



# Whatcom Conservation District

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Legislative District: 40, 42 Congressional District: 1, 2

## Other Accomplishments



WCD started an Equipment Loan program to support Whatcom county farmers, further gaining trust through relationship building.



WCD worked with 33 landowners to restore 190 acres of riparian habitat and remedy 10 fish passage barriers on priority streams. Photo by: Gabriella Mednick, Whatcom CD



WCD completed a pollution source characterization project by collecting 27 different fecal types to build a reference catalog.

### 2019 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

## Whatcom Clean Water Program: Shellfish Success Story



Recognizing and highlighting leaders of farm stewardship, like Western Waves Dairy, promotes conservation behavior. Photo by: Gabriella Mednick, Whatcom CD

been involved since their initial closures over two decades ago.

### Project Summary and Results

The Whatcom Clean Water Program (WCWP) was formed in 2012 to coordinate the work of local, state, tribal and federal agency partners. Leveraging funding, expertise, and legislative priorities, the WCWP is a comprehensive, data driven pollution prevention program that has led to the upgrade of nearly 1000 acres of commercial and tribal shellfish harvest since late-2016, with another 765 acres expected to be upgraded by late 2019. As a key partner, WCD is the lead for technical assistance, data coordination and education and outreach to landowners in Whatcom County.

### Resource Challenge

Portage Bay, Birch Bay, and Drayton Harbor are significant shellfish harvest areas valuable to the Lummi Nation, Nooksack Tribe, our community, and our many visitors. While nearly 1000 acres have been opened over the last three years, many remain closed seasonally. All are vulnerable to closure from bacterial contamination given our high rainfall and large number of septic systems and livestock in their respective watersheds. Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) has



Paramount to the voluntary stewardship program is the Farm Speaker Series where peers and experts share knowledge each month. Photo by: Michele Bennett

### Key Partners

Whatcom County Departments of Public Works, and Health and Development Services; Washington State Departments of Agriculture, Ecology, and Health; Washington State Conservation Commission; Lummi Nation; Nooksack Indian Tribe; Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Province of British Columbia.

## Priorities for 2020...

- ▶ A mobile monitoring unit will be added to the Conservation Practice Effectiveness Monitoring program.
- ▶ Education and technical assistance for irrigators and urban audiences to promote water use efficiency.
- ▶ Implementing Orca Task force recommendations in the Nooksack watershed through riparian restoration, fish passage barrier removal, and fish screens.