



WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Executive Director: George Boggs Board Chair: Larry Helm
6975 Hannegan Road Lynden, WA 98264
(360) 526-2381 | wcd@whatcomcd.org | www.whatcomcd.org
Legislative District: 40, 42 Congressional District: 1, 2

Other accomplishments:



WCD installed 26 CREP projects on 99,116 feet of stream bank with 95,006 native plants, while maintaining 114 existing projects



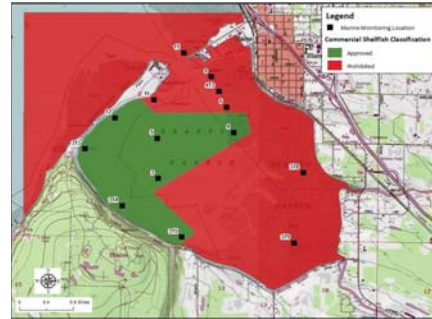
The Whatcom Explorer: Mobile Watershed reached over 3,000 local residents, connecting them to the importance of land stewardship



Edge-of-field monitoring 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 once again in 810 acres of Drayton Harbor

Resource challenge

Since the late 1990s, high levels of fecal coliform bacteria in Drayton Harbor forced shellfish harvest closures for all or part of each year. These abundant 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 from a wide variety of

actions taken by community members to keep pollution out of the bay.

Project summary and results

Actions taken to reduce pollution from human waste have included repair of septic systems, and investments in wastewater and stormwater management systems. Bacteria runoff from animal waste has been reduced through fencing farm animals out of waterways, managing manure in fields, pastures and storage areas, and managing for wildlife and pet waste. Whatcom CD (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 Dept. of Ecology, the agencies highest award, for service to the agricultural community.

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



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MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Habitat: WCD will restore access to 8.4 miles of salmon habitat by replacing 14 fish passage barrier culverts.
- ▶ Shellfish: In partnership with Whatcom County, WCD will continue offering education and technical assistance to landowner through the Pollution Identification and Correction program.
- ▶ Research: WCD is deploying and testing new real-time water quality monitoring technology called ZAPs in the Nooksack watershed.