

LEWIS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024-25 Featured accomplishment



Drone footage before wetland enhancement.



Functioning Wetland.

Resource concern

A farm in the Upper Chehalis River Basin, Water Resource Inventory Area 23, was historically wetlands and had been drained using tile lines. Over time tile lines had broken causing pooling in their fields. Livestock access to open water had degraded the productivity of the fields. Lewis Conservation District met with landowners through the Voluntary Stewardship Program. After learning of their challenges with water on the farm the District proposed a wetland enhancement project.

Featured project

This project took a historic wetland that was currently being farmed, but was unproductive, and created a fenced area, one acre in size, for water to be directed towards. This allowed the District to plant native wetland plants (518) and keep the cattle from accessing the open water. Wetlands are a critical area and by enhancing we are improving water quality, water storage, ground water recharge, fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetics, and biological productivity. In the end the landowner was happy with the clean water, numerous additional birds, and the ability to help the environment while still being able to farm.

Costs & partners

This project was funded with \$36,626 from the State Conservation Commission through the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

Other accomplishments



Three manure separators were installed on local family dairies. Separators lower farm carbon admissions while also addressing nutrient management concerns.



56.6 acres were planted with 58,323 trees and shrubs along 3.9 miles of streams and rivers under the Riparian Grant Program.



Installed six instream wood structures along the Newaukum River for salmon habitat. Creating deeper pools, areas for fish to escape predators, reduce erosion and cool water.