

JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024-25 Featured accomplishment



BEFORE

Chimacum Creek choked with reed canarygrass.



AFTER

Chimacum Creek one year after reed canarygrass removal.

Resource concern

Chimacum Drainage District was created in 1919 for farmland development by constructing and maintaining a comprehensive drainage system. The drainage district became inactive in 1974, leaving critical maintenance work to individual landowners. The maintenance that followed – mostly reed canarygrass removal – was piecemeal, resulting in increased flooding, water quality degradation, and other adverse environmental impacts. Hundreds of acres of once-productive farmland became unfarmable.

Featured project

Jefferson County Conservation District led an effort to identify solutions, beginning with a 2024 analysis of the flooding and drainage issues, environmental impacts, habitat restoration opportunities, and options for addressing the issues. The community was engaged through multiple public meetings and a survey of all drainage district property owners. The District then drafted a drainage system management and improvement plan to guide future activities, regardless of the implementing entity.

Costs & partners

The total cost for community engagement and plan development was roughly \$50,000, mostly from a Washington State Department of Ecology water quality grant. Partners included Jefferson County and Washington State University Extension.

Other accomplishments

- Provided technical assistance, including forest health assistance, to over 800 land users over the past biennium.
- Restored a total of 32.73 acres of riparian areas along 2.86 stream miles during the last biennium.
- Used State Conservation Commission Riparian Plant Propagation Program grants to partner with the North Olympic Salmon Coalition to expand and improve their native plant nursery.
- Provided cost-share assistance to help landowners install five roof runoff collection systems to manage runoff and conserve water during the last biennium.
- Over 150 people participated in workshops and courses about native plants and sustainable landscaping during the last biennium.

📍 Congressional district 6 📍 Legislative district 24

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