



State Legislative District # 40, 42
Congressional District # 1, 2

Whatcom Conservation District

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Board Chair: Larry Davis

Other Accomplishments



Community Engagement

Healthy water, healthy people!
Over 250 community members joined WCD for the 2nd Annual Run with the Chums 5k Run/Walk to celebrate clean water.



Installed 21 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program projects, improving 48,428 feet of stream bank with 54,325 native plants, while maintaining 126 existing projects.



\$103,296 in state cost-share was matched with \$54,818 from five producers to install manure storage and application systems to improve water quality.

2015 Feature Accomplishment:

Taking action: Birch Bay watershed stewardship project

RESOURCE CHALLENGE In 2008, Birch Bay closed to shellfish harvesting around the mouth to Terrell Creek due to fecal coliform contamination. Birch Bay is also a “shoreline of statewide significance,” the only marine shoreline in Whatcom County with that designation due to the rapidly growing shoreline urbanization and vital natural resources. Local, state, and federal agencies collaborated to create a comprehensive strategy adapting to population growth and reducing bacterial pollution in the upper watershed.



Citizen Action

“We learned so much from WCD. We found simple solutions to mud management, healthier animals, and greener pastures.”
– Scott and Kristi McAllister

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS In 2010, Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) began a process of inspiring residents to adopt good stewardship practices, install low impact development and agricultural best management practices, and participate in riparian, wetland, and stream restoration projects. A comprehensive social marketing plan was developed using a local resident as the “watershed steward” to connect individuals with agencies and practices while nurturing relationships for sustained impact. After five years, 87 homeowners have taken action to improve watershed health, 27 riparian restoration projects were completed protecting 73 acres of stream, and 34 farm best management practices were installed to eliminate discharges of pathogens or nutrients.



Habitat Restoration

48,420 feet of riparian habitat was improved, with over 20,000 native plants established by 1,200 volunteers, landowners and community groups.

KEY PARTNERS: Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association; Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resource Management District; Environmental Protection Agency; Birch Bay State Park; Whatcom County Public Works; Birch Bay Shellfish Protection District; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; BP, Alcoa, and Birch Bay Water and Sewer Districts

More Work to Do!

- Shellfish - Provide technical assistance and cost-share for implementation of best management practices for commercial and non-commercial livestock owners, including partnering with Whatcom County through the Pollution Identification and Correction process.
- Habitat - Plan and install riparian restoration and habitat projects through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and other sources.
- Stormwater - Partner with city stormwater divisions.