



Thurston Conservation District

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Board Chair: David Hall

State Legislative District #2,20,22,35
Congressional District #3,10

Other Accomplishments

- 1,940 students, representing 33 local schools were engaged in water quality monitoring in the fall and spring.
- Four manure storage structures constructed, 2,140 acres in pasture management, and 1,466 acres of forage harvest management implemented.
- 7,286 native plants sold at our annual plant sale, with a 23 percent profit! (These funds are used to help fund education and outreach programs.)

2015 Feature Accomplishment: Budd Inlet wetland restoration and service learning project



Pre-restoration, this wetland lacked an adequate riparian buffer.
Credit: Stephanie Bishop, TCD staff

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Budd Inlet is home to some of Puget Sound’s most iconic wildlife: harbor seals, a heron rookery, and transient pods of orca whales. Like many Olympia residents, Gordon and Tamara Suting wanted to do the right thing on their property. When they realized the wet area between two horse pastures where the chorus frogs laid eggs each spring was actually a seasonal stream, they contacted Thurston Conservation District (TCD) for advice on how to manage it for wildlife and water quality.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS TCD collaborated with the Sutings on a planting plan and timeline for the wetland restoration. At the same time, students involved in TCD’s South Sound

Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN) had just completed water quality studies on the Budd-Deschutes Watershed. They knew water quality conditions here were not ideal, and wanted to take action to improve the watershed.

With the Suting’s blessing, over 55 Olympia Regional Learning Academy students — armed with buckets of plants, water, and compost — planted the 15,000 square foot wetland with more than 200 plants in less than three hours!



With volunteer help, the site was enhanced to include more native shrub and tree species to benefit water quality and wildlife habitat.

Credit: Annie McElroy, TCD staff (AmeriCorps)

KEY PARTNERS: Olympia Regional Learning Academy Montessori Program; Washington Service Corps/ AmeriCorps

More Work to Do!

- Continue active participation in the Voluntary Stewardship Program planning work, and secure funding for implementation, as the selected technical service provider.
- Expand the number of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program participants to gain improved water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.
- Continue to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners.