



# JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2014

## 2014 NATIVE PLANT SALE

### *Trees and Shrubs for Wildlife and Conservation*

The twentieth annual Jefferson County Conservation District native plant sale is set for **Saturday, February 22nd, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the **Jefferson County Fairgrounds in the Horticulture Building**. The order form is included in this newsletter, and is also available at the office, or on our website [www.jeffersoncd.org](http://www.jeffersoncd.org).

To make certain you get the trees you want, be sure to order your trees early. *Keep in mind the district cannot guarantee that every species will be available.* If a species is unobtainable, we will issue refunds or work with you to exchange for another specie.

This year we offer 33 different species including: conifers, deciduous trees and shrubs, and evergreen shrubs, that can help you meet landscaping needs, provide erosion control, and provide food, shade and shelter for birds and other animals. This year we are offering plants in bundles of **5** with minimum of **2** bundles per order. Several new species are available this year. We encourage you to look at our website for photos and more descriptive information on characteristics, growth habits, site preferences and best uses for all species we have available.

All excess trees will be available for purchase on sale day. For those of you who do pre-order, expect to receive your order conformation **postcard** approximately one week prior to the sale. To help track order pick-ups **please bring your postcard with you when you come by the Fairgrounds to pick up your order.**

**Order Deadline is: Friday, February 14th, 2014 Please include payment with your order. Note:** we cannot accept creditcards.

**DELIVERY TO QUILCENE! Pre-order pickup ONLY (no sales) available in Quilcene at the Community Center on Saturday, February 22nd, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, for south county residents who have placed orders and paid for them. Be sure to indicate on the order form if you need to pick up your order in Quilcene!**

## NATIVE PLANT and BUFFER WORKSHOPS PLANNED!

JCCD and our partners will host a native plant workshop on **Friday, January 17, 2014 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Chimacum Grange Hall, in Chimacum, WA.** Learn about the characteristics and benefits of the native plant species we'll have for sale, and where and how to plant them! Staff from JCCD & North Olympic Salmon Coalition, along with native plant experts will be available to answer landscaping and plant species questions, and assist with sale ordering. The workshop is free. For more information contact the district office at 385-4105 or email us at [info@jeffersoncd.org](mailto:info@jeffersoncd.org).



**Jefferson County Conservation District looks forward to hosting a series of educational workshops in 2014.** Workshops we hope to include are: Integrated Pest Management; Noxious Weed Identification and Management; Living on the Edge: Buffer Management; Manure and Mud Management; Rainwater Harvesting & Pin Foundations; Horses for Clean Water; Healthy Animals/Healthy Land: Calculating Sustainable Animal Carrying Capacity; Backyard Wildlife Habitat; Composting & Vermiculture; Heritage Chicken Farming; Farm Plan Coaching Sessions; Climate Change Action Workgroup. **Check our website for details or contact Dana at 360-385-4105, or by email at [dana@jeffersoncd.org](mailto:dana@jeffersoncd.org).**

## DISTRICT ELECTION DATE TO BE SET



**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County Conservation District will hold a meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., at the District Office located at 205 W Patison Street, Port Hadlock, Washington, for the purpose of adopting a resolution setting the date, time, and location of an election to fill a Conservation District Supervisor's expiring term. Any questions may be directed to the District Office at 360-385-4105 or [info@jeffersoncd.org](mailto:info@jeffersoncd.org).

There are five Conservation District board members who serve three-year terms. Three of the five Conservation District supervisors are locally elected, and the Washington State Conservation Commission appoints two. Supervisors set policy and direction for the district, and are public officials serving without compensation. It is preferable that candidates have a good understanding of the goals and operations of the Conservation District.

Contact the district office at 360-385-4105, or contact the Conservation Commission in Olympia at 360-407-6200 for more information.

## WHAT IS NEW AT THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

We are happy to welcome Tracy Kier and Dana Ecelberger to our District office in Port Hadlock.



This year we will be offering bundles of 5, instead of 10, plants at our annual Tree Sale! This allows you a chance to mix and match for smaller properties or more diverse plantings.

We are now offering a soil testing service. You will be able to bring your samples in once monthly and we will help you understand and incorporate the results into your farm or garden plan.

“Like” us at our new Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/jeffersoncountyconservationdistrict>

Dana was hired as District Manager in November and comes with a background in organic farming, stormwater management, native plant landscaping, restoration, and project management. With a Bachelor’s in Environmental Studies and a Master’s in Sustainable Development she has a balanced approach to managing the needs of people and the environment. She spent 23 years running a small, intensive, certified organic farm that distributed directly to restaurants and local grocery stores and she has a strong connection to farming, marketing and the triple bottom line. Dana feels that in moving to Port Townsend, she has finally found home and in coming to work with the Conservation District she has finally found her life’s work. Keep an eye on our website for new workshops and services offered as Dana settles into her new role.

Tracy Kier became the District’s Administrative Assistant in February, 2013. Tracy has a paralegal degree, and 31 combined years of experience working for legal and municipal organizations, and special purpose districts. She specializes in governmental office management and finance, and has extensive experience supporting Boards and the public meeting process. Tracy says it is her intense love of nature, the marine environment, and the country atmosphere that makes Jefferson County the perfect place for her to live, work, and play. Her greatest joy comes when spending time with her husband, children, and twelve grandchildren. Tracy is a positive, pleasant addition to the District, and is excited to be supporting the community’s conservation efforts.

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## SERVICES THE DISTRICT OFFERS

### **CREP:** Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

This program provides incentives to landowners to restore and improve fish habitat on private land. New practices in CREP include Hedgerow buffers, Wetland enhancements, and Grass filter strips.

**FORESTRY:** Information and on site discussion about your forested property is available. Programs available include EQIP Environmental Quality Incentives Program, FFFPP Family Forest Fish Passage Program.

**NATIVE PLANTS:** Information and assistance available for selection and use of native plants in landscaping and site restoration.

**FARM PLANNING:** Site visits, mud and manure management, noxious weed control, water management information and detailed planning available..

**COST SHARE:** The district manages cost share programs to help landowner install practices on their land that protect water quality.

**SOIL TESTING:** The Conservation District will offer soil testing beginning in 2014. Please call for more information and details on this program.

**WORKSHOPS:** This year we will be offering a wide range of workshops on topics ranging from better farming practices to how to create a Backyard Wildlife habitat and everything in between. We welcome your suggestions.

### **2013 FFFPP Completed Project**

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program is a opportunity for small forest landowners to improve fish passage on forest land. Undersized or old pipes in stream crossings may be a barrier to fish making potential habitat inaccessible.

This completed project involved removing an undersized culvert that caused damage to a road, due to flood waters backing up, as well as a barrier to migrating Chum salmon.

The project solution was to install a 40’ weathering steel bridge and reinforce the banks.

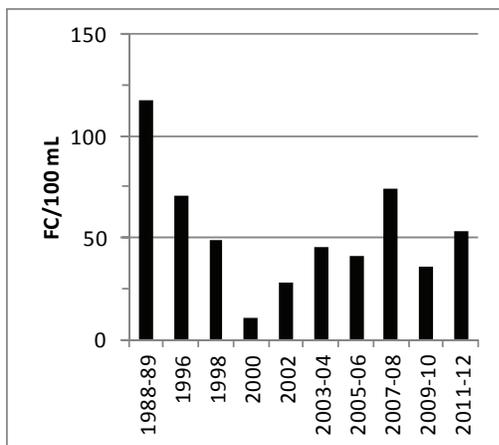


If you have roads with stream crossings on your forestland give us a call and we will have it evaluated for including in this program.

## Microbial Source Tracking in the Chimacum Watershed

The Conservation District has been tracking fecal coliform bacteria in Chimacum Creek and tributaries for a number of years. Fecal coliform bacteria occur in the gastro-intestinal tract of human and warm-blooded animals including birds. Their presence in stream water is an indicator of potential pathogens coming from livestock and failing septic systems as well as from wildlife. The higher the fecal coliform concentration is in the water, the greater is the risk of disease to humans. People may become sick by ingesting contaminated water from activities such as swimming or by eating contaminated shellfish.

The chart below shows the average fecal coliform concentration in samples collected at Irontdale Road during 12-month monitoring-periods since 1988-89. Washington Department of



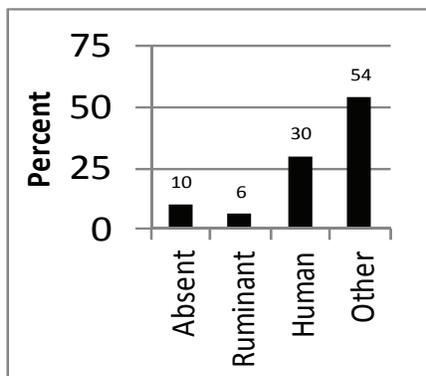
Ecology’s standard requires the average concentration to be less than 50 FC/100 milliliters. The standard was slightly exceeded in 2011-12.

The question is always asked, “What is the source of the bacteria”? Until recently, we could not positively say. However in 2011-12, under an Environmental Protection Agency grant administered by Jefferson County Environmental Health, we conducted Microbial Source Tracking or MST in addition to fecal coliform analysis.

MST involves the DNA analysis of *Bacteroides* spp., another group of bacteria which live in the gastro-intestinal tracts of humans and warm-blooded animals.

The advantage of identifying these bacteria is that each host animal carries a specific kind of *Bacteroides*. DNA analysis conducted by the EPA lab differentiates between three possible sources: human, ruminant, and “other.” Ruminants include cattle, sheep, goats, buffalo, elk, and deer; “other” could be any animal (including birds) except human and ruminant.

DNA analysis was conducted on a total of 240 samples collected monthly at 20 monitoring stations. The chart below shows the percentage of samples from each of the possible sources. Six



percent of the samples tested positive for ruminants compared to 30 percent for humans. Although the category “other” was highest at 54 percent, some of this could actually be human or ruminant. The reason for this is that in lab splits, where a sample is divided into two parts, one part would test positive for human or ruminant and the other part would not and therefore would be categorized as “other.” Thus, the actual percentages attributed to humans and ruminants are probably higher.

The bottom line is that we should do what we can to protect human health by doing our best to keep both human and animal waste out of our streams and marine water. The Conservation District offers free technical assistance and has cost-share programs to help manage your livestock and Jefferson County Environmental Health offers assistance in maintaining and repairing your septic system. Give us a call. We are here to help!



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."*

## Notes & Resources

JCCD can provide technical assistance for your forestry questions and concerns. We can help you with site-specific planning and forest health recommendations depending on your situation and needs. No parcel is too large or small for general forestland, and native vegetation, site specific management recommendations.

Site planning allows a landowner to understand and examine current resource conditions and then to develop an organized strategy for management of the site resources for a desired future condition or outcome. Contact the district office to schedule a site visit, or call us with your forest land questions.

There are also other programs available: The Natural Resource Conservation Service has several programs that address forestry, including The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

The Wa. Dept. of Natural Resources Small Forest Landowners Office also administers programs, such as the Family Forest Fish Passage Program, to replace or remove culverts that are impeding fish passage, and the Forest Riparian Easement Program, that protects forests along streams and waterways, for qualifying forests.

Upcoming class of interest to farmers & ranchers:

*Cultivating Success: Introduction to Sustainable Farming & Ranching*  
*Wednesdays January 22-March 19, 6-9pm. Located at the Gardiner*  
*Community Center in Sequim.* Visit Brown Paper Tickets to register <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/531156> or contact Kellie Henwood at WSU Extension (360) 379-5610 ext 201 [fieldinternship@gmail.com](mailto:fieldinternship@gmail.com)

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Lige Christian.....732-7035  
 Julie Boggs, Chair.....732-4335  
 Mike Mcfadden, Vice-Chair.....765-3312  
 Glen Huntingford..... 732-4658  
 Roger Short..... 732-4601

### **Associate Supervisors**

Al Latham.....732-4607

### **District Staff**

Dana Ecelberger—District Manager  
 Glenn Gately—Water Quality Technician  
 Jerry Clarke—CREP Planner/Resource Specialist  
 Tracy Kier— Administrative 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 Friday. The office is located in the Shold Business Park, (just off Rhody Dr.) 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)*