



Other Accomplishments

- Information/Outreach efforts contacts: 694 (plant sale, classroom & tours) + 16,966 website hits
- Landowners/managers assisted: 150+
- Conservation Farm Plans completed/updated: 33
- Total Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed: 104
- Acres Protected, Improved or Enhanced by BMPs: 37,909
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
 - Plans completed: 37
 - Stream feet planted: 90,128
 - Stream feet fenced: 12,998
 - Native plants installed: 75,619
 - Acres planted: 224.8
 - Projects maintained: 111
 - Acres maintained: 593.2
- Other riparian restoration projects implemented: 9
 - Stream feet planted: 16,040
 - Acres Enhanced: 11
 - Native plants installed: 15,113



CREP millionth tree event.

(l-r) Craig Lee, Whatcom Land Trust; Larry DeHaan, Dairy Producer & FSA State Committee member; George Boggs, WCD Executive Director

2013 Feature Accomplishments

WCD's CREP Millionth Tree-

Resource Challenge – Degraded riparian conditions and water quality have been a major limiting factor in the recovery of endangered salmon and steelhead in Washington State for many years. Consequently, this decline has also had an adverse effect on shellfish beds. Salmon, steelhead, and shellfish beds are threatened due to increases in



CREP Millionth Tree Site

water temperature, turbidity, fecal coliform, and nutrient inputs. The western lowlands of Whatcom County are rich in agriculture, from dairies to berries. There are more than 2,000 miles of water courses and innumerable wetlands in the western half of the county where agriculture, urban and recreational uses, and wildlife mix. Many of these watercourses have been degraded in some way; either straightened, dredged, or cleared of riparian vegetation.

Project Summary and Results – As good stewards of the land and water, CREP has provided financial compensation to those landowners who elect to install habitat and water quality friendly buffers on their property. CREP buffers help alleviate increasing water temperatures, turbidity, fecal coliform, and nutrient inputs by providing shade and acting as filters. Since 1999, CREP in Whatcom County has been successfully implementing vegetative buffer practices to address these limiting factors.

On April 20, 2013, in celebration of Earth Day, a gathering of over 200 community members and agency representatives was held to honor the planting of the one millionth CREP tree in the buffer on a Whatcom Land Trust preserve in Acme. The event honored not only the work of the Whatcom Conservation District, but also focused on the accomplishments of all who make habitat restoration a goal and priority. While the one millionth CREP tree was planted, hundreds of thousands more have been planted through a collaborative effort among several different agencies and groups. This effort is but a piece of the overall puzzle. Currently we have pieced together 339 projects, 2,312 acres of buffer with over 1 million trees planted!

Annual monitoring has shown that CREP buffers are reducing water temperatures since the program's implementation in 1999.

Key Project Partners – WS Conservation Commission, USDA Farm Service Agency & Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, CREP Contractors: Cascadia Farm & Forestry Services LLC; Moore Fish Company, Squalicum Mountain Ecological Restoration, et al. & 339 landowner participants!

Contact Information

George Boggs, Executive Director
6975 Hannegan Road
Lynden, WA 98624
(360) 354-2035 x 3
wcd@whatcomcd.org
www.whatcomcd.org

Board of Supervisors:

Joseph Heller, Chair
Terry Lenssen, Vice-Chair
Larry Davis, Secretary/Treasurer
Larry Helm, Member
Richard Yoder, Member



More Work To Do

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- 25 CREP participants planned for installation in spring 2014

Livestock

- Continue technical assistance to 120 dairies and hundreds of small farms.



Paul Chudek demonstrates pasture management principles during tour.