

2015 Summary Report of Accomplishments

Commercial Livestock and Small Farm Operations

- 172 commercial and small farm landowners assisted
- 22 farm plans completed
- 21 structural BMPs implemented
- 9 farm/dairy plans updated



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- 10 new contracts signed for 2016 spring planting totaling 78.66 acres
- 3 new projects planted
- 603 buffer acres installed to date
- 192,936 feet (36.5 miles) of riparian restoration implemented to date
- 274,537 native trees planted to date
- 11 landowners signed re-enrollment contracts
- New promotional brochures designed and mailed to landowners



Firewise and Fire Adapted Communities

- 4 Firewise plans written
- 4 Firewise presentations and outreach events conducted
~80 attendees
- 11 recognized Firewise Communities/USA in Skagit County to date
- 5 fire weather monitoring stations installed across the county and data collected
- 2 hazardous fuels reduction projects implemented
- WA State ranks 3rd in the nation for number of Firewise Communities/USA - 118



Forest Stewardship Program and EQIP

- 20 forest conservation plans written encompassing 1237 total acres
- 25 landowners received technical assistance
- 38 forestry conservation practices implemented
- 5 Forestry workshops/field days – 317 participants

Professional Engineering

- Site visits to various properties– Shoreline bank erosion on Samish Island and Samish river, various fish barrier culverts in the middle Skagit floodplain
- Design completed for stabilizing soil erosion from river flooding in Day Creek
- Design of habitat mitigation project for DD 21

Clean Samish Initiative Education



- Conducted social marketing study on the adoption of conservation practices by small acreage landowners in the Thomas Creek sub-basin
- Established Manure Share Program
- Hosted 3 livestock workshops – 115 attendees
- Hosted 3 sustainable landscaping workshops – 72 attendees
- Co-sponsored 4th Annual Alger Seed Sale/Swap & Arbor Day Celebration – 200 attendees/21 vendors (distributed 100 native plants)
- Co-sponsored Sustainable Samish Garden Tour – 75 attendees
- Co-sponsored Kids in Nature: Families Outdoors at Pomona Grange Park – 62 participants
- Networked and held monthly meetings with Samish neighborhood groups
- Ongoing technical support to the Friday Creek Habitat Stewards
- Organized 3 work parties for Naturescape Demonstration Garden on Silver Creek
- Lead 4 tours of Naturescape Demonstration Garden & Alger NRSP projects – 306 participants
- Hosted educational display/kids activities at Bow Little Market
- Established Friday Creek Storm Team monitoring run
- Recruited 2 Friday Creek residents to participate in CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge program (for Storm Team monitoring program)
- Hosted educational display and hands-on watershed-based activities at 5 Samish watershed events – 480 attendees
- Participated in CSI Education Committee

Environmental Education

- 775 students (31 classes) participated in the annual Sixth Grade Conservation Tour in May
- Participated in the Skagit Watershed Letterbox Trail
- Hosted educational displays and “hands-on” educational activities for the Festival of Family Farms at Taylor Shellfish Farms (2,100 attendees) and Ovenells Ranch (800 attendees); Taylor Shellfish-tival (200 attendees); Skagit River Salmon Festival (6,000 attendees)
- 500 tree seedlings distributed to students in honor of Arbor Day
- 2 community proclamations in recognition of Arbor Day and “Soil and Water Stewardship Week” at Skagit County Commissioners’ meetings in April
- Promoted Arbor Day on KAPS and KBRC radio stations, including tree trivia
- 44 posters received for the Soil and Water Stewardship poster contest for local youth grades K-12



Marine Biotoxin Monitoring Program

- 25 community volunteers participated in the 2015 sampling season
- 8 local recreational shellfish harvesting beaches monitored twice monthly April thru Sept.

Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program

- *48 individuals completed the Spring 2015 Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short Course*
- *1,000+ Skagit County residents, farms, parks, and schools have applied sustainable landscaping practices and have certified their yards as backyard wildlife habitats/sanctuaries*



Low Impact Development (LID) & Stormwater Education



- *Over 600 storm markers installed by volunteers on storm drains*
- *48 stormwater education presentations provided to 1,155 Skagit County students*
- *Hosted booths at 2 school science fairs providing watershed model presentations and educational materials distributed ~400 attendees*
- *Hosted Sustainable Landscape Training for Professional Landscapers – 50 attendees*
- *Provided LID/Raingarden presentations at 8 events reaching 448 residents*
- *Hosted Detention Pond Maintenance Training – 23 attendees*
- *Hosted 4 sustainable landscaping garden tours, including tour of native plant demonstration garden, naturescape garden, and County rain garden/LID project - 162 participants*
- *Ran stormwater education ad at Burlington and Anacortes cinemas May thru July 2015 reaching over 165,000 people*
- *Designed stormwater education flier and media ad*
- *Hosted “Puget Sound Starts Here” educational display and watershed model/and or stormwater game at 6 community events (8,610 attendees overall)*
- *Participated in “Skagit EcoNet”*

Skagit Stream Team

- *77 volunteers participated in the 2014/15 Stream Team Program and monitored for fecal coliform, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity twice a month at stations located in the Padilla Bay, Samish Bay, Fisher Creek, Kulshan Creek, Trumpeter Basin, Gages Slough, Clyde Creek, and Nookachamps Creek basins*
- *9 volunteers participated in Storm Team program*
- *Storm Team volunteers initiated new storm event study of Friday Creek watershed*
- *Over 1,250 Stream Team volunteer hours reported for 2014/2015 monitoring season*
- *Annual Stream Team report completed and distributed*
- *Hosted “How Clean is Your Neighborhood Stream?” event – 26 attendees*
- *Hosted annual Stream Team celebration – 77 volunteers recognized*
- *Coordinated volunteer stream cleanup project on Martha Washington Creek – 8 volunteers*



Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program



- 19 individuals completed the fall 2015 Watershed Masters Training Program – 510 participants to date
- ~3,700 Watershed Master volunteer hours reported in 2015 – over 46,700 total hours to date

District Media

- Skagit Conservation News – 2 newsletters each distributed to over 4,000 readers
- Skagit Conservation District website maintained – www.skagitcd.org
- Skagit Conservation District Facebook page maintained



Native Plant Sale



4th Annual Seed Sale Swap



Waste Storage Structure



Behind the Farm Tour



Storm Team



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 2015!!