

# Tenmile Treasures

A Newsletter for the Tenmile Creek Watershed Community

TENMILE CREEK  
WATERSHED

Healthy Streams  
Neighbor to Neighbor

## Happy New Year!

May you, your family and the place you call home find happiness and good health in 2007. Kathleen Dean Moore, in her book The Pine Island Paradox: Making Connections in a Disconnected World states, "To love a place is to care for it, to keep it healthy, to attend to its needs as if they were your own . . . because they are your own. To love a place is to accept moral responsibility for its well-being." As you walk around your property, acknowledge your love for it. Let's work together in the coming year to celebrate this love. We can celebrate by planting more trees to shade your stream, protecting and enhancing your wetlands, making sure your septic system is working properly, or evaluating your animal management areas to ensure a healthy environment for them. Most of all, celebrate by taking time to enjoy what you own. Have a healthy 2007!

## Volume 5, Issue 1 Winter 2007

### Tenmile Advisory Committee

Henry Bierlink, APC  
George Boggs, WCD  
Darrell Gray, NSEA  
Craig MacConnell, WSU  
Mike Murphy, Landowner/PUD  
Susie Nelson, Volunteer  
Leroy Plagerman, Landowner  
Steve Seymour, WDFW  
Kevin Sterk, Landowner  
Eric Sundstrom, Landowner  
Dan Thompson, Landowner  
Art Zawicki, Landowner

In partnership with WCD, NSEA,  
WA Dept. of Ecology & NFWF

Project Manager: Dorie Belisle



Where is his manure going to end up?  
This seasonal drainage needs protection!

### Are you a good land manager?

Whether you own one horse, two llamas and a dog, 15 beef cows, or a dairy herd of 500, we all have a responsibility to manage our land properly. When we keep our land healthy we are protecting the abundant natural resources we share, such as fish, wildlife, soil, water and shellfish.

Livestock can negatively impact the environment in the Tenmile Creek watershed. Four different areas of concern are highlighted in WCD's publication *Tips on Land & Water*

*Management for Small Farm and Livestock Owners in Whatcom County.*

**Nutrient pollution of water** - Animal waste contains nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. These can harm our surface water and our ground water. Rain can wash nutrients off land and into the nearest drainage, stream, lake or wetland. Nitrogen in the form of nitrate is easily dissolved in and carried with rainfall through our permeable soils to groundwater. High nitrate concentrations can present a significant human health risk, particularly to the very young and very old.

**Sediment pollution to surface water** - Animals allowed free and continuous access to vegetation, quickly graze-out and trample pasture grasses and forbs. The resulting bare ground is subject to erosion from wind and water. Contaminated runoff from these areas can enter water bodies and wetland and interfere with fish and wildlife habitat.

**Pathogen pollution of water** - Manure contains bacteria and other pathogens. This can make water unfit for drinking without treatment, can make shellfish unfit for human consumption and can make water unsafe for recreational activities such as fishing and swimming.

**Degradation of riparian areas** - Uncontrolled grazing and livestock trampling of riparian areas damages and removes important riparian vegetation, which prevents the vegetation's ability to do its job of protecting water quality and providing habitat.

Poor



Good



## What can you do?

### 1. Attend the Small Farm Management Workshop Sat. Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Ten Mile Grange at 6950 Hannegan Rd., 9am - 1pm.

Participants will receive a map of their property and farm planning materials.

The following elements of farm planning will be discussed:

- Living with Livestock near Water - protecting wetlands, water quality and fish habitat.
- Mud and Manure Management
- Pasture Management
- Planning for the Future - Understanding legal responsibility for protecting natural resources on and off the farm.

This workshop is FREE. However, pre-registration is essential! Call the Whatcom Conservation District 354-2035 ext 3. Register by January 26th. I will see you there.

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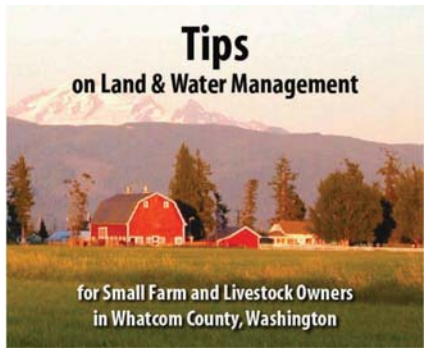
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**Farm Management Workshop**  
Sat. Feb. 3rd 9am- 1pm  
Tenmile Grange

**What Can You Do?** *Cont. from page 1*

2. Call to arrange a property visit. Together we can explore your management options.
3. Order your free copy of "Tips on Land and Water Management for Small Farm and Livestock owners in Whatcom County WA". This is a hands-on booklet produced by the Whatcom Conservation District. It covers: Farmstead Best Management Practices, Septic Systems, Livestock Confinement Areas, Pasture Management, Composting, Grazing Management and much more. Call 398-9187. If you get my machine, leave your name address and phone number and I will mail it to you. Just call 398-9187.



**Septic \$ense Workshop**

"We've got septic, we've got responsibility, and we can save you money!" That was the theme of the Septic Sen\$e workshop and open house held Sat. August 5, 2006. Sixty-eight (68) individuals attended the event. Seventeen (17) volunteers helped to make it happen. There were presentations on what every septic system owner needs to know and new changes to Whatcom County regulations for septic systems. There were free oysters and clams to celebrate the gifts from the bay, (plus other snacks), tours of Fishtrap Creek, and prize drawings for free and discounted septic system inspections, donated by Coast Construction. Participants could walk around or through a scaled model of a septic system, visit displays telling them about their watershed, and have a free nitrate test done for their well water.



Michael Eaton of Coast Construction shares his expertise with workshop participants.

Many thanks to all who attended and to all who donated their time and talent to make it happen!

**We Have Stories that Need Telling - Can You Help?**

The Tenmile Oral History Project is off to a great start. By the end of January we will have completed 12 oral histories. There are many seniors from our watershed that have stories to share. Can you HELP? Would you consider volunteering to type up just one interview? If 10 people volunteered to type up one interview each, we could have 10 more interviews completed by the end of the year. It takes 10-12 hours to type up an interview with a transcriber. A foot pedal allows you to go forward and rewind as needed. Call for more details.

Thank you, Dorie 398-9187

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Small Farm Management Workshop - Sat. Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Call 354-2035 ext 3 to register.

**Tree Give A Way - the last three Saturdays of March.** Start planning now! Call for more information 398-9187 or email [doriebelisle@yahoo.com](mailto:doriebelisle@yahoo.com)

**Whatcom CD Plant Sale Sat, March 17<sup>th</sup>.** Visit the WCD web site for details: [www.whatcomcd.org](http://www.whatcomcd.org) or call 354-2035 ext 3.