



San Juan Islands Conservation District

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Legislative District: 40 Congressional District: 2

Other Accomplishments



Participated in Energy Fair. SJICD partners with the local power company to provide energy conservation outreach and education. Photo by Ryan Palmateer



Conducted water quality monitoring. SJICD provides monitoring data to inform local fresh water quality improvement efforts. Photo by Robert Walters



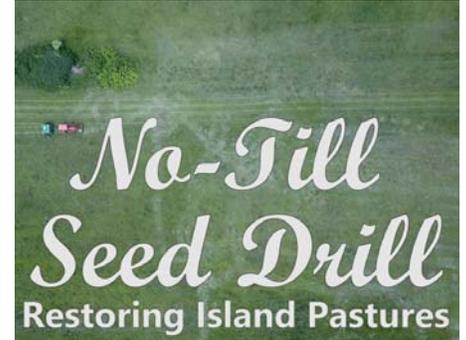
Completed heavy use area cost share project. Farm planning and cost share projects are effective fundamental programs within the SJICD. Photo by Ellen Jones

2018 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

San Juan Islands Direct Seed Program

Resource Challenge

Agricultural soils in the San Juan Islands are highly erosive and water limited. The islands receive 20-29 inches of rainfall per year and have no large river systems. San Juan County also has over 400 miles of marine shoreline exceeding any other county in the contiguous United States. Because of the proximity of erosive farmlands to streams, lakes, wetlands, and marine waters, conventional tilling practices have a high potential to impact water quality, as well as fish and wildlife habitat.



Watch the SJICD no-till drill video now: www.sanjuanislandscd.org/news/2018/9/4/no-till-seed-drill-video (video by Ryan Palmateer).



Learning how the drill works in the field. Photo by Tashi Litch

Project Summary and Results

The goals of the San Juan Islands Conservation District (SJICD) Direct Seed Program are to increase soil health, agriculture production, and efficiency by demonstrating the benefits of transitioning from conventional tilling to low-disturbance direct seeding. The District rents a no-till drill to farmers and offers technical assistance on seeding one- to two-acre test plots. Farmers furnish their own seed, fertilizer, and tractor, while allowing data collection on the results.

The District anticipates that the program will increase plant growth and resiliency to seasonal summer droughts while reducing soil loss and the use of herbicides and petroleum associated with tilling.

Key Partners

Department of Ecology; Washington State Soil Health Committee

Priorities for 2019...

- ▶ Complete riparian restoration projects collaboratively within six identified shellfish protection watersheds.
- ▶ Initiate a Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Program throughout the San Juan Islands.
- ▶ Restore eelgrass beds. This is critical for herring spawning to generate prey for Chinook salmon, which are prey for our Southern Resident killer whales.