

Clallam Conservation District

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Board Chair: Joe Murray



State Legislative District #24
Congressional District #6

2015 Feature Accomplishment:

Conservation district efforts lead to Dungeness Bay upgrades



Typical irrigation ditch before piping

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Dungeness Bay was slapped with shellfish harvest downgrades due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria beginning in 2000. By 2003, the total downgraded area in the bay had reached 1,700 acres, making commercial shellfish production almost nonexistent. Classic nonpoint source pollution, including failing onsite septic systems, poor livestock keeping practices, and pet and wildlife waste was the cause. Clallam Conservation District took action to correct the problem.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS In 2000, Clallam Conservation District identified sources of bacterial contamination to Dungeness Bay originating from irrigation ditches. And, from 2001 to 2015, contamination from over 21 miles of irrigation ditches was eliminated by piping. We also worked with farmers to improve their agricultural practices. In 2014 we developed and implemented a landmark cost-share program resulting in the repair of four failing septic systems along Dungeness Bay. Our efforts led to 500 acres of bay shellfish harvest upgrades in 2011, and 700 more acres in 2015. We also developed a Pollution Identification and Correction plan in 2014 to further identify and correct sources of water pollution.

KEY PARTNERS: Dungeness River Water Users Association; State Conservation Commission; Department of Ecology; State Department of Health; Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe; Clallam County departments of Community Development and Environmental Health; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Bureau of Reclamation



Typical irrigation ditch after piping

Other Accomplishments

- Completed the Sequim Dungeness Clean Water District Pollution Identification and Correction Plan.
- Provided cost-share assistance for repair of six failing onsite septic systems.
- Provided technical and financial assistance to pipe over one mile of irrigation ditch, saving half a cubic foot per second of water.
- Taught 212 residents about sustainable landscaping.
- Provided technical assistance to 58 farm operators.

More Work to Do!

- Implement shallow aquifer recharge projects.
- Play a key role in the design and construction of a large off-channel reservoir.
- Complete next phases of Dungeness Irrigation District ditch piping.
- Continue providing financial assistance to repair failing septic systems.