

# 2013 Skagit CD Summary Report of Accomplishments

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## Commercial Livestock and Small Farm Operations

- 168 commercial and small farm landowners assisted
- 14 farm plans completed
- 18 structural BMPs implemented
- 2 farm plans updated

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## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- 2 new projects planted this past spring totaling 27 acres
- 1 new CREP contract signed
- 10 new interested cooperators
- 593.2 acres of buffer installed to date
- 186,406 (35.3 miles) stream bank feet of riparian restoration installed to date
- 268,206 native trees planted to date




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## Firewise and Community Wildfire Protection Planning



- WA State ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for number of Firewise Communities/USA
- 10 home wildfire risk assessments completed this year
- 10 Firewise plans written
- 3 community level hazard assessments written
- 10 Firewise presentations and outreach events conducted with 285 attendees
- 8 recognized Firewise Communities/USA in Skagit County
- 11 Firewise BMPs implemented
- Wildfire Awareness Week Proclamation televised, presented, and signed at the Skagit County Commissioners' meeting in May
- 1 radio interview with Skagit Valley College on Firewise and fire prevention in Skagit County

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## Forest Stewardship Program and EQIP

- 21 forest conservation plans written
- NW Washington Forest Landowners Field Day with WSU, DNR and NRCS ~ 100 participants
- 26 landowners received technical assistance
- 16 forestry conservation practices implemented





### Professional Engineering

- Completed conceptual engineering design and report for a drainage district
- Completed report and cost estimate for stabilizing creek bank erosion
- Review of 2013 SRFB grant proposals
- Completed survey and preliminary design for drainage and salmon habitat improvement project
- Completed preliminary survey and design for property on Manser Creek
- Completed survey and conceptual design for installing several large woody debris habitat structures in East Fork Nookachamps Creek
- Participated in ongoing stakeholder committee meetings

### Clean Samish Initiative Education

- 3 workshops for livestock property owners ~72 attendees
- 5 workshops on sustainable landscaping practices ~121 attendees
- Co-hosted the “Buffers and Beavers” Farm tour ~ 60 attendees
- Co-sponsored Kids in Nature: Families Outdoors at Pomona Grange Park ~30 attendees
- Co-sponsored the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sustainable Samish Garden Tour ~75 attendees
- Provided technical assistance to the Friday Creek neighborhood volunteers in establishing new community naturescape demonstration garden at the Alger Community Hall—3 work parties held with over 40 community residents participating and 250 native plants established
- Published 2 editions of the Clean Samish News—distributed to over 6,000 residents
- Co-sponsored the Samish Seed Sale/SSWAP & Arbor Day Tree Giveaway with approximately 200 attendees and distributed 100 native trees
- Attended 10 Samish neighborhood meetings
- Recruited 18 volunteers and assisted at two shellfish seed sales hosted by Taylor Shellfish Farms
- Provided ongoing support to Samish neighborhood groups



### Environmental Education



- 750 students participated in the annual Sixth Grade Conservation Tour in May
- Participated in the Skagit Watershed Letterbox Trail
- 500 tree seedlings distributed to students in honor of Arbor Day
- 25 tree seedlings distributed to Mount Vernon Library Youth Program
- 2 Community proclamations in recognition of Arbor Day and “Soil and Water Stewardship Week” televised, presented, and signed at

Skagit County Commissioners’ meetings in April

- Promoted Arbor Day on KAPS and KBRC radio stations, including tree trivia
- 75 posters entered for the Soil and Water Stewardship poster contest for local youth grades K-12
- Hosted educational displays and distributed educational and program promotional materials at 2 farm locations at the Skagit Valley Festival of Family Farms ~2,500 attendees

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## **Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program**

- *32 individuals completed the Spring 2013 Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short Course*
- *Provided presentations on Backyard Conservation practices at 13 events, reaching over 275 people*
- *Continued support to Friday Creek Habitat Stewards and the Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat Team*
- *Hosted 2 volunteer work parties at the Kulshan Bird and Butterfly Demonstration Garden*
- *Provided 110 native plants for habitat enhancement project at the Fidalgo Pool location*



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## **Low Impact Development (LID) & Stormwater Education**

- *300 storm markers installed on storm drain inlets by volunteers, and 300 educational door hangers distributed*
- *44 stormwater education presentations provided to over 1050 Skagit County students*
- *7 LID presentations given to 125 people*
- *1 rain garden/LID tour held with 14 attendees*
- *New "Puget Sound Starts Here" education game/activity created*
- *Hosted "Puget Sound Starts Here" educational display and game at Storming the Sound and Festival of Family farms to over 2,360 attendees*
- *Hosted Stormwater game and Watershed*



*Model at the Skagit River Salmon Festival, Kid's in Nature event and the Taylor's "Shellfish-tival" ~4,000 attendees*

- *Published 5 yard care fact sheets*
- *Hosted "Puget Sound Starts Here--Don't Drip and Drive" campaign with 3 local ASA businesses participating*
- *Designed Puget Sound Starts Here media ads for local papers*



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## **Skagit Stream Team**

- *71 volunteers participated in the 2012/13 Stream Team Program*
- *8 Storm Team volunteers monitored 14 stations in the Edison Pump Station drainages*
- *50 stations, located in the Padilla Bay, Samish, Fisher Creek, Kulshan Creek, Trumpeter, Gages Slough, Clyde Creek, and Nookachamps basins, were monitored for fecal coliform, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity twice a month*
- *1,143 Stream Team volunteer hours reported for 2012/2013 monitoring season*
- *Annual Stream Team report completed and distributed*
- *Hosted "How Clean is Your Neighborhood Stream?" event ~32 attendees*
- *Hosted annual Stream Team celebration ~63 attendees*



## Marine Biotoxin Monitoring Program

- 25 community volunteers participated in the 2013 sampling season
- 80 sampling events conducted by volunteers at 9 recreational shellfish harvesting beaches



## Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program

- 18 individuals completed the fall 2013 Watershed Masters Training Program, bringing the total participants to date to 475
- 3,445 Watershed Master volunteer hours reported in 2013, bringing the total hours to over 39,934
- Over 100 sustainable backyard practices implemented and reported by Fall 2013 graduates

## District Media

- Skagit Conservation News – 2 newsletters each distributed to over 4,000 readers
- Skagit Conservation District website maintained – [www.skagitcd.org](http://www.skagitcd.org)
- Skagit Conservation District Facebook page maintained



Kids in Nature at  
Pomona Grange Park



Buffers and Beaver farm tour



Stream Team training



Heavy use area protection



Firewise fuels reduction



Sprig at the Festival of  
Family Farms

Special thanks to all of our partnering organizations who helped make the Skagit Conservation District's efforts toward conservation, protection and enhancement of the natural resources of Skagit County a huge success in 2013!!