

2005 Report of Accomplishments

Each year, the Skagit Conservation District prepares and completes an Annual Report of Accomplishments. We would like to share with our readers a summary of our accomplishments over the past fiscal year, as well as some highlights from a year's worth of implementation and community assistance.

Most Significant Natural Resource Accomplishment

- Skagit CD completed a Centennial Clean Water Fund (CCWF) grant from the Department of Ecology (D.O.E.), in the No Name Slough Watershed located in Bay View, WA. Working cooperatively with the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Skagit CD was able to create an extensive characterization of the watershed. A diverse multi-stakeholder committee including farmers, local residences, and state and federal agency staff was formed. A list of future water quality and habitat improvement projects was compiled and ranked in a feasibility study. It is this list that has been instrumental in pursuing funds to move forward with projects in this watershed.
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Community Collaboration & Coordination

- The District was active in planning and implementation processes with the following organizations: Interagency for Outdoor Recreation Skagit County Committee (IAC), Skagit County Education Alliance (SCEA), Skagit County Forest Advisory Committee, Farmland Legacy Program, Skagit Watershed Council, Skagit Marine Resources Committee (MRC), 400-12 Watershed Planning Implementation Review Committee.
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Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) & Salmon Recovery Board (SRFB)

- 66 CREP projects implemented to date providing 448.4 acres of buffer totaling 135,935 stream feet, 25.7 miles, and 189,451 trees planted.
 - 3 new signed CREP contracts, 4 new projects implemented.
 - 43 SRFB projects on 534 acres of buffer totaling 114,130 stream feet were maintained.
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Dairy/Livestock

- All 47 Skagit dairies have approved nutrient management plans.
 - 83% of the dairies have now met the criteria for full implementation and achieved certification status.
 - The District provided \$17,065 in cost-share funds to assist in the implementation of nutrient management plans.
 - Updated 2 dairy nutrient management plans.
 - Presented 2 six-week small farm workshops
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FIREWISE and Community Wildfire Protection Planning

- 4 FIREWISE presentations to Skagit County communities/neighborhood associations.
 - Completed a FIREWISE demonstration/neighborhood workday in Marblemount.
 - Developed wildfire protection outreach methods for 10 communities.
 - Created 2 informational wildfire protection brochures.
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Professional Engineering

- 27 cooperators received engineering technical assistance.
 - 10 Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed.
 - Project design and obtained USDA WHIP funding for a 5-acre wetland enhancement/wildlife habitat enhancement project along McElroy Slough in Blanchard, WA.
 - Engineering evaluation of alternatives for increasing capacity of the Skagit Drainage District #14's drainage infrastructure.
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Puget Sound/Basic Funding/D.O.E-CCWF Grants/Local Funding

Forest Stewardship Program

- 15 forest stewardship plans covering 425 acres were prepared.
- 8 forestry education programs were presented to the public.

Skagit Stream Team

- 39 volunteers were recognized for participating in the 2004-05 sampling season.
- 28 sites, located in the Nookachamps, Padilla Bay, Samish Watersheds, and Grandy Creek were monitored.
- Fecal coliform tests were performed by volunteers for sampling season with lab rates valued at \$129,600.

Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program

- 32 individuals completed the spring 2005 and the fall 2004 Watershed Masters Training Programs held, bringing the total participants to date to 263.
- Volunteer hours contributions reported on environmental projects and education: 1,200 hours.
- Overall volunteer hours: over 9,350 cumulative program hours recorded.

Volunteer Shellfish Monitoring Program

- 21 community volunteers participated in the 2004 sampling season.
- 13 recreational shellfish harvesting beaches were sampled for PSP and fecal coliform by volunteers twice/month from May through September.

Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program

- The new Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program was developed and kicked off in March 2005 with 43 participants completing the program.
- Fidalgo Community Backyard Habitat Program was established as a result of the training. 5 participants received Backyard Habitat certification.

Environmental Education

- The Annual 6th Grade Conservation Tour was held at Pomona Grange Park on May 10th and 11th, 2005. 21 classes with over 500 students participated in the event.
- 7 school presentations were conducted with over 196 students participating.
- Information packets, promoting the District's school presentation and youth education programs were redesigned and distributed to approximately 785 local teachers.
- A community proclamation in recognition of "Soil & Water Stewardship Week" was televised, presented, and signed at the Skagit County Commissioners meeting. A poster contest for local youth (grades K-12) was conducted. Over 120 posters were entered.
- Developed and hosted an educational booth at the Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival. Audience: 8000.
- Developed and hosted an education booth and distributed educational and program promotional materials at the Skagit County Family Harvest Festival on October 4th and 5th, 2004. Audience: 300.
- Provided event organization, volunteer support, and hosted an education booth at the 3rd Annual Samish Bay Bivalve Bash and Mud Run. 2,000+ attendees.

Newsletters and Fliers

- Skagit Conservation News – sent to mailing list of approximately 4000 twice a year.
- Stream Team News – for Stream Team volunteers to update on monitoring and upcoming events.
- Watershed Masters Calendar of Upcoming Events – Periodic mailing to 400 individuals to provide information regarding upcoming volunteer opportunities and other community events.

Watershed Restoration

- Erosion control - 36 culverts were replaced and 18 culverts were added for erosion control in the Upper Skagit Watershed.
- 44 miles of old log roads were treated for stabilization.

Water Quality Implementation/Small Farm Program

- Installed 1,390 feet of fencing to protect critical areas.
- 7 conservation plans were written to meet landowner objectives for soil and water resources.

Water Quality Monitoring

- 12 sites were monitored in the Fisher/Carpenter Watershed.
- 8 sites consisting of 837 acres were monitored for the Farmland Legacy Program.
- 17 SRFB sites were monitored.
- 20 CREP sites received annual assessments.