognized Firewise Communities/USA in Skagit County and more in progress.

Over the past year in Skagit County, Skagit CD has accomplished the following:

- 8 Firewise/Forestry plans written
- 15 best management practices (BMPs) implemented, such as fuel breaks, tree/shrub pruning, forest stand improvement
- 235 individuals participated in Firewise related activities
- 327 acres improved/protected by Firewise BMPs

Skagit CD has also provided leadership to other districts around the state in developing and growing their Firewise Programs by facilitating funding opportunities and partnership development, and providing training and technical assistance. In the last year, districts around the state have developed nine new Firewise Communities. This spring, Washington State celebrated its 100th Firewise Community/USA®. Washington has the second highest number of Firewise Communities in the nation.

Key project partners: Skagit County Board of County Commissioners; Skagit County Fire Marshal's Office; WA Department of Natural Resources; local Fire Districts; WA State Conservation Commission; WA State Conservation Districts; US Forest Service.

More Work to Do!

Skagit CD will continue to work with landowners and partners to address current and emerging natural resources issues. Our goals are to assist in the development of policy and to implement programs and projects concerning our natural resources in a holistic, collaborative manner.



Snohomish Conservation District

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Board Chair: Mark Craven



State Legislative District #1,10,21,32,38,39,44
Congressional District #1, 2

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Stillaguamish Watershed Benefits from District Help

Resource Challenge: The Stillaguamish River basin is characterized by a diversity of landscapes—productive farmland, marine shorelines, forests, and rural communities. The basin also provides habitat to threatened salmon, is a critical corridor for migratory birds, and contributes to the overall health of Puget Sound. But the Stillaguamish River is in trouble—Chinook salmon are at 10% of historic returns, the river and many of its tributaries have high levels of fecal coliform bacteria, and other pollutants degrade the streams and marine areas for salmon, shellfish, and other aquatic life.



Project Summary and Results: Snohomish Conservation District works with a diverse group of partners and hundreds of private landowners annually to restore stream habitat and improve water quality. Projects range from waste storage facilities and other farm improvements to streamside planting and fencing projects and rain gardens.



In 2013, the District worked to reduce fecal coliform bacteria and elevated stream temperatures in Lower Pilchuck Creek. Landowners, along with staff and volunteers, planted 1.1 streamside acres (896 trees), installed 800 feet of fence to exclude animals from streams, and constructed four compost bins for recycling animal waste. The District's efforts in the basin also included workshops, farm tours, and hands-on demonstrations to educate landowners about ways they can help improve water quality.

Key Project Partners: Snohomish County Surface Water Management; Stillaguamish Clean Water District; WA Department of Ecology; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Approx. 11 jobs created, plus: 1 Youth Educator; 1 Sound Horsekeeping Lead; 2 Habitat Specialists; and 1 LID Program Specialist

Other Accomplishments

- Launched Better Ground, the District's new outreach program, which includes a website, fact sheets, and resources for landowners. 
- Awarded landowners \$251,500 in cost-share and project funding.
- Held three volunteer rain garden planting events in Arlington, Stanwood, and on Camano Island.
- Energized the District's K-12 youth program that reached 78 classes, 2,225 students and 139 adults. Reached 861 students and sixteen teachers with Wheat Weeks lessons.
- Completed the Woods Creek Action Plan. This effort brought together local stakeholders and identified 45 acres of priority streamside planting.
- Geared to receive a \$250,000 grant in late 2013 from Dept. of Ecology to begin implementing the first 20-acre project identified in the Action Plan.

Recognition

I'd like you to know what a HUGE help Ryan Williams has been with Mukilteo Elementary's outdoor classroom project. We're currently restoring and replanting an overgrown chunk of land on school property. We wouldn't have known where to start without Ryan's help. He has inspired our students and their parents to manage our natural resources for the future ~ 5th grade teacher at Mukilteo Elementary.

More Work to Do!

- Establish Sound Horsekeeping as a premier program that the equine community will adopt as a desired goal to attain.
- Become a major provider of youth education and establish premier programs in ocean acidification, shellfish protection, and phosphorus reduction.
- Begin working with communities in the Skagit Flats and Lower Stillaguamish River areas.
- Focus efforts on two Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) areas.



State Legislative District #12
Congressional District #14

South Douglas Conservation District

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Board Chair: Eddie Greer

Other Accomplishments



Cost-share project: Stream crossing before pipe installed



Cost-share project in progress: Field terrace



Cost-share: Windbreak

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Improving Water Quality

Resource Challenge: Protecting water quality by reducing erosion and runoff is a continuing challenge in South Douglas. Near drought conditions exacerbate the problem and also influences air quality. Reducing the amount of tillage operations by providing no/low till equipment for rent to our cooperators decreases the potential amount of air borne soil. Cost-share funding for cooperators for erosion control by constructing dams, terraces, stream crossings, and other Best Management Practices is our largest expenditure.

Project Summary and Results: Providing 5 farmers with cost-share resulted in the construction of 4 terraces, one dam, and one steam crossing. Over 5,000 acres were directly protected, and several thousand “downstream” acres were also secured from further erosion. 350 additional acres were farmed by 2 producers using the District’s no/low till equipment, reducing erosion and improving air and water quality while improving soil productivity.

Education and outreach are key factors in protecting our resources. As the District becomes more urban than rural, it is important to promote conservation to all citizens. These projects include:

- Annual Tree and Shrub Sale (1,000 plants to 50+ buyers)
- Support of Cascadia CD Kids in the Creek (150 students)
- Support of Waterville School’s Douglas Creek Monitoring Task (30)
- Support of the NCW Envirothon (75 students)
- Fair Booth at NCW Fair providing information and contact

Funding by the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) for an Administrative Efficiencies grant enabled South Douglas to begin developing the Firewise program in Douglas County. Contacts with over 200 cooperators living on Badger Mountain resulted in fire assessments conducted for all those interested. The grant also expanded the BioControl program into South Douglas, with a weed identification booklet produced, specific to Douglas County.

Key Project Partners: The SCC supported cost-share projects. In cooperation with NRCS, Foster Creek CD, Cascadia CD, and area farmers, South Douglas is able to use the majority of funding for on-the-ground projects and a minimal amount for administration.

More Work to Do!

- Expand Firewise Program in Douglas County
- Expand BioControl Program
- Increase outreach and education to landowners.
- Provide assistance to farmers to implement Best Management Practices within our cost share program.
- Upgrade irrigation systems.
- Encourage new conservation and water quality practices.
- Improve wildlife habitat

South Yakima Conservation District

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Board Chair: Dirk Van Slageren



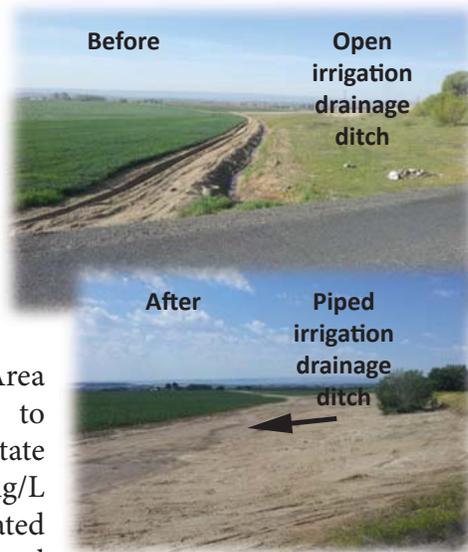
State Legislative District #15
Congressional District #4

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Nitrates in Groundwater

Resource Challenge: Nitrate is a form of Nitrogen. Nitrogen is an essential nutrient for plant growth. Nitrate can occur both naturally and man-made and come from many sources, such as septic systems, commercial fertilizers, organic fertilizers, decomposed plants, and improper discharge of waste treatment plants.

The Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) was formed in 2012 due to the levels of nitrates in excess of the state drinking water maximum level of 10mg/L found in about 20% of the unregulated private wells tested by EPA in 2010. The goal of the GWMA is to address all significant sources of nitrates in a comprehensive manner and find appropriate measures to reduce groundwater contamination.



Project Summary and Results: Improving water quality by reducing surface and groundwater contaminants is South Yakima Conservation District's (SYCD) #1 priority. SYCD provides technical assistance and financial assistance (when available) to implement best management practices (BMPs) that protect water quality. **The underground outlet project above is one of 14 Capital Cost-Share projects (Category 3) installed this year with the Washington State Conservation Commission providing the cost-share funding. Over 4000 acres benefitted and approximately 100 jobs were created during implementation of these projects.** Other projects included surface irrigation to sprinkler conversions, manure transfer, waste storage facility, and separator systems.

Key Project Partners: USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service; WA State Conservation Commission; Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID); and landowners.

More Work to Do!

- Seek additional funds for technical and financial assistance to apply BMP's, improve water and air quality, and on farm energy efficiency.
- Continue as member of the Lower Yakima Valley GWMA Advisory Committee to identify solutions to reduce groundwater contamination.
- Continue outreach/educational on irrigation water management, nutrient management, and energy efficiency.
- **25 Dairy Nutrient Management Plans were developed/updated during the last grant cycle.** If Livestock Technical Assistance funding is available, we'll continue to work with local dairy and livestock facilities to ensure all local, state, and federal regulations are met, develop and/or update nutrient management plans, and provide technical assistance with BMP implementation as needed.

Other Accomplishments



No-till can reduce the number of passes over a field needed to establish and harvest a crop. This means 50 to 80 percent less fuel and 30 to 50 percent less labor than tillage-based agriculture, significantly lowering production costs per acre. Over 300 acres were seeded with the no-till drill.



Partnering with Benton CD, four schools and 342 students were able to participate in the "Salmon in the Classroom" program. Franklin CD's "Wheat Week" program reached 176 students and 17 teachers during the 2012-2013 school year.



State Legislative District #3,4,6,7,9
Congressional District #5

Spokane Conservation District

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Board Chair: Jerry Scheele

Other Accomplishments

Firewise

The Spokane Conservation District (SCD) Firewise program is protecting homes and improving forest health. In May, the SCD completed two 100-acre fuels reduction projects in the Four Mounds area. As a result of the interest these projects generated, the area received a community assessment, a Firewise Community was formed, and 18 individual home site assessments were completed.

Earlier in 2013, the Bridlewood neighborhood had a community assessment, 64 individual home site assessments and formed Bridlewood Firewise Community. Aside from these two areas, SCD completed 20 home site assessments and have many more in the pipeline.

Trout Habitat Restoration

The SCD implemented the Family Forest Fish Passage Program to open more than 22 miles of red band trout habitat. In 2013, two projects were completed by removing culverts, installing bridges and restoring natural vegetation.



Direct Seed

Our 2012 Case IH Quad Trac was purchased to support the Direct Seed program. The SCD has seeded 2,400 acres in fall 2012, 1,900 acres in spring 2013 and expects to seed 3,500 acres in fall 2013. Every season the rental schedule is brimming with wheat, barley, canola and more.



Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Livestock and Land Program Now Available Across Spokane County



The Livestock and Land program started out in specific watershed areas in 2012 and now serves all of Spokane County with free site assessments and recommendations, cost-share opportunities, and an upcoming grant and loan program.

Program Summary and Results: The success of the Livestock and Land program in fiscal year 2013 made an impact on local watersheds, landowners, and animal health.

Six workshops were held to introduce residents to the program, best management practices (BMPs), and cost-share opportunities; 70 people attended workshops and increased their knowledge of mud and manure management, pasture management, facility design and more.

Due to workshops, word of mouth, advertising and direct mailers, 82 land-users participated in the program and received free, no obligation site assessments. Half of these landowners implemented the following BMPs:

- 4 pasture management plans
- 7 off-creek watering facilities
- 6 riparian fencing projects totaling 6,974 feet
- 6 roof runoff systems
- 7 heavy use areas
- 8 waste storage facilities
- 3 sub surface drainage



Above: A high use area before and after assistance from Livestock and Land Program.

Altogether, 41 improvements were made, 630.5 acres were affected and approximately \$250,000 cost share dollars were distributed. This doesn't include the purchase and creation of our Manure Spreader Rental program which debuted this spring and has helped landowners harness their manure as a valuable resource.

More Work to Do!

The Spokane Conservation District will implement a new On-Site Septic System Loan Program. An estimated 15% of septic systems in Spokane County need to be replaced.

Stevens County Conservation District

Dean Hellie, District Administrator

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Board Chair: Andy Kroiss



State Legislative District #7
Congressional District #5

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Recreation and Conservation Office—Sheep Creek Campground

Resource Challenge: Sheep Creek Campground in northern Stevens County was facing numerous challenges, including: unregulated camp usage, old pit toilets, unmaintained trails, noxious weed encroachment, and increasing density of tree seedlings. Degradation of the site posed a threat to water quality, soil erosion, forest health, and wildfire.

Project Summary and Results: The Stevens County Conservation District (SCCD) worked with partners to inventory current camp conditions, develop a long-term plan for sustainability, and improve facilities to protect the natural resources and local water quality. As a result, we were able to accomplish the following:

- Replaced two old outhouses with one CXT toilet
- Restored 120' of creek bank
- Improved 2400' of trail
- Decommissioned 528' of trail and 100' of unauthorized ATV trail
- Built 100' of new trail
- Removed three unused and unsafe fire pits and two illegal fire pits
- Controlled 1.0 acres of noxious weeds
- Developed a camp management and monitoring plan



Key Project Partners: US Forest Service - Colville National Forest; Town of Northport; Northport Community Preservation and Restoration; WA Conservation Corps; and WA Department of Natural Resources.

Other Accomplishments



B&W County Fair – SCCD receives Special Award from Washington State Fair Commission.



Big Tree Contest Celebrates 10th Year – Youth event has raised \$43,800 over 10 years with all proceeds going towards youth natural resource programs.



5 Fish Barriers Removed (RCO) – 5 landowners assisted, 36.4 miles of fish habitat opened up, and \$230,500 invested in the local area.

More Work to Do!

Livestock production and protecting water quality.

- Stevens County Conservation District will continue to work with landowners to achieve that balance of keeping livestock operations sustainable and compliant with regulations, and protecting water quality and natural resources.





State Legislative District #2,20,22,35
Congressional District #3,9

Thurston Conservation District

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Board Chair: Doug Rushton

Other Accomplishments



South Sound GREEN students install native plants along Woodland Creek



18 workshops events held. Topics included farm implement demos, alternative crops, production and distribution, marketing, and others

- 4,152 acres protected, improved, enhanced through implementation of BMPs
- 5,060 feet of fence installed
- 5,160 feet of stream protected, improved, or enhanced through the implementation of riparian practice(s) installation.
- 325 volunteers utilized, putting conservation on the ground and assisting with environmental education.

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Matching Land and New Farmers with Existing Producers

Resource Challenge: Farmland in Thurston County is at serious risk of conversion to other uses. For example, 75% of the farmland is within three miles of an urban growth boundary and over half is not registered as long-term agriculture or registered within the open space tax program offered by the County. Additionally, the average age of principal operators is 57 years.



Producers and elected officials on a farm tour

Project Summary and Results: Working with a broad coalition of partners, this project has identified and matched farmers owning fallow land with new farmers ready to turn dirt. Options to keep that farm in production or protected with a conservation easement are also being developed. An interactive database is being built upon that identifies accessible farmland, farmers ready to plant, and existing farmers desiring to expand. By December, 2014, 25 matches will be facilitated. Additionally, this project is providing farm management and farm marketing / business training, workshops and farm tours to new and existing farmers. Since inception in spring, 2012, this project has hosted 13 workshops and farm tours and reached over 175 producers and elected officials.

Thurston Conservation District is also partnering to protect and create an incubator farm in southern Thurston County. Working collaboratively in an on-farm setting, students will be able to share the use of various farm implements without a large capital investment. Additionally, each has the opportunity to specialize in something different that can blend into a farm-level Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) offering that also brings in residents from the urban core. This opportunity could easily translate into agri-tourism with tours, tastings, cooking lessons, concerts, etc. at the site.

Key Project Partners: Capitol Land Trust; Cascade Harvest Coalition; Enterprise for Equity; South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust; The Evergreen State College; WSU-Thurston County Extension.

More Work to Do!

- Secure funding to implement livestock projects currently on waiting list.
- Continue to provide support to beginning farmers, helping to keep agriculture viable and prevent agricultural land conversion in Thurston Co.
- Assist agricultural landowners in complying with the local Critical Areas Ordinance.
- Continue focus and further partnerships in restoring water quality in area streams and Puget Sound.
- Continue to support salmon recovery efforts through the Lead Entity process.

Underwood Conservation District

Tova Tillinghast, District Manager
Park Center Building, 170 NW Lincoln St. PO Box 96 White Salmon, WA 98672
(509) 493-1936 | www.ucdwa.org
Board Chair: Jacob Anderson



State Legislative District #14
Congressional District #3

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Little Wind River Habitat Enhancement, Phase 1

Resource Challenge: The Gundersen family has cooperated with Underwood Conservation District (UCD) on several projects along the Little Wind River over the years. More recently, UCD teamed up with multiple funding sources and two renowned restoration designers, and proceeded to design and implement a salmon and steelhead habitat enhancement project in the lower ½ mile of the Little Wind River, a tributary to the Wind River below Shipherd Falls. This tributary is important habitat for wild Wind River steelhead, Coho and Chinook salmon. The habitat has degraded over past years of intensive logging, road building, and landslides throughout the sub-watershed, which decreased aquatic habitat complexity, spawning gravels, and instream refuge. This small but significant tributary had a lot of potential!

Project Summary and Results: UCD conducted aquatic habitat restoration activities along the lower 900 feet of the Little Wind River, as Phase 1 of the project due to funding and time constraints. Instream work occurred in Sept. 2012, and included construction of 6 pools, 7 riffles, 2 glides, 4 log jams, and 1 off-channel alcove feature. The site was seeded, mulched and planted. In Fall 2012, Coho salmon were observed spawning within the restoration reach, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife counted 17 new Coho redds in the lower Little Wind River, a marked increase from years past. UCD plans to implement Phase 2 in Aug.-Sept. 2013.



Constructed large woody debris jam and habitat pool during 2012 winter high flows.

Key Project Partners and Funders: BPA Fish and Wildlife Division; Ecotrust Whole Watershed Initiative; NOAA Community Restoration Center; USDA Forest Service Region 6 and Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area; Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group; Salmon River Engineering; and Bair LLC.



Top: Post-construction view of constructed fish habitat: large woody debris jam on left, riffle, glide and pool. Bottom: Pre-construction view of same reach



Other Accomplishments

- Replaced a barrier culvert with a modular bridge on Indian Creek, tributary to Rattlesnake Creek and the White Salmon River in Husum, Washington. This project helps restore access to as much as 4 miles of fish habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead that are recolonizing the watershed after 100 years of blocked access due to Condit Dam. This project was funded by Yakama Nation Fisheries, Salmon Recovery Funding Board and US Fish and Wildlife Service.



- Sold over 18,000 native trees and shrubs in the annual UCD Plant Sale.
- Distributed over 2,000 trees on Washington Arbor Day.
- Protected or enhanced over three miles of stream.
- Planted 12,470 trees and shrubs at project sites.
- Made 378 new landowner contacts.

More Work to Do!

- Plan and implement livestock water quality improvements in the White Salmon River watershed.
- Complete permitting, design and construction of the Cannavina Creek fish passage correction.
- Complete permitting, design and construction of the Buck Creek irrigation diversion project.
- Complete fish passage surveys in the Wind River watershed.
- Pursue funding for Trout Lake Irrigation Efficiency and Fish Screening Project.
- Expand technical assistance and cost-share services to orchards and vineyards.
- Pursue funding to sustain a district-wide Firewise Program.



State Legislative District #19
Congressional District #3

Wahkiakum Conservation District

Darin Houpt, District Manager
PO Box 67 Cathlamet, WA 98612
(360) 795-8240 | ccddmgr@teamelect.com
Board Chair: Joe Florek, Jr.

Other Accomplishments



Pre project



Post Construction

Elochoman River Stream Restoration



Channel Margin Roughness



Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Community Watershed Projects

Resource Challenge: Flooding and associated property damage, water quality, salmon recovery, and invasive weeds are shared concerns amongst landowners in the Skamokawa Creek and Elochoman River Watersheds. These resource concerns do not recognize property boundaries and are best addressed at a watershed scale. The principles of Coordinated Resource Management are being employed to continue assisting the Skamokawa Community and to initiate a project in the Elochoman River watershed.

Skamokawa Community Watershed: To date 8 projects have been implemented with collaborating landowners. Results include installation of 92 instream large woody debris structures, improvements to 27,460 feet of habitat, 59 acres of riparian restoration including associated exclusion fencing, 2 improved livestock crossings, and 1 fish passage project. The Historic Skamokawa Creek Channel Restoration Project augments these accomplishments with restoration of 2 miles of historic channel, a water inlet structure, improved outlet structure, and 2 upgrades of undersized interior culverts. One additional project is in design phase and a second project is under proposal that will add two additional miles of stream restoration.



Debris jam creating scour pool - reducing sediment delivery, and protecting property(win-win-win)

The District received funding and began a knotweed assessment of the entire watershed (25 miles surveyed). Treatment will be scheduled for the 2014 field season. Monitoring and additional treatment will continue for 3 years.

Project work results in two full time equivalent staff positions at the district. Project work is typically awarded to local contractors and each project provides work for 3-4 people for about two weeks. Projects also result in several goods and materials contracts with multiple local vendors including purchase and

delivery of large woody debris, plant materials, fencing materials, and a wide range of hardware employed to anchor log structures.

Elochoman River Community Watershed: Two stream restoration projects have been installed in the lower river. A third has been delayed by permitting to the 2014 hydraulic window. A fourth is in the proposal stage.

More Work to Do!

- Implement 3 funded stream restoration projects encompassing 2 miles of Skamokawa Creek and 1 mile of the Elochoman River.
- Treat and monitor knotweed in the Skamokawa Creek Watershed.
- Work with at least 2 landowners in the Skamokawa Creek or Elochoman River Watershed Project areas to develop and submit project proposals for funding.
- Continue education / outreach efforts to increase local awareness of resource concerns and opportunities to address them.
- Continue to assist landowners on an as needed basis.

Walla Walla Conservation District

Rick Jones, District Manager
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Board Chair: Jeff Schulke, Chair



State Legislative District #16
Congressional District #5

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13 North Lateral Piping Project



The divergence point where the new 42-inch North Lateral leaves the 36-inch South Lateral

Resource Challenge: Built in 1892, the Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13's open canal delivery system was an amazing engineering feat with 11.55 miles of upper canal and almost 13 miles in its north and south laterals. In 2004, an independent study showed fully 1/3 of the diverted water was lost to seepage. Piping the delivery system was the selected alternative for improving delivery efficiency and for reducing withdrawal demands on the already over-adjudicated Walla Walla River.

Due to the sheer magnitude of piping the delivery system, the project was divided into sections. The first phase – the South Lateral Piping Project – was completed by the WWCCD in 2010. The second phase is the North Lateral Piping Project of which the 2,800 foot project is the initial step that was completed in 2012.

Project Summary and Results: The North Lateral project was the 7.3 mile- portion of the open canal delivery system immediately downstream from GFID's 1.44 mile long Pine Creek siphon. Stage 1 included: fitting a "Y" connector to the outlet of the siphon which immediately split the water into the 36-inch line serving the South Lateral and a 42-inch line serving the North Lateral; installation of flow control valves with telemetry and telemetry controlled actuators; 14,920 feet of buried gravity pipeline, 1,280 feet of on-farm lateral pipelines; and upgrades to 19 on-farm pump stations. Stage 2 included: 13,565 feet of gravity pipeline; 6,720 feet of on-farm laterals, and upgrades to 18 additional on farm pump stations. Total project cost was \$3.461 million. The new North Lateral pipeline serves about 3,000 acres and saves approximately 1,656 ac-ft of water into trust.

Key Partners in the North Lateral Piping Project: WA Department of Ecology; Bureau of Reclamation; Bonneville Power Administration; Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13 Board of Directors.

Other Accomplishments

Blalock Irrigation District #3 Fish Screen Project

Located on Mill Creek, the intake for the Blalock Irrigation District's diversion is adjacent to the City of Walla Walla's Wastewater Treatment Facility. Capable of diverting up to 10 cfs, Blalock was the last large un-screened diversion on Mill Creek. Therefore, ESA listed fish were at risk unless a modern screening system was constructed. In cooperation with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and the WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the WWCCD began active work on the project about seven years ago. After many meetings with Blalock irrigators and other stakeholders, a design was completed, and permits and easements were obtained. Fabrication of the screen was completed by the WDFW Yakima Screen Shop. Funded by WDFW, CTUIR, Bonneville Power, the Washington State Conservation Commission and landowners, the total project cost was \$275,231.



More Work to Do!

- Gardena Farms Irrigation District
- #13 Upper Canal Piping Project
- Lowden 2-Garden City Delivery System Piping Project
- Stiller Shallow Aquifer Recharge Project (Phase 2)
- Jones Fish Habitat Enhancement Project
- McCaw Fish Habitat Restoration Project
- Walla Walla Fish Screens Project



State Legislative District #39, 40, 42
Congressional District #2

Whatcom Conservation District

George Boggs, Executive Director
6975 Hannegan Road Lynden, WA 98624
(360) 354-2035 x3 | wcd@whatcomcd.org | www.whatcomcd.org
Board Chair: Joseph Heller

Other Accomplishments

- Information/Outreach efforts contacts: 694 (plant sale, classroom and tours) + 16,966 website hits
- Landowners/managers assisted: 150+
- Conservation Farm Plans completed/updated: 33
- Total Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed: 104
- Acres Protected, Improved or Enhanced by BMPs: 37,909
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
 - Plans completed: 37
 - Stream feet planted: 90,128
 - Stream feet fenced: 12,998
 - Native plants installed: 75,619
 - Acres planted: 224.8
 - Projects maintained: 111
 - Acres maintained: 593.2
- Other riparian restoration projects implemented: 9
 - Stream feet planted: 16,040
 - Acres Enhanced: 11
 - Native plants installed: 15,113

CREP millionth tree event. (left to right) Craig Lee, Whatcom Land Trust; Larry DeHaan, Dairy Producer & FSA State Committee member; George Boggs, WCD Executive Director



Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - Millionth Tree Planted

Resource Challenge: Degraded riparian conditions and water quality have been a major limiting factor in the recovery of endangered salmon and steelhead in Washington State for many years. Consequently, this decline has also had an adverse effect on shellfish beds. Salmon, steelhead, and shellfish beds are threatened due to increases in water temperature, turbidity, fecal coliform, and nutrient inputs. The western lowlands of Whatcom County are rich in agriculture, from dairies to berries. There are more than 2,000 miles of water courses and innumerable wetlands in the western half of the county where agriculture, urban and recreational uses, and wildlife mix. Many of these watercourses have been degraded in some way; either straightened, dredged, or cleared of riparian vegetation.



Project Summary and Results: As good stewards of the land and water, CREP has provided financial compensation to those landowners who elect to install habitat and water quality friendly buffers on their property. CREP buffers help alleviate increasing water temperatures, turbidity, fecal coliform, and nutrient inputs by providing shade and acting as filters. Since 1999, CREP in Whatcom County has been successfully implementing vegetative buffer practices to address these limiting factors. On April 20, 2013, in celebration of Earth Day, a gathering of over 200 community members and agency representatives was held to honor the planting of the one millionth CREP tree in the buffer on a Whatcom Land Trust preserve in Acme. The event honored not only the work of the Whatcom Conservation District, but also focused on the accomplishments of all who make habitat restoration a goal and priority.

While the one millionth CREP tree was planted, hundreds of thousands more have been planted through a collaborative effort among several different agencies and groups. This effort is but a piece of the overall puzzle. Currently we have pieced together 339 projects, 2,312 acres of buffer with over 1 million trees planted! Annual monitoring has shown that CREP buffers are reducing water temperatures since the program's implementation in 1999.

Key Project Partners: WA State Conservation Commission; UDSA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service; Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association; CREP Contractors: Cascadia Farm & Forestry Services LLC; Moore Fish Company, Squalicum Mountain Ecological Restoration, et al.; and 339 landowner participants!

More Work to Do!

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): 25 CREP participants planned for installation in spring 2014

Livestock: Continue technical assistance to 120 dairies and hundreds of small farms.



Whidbey Island Conservation District

Karen Bishop, District Manager
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Board Chair: Wendi Hilborn



State Legislative District #10
Congressional District #2

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

Penn Cove Farm Implements Practices Prescribed in Comprehensive Nutrient Management Program (CNMP)

Resource Challenge: Penn Cove Farm grows feed on 500 acres for 1700 confined dairy heifers. The main resource concern is “Water Quality: Excessive nutrients and organics in surface and groundwater.” A large amount of liquid manure exceeded the capacity of the existing waste storage pond.



Solid manure dry stack (before)

Project Summary and Results: Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) and NRCS collaborated to help the farm with a conservation plan. It was determined that a manure tunnel and manure solids separator would reduce liquid waste volume. Though an EQIP contract was secured to assist financing, high project costs still caused delays. Implementation was possible only when Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) supplemental funding became available. A contractor was secured to quickly install the practices to NRCS standards and specifications.



Separator with recycled solids for bedding (after)

Approximately 300 feet of large diameter polyethylene pipe was installed with concrete slabs and scrape slots to collect and carry manure slurry to an existing manure tank. A mechanical separator was installed to separate solids from liquids, and a new pump was installed to transfer slurry to the separator. A mechanical separator was installed to separate solids from liquids, and a new pump was installed to transfer slurry to the separator. Separated solids will be composted in a roofed facility and used for bedding, greatly reducing the need for straw bedding. Plumbing was installed to transfer separated liquids from the separator back to the tunnel or waste storage pond, and from the waste storage pond back to the tunnel. These implemented practices will contribute to full implementation of this CNMP to protect water quality. This will particularly benefit shellfish resources in nearby Penn Cove. Using separated solids will reduce bedding costs, reduce liquid volumes, and will reduce transportation costs.

Key Project Partners: SCC cost-share contributed \$18,350 for the manure tunnel and \$22,350 for the solids separator, respectively. NRCS contributed \$35,750 and \$41,250 respectively for these practices. The farm contributed cash and labor. WICD provided technical assistance and farm planning.

More Work to Do!

The waiting lists for conservation planning assistance are long, but experience shows the investment in conservation planning is a wise investment of public funds.

In June of 2013, the Whidbey CD team of Conservation Planners completed extensive follow-up with landowners who received technical planning assistance in FY13 from WICD. The 57 plans completed resulted in an average of 3.8 Best Management Practices implemented per landowner, all on a voluntary basis. The featured Penn Cove Farm project is an example of a successful outcome resulting from a carefully planned and executed system, where cost share funds were needed for implementation. The result is a well-functioning system that protects water quality in a high profile shellfish growing area.

Other Accomplishments

WICD provided individual technical assistance to 107 new residents and landowners on Whidbey Island in Fiscal Year 2013.

Conservation Planning

- 15 NRCS Resource Management Plans (RMS) developed for farm and forest landowners.
- 25 Alternative Stormwater Management (LID) plans developed.
- 18 targeted practice, non-RMS plans developed for farm, forest and bluff/shoreline landowners.
- 1382 acres improved through new client conservation planning.
- Conservation planning efforts resulted in installation of 269 Best Management Practices.

Professional Engineering Services

- Partnered with Whidbey Camano Land Trust in Dugualla Heights Lagoon Restoration project
- Completed partnership with N.W. Straights Foundation in Cornet Bay Nearshore Restoration project

Outreach and Education

- 7th annual Farm Tour – 18 farms opened to the public with 6500 individual farm visits.
- 7,575 plants sold at annual Native Plant Sale.
- 502 attendees at District workshops. 2,878 pieces of educational material handed out at 34 events participated in by WICD.



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Whitman Conservation District

Nancy Hoobler, Natural Resources Coordinator
805 S Vista Point Drive #2 Colfax, WA 99111
(509) 397-4636 x120 | nancywhitmand@gmail.com | www.whitmand.org
Board Chair: Walter Riley

Other Accomplishments



Cross fencing pastures for intensive grazing management and weed control.

Annual Public Input Meeting

The Board of Supervisors goal: Increase Public Awareness and receive input relating to future District Activities.

Created a Conservation Corner at the Colfax library with information explaining conservation practices.

Whitman County Envirothon

Assisted with Contest, serving 14 teams and 61 students.



Annual 5th grade conservation planting

Feature 2013 Accomplishment:

District Cost-Share Program

Resource Challenge: Whitman Conservation District specifically focuses on the natural resources diversity found within its boundaries: 10”– 21” rainfall; variations in tillage operations from traditional 2-year crop rotation with tillage to a 3-year crop rotation with no tillage; rangeland to pasture grazing and management. Our District Cost-Share Program is as diverse as the resources, providing opportunities for all constituents to participate.



Riparian fencing



Precision farming

Project Summary and Results: This year the District assisted numerous producers resulting in the reduction of chemical overspray and helping to improve riparian areas along the Palouse River drainage through the installation of:

- 2 precision farming practices covering 2,062 acres.
- 1700 shrubs planted by 100 volunteers to reduce stormwater runoff from upland fields.
- 2,265 feet of fence to enhance grazing practices.
- 5 conservation practice plans.



Direct seed

The District Cost-Share Program provided \$11,067 which was matched by participants at \$13,157 resulting in \$24,224 being spent for on-the-ground implementation of conservation practices.

Key Project Partners: Natural Resources Conservation Service; City of Colfax; Avista; Colfax Scouts; U of I student volunteers; Colfax High School special needs students; Colfax 5th graders; City of LaCrosse and LaCrosse 5th grade class partnered with the Whitman Conservation District Landowners/Operators, Board of Supervisors and Staff.

More Work to Do!

The Board of Supervisors will continue to:

- Seek constituent input for conservation district direction
- Promote the current district programs
- Seek additional appropriate funding opportunities
- Pursue alternative energy resources
- Seek additional partnerships to further on-the-ground implementation activities

Acronyms

BMP Best Management Practice	RCO Recreation and Conservation Office
BPA Bonneville Power Administration	RCW Revised Code of Washington
CREP Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	SCC State Conservation Commission
CRM Coordinated Resource Management	SRFB Salmon Recovery Funding Board
CWMA Cooperative Weed Management Area	TA Technical Assistance
DFW (WDFW) Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife	TAG Technical Advisory Group
DNR (WDNR) Washington Department of Natural Resources	TMDL Total Maximum Daily Load
DOA (WDOA) Washington Department of Agriculture	USDA US Department of Agriculture
DOE (WDOE) Washington Department of Ecology	USFS US Forest Service
EQIP Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS program)	USFW US Fish and Wildlife
EPA U. S. Environmental Protection Agency	USGS US Geological Services
FFFPP Family Forest Fish Passage Projects	WACD Washington Association of Conservation Districts
FSA USDA Farm Services Agency	WADE Washington Association of District Employees
LID Low Impact Development	WHIP Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
LWD Large Woody Debris	WQ Water Quality
IWM Irrigation Water Management	WSU Washington State University
NFWF National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	WRIA Water Resource Inventory Area
NRCS USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	
OFP Office of Farmland Preservation	

Washington State Conservation



Mark Clark
Executive Director

Mark Clark has been the Executive Director of the Washington State Conservation Commission since December, 2002, after serving as the agency's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) coordinator and field operation manager for Puget Sound districts. Mark is a native of Thurston County and has a B.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering from Washington State University. He has been involved with the horticulture wholesale industry for 18 years, and, prior to that, he was a research engineer for the Food and Agriculture Section of Battelle Pacific Laboratories.

Email: mclark@scc.wa.gov
Phone: (360) 407-6200



Debbie Becker
**Director of Budget,
Accounting, and Grant
Services**

Debbie Becker was raised on a small, third generation dairy farm in Pacific County. She spent 13 years at the Washington State Dairy Federation and 9 years as the Executive Director. In 2000, she joined the Conservation Commission as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Coordinator. Today, Debbie manages the \$30 million Financial Division of the Commission.

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Ray Ledgerwood
**Regional Manager
Coordinator / Program
Facilitator**

Ray Ledgerwood has been the Program Facilitator since 2003. He is a native of Eastern Washington and graduate of WSU. Ray has worked with districts and their associations since 1979. Ray currently provides service and support to Palouse, Pine Creek, Spokane, and Whitman conservation districts along with managing the Regional Manager staff

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Ron Shultz
**Director of Policy and
Intergovernmental
Relations**

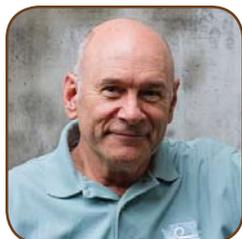
Ron Shultz joined the SCC in 2007. He represents the agency in a variety of policy forums including the Puget Sound State Caucus. Ron was formerly the Director of Programs and the Acting Executive Director at the Puget Sound Partnership and was the Natural Resources Advisor to Governor Gary Locke. He was also Policy Director for Audubon Washington from 1995 to 2001. Ron is an attorney and a fourth generation Washingtonian.

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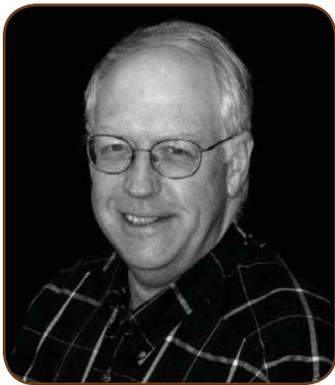
Commission Members



James Peters
Chair
Term ends 2013

Commissioner James (Jim) Peters was appointed by Governor Gary Locke in 1998 and is currently Vice-Chair. He has served on the Commission nine years and resides in the Olympia area. He attended Centralia

College and earned an associate degree in Forestry Technology. After graduating he became the Natural Resources Director at the Squaxin Island Tribe. From 1991 through 1996 Jim worked as the Tribal Relations Coordinator for the Washington DNR. Jim is a member of the Squaxin Island Tribe and has served on the Tribal Council for six plus years, as well as the Inter-Tribal Court Board. He is currently the Tribal Council Chair.



Fred Colvin
Vice-Chair
Term ends 2013

Fred represents the Western Region on the Commission. He is past President of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts and is currently on the

board of the Thurston Conservation District where he serves as Secretary / Treasurer. Fred graduated from the Washington Ag Forestry Leadership program. Fred is also involved with the Thurston County Ag Advisory Committee, Farming and the Environment and the Cattlemen's Association.



Lynn Bahrych

Commissioner Lynn Bahrych was appointed by Governor Gary Locke in January of 2004. Lynn resides on Shaw Island. She graduated with Honors in Humanities from Stanford University and received a Masters Degree in

English Education from the University of Texas. Lynn received a Ph.D. in Medieval and Renaissance Literature and a law degree from the U.W. Law School. Lynn practiced Maritime and Admiralty law in Seattle for ten years before focusing exclusively on land use and environmental law. She is currently Co-Chair of Farming & the Environment, a non-profit organization promoting sustainable stewardship on agricultural lands.



Lynn Brown

Commissioner Lynn Brown serves as the Conservation District Central Representative on the Commission. Lynn serves as the Vice Chair on the Kittitas Conservation District Board

and on the Board of the Washington Association of Conservation District Plant Materials Center. Lynn graduated from the University of Wyoming with a BS and MS in Civil Engineering and from Harvard with a Masters in Public Administration. He spent 18 years as the Washington State Conservationist and was instrumental in coordinating recovery resources following the eruption of Mount St. Helens as well as he led the effort to transfer the plant material center from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to the Washington Association of Conservation Districts.



Dave Guenther

Commissioner Guenther is the current President of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts. Dave along with his wife Gayla raise Angus Beef, irrigated and dryland hay and forest products in Klickitat County. Dave retired from NRCS in 2005, he has been a supervisor on the Central Klickitat Conservation District board since 2005. He graduated from Washington State University with a degree in Range Science. His stated leadership goal is to “help all districts focus their energy and resources towards helping landowners put voluntary conservation practices on the ground.”



Jim Kropf

Jim Kropf joined the Commission in 2010, representing Washington State University Extension. Jim has been a faculty member of WSU Extension since 1979, serving as an Extension educator on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Stevens County, Douglas and Chelan Counties, and Pierce and King Counties. He served as the Western District Director for WSU Extension from 1999 through 2010 and currently serves as the Extension Natural Resources Program Director. His Extension work has primarily focused on the production of agronomic and horticultural crops, agricultural marketing, and water quality. A Washington native, Jim grew up in Pierce County and has a B.S. and M.S. in Agronomy from Washington State University.



Randy Niessner

Randy Niessner joined the Commission in 2011 and represents Commissioner Peter Goldmark of the Washington Department of Natural Resources.



Clinton O'Keefe

Clinton O'Keefe joined the Commission in 2012 and serves as the Conservation District Eastern Representative on the Commission. He currently serves as the Chair of the Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District. He is a wheat farmer living in Lamont, WA.



Kelly Susewind

Kelly Susewind joined the Commission in 2013 and represents the Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology, Maia Bellon.



George Tuttle

George Tuttle joined the Commission in 2013 and represents the Director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, Bud Hover.

Thank You to Our Partners!

Puget Sound Partnership

USDA - Farm Service Agency

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Washington State Department of Ecology

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Washington State University - Extension



Washington State
Conservation Commission

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