

# WATERSHED WISE

## MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2015 Special Plant Sale Issue



### Removing Fish Passage Barriers on Private Forest Land

In 1999 the Washington State Legislature passed the Forest and Fish Law to provide regulations that protect 60,000 miles of streams running through 9.3 million acres of state and private land. As one of the largest and most comprehensive pieces of environmental legislation in the U.S., the law fully complies with both the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA) to protect Washington's native fish and aquatic species and assure clean water compliance. One of the Forest and Fish law requirements is to replace all fish passage barriers, which are usually associated with undersized or damaged roadway culverts that prevent fish from swimming upstream. Not only does barrier replacement improve fish habitat it also allows landowners improved access to their forest lands and helps them meet timber harvest requirements. Replacing a barrier culvert can be



*Barrier culvert winter 2013. Culvert was undersized and "perched," which prevented fish from being migrating to habitat upstream.*

an expensive undertaking, especially for small forest landowners who don't generate significant incomes from their properties. To help offset these considerable costs, the state offers a cost-share opportunity called the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) that is co-managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. The FFFPP provides full or partial funding to small private forest landowners to replace fish passage barriers with upgraded structures such as large diameter culverts or prefabricated bridges.

Two private forest landowners in SW Mason County recently enrolled in the FFFPP and had their barrier culverts replaced with prefabricated concrete bridges.

The two sites are located on

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## Conservation Corner

### 2015 DISTRICT ELECTION

Mason Conservation District's Board Member election will be held early next year. The District is governed by a five member Volunteer Board consisting of local Mason County landowners. Three of the board positions are elected and two are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission, an agency that supports conservation district activities in Washington State. The next elected position will be filled in February 2015. Mason Conservation District elections occur annually during the first quarter of each calendar year, as required under RCW 89.08.

Mason Conservation District will conduct an election for one Board position on February 21, 2015 between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM at the District office. The position is currently held by Linda Barnett, a resident of the Oakland Bay area. Local residents interested in seeking election to this volunteer position should contact the District to be placed on the February ballot. Successful candidates serve a three-year term as a District Board member. To be eligible, a candidate must occupy land and be a qualified county elector and registered voter within the conservation district

boundaries. This would include all residents of Mason County outside the incorporated boundaries of the City of Shelton. A candidate may also qualify through the possession of land within the district as an owner, lessee, renter or tenant. Individuals interested in these positions must pick up a nomination petition at the District office at 450 W Business Park Road, Shelton, WA 98584. Petitions must be returned to the District by January 24th for a candidate to be placed on the ballot.

Conservation districts are subdivisions of state government directed by a volunteer board that represents landowners while directing the efforts of a paid staff. The staff provides technical assistance on natural resource issues for Mason County landowners. Board members identify local natural resource needs, set goals and direct the efforts of the staff to implement Best Management Practices designed to protect soil, water, wildlife and other renewable natural resources.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting John Bolender, District Manager, at (360) 427-9436, Ext. 121 or email at [jbolender@masoncd.org](mailto:jbolender@masoncd.org)

## Creating Healthy Salmon Habitat



*Twin River Ranch Preserve*

grants make a difference. They create jobs, support local communities and their involvement in salmon recovery, and most importantly the projects are helping bring back the fish. After more than a decade of work, we've seen that in many areas of the state, salmon populations are increasing or staying the same. At the same time, we still have some important areas where fish populations are continuing to decline. We can't get discouraged and must continue working at this. It's too important to stop now."

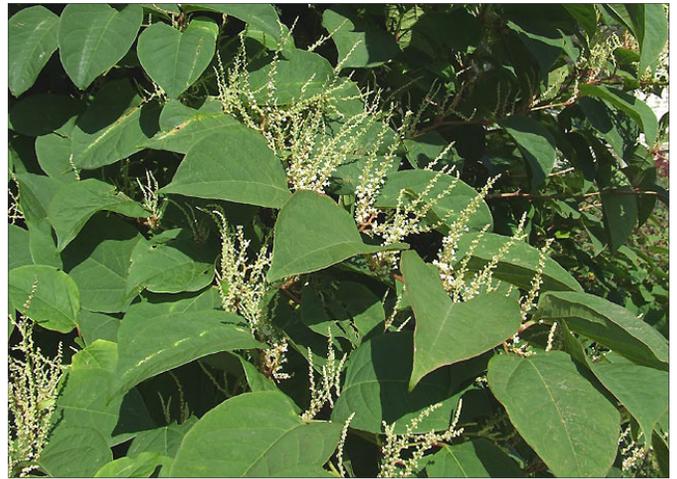
Salmon populations in Washington have been declining for generations. As Washington grew and built its cities and towns, it destroyed many of the places salmon need to live. In 1991, the federal government declared the first salmon as endangered. By the end of that decade, salmon populations had dwindled so much that salmon and bull trout were listed as threatened or endangered in three-quarters of the state. Those listings set off a series of activities including the formation of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to oversee the investment of state and federal funds for salmon recovery.

"Without these grants that fund incredible projects, we wouldn't have any salmon," said David Troutt, chair of the state funding board. "That's unacceptable. We've seen these

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## Mill & Goldsborough Knotweed Assessment

Mason Conservation District (MCD) is continuing to implement salmon habitat improvement projects throughout Mason County. One salmon habitat improvement effort being conducted by the District involves invasive vegetation control. Control efforts in the Skokomish watershed began in 2010 and this year another control effort was launched in the Mill and Goldsborough Creek watersheds. This phase of control in Mill and Goldsborough involves a comprehensive inventory of knotweed locations and relative levels of infestation. Once the assessment phase of this project has been completed, the next step will be to treat the knotweed identified through the inventory efforts. By conducting this assessment now, before the anticipated spread of this Class-B noxious weed, MCD hopes to preemptively tackle the problem while it is still manageable.



*Knotweed in bloom.*

Knotweed is a bamboo-like plant native to Asia, which has the ability to spread very quickly along streams and rivers. In the winter it may appear to be dead, looking brown and collapsed, but is actually in its dormant stage. In the spring and summer it is adorned with clusters of white flowers at the tips of its tall stocks. This plant is tenacious, as it is self-propagating, and can eventually grow a colony of plants from a single fragment of stem.



*Erin Johnston, an intern at MCD, plotting data on a dormant knotweed patch along a tributary of Goldsborough Creek.*

Actions and natural processes such as beavers, floods, mowing, and landscaping with contaminated soils are some examples of how knotweed can be unintentionally spread.

Once established, the consequences of a knotweed infestation can be many. Knotweed contributes to the degradation of salmon habitat by mercilessly displacing native plants which alters nutrient inputs, physical habitat conditions and sediment input into the water - ultimately leading to a shift in ecosystem health and function. Knotweed infestations are also known to accelerate stream bank erosion, cause property damage, and negatively affect recreational activities.

The knotweed assessment crew is combining field survey methods and community outreach to accomplish this project. To date, a little over half of the two watersheds have been physically surveyed by the crew, with the remainder to be completed by the end of 2015. In addition to stream surveys,

over 1700 mailers were sent out to landowners within 1000ft of the streams to inform them of the assessment, as well as inquire about potential knotweed locations on their property. Responses to the mailer have allowed the crew to make over 80 site visits to private properties potentially containing knotweed, leading to a more comprehensive understanding of the true size of the knotweed population within these two watersheds - 113 knotweed patches thus far. The ongoing participation and input from the community on knotweed locations is greatly appreciated, and will continue to be vital to the success of this effort.

If you have questions about knotweed in the Mill or Goldsborough Creek watersheds or are interested in volunteer to help with this effort please contact Evan Bauder at [evan@masoncd.org](mailto:evan@masoncd.org) or 360-427-9436 x114.

## Removing Fish Passage Barriers....continued from page 1

a small tributary to the East Fork Satsop River. Prior to restoration, they prevented salmon from accessing 2.3 miles of high quality habitat farther upstream. The bridges were designed by Mason Conservation District Engineer, Rich Geiger, and constructed by Huhta Underground from Longview, Washington. The project was completed on time and under budget. More importantly, after construction was complete numerous spawning chum and coho salmon were observed upstream using newly accessible habitat! The Mason Conservation District would like to thank all of the project partners who contributed



*New bridge over salmon stream.*

to this successful fish passage restoration project. A special thanks is in order for the Green Diamond Resource Company, for donating 50 native plants to the project to help create future shade and habitat along the creek.

If you think you may have a fish passage issue on your property or would like information regarding the Family Forest Fish Passage Program, please contact Gavin Glore, Mason Conservation District at 360.427.9436 ext. 120 or [gavinglore@masoncd.org](mailto:gavinglore@masoncd.org).



SHORE  
FRIENDLY  
MASON

A NEW PROGRAM FOR MARINE SHORELINE LANDOWNERS

### **DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR MARINE SHORELINE?**



- What causes erosion? Is my home at risk?
- Am I doing anything that increases erosion or stability problems?
- How can I monitor my shoreline? When should I act?
- How can I manage erosion? Are there alternatives to bulkheads?
- Are there ways to keep my views of the water - *and my vegetation*?
- Are some plants better than others for shorelines?
- I'm developing my new shoreline property - what should I consider?

**SHORE FRIENDLY MASON is a new voluntary, non-regulatory program for marine shoreline landowners seeking site-specific erosion assessments or guidance on how best to protect their shorelines. If you have questions, give us a call.**

**Look for new website resources in spring 2015!**

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For information or to schedule a site visit, contact Karin: [karinls@masoncd.org](mailto:karinls@masoncd.org) (360) 427-9436 x122

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**SHORE FRIENDLY MASON: FREE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO MASON COUNTY LANDOWNERS**

*This project has been funded wholly or in part by the US EPA under assistance agreement PC00J29801 to WA Department of Fish and Wildlife. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views & policies of the EPA, nor does mention of trade names/commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.*

## MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2015 ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ New Customer?  Yes  No

If yes, how did you hear about the sale? \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Bundles	Plant Species	Plant Size	Price Per Bundle	Amount
	<b>Evergreen Tree</b>			
	Alaska Yellow-Cedar	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$9.00	
	Douglas-fir	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$5.00	
	Grand Fir	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$5.00	
	Shore Pine	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$5.00	
	Sitka Spruce	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$4.00	
	Western Redcedar	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$6.00	
	<b>Deciduous Tree</b>			
	Black Hawthorn	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$7.00	
	Oregon Ash	18" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$7.00	
	Pacific Crabapple	18" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$8.50	
	<b>Shrub &amp; Herbaceous Perennials</b>			
	Blanket Flower	Plug	5 Plugs for \$6.00	
	Clustered Wild Rose	18" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$7.25	
	Low Oregon Grape	6" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$10.00	
	Mock Orange	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$9.50	
	Oceanspray	18" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$8.50	
	Red Flowering Currant	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$8.00	
	Red Osier Dogwood	18" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$6.50	
	Salmonberry	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$6.50	
	Serviceberry	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$9.00	
	Shooting Star	Plug	5 Plugs for \$7.00	
	Thimbleberry	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$7.00	
	Vine Maple	18" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$10.00	
<b>Number of Plants</b>	<b>Potted Plant</b>		<b>Price Per Plant</b>	
	Beargrass	4" pot	1 Plant for \$4.25	
	Creeping Dogwood	4" pot	1 Plant for \$3.75	
	Evergreen Huckleberry	4" pot	1 Plant for \$3.75	
	Kinnikinnick	4" pot	1 Plant for \$3.00	
	Maidenhair Fern	4" pot	1 Plant for \$3.75	
	Salal	4" pot	1 Plant for \$2.75	
	Sword Fern	4" pot	1 Plant for \$3.00	
	Western Azalea	4" pot	1 Plant for \$3.75	
			Subtotal	
			Tax 8.6%	
	DO NOT SEND PAYMENT AT THIS TIME		TOTAL	

**You can also order online at [www.masoncd.org](http://www.masoncd.org)**

Once we receive your order form, we will reserve your order and send you a bill. All bills must be paid before February 13th. Plants are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Quantities are limited and some species always sell out so please order early. Several species of native plants not listed are available for special order. Call for availability and pricing.

**Orders accepted through Friday, January 30th.**

**Pick up** your order Friday, February 20th, between 10 AM & 5 PM or Saturday, February 21st between 10 AM & 2 PM at the Mason Conservation District office. If you have any questions please call (360) 427-9436, Ext. 113 or (800) 527-9436, Ext. 113.

Please mail completed order form to: **Mason Conservation District, 450 W Business Park Road, Shelton, WA 98584.**

COMMON NAME GENUS SPECIES	HEIGHT	CLASSIFICATIONS	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
<b>EVERGREEN TREES</b>			
Alaska Yellow-Cedar <i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i>	80'		A prized ornamental species with attractive foliage and graceful growth habit. Moist to wet, with moderately good exposure to the sun.
Douglas-fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	250'		Important food source for chickadees, finches, and Douglas squirrel. Grows best in full sun to part shade on well-drained soil.
Grand Fir <i>Abies grandis</i>	250'		Glossy, dark green to bright green needles. Grows in dry to moist conditions and is a shade tolerant species.
Shore Pine <i>Pinus contorta</i>	200'		Fast growing tree with bluish-green foliage and drooping branches. It grows well in moist, well drained soils.
Sitka Spruce <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	200'		Fast growing evergreen. Short, thin needles are prickly to the touch and bluish-green in color. Grows best in full sun on moist, well-drained sites.
Western Redcedar <i>Thuja plicata</i>	150'		Lustrous dark green foliage. May be planted under existing canopies on moist sites. Vigorous growing, ornamental tree.
<b>DECIDUOUS TREES</b>			
Black Hawthorn <i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	30'		Shrubby tree with large thorns, white flowers. Grows well in moist, open places; forest edges, shorelines, coastal bluffs and stream side areas.
Oregon Ash <i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	60'		Grows best in wet or saturated soils and prefers full sun to partial shade. Provides nesting sites and cover for birds, deer, elk and beavers.
Pacific Crabapple <i>Malus fusca</i>	35'		Clusters of white, fragrant blossoms appear in spring, followed by bunches of small edible apples. Prefers moist soils.
<b>SHRUBS &amp; HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS</b>			
Blanket Flower <i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	1-2'		Native perennial with showy yellow and orange sunflower like flowers. Grows in sunny moist to dry areas.
Clustered Wild Rose <i>Rosa pisocarpa</i>	3-5'		Small flowers are formed in clusters on the dark red blackish stems. Found growing along streams and other moist areas in partial shade.
Low Oregon Grape <i>Mabonia nervosa</i>	2-3'		Slow spreading evergreen shrub with dark green holly-like leaves, yellow flowers and edible berries. Prefers part shade and sun in well-drained soils.
Mock Orange <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	10'		Fragrant, white 2" flowers. Arching green branches. Highly adaptable, grows in most locations.
Oceanspray <i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	10'		Multi-stemmed deciduous shrub suited to rocky, dry slopes. Masses of cream colored flower clusters are attractive in spring.
Red Flowering Currant <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	3-10'		Hummingbirds are attracted to the pale pink to red flowers blooming March - June. Grows in clearings and open forest areas that remain dry.
Red Osier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	15'		Red winter branches. Large white flowers. Grows best in moist areas. Good for erosion control. Excellent food & cover for wildlife.
Salmonberry <i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	6-10'		Reddish-purple flowers and yellow edible berries adorn this thicket-forming, sparsely thorned shrub. Prefers moist to wet places in partial shade.
Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	6-20'		Large, showy white flower clusters adorn this multi-stemmed shrub. The dark purple berries are commercially harvested for syrup.
Shooting Star <i>Dodecatheon hendersonii</i>	5-16"		West Coast native wildflower found in grassy meadows with well-drained soil. Magenta to lavender Cyclamen-like flowers.
Thimbleberry <i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	5-8'		Adaptable plant that grows in moist to dry and wooded to open sites. White flowers followed by edible berries.
Vine Maple <i>Acer circinatum</i>	15-25'		Grows in full sun to shady areas on dry to moist sites. Provides good forage for wildlife and attracts butterflies. Great fall color.
<b>INDIVIDUAL POTTED PLANTS</b>			
Beargrass <i>Xerophyllum tenax</i>	3-6'		Perennial, evergreen herb from the lily family. A fountain of tough green grasslike foliage with a tall stalked, fragrant flower cluster.
Creeping Dogwood <i>Cornus canadensis</i>	6"		Spreading ground cover perennial. Striking white dogwood flowers bloom in spring followed by scarlet berries in late summer.
Evergreen Huckleberry <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	3-15'		Ornamental shrub with bell-shaped flowers and blue edible berries. Has excellent soil binding, erosion control capabilities.
Kinnikinnick <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	8-12"		Ground Cover. Evergreen leaves with pinkish flowers and bright red fall berries. Grows in sandy soil in filtered shade to full sun.
Maidenhair Fern <i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	2'		Beautiful, delicate looking foliage. Spreads slowly and is gorgeous along a path planted in groups. Grows in shady, moist sites.
Salal <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	3-7'		Evergreen shrub has shiny dark green leaves. Produces showy clusters of pink to white flowers followed by purplish edible fruit.
Sword Fern <i>Polystichum munitum</i>	2-5'		Evergreen fern with dark-green fronds arch from central clump. Grows well in lowland forests, full sun to full shade.
Western Azalea <i>Rhododendron occidentale</i>	15'		Fragrant white to pink blossoms appear before this deciduous shrub leafs out in spring. Prefers moist, well-drained soil; full sun to partial shade.
<p>LEGEND:  Full sun  Partial shade  Shade  Evergreen  Deciduous  Flowers  Fruit</p>			

## Creating Healthy Salmon Habitat...continued from page 2

### How Projects are Chosen

Projects are selected by local watershed groups called lead entities. Lead entities are local consortiums that include tribes, local governments, nonprofits and citizens who work together to recruit and review project proposals and make decisions about which projects to send to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for funding. Lead entities ensure that the projects are based on regional salmon recovery plans that were approved by the federal government. Then regional salmon recovery organizations and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board review each project to ensure they will help recover salmon in the most cost-effective manner.

“Salmon recovery takes groups at all levels – state, local, tribal, federal – to work together to ensure that only the best projects are funded,” said Kaleen Cottingham, director of the Recreation and Conservation Office, which administers the grants in Washington State. “We think the process of local groups identifying what needs to be fixed in their communities and then those projects undergoing regional and state scientific review means only the best and most cost-effective projects get funded. It assures we are investing the money we have very strategically.”

This year, the Kennedy/Goldsborough Salmon Habitat Recovery Lead Entity reviewed and ranked five projects. Two additional projects were endorsed by the Lead Entity and forwarded to the Washington State legislature for funding through the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration fund in the upcoming 2015 – 2017 session.

One project proposes to conserve 20-acres on Goldsborough Creek by working with Capitol Land Trust. Another project proposes a collaborative effort with the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, Mason County and Simpson Timber Railroad to remove two fish passage barriers on a tributary to Goldsborough on Like’s Creek. In other projects, Capitol Land Trust will maintain the shoreline with additional riparian plantings and invasive weed removal at Twin Rivers Ranch Preserve and Oakland Bay Historical Park. Finally, Mason Conservation District will remove shoreline armor and place native plantings along a stretch of shoreline in Allyn.

### Salmon Recovery Means Jobs

Recent studies showed that every \$1 million spent on watershed restoration results in an average of 16.7 jobs, up to \$2.6 million in total economic activity, and that 80 percent of grant money is spent in the county where the project is located.

It is estimated that these new grants will provide more than 190 jobs during the next four years and about



*Like’s Creek fish passage barriers.*

\$30 million in economic activity as grant recipients hire contractors, crews and consultants to design and build projects, including field crews to restore rivers and shoreline areas.

“The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group is partnering with Mason County and Simpson Lumber to replace two fish blocking culverts on Like’s Creek, a tributary to Goldsborough Creek, near Shelton,” said Joe Williams, an enhancement group board member. “Replacing the blocking culverts with fish-friendly culverts will allow salmon and steelhead to access habitat in the creek for the first time

in over a century.” Funding for the grants comes from the sale of state bonds and the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service.

### Local Solutions

If you have an interest in salmon in the waters of Mason County, you can help. Contact Amy Hatch-Winecka at (360) 427-9436 ext. 110 or amyhw@thurstoncd.org for information on becoming part of the Lead Entity.



## MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

450 W Business Park Road

Shelton, WA 98584

Phone: 360-427-9436

Fax: 360-427-4396

[www.masoncd.org](http://www.masoncd.org)



### Plant Sale Reminders:

- Plants are sold in bundles of FIVE except for pots.
- Place orders by January 30, 2015.
- View, Order and Pay for plants **online** using your credit card through our website [www.masoncd.org](http://www.masoncd.org).
- Or send order form by mail. If you are mailing your order form we will confirm your order in full or in part by sending you an invoice.
- **Pick Up:** Friday, February 20th, 10AM to 5PM or Saturday, February 21st, 10AM to 2PM at the District office.
- Warning: Any order not picked up will be donated to conservation projects or organizations.
- For questions about the native plant sale please call Jen at (360) 427-9436, Ext. 113 or (800) 527-9436, Ext. 113.

### District Board of Supervisors

David Mackey, Jason Ragan, Bonnie Hall, Larry Boltz, Linda Barnett

### MCD Staff

Evan Bauder - Resource Technician

Dan Blatt - Engineering Technician

John Bolender - District Manager

Ron Cummings - Environmental Specialist

Judith Denoyer - Financial Accountant

Rich Geiger - District Engineer

Gavin Glore - Engineering Technician

Amy Hatch-Winecka - WRIA 14 Lead Entity Coordinator

Katrinka Hibler - Engineering Technician

Adam Lloyd - Resource Technician

Mitch Redfern - Resource Technician

Mario Skelly - Resource Technician

Karin Strelloff - Environmental Specialist

Rodney Tennison - Engineering Technician

Jen Thurman-Williams - Environmental Specialist