Thurston Conservation District

Other Accomplishments

Sept 2007 – August 2008:

- 214 Best Management Practices were installed.
- 4.65 acres of riparian vegetation was established.
- 181 soils and/or manure tests were conducted.



15 workshops were delivered to 562 attendees. Over 3,500 students participated in water quality monitoring and nearshore/estuary education.



34,208 native plants were sold to 570 customers.

2008 Feature Accomplishment

Frye Cove Bulkhead Removal Project

Resource Challenge

Development continues to be the greatest threat to habitat for salmon in South Puget Sound. Large percentages of the watersheds that drain to the Inlets are becoming impermeable and with that, miles of shoreline continue to be cut off from feeder bluffs and large woody debris (LWD) recruitment with the construction of bulkheads. This project is the first of its kind in South Sound to remove an existing bulkhead and restore a portion of function back to the habitat.



Before Removal



After Removal

Contact Information

Kathleen Whalen, District Administrator 2918 Ferguson St. SW, Suite A Tumwater, WA 98512 (360) 754-3588 ext.114 www.thurstoncd.com

Board of Supervisors: Doug Rushton, Chair Fred Colvin, Treasurer Nora Mena, Member David Hall, Member Harry Petersen, Member

More Work To Do

- Residential land use is expected to rise by 11,881 acres in rural Thurston County in the next five years. Dedicated funding is needed to protect working lands and reduce land use conversion.
- A 2004 study of riparian areas showed that 258.9 miles were in degraded condition. Since that date, we have restored just over 15 miles. Additional funding is needed to continue this work.

Project Summary and Results

The project struck a compromise between the landowner and those working for salmon. It removed the existing encroached 110' long, 35' wide and 6' tall eco-block bulkhead on Eld Inlet across from Frye Cove Park and established a small landing at the base of the bluff for the landowner to utilize for his skiff and access to the beach. This undulating boulder landing continues to protect the multi-million dollar home on the bluff while reclaiming 85% of the bulkheads former footprint for forage fish (prey for salmon) spawning. LWD was placed along the footing to provide habitat complexity. The boulders defray the wave energy that accompanies winter storms with their numerous pockets and the undulating design of the landing and will allow for sediment to accumulate and move along the beach where previously sediment transport did not exist.

Key Project Partners

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, Squaxin Island Tribe, Thurston County