

# Snohomish Conservation District

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State Legislative District #1, 10, 21, 32, 38, 39, 44  
Congressional District #1, 2, 7

## 2016 Feature Accomplishment

### Stillaguamish projects keep farms sustainable and the river clean

#### RESOURCE CHALLENGE

Snohomish Conservation District completed projects to improve management of nutrients with four dairies, four horse farms, and a composting facility in the Stillaguamish watershed to prevent pollution. The area — home to dairies, farms, poultry facilities, livestock processing, and compost businesses — is focused on proactive projects. The district implemented two bedding recovery systems as one way to improve nutrient management in the watershed. An anaerobic digester also is being considered, which would turn the organic waste from the animals into sustainable, renewable power while reducing the environmental impact.



Before: Large manure and bedding pile from a stable is currently being moved to a commercial compost facility to alleviate run-off



After: Concrete waste holding structure has curbs to prevent run-off and will allow the stable to house bins for manure holding until haul-off.

#### PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

The district worked with farmers to better manage nutrient loading in the watershed. For dairies, this meant reducing the amount of input/costs (e.g. sawdust) to the dairy by reusing bedding on-site and increasing liquid storage capacity. This system increases options for nutrient management and reduces potential surface water contamination by improving holding capacity, which can result in more timely application on cropland. Both equine and dairy facilities should see increased waste storage capacity. Future plans include an anaerobic digester, continued nutrient recovery technology, and on-farm technical support.

**KEY PARTNERS:** Washington State Department of Health; Washington State Department of Ecology; Snohomish Co. Surface Water Management; Washington State Department of Agriculture; Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board; City of Stanwood; Stillaguamish Tribe; Stillaguamish Flood Control District; Snohomish Health District

## Other Accomplishments



2016 Plant Sale shoppers had the option to donate money for schoolyard projects. Three schools planted 194 plants for restoration and beautification.



The district worked with Whatcom Conservation District to remove pavement at Yeager's Sporting Goods, which will become a rain garden that filters stormwater and provides habitat.



253 students spent two days planting 500 trees, placing 1,200 tree protectors, and learning about water quality at Aldergrove Meadows.

## More work to do!

- Actively engage the natural resources community (agriculture, fisheries, and forestry) in the conversations and activities surrounding salmon and Puget Sound recovery.
- Implement the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.
- Implement and promote the creation of a Puget Sound Stormwater Action Team, the Better Ground Initiative, and Sound Horsekeeping Program Puget Sound-wide.