



Snohomish Conservation District's 2016 Annual Report



Our mission: To work cooperatively with others to promote and encourage conservation and responsible use of natural resources.



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During 2016, the Snohomish Conservation District celebrated its 75th year of service to landowners and partners. This milestone was made possible:

- by our collective desire to be good stewards of the natural resources that are entrusted to our care
- with the countless contributions of private landowners
- through the steadfast support and encouragement of our partners
- by the dedicated service of the District's volunteer Board of Supervisors, staff, and volunteers

As we focus on the next 75 years of service:

- We will continue to stay focused on and dedicated to maintaining a viable and vibrant agriculture community. It is the backbone of our county and is one of the things that continue to attract residents to our county. Access to local food is something that we all cherish.
- We will continue to work with rural landowners and partners to enhance our landscapes for fish and wildlife. Having a diverse and well-functioning ecosystem is critical for us all.
- We will continue to engage adults and youth in a wide variety of learning opportunities. Using our natural environment as the "lab" for these experiences is a tool that we must continue to foster.
- We will continue to work with our residential landowners and urban partners on new and creative ways to improve natural resource management. Creating more diversity and improving our ecosystems on residential lands will help drive many benefits for Puget Sound Recovery.

Please continue your individual and collective efforts. They make a difference. Many stories were not able to be included here, but please continue to engage with us through our Facebook, website, and mailing list. Together, we can work towards better ground for our own properties, for our precious natural resources, and for our next generation.



Thank you for all that you do,

Monte Marti
District Manager

Celebrating 75 Years

1941–2016





THE NEXT 75 YEARS

While maintaining its rich heritage and core values, Snohomish Conservation District will conduct business differently in the next 75 years.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO:

stay

stay focused on and dedicated to maintaining a viable and vibrant agriculture community.

work

work with rural landowners and partners to enhance our landscapes for fish and wildlife.

engage

engage adults and youth in a wide variety of learning opportunities.

partner

partner with our residential landowners and urban partners on new and creative ways to improve natural resource management.

Snohomish County is growing faster than any other county in Washington (by percentage). With such rapid urbanization, the opportunity for collaboration among public agencies and private landowners has never been greater. To address these increasingly complex environmental challenges - we are committed to being on the cutting edge of conservation for both our urban and rural communities.

A RECORD YEAR

We planted a record number of trees this year! These nearly 64 acres represent approximately 31,000 native trees and shrubs along streams, rivers and wetlands throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island.

We didn't do this alone! These trees were installed on private and public property with the help of numerous supportive landowners, volunteers from the local community and schools, our Washington Conservation Corps crew members, Earthcorps crew members and private contractors.

These plants are:

- shading salmon bearing streams to keep the waters cool for the young fry after they hatch
- providing pollinator habitat to ensure healthy farms and wildlife habitat into the future
- filtering excess nutrients and pollutants from our landscape to keep our waters clean
- helping build a more resilient landscape as we face increased flooding and temperatures from climate change.



31,000
trees & shrubs



63.47
acres



MOGA CHANNEL RECONNECTION PROJECT



2 stream
crossings

Installed two stream crossings for fish passage and improved farm access. Also removed two fish passage barriers.



67 log jams
installed

Installed 67 log jams (approximately 140 pieces of large wood)



11 acres
planted

Planted 10 acres of pollinator-friendly cover crop to restore and stabilize the field.
Planted 1 acre with native grasses and herbaceous vegetation.



0.71 miles of channel
re-established

Re-established 0.71 miles of side-channel and back-channel, totaling 3.5 acres of instream habitat and flood storage.



The Snohomish River is the second largest producer of Endangered Species Act-listed Chinook salmon in Puget Sound. The Moga Back-Channel Restoration Project is located just below the confluence of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers, south of the City of Snohomish, in what is known as the Confluence Reach of the Snohomish River. As such, it is critical spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook, as steelhead and other species of salmon.

Work planned for 2017 and beyond:

- 5 acres of riparian planting by spring 2017
- 3 years of project maintenance
- Additional acres planted by spring 2018

AGRICULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

We have a long history of service to the farming community, and are now embarking on the next phase of engagement to help address the complex issues facing our farmers today. In August, we gathered around a Farm to Table dinner with tribal members, legislators, agencies, and rural landowners to talk about win-win scenarios for our fish and our farms.





“We pour our hearts and souls into this land.”

- Jerry Labish, Snohomish County farmer



WESTERN VALLEY DAIRY IMPROVEMENTS

Snohomish County was once home to over 200 dairies. The few dozen dairy farms that remain are under tight regulatory and economic pressure – but continue to strive towards stewardship of the land and contributing to a viable agricultural community.

With support from the District, Western Valley Dairy installed a dispersion trench to route water away from their manure, which helps to increase the storage capacity of the lagoon. They installed other best management practices including 650 feet of gutters and downspouts which allow the roof water to be routed away from sources of contamination. A new ditch also conveys leachate to a catch basin where it can be transferred to a grass filter strip or the lagoon.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

This year, we partnered with King 5, Lowe's, The Nature Conservancy, Phillip's Law Firm, and others on Make A Difference Day to achieve big impact across Puget Sound, by simultaneously working towards local stormwater solutions. Thanks to our many volunteers who helped build rain barrels, rain gardens, and more!



1 day event

in partnership with King 5, Lowe's, The Nature Conservancy, and others.

75 volunteers

across two project sites, a rain garden planting in Kirkland and rain barrel construction in Mill Creek.

150 rain barrels

assembled in an hour and sold at-cost to local homeowners, the same day.

135,000 gallons of water

will be diverted during large storm events. Helping to reduce urban flooding, erosion, and polluted stormwater runoff.





THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

This year, our green stormwater staff traveled to other districts to share their expertise and replicate top programming. In King and Skagit Counties, we supported the design and construction of rain gardens. In partnership with Whatcom Conservation District, we helped DePave a key section of parking lot in a commercial district, to reduce over 70,000 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.

This work is an example of the regional collaboration of the Puget Sound Conservation Districts- a caucus of 12 districts working together towards collective impact and Puget Sound Recovery.



“It was a great opportunity to partner with a local business and to protect water quality.”

- Aneka Sweeney, Whatcom CD Education Specialist





PUGET SOUND STARTS AT MY SCHOOL

Hands-on environmental projects help students deepen their knowledge of environmental conservation while showing them that they can be part of the solution to our complex environmental issues. In 2016, we received grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the EPA to start a new program, Puget Sound Starts at my school. This program will involve students in the design, maintenance and installation of Green Stormwater Infrastructure projects on school campuses.

Several schools in key watersheds will install student-led projects like rain gardens, cisterns, bioswales, and sustainable landscapes at their schools. These projects will reduce stormwater pollution while engaging students in authentic, project-based learning that makes a difference in their community.

SOUND EDUCATION PROGRAM STATS



14,513
students



1,260
classes



774
teachers/
parents



10
schoolyard
projects



9
field trips

The District in partnership with Snohomish County Service Water Management and local municipalities provides hands-on, natural resource education to students throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island. Working with students, grades 3-12, we provide lessons that bring science to life in the classroom, hands-on field trips to local wetlands, and green schoolyard assistance to help school's transform their schoolyards. Additionally, we partner with Franklin Conservation District to bring Wheat Week, a week-long natural resources education program, into Snohomish County Schools.

2016 BY THE NUMBERS

OUTREACH & EVENT STATS

New Contacts	1,719 people
New Cooperators	368 people
Assistances	1,396 assistances
Events	83 events

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION STATS

Rain Barrels	519 barrels
Rain Gardens Installed	16 projects
Square Feet of Rain Gardens Installed	1,735 square feet

FARM STATS

Gutters and Downspouts	2 projects
Fencing for Livestock Exclusion	6 projects
Total Feet of Fencing	8,810 feet
Heavy Use Areas (Winter Paddocks)	3 projects
Livestock Waste Separation/Transfer Facilities	2 projects
Soil Tests	133 tests
Manure Compost Bins	8 projects
Off-Stream Watering System	4 projects



HABITAT AND RESTORATION STATS

Beaver Control Devices Installed	4 projects
New CREP Projects	9 projects
Planting Projects	18 projects
Tree and Shrub Planting	31,000 trees
Stream Health Improvement	3 projects
Total Acres Planted	63.47 acres
Total Feet of Hedgerow Planted	1,977 linear feet
Number of Plants Sold (at Plant Sale)	67,000 plants
Shoreline Planting	10,130 plants

RESTORATION CREW STATS

Hours Worked	2,970 hours
Restoration Projects	29 projects
Acres Planted	19.5 acres
Acres Maintained/Prepped	81.4 acres

YOUTH EDUCATION STATS

Total Classes	1,260 classes
Students	14,513 students
Teachers/Parents	774 teachers/parents
Schoolyard Projects	10 projects
Field Trips	9 trips



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM STATS



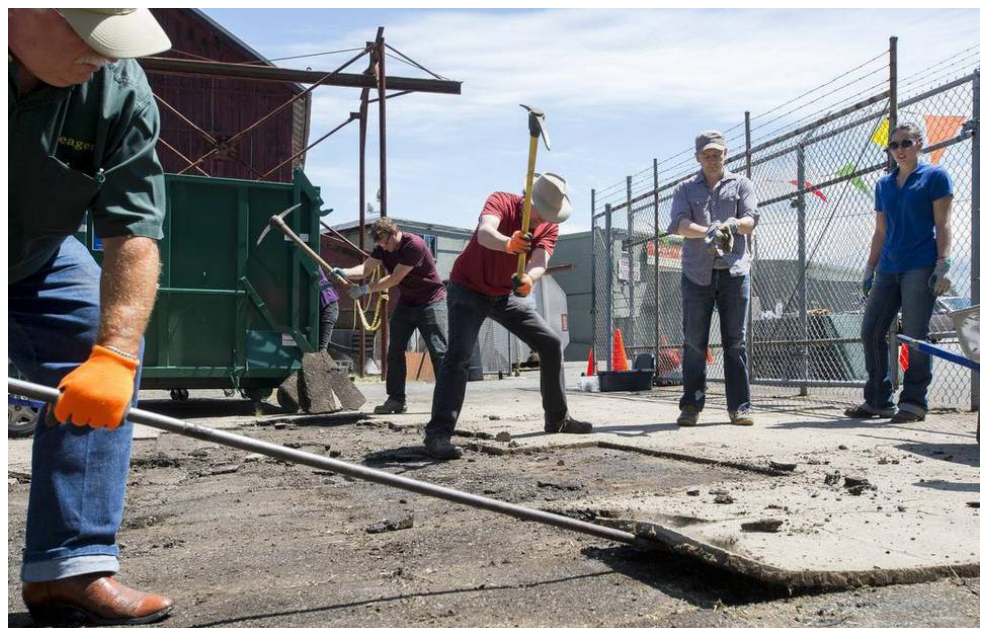
18
events



731
volunteers



2,435.5
hours



We were recently awarded the 'State Auditor's Stewardship Award' for 'outstanding accomplishment in the stewardship of public resources as we pursue the shared goal of government that works better, costs less, and earns greater public trust'. In response to rapid organizational growth, the District underwent an intensive audit, but, "it is clear the District's management and staff want to be accountable to the citizens and good stewards of public funds and strive for ways to continually improve" said Troy Kelley, Washington State Auditor.



2016 SPONSORSHIPS

- Focus on Farming
- Cultivating Success
- Cattlemen's Winterschool/Country Living Expo
- Washington Association of Conservation Districts
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- Puget Sound Conservation Districts
- WSU Forest Stewardship Program
- Washington Association of District Employees
- Wheat Week
- Puget Sound Natural Resource Alliance
- Ag Entrepreneurship

Sponsorship Totals: \$43,640

REVENUE SOURCES

Snohomish County Assessment	\$980,000
Camano Island Assessment	\$63,000
Grants and Project Implementation Funding	\$2,071,566
City Partnerships	\$99,934
Plant Sale	\$131,500

TOTALS \$3,346,000**SPENDING BY PROGRAM**

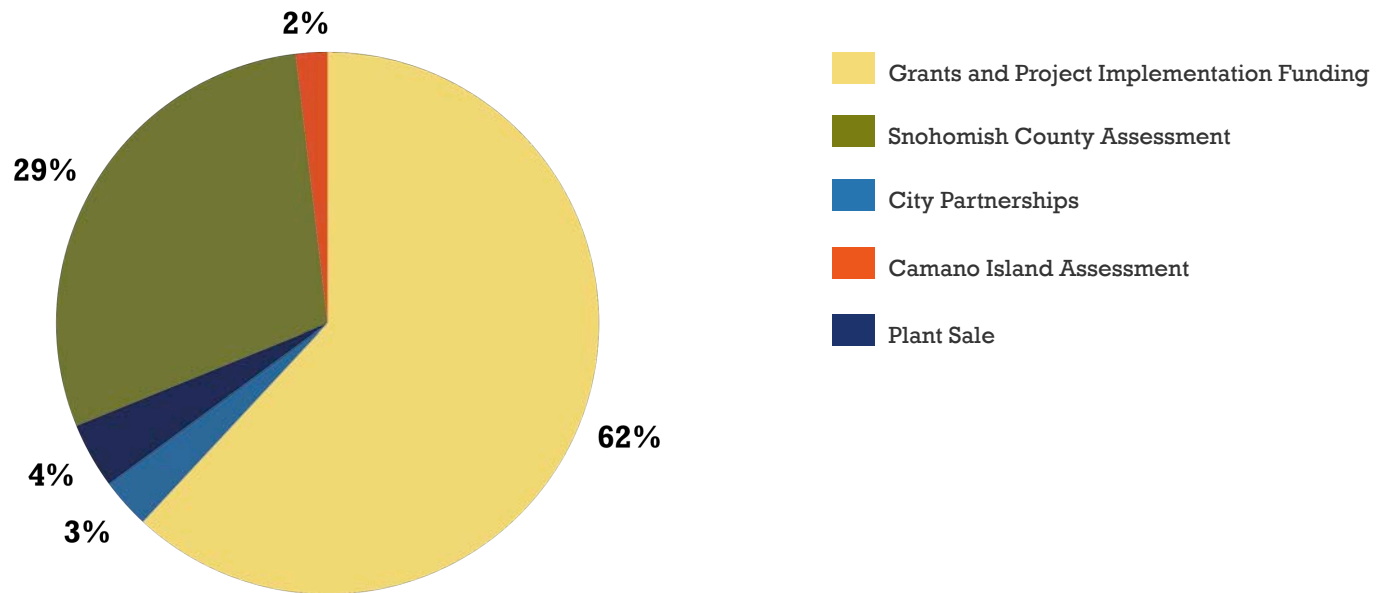
Community Conservation	\$675,330
District Operations	\$450,000
Natural Resource Management	\$2,220,670

TOTALS \$3,346,000**Direct Project Implementation: \$808,478.39**

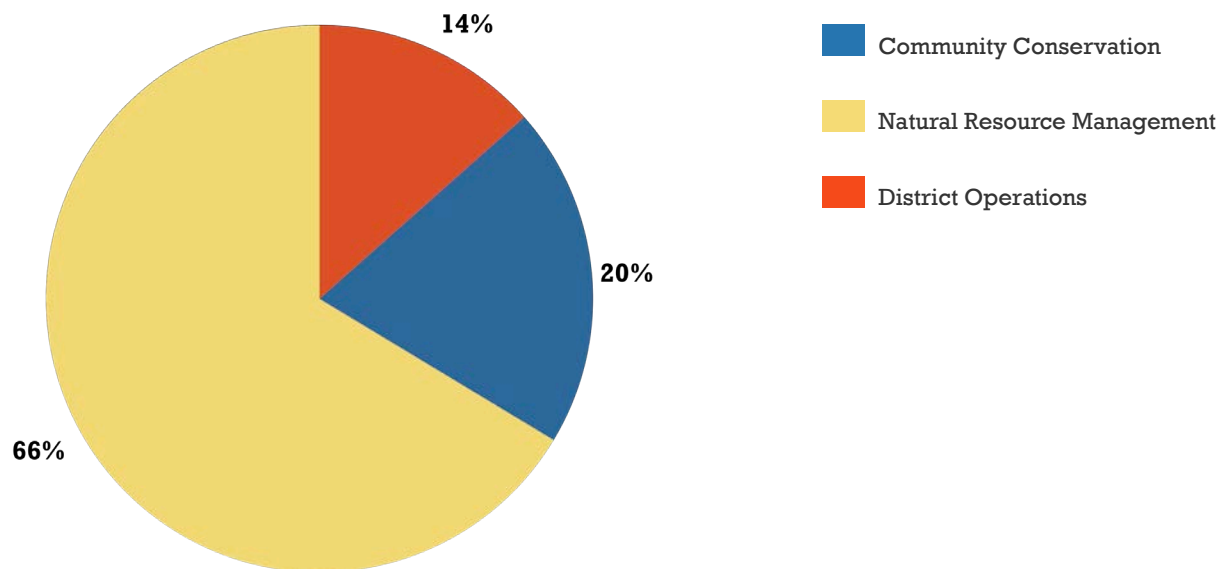
The District works hard to leverage the local assessment funding entrusted to us. In 2016 the District was able to secure additional funding from federal, state, and private donations. A few highlights:

- Regional Conservation Partnership Program funding for agriculture producers in the Stillaguamish Watershed from both the Natural Resources Conservation Service(USDA) and the Washington State Conservation Commission.
- Recreation and Conservation Office Salmon Recovery Funding Board funding for a fish enhancement project in the Snohomish Watershed.
- Stormwater education and infrastructure improvement at Snohomish County high schools through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

2016 REVENUE SOURCES



2016 SPENDING BY PROGRAM





Snohomish Conservation District

working together for better ground since 1941



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