



Other Accomplishments

~ Utilized 64 volunteers to remove over 1.9 acres of invasive ivy and replant with native species at Tumwater Falls Park.

~ Installed 11,000 feet of riparian fencing in Deschutes watershed.

~ Implemented an AgPlastics Recycling Program. Accepted items include haylage wrappers, shrink wrap, woven feed sacks, twine & wrapping straps.

~ Partnered with Thurston County Stream Team to restore just over 15 acres of riparian area in the Deschutes, Nisqually and Henderson watersheds.

~ Reached 1,100 students through watershed education (Nearshore and water quality).

~ Received *District in Good Standing* status from the WA State Conservation Commission.

~ Secured poultry processing equipment through a donation from South of the Sound Farmland Trust. To date, this equipment has been rented on 53 occasions, processing 2,483 birds.

~ Participated in state and national policy and operations issues.

2010 Feature Accomplishment

Shellfish Harvesting Reopens on 240 acres in Henderson Inlet

Resource Challenge – Declining water quality from the heavily developed areas of Lacey, Olympia, and other parts of Thurston County led to several shellfish classification downgrades between 1985 and 2005 in Henderson Inlet. Contributors were stormwater runoff, failing or improperly managed septic systems, pet waste, and agricultural farming.



Students planting site along Henderson Inlet

Project Summary and Results – In 2001 Thurston County formed a shellfish protection district (SPD) to address the water quality problems in the watershed. Soon after, the Thurston Conservation District agreed to dedicate 28% of the District's assessment funds received annually specifically for work within the SPD. The District, together with other entities, have utilized the funds (along with state grants) to address those water quality issues outlined in the Shellfish Closure Response Strategy. Actions to control pollution also included education and outreach. The *Clear Choices for Clean Water* program was designed to enable residents to "pledge" to take certain actions (such as scooping dog waste, installing rain gardens, using timers on sprinklers, etc.). To date, we have just over 800 participants that have taken 1,300 actions in this program! The District also helped 186 farms implement practices 428 Best Management Practices to reduce water quality impacts.

To date, nearly \$1,000,000 of those District funds, along with state and federal grant dollars have resulted in the reopening of 240 acres, which accounts for about three quarters of the previously restricted areas. Gregg Grunenfelder, Asst Secretary for the Dept. of Health said, "Without doubt, this is one of the state's most successful shellfish restoration projects."

Key Project Partners – Thurston Co. Environmental Health, WA Dept of Health, WA Dept of Ecology, Henderson Community Shellfish Farm, Pacific Shellfish Institute, Henderson/Nisqually Shellfish Stakeholders Group, South Sound GREEN, Nisqually River Education Project, and numerous local landowners and shellfish growers.

Contact Information

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

Board of Supervisors:

Doug Rushton, Chair
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More Work To Do

~ The rate of working lands conversions continues to grow. Funding is needed to provide direct marketing to our commercial farmers and implement a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program.

~ Regulatory referrals have been steadily rising over the past five years. Adequate funding to address those is needed.

~ Temporary water rights are needed so that landowners can irrigate native planting projects, thereby protecting the public's investment.