



DISTRICT ELECTIONS

The 2014 Clallam Conservation District annual Board of Supervisors election will be held in March. The Board of Supervisors will adopt a resolution setting the date, times and location of the election at the January 14, 2014 Board meeting. All Clallam County registered voters are eligible to vote.

The Board of Supervisors is comprised of five members, each serving a three-year term without compensation. Three of the five Supervisors are elected by registered Clallam County voters. The other two are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission. Linda Barnfather, Don Hatler, and Joe Murray are the three elected Supervisors. Matt Heins and Ben Smith are the two appointed Supervisors. The position held by Linda Barnfather is up for election this year.

Visit our website at www.clallamcd.org or call 360-775-3747 for more information on District elections or to volunteer to assist with elections.

AQUIFER RECHARGE: AFTER PIPING DITCHES, YOU WANNA DO WHAT?

Since 2000, over 45 miles of irrigation ditches in the Dungeness Valley have been piped, reducing water diversions from the Dungeness River by 25 percent. Over half of the 173 miles of the irrigation water conveyance system is now in pipe.

The leaky ditch phenomenon has been taking place in the Dungeness Valley for more than a century. And, throughout the first 60 years of irrigation, crops were irrigated by flooding fields, rendering some 2,600 acres of otherwise good farmland unsuitable for farming due to a high water table.



Typical infiltration ditch for aquifer recharge.

Irrigators have made great strides towards improved efficiency, some say becoming perhaps a little too efficient. The cessation of flood irrigation and piping of ditches has lowered the unnaturally high water table, thus affecting some of streams that grew accustomed to these artificial conditions over the past century.

We can mitigate these effects with aquifer recharge. Unlike the unintentional charging of the shallow aquifer of the past, today we have an opportunity to put water into the ground in a more deliberate and managed way. We can use the irrigation network to draw water from the Dungeness River when it is running consistently high (during the late spring and early summer snow melt period), and store water in the ground that would otherwise flow out to the bay. With few opportunities for above-ground water storage and a mountain snowpack predicted to be less reliable, aquifer recharge is perhaps our most attractive storage option.

Clallam Conservation District in partnership with the Dungeness Water Users Association and Washington Water Trust, are evaluating potential infiltration sites. Meanwhile, the City of Sequim is planning infiltration of reclaimed sewage water. You can expect to see the first projects implemented in 2014.

DUNGENESS' FIRST FULLY PIPED IRRIGATION SYSTEM NEARS COMPLETION

By the time irrigation season rolls around this April, nearly all of the Clallam Ditch Company, Cline Irrigation District and Dungeness Irrigation Group combined irrigation water conveyance system will consist of pressurized pipelines. This means the only water to be taken from the Dungeness River will be water that is actually used for irrigation or livestock water. Water will no longer be lost to leaky ditches nor spilled at the end of the system.

What began in 2001 as a small project to eliminate pollution from a Dungeness Irrigation Group (DIG) irrigation ditch, has resulted in over 30 miles of irrigation ditch in pipelines, zero polluted tailwater, and a nearly 50 percent reduction in water diversions from the Dungeness River.

The Clallam, Cline, and Dungeness (CCD) individual irrigation entities have long shared a diversion and fish screen on the river. And for nearly a century, the Clallam and Cline ditches crossed one another four times as the two entities delivered water to their respective users – Clallam in Carlsborg and Cline to the north – while the DIG system split off to deliver water toward the west. Few imagined the three entities would join forces to pipe their entire systems.

In 2001, we helped DIG pipe a major irrigation lateral that was spilling polluted tailwater at the end of the line into Mudd Creek, thus addressing a significant source of contamination to Matriotti Creek. A year later, Clallam's main lateral through Carlsborg, which dumped polluted tailwater into Matriotti Creek, was piped. Because the sources of contamination could not be detected, it was decided to simply pipe the entire lateral and cap the end. It was soon realized that closed-end pipelines resulted in a multitude of benefits beyond water quality improvement, including water and energy conservation, and reduced maintenance. Thus began the ambitious effort to put the entire CCD irrigation system into pipeline.



Cows in irrigation ditches; a thing of the past.



Irrigation pipeline installation.

We needed 20 separate grants over a dozen years, but working together we managed to get the job done. In addition to tackling pesky water quality problems, over 11 cubic feet per second of water was conserved. Put another way, annual Dungeness River water savings resulting from these irrigation efficiencies projects could flood about 3,400 football fields with a foot of water. This equals nearly half the total water savings from the projects of all seven Dungeness Valley irrigation districts and companies since 2000.

We salute you Clallam Ditch Company, Cline Irrigation District and Dungeness Irrigation Group on your remarkable achievement. It has been a true pleasure to provide you with technical and financial assistance during the past decade.



2014 Conservation District Plant Sale Ordering Information

PLANTS:

Plants are 1 to 2 year-old **bare-root seedlings** (no soil on the roots) ranging in size from 8" to 24". Plants are sold in **bundles of 10** of each species, except for conifer trees, which are also available in bundles of 25.

AVAILABILITY:

All plants are sold on a **first-come, first-served basis**. Plants must be pre-ordered by **February 13, 2014** for pick up on **March 1, 2014**. Quantities are limited and many species sell out, thus early orders are advised. In the event we cannot fill part or all of your order, a plant substitution or refund will be offered.

PLANT PICK UP:

Plants are available for pick-up on **March 1 (Saturday) at Lazy J Tree Farm** (located between Port Angeles and Sequim) from **10:00am to 12:00pm**. Unless prior arrangements are made, any plants not picked up on this date may be donated to restoration projects. Refunds will not be given for plants not picked up.

ORDERING:

Minimum order amount is \$25. All orders **must be prepaid**, either by cash or check. Sorry, we cannot accept credit cards. If paying with cash please have exact amount.

Orders will be taken until February 13, 2014

By Mail: Fill out the order form (available on our website starting December 31) and mail it along with a check payable to:

Clallam Conservation District
228 W. First Street, Suite H
Port Angeles, WA 98362

In Person: Stop by our office (Monday thru Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm)

Once we receive your order, a receipt will be mailed or emailed out to you with information on when and where to pick up your plants. We will also mail you a reminder notice a couple of weeks prior to pick up day.

VOLUNTEERS:

If you would like to help fill orders on February 21, help organize orders on February 28, or pass out plants on March 1, please call Meghan at (360) 775-3747 ext. 1. Your help is greatly appreciated.

QUESTIONS:



Visit our website at: www.clallamcd.org for additional articles on native plants. Also be sure to check out our updated photo document with descriptions of each plant, and **NEW** for this year, a section on beneficial uses of the plant.

OR

Give us a call at (360) 775-3747 ext. 5 or **Stop by our office** at 228 W 1st, Suite H in Port Angeles (top floor, west-end of the Armory Square building)

OR

Attend our Planting and Maintaining a Native Landscape Workshop. Participants will learn how to care for newly acquired native plants, including incorporating them into current landscape design, planting, and maintenance.

- **January 13, 2014** at the Port Angeles Public Library at 2210 South Peabody Street in Port Angeles from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. Space is limited so pre-registration is required. Please call (360) 775-3747 ext. 5 to register.



2014 Plant Descriptions



Species	Height (max.)	Plant Description / Use	Habitat
EVERGREEN TREES			
Douglas Fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	200'	Pyramid shaped with straight trunk & blue/green needles. Fast growing. Used for windbreaks, firewood & lumber.	Prefers full sun. Grows in all but the wettest conditions. Drought tolerant.
Grand Fir <i>Abies grandis</i>	140'-200'	Straight, stately, fast growing conifer. Glossy, dark green flat needles. Popular, fragrant Christmas tree.	Full sun to partial shade. Tolerant of varying soils and moisture conditions.
Shore Pine <i>Pinus contorta "contorta"</i>	15-100'	Relatively short conifer with variable form & crooked to straight trunk. Pine nuts favored by squirrel & song birds.	Full sun. Tolerates varying soils and moisture conditions from wet to well-drained.
Sitka Spruce <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	200'	Giant among trees. Stiff, sharp-pointed, pale green needles & droopy branches. Tolerance to salt spray.	Full sun to partial shade. Prefers deep, moist, well-drained soils.
Western Hemlock <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	140'-180'	Graceful, down-sweeping branches & feathery foliage.	Prefers shade. Grows best in deep, moist, well-drained soil, with high organic matter.
Western Red Cedar <i>Thuja plicata</i>	200'	Grand & long lived tree. Drooping branches hold flattened, spray-like branchlets with scaly leaves. Deer resistant.	Full sun to full shade. Tolerates saturated soils and seasonal flooding.
DECIDUOUS TREES			
Big Leaf Maple <i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	40-100'	Large, short trunked tree noted for giant leaves that provide shade in summer and turn golden yellow in the fall.	Full sun to partial shade. Moist to somewhat dry, well-drained soils.
Pacific Crabapple <i>Malus fusca</i>	40'	Slender tree or large shrub. Fragrant white to pink blossoms in spring. Crisp, sour, juicy pomes in fall.	Full sun to partial shade. Moist sites. Tolerates saturated soil.
Red Alder <i>Alnus rubra</i>	120'	Fast growing, short-lived tree. Fixes nitrogen. Often used for firewood. Speckled bark shows well in winter.	Full sun to partial shade. Adaptable to poor soils. Tolerates flooding and drought.
Rocky Mtn. Maple <i>Acer glabrum</i>	30'	Small deciduous tree with gray to brown bark, deep emerald green leaves & red petioles. Weather tolerant.	Full sun to partial shade. Dry to somewhat moist sites.
Vine Maple <i>Acer circinatum</i>	10-30'	Large shrub or small deciduous tree. Interesting bark coloration & vibrant fall color. Small red/purple flowers.	Full sun to partial shade. Dry to somewhat moist sites.
SHRUBS			
Blue Elderberry <i>Sambucus caerulea</i>	20'	Flat-topped clusters of creamy-white flowers. Ripe berries are dark blue & can be used for making pies, jams & wine.	Full sun to partial shade, moist to dry soils. Mostly found in clearings.
Indian Plum <i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	16'	Heralds early spring with pendant shaped, greenish white clusters of flowers. Purple fruits are favored by birds.	Full sun to full shade. Prefers partial shade. Moist to dry sites with well-drained soils.
Mock Orange <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	5-10'	Loosely branched shrub with bright green leaves. Showy white flowers, with a citrusy scent, appear in late spring.	Full sun to shade, prefers partial shade. Moist, well-drained to dry soils.
Ninebark (Pacific) <i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	13'	Multi-stemmed shrub with white pom-pom like flowers favored by bees & butterflies. Seeds feed songbirds.	Full sun to partial shade. Moist to wet sites, often near streams or wetlands.
Nootka Rose <i>Rosa nutkana</i>	8'	Robust, thorny rose. Large, fragrant, pink flowers in spring, bright red berries in winter. Great for hedgerows.	Full sun to partial shade. Fairly dry to wet sites. Tolerates saturated soil.
Oceanspray <i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	15'	Bushy shrub with showy white, cascading flower clusters. Seeds persist into winter season.	Full sun to partial shade. Dry to moist sites with well-drained soil. Drought tolerant.
Oregon Grape Short <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	2'	Broadleaved evergreen shrub with holly-like leaves. Clusters of yellow flowers and dark blue berries. Pairs well with native snowberry for a stunning garden arrangement.	Full sun to full shade. Dry to moist sites with well-drained soil.
Red Elderberry <i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	10-20'	Arching stemmed shrub with white flower clusters and red berries. Attractive to butterflies & birds. Hollow stems can be used to make flutes or toy whistles.	Full sun to partial shade, moist to somewhat dry sites.
Red Flowering Currant <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	3-12'	Deciduous shrub with brilliant display of ornamental carmine red flowers that attract butterflies and hummingbirds.	Full sun to partial shade. Well-drained, dry to somewhat moist soils.
Red Osier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	15'	Many-stemmed shrub. White flowers & blue/white berries. Red-purple leaves in fall. Red twigs in winter.	Full sun to partial shade, moist, well-drained soil. Tolerates seasonal flooding.
Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	10-25'	Multi-stemmed shrub/tree with clusters of showy white flowers. Dark purple fruit loved by birds. Nice fall color.	Full sun to partial shade, moist to dry sites with well-drained soil. Drought tolerant.
Snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	5-6'	Delicate but dense, twiggy, spreading shrub. Small clusters of pink flowers in spring & white berries in summer.	Full sun to partial shade. Dry to wet sites.
Thimbleberry <i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	2-10'	Soft velvety leaves, large white flowers, & tasty red berries. Favored food for birds, squirrels & chipmunks.	Full sun to partial shade. Intolerant of saturated soils.
Twinberry <i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	12'	Woody, branching shrub with conjoined yellow tubular flowers & glossy black berries framed by maroon bracts.	Prefers shade. Commonly found in moist sites near streams or wetlands.

Horse on graveled heavy use area.



ATTENTION HORSE & LIVESTOCK OWNERS

Our spring newsletter, due to hit mailboxes in early March, will feature a brand new workshop series for horse & livestock owners! The series will consist of tours of local farms that have constructed mud-free heavy use areas for livestock and guest speakers such as veterinarians, farriers, and farmers. Topics will speak to a variety of animal husbandry topics including parasite control, pastures, weeds, and manure management. You can attend the entire series or pick a few sessions that are of particular interest.

Space for the workshops will be limited so we encourage you to contact the Conservation District and asked to be added to our "2014 Livestock Workshop Series Call/Email List." You will be notified as soon as workshop dates are announced.

WSU CULTIVATING SUCCESS:

Intro to Sustainable Farming & Ranching

This year, WSU Clallam and Jefferson will be teaming up to teach a joint class of "Cultivating Success: Intro to Sustainable Farming and Ranching" for North Olympic Peninsula beginning farmers. This class provides beginning and expanding farmers with planning and decision-making tools, production skills, and support necessary to develop or improve their sustainable small farm or ranch. In fact, many of our local farmers have taken the class over the years! If you are thinking about starting a farming enterprise or are in the beginning stages of developing a farm business, consider taking this exciting and informative class.

Classes will be held on Wednesdays, January 22 to March 19 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the Gardiner Community Center in Sequim. The class also includes three Saturday field trips to farms. Cost is \$250 per household and class size is limited. Visit Brown Paper Tickets to register <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/531156> or contact Kellie Henwood at WSU Extension by phone (360) 379-5610 x 201 or email: fieldinternship@gmail.com



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 360-775-3747 ext. 5 or visit www.clallamcd.org

POLLUTION IDENTIFICATION & CORRECTION (PIC) UPDATE

Clallam Conservation District (CCD) is leading the effort to develop a PIC plan for the Clean Water District (CWD). The goal of the PIC plan is to better coordinate existing pollution identification and clean-up efforts among local agencies and organizations. PIC stakeholders, comprised of CWD members and interested citizens, are meeting monthly to develop the plan.

Currently a sub-committee is developing a Trends Water Quality Monitoring program that will conduct monthly water quality monitoring at or near the mouths of streams located within the Clean Water District. The goal of the monitoring effort is to provide long-term water quality trends and to identify streams that are impacted by pollution. Data from this program will be used to prioritize streams impacted by pollution for clean-up through the PIC program.

PIC planning meetings typically take place on the 4th Thursday of every month at the Sequim Library (1:00-3:00pm) and are open to the public. Visit the District's newly created PIC page on the website (www.clallamcd.org) for notes from past PIC planning meetings, agendas for upcoming meetings, and to learn more about the PIC planning process. Contact Jennifer Bond (CCD) at 360-775-3747 x 2 or jennifer.bond@clallamcd.org for more information.

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.

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

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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 1st St., Suite H in Port Angeles.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Joe Murray, Chair
Ben Smith, Vice-Chair
Don Hatler, Auditor
Matt Heins, Member
Linda Barnfather, Member

DISTRICT STAFF

(360) 775-3747 ext. 5

District Manager: Joe Holtrop
Admin. Assistant: Beth Loveridge

Conservation Planners:
Meghan Adamire & Jennifer Bond

NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jim Poffel
(360) 452-8994 ext. 101

WANT TO HELP US SAVE A TREE?

Join over 800 folks who are now receiving their newsletter by email. Call us at (360) 775-3747 ext. 5 or send an email to: info@clallamcd.org to start receiving a newsletter electronically.

⇒ **Horse and Livestock workshops**

⇒ **Irrigation Piping Updates**

⇒ **Native Plant Sale**

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**CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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