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**Mason Conservation District**  
**450 W. Business Park Road ● Shelton, WA 98584**  
**Phone: (360) 427-9436 ● FAX: (360) 427-4396**  
[www.masoncd.org](http://www.masoncd.org)

June 20, 2018

On behalf of the Mason Conservation District Board of Supervisors, I would like to invite you to participate in a field tour featuring District projects in Mason County on Wednesday, July 18, from 1-5 p.m. Transportation will be provided with a departure from the Little Creek Casino and Resort located at: [91 W State Route 108, Shelton, WA 98584](http://www.masoncd.org). This tour is being held prior to the Conservation Commission meeting, which will be held on Thursday, July 15 in Shelton.

We plan to visit sites throughout the Oakland Bay watershed and look at projects implemented with a variety of program and funding mechanisms, different resource concerns with different land uses, and highlight a variety of partnerships.

Our current plans are for us to visit the following project areas as we explore the watershed and its rich history:

- Harstene Acres – A small diversified farm on Harstene Island, with horses, goats, Guinea Hogs, Rabbits, poultry on the property, as well as vegetable fields and fruit orchards. The property hydrologically influences Pickering Passage and the Case Inlet Watershed, ultimately affecting the Oakland Bay and Totten/Little Skookum Watersheds, all substantial shellfish growing areas in the district. The landowners are continuing to expand their existing small farming operation and to identify and implement economically feasible Best Management Practices which will improve and protect the farms' natural resources. A past cooperator working in phases to implement best management practices to meet full resource management recommendations and support the health of both his animals and the natural resources.
- Auseth Farm - The farm on the Agate peninsula. The land has been in the family since the early 1900s. The property is managed for hay, pasture, cattle, horses, and poultry. There is a wetland pond on the property and 2 streams, both of which outlet into Hammersley Inlet, influencing both the Oakland Bay and Case Inlet Watersheds. A past cooperator working in phases to implement best management practices to meet full resource management recommendations and support the health of both his animals and the natural resources.
- Bayshore Preserve – Located on the shoreline of Oakland Bay, the property includes the lowest reaches of Johns Creek and an important summer chum salmon run. Capitol Land Trust (in partnership with the Squaxin Island Tribe and the district) purchased the property in 2014 and initiated a regionally-significant restoration effort. At the time of the acquisition Bayshore included 27 acres of salt marsh and 47 acres of irrigated golf course dating back to the 1930s. The site was previously developed in the 1870s as a homestead and timber sawmill by the Wiley family. Predating these developments, Bayshore and Johns Creek hosted the largest longhouse of the Coast Salish, Sa-He-Wamish people (Squaxin Island Tribe). Beginning in 2014 district contributed professional engineering and design services to launch the restoration effort.

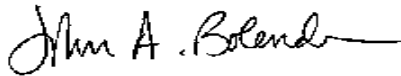
- In partnership with the Land Trust, MCD led the first phase of restoration design and construction which focused on freshwater and marine shoreline habitat enhancement. Golf course infrastructure, 2 bridges, and over 1600 linear feet of shoreline armor were removed. New habitat features were designed and built including wetlands, side channels, and over 10 acres of new salt marsh to serve as salmon nurseries. Since then, ongoing restoration actions have been improving habitat for salmon and a diverse array of bird species and pollinators. The restoration effort continues today as the uplands are slowly converted from golf course fairways into functional Garry Oak prairie. Mason Conservation District continues to provide technical assistance and engineering services, most recently designing a public access trail system for the Bayshore Preserve that will be constructed in the near future.

The field tour will be followed by a no-host interactive dinner meeting at 5:30 p.m. with the Conservation Commission at the Little Creek Casino in the Steh-Chass Room. Cost for dinner will be \$23.00 per person. Checks can be made out to the Mason Conservation District or exact cash will be accepted at the time. *Please Note: Food is preordered via RSVP. Cancellations must be made within 48 hours to avoid charge.*

We hope that you or a member of your organization will be able to participate in this tour. To help us plan transportation and notify the restaurant of attendees, we would appreciate your response by July 7, letting us know whether or not you will be able to accept our invitation.

Please use this RSVP link to reserve your seat: (<https://www.formstack.com/forms/?2853946-5w8z5tM1mS>) or you may contact our office by phone at 360-427-943-7654, ext. 118 or by email at [accounting@masoncd.org](mailto:accounting@masoncd.org).

Sincerely,



John Bolender, District Manager