

2009 Skagit CD Summary Report of Accomplishments

2009 Feature Accomplishment – Promoting the “Operation Clean & Green” Car Wash Kit Outreach Program

Skagit Conservation District (SCD) is addressing this water quality concern by:

- *Developing a countywide outreach campaign addressing the benefits of using a car wash kit*
- *Developing partnerships with local cities for kit distribution*
- *Promoting the project through outreach materials available to fundraising groups that include sandwich boards, brochures, litterbags, and a demonstration video*
- *Tracking how many times the kits are used, how many cars are washed, and how many gallons of soapy water are prevented from entering the storm basins (at 65 gallons per car washed)*
- *Featuring the car wash kits on websites and at appropriate workshops*



Making of the video



Waste storage pond

Commercial Livestock and Small Farm Operations

- *5 small farm plans written*
- *19 small farm landowners assisted*
- *18 dairy operations assisted*
- *7 nutrient management plan updates completed*
- *14 commercial livestock operations assisted*
- *5 commercial livestock operation plans written*
- *6 best management practices designed and implemented utilizing \$34,888 in cost-share funds*
- *514 feet of stream bank protection on the Samish River*
- *A series of 3 livestock workshops held in the upper Samish with 16 participants*

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- *75 CREP projects implemented to date providing 507.2 acres of buffer totaling 146,210 stream feet/27.7 miles, and 202,745 trees maintained*
- *6 new CREP plans written for a total of 24.6 acres of buffer to be planted in 2010*
- *2 new plans pending contracts*



CREP planting



Firewise and Community Wildfire Protection Planning

- *17 CDs were provided Firewise program assistance*
- *2 new Firewise Communities/USA implemented*
- *Skagit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan completed*
- *17 acres of fuels reduction completed*
- *8 home wildfire risk assessments completed*
- *2 community level wildfire risk assessments completed*
- *6 Firewise presentations conducted – attendance: 150*

Fuels reduction project

Forest Stewardship Program and EQIP

- *11 forest stewardship plans covering 577.6 acres written*
- *3 forest certifications covering 230 acres completed*
- *8 EQIP practices implemented on 303 acres*
- *2 Forest Landowner Field Days held – attendance: 270*

Monitoring

- *90 contracts in the Farmland Legacy Program with approximately 6,700 acres monitored*
- *7 active and 2 in planning Critical Area Ordinance (CAO) projects monitored for the City of Mount Vernon*

Professional Engineering

- *20 cooperators received engineering technical assistance*
- *4 projects designed and implemented*



Tide gates

Road Projects/Feasibility Studies

- *\$395,000 contract for work to be performed on Diobsud Creek Road*
- *Feasibility study to be completed for Illabot Creek – Washington’s newest “Wild and Scenic River”*

Environmental Education

- *Over 800 students participated in the annual Sixth Grade Conservation Tour in May*
- *350 seedlings distributed to students in honor of Arbor Day*
- *Skagit Conservation District hosted the State Envirothon Competition in May at Camp Lutherwood on Lake Samish - over 70 students from across the state participated*

Environmental Education continued



Sixth Grade Conservation Tour

- Information packets promoting the SCD's school presentations and youth education programs redesigned and distributed to county schools
- A community proclamation in recognition of "Soil and Water Stewardship Week" televised, presented, and signed at a Skagit County Commissioners meeting in April
- 60 posters entered for the Soil and Water Stewardship poster contest for local youth (grades K-12), and 4 winning Skagit County posters also won at the state level and have been entered in the national contest
- Hosted an educational booth at the Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival – attendance: 8,000
- Hosted educational displays and distributed educational and program promotional materials at 3 farm locations at the Skagit County Festival of Family Farms – 3,000+ attendees combined for these locations
- Recruited 150 volunteers and 18 resource agencies/organizations to host displays for the 7th annual Samish Bay Bivalve Bash and Mud Run – attendance: 1,400
- Hosted an educational display with a cow-milking contest at the Skagit County Fair in August – 20,000 attended the fair

Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program

- 47 individuals completed the 2009 Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short Course
- 28 backyard conservation practices installed on 7 acres of land
- Hosted a display at the City of Mount Vernon Arbor Day event at the new Kiwanis Park – attendance: 125
- 200+ individuals participated in Backyard Wildlife Habitat field trips and other related activities



Backyard Wildlife Habitat tour

Low Impact Development (LID)

- 1 rain garden demonstration project completed in partnership with Skagit County
- 4 rain gardens proposed for 2010

District Media

- Skagit Conservation News – 2 newsletters distributed to over 4,600 readers
 - Launched the new Skagit CD website
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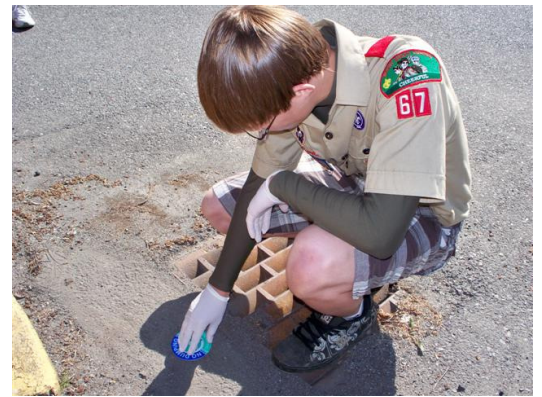
Skagit Stream Team

Skagit Stream Team

- 64 volunteers are participating in the 2009/10 Stream Team Program
- 8 Stream Team volunteers are participating on the Samish Storm Team
- 50 sites, located in the Padilla Bay, Samish, Fisher Creek, Kulshan Creek, Trumpeter, Gages Slough, Brickyard Creek, and Nookachamps basins are monitored for fecal coliform, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and depth twice a month
- 1,089 Stream Team volunteer hours reported for 2009

Stormwater Education

- 700 storm markers installed on storm drain inlets by volunteers and 1,000 educational door hangers distributed in the City of Burlington, the City of Sedro-Woolley and Drainage District 19
- 80 posters entered in the Cities of Burlington and Sedro-Woolley's "Stormwater Awareness" poster contests
- 1000 informational bookmarks, featuring poster award winners, provided to the city libraries of Burlington and Sedro-Woolley for community distribution
- 13 stormwater education presentations provided to 350 county students
- 75 individuals learned about stormwater by visiting the SCD's letterbox (in partnership with Skagit Conservation Education Alliance's Skagit Watershed Letterbox Quest)



Storm drain marking

Marine Biotoxin Monitoring Program

- 17 community volunteers participated in the 2009 sampling season
- 65 sampling events conducted



Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program

- 25 individuals completed the fall 2009 Watershed Masters Training Program, bringing the total participants to date to 389
- 2,510 Watershed Master volunteer hours reported
- Over 16,500 cumulative program hours recorded

Watershed Masters

Special thanks to all of our partnering organizations who made the Skagit Conservation District's efforts toward conservation, water quality, and best land-management practices a huge success yet another year!!