



Other Accomplishments



South Sound GREEN students install native plants along Woodland Creek



18 workshops events held. Topics included farm implement demos, alternative crops, production & distribution, marketing, and others

- 4,152 acres protected, improved, enhanced through implementation of BMPs
- 5,060 feet of fence installed
- 5,160 feet of stream protected, improved, or enhanced through the implementation of riparian practice(s) installation.
- 325 volunteers utilized, putting conservation on the ground and assisting with environmental education.

2013 Feature Accomplishment

Matching Land and New Farmers with Existing Producers

Resource Challenge –

Farmland in Thurston County is at serious risk of conversion to other uses. For example, 75% of the farmland is within three miles of an urban growth boundary and over half is not registered as long-term agriculture or registered within the open space tax program offered by the County. Additionally, the average age of principal operators is 57 years.

Project Summary and Results –

Working with a broad coalition of partners, this project has identified and matched farmers owning fallow land with new farmers ready to turn dirt. Options to keep that farm in production or protected with a conservation easement are also being developed. An interactive database is being built upon that identifies accessible farmland, farmers ready to plant, and existing farmers desiring to expand. By December, 2014, 25 matches will be facilitated. Additionally, this project is providing farm management and farm marketing / business training, workshops and farm tours to new and existing farmers. Since inception in spring, 2012, this project has hosted 13 workshops and farm tours and reached over 175 producers and elected officials.

Thurston CD is also partnering to protect and create an incubator farm in southern Thurston County. Working collaboratively in an on-farm setting, students will be able to share the use of various farm implements without a large capital investment. Additionally, each has the opportunity to specialize in something different that can blend into a farm-level Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) offering that also brings in residents from the urban core. This opportunity could easily translate into agri-tourism with tours, tastings, cooking lessons, concerts, etc. at the site.

Key Project Partners –

Capitol Land Trust; Cascade Harvest Coalition; Enterprise for Equity; South of the Sound Community Farmland Trust; The Evergreen State College; WSU Thurston County Extension



Producers and Elected Officials on a Farm Tour.

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More Work To Do

- Secure funding to implement livestock projects currently on waiting list.
- Continue to provide support to beginning farmers, helping to keep agriculture viable and prevent agricultural land conversion in Thurston Co.
- Assist agricultural landowners in complying with the local Critical Areas Ordinance.
- Continue focus and further partnerships in restoring water quality in area streams and Puget Sound.
- Continue to support salmon recovery efforts through the Lead Entity process.