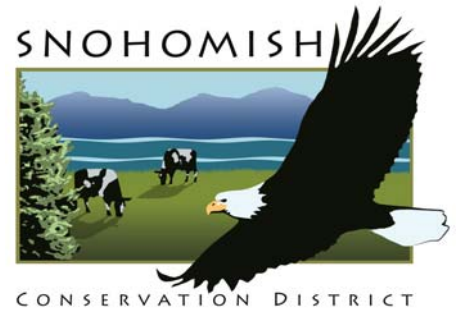


Snohomish Conservation District Needs Your Help!

Assessment Sought to Aid Conservation District

A new assessment proposed to go into effect in 2010 would provide Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) with stable funding for its programs and services to residents. The District has offered natural resource-related services to Snohomish County landowners, farmers, and rural and urban residents since 1941. Services to Camano Island were added in 1961. Currently SCD is the largest district in Washington State without stable funding in the form of an assessment. Grants and some local funding from Snohomish County currently fund the District.



What is a Special Assessment?

Districts have authority under state law (RCW 89.08.400) to propose to their county government that a special assessment be added to the property tax on those lands within their jurisdiction that would benefit from District services. The assessment can be between one and ten years in length, however, SCD is proposing a five-year term. The process requires public input and Snohomish County Council approval before it can be implemented. Successive assessments may be proposed but must be approved as well. The Stillaguamish River watershed (north Snohomish County) would be excluded as it is already assessed for District programs.

Why a Special Assessment?

By establishing a dedicated fund through special assessment to implement District services, landowners in Snohomish County will be able to rely more fully on Snohomish Conservation District to provide answers, technical advice, and assistance for their natural resource concerns.

How Will the Money be Spent?

Funds raised will support technical assistance and educational opportunities to landowners. These funds would also be instrumental in leveraging additional funds from various sources and addressing previously unfunded resource issues particular to Snohomish County residents. Those additional funds would enable the District to offer assistance to private landowners to restore habitat and improve streams on their property. In addition, the District would be able to work with cities and groups on urban conservation and expand its strong educational outreach.

Where Will the Money Come From?

Landowners within the District's boundaries would pay the assessment fee, which would be included on the same bill as their property tax. The proposed assessment is \$5 per parcel per year and \$.05 per acre.

What Does Snohomish Conservation District Do?

We work directly with landowners to solve site-specific natural resource concerns such as erosion problems, fish blockages, and water quality issues. We work to improve pasture and manure management, wildlife habitat, and stream and wetland areas. We promote and teach backyard conservation. We provide landowners access to over 85,000 trees and shrubs annually and we partner with other agencies to implement projects and assist folks like you!

You can review the draft proposal at the District website: www.snohomishcd.org

**For more information, call 425-335-5634, ext 4,
or email supervisors@snohomishcd.org**