



State Legislative District # 40, 42
Congressional District # 1, 2

Whatcom Conservation District

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Board Chair: Larry Helm

Other Accomplishments



WCD installed 26 CREP projects improving 95,347 feet of stream bank with 93,130 native plants, while maintaining and supporting 117 existing projects.



WCD hosted the first Annual Small Farm Expo in March. Over 220 small farmers joined 22 local organizations for a day of education, demos, and networking.



A place-based mobile education tool, with topographic lid and flowing water, was built to increase ecological literacy in schools and community groups.

2016 Feature Accomplishment

“Application Risk Management” helps farmers protect water quality



Over 100 local producers in Whatcom County learn about water quality and ARM at an annual Manure Nutrient Management Training in 2016

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Impacted and poorly managed agriculture has been advanced as a leading contributor to surface and ground water pollution in the Puget Sound, particularly as it relates to manure nutrient management. Land-owners are given a nutrient management plan that outlines how they should manage nutrients using the “4Rs” (right: timing, rate, source, placement). But, without dynamic tools to help make informed decisions real-time, the plan will never be fully functional and protective.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) completed a five-year project in 2016 that developed an Application Risk Management (ARM) System providing site-specific, real-time decision making tools targeting manure transport via runoff and leaching. A Manure Spreading Advisory, developed for all of Western Washington, provides a three-day runoff risk forecast. An ARM Worksheet (based on four years of field data) provides a field level risk analysis and dynamic application setback distances. Field risk maps provide support information. Using these tools, producers are able to utilize manure more effectively while reducing their potential for a runoff or leaching event.



Producers use the Manure Spreading Advisory to choose the best time to spread manure to avoid a water quality issue. Learn more: www.wadairyplan.org/msa.

KEY PARTNERS: US Environmental Protection Agency; US Geological Survey; Washington State Department of Agriculture; Puget Sound Conservation Districts; Washington State Dairy Federation; dairy producers in Whatcom County

More work to do!

- Shellfish: Education, technical assistance, and cost-share for implementation of best management practices through Pollution Identification and Correction.
- Habitat: Along with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), WCD will work to improve salmon habitat by replacing culverts and constructing log jams using funding provided from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program.
- Edge of field monitoring: Provide demonstration and effectiveness monitoring of conservation practices through on-farm surface water quality monitoring.