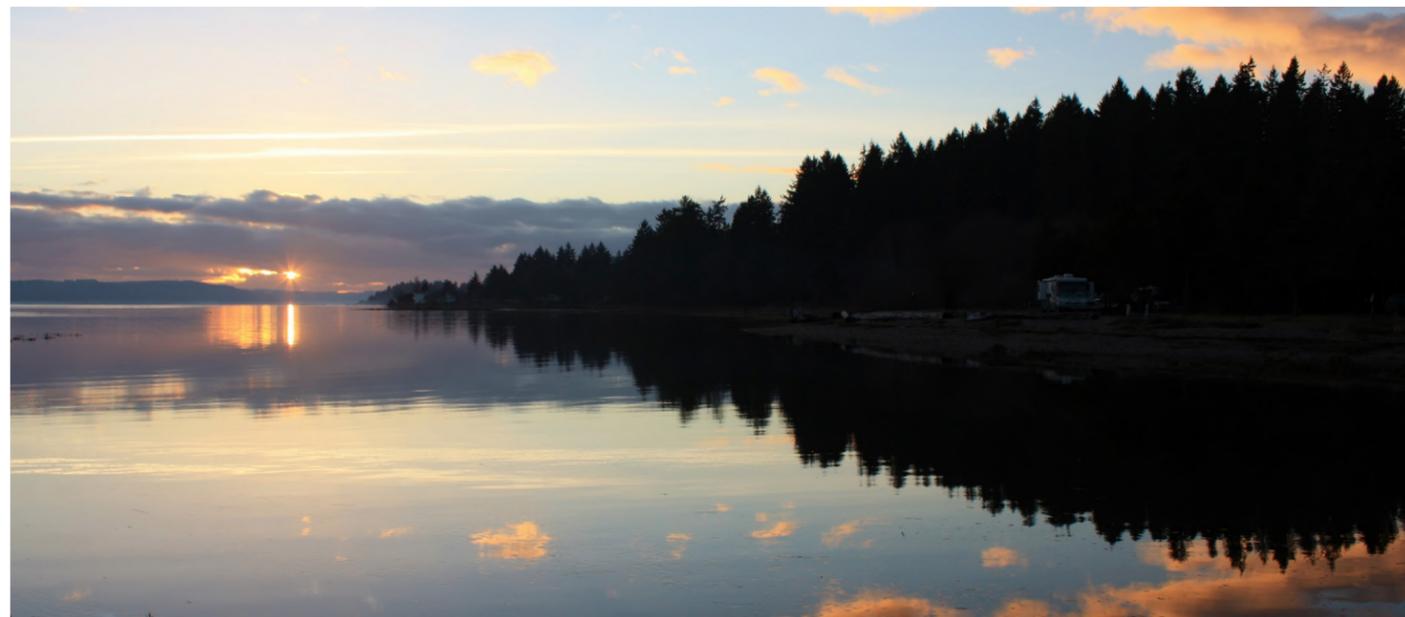


Washington State has 45 Conservation Districts

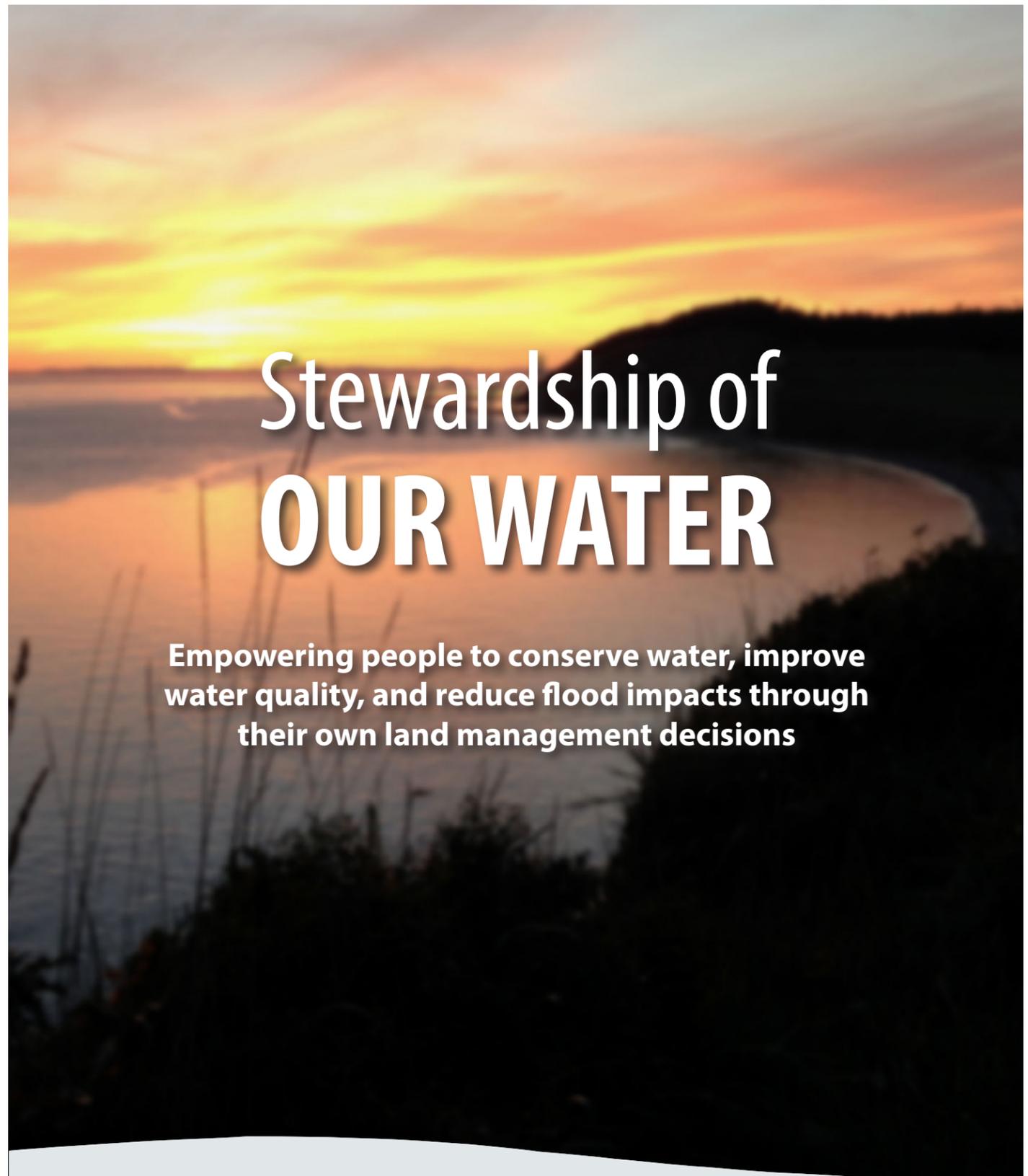


**LEARN
MORE:**

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Stewardship of **OUR WATER**

Empowering people to conserve water, improve water quality, and reduce flood impacts through their own land management decisions



**Washington State
Conservation
Commission**



**CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
OF WASHINGTON STATE**

your window to healthy lands

WATER SUPPLY AND IRRIGATION

85%

SCC and conservation districts provide financial incentives — up to 85 percent of total project costs — to help landowners afford more efficient irrigation systems.

15,754

Acre feet of water saved in just 60 IEP projects

65

Cubic feet per second of water flow saved

22

Total number of tributaries that have increased streamflow due to IEP

Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program



Washington's Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program (IEP) restores instream flows in rivers and streams determined to not have enough water for fish populations and other competing needs.

How it works:

- Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) works with conservation districts to provide financial incentives – up to 85 percent of total project costs – to landowners willing to install irrigation systems that save water.
- Water saved helps increase stream flow in tributaries where ESA (Endangered Species Act)-listed species will benefit.

Conservation district irrigation success stories...

Clallam Conservation District

- In 2000, Dungeness Bay closed to shellfish harvest due to fecal coliform bacteria.
- Worked with irrigation districts and companies to upgrade open ditch irrigation systems to pipelines.
- Since 2000, District piped over 50 miles of irrigation ditches, saving over 20 cubic feet of water per second — over 12 million gallons of water per day.
- Following irrigation project and other activities, 500 acres of Dungeness Bay upgraded from “Closed” to “Conditionally Approved” for shellfish harvest.

North Yakima Conservation District

- Irrigation withdrawals were impacting steelhead and bull trout habitat in Cowiche Creek.
- District lead ten-year collaborative effort to address resource issues and maintain agricultural lands.
- Worked with landowners to place 16 individual water rights into the Trust Water Program, returning nearly 8 cubic feet of water per second to Cowiche Creek.

STORMWATER

The SCC offers a suite of financial and technical assistance programs that can be used to address stormwater. Conservation districts use this and other funding to work with private landowners and local government partners to protect water from polluted runoff. Project examples include:

- **Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure:** Several Puget Sound-area conservation districts implement projects that allow stormwater to be used as a resource, such as rain gardens and vegetated roof cover. In 2014, Pierce Conservation District hosted the first-ever “depave” project in Puget Sound that removed 650 square feet of asphalt and planted over 800 trees and shrubs on site. The new pervious surface infiltrates over 16,000 gallons of polluted rainwater.
- **Manure and mud management:** By helping livestock and dairy farmers manage mud and manure, the SCC and CDs help farmers maintain a viable operation while protecting ground and surface waters from pollution. In 2013, Clark Conservation District used SCC funds to help Arwana Farms install a solids separator and storage shed that dries manure for reuse as livestock bedding and decreases polluted runoff (see photo at right).



FLOOD PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

The SCC and conservation districts provide essential services for flood preparedness, response, and recovery. Our assistance programs help landowners rebuild and recover, and we help communities develop and coordinate plans to prevent and mitigate future events.

Case study: Preventing agricultural flood impacts in the Chehalis Basin



- 2007 floods in Lewis County closed I-5 and killed over 700 livestock.
- In partnership with the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority and Lewis County Conservation District, SCC began to convene and facilitate stakeholder meetings in order to identify flood control options for the area.
- SCC partnered with the USDA: Natural Resources Conservation Service to fund “Critic Pads” — man-made, raised-earth plateaus that provide escape and safe containment for livestock during flood events (photo at left).
- Today, Critic Pads in Chehalis River Basin have capacity to protect over 1,500 livestock from flooding.