



JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018

2018 NATIVE PLANT SALE

Jefferson County Conservation District is excited to host our 24th Annual Native Plant Sale on **Saturday, March 3rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds (Horticulture Building)**. The 2018 order form is included in this newsletter. It is also available at our office and on our website: 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 35 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 Friday, February 16th. 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.

COMING UP:

Native Plant Workshop
Friday, December 8th, 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 2018! To stay up-to-date on these opportunities:

Visit www.jeffersoncd.org, Like us on Facebook, E-mail us at

info@jeffersoncd.org or Call us at **360.385.4105**.

2018 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 7, 2018, 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, and may be required to own land or operate a farm. The candidate filing deadline is February 7, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. Election procedures are available at the JCCD. Absentee ballots are available upon request for eligible voters, and must be requested on or before 4:00 p.m. on February 14, 2018. In addition, a Board seat on the JCCD is available for appointment by the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC). An applicant must be a registered voter in Washington State, does not have to live within the JCCD to apply, and may be required to own land or operate a farm. Application

forms for appointed seats, and supporting materials, must be received by the WSCC no later than March 31, 2018.

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, or visit the WSCC website at www.scc.wa.gov. The JCCD office is located at 205 W Patison Street, in Port Hadlock, Washington, and is open Monday through Wednesday, 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 storm water.

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.

A large share of the services we provide are funded through the State capital budget which was not completed in the last legislative session. JCCD is pursuing other funding through a federal program that offers similar services as a means of continuing our vital conservation work with volunteer landowners while we wait for restored funding to the programs we have traditionally provided.

JCCD has managed its finances conservatively but has a limited reserve fund to see our way through this budget shortfall and we have reduced staff hours accordingly. Severe reductions in staffing and all services will be necessary if the State legislature fails to pass a full budget before July 1, 2018.

If you are concerned about the potential loss of the services that JCCD provides, please contact your State Senator and Representatives and express your desire to see funding restored.

JCCD New District Manager Al Cairns

Water quality has been the common thread in Al's varied career path.

As a licensed Merchant Marine Engineer he spent nearly twenty years operating shipboard machinery in ways that kept marine waters safe from pollutants. As Jefferson County's Solid Waste Coordinator he ensured that operations were consistent with environmental protection as the highest priority. And as the Port of Port Townsend's Environmental Compliance Officer he worked with Port personnel and marine trade tenants at the Boat Haven to create a culture of resource stewardship that worked together to protect Port Townsend Bay from pollutants created in the repair of boats.

Al couldn't be happier to now work with farmers and foresters toward the better stewardship of our commons.

Family Forest & Fish Passage Program FFFPP



FFFPP is a state funded program to remove fish barriers on private forest landowners property. This years project replaced two fish barriers. One located on Donovan Creek and one on Rice Creek, both near Quilcene.



The old bridge had collapsed into the creek making passage difficult for fish and impossible for the landowner during high winter flow events. The solution was a thirty foot steel bridge and raising the road elevation 3 feet. A win - win solution for the fish and the landowner.

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 above: Two water management projects were completed which involved gutters, fencing, manure storage, heavy use areas and a livestock watering facility. Below, a CREP buffer established in 2002 was renewed for another 15 year period.





Jefferson County Conservation District

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

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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."



Some of our Accomplishments from 2017

- ◆ 7505 native trees and shrubs planted in riparian buffers
- ◆ 3800 feet of stream exclusion fencing installed
- ◆ 4 cost-share projects with local landowners
- ◆ 138 site visits for technical assistance
- ◆ 38 soil tests completed
- ◆ 7 educational workshops with 140 participants
- ◆ 50 stream sites monitored for temperature or fecal coliform
- ◆ 8145 native plants sold at our annual sale with the help of 25 volunteers
- ◆ 7 volunteers conducted fish trap surveys at 5 stream sites

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Lige Christian..... 732-7035
 Julie Boggs.....732-4335
 Al Latham, Vice-Chair.....732-4607
 Glen Huntingford, Chair732-4658
 Roger Short.....732-4601

Associate Supervisors

John Boulton.....765-3394

District Staff

Al Cairns—District Manager
 Glenn Gately—Fishery Biologist/Water Quality Technician
 Jerry Clarke—Conservation Planner/Resource Specialist
 Tracy Kier— Office Manager/Financial Specialist
 Craig Schrader—Farm Conservation Planner

NRCS District Conservationist

Sarah Tanuvasa—360-428-7684, ext. 131

Jefferson County Conservation District office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. The office is located at 205 W Patison Street, in Port Hadlock, Washington. Contact us at the address above or: 360-385-4105
www.jeffersoncd.org
info@jeffersoncd.org