



Puget Sound Conservation Districts

## Conservation Districts collaborate with residents to repair Puget Sound



Puget Sound is one of our nation's unique natural treasures and it is in trouble. The 12 Puget Sound conservation districts (PSCDs) are responding to this natural resource crisis by expanding their focus to work with diverse local residents, organizations, and cities in addition to the PSCD's historical agricultural and forestry partnerships.



Today, these twelve districts are playing a critical role in addressing natural resource needs with a coordinated approach that stretches from watershed planning to implementing green infrastructure across the broad mosaic of private lands.\* This collaboration on private parcels complements, augments, and protects the critical progress made on public lands.

By working collaboratively through the PSCD Caucus, the conservation districts surrounding Puget Sound have an effective framework to support regional, state, Tribal and federal agency priorities. Whenever possible, PSCDs align conservation programs and services with regional resource management priorities, including:

- Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda
- Municipal Shoreline Master Programs
- Shellfish, Salmon Recovery initiatives
- Water quality protection efforts including NPDES and PIC plans

The Puget Sound Conservation Districts are a key partner in the overall strategy to recover the health of Puget Sound: PSCDs deliver critical services across the region while addressing local challenges and opportunities and making it possible for communities and individuals to help improve the health of Puget Sound.

*\*Private land stewards take care of marine near shore and bluffs, riparian streams and lakes, farms, forests, homes and neighborhoods, and wild and domestic animals.*

## A Shared Vision

In 2004, the twelve Puget Sound conservation districts (PSCDs) joined together, forming a collaborative, regionally-focused Caucus.

Our shared vision is a future in which private land managers and local residents are actively engaged in building community, stewarding natural resources, and playing an essential role in restoring and maintaining a healthy and productive Puget Sound and Salish Sea.

We work toward this vision by:

- Aligning our conservation programs with regional priorities
- Ensuring consistency in technical programs across boundaries
- Engaging landowners and residents in actions that protect and enhance natural resources

The 12 Puget Sound districts include:

Clallam	Jefferson
King	Kitsap
Mason	Pierce
Skagit	Snohomish
Thurston	Whatcom
Whidbey Island and San Juan Islands	

To learn more, visit  
[www.pugetsoundcd.org](http://www.pugetsoundcd.org) or  
contact Brandy Reed at 425-282-1924

**Each year, PSCDs work with landowners to enhance over 4,000 acres of freshwater and marine riparian habitat including planting over 150,000 native trees and shrubs.**

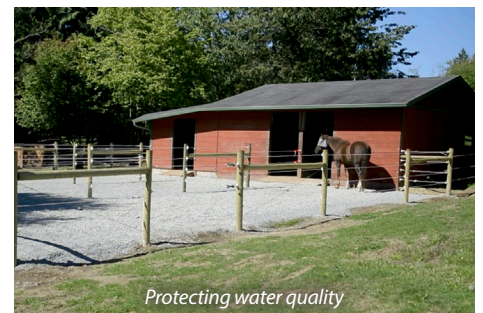


Partnering with local, state, and federal governments to remove bulkheads and restore shorelines. Photo by Michael Brunk

## How Conservation Districts Help Puget Sound

The PSCD Caucus has developed an effective framework of services to support regional, state, Tribal, and federal agency priorities. Together, Puget Sound Conservation Districts:

- Are building on the success of our traditional one-on-one work by engaging a larger audience through launching Better Ground – a broad-based communication and education campaign
- Are working with 8,500 landowners every year to improve resource conditions on private property
- Are supporting local municipalities by facilitating and engaging private land owners to implement green infrastructure and storm water management practices
- Are using locally-based and other funding to engage landowners in voluntary stewardship of freshwater and marine shorelines to:
  - increase riparian habitat
  - improve instream conditions
  - reduce marine shoreline armoring
- Are improving shellfish growing areas through water quality protection practices that reduce pathogens and nutrients throughout the system
- Are securing a high return on the public's investment in us by leveraging matching funds from local and private sources at a rate of 4 to 1
- Are working within an established, effective service delivery system that is trusted and used by landowners and regulatory entities to support the recovery of Puget Sound



Protecting water quality



Managing stormwater



Engaging community

**Each year, PSCDs help landowners implement over 1,400 water quality protection and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement practices.**