

Other Accomplishments

- Farm Conservation Plans completed: 62
- Dairy Nutrient Management Plans completed/updated: 11
- State Livestock Cost-share of \$196,149.35 was provided with \$150,903.32 producer match.
- Non-commercial farm cost-share of \$7,026.23 was provided with \$3,646.04 landowner match.
- Total Best Management Practices (BMPs) cost-shared: 16
- Bank stabilization projects (large woody debris): 1
- Self regulating floodgates installed : 2
- CREP Plans completed: 21
- CREP projects maintained: 114
- CREP acres maintained: 669
- Other riparian restoration projects implemented: 13
- Stream feet fenced: 4,656
- Stream feet planted: 63,207
- Native plants installed: 54,467
- Cooperators provided one-on-one technical assistance: 1,420
- Workshops participants: 245



Manure separator.

2009 Feature Accomplishment

Drainage Improvement District Manual Developed

Resource Challenge

How can we maintain agricultural drainage while minimizing the negative impacts of dredging to fish and water quality? This has been the Gordian knot farmers in Western Washington have been trying to solve since 1998 with the listing of Chinook and Bull Trout as endangered species. Drainage Improvement Districts (DIDs) were formed in the late 1800's to construct and maintain drainage infrastructure designed to increase the productivity of adjacent agricultural lands. Natural streams were straightened and deepened and new watercourses were dug. Many of these altered streams are now identified as impaired under the 303(d) list for parameters such as bacteria, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, pH, and temperature. Continued drainage maintenance activities keep these watercourses in degraded states and cause short term negative impacts to listed fish, shellfish and wildlife.

Project Summary and Results

WCD collaborated with regulatory agencies and DIDs to publish a *Drainage Management Guide for Whatcom County Drainage Improvement Districts* (Guide). This Guide enables DID commissioners to understand the laws and regulations, the negative impacts to natural resources, and Best Management Practices (BMPs) needed to minimize negative impacts and ensure compliance with laws and regulations. 22 Factsheets covering every aspect of drainage maintenance from fish protection to emergency protocols are included in the Guide and are also available as individual handouts. The Guide also details a 9 step process to create a 5 year Drainage Maintenance Plan for a DID that will be packaged with appropriate permit applications and result in 5 year work plans and permits. Already four Drainage Improvement Districts are working with WCD to develop Drainage Management Plans for their districts. Over the past four years working with DIDs, over 26 miles of hedgerows have been planted as mitigation to ditch maintenance activities. The district has hosted numerous tours.



Drainage Maintenance.



Hedgerow and filter strip planted after drainage maintenance.

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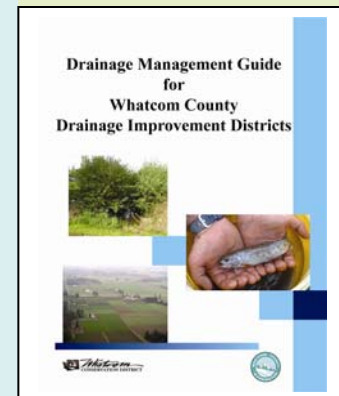
More Work To Do

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- Ten CREP participants have enrolled and are waiting to proceed with new practices added under the 2008 Farm Bill. Annual goal is 20 new CREP projects per year.

Livestock

- On-going work with 130 commercial dairy operations
- Continue to provide countywide non-commercial farm planning services to 100 landowners annually.



Drainage Management Guide created with funding from WA Dept of Ecology