



Other Accomplishments

- Landowners/Operators helped: 1,014
- Farm Conservation Plans developed: 28
- Dairy Nutrient Management Plans completed/updated: 59
- State Livestock Cost-share of \$28,000 was provided with \$14,626 producer match.
- Total Best Management Practices (BMPs) cost-shared: 2
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
 - Plans completed: 31
 - Stream feet planted: 63,496
 - Stream feet fenced: 24,332
 - Native plants installed: 41,664
 - Acres planted: 82.1
 - Projects maintained: 131
 - Acres maintained: 624
 - Culverts replaced: 2
- Other riparian restoration
 - projects implemented: 15
 - Stream feet planted: 30,270
 - Native plants installed: 22,704
 - Bank stabilization projects installed: 600 feet
 - Fish passage barrier removed: 3



2011 Feature Accomplishments

Farm Make Over Project-

Resource Challenge – Don and Donna Starr's small farm (35 acres) is just outside of Blaine. About half their land is forested. Dakota Creek meanders through the middle of their place. Their biggest challenge was to raise cattle on wet soils next to a salmon stream leading to a commercial shellfish harvest area. They wanted to ensure that they are doing their part to improve and protect habitat conditions for salmon and water quality for shellfish in Drayton Harbor. At the same time they needed to keep their operation sustainable. Don believes that increasing pasture productivity increases animal weight, reduces vet bills increases and improves the profitability of their operation.



Livestock water facility (bottom right) and gutters & downspouts (below) installed on farm by Don & Donna Starr shown with Wayne Chaudiere.



Project Summary and Results – The Starrs have made significant progress on their goals. Nearly 3 acres of forest buffer, 837 feet of fencing, and a livestock watering facility (pipeline and tank) were installed to protect Dakota Creek. These improvements were completed with WCD help through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP provides landowners a combination of federal and state funds to restore critical salmon habitat. At the Starr's own expense, rain gutters, downspouts and outlets were installed on the barn to reduce mud and improve water quality. They also installed 100 feet of culvert in a ditch next to the barn to keep contaminants (pathogens, nutrients) out of surface water.

Extensive ditching helped dry the soils, but made it harder to protect all that drain water. The opportunity to improve this situation came via two newly approved CREP practices: Hedgerows and Wetland Buffers. In March, an acre of land along these ditches was restored with hedgerows and wetland buffers and livestock were excluded with 1,980 feet of new fence.

Commitments to their land and a long term vision have led the Starrs down the path of environmental stewardship.

Key Project Partners – Washington State Conservation Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency

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More Work To Do

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- 28 CREP participants approved for installation in spring 2012

Livestock

- Workload of 132 referrals from the Department of Agriculture for assistance to livestock operations; includes dairies.

