



# JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017

## 2017 NATIVE PLANT SALE

Jefferson County Conservation District is excited to host our 23rd Annual Native Plant Sale on **Saturday, February 25th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the **Jefferson County Fairgrounds (Horticulture Building)**. The 2017 order form is included in this newsletter. It is also available at our office and on our website: [www.jeffersoncd.org](http://www.jeffersoncd.org).

To ensure that you get the species you want, place your order early. *Due to unforeseen growing challenges, the District cannot guarantee that every species will be available.* If one becomes unavailable, we will issue a refund or make an exchange for a suitable alternative.

This year we are offering 33 species including: conifers, deciduous trees and shrubs, and evergreen shrubs. These native plants create beautiful and hardy landscapes, provide erosion control, and supply food, shade and shelter to birds and other wildlife. Plants are available in bundles of **5** with a minimum of **10 plants** per order.

**All plant orders are DUE by Monday, February 13th. Please include payment (cash or check) with your order.** Expect to receive your order confirmation postcard approximately one week prior to the sale. **Please bring the postcard to the pick-up** as it helps us track orders.

**A Limited** number of plants will be available for purchase on the day of the sale.

### COMING UP:

**Native Plant Workshop**  
**Friday, December 9th, 9 a.m. to Noon**  
**Chimacum Grange Hall**

JCCD and community partners in conservation are hosting a native plant workshop that is **FREE** and **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**. Learn about the characteristics and benefits of the native plant species that are available from our native plant sale and all about where and how to plant them. Staff from JCCD, and other plant and natural resource experts in our community, will be available to answer general landscaping to species-specific questions and to share information about local resources. Join us for the fun event!



**JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT** looks forward to hosting a variety of educational workshops in 2017! To stay up-to-date on these opportunities:

Visit [www.jeffersoncd.org](http://www.jeffersoncd.org), Like us on Facebook, E-mail us at

[info@jeffersoncd.org](mailto:info@jeffersoncd.org) or Call us at **360.385.4105**.

## 2017 District Election and Appointment

A poll-site election for a Board Supervisor seat on the Jefferson County Conservation District (JCCD) will be held on March 1, 2017, at 205 W Patison Street, in Port Hadlock, Washington. Polls will open at 3:00 p.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Registered voters who reside within the JCCD boundary are eligible to vote. Candidates must be registered voters residing in the JCCD. The candidate filing deadline is February 1, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. Election procedures are available at the JCCD. Absentee ballots are available upon request for eligible voters, but must be requested on or before 4:00 p.m. on February 8, 2017. In addition, a Board seat on the JCCD is available for appointment by the Washington State Conservation Commission. An applicant must be a registered voter in Washington State, but does not have to live within the JCCD to apply. Application forms and supporting materials must be received by the Commission no later than March 31, 2017.

There are five Conservation District Board Supervisors who serve three-year terms. Three of the five Supervisors are locally elected, and the other two Supervisors are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission. Conservation District Board Supervisors are public officials who serve without compensation, and set policy and direction for the Conservation District.

To obtain election forms, application forms, and/or an absentee ballot, please contact the Jefferson County Conservation District at 360-385-4105 or [info@jeffersoncd.org](mailto:info@jeffersoncd.org), or visit the Washington State Conservation Commission website at [www.scc.wa.gov](http://www.scc.wa.gov). The Jefferson County Conservation District Office is located at 205 W Patison Street, in Port Hadlock, Washington, and is open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays.

## WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

### What We Do & Our Priorities

#### Water Quality & Quantity: Protection, Improvement, & Monitoring

We monitor the health of our streams in order to identify and prioritize areas in need of protection, to show trends of improvement or degradation, and to educate the public about how our daily lives impact our local water. We provide technical assistance to landowners to implement projects that address water quality resource concerns and that conserve and manage stormwater.

#### Habitat Conservation and Enhancement

Our work focuses on improving riparian habitat through the removal of invasive weeds, establishment of native plant buffers, and creation of more diversity within the riparian system. We assist Jefferson County citizens in being stewards of the area's natural resources through workshops and our Annual Native Plant Sale.

#### Support for Working Lands

The District provides Farm Planning & Agricultural Assistance to producers in order to make farms more economically sustainable, while reducing negative impacts on soil and water resources through voluntary stewardship opportunities. We assist producers in managing agricultural drainage through permitting assistance and riparian enhancement projects. We assist landowners in building healthy pastures and soil tilth through our Soil Testing Program, Tool Share Program, and Pasture Management Workshops. We also assist small forest owners with forest management practices and risk assessment.

#### Collaborative Watershed Management

Our strong local partnerships support the continued health and viability of Jefferson County's natural resources and working lands. We assist landowners and local conservation planners in making decisions regarding drainage management, reed canarygrass management, and beaver activity management in the Chimacum Creek watershed that balance wildlife habitat needs and the need to protect private property and resources – with a focus on agricultural lands.

### Staff News

JCCD Staff continues to develop and build technical skills and knowledge to better serve landowners in Jefferson County:

- ◇ Technical Assistant, Craig Schrader, has spent the last year completing his Conservation Planner Certification through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). As a certified planner, he can better assist agricultural producers and landowners in meeting sustainable land use goals.
- ◇ Forestry and CREP Specialist, Jerry Clarke, recently attended a Firewise and Risk Assessment Training that focused on the Firewise Communities/USA Program and on the risk assessment process.
- ◇ JCCD staff attended a Shorelines Technical Assistance Workshop to improve the technical support and resources we offer waterfront residents, so they can make informed, cost-effective and environmentally-friendly decisions about shoreline management.

District Manager, Jill Zarzeczny, was recognized by the State Conservation Commission as the 2016 District Manager of the Year for the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Northwest Area in October.

#### Chimacum Creek Protection and Restoration Plan

JCCD is a partner in a collaborative project by local organizations in Jefferson County to develop and implement a protection and restoration strategy and engage agricultural landowners for improving riparian habitat on Chimacum Creek. The project includes a Riparian Management Plan that will act as a tool to assist landowners in making management decisions for the riparian areas on their property. It will describe the suite of best management practices that can be implemented to meet sustainable land use goals.

The North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC) is the lead sponsor of this project. Partners include: Jefferson Land Trust (JLT), Washington State University Jefferson County Extension (WSU), Jefferson County Conservation District (JCCD), and the Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board (JCNWCB). Funding is provided by the National Estuaries Program, through a grant administered by the Washington Department of Ecology.

## Buffers Make a Difference

After years of planting trees along the banks of Chimacum Creek, we are beginning to see measureable downward trends in water temperature. As in many watersheds in western Washington during the pioneering years, much of Chimacum Creek’s soil-rich floodplains were cleared of trees all the way to the stream’s edge. As is occurring in many watersheds in recent years, stream buffers are being planted with a variety of native deciduous and coniferous trees.

Since 1998, the District has been monitoring water temperature in Chimacum Creek with data loggers recording the temperature every hour. In the 15-year period from 1998 to 2013, water temperature has decreased 1.8°F on the Main Stem and 3.6°F on the East Fork. The cooler water should improve conditions for the salmon and trout and may increase their survival. If you own land on Chimacum Creek or on another stream that would benefit from increased shade, you could be receiving annual rent of about \$300 per acre by enrolling it in the Conservation Reserve Enhanced Program. Anyone interested should talk to Jerry Clarke at the District office.

### Cost-Share: Enabling On-the-ground Improvements



This year, the District has undertaken four cost-share projects to improve drainage, protect water quality and enhance salmon habitat. Two of those projects are featured here. Above: A small creek was cleaned out and enhanced to improve fish habitat and a livestock crossing was installed to protect water quality. Below: Gutters, downspouts, and pipes were installed on a large barn to prevent damage to the barn’s foundation and to protect water quality.





# Jefferson County Conservation District

205 W. Patison St.  
Port Hadlock, WA 98339  
www.jeffersoncd.org

Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**

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*"The function of the Jefferson County Conservation District is to take available technical, financial and educational resources – whatever their source – and focus or coordinate them to meet the needs of the local land user."*

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## **Some of our Accomplishments from 2016**

- ◆ 5,240 native trees and shrubs planted in riparian buffers
- ◆ 8,630 feet of stream exclusion fencing installed
- ◆ 4 cost-share projects with local landowners
- ◆ 49 site visits for technical assistance
- ◆ 50 site tests completed
- ◆ 5 educational workshops with 100 participants
- ◆ 54 stream sites monitored for temperature or fecal coliform
- ◆ 7,695 native plants sold at our annual sale with the help of 23 volunteers
- ◆ 10 volunteers conducted fish trap surveys at 7 stream sites

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Lige Christian..... 732-7035  
 Julie Boggs.....732-4335  
 Mike McFadden, Vice-Chair.....301-0855  
 Glen Huntingford.....732-4658  
 Roger Short, Chair.....732-4601

### **Associate Supervisors**

Al Latham.....732-4607  
 John Boulton.....765-3394

### **District Staff**

Jill Zarzeczny—District Manager  
 Glenn Gately—Water Quality Technician  
 Jerry Clarke—Conservation Planner/Resource Specialist  
 Tracy Kier— Office & Financial Manager  
 Craig Schrader—Technical Assistant

### **NRCS Resource Conservationist**

Jim Poffel—360-452-1912, ext. 3

*Jefferson County Conservation District office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The office is located in the Shold Business Park, in Port Hadlock.  
 Contact us at the address above or: 360-385-4105  
[www.jeffersoncd.org](http://www.jeffersoncd.org)  
[info@jeffersoncd.org](mailto:info@jeffersoncd.org)*