



Skagit Conservation District

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Board Chair: Paul Blau

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

Other Accomplishments



Installation of a heavy use area protection project in the Samish Watershed.



A volunteer in the Cascade River Park community takes a soil moisture reading at the community fire weather station.



Family Forest Fish Passage Program project that replaced a ford in Mannser Creek with a prefab concrete bridge, giving fish access to over a mile of stream.

2015 Feature Accomplishment: Clean Samish Initiative 90-day Blitz



Samish Bay and Samish Island with oyster beds in the foreground. The Samish River is visible to the left of the oyster beds.

RESOURCE CHALLENGE The Clean Samish Initiative has been striving to improve the health of the Samish Watershed since 2010. With coordination provided by the Governor’s Shellfish Office, the Skagit Conservation District and Skagit County were co-sponsors of an intensive 90-day effort to identify and reduce sources of fecal coliform in the Samish Watershed and Samish Bay, which highlighted successes and on-going challenges. Although fecal bacteria is still trending to lower levels, these levels do not meet state water quality standards.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS The collaborative project identified the need for increased septic system inspections and maintenance, increased mud and manure management by livestock owners, continued focused water quality monitoring, strengthened partnerships between residents and agencies and increased landowner access to available resources to assist in fixing problems on their properties. Since 2010, fecal contamination has dropped roughly 80 percent, and the number of days that the shellfish beds are closed due to pollution has dropped significantly. (Summary excerpted from the June 18, 2015 Skagit County Public Works press release.)

KEY PARTNERS: Skagit County Public Works and Health Department; Washington Departments of Ecology, Health, and Agriculture; Samish Bay Shellfish Growers; Samish Indian Nation; Washington State Conservation Commission



Skagit Conservation District attended the 2015 Taylor Shellfish-tival and used the watershed model to teach people about shellfish and clean water.

More Work to Do!

- Continue work with the Samish Focus Group to increase program participation and accelerate implementation of best management practices in the Samish Watershed.
- Increase Firewise awareness in Skagit County.
- Continue work with landowners to protect and/or enhance natural resources through the development of farm plans and implementation of best management practices.
- Increase the number of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) participants through continued outreach.