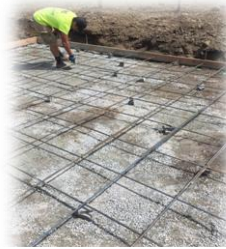


2016 Summary Report of Accomplishments

Commercial Livestock and Small Farm Operations

- 233 commercial and small farm landowners assisted
- 20 farm plans completed
- 14 structural BMPs implemented
- 3 farm/dairy plans updated



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- 4 new contracts signed for 2017 spring planting totaling 78.66 acres
- 9 new projects planted totaling 56.66 acres
- 678 buffer acres installed to date
- 223,729 feet (42.4 miles) of riparian restoration implemented to date
- 307,898 native trees planted to date
- 18 landowners signed re-enrollment contracts

Firewise and Fire Adapted Communities

- 7 Firewise plans written
- Over 60 CD staff or volunteers trained on Firewise and Fire Adapted Communities
- 5 Firewise/FAC presentations and outreach events conducted ~240 attendees
- 8 active Firewise Communities/USA in Skagit County to date
- 7 hazardous fuels reduction projects implemented
- 10 risk assessments completed
- WA State ranks 3rd in the nation for number of Firewise Communities/USA (139) and had the most new communities in 2016



Forest Stewardship Program

- 14 forest conservation plans written encompassing 560 total acres
- 39 landowners received technical assistance
- 15 forestry conservation practices implemented
- 4 Forestry workshops/field days – 165 participants

Clean Samish/Padilla Bay Education

- Built nesting houses, including education activities on sustainable gardening with 35 Boy Scouts and their families
- Manure Share Program continued
- Hosted 2 livestock workshops – 68 attendees
- Co-sponsored 5th Annual Alger Seed Sale/Swap & Arbor Day Celebration – 250 attendees/25 vendors (distributed 125 native plants)



Clean Samish/Padilla Bay Education - Continued

- *Co-sponsored Sustainable Samish Garden Tour – 80+ attendees*
- *Co-sponsored Kids in Nature: Families Outdoors at Pomona Grange Park – 65 participants*
 - *Networked and held monthly meetings with Samish neighborhood groups*
 - *Hosted 2 nitrate testing events for Butler and Wildes Creek residents – 16 attendees*
 - *Received grant funding for green infrastructure project at Bay View Methodist Church to begin spring 2017*
 - *Ongoing technical support to the Friday Creek Habitat Stewards*
 - *Organized 3 work parties for Naturescape Demonstration Garden on Silver Creek*
- *Led 6 tours of Naturescape Demonstration Garden & Alger NRSP projects – 663 participants*
- *Established Padilla Bay Storm Team monitoring stations*
- *2 Friday Creek residents participated in CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge program (for Storm Team monitoring program)*
- *Hosted educational display and hands-on watershed-based activities at 5 Samish watershed events ~ 3,090 attendees*
- *Participated in CSI Education Committee*



Environmental Education

- **734 students (28 classes) participated in the annual Youth 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 (2,500 attendees) and Ovenells Ranch (1000 attendees); Taylor Shellfish-tival (200 attendees); Skagit River Salmon Festival (6,000 attendees); Fidalgo Bay Day (300 attendees); DASSH (130 attendees)*
- *500 tree seedlings distributed to students in honor of Arbor Day*
- *Hosted Arbor Day promotion at Alger Hall – distributed 125 native plants*
- *2 community proclamations in recognition of Arbor Day and “Soil and Water Stewardship Week” at Skagit County Commissioners’ meetings in April*
- *101 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 2016 sampling season*
- *10 local recreational shellfish harvesting beaches monitored twice monthly April-September*

Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program

- *50 individuals completed the Spring 2016 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*
- *New volunteer garden group “Skagit Backyard Eco Garden Group” formed as a result of Backyard Short Course*



Low Impact Development (LID) & Stormwater Education

- Over 1,000 storm markers installed by volunteers on storm drains
- 37 stormwater education presentations provided to 900 Skagit County students
- Hosted booths at 6 events providing watershed model presentations and educational materials distributed ~4,500 attendees
- Hosted Permaculture and Sustainable Landscape Workshop – 54 attendees
- Provided LID/rain garden presentations at 3 events reaching 127 residents
- Hosted Detention Pond Maintenance Training – 27 attendees
- Hosted Stormwater Management Manual Training for engineers, designers and developers – 65 attendees and co-hosted SWMMT training for local municipalities – 30 attendees
- Hosted 4 sustainable landscaping garden tours, including tour of native plant demonstration garden, naturescape garden, and County rain garden/LID project – 403 participants
- Pet waste education handout published and distributed
- Stormwater education media ad published in 7 editions of the Skagit Valley Herald
- Hosted “Puget Sound Starts Here” educational display and watershed model/and or stormwater game at 7 community events (9,160 attendees overall)
- Participated in “Skagit EcoNet”



Skagit Stream/Storm Team



- 63 volunteers participated in the 2015/16 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
- New monitoring stations established on Ace of Hearts Creek in Anacortes for 2016/17 monitoring year
- Annual Stream Team training held September 7th, 8th and 10th
- 9 volunteers participated in Storm Team program
- Storm Team volunteers continued storm event study of Friday Creek Watershed and initiated new monitoring stations in the Padilla Bay Watershed for the 2016/17 monitoring season
- Over 1,175 Stream Team volunteer hours reported for 2015/16 monitoring season
- Annual Stream Team report completed and distributed
- Hosted “How Clean is Your Neighborhood Stream?” event – 28 attendees
- Hosted annual Stream Team celebration – 63 volunteers recognized

Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program

- 23 individuals completed the fall 2016 Watershed Masters Training Program – 533 participants to date
- ~3,800 Watershed Master volunteer hours reported in 2016 – over 50,500 total hours to date



District Media/Miscellaneous

- 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
- Over 15,000 native plants were sold at the annual SCD plant sale



Native Plant Sale



Stream Restoration Project
WSM field trip



Blossom and Friends
Kids in Nature Event



Detention Pond Maintenance
Workshop



Solar Water Pump



Youth Conservation Tour



Buffer Fence



Garden Tour



Conveyance Pipes

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 2016!!