



# SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Manager: Bill Blake Board Chair: Dean Wesen  
2021 E College Way, Suite 203 Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
(360) 428-4313 | skagitcd@skagitcd.org | www.skagitcd.org  
Legislative District: 10, 39, 40 Congressional District: 1, 2

## Other accomplishments:



Waste storage facility installation.



Celebrating a job well-done at the Firewise Community Preparedness Day.



Students thank bus funding sponsors at the 2017 Skagit Youth Conservation Tour.

## 2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

### SKAGIT STREAM TEAM - CITIZEN SCIENCE SUCCESS STORY



Stream Team is the outcome of a mission to educate and involve local citizens in the stewardship of local streams.

#### Resource challenge

High levels of fecal coliform bacteria threaten the health of priority rivers and tributaries in Skagit County, putting public health at risk and contributing to closures and downgrades of commercial shellfish harvest. The Skagit Conservation District (SCD) Stream Team Program, established in 1998, has engaged hundreds of local citizens in conducting routine sampling to assess water quality trends, identify hot spots, and document improvements. Volunteer contributions are valued at over \$90,000 annually.

#### Project summary and results

The Stream Team sampling efforts were critical in documenting fecal coliform contamination problems in the Samish Watershed. In support of a request from the state Department of Health, the eleven-member “Storm Team” was born — a group of dedicated volunteers who responded to the local pollution crises by conducting an extensive bacteria storm event monitoring program along the Samish River and its tributaries. Their efforts resulted in the “Clean Samish Initiative,” a partnership of local, state, and federal agencies and organizations who have been working together since 2010 to reduce fecal coliform loadings and restore the health of Samish Bay.



SCD's Stream Team has provided a critical role in protecting local shellfish resources and supporting PIC and TMDL efforts.

**Key partners:** Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Skagit County; Washington Department of Health; Washington State Conservation Commission; City of Anacortes; City of Burlington; City of Mount Vernon

## MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): Implement the Skagit County VSP to protect critical areas through farm planning, best management practices, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and Regional Conservation Partnership Program.
- ▶ Shellfish: Assist Clean Samish partners with strategic actions to improve protection of shellfish resources.
- ▶ Firewise: Identify funding to continue and expand our Firewise program and other actions that better prepare Skagitonians for impacts of climate change to our resources.