



Special thanks to Merrill Jefferson, whose great sense of humor, and willingness to catch stray plant bundles has kept us laughing over the years. Merrill has consistently volunteered for so many plant sale bundling days we've lost count what year this is...we think around 15!

2017 Native Plant Sale

Thank you to everyone who purchased native plants from us this year! This year marked one of our biggest sales to date, with over 20,300 native trees and shrubs distributed to over 220 Clallam County families.

A special word of appreciation goes out to our 24 wonderful volunteers: Robert Buck, Ingrid Carmen, Sara Farinelli, Carol & Tim Fleming, Mike Gatchet, Oscar Hammer, Paul Howard, Merrill Jefferson, Elizabeth Kemp, Robert & Sally Keldgord, Tom Mix, Donna Moreau, Jill Palmquist, John Petrotta, Cherie Pickett, Cindy & John Ridley, Abe Ringel, John Seago, Linda Toy and Peninsula Urban Forestry staff, Courtney Bornsworth and Collin McAvindhey. Together they donated 99 hours of their time sorting, packaging and distributing plants. Without these fantastic volunteers our plant sale wouldn't be possible!

Thank you also to our administrative assistant Beth Loveridge for providing volunteers with a hearty lunch made from locally produced foods, Tom Mix and Joey Schwerin for donating tree bags for bundling orders, and Steve Johnson for the use of his facilities at Lazy J Tree Farm.

Remember to keep your plants well watered this summer when we get dry conditions!

Beebe Re-Elected to Conservation District Board

Sequim-area resident Robert Beebe has been re-elected to the Clallam Conservation District board of supervisors. Beebe was the only candidate to file for the position. According to state conservation district elections rules (WAC 135-110-320), if the incumbent is the only eligible candidate to file for the position, no election is required. Therefore, no polling was conducted.

Following a career with the Navy, Robert took over operations of the Olympic Game Farm in 2008. Robert carries on in the footsteps of his grandfather Lloyd, who created the Game Farm, in training bear, cougar and other animals for use in film and TV ad production. The farm has also bred animals as part of a species survival program to help ensure the survival of animals that are in danger of becoming extinct in the wild.



CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2016, 6,619 feet of Dungeness Irrigation District ditch were replaced with pipeline. Less than 12,000 feet or just under one-third of DID main ditch remains open, but not for long. A piping contract was awarded in December and, beginning with the 2017 irrigation season, the vast majority of water conveyed through the DID system will be by means of a closed-ended pipeline, resulting in near-total elimination of conveyance losses and tailwater. In addition, most of the large irrigators on the DID system will have adequate pressure to irrigate without pumps. This project is being funded by grants from the state Conservation Commission and Department of Ecology.

Additional accomplishments for 2016 include:

- ✓ Piping of 3,000 feet of Agnew Irrigation District ditches
- ✓ Technical assistance to 59 farm operators
- ✓ 8 new CREP contracts
- ✓ Maintenance on 8 existing CREP projects
- ✓ 1 fish-blocking culvert replaced
- ✓ 1 livestock stream crossing installed
- ✓ 4 heavy use areas constructed
- ✓ 1 waste storage structure constructed
- ✓ 1 roof runoff system installed
- ✓ 154 participants in eight horse and livestock water quality workshops
- ✓ 8 BMP class sessions with Sequim HS Ag Science students
- ✓ 195 participants in nine sustainable landscaping workshops, presentations and courses
- ✓ Financial assistance for repair of 1 failing septic system
- ✓ McComb Road aquifer recharge project completed
- ✓ Soil testing for 95 landowners
- ✓ Hands-on environmental education activities with 500 elementary students
- ✓ 17,280 native trees and shrubs sold



An undersized culvert (top photo) blocking fish movement on Tumwater Creek, was replaced with a bridge to allow for year-round fish passage. Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) funds were utilized for the project.

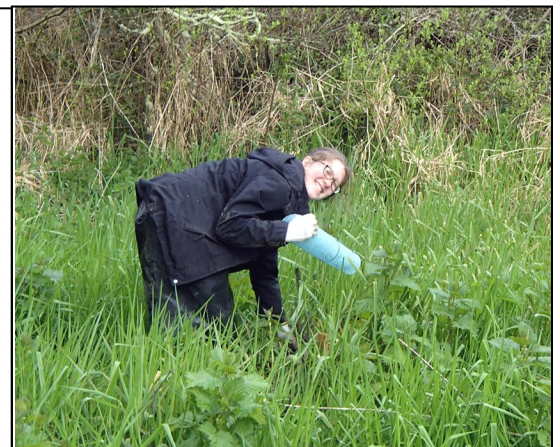


Expenditures for 2016 totaled \$1,234,858. Grants – primarily state – comprised over 95 percent of revenues. Conservation practice implementation accounted for roughly 75 percent of expenditures.



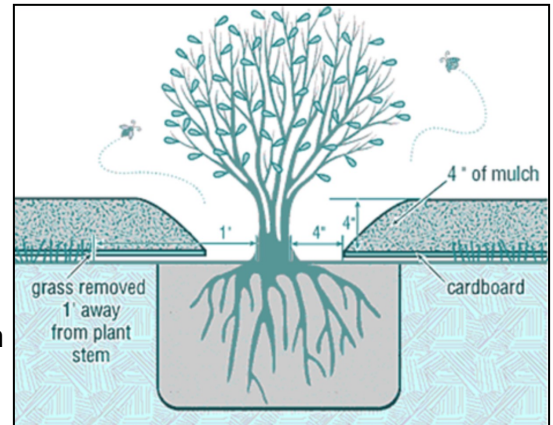
Photo at left: Sequim High School students inspect compost in recently constructed manure storage structure at the FFA Farm.

Photo at right: Installing a plant protector on one of over 6,000 newly planted Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) project plants.



TIPS to PREPARE YOUR YARD and GARDEN for DRY WEATHER

1. **Forgo irrigating the lawn.** Turf grass naturally goes dormant in summer, so consider giving in to a golden lawn instead of a lush green lawn this summer. To help maintain the health of your turf through the dry summer, mow high, 2 ½ inches or more, and use a mulching blade. Taller plants equal deeper roots, which means healthier plants. A mulching blade will leave the finely chopped clippings in place to insulate the soil and add water-holding organic matter.
2. **Mulch around perennials, trees and shrubs.** If you apply mulch now while soil moisture levels are high, you'll retain moisture much later into the growing season. Furthermore, mulch inhibits weeds that compete with desirable plants for moisture and nutrients. Mulch is the best insurance you can buy for a healthy landscape.
3. **Prioritize irrigation needs** when things get really dry. Consider what is essential for survival rather than striving for optimum growth. Most well established plants should be able to survive without any irrigation and many others will get by with a good soaking just once per month in June, July and August. Turf grass will bounce back fine in the fall if you apply just one inch of water for each month without rain.
4. **Convert some lawn** into a less water-demanding landscape. Instead of struggling to keep that lawn green this summer, transform it into a carefree bed of drought-tolerant groundcovers, shrubs and perennials. You can start by simply covering the lawn with a foot of mulch this spring or summer. Consider adding deck areas, patios and pathways as alternatives to a thirsty lawn.
5. **Check out our *Conservation Around the House* webpage** for our *Water-Wise Plants for Landscaping* fact sheet and other resources about water conservation in the landscape.
6. **Sign up for our Natural Landscaping course** to learn more about how to design and install a sustainable landscape.
7. **Install a cistern** to capture roof runoff water. You can use the harvested water to irrigate small garden areas and supply livestock water.



SPRING SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING CLASSES

Natural Landscaping Course

Learn how to design and install a sustainable landscape that will work for you and the environment. Following Permaculture design principles, you will learn how to evaluate the unique site conditions of your property, prepare a landscape plan suited to those conditions, and develop an implementation strategy.



Red Flowering Currant

WHEN: 6:00 - 8:30 PM April 11, 18, & 25 and three Saturday field trips (April 15, 22, & 29)

WHERE: Evening classes at Dungeness River Audubon River Center, field trips TBA

COST: \$25, call 360-775-3747 x 5 or email: joe.holtrop@clallamcd.org to register



Mock Orange

Landscaping with Native Plants Field Workshop

Learn to identify over 25 native trees and shrubs and how to incorporate them into your landscape while hiking two miles of trails near the Dungeness Wildlife Refuge.

WHEN: Saturday, April 22 from 1:00PM to 4:00PM

WHERE: Dungeness Recreation Area

COST: FREE, but pre-registration is required; call 360-775-3747 x 5 or email: joe.holtrop@clallamcd.org

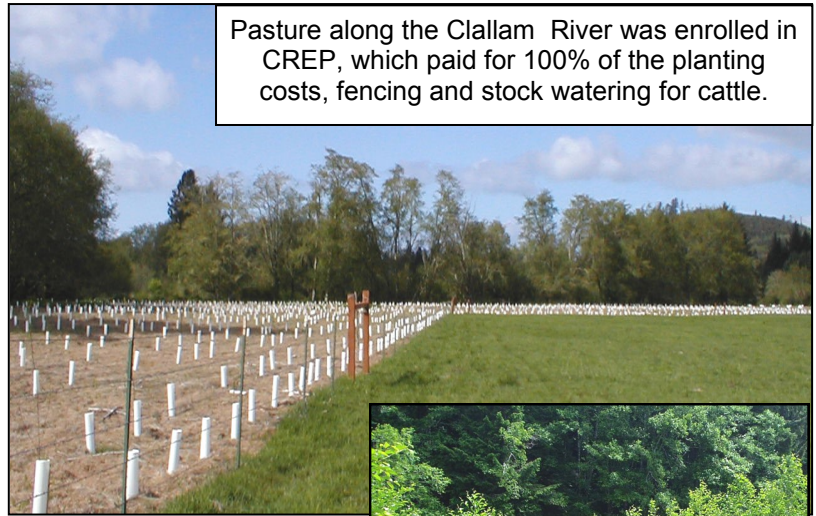
CREP

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is designed to help landowners restore riparian habitat along salmon bearing streams, as well as wetlands and ditches connected to salmon bearing streams. 100% of the cost of planting the trees and shrubs is covered by the program, and landowners receive a rental payment for the land enrolled in the program.



The program can also pay for fencing to exclude livestock from streams, ditches and wetlands in conjunction with planting a vegetated buffer, and stock watering systems for livestock affected by fencing.

If you have a stream or wetland on your property contact Clallam Conservation District for more information and for a free, no-obligation site visit.



Pasture along the Clallam River was enrolled in CREP, which paid for 100% of the planting costs, fencing and stock watering for cattle.



Buffer five years after planting.

Funding Opportunity for Small Forest Landowners

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) is a voluntary program offering technical and financial assistance to forestland landowners for removal or repair of fish barriers on forestland. A "fish passage barrier" is any human-made instream structure that impedes the free passage of fish. Examples of fish passage barriers include culverts, dams, weirs, and road crossings. Cost-share rates range from 75% to 100% of eligible project costs.

You may qualify for the program if you meet the following criteria:

1. You are a private, small forest landowner.
2. The fish barrier is on forestland and associated with a road.
3. The structure is on a fish-bearing stream.

The Conservation District has sponsored 18 FFFPP projects since 2006, helping private forest landowners in Clallam County from the first step of applying for funding all the way through overseeing construction of the project. Applications are submitted to the Small Forest Landowner Office at Department of Natural Resources (DNR). If you are interested in learning more about the program please contact the Conservation District or refer directly to the DNR website at: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/fffpp>

Soil Testing Available

It's a good idea to get a soil test for your gardens, lawns and pastures before adding manure, compost or fertilizer.

For \$20, Clallam Conservation District will ship your soil sample to a lab to test the nutrients your soil may need (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, calcium, magnesium, etc.) and pH. Once the results are back, we will help interpret them so you can determine what amendments you need to add, or discontinue adding.



We also loan out soil probes for easy collection of soil samples. For more information, call the District office or visit our website at www.clallamcd.org/soil-testing. Soil tests are accepted on the first and third Wednesday of the month and results take two to three weeks to get back from the lab.

SPRING HORSE & LIVESTOCK WORKSHOPS

May 8th - Freedom Farm Tour in Agnew

Come learn about Freedom Farm's "natural" approach to keeping horses happy, healthy, and sound. This boarding and training facility is dedicated to creating an environment that mimics those of wild horses. All horses are kept barefoot and live in large paddocks with other horses in a "herd setting." Horses have free access to grass hay and group shelters. This set-up allows freedom of movement and reduces many of the health problems and stable vices commonly seen in horses that are kept in small paddocks or stalls.

WHEN: Monday, May 8 from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

WHERE: Freedom Farm, 493 Spring Road, Port Angeles, WA

COST: FREE, but pre-registration is required; call 360-775-3747 x 5 or email: info@clallamcd.org

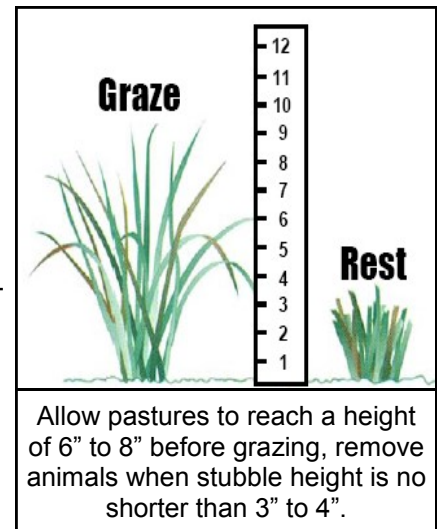
May 31st - Pasture & Weed Talk in Forks

Join the Conservation District and Clallam County Noxious Weeds Coordinator, Cathy Lucero, to learn how to identify and control noxious and poisonous weeds in pastures and hayfields, deal with wet pastures, improve forage production, and practice rotational grazing. Workshop participants are encouraged to bring weeds and pasture/hay grasses for identification. If possible try to collect the entire plants, including the roots.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 31 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

WHERE: Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Pacific Room, 411 Tillicum Lane, Forks, WA

COST: FREE, but pre-registration is required; call 360-775-3747 x 5 or email: info@clallamcd.org



Allow pastures to reach a height of 6" to 8" before grazing, remove animals when stubble height is no shorter than 3" to 4".



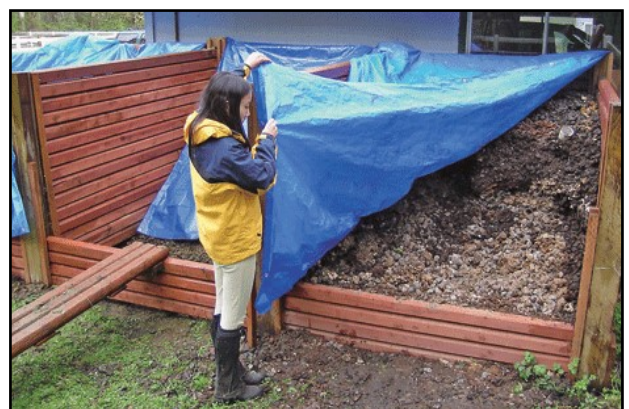
Weed Watch - Tansy Ragwort

- ◆ Invasive, biennial weed found in pastures, roadsides, vacant land
- ◆ 1st year plant has rosette of lacy (ruffled), bright green leaves
- ◆ 2nd year plant sends up flower head with multiple bright yellow flowers, 1-4 feet tall
- ◆ Toxic to livestock in both pasture and dried in hay
- ◆ Call Clallam County Noxious Weed Control at 360-417-2442 to learn more about controlling this, and other pasture weeds.

Manure Share Program

If you have more manure than you can use on your farm, consider sharing. The *Manure Share Program* connects people who have extra manure with people who want manure. If you have extra horse or livestock manure, call us and ask to be added to the "Supplier List." **If you are seeking manure, call or email us to request a copy of the Supplier List.**

It's a good idea to inquire about the type and quality of feed the animals are fed and the bedding used before getting manure. Be sure to properly compost manure before adding to your soil to help ensure weed seeds that may be in the manure are killed. For tips on composting manure, visit our website at www.clallamcd.org/manure-share/.



Cover manure piles with a tarp or roof to help ensure nutrients are retained in the manure/compost rather than leaching out with rainwater.

Conservation Sponsors

Conservation News sponsorships cost \$50 a year for business names printed every issue or \$100 for a name every issue and a business card once a year.

Sponsorships help us offset costs associated with distributing the Conservation News, which now reaches 3,700 readers four times a year.

Thank you sponsors!!!

- * **Eagle Creek Tractor**
(360) 683-9391
- * **Landscapes NW**
(360) 681-2583
- * **Nikola Broadband**
(360) 582-1051
- * **Peninsula Nurseries**
(360) 681-7953
- * **Jim & Cherie Pickett**
- * **John and Kriss Seago**



Peninsula
NURSERIES INC.

"Where Lavender is King"

(360) 681-7953 Phone
(360) 681-3823 Fax
1996 WNSLA President
sales@pennurseries.com

Roger Fell
President/CEO
1060 Sequim-Dungeness Way
Sequim, WA 98382

Clallam Conservation District is a sub-division of state government created to promote the stewardship and conservation of natural resources in Clallam County. Public meetings are held at 3:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Clallam Conservation District office, 228 W First St., Suite H in Port Angeles (top floor of the Armory Square Building).

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Joe Murray, Chair
Ben Smith, Vice-Chair
Don Hatler, Auditor
Matt Heins, Member
Robert Beebe, Member

DISTRICT STAFF

(360) 775-3747

Executive Director: Joe Holtrop
Admin. Assistant: Beth Loveridge
Conservation Planners:
Meghan Adamire & Jennifer Bond

Office Hours

Tues. - Thurs. - 9:00am to 4:00pm
Mon. & Fri. - by appointment

Over 1,300 folks are having their newsletter delivered via email. Call us at (360) 775-3747 ext. 5 or send an email to: info@clallamcd.org to start receiving your newsletter electronically.

WANT TO HELP US SAVE A TREE?

- ⇐ 2016 Accomplishments
- ⇐ Landscaping Tips for Dry Weather
- ⇐ April - Natural Landscaping Classes
- ⇐ May - Horse and Livestock Workshops

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
228 W. First St., Suite H
PORT ANGELES, WA 98362

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Olympic Mailing
Services