

JULY 2022

MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

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State Legislative District #35
Congressional District #6



WADE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

LOGAN KALLAM

In June, many district staff were able to attend the annual conference for the Washington Association of District Employees. Topics covered by different seminar tracks included forestry/agroforestry, farms and fields, education and communication, and riparian restoration. The members of the field crew along with new staff members Jacob Murray and Megan Chapman were excited to delve into riparian workshops. Our foresters led a seminar on the programs they offer and Margaret Kreder and Nick Schneider were requested for an agroforestry panel. Margaret Kreder received nomination and recognition for employee of the year.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH UPDATE

LOGAN KALLAM

Urban Stormwater Projects

This past year we built rain gardens in three City of Shelton neighborhoods. Six rain gardens were built in the Bordeaux neighborhood and seven were built in the Mountain View neighborhood. Through localized grouping of the rain gardens, the total reduction in the amount of stormwater is increased. Multiple rain garden recipients also received a tree from the urban tree program.



We also had three urban tree giveaways this year during which we gave trees to City of Shelton residents to plant in their yards. These trees were distributed in an effort to help manage stormwater in the city. Any City of Shelton resident was eligible to apply for a tree and we gave away over 30 trees!



Additionally, more than 1,600 square feet of concrete and asphalt were removed from the front entrance of the new Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Organization's Shelton facility to assist the City of Shelton with improved stormwater management. The area was replanted with native trees and shrubs designed to improve stormwater water infiltration, while also serving as a natural barrier between the Center's patients and the public.



Callanan Park Community Garden



This spring and summer Mason Conservation District, HOPE Garden Project, Cedar High School students, HOPE students, and our gardeners have been busy in the garden! Cedar High Students worked to fill the beds that HOPE had built so our gardeners could start planting their beds in late spring. Now, the gardens are in full growth as our participants fill their beds with fruits and vegetables. There are 17 beds for gardeners from the community and 2 beds dedicated to food production to be donated to a food bank. We are also hosting a series of gardening workshops at the garden.

FARM TEAM UPDATE

NICK SCHNEIDER

The unusual amount of June rain has created additional problems for producers in Mason County, making it difficult to access fields for haying, grazing, and planting. Our Farm Team has been diligently working with these landowners as part of our conservation planning process to navigate these resource concerns in way that benefits water quality, soil health, and livestock productivity.

Staff recently finalized our participation in WSDA's Soil Health Survey, pulling soil core and bulk density samples from 25 sites within the county. Lab results will be returned this fall to producers. The purpose for this survey was to establish Washington specific recommendations for soil amendments, benefiting our local producers with soil series specific inputs that will improve their productivity and conservation efforts, results are expected to help determine compaction levels from machinery or livestock movement, ecological function of living soils, and available nutrient levels. Key local ag commodities included were Christmas trees, market crops, hay fields, pastures, and riparian buffers to establish a baseline. Following the results of a soil test eliminates the guess work of soil amendments which in turn reduces the nutrient loads in our streams and rivers.



The new Poultry Processing Equipment Program is nearly finalized. With the last purchases being approved and awaiting delivery this week. Landowners have expressed their excitement for the new equipment and are eagerly waiting for it to become available to the public. Recently our new trailer was showcased in this years Forest Festival Parade, wave to it as when see it on the roads of Mason County this summer!



Design plans for Manure Storage Structures and Composting Facilities and have gone into the hands of landowners participating in our cost share program. As the dry season approaches we look forward to seeing these BMPs implemented on the ground. Our Farm Planner has been developing a program tracking sheet that will allow for streamlined updates of project implementation and status for MCD's BOS.



Pictured is Mason Conservation District's Farm Planner Nick Schneider collecting soil samples in partnership with and through a grant provided by WSU and WSDA.



HABITAT RESTORATION UPDATE

MATT PHILLIPS

This summer, as a part of a restoration project for the Upper South Fork of the Skokomish River, Mason Conservation District organized transport of large pieces of wood into the river to restore habitat areas. In the photos, a helicopter can be seen (bottom left), which lifted the wood into the air (left) in order to place them in the Skokomish River (bottom right). In August, crews will be back out to disperse logs into smaller piles throughout the river in order to create this habitat. Photos are courtesy of District Engineer, Matthew Phillips.



UPCOMING EVENTS

LOGAN KALLAM



Our upcoming community events include workshops, volunteer workdays, and more. Community members can volunteer with us for Orca Recovery Day on October 15th and join us for our next free Pier Peer events.



Pier Peer in Allyn
Date: September 24th, 2022
Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm
Location: Port of Allyn
 18560 WA-3, Allyn, WA 98524

Pier Peer in Shelton
Date: October 29th, 2022
Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm
Location: Shelton Yacht Club
 701 E Pine St, Shelton, WA 98584