2019-21

BIENNIAL REPORT

Washington State Conservation Commission

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OF WASHINGTON STATE

your window to healthy lands

Contents

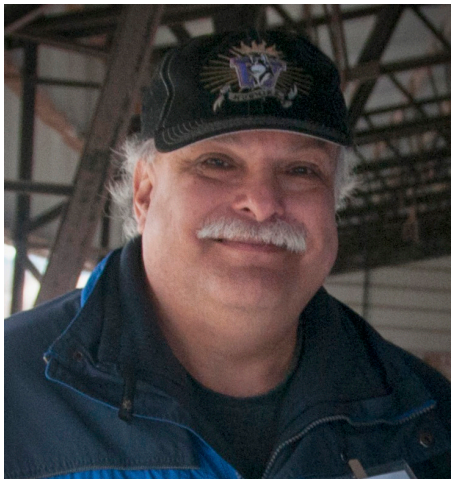
Cover photo by Ken Muir, Cascadia Conservation District

Message from Our Leaders

Dear friends and colleagues,

These last few years have been difficult. Our home, work, and governments have been turned upside down during the pandemic. As we emerge into a post-pandemic world, it's essential to look back on all the work we have completed during one of the most challenging times in our nation's history.

Through all the recent changes and difficulties, the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) continues to work with conservation districts and partners to empower vital conservation practices that ensure healthy natural resources while maintaining the viability of our agricultural industry. We could not be prouder of the work achieved.



Daryl William, SCC Chair

Chris Pettit, SCC Executive Director

What have we accomplished?

During the 2019-2021 biennium (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021) the SCC distributed over $40 million in funding to Washington communities and organizations. Importantly, 98 percent of our capital funds went directly into the work of conservation, primarily with the help and local leadership of our 45 conservation district partners. Through our programs and partnership, we have assisted Washingtonians to:

- Enroll an additional 1,683 acres of riparian area in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to advance salmon recovery.
- Transfer over 2 million gallons of liquid manure safely away from streams through our Shellfish Program.
- Plant over 25,000 trees and shrubs through our Natural Resource Investments Program.
- Complete over 300 farm plans through our Livestock Technical Assistance Grants, including several for nutrient management.

Other vital accomplishments include preserving the 93-acre Stevenson Farm established in 1870 — over 150 years ago! The owners closed on a conservation easement and will guarantee that this farm will continue to be a farm in perpetuity, preserving this land for future generations.

Another significant achievement is that all 27 of the counties participating in the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) are currently on track to meet the goals and benchmarks they have identified for their communities. In response to the challenges of the past few years, the Commission continues to provide vital contributions by continuing to support the nation's food system through the distribution of grants that support vulnerabilities in the food system caused by COVID-19.

These endeavors are no small feat and wouldn't be possible without the hard work of our talented staff, conservation districts, land stewards, and partners who all have a deep passion for this work.

Looking forward

While we all continue to live in a world of unpredictability — global pandemics, climate change, and volatile economic landscapes — the Commission finds confidence and hope in the vital work we undertake to preserve our natural resources, agriculture, and critical habitat, including that of our irreplaceable salmon species.

One thing is clear, Washington is doing the work that needs to be done to protect our flora and fauna, our communities, and our planet. Washington's conservation work continues to be a bright beacon of hope for our fellow conservationists.

Yours in conservation,

Daryl and Chris

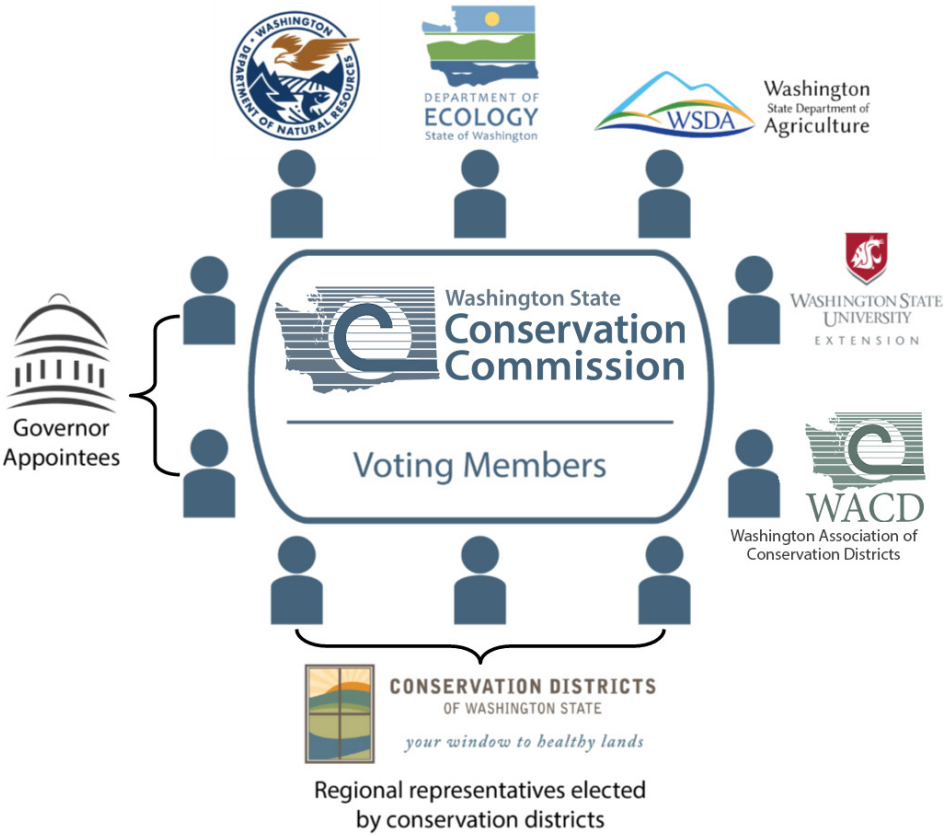
About Us

Meet the Washington State Conservation Commission

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

How we do this:

- Provide financial and operational support and oversight to our state's 45 conservation districts.
- Serve as a bridge between conservation districts and state decision-makers to ensure Washington's conservation policies are informed by local conditions and work on the ground.
- Design and provide funding for program structures that can be customized to address site-specific natural resource conditions and landowner needs.



SCC Board of Commissioners

Our agency follows leadership from a 10-member board. They serve many roles, including:

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

Meet the Conservation Districts

Conservation districts — sometimes referred to as "CDs" — engage people with voluntary actions that keep our air, water, soil, habitats, and farmland healthy for all.

They are:

- Community-based hubs of natural resource expertise and funding.
- Led and staffed by locals who have first-hand knowledge of the landscapes and fellow community members they serve.
- Providers of non-regulatory services tailored to meet the needs of local people, local properties, and natural resources.

Learn more: www.scc.wa.gov/what-are-conservation-districts

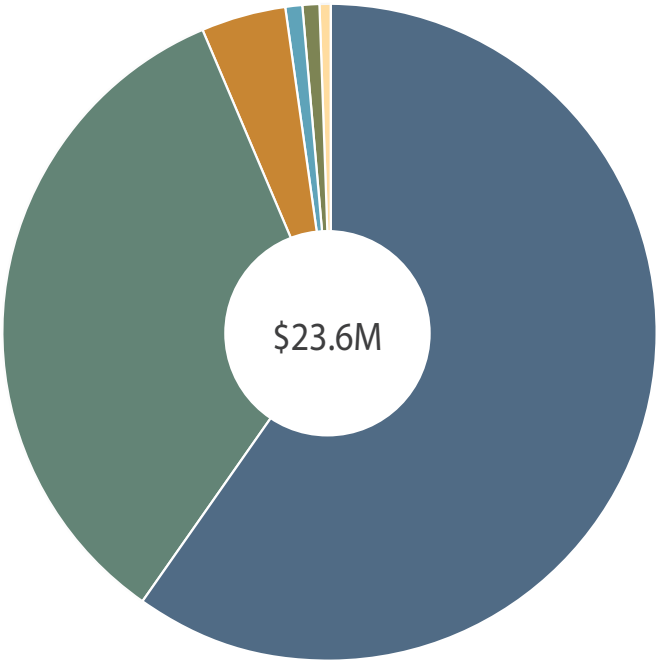
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
OF WASHINGTON STATE

your window to healthy lands

Budget and Expenditures

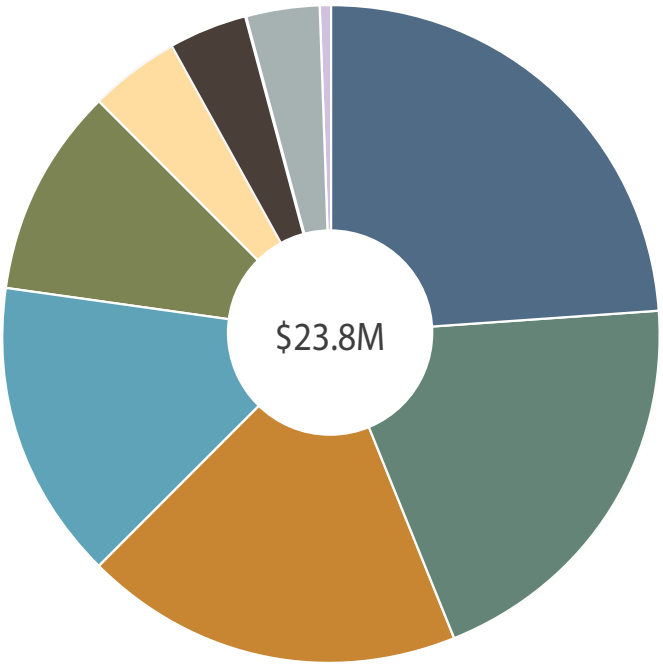
2019-21 Operating Expenditures

- SCC Administration / Conservation District Operations - $14,156,883
- Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) - $7,944,530
- Conservation Technical Assistance: Salmon and Orca Recovery - $977,447
- Pension Funding Stabilization Acct: Salaries and Expenses - $254,000
- Food Policy Forum - $153,002
- Other - Sustainable Farms and Fields ($40,270); Soil Health Initiative ($55,000); Review of Grant Programs ($20,000)

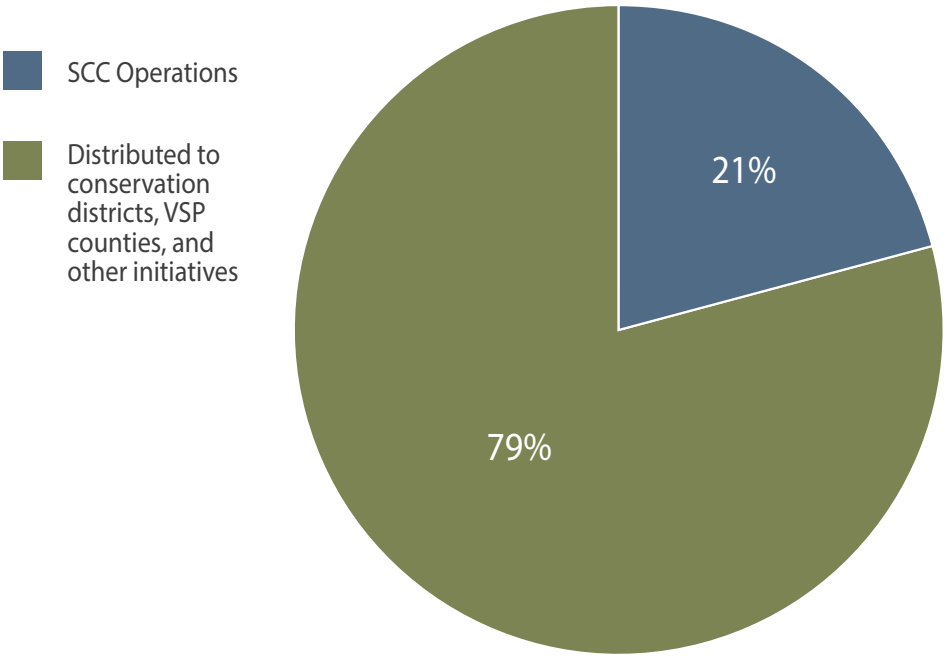


2019-21 Capital Expenditures

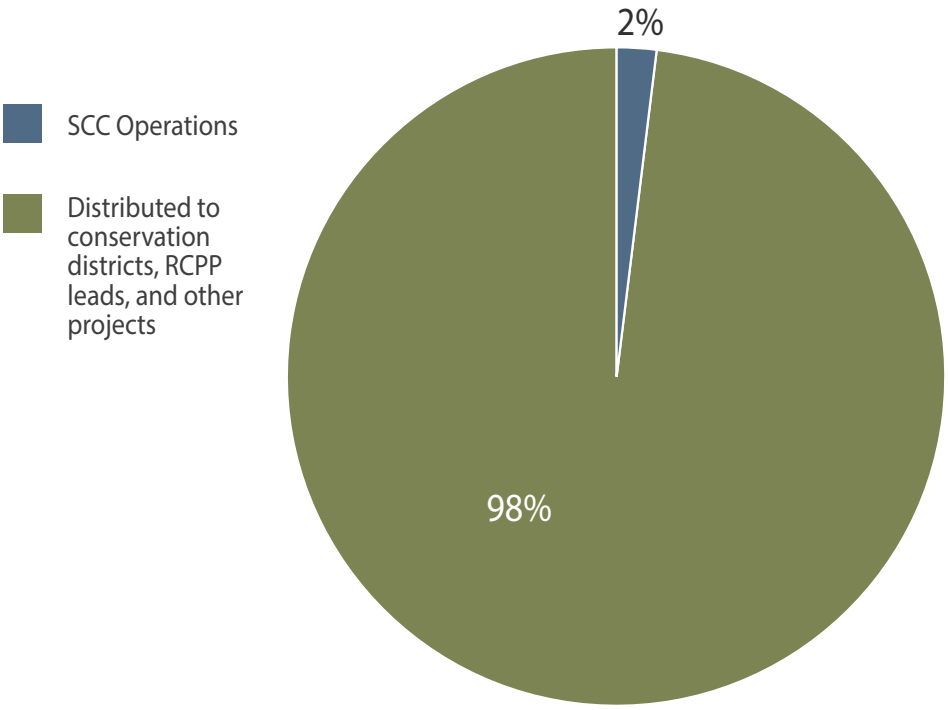
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP): State Match - $5,705,525
- Agricultural Conservation Easements - $4,781,972
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program: Contract, Loan Program, and Cost Share State Match - $4,404,226
- Natural Resource Investments - $3,521,564
- Shellfish Program - $2,434,378
- Livestock Technical Assistance - $1,007,918
- Toxics - $956,957
- North Cove Project - $836,239
- Irrigation Efficiencies - $120,000



2019-21 Operating Distribution



2019-21 Capital Distribution



Biennium Highlights

4,956
number of vouchers processed

3.83
average days it took SCC staff to process a voucher

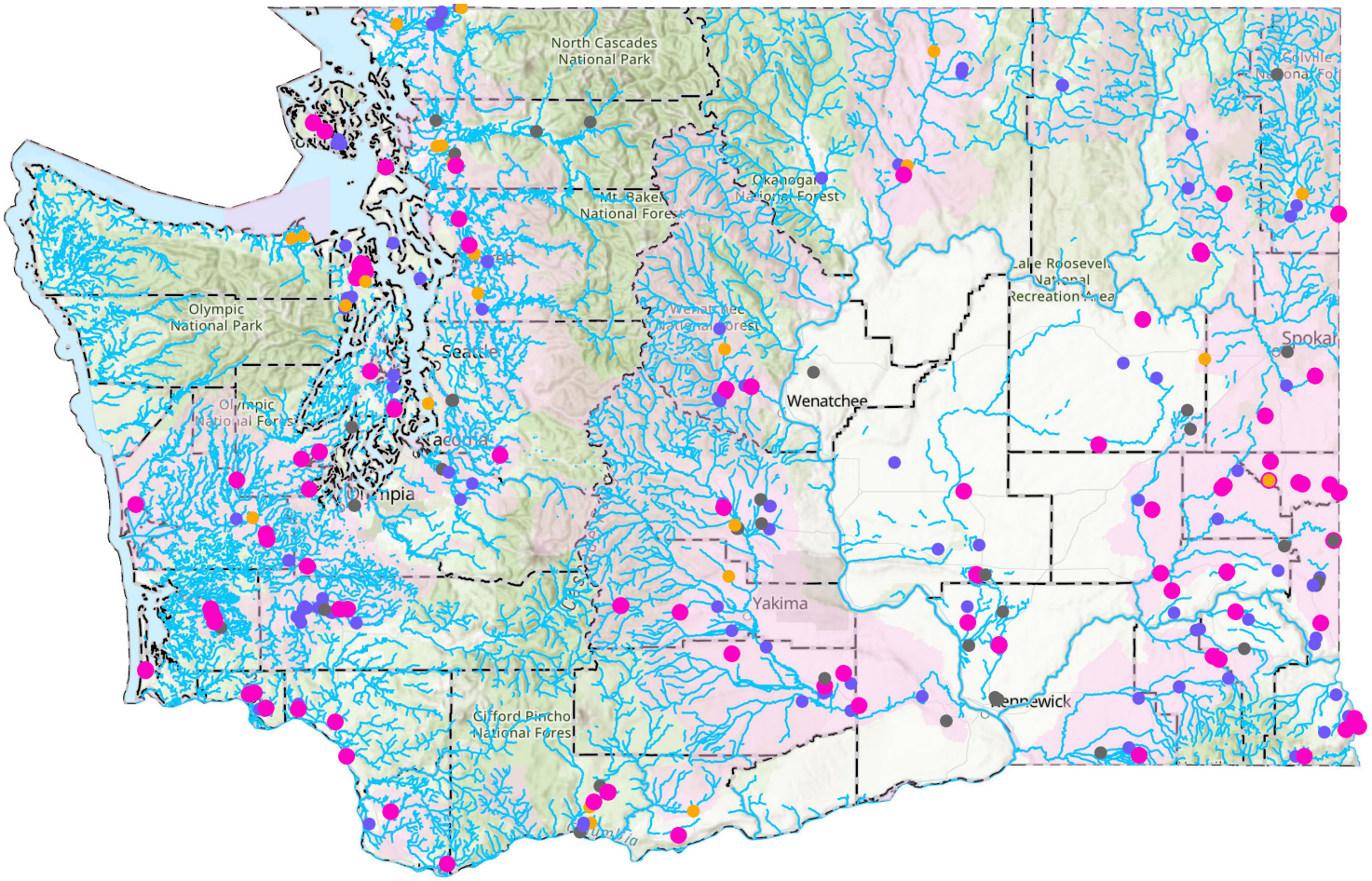
$48 million
funding distributed to Washington communities and organizations, including $6 million in pass-through grants from other state agencies

Natural Resource Investments (NRI) Program

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

Funding expended in 2019-21 state biennium: $3,521,564

NRI Program Project Sites Funded in 2019-21 Biennium



Legend

Completed NRI

- FY 2021
- FY 2020
- FY 2019
- FY 2018
- TMDL Watersheds
- Conservation District Boundary
- WA_bdy
- Documented Fish Presence (WIFD)

0 20 40 80 120 Miles

N

Background layer: ESRI World Topographic Map

Prepared by Brian Cochrane, 12 April 2022

What Does the Natural Resource Investments Program Look Like on the Ground?

Jefferson County Conservation District used NRI funding to help 15 landowners restore salmon habitat in Chimacum Creek through removal of reed canarygrass. The overgrowth of grass choked stream flow and contributed to flooding, pollution, and low oxygen levels. The pictures above show a stretch of Chimacum Creek before and after this project. *Learn more about this project on page 30.*

North Yakima Conservation District used NRI funding to implement a multi-landowner wildfire preparedness project with members of the Bootjack Cabin Association.

The top picture shows the typical dense vegetation of the surrounding area before project implementation. The bottom photo shows the same location after the project, which reduced flammable vegetation and created fuel breaks to make the area more defesible to wildfire. *Learn more about this project on page 37.*

Biennium Highlights

153
best management practices installed

25,118
trees and shrubs planted

25,561
feet of stream protected

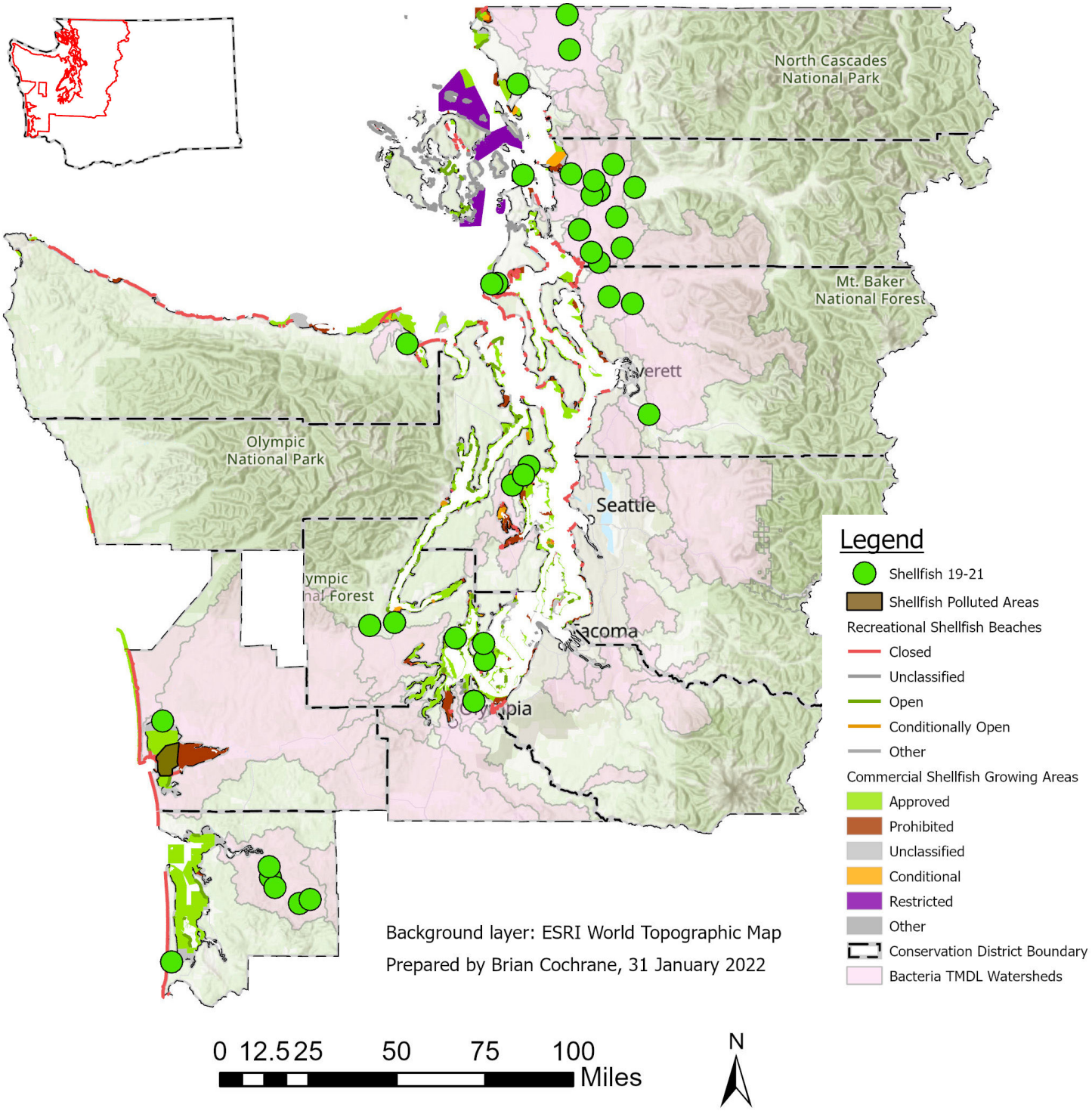
Learn more about NRI:
www.scc.wa.gov/nri

Shellfish Program

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

Funding expended in 2019-21 state biennium: $2,434,378

Shellfish Program Project Sites Funded in 2019-21 Biennium



What Does the Shellfish Program Look Like on the Ground?

Skagit Conservation District used Shellfish Program funding to assist a livestock owner with water quality projects. The property is in an area that drains to the Samish River and then to Samish Bay, where more than 4,000 acres of commercial shellfish are grown.

The district worked with the property owner to build a livestock waste storage facility to facilitate composting and prevent groundwater contamination. Photos show site before (top) and after implementation (bottom).

The Shellfish Program funds several practices that benefit water quality, including protection of areas heavily used by livestock and construction of manure storage facilities. *Read San Juan Islands Conservation District's story on page 46 to learn more.*

Biennium Highlights

170
best management practices installed

2,295,204
gallons of liquid manure per day safely transferred away from waterways

15,993
feet of stream protected

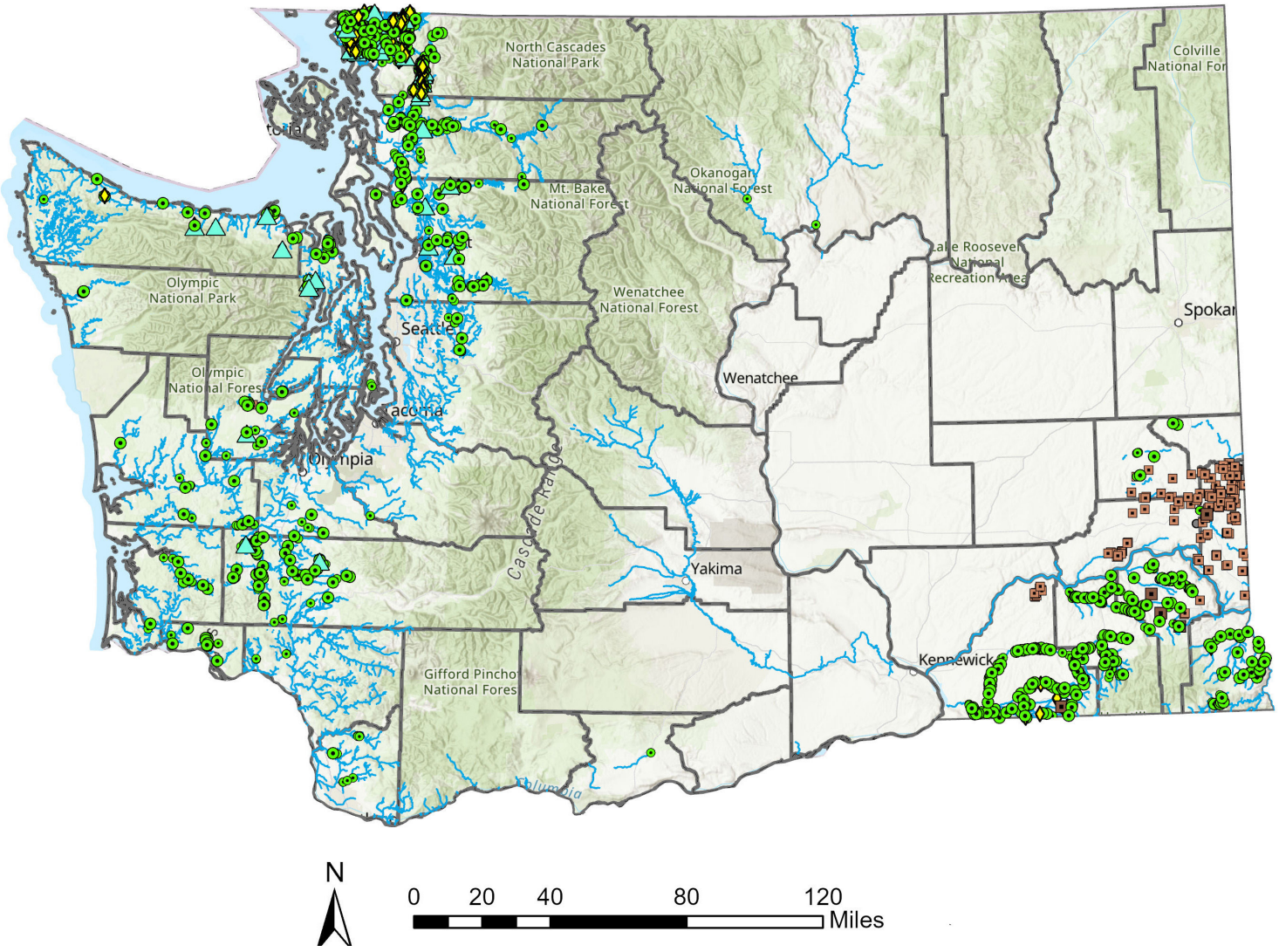
Learn more about the Shellfish Program:
www.scc.wa.gov/shellfish

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP engages farmland owners as partners in restoring salmon habitat. Farmers are compensated for voluntarily planting native vegetation along salmon-bearing streams, rather than crops. Vegetation shades the stream and forms a buffer between it and agricultural land, keeping water clean and cool for salmon.

Funding expended in 2019-21 state biennium: $ 4,404,226

CREP Project Sites Under Contract as of 2019-21



Legend

CREP Sites

- Filter Strip
- Hedgerow Planting
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Wetland Enhancement
- Eligible CREP Streams
- Conservation District Boundary

Background layer: ESRI World Topographic Map

Prepared by Brian Cochrane, 2 February 2022

What Does CREP Look Like on the Ground?

With assistance from Whatcom Conservation District, a farmer enrolled 7.6 acres in CREP, planting 3,650 seedlings along 4,500 feet of Kamm Creek. Kamm Creek is a lowland stream in the Nooksack Basin that provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for salmon. The blue tubes in the photo above indicate trees planted along the creek. *Learn more about the project on page 60 of this report and by watching this short video by Whatcom Family Farmers: https://youtu.be/hxViMuXzJIU.*

Mason Conservation District leveraged CREP funding to assist landowners along Gosnell Creek with making improvements to salmon habitat and farm practices. Gosnell Creek provides valuable habitat for coho and chum and is a tributary to Lake Isabella and Mill Creek. Several practices were installed to keep livestock from accessing the creek, including the construction of exclusion fencing, pictured above. *Learn more about the project on page 39.*

Biennium Highlights

1,683

additional acres of riparian area enrolled in the program

$9.8 million

federal funding secured through CREP for salmon recovery in Washington

131

estimated jobs generated through CREP investments

(based on WA Input-Output Models for Impact Analysis from Office of Financial Management)

Learn more about CREP:

www.scc.wa.gov/conservation-reserve-enhancement-program

Livestock Technical Assistance Grants

SCC funded 25 conservation districts to work directly with livestock owners to evaluate livestock management practices and identify solutions to common challenges, such as waste management to protect and improve water quality. These grants provide crucial support for conservation districts to plan and design best management practices that are both farm-friendly and protect the environment.

Grants awarded to CDs in 2019-21 state biennium: $1,007,918

What Does Livestock Technical Assistance (LTA) Look Like on the Ground?

Grant County Conservation District used LTA to help an operation where livestock had uncontrolled access to a shoreline area (left). The district installed livestock exclusion fencing, rock cribs, and a gate for maintenance and landowner access (right).

LTA helps conservation districts start a relationship and develop conservation plans with landowners. Often this leads to project construction, such as this example from Kitsap Conservation District that shows a site before (left) and after (right) the district helped harden surfaces and upgrade fencing.

Palouse Conservation District used LTA to assess areas heavily used by livestock along a tributary to the Snake River. This work led to construction of stream crossings, exclusion fencing, and other projects to protect water quality and maintain the viability of livestock operations.

Biennium Highlights

317
farm, conservation, and nutrient management plans written

$2-3 million
of funding leveraged from local, state, federal, nonprofit, and other fund sources

182
best management practices resulted from grant-funded planning work

Other Accomplishments

This report captures a small sample of what the State Conservation Commission (SCC) and conservation districts achieved this biennium in partnership with the people of Washington. A few more of our many accomplishments are summarized below. Visit our website to learn more about our work: www.scc.wa.gov.

Centennial Farm in Cowiche Valley Preserved

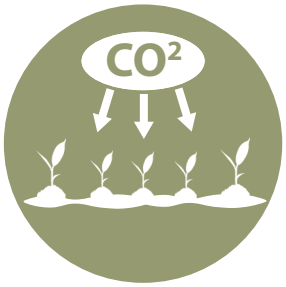
The 93-acre Stevenson Farm — one of Washington's Centennial Farms (est. 1870) — will be protected forever from development. In October 2020 the owners closed on an agricultural conservation easement, voluntarily selling their right to develop the property and adding a permanent restriction on future development and subdivision to the property title. The development right was sold to and will be held by SCC with funding from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The easement includes a plan to protect the conservation values of the land, which will be maintained in partnership with North Yakima Conservation District. Learn more about the easement: www.scc.wa.gov/news/easement-1020.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Counties On-Track

All 27 counties enrolled in VSP submitted their required five-year progress reports during the 2019-2021biennium. The reports document progress made toward VSP work plan goals and benchmarks to protect critical areas while maintaining agricultural viability. The reports were evaluated by a state technical panel, advisory committee, and SCC who concurred that each county is on track to meet their VSP benchmarks. Community members, farmers, and landowners in these counties should continue to see an increase in outreach efforts informing them of the benefits of VSP and inviting them to participate in activities that will contribute to the future success of the program. Learn more about this major milestone: www.scc.wa.gov/news/vsp-milestone-110821.

Conservation Districts Awarded Grants to Support Food System

In spring of 2021 SCC awarded $50,000 in Food System Support grants to 11 conservation districts in the state. SCC launched the Food System Support grants to advance activities recommended by the Washington State Food Policy Forum that address food system vulnerabilities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funded projects will, among other activities, improve food access from local farms, make farm access information available in Spanish, and expand consumer and farmer participation in local food hubs. Learn more about the grants: www.scc.wa.gov/news/2021-food-system-grants.



Sustainable Farms and Fields

Sustainable Farms and Fields (SFF) is a new grant program that makes it easier and more affordable for farmers and ranchers to implement climate-smart practices and projects that increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Washington State Legislature created SFF in 2020 and provided seed funding for SCC to design the program framework in partnership with the Washington State Agriculture Department, Washington State University, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Now that the SFF framework is near completion, partners are working to secure funding to launch the grant program. Learn more: www.scc.wa.gov/sff.

Conservation District Accomplishments

The following pages showcase accomplishments from each of Washington's 45 conservation districts during 2019-2021 biennium. All this work was completed voluntarily and in collaboration with countless landowners and partners.

Exploring trees and understanding forest health through the Family, Farms, Fish, Forest, and Fun education program — part of Cascadia Conservation District's investment in the future of conservation. See page 18 to learn more.

Adams Conservation District

509-659-1553 x1 | chadamscd@hotmail.com | adamscd.com
Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments

Three livestock watering facilities installed to improve grazing management.

Enhanced riparian and wetland habitat along one mile of stream.

Minimized stream bank erosion and increased pollutant filtration.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Cow Creek Wetlands Water Monitoring Project

Resource Challenge
Water availability is a resource challenge on Cow Creek. There are places where water is limited or nonexistent during low precipitation years, which restricts landowner water right usage. Lack of water also disconnects floodplains from the stream, reducing wetland wildlife habitat and sub-irrigation. Landowners were looking for ways to improve water availability and habitat, so they contacted Adams Conservation District and Ducks Unlimited for assistance.

Project Summary and Results
Using retention structures along the creek to capture water during high flow events and then strategically releasing it could potentially increase surface and groundwater availability, increase streamside/wetland/grassland habitat, and improve water quality. Partners launched a pilot project to monitor water levels and temperature in the stream and floodplain below an active retention structure. Visual assessment of habitat development and wildlife presence is also being monitored to help determine if the strategic use of retention structures improves water availability.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission, Ducks Unlimited

Left: Retention structure along Cow Creek temporarily backing up and diverting water to create wetland habitat. Right: Water monitoring along Cow Creek. Photos by Ducks Unlimited.

Priorities moving forward...

- Provide operators with assistance to implement no-till farming, weed control, and livestock watering facilities.
- Work with partners to find funding to help landowners improve streamside and wetland habitat.
- Expand outreach efforts to educate and support our community and operators' needs.

Asotin County Conservation District

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

Other Accomplishments

Installed 176 post-assisted log structures to improve instream habitat for steelhead on two project sites.

Completed the Grande Ronde Geomorphic and Watershed Assessment and Plan to prioritize future restoration projects.

Fostered partnership with the Asotin County Weed Board to develop and implement weed management plans for landowners.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Cottonwood Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project

Resource Challenge
The culvert on the Grande Ronde River Road was identified as a fish passage barrier and a high priority project by the Snake River Regional Technical Team. This barrier limited steelhead access to over 2.5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat in Cottonwood Creek. The Asotin County Conservation District secured funding for the design and construction of a three-sided concrete box culvert to restore full passage allowing steelhead to migrate during all stream flow conditions.

Project Summary and Results
In partnership with Asotin County, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, the six-foot corrugated culvert was replaced with a bottomless box culvert in 2020. The streambed was restored to a roughened channel allowing steelhead to migrate through Cottonwood Creek and access 2.54 miles of cold-water habitat. Fish passage restoration is critical for steelhead and salmon recovery. There is only one more significant fish passage barrier in the Washington Grande Ronde River watershed, and a solution is scheduled for construction in 2022.

Key Partners
Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (Fish Barrier Recovery Board and Salmon Recovery Funding Board), Bonneville Power Administration

Left: Before construction - corrugated round culvert created barrier for fish passage. Right: After construction - three-side concrete box culvert allows fish passage at all flow levels.

Priorities moving forward...

- Implement fire recovery projects for impacts from the 2021 Lick Creek and Silcott Fires.
- Coordinate with DNR, Asotin County, and the local fire districts to host outreach events for communities to prepare for fire and implement practices to protect homes from wildfire.
- Install instream structures in Asotin, Couse, and Tenmile Creek watersheds to improve fish habitat.

Benton Conservation District

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

Other Accomplishments

The Small Farms Program hosted two workshops reaching 98 landowners, and completed 67 site visits and 32 conservation plans.

Developed design alternatives at two locations on the lower Yakima River to enhance habitat for migrating salmon.

The Heritage Gardens Program hosted four webinars reaching 361 landowners, completed 105 site visits and certified eight gardens.

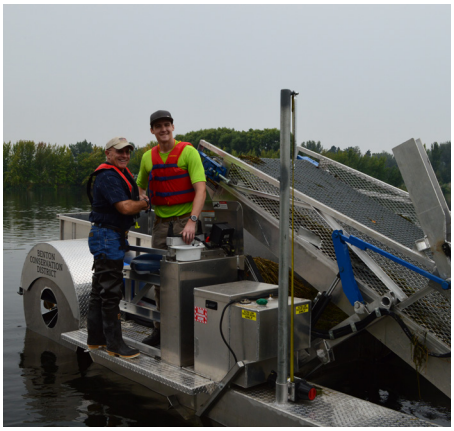
2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Building Partnerships to Restore River Functions

Resource Challenge
Water stargrass is crippling essential functions of the Yakima River. Stargrass creates new habitat for mosquitoes capable of carrying the West Nile virus, threatening public health. Stargrass plugs intakes of river irrigators, threatening our agriculture economy. Salmon spawning has disappeared as the plants smother the riverbed. The plants cause violations of state water quality standards in spring, summer, and fall. As a native plant, invasive weed resources are not available for its control.

Project Summary and Results
Benton Conservation District provides local leadership on the stargrass challenge, monitoring conditions and building partnerships across all the sectors impacted. These partnerships led to state funding to purchase an aquatic plant harvesting machine. Multiple organizations that benefit from river restoration provide support, including direct funding, equipment maintenance, storage, aquatic permitting, transport and disposal of the harvested stargrass, and staffing. Future efforts will document how the river functions are restored through mechanical removal of stargrass.

Key Partners
State of Washington, Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, Dept. of Ecology, Benton County Mosquito Control Board



Left: Representative Brad Klippert congratulates Benton CD staffer Matt Jasper on the aquatic plant harvester to remove stargrass. (photo by Rachel Little) Right: Water stargrass fills the Yakima River at Prosser, threatening public health, irrigation, water quality and salmon habitat. (photo by Stephen Ingalls)

Priorities moving forward...

- Our spring Heritage Garden event will be a Butterfly Discovery Day for children of all ages on May 14, 2022.
- Salmon Summit will return in April 2022 with 3,000 students gathering in Columbia Park to release salmon they raised in their classrooms.
- In October 2022, we will celebrate our dams, river and hydropower at RiverFest with over 4,000 attendees expected.

Cascadia Conservation District

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

Other Accomplishments

Completed six Salmon-Safe certifications on 543 acres; 5.5 acres riparian planting; 2000 feet creek restoration; and eight beaver dam analogs.

300 landowners participated in our wildfire fuels reduction chipping program on 240 acres.

More than 2,800 students and 190 adults participated in our education programs; we also published multiple video lessons.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

The Future of Conservation

Resource Challenge
Awareness and education are the foundation of willing participants in all resource stewardship efforts. Cascadia is investing in local resources by building knowledge, understanding, and opportunities with residents of all ages and interests. Participation in habitat restoration projects, forest health improvements, urban agriculture expansion, wildfire preparedness, water quality protection, water conservation, and many other actions start with citizens who are informed and engaged.

Project Summary and Results
Creativity and persistence have sustained Cascadia's education programs. Through remote education, virtual field trips, and cohort-based exploration, students explored the natural world and learned more about caring for it. Essential programs helped residents expand their use of water-saving native plants, support local insects and wildlife, and participate in projects to improve water quality, salmon habitat, wildfire resilience, water conservation, and food security. For a sampling of our projects, visit www.cascadiacd.org and view our Spring and Summer 2021 newsletters.

Key Partners
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, State Conservation Commission, Dept. of Ecology, DNR, Recreation and Conservation Office, Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center

Left: Leavenworth firefighters help investigate wildfire behavior, prescribed burns, and how to dig a fire line during field days. Right: Exploring trees and understanding forest health as part of the Family, Farms, Fish, Forest, and Fun education program.

Priorities moving forward...

- Improve Habitat: Implement at least 40 new beaver dam analog structures, plant 20 acres of riparian area, complete three fish barrier removals.
- Conserve Water: Implement irrigation efficiency practices on at least 100 acres.
- Promote Wildfire Resiliency and tree stand health: Complete 15 forest health improvement projects.

Central Klickitat Conservation District

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

Other Accomplishments

A total of three soil health webinar events were held and funding pursued for on-farm cover crop trials.

Completed an 1,800 acre agricultural easement to protect agricultural production from development.

Established a system of rates and charges to provide sustainable base funding for conservation operations.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Simcoe Unit Acquisition

Resource Challenge
Working lands are economically productive rangelands, farms, and forests that support families and communities. Large tracts of working lands are being lost due to development and subdivision. When large, continuous natural areas fragment into small, increasingly isolated patches of land, it negatively impacts ecosystem function and working lands economic viability. Development is a primary threat to natural resources and agricultural production, and it's imperative that we conserve working lands for future generations to retain associated food, economic, and ecosystem benefits.

Project Summary and Results
Central Klickitat Conservation District partnered with neighboring Eastern Klickitat Conservation District to purchase and conserve approximately 4,500 contiguous acres of forest and rangeland located north of Goldendale in the Simcoe Mountains. This acquisition will protect land from development and subdivision, and it will maintain and improve working lands for economic and natural resource benefits to Klickitat County and Washington state. A management plan is being developed to reflect local values and conservation of natural resources. Primary objectives of the plan include forest health, forest productivity, wildfire mitigation, sustainable grazing, public recreation, wildlife habitat, and water resource conservation.

Key Partners
Washington State Legislature

Mixed conifer forest located within Central Klicktat Conservation District's (CKCD's)recent land purchase in the Simcoe Mountains, north of Goldendale. 2,220 acres of forest and rangeland will be protected and natural resources conserved under CKCD's recent land purchase.

Priorities moving forward...

- Bring newly acquired property into management under forest and rangeland management plans.
- Create a fire-adapted community and complete fuels reduction work with private landowners in support of wildfire resiliency.
- Obtain funding for on-farm cover crop trials to provide data and results to local producers seeking answers to soil health challenges.

Clallam Conservation District

360-775-3747 x5 | info@clallamcd.org | clallamcd.org
Legislative District: 24 Congressional District: 6

Other Accomplishments

1,283 individuals participated in webinars and workshops on native plants, soils, farm practices, and forestry.

Installed 10,009 feet of irrigation pipeline to reduce water loss and save water in the Dungeness River.

Provided livestock technical assistance to 110 farms and helped implement 28 on-farm practices to protect habitat and water quality.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Partnership Leads to Salmon Recovery Success

Resource Challenge
The removal of two dams on the Elwha River in 2011 and 2014 gave unrestricted passage to ESA-listed Chinook salmon, as well as other fish species. The dam removals left roughly 600 acres of former lakebeds to return to native forests. Large-scale plantings were done following removal of the dams. However, harsh growing conditions — such as no top soil — made establishing conifer trees, which are vital to provide shade and large woody debris for fish habitat, very difficult.

Project Summary and Results
Over the past two years, Clallam Conservation District and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (LEKT) have teamed up to plant conifer trees along the Elwha River, each bringing different resources to the table. Clallam Conservation District has a small staff, but a large volunteer program; LEKT has technicians that can work side-by-side with volunteers in the field. This partnership led to 181 volunteers helping plant over 6,000 trees along the Elwha River during two Orca Recovery Day events, as well as several smaller planting events, to help restore fish habitat in the Elwha Watershed.

Key Partners
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Clallam County, Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC)

Left: Orca Recovery Day 2019 - Volunteer with cedar trees being planted along the Elwha River. (photo by Brennan Bartlett, Clallam Conservation District volunteer) Right: Orca Recovery Day 2020 - Volunteers remove donated conifer trees from pots to ready them for planting along the Elwha River. (photo by Kim Williams, Clallam Conservation District Manager)

Priorities moving forward...

- Work with partners to seek funding to implement the Dungeness Streamflow Restoration Off-Channel Reservoir project to restore an average of 26.5 cubic feet per second of flow in the Dungeness River. (That's enough to fill 26 Olympic-sized swimming pools per day!)
- Develop a riparian restoration program for streamside landowners to enhance and restore fish habitat.
- Continue to build a community-based volunteer program to aid in restoration work.

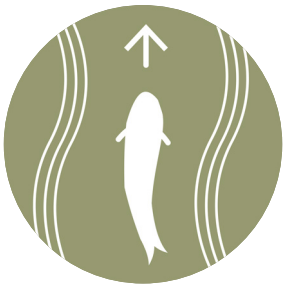
Clark Conservation District

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

Other Accomplishments

Sold nearly 20,000 native plants.

Restored ten acres of riparian area.



Removed one fish passage barrier opening over a mile of habitat.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Poop Smart Clark Pollution Identification Program

Resource Challenge
Water quality data demonstrates a clear need to reduce bacteria from a wide variety of sources in Clark County's streams. Addressing widespread nonpoint pollution is no simple task, so a group of partners led by Clark Conservation District gathered together to seek funding to target bacteria pollution. By the end of 2021, partners secured $2.2 million for the project. Using fun language, eye-catching graphics, and project dollars, Poop Smart Clark reduces bacteria pollutants from people, livestock, and pets.

Project Summary and Results
The award-winning campaign, pioneered by Skagit County Public Works, includes outreach and education, technical assistance, and financial assistance for bacteria-reducing practices. While partners are still in the "soft launch" phase of this program, in the spring of 2021 Clark Conservation District held a three-part livestock and manure management webinar series providing education, on-farm technical assistance, and tarps to cover manure piles. The program will continue to grow throughout the county, focusing on reducing bacteria pollution from septic, pets, and livestock. Visit www.poopsmartclark.org to learn more.

Key Partners
State Conservation Commission (SCC), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Ecology, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, National Association of Conservation Districts, Clark County

Uncovered to covered manure pile.

Priorities moving forward...

- Remove two fish passage barriers opening over two miles of Coho salmon and steelhead trout habitat.
- Complete 15 conservation plans and begin construction on half of them.
- Provide education through classes and individual technical assistance to over 500 people.

Columbia Conservation District

509-382-4273 x4 | districtmanager@columbiacd.com | columbiacd.com
Legislative District: 16 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments

Partnered with Washington State Department of Agriculture to complete 20 soil samples for large-scale outreach to understanding soil health.

Completed restoration Project Area 26 II, which enhanced 1.5 more miles of the Tucannon River to increase salmon habitat.

Completed 14,221 feet of livestock fencing with Natural Resource Investment and Voluntary Stewardship Program funding through SCC.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Soil Health Management and Education Program

Resource Challenge
Responding to concerns from local producers about soil health, Columbia Conservation District initiated a pilot program to improve soil health through the addition of micro and macronutrients to balance soil pH. A more balanced soil pH is expected to result in more nutrients readily available and more efficient utilization of those nutrients by crops, which will increase crop yields and crop quality. Improved overall soil health increases agricultural viability and sustainability as well.

Project Summary and Results
Addressing the problem of low pH and nutrient imbalance includes annual soil testing and nutrient application depending upon recommendations. The District provided pelleted nutrient amendments all in dry formulation. Results can take up to a few years to physically see due to multiple factors, but expectations are a rising pH and a balancing of nutrients that will provide long-term benefits to soil health. Through the Voluntary Stewardship Program, this project directly impacts Fish and Wildlife and Geological Hazardous areas through multi-benefit environmental processes.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission: Voluntary Stewardship Program; Landowner

A balance of nutrients - boron, copper, and zinc. (photo by Clay Hutchens)

Priorities moving forward...

- As we see data results from our soil health project, we would like to see this process utilized on a wide scale across Columbia County with multiple landowners.
- We will use Natural Resource Investment funding through SCC to provide streambank stabilization in the area of an agricultural pump site for one landowner and provide an irrigation system for water conservation for another landowner.

Cowlitz Conservation District

360-425-1880 x 3514 | ccdadmin@ccdandwcd.com | cowlitzcd.wordpress.com
Legislative District: 19, 20 Congressional District: 3

Other Accomplishments

Completed design for fourth Germany Creek Watershed Community Project.

Received funding award for Upper Germany Creek phase I project (Germany Creek Community Watershed).

Prepared and will complete riparian restoration at Camp Kalama Site in February 2022.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Camp Kalama River Restoration

Resource Challenge
Resource concerns in the Kalama River include fine sediment delivery, river temperature, degraded in-river habitat, riverbank stability, and risk to infrastructure. These watershed issues impact everyone using the Kalama River.

The infrastructure concern impacts Camp Kalama and was immediately threatening camp sites and portions of the road system. Cowlitz Conservation District became involved by request of the landowner over four years ago.

Project Summary and Results
Cowlitz Conservation District assessed the site in cooperation with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The District prepared a proposal and preliminary project design and began pursuing funding options. The district secured funding from SCC, Cowlitz County, and the landowner and successfully implemented the project in 2021.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission (Natural Resource Investments and Conservation Technical Assistance funding), Cowlitz County, Landowner

Photos: River bank at Camp Kalama pre-project (top) and at the same project site after Cowlitz Conservation District began taking action to stabilize the riverbank (bottom).

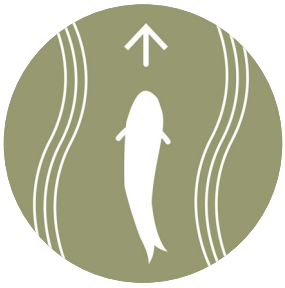
Priorities moving forward...

- Construct designed project in Germany Creek Community Watershed.
- Begin design work for Upper Germany Creek project funded in 2021.

Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

509-773-5823 x5 | cdoffice@ckcd.org | ekcd.org
Legislative District: 14, 15 Congressional District: 3, 4

Other Accomplishments



Developing conceptual designs for fish passage at the confluence of Pine Creek and the Columbia River.

Successfully held our 2020 Native Plant Sale, despite COVID challenges.

Implemented a system of rates and charges to provide long term sustainable funding for EKCD operations.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Simcoe Unit Acquisition

Resource Challenge
Eastern Klickitat Conservation District (EKCD) is comprised of primarily shrubsteppe landscape and contains only 10% of forested land. The local community relies on range and forest as working lands that provide local economic benefit. Ranchers have used this open space for generations to support their livelihoods, contribute to the economy, and produce food resources used far outside the region. Conservation of these lands also is vital for wildlife habitat, protection of open space, protection of water resources, and provision of recreational opportunities. However, these lands are currently at risk for development and subdivision.

Project Summary and Results
EKCD partnered with neighboring Central Klickitat Conservation District (CKCD) to purchase and conserve approximately 4,500 contiguous acres of forest and rangeland located north of Goldendale in the Simcoe Mountains. This working land was acquired and conserved for its economic and natural resource benefits for Klickitat County and Washington State. Within the acquisition lie the headwaters to Rock Creek, an important tributary to the Columbia River and habitat resource for mid-Columbia ESA-listed steelhead. Conservation of the Rock Creek watershed is a priority for EKCD.

Key Partners
Washington State Legislature

Left: EKCD's recent land purchase will protect 2,280 acres of forest and rangeland from subdivision and development. Right: Pine forest located within EKCD's recent land purchase in the Simcoe Mountains, north of Goldendale.

Priorities moving forward...

- Bring newly acquired property into management under forest and rangeland management plans.
- Implement a water quality and fish habitat improvement project.
- Complete a conservation easement to protect agricultural values and ecosystem services of the land.

Ferry Conservation District

509-779-3473 x100 | dave.hedrick@conservewa.net | ferrycd.org
Legislative District: 7 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments

Completed thinning and reseeding projects to enhance habit for wildlife and pollinators while reducing fire danger.

Tested water in Curlew Lake and developed solutions for increased nutrients.

Worked with the Curlew School District to support their water quality education program.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Gardinier Family Forest Fish Passage Project

Resource Challenge
A large flood on Toroda Creek resulted in a fish passage problem. A culvert and road were completely destroyed. Along with creating a fish passage barrier, access to the Gardinier family's property and adjacent Department of Natural Resources land was severely restricted.

The Recreation and Conservation Office contacted Ferry Conservation District and asked us to sponsor a project to address this problem.

Project Summary and Results
The Ferry Conservation District developed a plan to complete the project within the window available to work in the creek. We worked with state and federal agencies to permit all activities, purchased a bridge and abutments, hired a contractor to rehabilitate the stream and install the bridge, and reported progress.

This project successfully opened up over 17 miles of habitat. It also re-established much-needed access for the family ranching operation and for firefighters in case of a wildfire. All of this was completed well under budget.

Key Partners
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Site before the project started (top) and after it was complete (bottom). (photos by Dave Hedrick)

Priorities moving forward...

- Put solutions in place, such as five floating wetlands, for nutrient issues in Curlew Lake.
- Remove a fish barriers on Long Alec Creek and the South Fork of the Sanpoil River opening up 15 miles of habitat.
- Complete 10 home assessments for fire vulnerability.

Foster Creek Conservation District

509-888-6372 x6373 | info@fostercreekcd.org | fostercreekcd.org
Legislative District: 12 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments

Completed 157 plans and 163 associated reports for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Task Order contracts.

Secured a total of $377,855 through two FEMA grants to assist fire recovery efforts in northern Douglas County.

Continued our Water Quality Monitoring Program, taking 568,810 measurements from 22 sites on five streams.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Establishing a Cooperative Weed Management Area

Resource Challenge
Douglas County lacks a Noxious Weed Control Board to enforce state noxious weed laws. It has approximately 1.2 million acres, of which 87% is privately owned. This makes landscape-scale weed management a challenge. Agencies and private landowners lack funding and resources to control weeds, and have different operating priorities and weed management strategies, which can create tensions. To help, Foster Creek Conservation District (FCCD) created the Douglas County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), a voluntary weed board.

Project Summary and Results
FCCD completed four tasks for this project: 1) Formed a steering committee and conducted outreach to increase awareness of the new CWMA; 2) Developed a Comprehensive Strategic Weed Management Plan; 3) Developed an Annual Plan; and 4) Implemented weed control at selected sites. FCCD exceeded the target values of all three project metrics: Nine organizations contributed to the project's goals (target 8); over 1,000 people were reached through outreach and education activities (target 150); and a total of 40 acres received weed treatment (target 20).

Key Partners
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management

Left: Scotch thistle weeds, showing treated area in the foreground and untreated thistle about 4-6 feet tall in the background. (photo by A. Rosenblum) Right: Scotch thistle treatments included spot spraying and contractor assistance with a small boom spray. (photo by R. Lefler)

Priorities moving forward...

- Plant 2,000 new sage brush plants to assist with fire recovery in East Foster Creek watershed.
- Install six stream restoration projects combining in-stream structures and native plantings within 20 acres on East Foster Creek.
- Develop a soil health and monitoring program to assist producers.
- Develop and implement a district-wide wildfire resiliency and fire recovery program.

Franklin Conservation District

509-416-0440 | mark-nielson@conservewa.net | franklincd.org

Legislative District: 9, 16 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments

Our Heritage Garden Program completed 22 site visits and certified three gardens.

Three irrigation conversions covering 56.5 acres allowed for 59.6 acre-feet of water to be conserved.

Voluntary Stewardship Program funds allowed for the installation of 7,220 feet of fencing to protect wetlands and waterfowl nesting habitat.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Wheat Week a Virtual Panacea to the Pandemic

Resource Challenge

The Wheat Week program is a hands-on science program for 4th and 5th grade students that's delivered in a series of four lessons over the course of one week. Lessons are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards educating students about systems, water, soil, conservation, DNA, energy, and wheat as well as how they impact our daily lives. Wheat Week has traditionally been delivered in-person, but when the pandemic put a halt to that delivery method, the Franklin Conservation District (FCD) had to think outside the box.

A Wheat Week educator presents a virtual lesson to students. (photo by Franklin Conservation District)

Project Summary and Results

The solution? Kara Kaelber, FCD Education Director, along with her team of educators created a virtual Wheat Week program. Hands-on kits were designed and distributed to 4th and 5th grade classroom teachers across Washington State. A series of videos were created to pair with the kits. Students grew wheat in terrariums and threshed a wheat head as part of their kit. Virtual Wheat Week was well received with 26,700 students in 307 schools across 26 counties participating.

Key Partners

Washington Grain Commission, N. Yakima Conservation District, Tri-State Seed

Students show off wheat they have grown in terrariums with materials provided from Wheat Week kits mailed to their school. (photo by Kathy Davis, Naches Valley Elementary School)

Priorities moving forward...

- Work with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to complete the Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool on 40 Conservation Reserve Program plans.
- Partner with the City of Pasco to complete 16 water right changes/transfers.
- Implement a Natural Resource Investments cost-share project at Davidson Brothers Dairy to line an existing manure storage structure.

Grant County Conservation District

509-765-9618 | kristina-ribellia@conservewa.net | columbiabasincds.org
Legislative District: 9, 12, 13 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments

- Chaired and coordinated the Moses Lake Watershed Council, launched moseslakewatershed.org, and received funding to develop the Moses Lake Watershed Plan.
- Worked toward securing significant federal funding to help accelerate implementation of the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program.
- Lead agency for organizing annual Sandhill Crane Festival and Sustainability Conference.
- Dust control, composting, and nutrient management at a large feedlot.
- Provided $49K to landowners to help share the cost of best management practices with a total value of more than $125K.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Protecting Moses Lake Water and Shoreline Conditions

Resource Challenge
Algae blooms have been affecting the use and health of Moses Lake too often recently. During 2019, the Grant County Conservation District (GCCD) received a referral for technical assistance to help an absentee landowner protect a 1,250' stretch of shoreline on the Rocky Ford arm of the lake. A sublessee had 20+ cows with uncontrolled access grazing along the lake, contributing to sedimentation with direct inputs of nutrients. The GCCD was contacted to provide local expertise in livestock fencing and natural resource management.

Project Summary and Results
The GCCD Livestock Coordinator contacted the landowner to discuss the problem. The solution agreed upon was to fence the livestock off of the shoreline and to provide a watering ramp. A 50' buffer with a 4-strand solar electric fence was agreed to. The site was very rocky, without water or electricity. The abundant rocks were considered a resource that could be used to build the fence on this project. Because this was a highly visible site that could be viewed from the water, GCCD decided to offer cost-share to the landowner and develop it into a demonstration site.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission

Left: Before Project - Uncontrolled access to shoreline. Design and layout completed, cultural resources investigation pending. (photo by Lyle Stoltman) Right: Completed Project - Livestock exclusion, rock cribs, 4-strand electric fence and gate for maintenance and landowner access. (photo by Kristina Ribellia)

Priorities moving forward...

- Provide wildfire preparedness assessments and education for local landowners.
- Implement projects to improve Moses Lake's water quality.
- Secure federal funding for the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program.
- Administer and monitor Voluntary Stewardship Program plans to show the good work farmers have been doing within the GCCD boundaries.

Grays Harbor Conservation District

360-249-8532 | plutroll@willapabay.org | graysharborcd.org
Legislative District: 19, 24, 35 Congressional District: 6

Other Accomplishments

Lower Satsop Right Bank Conservation Project: enacted emergency bank protection along 1,600 feet of eroding shoreline.

Completed Satsop and Wynoochee riparian planting and invasive knotweed management on 80 acres of floodplain.

Schafer Creek Alluvial Water Storage Pilot Project: Completed upper watershed large wood debris placement research project.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Middle Fork Hoquiam Tidal Restoration Project

Resource Challenge
The tidal function to an estuary floodplain on the Middle Fork Hoquiam River owned and managed by the Chehalis River Basin Land Trust (CRBLT) needed restoration for fish passage and ecosystem function for the river and the harbor. The goal was to reopen tidal channels, removing selected piles and permanently removing stream culverts throughout the CRBLT ownership.

Grays Harbor Conservation District (GHCD) was contracted to sponsor the project for design and implementation.

Project Summary and Results
This large-scale restoration effort resulted in the full tidal function of 153 acres of estuary floodplain, the removal of 10 fish barrier culverts, and access to 3.5 miles of rare sitka spruce tidal habitat. Restoration measures included the reopening of 9 tidal channels, removal of 658 pilings, and decommissioning of forest roads back to native grades throughout the entire project site.

Key Partners
Chehalis River Basin Land Trust, Recreation Conservation Office (Washington Coast Restoration Resiliency Initiative Program)

Middle Fork Hoquiam Tidal Restoration Project (photo by David Marcell)

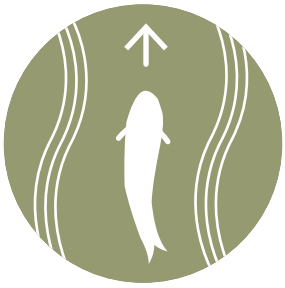
Priorities moving forward...

- GHCD's primary goal over the next couple of years is to keep on track with the number and types of projects we are producing over the last couple of years, but also to create an education and outreach program to reach out to folks that we have not been reaching out to, in addition to making inroads to local school districts and programs like Envirothon.

Jefferson County Conservation District

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

Other Accomplishments



Replaced a failing culvert on Naylor Creek, a tributary of Chimacum Creek, with Family Forest Fish Passage Program funding.

Completed a comprehensive review of water quality and fish habitat for the Discovery Bay watershed.

Installed gutters on a barn to reduce contaminated runoff. Collected water is stored in a cistern.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Chimacum Creek Flow Enhancement

Resource Challenge
Years of invasive reed canarygrass growth in Chimacum Creek was choking the stream's flow. This was contributing to flooding, water pollution from the flooding, and low dissolved oxygen levels in the water. The flooding was impacting valuable farmland. The contaminated runoff was impacting shellfish growing areas. And the low dissolved oxygen was adversely impacting salmon.

Project Summary and Results
Jefferson County Conservation District and partners held community meetings and heard the concerns of landowners. A unique funding arrangement was worked out, whereby the district was able to bundle cost sharing for affected landowners so they could hire a contractor to remove reed canarygrass from the stream through their properties. The district secured the necessary permitting for the work and oversaw its implementation. In total, 15 separate landowners participated in the project, which greatly improved stream flow and reduced flooding.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission; Landowners

Left: Chimacum Creek choked with reed canarygrass. Right: Chimacum Creek after reed canarygrass removal.

Priorities moving forward...

- Continue working with Chimacum watershed landowners and partner organizations to address flooding, ongoing maintenance needs, and habitat enhancement opportunities.
- Partner with local and state agencies and organizations to develop and implement a program to improve forest health and address increasing wildfire threats.
- Improve online presence and outreach efforts.

King Conservation District

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

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

Other Accomplishments

Provided 12 fire workshops in 6 communities reaching 380 people and completed 63 wildfire home safety evaluations.

Improved and/or renewed 196 acres of farmland by maintaining agricultural ditches in partnership with King County.

Invested $6.3 million in local food and farm projects since 2015. 25% of 2020 grants awarded to BIPOC led groups.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Discovery Farms - Riparian Buffer Evaluation

Resource Challenge

A leading cause of salmon habitat degradation is high stream temperatures. Vegetated riparian buffers (a combination of trees and shrubs planted along a stream) provide shade to protect streams from the summer heat. Salmon recovery activities regularly involve planting buffers along waterways. The Discovery Farms model of on-farm research was used to evaluate the effectiveness of these buffers in maintaining cool stream temperatures in streams that run through agricultural lands in King County.

Project Summary and Results

Thirty streams, including agricultural ditches, were monitored for two years. The streams ranged from no buffers to forested buffers over 200 feet wide.

The study shows that differences in air temperature can be as high as 51°F without a buffer and water temperatures can rise as much as 37°F in a day without canopy cover. It also shows that relatively small buffers (up to 30 ft) can have a significant impact in moderating stream temperature. This may provide insight for future decision making around natural resource considerations for farms and salmon.

From 2020-21, King Conservation District enhanced 3.6 miles of riparian buffer.

Left: Newakum Creek in Enumclaw with no buffer yet. Right: Boise Creek in Enumclaw with a King Conservation District buffer planted in 2006.

Priorities moving forward...

- Identify and plan four shoreline armor removal projects on Puget Sound through Shore Friendly King County collaboration to improve marine shoreline health.
- Support three new community garden projects focusing on frontline communities in King County to increase access to local, culturally relevant food.

Kitsap Conservation District

360-204-5529 x113 | kcd@kitsapcd.org | kitsapcd.org
Legislative District: 23, 26, 35 Congressional District: 6

Other Accomplishments

Our Gardening for Restoration and Conservation Education Program sent 33,234 lbs of fresh veggies to food banks.

Our Rain Garden Program installed 75 gardens/stormwater projects and 7,245 feet of underground outlets.

Our Backyard Habitat Planting Program installed 14,603 plants on 22 projects.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Backyard Habitat Project Revives Salmon in Kitsap

Resource Challenge
In January 2019, Kitsap Conservation District (KCD) landowners Laneer-Gertsch received a Backyard Habitat Grant funded by local government and the State Conservation Commission for design and construction of a stream restoration project on Olalla Creek. Chum, Coho, and Chinook utilized this stream section. Additionally, the small farm was problematic. Manure, mud, and runoff from paddocks were draining to the creek. Horses had access to the riparian area, and it was overgrazed. In 2020, KCD began work on the livestock aspects of the property.

Project Summary and Results
In the summer of 2019, approximately eight tons of concrete and bank armoring were removed from the stream, and 20 habitat logs were placed. This provided shelter for the fish that utilize this stream section. Construction included a facility for composting manure, drainage systems for routing water away from livestock areas, gravel footing, and mud-free paddocks. Horses were excluded from two acres of the riparian area, which was then planted with 1,950 native trees. Working in tandem, these two programs were successful in creating healthier habitat for both salmon and horses!

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission, Kitsap County Clean Water Kitsap Program

Left: Waste storage in this new facility will keep nutrients from traveling to Olalla Creek. (photo by Helen Jones) Right: After placement of logs in the streambank, fish responded to the improved habitat for spawning and rearing. (photo by Carin Anderson)

Priorities moving forward...

- Research and begin transition to solar power and electric vehicles.
- Educate Kitsap County landowners on Firewise practices.

Kittitas County Conservation District

509-925-3352 x7 | a-lael@conservewa.net | kccd.net
Legislative District: 13 Congressional District: 8

Other Accomplishments

Completed six cost-share projects on 23 acres to improve defensible space around homes and communities.

Planted 2,600 native trees and shrubs on five acres along 3,300 feet of stream bank to benefit summer steelhead.

Partnered with the Thorp School District's "Farm to School" project on a pollinator garden and native plantings.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Sprinkler Conversion Projects

Resource Challenge
Water availability and drought resiliency are high priority resource concerns in Kittitas County. Drought conditions in 2015 and 2019 were significant and resulted in reductions in water available to local farmers and low stream flows that impact fish habitat. The 2015 drought resulted in an $11.4 million loss to Kittitas County agriculture. Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) has been working for many years to secure funding to improve on-farm irrigation system efficiency by converting to sprinkler systems.

Project Summary and Results
KCCD, in partnership with the Yakama Nation, secured funding from the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program for the "Yakima Integrated Plan - Toppenish to Teanaway" project. This five-year project (May 2017-July 2022) focuses on drought resiliency and fish habitat improvements. KCCD secured contributions for the sprinkler conversion projects through the State Conservation Commission and the Department of Ecology (Yakima Basin Integrated Plan). Farmers received more than $2.2 million in financial assistance to complete 19 projects on 1089 acres of agricultural land.

Key Partners
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Washington State Conservation Commission, Washington Department of Ecology

Left: KCCD's Mark Crowley and NRCS Engineer Lynelle Knehans inspect a sprinkler project to certify completion for payment. Right: A completed sprinkler system installed on a 93 acre field in the Kittitas Valley that was previously rill irrigated.

Priorities moving forward...

- Convert 500 acres of agricultural land to sprinklers to continue to increase drought resiliency for farmers and streams.
- Correct 10 fish passage barriers on tributaries in the Kittitas Valley to increase habitat availability for mid-Columbia summer steelhead.
- Assist 12 communities/neighborhoods and 100 homeowners with defensible space improvements for wildfire resiliency.

Lewis Conservation District

360-996-4560 | bob.amrine@wa.usda.gov | lewisconservation.wordpress.com

Legislative District: 19, 20 Congressional District: 3

Other Accomplishments

- Installed two more fish screens on irrigation intakes in the Chehalis Basin.
- Continued to rent out our poultry processing equipment, manure spreaders, and no-till drills.
- Successfully re-enrolled expired Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contracts and are working to enroll more cooperators.
- Created a YouTube Channel and showcased completed projects, highlighted local farmers, and had virtual workshops. Subjects included tansy control, summer tree and shrub pruning and how to install drip irrigation.
- Worked on new farm plans and kept old ones up to date.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Voluntary Stewardship Program in Challenging Times

Resource Challenge

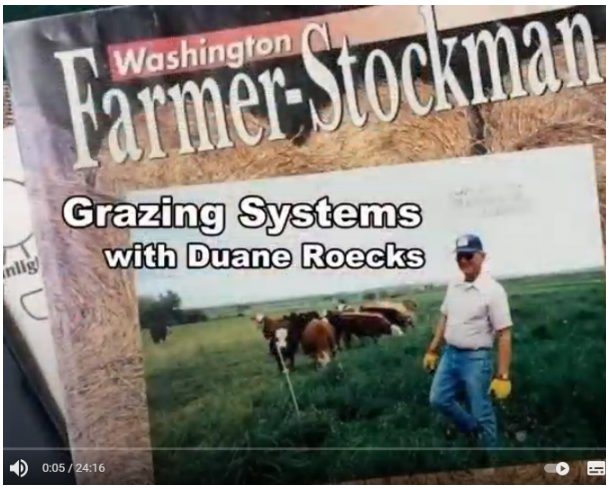
Lewis County enrolled in the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) as a way to protect critical areas and conserve agricultural lands. Pressures from development, economic uncertainty, and regulations are a major threat to agriculture. Farmers needed to show that they can be trusted to be good stewards of the land without being subjected to critical area ordinances.

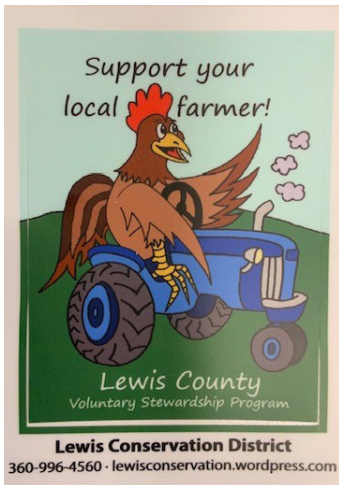
Project Summary and Results

During the 2019-21 biennium, Lewis Conservation District visited hundreds of farmers and completed 322 individual stewardship plans for VSP. By July of 2019, the District had a database in place, outreach materials, and a plan to market VSP to farmers. A staff member change and an office move in August 2019 slowed our outreach. By September, we were out in the field promoting VSP face-to-face with farmers. We communicated to them that it is vital for farmers to protect wetlands, critical aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas. Cooperators were able to show us how they were protecting and enhancing their farms.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission





Left: One of our YouTube videos about VSP — this one features Duane Roecks, an expert on grazing that we met through VSP. (photo by Kenna Fosnacht) Right: Unique, durable sticker that's an economical way to advertise the program. (design by Kenna Fosnacht, conservation district staff)

Priorities moving forward...

- We've reached out to 240 landowners in the Newaukum Basin about completing projects for salmon habitat, and we plan to continue working with them to develop a list of five projects to implement in the future.
- We will make a minimum of five more outreach videos for the District YouTube page and complete 200 Individual Stewardship Plans for the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

Lincoln County Conservation District

509-725-4181 x119 | ddisher@wadistrict.net | lincolncd.com
Legislative District: 13 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments

Funded nine Voluntary Stewardship Program projects from 2020-2021 with an additional 20 interested landowners.

Provided cost-share for 20 producers to adopt direct seed practices across three crop rotations.

Provided fire recovery funds for landowners within the 127,000+ acres impacted by the 2020 Whitney Road Fire.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

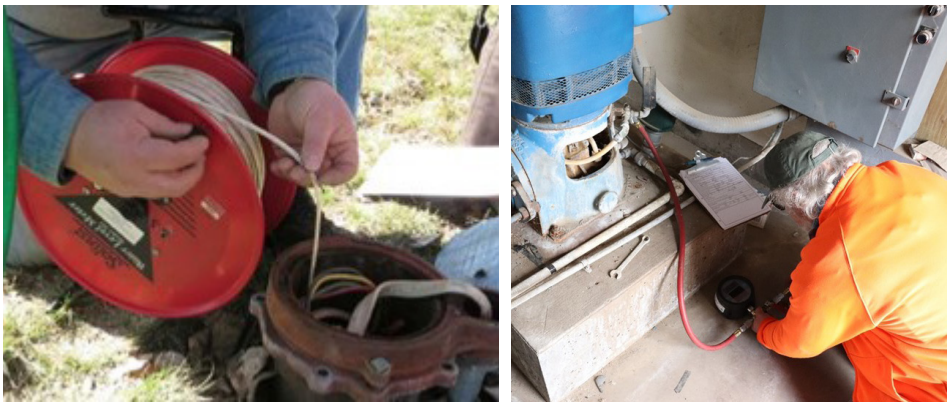
Well Level Monitoring

Resource Challenge
Groundwater levels have been declining in Eastern Washington, negatively impacting the already limited water supplies for homes, municipalities, and agriculture in Lincoln County. Lincoln County Conservation District's goal for groundwater monitoring has been to identify areas of greatest concern through data collection and find solutions to mitigate declining water level trends.

Project Summary and Results
Using several measurement techniques, 82 wells throughout Lincoln County were measured by Lincoln County Conservation District staff over the last three years. In partnering with GeoEngineers, Inc., we were able to analyze the data and determine long-term groundwater level changes by creating corresponding graphs and maps to visually represent these trends. Additionally, the data collected has been used to build a groundwater level tracking database for county use and for long-term well monitoring and water revitalization efforts.

View the final report.

Key Partners
Department of Ecology, Office of Columbia River



Left: Conservation district staff use an E-tape to measure the water level of a domestic well. Right: Staff measuring the water level of an irrigation well.

Priorities moving forward...

- Collect and train partners to collect well level measurements to add data on regional ground water supply through continued well monitoring efforts.
- Perform 10 home assessments and provide technical assistance to landowners and partners to build Firewise Community projects.
- Provide cost-share funds through direct seed implementation for 15 new producers.

Mason Conservation District

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

Other Accomplishments

Over 65,000 trees and shrubs planted by MCD restoration crew in streamside buffers and floodplain habitats.

A permeable paver system with a sand filter was designed by the MCD engineering team to treat stormwater runoff.

Over 600 students participated in environmental education lessons adapted to virtual learning in response to COVID-19.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Gosnell Creek Farm and Habitat Improvement Project

Resource Challenge
A Mason County farm along Gosnell Creek learns of additional opportunities to improve stream habitat and improve farm practices while working with the District on an invasive weed control project. The vegetation had been almost completely removed along the streambanks, and cattle had access to this creek that flows to highly productive shellfish growing areas. Additionally, past land management practices resulted in degraded in-stream habitat in this critically important salmon stream.

Project Summary and Results
Mason Conservation District (MCD) leveraged four funding sources to implement a solution to complex challenges. A bridge was installed to eliminate a wet crossing to reduce sedimentation and water contamination. More than one mile of exclusion fencing was installed to eliminate livestock access to the surface water. More than seven acres of native plants were planted to improve filtration and habitat. More than 400 logs were installed in the stream to reduce erosion and improve the habitat for salmon. Lastly, three watering facilities were installed to provide livestock continued access to water.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Left: Construction team placing bridge over Gosnell Creek to eliminate a wet crossing and improve in-stream conditions. Right: Restoration crew members, Marissa Newby and Justin Leigh installing exclusion fencing along Gosnell Creek. (photos by Mason Conservation District)

Priorities moving forward...

- Work with 60 landowners covering 1,200 acres of timberland, develop 40 Forest Management Plans, and find cost-share opportunities for at least 10 properties.
- Implement multi-benefit restoration projects to reduce flooding, improve agricultural viability, and restore critical habitat in the Skokomish watershed.
- Provide technical assistance to at least 33 shoreline landowners.

North Yakima Conservation District

509-454-5743 x5 | mike-tobin@conservewa.net | northyakimacd.wordpress.com

Legislative District: 13, 14, 15 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments

The Stevenson Conservation Easement was secured on the 92 acre farm. Thus preserving ag land in perpetuity.

The NYCD and WDFW fenced two miles of the Reynolds creek drainage to protect salmon and manage livestock.

NYCD secured NRCS-RCPP funds for high priority fish screening and barrier removal projects in the Wenas Watershed.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Bootjack Cabin Association Firewise Project

Resource Challenge

With forest health declining and fuel load increasing throughout the local area, North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) has prioritized Firewise as a program need. NYCD has focused its program to the Highway 410/12 Community Wildfire Protection Plan area. Working with the members of the Bootjack Association, NYCD developed a "multi-landowner Natural Resource Implementation" project to reduce flammable vegetation in and around all the residences of the association.

Project Summary and Results

Working with the nine Bootjack owners, NYCD identified necessary actions that included creating defensible space for firefighting and home protection during forest fire. An NYCD-sponsored Washington Conservation Corp crew helped limb trees, remove vegetation around homes, and create a zone around the entire community by thinning smaller trees and limbing larger trees. All materials were then "chipped" on site. These actions reduced the threat of fire to the owners and created an area where safe defense of the homes can occur during a forest fire.

Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission - Natural Resource Investments Program

Left: Typical surrounding area of the Bootjack Cabin association before project implementation. Note the dense vegetation. Right: Same photo point after implementation. Note the fuel break and lack of flammable vegetation in and around the structures. (photos by Michael Tobin, NYCD Manager)

Priorities moving forward...

- Implement the Purdin Ditch Project in the Wenas Watershed which will screen a 8 cfs diversion and pipe its three miles of open delivery ditch.
- Implement a second project in the Wenas Watershed for the removal of two passage barriers, screening of two irrigation diversions, and implementation of an in stream water measuring system all at one location.

Okanogan Conservation District

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

Other Accomplishments

Worked with six communities to increase fire preparedness, assisted with improving fuel loading near homes.

Facilitated the development of a water conservation plan for the Okanogan Watershed for domestic exempt water use.

Partnered with Okanogan County educators to provide hands on, standards based environmental education.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Post-Wildfire Critical Area Plantings

Resource Challenge
High intensity burned areas from the Okanogan and Carlton Complex wildfires caused significant erosion and flooding throughout Okanogan County. A lack of riparian vegetation, gully and bank erosion increased sediment in surface water, impairing aquatic resources.

Project Summary and Results
Okanogan Conservation District (OCD) staff planned and implemented livestock exclusion fencing to protect 6,710 of stream and shoreline, totaling 26 acres of riparian area protected from livestock or enhanced with riparian planting. Project work occurred at six sites located on Omak Creek, No Name Creek, Tunk Creek, Salmon Creek, and Thurlow Lake. Woody debris was added to improve habitat for threatened summer steelhead at Omak Creek. Staff developed six projects for future implementation and provided on-the-ground technical assistance to 30 community members managing fire-impacted surface water.

Key Partners
Okanogan CD Rates and Charges, Washington State Conservation Commission, Washington State Department of Ecology, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Fish and Wildlife Department, USDA Farm Service Agency

Left: Okanogan High School Ecology of the Okanogan students, teacher, and OCD staff planting a riparian buffer on Omak Creek. (photo by Hannah Coe, OCD Conservation Planner) Right: Kim Kogler, OCD Education Specialist, assisting with a riparian planting on Omak Creek. (photo by Amy Martin, OCD Conservation Director)

Priorities moving forward...

- Improve readiness for five communities throughout Okanogan County identified at the highest risk of wildfire as identified by the Washington Department of Natural Resources.
- Continue to work with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation on improving critical salmonid habitat in Aeneas, Johnson, and Loup Loup Creeks, and elsewhere.

Pacific Conservation District

360-875-6735 | dmarcell@willapabay.org | pacificcd.wordpress.com
Legislative District: 19 Congressional District: 3

Other Accomplishments

PCD/Southwest Washington Food Hub provided eight COVID-19 impacted families with weekly food boxes filled with local farm products.

PCD worked with the Willapa Lead Entity to create the Willapa Bay Fish Barrier Prioritization Map, now available.

Worked with voluntary livestock producers to install water run-off structures and water storage facilities.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Rue Creek Fish Passage Project

Resource Challenge
Utilizing the Willapa Bay fish barrier prioritization mapping tool, Pacific Conservation District (PCD) staff identified Rue Creek as a high-priority fish barrier – a barrier that was also causing flooding concerns for landowners upstream. Working voluntarily with private landowners, the Pacific County Public Works Office and our network of natural resource partners, PCD set out to design and implement a sound solution to address the habitat and property concerns.

Project Summary and Results
Replacement of three culverts with a bridge opened up 2.6 miles of additional 2.6 fish-bearing stream for salmon (Fall Chum, Fall Chinook, Winter Steelhead, and Coho).

Key Partners
Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WCRRI), Pacific County

Left: Rue Creek fish barrier before construction. (photo by Tom Kollasch, Pacific Conservation District) Right: Senator Wilson's selfie with Tom Kollasch (PCD), Mara Zimmerman (Coast Salmon Partnership) and Garrett Durward (Brumfield Construction). (photo by Senator Jeff Wilson)

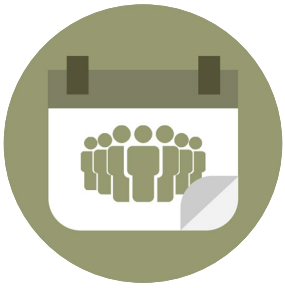
Priorities moving forward...

- Establish a robust outreach campaign to connect with landowners' high-priority fish barriers on their private lands.
- Utilize the Voluntary Stewardship Program to develop stewardship plans for two or more shellfish farms in Willapa Bay.
- Work with local city councils to join the district's boundaries and offer more conservation district services to more Pacific County landowners.

Palouse Conservation District

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

Other Accomplishments



Hosted the Soil Health Sit Down and The Conservation Talk Series, attracting 690 producers and community members.

Facilitated cover crop trial program through the Department of Ecology to explore alternatives to fallow on 287 acres.

Piloted a vegetation monitoring program to gauge planting success on over 22 riparian restoration projects.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

A Grande Ronde-vous of Water Resource Literacy

Resource Challenge
Water is a precious resource on the Palouse, an area dominated by agriculture and expanding urban development. Residents rely entirely on the Grande Ronde aquifer for drinking water and surface waters have become contaminated with non-point source pollutants from agricultural and urban runoff. Palouse Conservation District (PCD) partnered with regional leaders, who recognized the need for alternative water source research, sparking conversations about water quality and quantity conservation measures.

Project Summary and Results
To foster science literacy about water resources, PCD implemented educational programming including virtual workshops, community demonstrations, stream clean-ups, riparian planting events, water conservation incentives, and a citizen science water quality monitoring program. Funding provided an opportunity to provide sub-awards to community partner education projects to support rural distribution of water savings devices, water literacy programs at the local science center, urban xeriscaping, a community watershed festival, and interpretive signage along riparian corridors.

Key Partners
Environmental Protection Agency, Washington State Department of Ecology, City of Pullman, Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee

Students exploring aquatic macro-invertebrates along the South Fork of the Palouse River. Photo by: Cailin O'Malley.

The distribution of Grande Ronde Guardian stickers served as a reminder to be vigilant of our precious water resources.

Priorities moving forward...

- The Palouse River Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program was selected for renewal, after implementing 51,000 acres of conservation tillage practices, conserving 103,000 tons of soil. Partnering with the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program to sample the Palouse River for more than 150 pesticides to better understand pesticide residuals in the environment.

Pend Oreille Conservation District

509-447-1155 | admin@pocd.org | pocd.org
Legislative District: 7 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments

Protected over 1,000 feet of shoreline along the Pend Oreille River through bank stabilization and planting projects.

Installed 1,500 feet of livestock exclusion fence along riparian areas and critical area habitat.

Collaborated with other northeast area conservation districts to form the Soil Health Stewards to research relevant practices for our area.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Bracket Creek Farms Watering Facility Project

Resource Challenge
Bracket Creek Farms consists of 150 acres of ample natural resources and critical areas, including steep slopes, a fish-bearing creek, and historically farmed wetlands. The landowner has ample marginal and weedy pasture that he wishes to rotationally graze; however, his only water source is far from much of his grazeable ground. In addition, a fence was installed along the creek, preventing livestock access and further displacing his livestock from a water source.

Project Summary and Results
With technical assistance and cost share from Pend Oreille Conservation District (POCD) through the Voluntary Stewardship Program, we were able to assist the landowner with the installation of over 500 feet of livestock pipeline, a concrete pad, and a 100-gallon frost-free watering tank. The landowner feels confident in his ability to implement rotational grazing successfully, which will help him eradicate a significant infestation of knapweed and other noxious weeds on his pastures, and will help him effectively graze his previously-thinned forest through silvopasture practices.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission

Landowner, Kevin Bush, and POCD Manager, Alex Case-Cohen, observing the float ball action of the new frost-free water tank. (photo by Mary Malone)

Completed project showing frost-free water tank, length of livestock pipeline, and slope from pre-drilled well. (photo by Mary Malone)

Priorities moving forward...

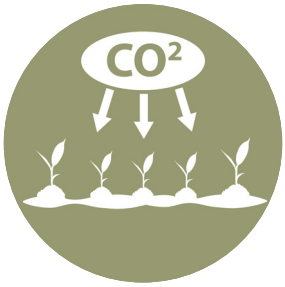
- We hope to increase our capacity so that we can offer more support through: concentrated bank stabilization efforts along the Pend Oreille River, improved water quality and quantity in the Little Spokane River, increased fuels reduction and forest health, continued research to assist farmers through climate change, and implementing an environmental education program.

Pierce Conservation District

253-845-9770 ext. 121 | info@piercecd.org | piercecd.org
Legislative District: 2, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31 Congressional District: 6, 8, 9, 10

Other Accomplishments

We helped direct CARES Act funding to 10-15 local farms delivering 1,500 food boxes per week to senior centers.



With a Boeing grant, we launched our City Forest Credits carbon program, sequestering 4,587 tons of carbon to sell.

We expanded our financial assistance programs to implement farm, shoreline, and stormwater infrastructure projects.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Building a New Future at South Prairie Creek

Resource Challenge
South Prairie Creek is the highest priority salmon stream in the Puyallup Watershed and has lost connection with its natural floodplain, reducing habitat complexity for endangered salmon species. The Inglin family not only wanted to see their historic dairy conserved, they wanted it to be part of the solution for restoration efforts. This effort began in 2005 with the sale of the property to Pierce Conservation District and major construction of a new side channel was complete in the fall of 2020.

Project Summary and Results
It has taken 16 years and 16 different funding sources to complete the restoration of this $7 million project, but along with many partners, we have now restored over 100 acres and another 30 acres remain in hay production. Almost 30,000 trees and native plants have been installed, along with a new half-mile section of side channel habitat, including 113 engineered wood structures, creating both new habitat for salmon and 33 acre feet of new floodplain storage to reduce risk to critical infrastructure. To learn more about this project, watch a short film here: https://vimeo.com/527347579.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission; Recreation and Conservation Office; Washington State Department of Ecology; National Estuary Program; Puyallup Tribe of Indians; Puget Sound Partnership; and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Representative Kim Schrier, State Legislators Kelly Chambers and Chris Gildon, and County Councilmember Pat Morell on a site visit.

The new side channel and large woody debris installed at South Prairie Creek Preserve.

Priorities moving forward...

- We will be closing acquisitions to conserve 300 - 600 acres of farmland.
- Conserve 35 acres for a future habitat restoration project.
- Install 15 - 30 green stormwater infrastructure projects with urban residential landowners.
- Launching an incubator farm to train the next generation of farmers.

Pine Creek Conservation District

509-285-5122 | casey.lowder@pinecreekcd.org | pinecreekcd.org
Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments

- New District staff: Raymond Brown served as District Manager for 32 years. In May of 2021, the District transitioned to a new manager and hired an accountant. Along with the board, the new staff aim to deliver on the District's ongoing objectives while developing new conservation, restoration, and outreach capabilities.
- Hello, world! We have a website: www.pinecreekcd.org.
- Weather station network: We researched and acquired web-enabled weather station equipment that will be deployed across the District. Data from the stations will be made available to all.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Win-Win: Water Quality and Farm Productivity

Resource Challenge
While contemporary tillage practices and agrochemical technologies have vastly reduced the likelihood of runoff, the steep topography and fine soils found in Pine Creek Conservation District (PCCD) make runoff of soil and chemicals a relevant resource concern even today. Runoff of fertilizers and herbicides may result in degraded water quality and can lead to complications like reduced oxygen and algae blooms. Farm energy efficiency and emission reduction leading to improved air quality is also a priority of the district.

Project Summary and Results
We provided funding to producers that farm more than 20,000 acres, in sum, to help mitigate the high costs of precision agriculture systems. These GPS guided systems result in reduced chemical applications, thus, reducing potential chemical runoff into water and improving farm efficiency. District producers report significant reductions in their use of fertilizer, herbicide, and fuel while maintaining high yields. Using conservative figures for input reductions, we estimate that more than 100,000 pounds of nitrogen fertilizer and over 13,000 gallons of herbicides were saved this biennium alone.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission

A producer uses GPS guided precision agriculture systems to fertilize his winter wheat. He estimates 6.5 percent reduction in overage.

Precision agriculture systems are used to apply herbicide to lentils near Oakesdale, significantly reducing over-application.

Priorities moving forward...

- Revitalize connections with the community through in-person and online outreach and education.
- Renew emphasis on soil conservation by recruiting participants and securing funding for practices like direct seeding.
- Improve water quality and wildlife habitat by establishing native plants and stabilizing banks in the Palouse River and Hangman Creek watersheds.

Pomeroy Conservation District

509-843-5008 | lancepcdistrict@gmail.com | pomeroycd.com
Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments

- Used Natural Resource Investments (NRI) funding from the Conservation Commission to fund a K-line pod irrigation system on South Deadman Creek to help effectively move and water cattle without using irrigation pipeline. This project with help reduce soil erosion and increase proper water management.
- Provided NRI funding for a watering trough, solar panel, and well for a landowner who runs cattle that was directly impacting government owned land.
- Provided cost-share assistance to 16 landowners for practicing precision agriculture and spraying noxious weeds through the Voluntary Stewardship Program.
- Worked with Anabranch Solutions for beaver relocation on Tumalum Creek.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Improving Water Quality and Conditions

Resource Challenge
Sedimentation, low stream flow, and polluted runoff are impacting local streams in Garfield County. Using funding from state and federal programs, Pomeroy Conservation District worked voluntarily with landowners to complete projects that improve water quality, enhance riparian zones, and reduce sedimentation.

Project Summary and Results
The Department of Ecology reached out to Pomeroy Conservation District about a property where cattle were grazing on or near a fish-bearing stream without proper watering facilities or exclusions. Cattle were directly impacting the stream creating soil run-off and fecal matter in Lower Deadman Creek. Our District worked collaboratively with the landowner to help resolve any future impact from cattle. In addition to livestock practices, our District has been a leader in an effort that has resulted in the majority of farmers and ranchers in our county accepting and implementing direct seed practices, which reduce erosion. The District also assists with constructing in-stream and stream-bank stabilization structures, including an intense monitoring component, that add another dimension to sediment reduction and summer stream flow.

Key Partners
Department of Ecology, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington State Conservation Commission, Snake River Salmon Recovery, USDA Farm Services Agency

Left: Building cattle exclusion fence along Lower Deadman Creek. Right: Constructing pipeline trench from the well to the watering tank.

Priorities moving forward...

- Continue with our beaver relocation project up Tumalum Creek to naturally impact the stream. The beavers will build and maintain pre-built structures as well as their own to help with stream flow and water quality.
- Deliver cost share to local landowners utilizing precision agriculture and noxious weed spraying using funding from the Voluntary Stewardship Program and Conservation Commission.

Rock Lake Conservation District

509-648-3680 ext. 109 | awolfe@rocklakecd.org | rocklakecd.org
Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments

Nearly 25,000 trees and shrubs planted for habitat enhancement.

Six miles of riparian restoration/ enhancement completed.

One community garden installed.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Dredging and Grading of Kamiache Creek

Resource Challenge
The resource concern with this project involved severe annual flooding of a man-made levee and stream channel system in the unincorporated town of Ewan, WA. The channel had become so silted-in that the stream was higher than the farmland and residential properties adjacent to it. Breaches/flooding had occurred in many of the most recent years. Landowners sought the help of Rock Lake Conservation District (RLCD) to abate the issue to help preserve lands and homes. The stream's flow is now improved and threat of flooding reduced.

Project Summary and Results
The first challenge was permitting; this project involved multiple jurisdictions, each with their own permit. RLCD helped navigate this permitting process such to the effect that by May of 2021 the ¾ mile of stretch of stream was returned to a functional state. RLCD also assisted in matters of engineering, contracting, resource management and restoration. The project demanded particular attention to erosion control. RLCD installed 1.5 miles of erosion control fabric on the interior banks of the stream and planted the tops and outer banks with perennial grasses.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission

Image of Kamiache Creek as work began. As can be seen, the stream was effectively a bog, not functioning as a stream at all.

Kamiache Creek functions again as a stream, meanwhile new grasses grow on the banks.

Priorities moving forward...

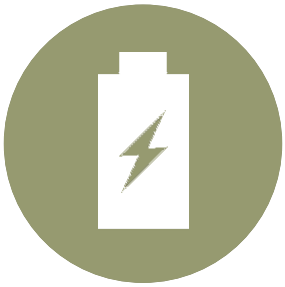
- Continue to improve the functionality of the last 2,000 feet of Kamiache Creek to its confluence with Cottonwood Creek in Ewan, WA. While the work conducted in 2020 was critical, there is more needed.
- Implement an additional five miles of riparian enhancements.
- Install two off-stream livestock watering facilities; one on Rebel Flat Creek another on Cherry Creek.

San Juan Islands Conservation District

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

Other Accomplishments

Produced on-site biochar throughout forest thinning activities, redistributed within the forest floor.



Completed early phase research and development of a biomass-fueled energy production facility.

Implemented ecological restoration workforce training programs for dozens of individuals age 12-26.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Helping Farmers, Protecting Watersheds

Resource Challenge
A farm within the Eastsound Watershed on Orcas Island contains wetlands, a fish-bearing stream, and a critical aquifer recharge area. The farm had poor livestock over-wintering areas and contributed to sheet flow with muddy manure run-off into a nearby stream that feeds into a commercial shellfish area.

Project Summary and Results
The San Juan Islands Conservation District produced an Individual Stewardship Plan and recommended several best management practices (BMP) to address resource concerns that included excess water, nutrients in surface water, soil compaction, and soil erosion.

Funding from the State Conservation Commission's shellfish program was used to fund several BMP, including heavy use area protection, fencing, livestock shelter and a waste storage facility.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission

Before photo of excess water and mud conditions.

After photo of Heavy Use Area and waste storage.

Priorities moving forward...

- Establish and maintain eight to ten new protected habitat plots on private lands to support reintroduction of the endangered Island Marble butterfly.
- Dramatically increase forest planning and wildfire mitigation practices across public and private forests in San Juan County.
- Stimulate local economic activity and ecological restoration through workforce training programs.

Skagit Conservation District

360-428-4313 | skagitcd@skagitcd.org | skagitcd.org
Legislative District: 10, 39, 40 Congressional District: 1, 2

Other Accomplishments

- **Secured $75,000 AIM grant from Coalitions & Collaboratives to support the joint Skagit & Whatcom Wildfire program.**
- **Firewise program and staff highlighted in a national publication.**
- **All Skagit CD Supervisors, with terms expiring, filed for re-election and continue to serve the District.**
- **Rates and Charges were approved by the Skagit County Commissioners.**
- **Virtual programs, videos and workshops created and provided during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Skagit CD Named 2020 District of the Year!

Resource Challenge
Skagit Conservation District (CD) is one of a few agricultural strongholds west of the Cascades. The District formed in 1942 with traditional drainage and bank armoring done long ago. The District evolved to focus on water quality impacting shellfish, stormwater, and Firewise™ outreach and education associated with urban growth. The District was pursuing Rates and Charges (R&C), and with that conversation old doors opened and our services requested. Our customer base is diverse and we provide equitable service to all cooperating landowners.

Project Summary and Results
The District's request for R&C was approved by the Skagit County Commissioners. With heightened identity, Best Management Practice cost-share projects dramatically increased. In the last half of 2021, we completed 32 practices with 18 landowners. Skagit CD spearheaded efforts to increase applications for the Environment Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Another first was a 439 acre cover crop program with support of Voluntary Stewardship Program funding. Skagit CD continues to fill a neutral, non-regulatory role in helping local Tribes and landowners find win-win opportunities. Outreach, education, technical assistance, and cost-share are strong in the Skagit.

Key Partners
Major funding from Skagit County; State Department of Ecology National Estuary Program; State Conservation Commission Shellfish and Natural Resource Investment funds; R&C funded by Skagit landowners; Action, Implementation and Mitigation (AIM) grant for the Firewise Program; and a few projects funded by EQIP.


A healthy stand of cover crops in Bow, WA.


New pivot irrigation system helps a Burlington, WA dairy to improve forage yields and better manage nutrients.

Priorities moving forward...

- Identify basins to install live web-based groundwater level and adjacent surface water level monitoring to establish seasonal benchmarks and develop climate change adaptive strategies beneficial to terrestrial (farms) and aquatic (fish) management.
- Kick off a community engagement effort to understand the incentives needed to increase participation in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Snohomish Conservation District

425-335-5634 | outreach@snohomishcd.org | snohomishcd.org

Legislative District: 1, 10, 21, 32, 38, 39, 44 Congressional District: 1, 2, 7

Other Accomplishments

Farmland Preservation: Partnered to secure conservation easements in the Stillaguamish Valley protecting 257 acres.

Regional Forest Stewardship Program: managing the program across the Puget Sound region and helping small forest landowners.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Installed rain gardens and bioswales across six Puget Sound conservation districts.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Improving Fish Passage at Three High-Priority Sites

Resource Challenge

Failing and undersized culverts can prevent salmon and other aquatic animals from accessing upstream or downstream habitat, increase flooding, and increase localized erosion and sedimentation of streams. Replacing outdated culverts with fish-friendly structures benefits threatened fish species and reduces the risks of flooding and erosion. The Snohomish Conservation District partnered with two private landowners to develop designs and secure permits to replace three culverts with fish-friendly structures and to remove a fourth culvert.

Project Summary and Results

We secured funding from multiple sources for the two fish passage improvement projects, including the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), to replace culverts on Haystack Creek (Skykomish River), and Harvey Creek (Stillaguamish River). Completed in September 2021, these culvert replacements will improve passage for Chinook and Coho salmon and Steelhead trout. These projects represent targeted investments in high-priority areas. Project partners include Snohomish County, the Stillaguamish Tribe, the Tulalip Tribes, and the Wild Fish Conservancy.

Key Partners

State Conservation Commission; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; State Department of Natural Resources; Recreation and Conservation Office, and the State Department of Ecology.

This private road's culvert exacerbates flooding of Haystack Creek and presents a barrier to Chinook and Steelhead trout. (photo by Snohomish Conservation District)

A new bridge over Haystack Creek opens the stream channel for fish and reduces the risk of flooding the private road. (photo by Snohomish Conservation District)

Priorities moving forward...

- Improve aquatic habitat through habitat restoration in Stillaguamish Confluence, Pilchuck River, Woods Creek, and Skykomish River.
- Increase agricultural resilience to climate change through multi-benefit projects including flood risk mitigation, drainage improvements, and soil health best management practices.
- Reduce nutrient and pathogen inputs in water bodies flowing into Puget Sound.

South Douglas Conservation District

509-745-9160 | southdouglascd@conservewa.net | southdouglascd.org
Legislative District: 12 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments

Solar powered watering facility.

Six dam/terrace construction projects in dryland farm acres.

Three wildlife habitat plantings.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Badger Mountain Fuels Reduction Cost-Share

Resource Challenge
Badger Mountain has one of the few forests in Douglas County. Most of the acres have not been managed for fuels reduction resulting in dead, overgrown areas prone to disease, poor wildlife habitat, and poor tree stands. This impacts not only the landowners, but also neighbors and residents of Douglas County. During this drought and wildfire season, reducing the trees and undergrowth will reduce the risk of fire. Through an implementation grant, this project was funded as a cost-share project.

Project Summary and Results
A forester familiar with Badger Mountain helped the landowner decide the first areas to be treated. 20 acres were thinned, reducing the fuels prone to fire. Trees were thinned or limbed up to ten feet. Dead shrubs and branches were chipped and distributed on the forest floor. Nonthreatening brush was left for wildlife cover.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission

Before fuels reduction work.

After the fuels reduction work.

Priorities moving forward...

- Continue fuels reduction program by assisting ten landowners on Badger Mountain.
- Repair and construct at least three dams/terraces in dryland farm ground each year to reduce soil runoff and conserve water during drought periods.
- Complete up to five wildlife habitat development projects each year to provide cover and protection for wildlife and pollinators.

South Yakima Conservation District

509-829-9025 | office@sycd.us | sycd.us
Legislative District: 14, 15 Congressional District: 4

Other Accomplishments

- A nine-acre irrigation system conversion from flood to solid set sprinkler system to provide soil moisture monitoring and irrigation water management, saving approximately 12.28 acre-feet of water each year.
- Green strip planting on 120-foot wide strip three miles long within the Black Rock Priority and Voluntary Stewardship Program critical area for grazing, wildlife habitat and fire suppression.
- Nutrient management for a ground water monitoring well.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Waste Separation Facility 632

Resource Challenge
The need for protection of surface and ground waters from nutrient leaching and runoff, provide water savings measures through recycling while providing a waste stream for precise nutrient application to available crops. A dairy owner requested assistance to address his old waste handling and storage system on his dairy.

Project Summary and Results
The challenge was to keep the new waste separation facility and infrastructures within the existing footprint of the old system, separate solid liquid waste stream effluent and reduced storage volume in the waste storage pond. The system requires 20-30 percent less run time at 175,000 gallons per day. The owner requires a smaller temporary solids storage area and is producing quality bedding and marketable nutrient rich material for potential offsite sales. The dairy is able to reduce water usage through recycling and fine adjust waste stream to facilitate agronomic applications to nearby crop land.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission

Dairy waste separation facility (looking west). Screened solids slab, sand lanes and two synthetically lined settling basins. Photo by landowner.

Dairy waste separation facility (looking south) containment runoff control structures. Photo by landowner.

Priorities moving forward...

- Two irrigation project conversions (one Rill to Pivot), (one wheel line to drip) lower Yakima Valley/ Conservation Easement Cool Pool Fish Habitat Protection- Yakima River near Granger/Remote Spring Development Cattle operation, southwest area north of Glenwood.

Spokane Conservation District

509-535-7274 x214| info@spokanecd.org | spokanecd.org

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

Other Accomplishments

Over 90,000 tree and shrub seedlings distributed at the 2020 Tree Sale.

50 percent reduction of synthetic fertilizers utilizing Pursanova reverse osmosis (RO) and water structuring system.

$53,000 secured for Spokane farm corridor project expansion.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Newman Lake/Honeymoon Bay Septic Pilot Study

Resource Challenge

Spokane Conservation District's (SCD) work at Newman Lake has shown that septic systems contribute to high levels of phosphorus and nitrogenin water sources, causing frequent water quality issues such as excessive algae and aquatic plant growth. If discharged water meets or is cleaner than groundwater standards, the new technology will stay in place and serve as a model for other parcels. If not, they will be removed and each site must revert to an alternative system that protects water quality.

Project Summary and Results

In July 2020, SCD installed the first system from the manufacturer, Busse. This system is the first of its type installed in Washington state and it uses membrane bioreactor technology to separate coarse biodegradable material before pumping wastewater to an aeration section, where remaining organic matter breaks down. Treated wastewater then passes through microfiltration membranes to eliminate suspended material and bacteria, achieving treatment levels many times greater than a standard septic system. This system reduces phosphorus levels up to 99 percent.

Key Partners

Washington State Department of Ecology

Photo of the Busse system being installed.

Water samples of before and after installation showcasing water quality improvements.

Priorities moving forward...

- Stabilize and restore approximately 1,800 feet of the mainstem on Hangman Creek.
- Stabilize approximately 4,500 feet of the mainstem of Little Hangman Creek, including restoration of approximately 10-acres of riparian habitat.
- Fish barrier correction on Deer Creek, opening up an additional 3.2 miles of stream habitat.

Stevens County Conservation District

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

Other Accomplishments

- Completed nine small scale soil health demonstration projects with landowners, including cover cropping and livestock bale grazing.
- Hosted eight three-hour workshops and farm tours (five virtual and three in-person) impacting more than 100 people.
- Assisted 90 percent of the dairies in Stevens County with technical assistance and nutrient management plan updates.
- Continue to work with landowners and agency personnel on projects and permitting needs.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Livestock Barriers Without Wire

Resource Challenge
Lake shoreline landowners had concerns about a pasture livestock operation up stream of the lake and water quality testing failed to determine if the livestock are actually impacting the lakes quality. Pasture conditions sub irrigated makes standard fencing difficult and creates maintenance issues to control the livestock access to the creek and pasture management. This pasture is a combination of private ground and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) managed land with the creek running through the pasture and into the lake.

Project Summary and Results
Stevens County Conservation District, DNR and the Department of Ecology (Ecology) worked together with the livestock operator and lake owners association to develop a plan. This plan installed a natural log barrier to control the livestock access to part of the creek and pasture. Due to field conditions, the logs were flown in by helicopter from an adjacent forest. The trees used were trees that had blown down by wind, were dead, and had no market value. An enclosure was built and native trees and brush were planted by DNR crews, controlling livestock access to the creek and planted area.

Key Partners
Ecology and DNR

Helicopter flying in a tree. (photo by Charlie Kessler)

Log barrier crossing creek. (photo by Stevens County drone)

Priorities moving forward...

- Assist 140 landowners with wildfire severity assessments, inventory natural resource losses, and provide technical and financial assistance in the restoration and prevention of future soil erosion from the 2021 wildfires.
- Remove one fish barrier on Mill Creek with Family Forest Fish Passage Program funding.
- Develop a 158-acre community demonstration and research farm partnering with Washington State University in south Stevens County.

Thurston Conservation District

360-754-3588 x136 | nwhite@thurstoncd.com | thurstoncd.com

Legislative District: 2, 20, 22, 35 Congressional District: 3, 10

Other Accomplishments

Analyzed and mapped current and potential farmland in the City of Olympia and UGA to further preservation goals.

35 individuals assisted with marine shoreline management through Shore Friendly Thurston program.

The Farmer's Basket connects farms and customers to support local food in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Urban and Community Agriculture Education

Resource Challenge

The City of Yelm is one of the most rapidly urbanizing communities in Washington State and has low access to fresh healthy food. With growth comes pressure on local food systems and shared natural resources, such as water and space to grow food. Thurston Conservation District (TCD) co-designed, built and launched the Yelm Community Garden. TCD also developed home gardening and cooking classes to empower residents to participate in the local food system through education and growing food.

Project Summary and Results

TCD held seven virtual workshops with topics such as composting and container gardening. Workshop accessibility was increased via closed captioning and Spanish translation. Simultaneously, and in close partnership with others, we designed a community garden with 10 raised beds and a pollinator hedgerow. The garden was built and planted with the help of 71 volunteers, including students, the military community, and local residents. In its first season, the garden grew fresh produce for food pantries and community harvest. Learn more in this local news story: https://www.thurstontalk.com/2021/03/03/teamwork-brings-yelm-community-garden-to-life-with-veteran-support/.

Key Partners

National Association of Conservation Districts; Bounty for Families; Nisqually Indian Tribe; and the City of Yelm.

Veteran volunteers from Rogue Permaculture helped plant the first crops of the Yelm Community Garden. (photo by Nora Carman-White)

TCD staff connect with community members in the garden and sign them up to volunteer in the future! (photo by Heidi Smith)

Priorities moving forward...

- Design and build a Conservation and Education Center with Best Management Practices demonstration sites, K-12 field trip opportunities and community gathering spaces.
- Work with 10 farms to implement carbon sequestration practices.
- Develop sustainable funding sources for conservation districts to meet the growing demands of community members and on natural resources.

Underwood Conservation District

509-493-1936 x104| info@ucdwa.org | ucdwa.org
Legislative District: 14 Congressional District: 3

Other Accomplishments

Placed over 75 logs with rootwads by helicopter along 1/2 mile of stream as part of Little Wind River Habitat Enhancement.

Built over 20 instream Beaver Dam Analogs and installed over 1/2 mile of riparian fencing and 3+ acres of plantings.

Provided cost share for a large tire dump clean-up on a privately-owned wetland, removing over 700 old tires.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

White Salmon Irrigation District Improvements

Resource Challenge
For over 100 years, the irrigators in this district have relied on water from Buck Creek, an important tributary to the White Salmon River. After removal of the Condit Dam in 2011-12, salmon and steelhead began to recolonize Buck Creek and other tributary streams. For fish, streams such as Buck Creek provide important habitat, however the irrigation diversion was not screened to keep fish out of the irrigation system and also posed a channel-spanning, instream, concrete, fish passage barrier.

Project Summary and Results
Underwood Conservation District completed the White Salmon Irrigation Fish Passage and Pipeline Project in the fall of 2019 in collaboration with the White Salmon Irrigation District and other partners. This project improves stream habitat and corrects the fish passage barrier posed by the diversion dam for the native wild salmon and steelhead that use Buck Creek. It also piped nearly two-miles of aging irrigation infrastructure, providing efficient delivery of water to local irrigators and saving more than two cubic feet per second of water for instream fish habitat.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission, Department of Ecology, Salmon Recovery Funding Board

New rotary drum fish screen, constructed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and installed in 2019 for White Salmon Irrigation District. (photo by Carly Lemon)

Constructed channel in Buck Creek, designed to provide fish passage over the old diversion dam. (photo by Carly Lemon)

Priorities moving forward...

- Launch UCD Farm Tool Library providing tools to farmers and gardeners.
- Construct Stabler Bend Side Channel Enhancement project for Wind River threatened wild steelhead.
- Create effective outreach such as Yard by Yard, www.ucdwa.org/yard-by-yard, and this short video about our Little Wind River Habitat Project: www.ucdwa.org/little-wind-river-habitat-enhancement-project.

Wahkiakum Conservation District

360-795-8240 | ccdadmin@ccdandwcd.com | cowlitzcd.wordpress.com
Legislative District: 19 Congressional District: 3

Other Accomplishments

Cothren Elochoman Community Watershed Project.

Elochoman Community Watershed Project Knotweed Treatment and Riparian Restoration.

Wahkiakum Conservation District planted five project sites within the Elochoman and Skamokawa Community Watershed projects.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Community Watershed Projects

Resource Challenge
Wahkiakum Conservation District continues working with non-industrial private ownership to implement projects addressing local resource concerns. Most concerns are salmon-centric but do address concerns for water quality and invasive weeds. While concerns are voiced at the farm level, most are watershed level and best addressed across the watershed through numerous projects. The district has been relying on landowners to spread the word. Projects are based on landowner requests.

Project Summary and Results
The district addresses the challenges by planning and designing a project with individual landowners. Projects are also assessed across the watershed and in consideration of neighboring projects, and more importantly, neighboring ownerships. All of the community watershed projects address all of the resource concerns identified for the site in both the short-term (immediate) and long-term (sustained). While goals and objectives are numerous and vary by project site, they tend to address instream habitat needs, channel/streambank stability, and water quality (temperature/sediment).

Key Partners
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, Washington State Conservation Commission, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Left: Salmon carcasses in created side channel habitat. Right: Steelhead seeking refuge on jam structure. (photos by Brad Bortner)

Priorities moving forward...

- Continue knotweed treatment and begin riparian restoration of treated sites.
- Continue work on community watershed projects.

Walla Walla County Conservation District

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

Other Accomplishments

Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Pollinator Project: 200 feet of native plants cultivated to increase native pollinator habitat.

Conservation staff conducted 14 soil tests for local producers.

Over 100,000 acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land field-checked by conservation district staff.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Rapid Response to a 100-Year Flood

Resource Challenge
Walla Walla is known as a land of "many waters." It is home to several fresh water sources that are vital to regional agriculture and conservation. However, in early February of 2020, the region experienced two days of heavy rainfall and flooding, with landowners reporting nearly $10 million in agricultural-related damages. The Walla Walla Conservation District provided information to over 100 landowners who reported flooding damage, and gave technical assistance to several others.

Project Summary and Results
Restoration efforts and outreach were not restricted to one specific project. Following flooding, several landowners requested assistance in restoring damaged areas along Mill Creek and the Touchet River. In total, the conservation district assisted with harvesting and planting 3,000 willow trees in March of 2020, with additional willow whips harvested for conservation projects and flood-damaged areas in 2021. These trees will grow to provide shade along the river, lower water temperatures, create more suitable fish habitat, and prevent further erosion.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission

Willow whips ready for planting along Mill Creek.

Conservation staff helping landowner by planting willow trees on the Touchet River.

Priorities moving forward...

- Design and implement floodplain projects to reduce impacts of flooding in the Walla Walla region.
- Increase educational opportunities for noxious weed management, including weed resistance and spray-efficient technologies and practices.

Whatcom Conservation District

360-526-2381 | wcd@whatcomcd.org | whatcomcd.org
Legislative District: 40, 42 Congressional District: 1, 2

Other Accomplishments

167 Technical Assistance clients served; 55 Farm plans developed; and 42 Farm best management practices implemented or installed.

Eight fish passage barriers removed; 1.5 miles and 15 acres of new riparian buffers; and three instream habitat projects installed.

81,308 square feet treated with low impact development; seven residential rain gardens installed; and eight watersheds modeled for pollutants.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Restoring Salmon Habitat in Kamm Creek

Resource Challenge
Like other lowland streams in the Nooksack Basin, Kamm Creek provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for salmon. Unfortunately, a culvert under a farm access road blocked access to its upper reaches, limiting the amount of habitat accessible to salmon. Additionally, like many streams running through farmland, this stretch of Kamm Creek lacked healthy riparian buffers that are essential to restore and protect critical fish habitat.

Project Summary and Results
Fred Polinder's family has owned and farmed the tract of land where this culvert was located for nearly a century. Removing the culvert allows fish to travel more easily through the entire stream, and still allows the cows that graze in the area to access pastures on both sides of the stream.

After completion of the fish passage project, the conservation district asked Polinder if he would be willing to participate in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). He was excited to participate and enrolled 7.6 acres in CREP, planting 3,650 seedlings along 4,500 feet of stream.

Key Partners
USDA National Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Washington State Conservation Commission

"Along the creek we wanted to have a buffer so that we could still be able to graze, and not do damage to the fish habitat." - Fred Polinder. (photo by Veritas Media)

Culvert to Bridge along Kamm Creek. A local farming group documented this story featured here: https://youtu.be/hxViMuXzJlU. (photo by Veritas Media)

Priorities moving forward...

- Salmon Recovery: Implement nine fish passage projects and 15 riparian projects.
- Drought Impacts: Launch coordinated water use efficiency programs for both agricultural and residential water users.
- Wildfire Resilience: Secure funding to support the increase risk of wildfire in Whatcom County.

Whidbey Island Conservation District

360-678-4708 | wicd@whidbeycd.org | whidbeycd.org
Legislative District: 10 Congressional District: 2

Other Accomplishments

A management plan to reduce algal blooms, improve water quality, and restore native plants and wildlife to Lone Lake.

150 forest-related requests satisfied, from which 23 timber management plans were created.

Completion of three cost share projects focused on livestock waste storage, heavy use area protection, and fencing.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Meeting Our Growing Community's Needs

Resource Challenge
In recent years, increased housing pressure from nearby urban areas has led to a high population growth rate of over eight percent in Island County. On Whidbey Island, an appeal for "island living" has attracted more backyard and small hobby farms. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has led many landowners to refocus attention on their properties as they sheltered in place. Together these trends led to a sharp increase in our technical assistance requests and they have doubled over the last two years.

Project Summary and Results
Instead of limiting our services during the pandemic, Whidbey Island CD served unprecedented numbers through a diverse engagement strategy. Streamlined the client intake process through smart technology and created videos to orient clients to our services and provide resources. Our peer-to-peer FarmWalk events addressed technical assistance in small socially-distanced groups. Increased collaboration with community partners on publications and projects to amplify the district's reach. Using all of these strategies we increased our clients served from 222 clients in 2019-20 to 390 in 2020-21.

Key Partners
Island County, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington Department of Ecology Near Term Action grants, Washington State Conservation Commission, Whidbey Community Foundation

The 12-video series "What Do Conservation Districts Do?" introduces viewers to conservation districts, Whidbey Island Conservation District's services, and local resources.

Priorities moving forward...

- Launch a pilot program for small farms and underserved producers to provide assistance and connect them with USDA funding.
- Develop a stormwater management advocate network to help landowners to assess their facilities and implement best practices.
- Collaboratively conduct field trials and research into the economic and environmental efficacy of agroforestry working buffers.

Whitman Conservation District

509-288-4644 | whitmanconservationdist@gmail.com | whitmancd.org
Legislative District: 9 Congressional District: 5

Other Accomplishments

Landowner agreed to fence livestock from creek and allowed us to plant vegetation back and install woody structures.

Getting kids out to restoration projects is a great way to teach the next generation about improving water quality.

Partnering with landowners who are interested in cover cropping is great publicity for districts.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Thorn Creek Riparian Restoration

Resource Challenge
A local landowner's father used to keep cattle fenced in along Thorn Creek. When her father passed away, she sold the cattle to protect the creek from further degradation. The landowner then wanted to speed up the restoration process of the creek to a more naturalized state as it wasn't happening on its own. She contacted Whitman Conservation District to see if there was potential to help improve the habitat structure and function of this creek.

Project Summary and Results
One of biggest challenges in the Pacific Northwest is how to get quality plantings to survive with the ultra-aggressive reed canarygrass that is so prevalent. The availability of willow whips from our Plant Materials Center for planting into riparian areas where it is hard to layout weed fabric, mow, and or weed whack, is awesome. A six-foot tall willow cutting can be installed three-feet down into the soil, which leaves three-feet of plant material above the ground to receive sunlight and not be shaded out by the three to four-foot tall reed canarygrass.

Key Partners
Washington State Conservation Commission

Left: Shortly after planting the creek experienced a flash flood event. Woody structure creating turbulence and slowing flow. Right: Getting schools out to learn about watersheds and helping to build beaver protection cages.

Priorities moving forward...

- A planting project on a piece of ground that burned last year.
- Two more riparian restoration projects will soon start on two different creeks.
- Installing 100 woody structures throughout one watershed.
- Teaching kids about watersheds, water quality, and aquifers.

Thank You to Our Partners!

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

Jefferson Land Trust

Tulalip Tribes

Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Washington State Department of Ecology

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Washington State University – Extension

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

US Environmental Protection Agency

USDA Farm Service Agency

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

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

Thank you for your support!

Washington State
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