



Puget Sound Conservation Districts

BETTER GROUND

Conservation Districts collaborate to achieve regional impact for Puget Sound

Puget Sound is one of our nation's unique natural treasures and needs our help. The 12 Puget Sound Conservation Districts (PSCDs) are responding to this natural resource need by expanding their focus to work with diverse local residents, organizations, and cities.

These 12 districts are helping to address natural resource needs through 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, and protects progress made on public lands.

Working collaboratively, conservation districts surrounding Puget Sound support regional, state, tribal and federal priorities, including:

- Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda
- Municipal Shoreline Master Programs
- Shellfish and Salmon Recovery initiatives
- Water quality protection efforts including National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit assistance and Pollution Identification and Correction plans

PSCDs are:

- Non-regulatory
- Community based and locally led
- Accessible
- Strategic
- Results driven
- Focused on shovel-ready projects
- Cost-effective

PSCDs work together to deliver critical services across the region while addressing local challenges and opportunities, helping communities and individuals 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.*



Restoring streams

"The work that we've done with our conservation district is uniting our county in a way it wasn't before – big cities working with little cities, people in the private sector, farmers, environmental groups. It's kind of revolutionary."
City of Bellevue Mayor John Stokes



Managing nutrients

To learn more, visit www.pugetsoundcd.org or contact Karen Bishop at 888-678-4922

**EACH
YEAR**

4,000 ACRES
Of freshwater marine and
riparian habitat enhanced

150,000
Native trees and
Shrubs planted



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 supports regional, state, tribal, and federal agency priorities by:

- Expanding our traditional one-on-one work engaging a larger audience through Better Ground – a broad-based communication and education campaign
- Working with over 8,500 landowners every year to improve resources on private property
- Supporting local municipalities by helping private landowners build green infrastructure and manage stormwater sustainably
- Using local and other funding to help landowners voluntarily steward their freshwater and marine shorelines to:
 - increase riparian habitat
 - improve instream conditions
 - reduce marine shoreline armoring
- Improving shellfish-growing areas by protecting water quality to reduce pathogens and nutrients throughout Puget Sound
- Securing a high return on the public's investment by leveraging matching funds from local and private sources at an average rate of 4:1
- Working with a service delivery system that is trusted by landowners and regulatory entities to support the recovery of Puget Sound



**EACH
YEAR**

1,400

Landowner water quality protection and fish and wildlife enhancement practices