



Skagit Conservation District

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Board Chair: Paul Blau

State Legislative District #39, 40, 10
Congressional District #1, 2

Other Accomplishments



Partners in Firewise: SCD, WCD, and Seattle City Light worked together to make the town of Newhalem a nationally recognized Firewise Community/USA®. Photo: Seattle City Light



Construction of a waste storage facility

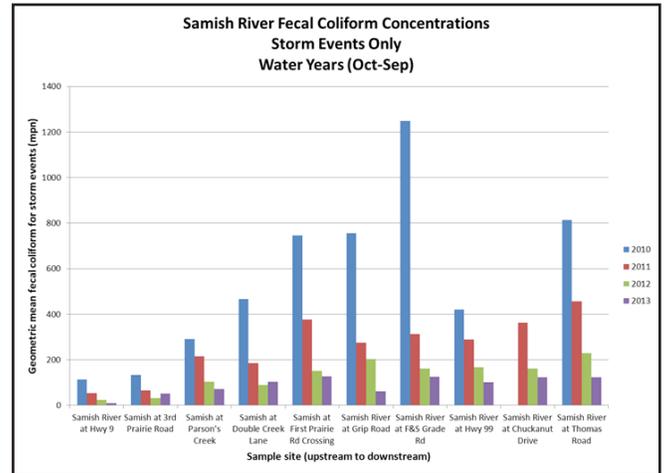


SCD established a new Demonstration Naturescape Garden in partnership with Alger neighbors and volunteers.

2014 Feature Accomplishment: Clean Samish Initiative

RESOURCE CHALLENGE

Poor water quality in the Samish Watershed threatens many uses including shellfish harvest. Negative impacts come from a variety of sources, such as failing septic systems, poor commercial/noncommercial livestock practices, wildlife, and pet waste. The Skagit Conservation District (SCD) works with stakeholders by providing technical assistance and cost share to landowners to implement conservation plans and prescribed best management practices (BMPs), as well as educational resources to assist landowners in developing sustainable choices.



Graph courtesy of Skagit County Public Works

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

During the past several years, SCD has targeted available resources to address this challenge. And, we are demonstrating success! Due to the hard work of all participating residents, water quality has dramatically improved. However, monitoring during storm events continues to fail to meet state standards during critical periods. Next steps will include: working with a focus group to identify barriers to participation in SCD programs, redirecting monitoring volunteers to bracket and identify trouble spots, and follow-up with landowners to provide additional assistance and/or revisions of their conservation plans.

KEY PARTNERS:

Skagit County; WA State Dept. of Ecology; Samish Bay Shellfish Growers; Samish Indian Nation; WA State Dept. of Health; WA State Dept. of Ag; EPA; WA State Conservation Commission; Skagit Conservation Education Alliance; Western WA Ag Assoc.; WA State Dairy Federation; WA State Cattleman's Assoc.; Upper Skagit Indian Tribe; Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

More Work to Do!

- Use recommendations from Samish Focus Group to increase program participation and accelerate best management practice (BMP) implementation.
- Provide follow up with landowners to update conservation plans and provide adaptive management mechanisms.
- Work with key landowners developing edge of field monitoring to demonstrate BMP effectiveness.
- Increase number of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) participants.
- Update Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan-Wildfire Component for Skagit County.