

2008 Skagit CD Summary

Report of Accomplishments

Most Significant Natural Resource Accomplishment - Promoting healthy forests through wildland fire planning

- *Developing a Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan*
 - *Soliciting participation in the Firewise Communities/USA Program*
 - *Promoting forest stewardship education as workshop speakers*
 - *Developing successful partnerships*
 - *Training conservation districts across the State to implement wildfire protection programs*
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Commercial Livestock and Small Farm Operations

- *10 small farm plans written*
- *8 nutrient management plan updates completed*
- *7 best management practices (BMPs) designed and implemented, which includes 3 solar pumps installed, with \$15,693.99 in cost-share funds utilized*
- *A Living on the Land workshop series in the Nookachamps Watershed was held with a mailing sent to 380 landowners*
- *2 livestock presentations conducted*
- *1 mailing was conducted to landowners in the Samish watershed concerning water quality issues*



Sacrifice area project

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- *74 CREP projects implemented to date providing 481.5 acres of buffer totaling 146,210 stream feet, 27.7 miles and 202,745 trees maintained*
 - *2 new CREP contracts in the planning stages for a total of 21.8 acres of buffer in 2009*
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Reducing wildfire reduction risk on Jenkins's Lane in Rockport

Firewise and Community Wildfire Protection Planning

- *15 CDs provided funding and training to implement the Firewise Program*
- *1 new Firewise Community/USA*
- *1 Skagit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan in progress*
- *1 14-acre fuels reduction project in progress*
- *4 individual wildfire risk assessments*
- *1 community level wildfire risk assessment*
- *1 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Fire Section updated*
- *3 BMP's implemented*

Forest Stewardship Program and EQIP

- 11 forest stewardship plans covering 402 acres were prepared
 - 3 forest certifications covering 230 acres were completed
 - 12 EQIP practices implemented on 240 acres and 4,050 stream feet
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Monitoring

- 3 contracts in the Farmland Legacy Program with approximately 2,000 acres were monitored
 - 7 active and 2 in planning Critical Area Ordinance (CAO) monitoring projects for the City of Mount Vernon
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Professional Engineering

- 46 cooperators received engineering technical assistance
 - 19 Best Management Practices (BMPs) were designed and implemented
 - Provided engineering and grant writing services to Skagit Dike District 22 and NOAA to obtain funding for and design a self-regulating tidegate that will allow fish passage and tidal flow into Dry Slough, while still allowing for agricultural use of the surrounding farmland
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Road Projects – Finney, Cascade and Bacon Creek

- Removed over 70 culverts
- Removed and replaced 159 culverts
- Installed 5 additional culverts
- Constructed 386 drivable rolling rocked cross-drain dips
- Constructed 6 armored low water ford crossings
- Installed 112" x 75" pipe arches
- Utilized \$1,083,810 from ROC/SRFB in coordination with the U.S. Forest Service



Road projects

Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program

- 54 individuals participated in the 2008 Backyard Conservation Stewardship class
- Provided 5 presentations on backyard conservation practices to community groups, including Huxley students, garden clubs and other groups, including community organizations - Audience: 95
- Hosted a display at the City of Mount Vernon Arbor Day event at the new Kiwanis Park on 18th Street - Audience: 125
- Provided on-going technical assistance and support to the Fidalgo Backyard Wildlife Habitat Group and the Skagit Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat team volunteers
- Partnership with Kulshan Creek Neighborhood station and backyard construction program volunteers to educate and involve 22 neighborhood youth in backyard conservation, including initiating the Kulshan Creek kids butterfly garden



Keegan McAdams and volunteers from his Scout Group (Troop 4100) completed the fence and arbor for the Kulshan Creek kids butterfly garden

Environmental Education

- *Over 700 students participated in the annual 6th Grade Conservation Tour in May*
- *12 school presentations were conducted in conjunction with Arbor Day and Earth Day, and over 350 seedlings were provided to students*
- *2 teams from Skagit County participated in the Northwest Regional Envirothon*
- *Information packets promoting the District's school presentation and youth education programs were redesigned and distributed to approximately 550 local teachers*
- *A community proclamation in recognition of "Soil & Water Stewardship Week" was televised, presented, and signed at the Skagit County Commissioners meeting*
- *A conservation poster contest for local youth (grades K-12) was conducted with 120 posters entered*
- *Hosted an educational booth at the Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival - Audience: 8000*
- *Hosted an educational booth at the Earth Day Celebration in La Conner - Audience: 250*
- *Hosted 3 educational displays and distributed educational and program promotional materials at the Skagit County Family Harvest Festival - Audience: 4000+ attendees combined for these locations*
- *Assisted with event organization, volunteer coordination and scheduling, and hosted an education booth at the Annual Samish Bay Bivalve Bash and Mud Run - 1800 attendees.*
- *Hosted an educational display with a cow-milking contest at the Skagit County Fair in August: 20,000 attended the fair*
- *Participated with SCEA's Skagit Watershed Letterbox Quest project by hosting a stormwater theme letterbox at Kulshan Creek - 150 participants*



2008 conservation poster contest award winners at the Soil and Water Stewardship Proclamation with the Skagit County Commissioners

Low Impact Development (LID)

- *86 individuals participated in the LID workshop and field tour*
- *Over 350 rain garden manuals distributed*
- *Provided 6 presentations to community groups - Audience: 240 people*

Newsletters and Fliers

- *Skagit Conservation News – sent to approximately 4200 subscribers*
 - *Watershed Masters Calendar of Upcoming Events – Periodic mailings to 400 individuals to provide information regarding upcoming volunteer opportunities and other community events*



Kristi Carpenter trains Stream Team volunteers for the upcoming monitoring season

Skagit Stream Team

- *58 volunteers were recognized for participating in the 2007-08 sampling season*
- *63 volunteers are participating in the 2008/09 Stream Team Program*

Stormwater Education

- *550 storm markers installed on storm drain inlets by volunteers and 600 educational door hangers distributed in the City of Mount Vernon*

- 47 entries in the City of Mount Vernon “Stormwater Awareness” poster contest
- 500 informational bookmarks featuring poster award winners distributed at the City of Mount Vernon Library
- 7 stormwater education presentations conducted to 364 Mount Vernon students
- 42 sites, located in the Padilla Bay, Samish, Fisher Creek, Kulshan Creek, Trumpeter Basin, Gages Slough and Brickyard Creek are monitored for fecal coliform, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and depth twice a month
- New partnerships were formed with the City of Burlington (Gages Slough) and the City of Sedro-Woolley (Brickyard Creek)

Volunteer Shellfish Monitoring Program

- 18 community volunteers participated in the 2008 sampling season
- 13 recreational shellfish harvesting beaches were sampled for PSP and fecal coliform by volunteers twice/month from May through September

Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program

- 27 individuals completed the fall 2008 Watershed Masters Training Program, bringing the total participants to date to 364
- 1,754 Volunteer hours contributions reported on environmental projects and education in 2008
- Over 14,000 cumulative program hours recorded



Sprig makes a rare appearance at this year's Skagit Festival of Family Farms at Ovenell's Double O Ranch in Concrete

Thank you to all of our partnering organizations who made our District's efforts toward conservation, water quality, and best land-management practices a huge success yet another year!!