



JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WINTER 2019/2020

New Faces and New Partnerships

WELCOME CITY OF PORT TOWNSEND

Port Townsend residents have made up half or more of our program customers but the City was never formally part of the Conservation District's official boundary. Port Townsend City Council members spoke with Conservation District staff and supporters at two council meetings in July about the possible benefits of redrawing the service area to include City properties. We are delighted to now have a service area that officially includes all of Jefferson County and we look forward to continuing to serve all of our Port Townsend customers.

PLANT SALE AND NATIVE PLANT WORKSHOP BUDDING AGAIN



Thanks to the City's incorporation into the Conservation District's service area, we again have adequate funding to offer our popular **Native Plant Sale**, February 29th, 2020, at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Many of our customers have asked that we offer ordering and payment online and we are happy to provide

this service this year.

Plants can be ordered on-line beginning December 4th at jeffersoncd.org or by check at our office at 205 W. Patison St., Port Hadlock.

Our **Native Plant Workshop** is made even better this year through a partnership with Washington State University Extension's Master Gardeners. Our friends at the Master Gardeners will be joining us for an in-depth discussion on how to select and care for the plants offered through our plant sale. Please join us at the Chimacum Grange at 9572 Rhody Drive on December 10th at 6 PM for this workshop.

NEW ADDITION



Sharon Yeh has joined our staff as Conservation Planner. Since 2005, Sharon has been fostering the relationship between people and their land, most recently as the Recreation, Lands, and Heritage Program Manager with Olympic National Forest. Sharon earned her undergraduate degree in Social Welfare and Sociology from University of California, Berkeley, and dual graduate degrees in Environmental Management and Forestry at Duke University.

When not in the office, you can find Sharon on the trail climbing mountains, wildcrafting, and biking with her husband Terence and two funny, quirky children.

OUR WORK IN 2019

To date this year we have assisted nearly 800 customers with technical assistance by phone, in the field or in the office on everything from soil health to finding antique tractor parts.

We removed a barrier to returning salmon on Naylor Creek by replacing a failing culvert with a new bridge.

Before



After



Almost three and a half miles of fencing has been installed to exclude livestock from streams in the Discovery Bay and Chimacum watersheds.

Over six acres of stream banks have been planted with native trees and shrubs to provide shade for our salmon.

Several barns were fitted with gutters and water storage tanks to control stormwater and provide water to livestock in the summer.

And financing for a large composting facility and stormwater control was provided on two farms to improve water quality in Quilcene Bay.

These projects brought State and Federal dollars to Jefferson County's farmers and private foresters to improve their operations while benefiting our shared natural resources.

NEW IN 2020

Next year we will be deepening the expertise we can provide to our soil testing customers. We will be accepting soil samples at our office for a limited period in both the Spring and Fall and then will provide workshops with soil health experts from WSU Extension and elsewhere to answer questions about the results of the soil tests and how to improve soil ecology for optimal plant growth. Check our website in early 2020 for dates on sample intake and workshops.

WHAT WE DO

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.



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 and Biochar Workshops. We also assist small forest owners with forest management practices and risk assessment.

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.



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 – with a focus on agricultural lands.

Support for Working Lands

The District provides Farm Planning & Agricultural Assistance to producers in order to make farms more economically sustainable,



CONSERVATION DISTRICT ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT NEWS

A poll-site election for an elected Board Supervisor seat on the Jefferson County Conservation District (JCCD) will be held on March 3, 2020, at the Chimacum Grange #681 located at 9572 Rhody Drive in Chimacum, 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 for elected positions must be registered voters residing in the JCCD, and may be required to be landowners or operators of a farm. The candidate filing deadline is February 4, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. Election procedures are available at JCCD. Absentee ballots are available upon request for eligible voters, and must be requested on or before 4:00 p.m. on February 11, 2020. 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 (WSCC). There is

an appointed Board seat on the JCCD open for appointment by the WSCC in 2020. 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 be a landowner or operator of a farm. Applications for appointed seats must be received by the WSCC no later than March 31, 2020. Conservation District Board Supervisors are public officials who serve without compensation, and set policy and direction for the Conservation District. To obtain election forms and/or an absentee ballot, please contact the JCCD at 360-385-4105 or info@jeffersoncd.org. To apply for the open appointed position, please contact the WSCC at www.scc.wa.gov. The JCCD 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.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Al Latham, Chair.....(360) 732-4607
Julie Boggs, Vice-Chair.....(360) 732-4335
Lige Christian..... (360) 732-7035
Janet Aubin.....(360) 821-2226
Laurie Hannon.....(509) 301-2220

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

John Boulton.....(360) 765-3394
Erik Kingfisher.....(360)379-9501

DISTRICT STAFF

Glenn Gately, Fishery Biologist/Water Quality Technician
Tracy Kier, Office Manager/Financial Specialist
Sharon Yeh, Conservation Planner/Resource Specialist
Al Cairns, District Manager

CONTACT US

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