

# San Juan Islands Conservation District

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State Legislative District #40  
Congressional District #2

## 2016 Feature Accomplishment Restoring a watershed



Winter 2016 flooding on Bailer Hill Road and adjacent False Bay Creek Farm

### RESOURCE CHALLENGE

False Bay Watershed is the largest basin on San Juan Island. The historic wetlands and salmon bearing streams, including False Bay Creek, have been significantly altered for agricultural use and residential development over the past 100 years. The primary issues of concern for fish, agriculture, roads, and residential use is loss of habitat function and modification to the hydrologic flow (flooding in the winter and dry stream beds in the summer).

### PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

San Juan Islands Conservation District completed the first riparian restoration project and is gathering data to develop a watershed model. The model will assist us in developing a clear plan of action to restore hydrologic flow and habitat function, characterize stream flows and water rights, determine hydrologic needs, and identify potential restoration and infrastructure projects. Long-term restoration and infrastructure goals include: improving instream and riparian zone conditions; restoring salmonid habitat; reducing winter flooding; and improving irrigation and livestock watering infrastructure to address seasonal drought.



Riparian restoration project with exclusion fencing, planting, and tree tube protection

Photo: Bruce Gregory

**KEY PARTNERS:** Department of Ecology; San Juan Preservation Trust; San Juan County Public Works; San Juan County Land Bank; San Juan County Water Resources Management Committee; Washington Water Trust; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; University of Washington Friday Harbor Labs

## Other Accomplishments



"We're realizing our dream and building our dairy!" Bart and Stephanie Fowler with contractors at Fowler's Dairy, Lopez Island

Photo: Bruce Gregory



Multi use structure: winter feeding, heavy use area, and compost facility at Willis Woodside Farm, Orcas Island.

Photo: Bruce Gregory



Kathy Morris and Bruce Gregory checking out a water catchment system at West Beach Farm, Orcas Island. Photo: Kelsey Green

## More work to do!

- Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): We are working with the county and the VSP Work Group to complete the VSP work plan.
- False Bay Watershed Hydrologic Model: Data collection is underway, and we anticipate completion of the watershed model.
- Firewise: We will provide cost-share funding to forest landowners to improve forest health and reduce fire risk. We also will conduct community outreach to increase Firewise awareness.