



Other Accomplishments



WCD installed 23 CREP and Riparian projects improving 8.25 miles of stream bank (63.6 acres) with 41,965 native plants, while maintaining 648.1 acres on 137 existing projects.



Outreach events promoted watershed improvements through workshops, volunteer work parties and a 5K Fun Run directly engaged over 700 local citizens.



Manure lagoon lining and pump installed with WSCC cost-share funds to reduce input of nutrients flowing into shellfish growing areas of Portage Bay.

2014 Feature Accomplishments

Stream Crossings Protect Water Quality –

Resource Challenge – Many streams are not as clean as they look. Fecal coliform bacteria, pesticides, sediment, petroleum products and heavy metals are commonly found in the water. We must have clean water for crop irrigation, fish to live, kids to play and for healthy shellfish downstream. Everyone near a stream must be a steward of the water resource. Stream crossings are an opportunity to make improvements to a farm property that also helps improve water quality while also improving efficiencies on the farm.

Project Summary and Results – Two in-stream farm crossings were replaced by bridges in September 2013. Although once common, this type of crossing results in contamination with grease, oils and heavy metals from vehicles with the possibility of major discharge from cargo such as pesticides or manure.

Each bridge was installed in less than two days and proved to be a win both for the landowners and the resources. The Blueberry and Dairy farms now have safe year round access to fields on both sides of the stream and vehicle contaminants no longer reach the water. As a bonus, gravels placed under the new structures were immediately used by spawning salmon.

Key Project Partners – Natural Resource Conservation Service (funding), Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) (implementation), Harkness Contracting (construction), Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (permitting), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (permitting)



Before: 1 of 2 in-stream crossings threatening water quality. NRCS Puget Sound Salmon Partnership funding was used to install farm bridge crossings.



After: Bridge crossing on blueberry farm was installed in September 2013 by the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association & Harkness Construction.

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More Work To Do

Riparian Restoration

- 20 CREP projects planned for installation in spring 2015
- NRCS Salmon Partnership Projects

Livestock

- Continue technical assistance to ~110 dairies and hundreds of small farms.
- Provide engineering services to recipients of state and federal cost-share project funding

Education/Outreach

- Partner with Whatcom County through PIC process
- Engage Birch Bay residence with water quality workshops and events