



WHIDBEY ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FY2021 Summary Report of Accomplishments

July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Farm & Forest Conservation Planning • Engineering • Water Resource Management • Backyard Conservation

Technical Assistance Overview: WICD worked one-on-one with **390 cooperators**, representing **1,090 acres**. Conservation planning and technical assistance were provided recommending **200 Best Management Practices (BMPs)**, **20 implemented** in FY2021.



AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK Highlights

WICD staff provided assistance to **86 ag-related requests**, and completed **1 animal management plan**. **3 cost-share projects** were completed and/or continued from FY20. WICD staff provided support and served on a wide variety of local agriculture and food system committees.

WICD's Kelsi Mottet (left) works with crop and livestock farmers.



WICD's Gwendolyn Hannam explains the connections between water and soil on video.



WATER RESOURCE Highlights

83 water-related requests were met including, **wetland** maintenance/protection, **bluff/shoreline** assistance, and **low impact development** and **drainage**. Additionally, WICD leveraged funding through the WA State Dept. of Ecology Near Term Action (NTA) grant to begin coordination of an Island County based **Stormwater Outreach and Education** initiative, in partnership with Snohomish Conservation District, with the goal to increase community awareness. WICD continued to provide technical assistance to other existing and in-progress water resource projects aimed at improving water quality and soil health, including the **creation of a video series "What Do Conservation Districts Do?"** as part of the **Penn Cove NTA**. Staff served on five committees with Puget Sound partners for broader collective impact on Whidbey Island's water resources.

FORESTRY & FIREWISE™ Highlights

99 forest-related requests and **16 Firewise™- related requests** were met. WICD staff developed **2 Community Wildfire Assessments & Action Plans** and **21 forest management plans**, including developing a time-sensitive "coaching" strategy for landowners to **better understand the Designated Forestland Program**. Ongoing support was delivered to **7** newly interested, in-progress, or existing **Firewise™ USA communities**. Staff engaged in region-wide efforts to increase broader impact for **Firewise™** through the **NW Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network**.



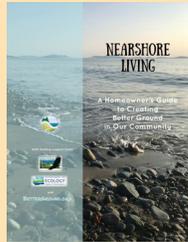
Landowners learn management and data collection skills during forestry site visits.



OUTREACH Highlights

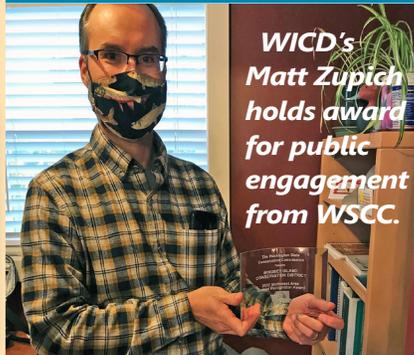
In WICD's biggest annual outreach event, the **Annual Native Plant Sale** distributed over **12,500 native trees and shrubs** to more than **300 customers**. Over **40 volunteers** assisted with the sale. While the goal of the sale is promoting native planting, WICD collected **\$32,700** in revenues and netted nearly **\$3,500** to return to District services.

WICD produced and published a **"Nearshore Living Homeowner's Guide,"** a project of the regional Better Ground initiative.



Staff created and distributed **3 "Conservation Connection" e-newsletters** and **2 seasonal "Noxious Weed Bulletins,"** including a new engagement approach using ESRI's Story-Maps highlighting landowner ambassadors. WICD coordinated **12 "Make A Difference Column" articles,** adding a new collaborative approach in sharing the column with 4 other natural resources organizations. WICD's main Facebook page "Likes" grew to **1,258 followers** with **181 posts** created. The Whidbey Island Growers Association's Facebook page grew to **147 followers** with **35 posts** created. WICD's **Instagram account** "nativeplants_everywhere" grew to **1,123 followers** with **114 posts** created.

EVENTS & EDUCATION Highlights



WICD delivered **34 workshops and events** and participated in **89 collaborative meetings,** reaching **767 members of the public**. WICD received a **NW Area Special Recognition Award** from the

WSCC for public engagement in its board supervisor elections - 5th in the state of 45 districts for voter turnout. WICD was involved in developing for the Whidbey Island Growers Association a new engagement strategy of **farmer-to-farmer "FarmWalk" events and video series.** WICD's **outreach program workshops** featured topics including WICD general services; leadership; wildfire preparedness; native plant stewardship; watersheds and water quality; and local resources for agriculture including climate resilience, seed production, agroforestry, food hubs, and business marketing. Additionally, a **Youth workshop** was presented on Pollinator Gardens.



Partnerships in Action



WICD participated in the third annual **Puget Sound Orca Recovery Day**. COVID-19 restrictions offered opportunities for new engagement approaches, and WICD partnered with 7 local organizations to facilitate **4 web-based activities:** an online Orca Day Eco-Challenge, a Regional Orca Forum Webinar, an Online Trivia Night, and an Orca-Human Connections Art Contest.

Also, a small group of masked and socially-distanced WICD board members and staff gathered for a **shoreline restoration and weeding event along Coronet Bay,** the site of a previous 2019 Orca Day planting project. Regionally, **12 Puget Sound conservation districts,** numerous partner organizations, and 60 total Eco-Challenge Teams collectively completed **7,832 individual actions to help orcas.**

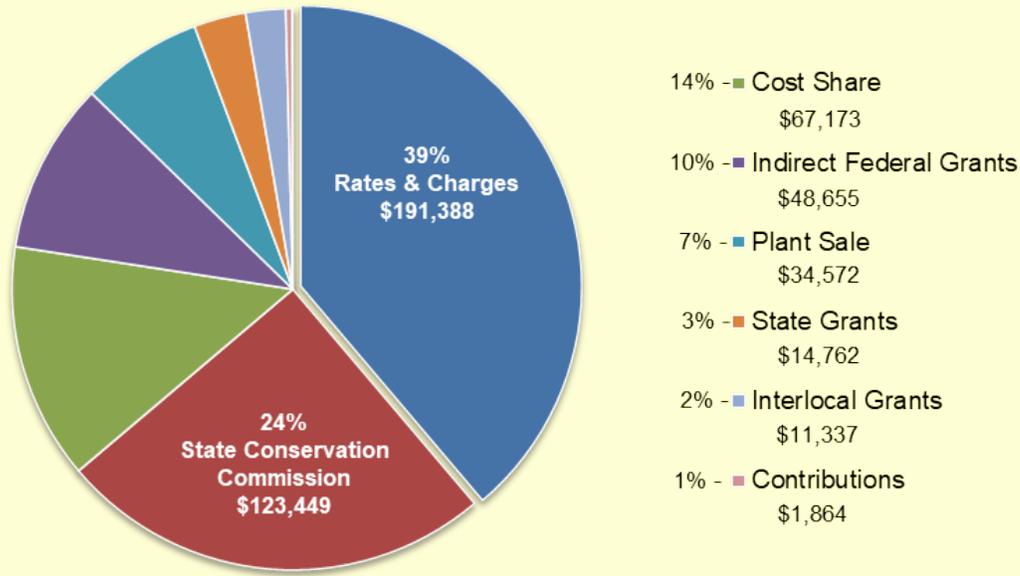
Whidbey Island Conservation District

Final Reporting FY2021

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

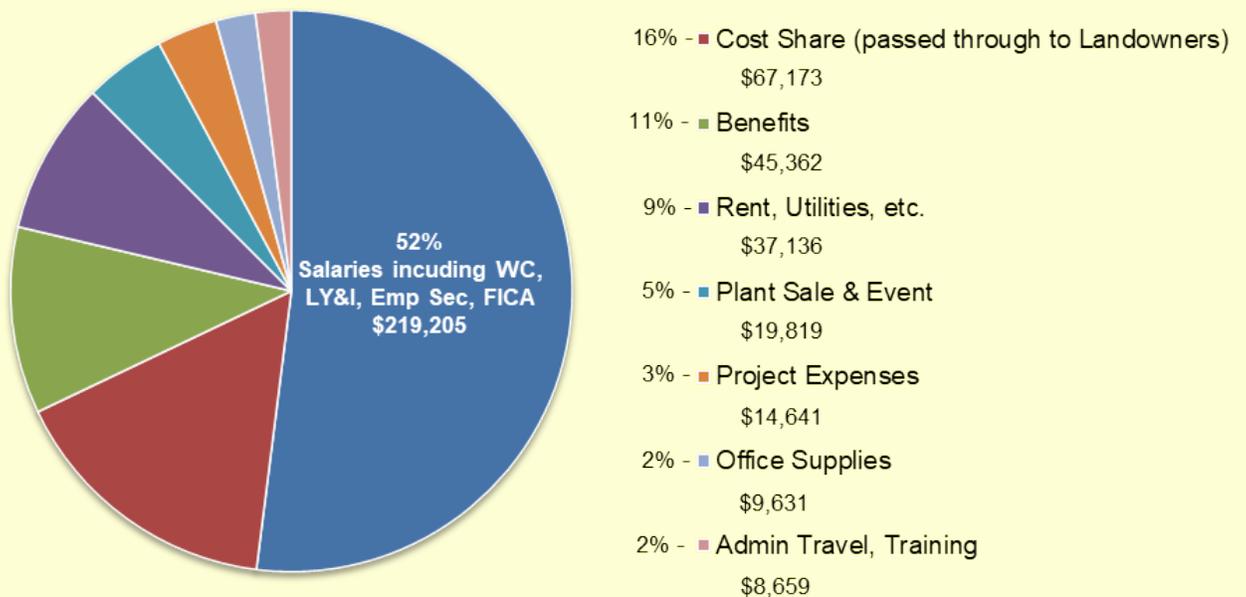
FY2021 Revenues

Total \$493,200



FY2021 Expenses

Total \$421,628



*Financials reported on an Accrual Basis