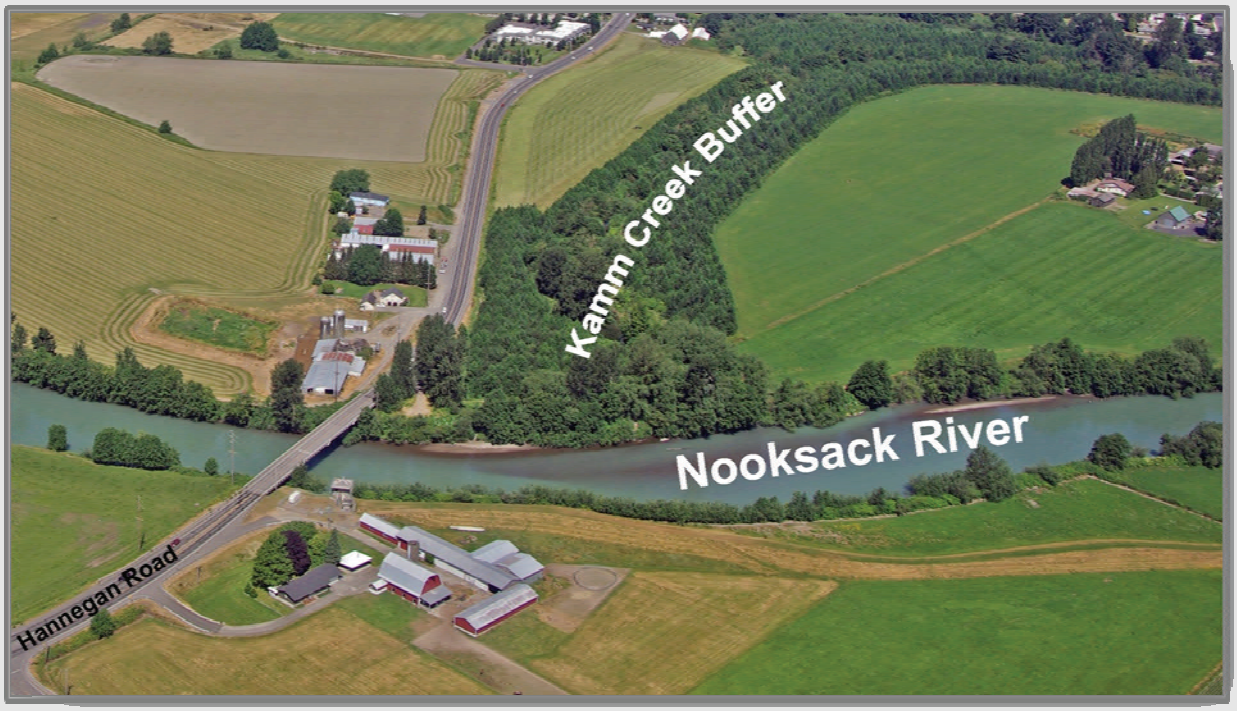
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

CREP

HELPING LANDOWNERS OF WHATCOM COUNTY
PLANT NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS
TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY AND FISH HABITAT



Whatcom
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Current CREP Totals

for

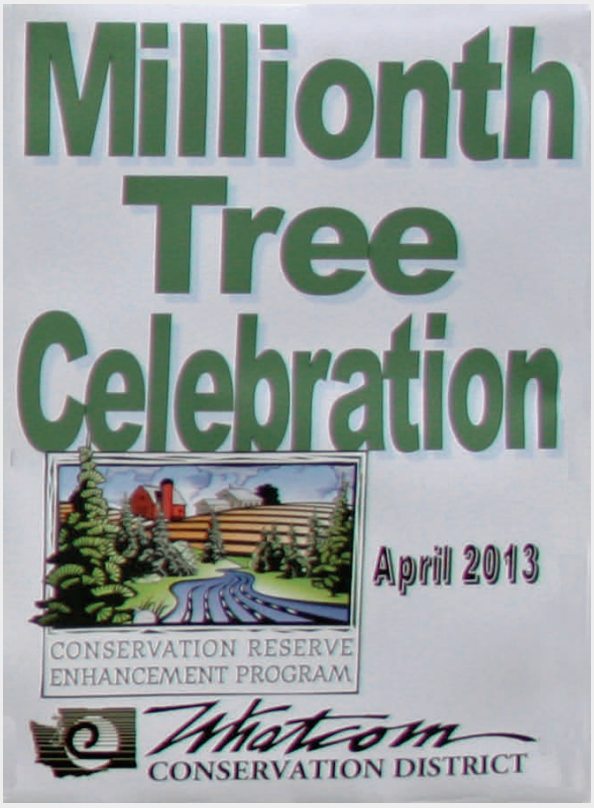
Whatcom County

Projects: 360

Acres: 2,382

Miles of Buffer: 167.3

Seedlings Planted: 1,086,472



Federal Contribution to date:$12,860,249

Good stewardship has its rewards.

CREP Pays!

CREP is a voluntary program that pays landowners rent, a signing bonus and the costs for establishing buffers along creeks, ditches & wetlands. Participants will receive annual rental payments in return for land that is removed from production and grazing, under a 10 or 15 year agreement.

Program Options

Riparian Forest Buffers: 35'-180' wide. Eligible on rivers and streams that provide habitat for salmonid fish that migrate to the ocean.

Hedgerows: 15' wide. Eligible on streams and drainages with a channel less than 15' wide. Can reduce ditch maintenance and improve channel conditions. Mostly planted with shrubs.

Wetland Buffers: 20'-120' wide. Protect wetland functions.

Wetland Restoration: Includes surrounding wetland buffers. May include herbaceous plants as well as native trees, and shrubs. Provides floodwater storage and attenuation. Helps maintain surface base flows in streams. This practice is eligible on cropland only.

CREP will pay for watering facilities and fencing to keep livestock away from creeks.

Site Improvement

Sites are prepared by treating invasive non-native plants such as Himalayan blackberries and reed canarygrass. A mix of native trees and shrubs that are well-adapted to the local conditions and site are planted.

Buffer Maintenance

Conservation District technicians will monitor the buffer & develop maintenance plans. CREP covers the maintenance costs necessary to ensure the successful establishment of the planted stock for the first 5 years after planting. Most projects are well established after that time period. Further maintenance through the length of the contract should be minimal.

Buffer Development

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