



WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Executive Director: George Boggs Board Chair: Larry Helm
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Legislative District: 40, 42 Congressional District: 1, 2

Other accomplishments:



Installed 26 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program projects on 99,116 feet of streambank with 95,006 native plants, while maintaining 114 existing projects.



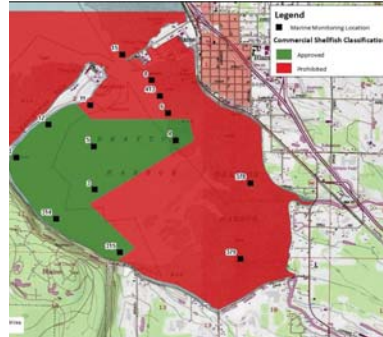
Reached over 3,000 local residents with the "Whatcom Explorer: Mobile Watershed," connecting them to the importance of land stewardship.



Employed edge-of-field monitoring, which enables WCD and producers to measure nutrients and bacteria in runoff and compare management systems.

2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

SHELLFISH GROWING AREA UPGRADE IN DRAYTON HARBOR



After two decades of closure, shellfish are harvested again in 810 acres (shown in green) of Drayton Harbor.

Resource challenge

Since the late 90s, high levels of fecal coliform bacteria in Drayton Harbor have forced shellfish harvest closures for all or part of each year. These waters had provided commercial, recreational, and subsistence aquaculture for generations. Then, in December 2016, the community celebrated an upgrade of 810 acres of shellfish harvesting ground. The Drayton Harbor success story is the cumulative result of a wide variety of actions taken by community members to keep pollution out of the bay.

Project summary and results

Actions taken to repair septic systems and invest in waste and stormwater management systems have reduced pollution from human waste. Bacteria runoff from animal waste has been reduced by fencing farm animals out of waterways, managing manure storage and application, and managing wildlife and pet waste. Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) farm planners worked with over 140 farmers on 15,000 acres in the watershed to improve farm practices. WCD was honored with an Environmental Excellence Award from the Department of Ecology — the agency's highest award — for service to the agricultural community.



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Key partners: Whatcom County Public Works; Department of Ecology; City of Blaine; Whatcom County Health Department; Drayton Harbor Oyster Company; Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District; Washington State Department of Agriculture; Puget Sound Restoration Fund; Port of Bellingham; Drayton Harbor Community Oyster Farm; Nooksack Indian Tribe; Whatcom County Planning and Development Services

MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Habitat: Restore access to 8.4 miles of salmon habitat by replacing 14 fish passage barrier culverts.
- ▶ Shellfish: In partnership with Whatcom County, continue to offer education and technical assistance to landowners through the Pollution Identification and Correction Program.
- ▶ Research: Deploy and test new, real-time water quality monitoring technology in the Nooksack Watershed.