

2006 Annual Report (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006)

Clallam Conservation District



Washington Conservation Districts
assisting land managers with their
conservation choices

Featured Natural Resource Accomplishment of the Year

Dungeness River Water Conservation Dungeness Valley – Clallam County

Resource Challenge:

The Dungeness River provides habitat for the most diverse array of fish on the Olympic Peninsula, including three *Threatened* salmonids. A major habitat limiting factor is low instream flows, largely due to irrigation water withdrawals that amount to 50% of the river's flow in late summer. The existing irrigation water delivery system consists primarily of over 130 miles of inefficient irrigation ditches that traverse the valley.

Project Summary:

The Clallam Conservation District helped three irrigation companies and one irrigation district acquire necessary funding to design and implement irrigation efficiencies projects projected to conserve about 10 cubic feet per second of water. Three projects were implemented during the 2006 fiscal year, resulting in 2.24 cfs in water savings to Trust and construction on three other projects was begun.

Results and Accomplishments:

The Sequim Prairie Tri Irrigation Company completed the construction of a re-regulating reservoir and over 3.5 miles of piping in order to conserve 2.75 cfs of Dungeness River water. Additionally, four tailwater ditches spilling surplus flows into Sequim Bay and the Strait of Juan de Fuca were eliminated. The Dungeness Irrigation Group replaced over 1 mile of their main canal with pipeline to conserve 0.55 cfs of water. Design and engineering of a comprehensive project to combine the main canals of the Clallam Ditch Company and the Cline Irrigation District into a single pipeline is nearly complete and scheduled for implementation in fiscal year 2007. Nearly 18 miles of open ditch will be replaced with about 13 miles of pipelines to conserve an estimated 6 cfs of water and eliminate 8 tailwater ditches that presently deliver contaminated surplus irrigation water to Dungeness Bay. The total estimated cost of the project is over \$4 million, of which nearly \$1 million has already been secured.



Innovation / Highlight:

The Sequim Prairie Tri Irrigation Company re-regulating reservoir is the first of its kind in the Dungeness Valley.

Key Partners Involved:

Sequim Prairie Tri Irrigation Company
Dungeness Irrigation Group
Clallam Ditch Company
Cline Irrigation District
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Washington Department of Ecology
Washington Conservation Commission
Salmon Recovery Funding Board/IAC
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

For More Information Contact:

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Clallam Conservation District Board of Supervisors:

Joe Murray, Ben Smith, Nash Huber,
Bob Forde, Don Hatler

Legislative Districts:

State Legislative District # 24
Congressional District # 6

Total Cost of Implemented Projects:

\$1,318,782*

State share: \$1,217,487

*Does not include value of engineering contributed by the NRCS.

Annual Natural Resources Status Report

Clallam Conservation District

Background Summary of the Clallam Conservation District

Clallam Conservation District has been helping land users conserve natural resources in Clallam County since 1959. The District consists of 437,602 acres of privately owned land and 675,358 acres of publicly managed land, totaling 1,112,960 acres along the North Olympic Peninsula. Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest comprise the majority of the publicly managed land. Over 80% of the population is located in the area around Port Angeles and east. The west end of the District is temperate rain forest receiving 100-140 inches of annual rainfall, while the east end of the District is in the rain shadow receiving less than 20 inches. Forestland is the dominant land use. Agriculture is primarily in the east end of the District where irrigation is necessary for production.

Mission:

To advance the conservation of the renewable natural resources of Clallam County by assisting land users with the planning and implementation of conservation practices.

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

Surface and Groundwater

- Make progress toward meeting **Dungeness Bay Watershed** fecal coliform **TMDL**.
- Increase **Dungeness River instream flows**.
- Correct potential impacts to **groundwater quality** and improve **surface water quality** throughout county.
- Work towards correcting existing **stormwater** impacts throughout county.

Restored Fish Habitat

- Work toward correcting **barriers to fish passage** and restoring **riparian habitat** throughout county.

Beneficial Uses from Agricultural & Forest Lands

- Reduce rate of **farmland** and **forestland conversion**.
- **Assist forestlands managers** to ensure dependable timber supply, forest health, quality wildlife habitat, and wildfire prevention.

Information – Education Priorities and Goals:

- In 2006 at least two local construction professionals will learn about alternative methods of managing stormwater.
- In 2007, 1,000 school students will participate in a water quality program.
- In 2007, 300 small acreage landowners will participate in environmental stewardship workshops.

Critical Geographic Areas:

- City of Port Angeles – due to combined sewer overflows.
- Clean Water District and Dungeness Bay – due to rapid development, critical aquifer recharge area, dependence on wells and on-site septic systems, limited water availability, listed salmon stocks, bacterial contamination.



Clallam River Bank Stabilization at Sadilek Farm

Natural Resources Information & Status

Farms and Farmland

- 1,252 farms inventoried in District – 125 identified as medium/high likelihood of adversely impacting water quality.
- 727 farms inventoried in Clean Water District - 46 identified as medium/high likelihood of adversely impacting water quality.

Forestland

- 307,153 acres of Open Space Timber/ Designated Forestland – minimal assistance available from DNR for conservation plan development and implementation.

Fish Habitat

- 75.7 miles of CREP-eligible streams. To date – 4.1 miles restored through CREP.
- Data on barriers to fish passage needing correction not available.

Urban

- 27,270 acres in cities and urban growth areas.
- City of Port Angeles combined sewer overflows – four discharge outfalls, 30-110 discharge events annually.

Water Resources

- Targeted Dungeness River irrigation water withdrawal reduction = 33-40 cfs.
- To date – 3.82 cfs saved through Conservation District sponsored projects.