



RENEWABLE RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATE

We are in the process of updating our “renewable resources program”. As required by law (RCW 89.08.220), every five years we sit down and take a good hard look at what our resource concerns are and what we should do to address them.

A Brief Look Back

We’ve begun this process by evaluating what we set out to accomplish five years ago and what we actually did. In 2007 (revised slightly in 2008) we established program priorities centered on the following land uses: **urbanized lands**, **farmland**, and **forestland**. We also had program areas for **information and education** and **district operations**.

Stormwater management and low impact development (LID) promotion, as well as sustainable landscaping educational activities comprised the bulk of the **urbanized lands** activities. Unfortunately we fell short of meeting our goals for implementation of LID practices, but participation in sustainable landscaping workshops far exceeded our goal of 30 and averaged 282 participants per year.

Improving and protecting water quality on farms, irrigation water conservation, restoring riparian habitat on farms, and prevention of farmland loss were included under the **farmland** category. Our work with irrigators resulted in conservation of nearly twice as much irrigation water as we expected, and we taught twice the number of farm stewardship workshops as we had planned, totaling 674 participants. We also helped retire the development rights on 97 acres, just three acres shy of our goal.

The **forestland** program area was focused mainly on correction of forest road-related barriers to fish passage, but also included improving forest health, noxious weed control, wildfire prevention, and prevention of forestland conversion. Although the forestland program was not well funded, we exceeded our goal of correcting 10 barriers to fish passage by implementing 37.

The primary activity for **information and education** was watershed education with fourth-grade students, which we partially accomplished through a partnership with the Feiro Marine Life Center. Children actively participated in using the Enviroscope watershed model, as shown in the photo, to demonstrate the effects of stormwater pollution.

Financially, our annual budget ranged from a low of \$885,469 in 2009 to a high of \$4,205,370 in 2007, averaging over \$1.9 million annually. Over 98 percent of our revenues have come from grants and per capita revenue into the county averaged \$27. By operating with a small staff, expenditures for salaries and benefits were kept very low with most of our budget being used for conservation practice implementation. Conservation district-funded projects over the past five years have created or maintained an average of seven construction-related jobs each year.



Volunteer Janet Bruening using the Enviroscope watershed model to educate 4th grade students.

What's Next?

Based on the lessons we can learn from the past five years and in light of today’s issues, we are now reconsidering our resource conservation strategy and priorities. Over the next few months we will continue gathering and processing information. As we do, we will be seeking your input and feedback. Starting in November we will have the information on what we’re doing and how you can participate in our long range planning process on our website at www.clallamcd.org. We value your input!

NATIVE PLANT SALE

If you are interested in ordering **100 or more native plants of the same species**, please contact the Conservation District by email at ccd-info@conserveva.net or phone at 360-452-1912 ext. 5. The deadline for placing large orders at discounted rates is November 14, 2012. Plants will not be available for pick-up until March 2, 2013. Prepayment is required. Limited quantities are available and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.

All other orders will be accepted beginning January 1, 2013. Plants will be \$15 for bundles of ten plants and \$25 for bundles of 25 conifer trees. Order forms will be included in the Winter issue of "Conservation News," which will go out the last week of December and be posted on our website. For more information on our plant sale and detailed descriptions of the plants that will be offered for sale please visit our website: www.clallamcd.org

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT DEMO

We've teamed up with the City of Sequim to develop a low impact development (LID) demonstration site. The demonstration site will be located at the new Albert Haller Playfields at the city's water reuse site.

The demonstration site will include porous asphalt paving at the 100-space playfields parking lot, which is currently graveled. Through this project, a paved driving strip will be installed down the center of the parking lot. The parking spaces will remain gravel.

A biofiltration swale along the south side of the parking lot will be improved by amending the soils and planting suitable vegetation. A reclaimed water line will be extended to the biofiltration swale for irrigation and possible aquifer recharge.

A low water-use landscaping demonstration will be installed between the biofiltration swale and Bell Creek. The landscaping demonstration will include drought-tolerant species – primarily natives but exclusively – that are appropriate for home landscapes.

Installation of interpretive signs is also planned. Discussions are underway with potential project partners, including Sequim High School Future Farmers of America, Clallam County Master Gardeners, and the North Peninsula Building Association.

We are also partnering with WSU Extension on a rain garden mentors program. We will soon be soliciting applications from throughout Clallam County, including Port Angeles for possible installation of rain gardens.

AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION SYSTEM AUDIT PILOT PROJECT

Clallam Conservation District has received grant funding from the Department of Ecology to develop a pilot project to conduct audits of automatic irrigation systems. The irrigation system audit program is part of a larger water conservation education project that includes the low water-use landscaping demonstration described above, as well as classes and a brochure on sustainable landscaping.

We envision development of an incentive-based program that motivates homeowners and businesses with automatic sprinkler systems to have their systems evaluated for leaks and other problems, and make necessary repairs and adjustments to make them more efficient, thus conserve water. Our next step is formation of an advisory group.

Large Orders for 2013 Plant Sale	PRICE (Per 100 Plants)
Conifers	
Douglas Fir	\$60.00
Grand Fir	\$60.00
Shore Pine	\$55.00
Sitka Spruce	\$72.00
W. Red Cedar	\$82.00
Hardwoods	
Big Leaf Maple	\$117.00
Pacific Crab Apple	\$117.00
Rocky Mtn Maple	\$112.00
Red Alder	\$107.00
Vine Maple	\$112.00
Shrubs	
Blue Elderberry	\$87.00
Indian plum	\$117.00
Mock Orange	\$117.00
Nine Bark	\$112.00
Nootka Rose	\$82.00
Oregon Grape -Tall	\$117.00
Red Elderberry	\$107.00
Red Flowering Current	\$92.00
Red Osier Dogwood	\$87.00
Serviceberry	\$87.00
Snowberry	\$92.00
Thimbleberry	\$107.00
Twinberry	\$107.00

Fall Tips for Horse & Livestock Owners

Last year's high winds and heavy rains proved to be challenging for horses, livestock and their owners. Be sure you are prepared for bad weather by using our checklist:

- ✓ **Remove animals from pastures during winter.** This simple step will keep soil from becoming compacted and prevent overgrazing, which will help you to produce more grass come springtime. If you can't completely remove them from pasture then put animals in a smaller pasture with no waterways (streams, ditches, or ponds) and plan to reseed that pasture next spring so that weeds don't take over.
- ✓ **Create mud-free confinement areas for animals.** It may be too late this year to install one of these areas, but it is never too early to start planning for next year. (Call us to request a free copy of *A Guide to Creating Heavy Use Areas* for more detailed instructions.)
- ✓ **Check gutters and downspouts on barns and other animal facilities.** Leaves and needles will often build up in gutters, causing water to overflow out of gutters during storms, which can lead to more mud in confinement areas. Debris can also cause water to back-up in gutters, which in ice and snow events can cause gutters to be ripped off as snow falls off of roofs. Also it is never too late to install gutters and downspouts if you don't have them, just be sure to divert downspouts away from livestock areas to help minimize mud and runoff.
- ✓ **Ensure fresh water is available for stock watering even during freezing conditions.**
- ✓ **Store manure in a high and dry area and cover with a tarp.** Runoff from uncovered manure piles can contaminate surface or ground water, so ensure manure storage is far away from surface water and well heads. Also consider a site that you can easily push your wheelbarrow to dump even during dark nights.
- ✓ **Check fences.** Remove any low hanging branches or dead trees that might fall on fences during high winds. Consider having a battery powered fence charger in case of power failures.

Clallam Conservation District provides free technical assistance to horse and livestock owners. For more information on our services or to request publications on topics like growing healthier pastures, creating manure storage bins, or reducing on-farm mud please call 360-452-1912 ext. 5 or visit our website: www.clallamcd.org



Before: Animal feeding area turned into deep mud in the winter making manure removal nearly impossible.



After: Mud-free gravel footing allows for easy manure removal and feeding and healthier animals.



Downspout diverter diverts rainwater into stock tank. Float valve closes when the tank is full, diverting rainwater back down the downspout.

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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.

Conservation News reaches 3,300 readers four times a year.



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Clallam Conservation District is a subdivision 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 USDA Service Center, 1601 E. Front St., Bldg/Suite A in Port Angeles.

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CONSERVATION SERVICE

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WANT TO HELP US SAVE A TREE?
Join over 780 folks who are now receiving their newsletter by email. Call us at (360) 452-1912 ext. 5 or send an email to: ccd-info@conservewa.net to start receiving a newsletter electronically.

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