

CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024-25 Featured accomplishments



Building healthy soil

Development in Clallam County has significantly reduced the amount of land available for agriculture. In response, the remaining diverse network of farms are increasingly focused on improving soil health and fertility to boost productivity. To support these efforts, Clallam Conservation District assisted 15 farms in planting 273 acres of cover crops and provided soil testing support to 123 landowners.

Photo Caption: Cover crop planting on River Run Farm in the Dungeness Valley.



Restoring habitat for fish and wildlife

Past funding restrictions limited the District's ability to plant riparian buffers. New funding from the State Conservation Commission's Riparian Grant Program has reversed that trend, and helped to strengthen salmon recovery in Clallam County. The District provided assistance to 48 riparian landowners, resulting in planting of 47 acres of riparian buffers at nine sites along 2.9 miles of salmon streams, and 114 acres of riparian buffers maintained. 19 new projects are planned for next year, spanning 159 acres.

Photo Caption: Landowner with his recently installed riparian buffer planting on Big River, home to Lake Ozette Sockeye salmon listed as threatened on the Endangered Species Act.



Reconnecting fragmented salmon habitat

Clallam County has many fish passage barriers, which most landowners cannot afford to fix on their own. The District secured funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office and Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the Family Forest Fish Passage Program to replace two undersized culverts with fish-friendly bridges and to design five future replacement projects.

Photo Caption: Landowner standing on his bridge which corrected a fish passage barrier on a tributary to Big River.

Other accomplishments



Partnered with Clallam County Environmental Health and Washington State Department of Ecology to replace seven failing onsite septic systems located adjacent to high priority streams as part of a county-wide effort to reduce bacteria pollution and improve water quality in downgraded shellfish harvesting areas.



District staff conducted 79 site visits to landowners across Clallam County to provide technical assistance on a variety of conservation needs including stream restoration, water conservation, soil health, farm management (pasture production, manure storage, winter feeding, etc.) and noxious weed control.



Education and outreach are core to Clallam Conservation District's mission. 17 workshops, farm tours, displays and presentations were conducted to county residents including farmers, livestock owners, students, and Future Farmers of America.