

# 2015 Feature Accomplishment:

Use this section to describe one conservation district project or activities that you'd like to feature in the 2015 annual report.

**\*\*Note:** The fields below have character count limits that include spaces. Character limits are for two main reasons: 1) Content must fit on a one-page layout; 2) Less text allows room for photos and a clean, easy-read for legislators and partners. Thanks for your patience!

**FEATURE PROJECT TITLE (65 characters) \***

Taking Action: Birch Bay Watershed Stewardship Project

**RESOURCE CHALLENGE (500 characters): Describe the resource challenge addressed by this project. Assume the audience is not familiar with the issue, terminology, or acronyms. Consider using this section to answer the following questions: What is the natural resource issue addressed by this project, and why is that issue important? How is this resource issue impacting the local community and/or the state? Why did your conservation district get involved? \***

In 2008, Birch Bay was closed to commercial shellfish harvesting in a 670-yard area radius around the mouth to Terrell Creek because of fecal coliform contamination. Birch Bay was also designated as a "Shoreline of Statewide Significance", the only marine shoreline in Whatcom County with that designation due to the rapidly growing shoreline urbanization and vital natural resources. Local, state, and federal agencies collaborated to create a comprehensive set of recommendations using integrated watershed characterization tools and techniques to build a strategy.

**PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS (635 characters): Summarize the actions taken by your conservation district to address the resource challenge, the impact your project made, and if there are any planned next steps. If possible, provide measurable results and quotes from project cooperators. \***

In 2010, WCD began a process of inspiring residents to adopt good stewardship practices, install LID and agricultural BMPs and participate in riparian, wetland and stream restoration projects. A comprehensive social marketing plan was developed using a local resident as the "watershed steward" to connect individuals with agencies and practices while nurturing relationships for sustained impact. After 5 years 87 homeowners have taken action to improve watershed health, 27 riparian restoration projects were completed protecting 73 acres of stream and 34 farm BMPs installed to eliminate discharges of pathogens or nutrients.

**KEY PARTNERS: List key partners (other than your conservation district) who helped or contributed to this project / activity. Please spell out partner names (no acronyms). If no other partners were involved, write "n/a". \***

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resource Management District

Environmental Protection Agency

Birch Bay State Park

Whatcom County Public Works

Birch Bay Shellfish Protection District

Washington Department of Fish W, BP, Alcoa, BBWSD,



Featured Accomplishment Photo 1: Citizen Action

Caption for photo 1 (150 characters)

**“We learned so much from WCD. We found simple solutions to mud management, healthier animals, and greener pastures.” Scott and Kristi McAllister**



Featured Accomplishment Photo 2: Habitat Restoration

Caption for photo 2 (150 characters)

**48,420 feet of riparian habitat was improved, with over 20,000 native plants established by 1,200 volunteers, landowners and community groups.**



**Side bar Photo: Community Engagement**

Caption for photo 2 (150 characters)

**Healthy Water, Healthy People! Over 250 community members joined WCD for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual run with the Chums 5k Run/Walk to celebrate clean water.**