



# Whidbey Island Conservation District

District Manager: Karen Bishop Board Chair: Edward Adams  
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Legislative District: 10 Congressional District: 2

## Other Accomplishments



Sierra Country Club became a fully recognized Firewise™ Community with support from WICD, DNR, and North Whidbey Fire & Rescue.



WICD provides technical assistance to Maxwellton Creek Alliance, working on balancing watershed health and farm sustainability



WICD's Matt Zupich presents Conservation Partner Award to Roy Zipp (National Park Service) for collaboration in a water quality stormwater conveyance project.

### 2018 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

## Keeping Whidbey Forest Lands Firewise and Healthy

### Resource Challenge

High value of land for residential use has Whidbey Island's landowners under pressure to convert their forest lands to development. Implementing forest management practices, such as thinning and logging, is a sustainable alternative to conversion, but it requires education. Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) helps forest landowners and the public to understand and accept active forest management and Firewise™ protocols to encourage continued healthy forest ownership, thereby maintaining the character of Whidbey Island.



Healthy forest stands enhance aquifer recharge, lessen and filter stormwater runoff, and sequester atmospheric carbon.



WICD staff recommended over 80 BMPs to Whidbey forest landowners for improved management of their forest stands.

### Project Summary and Results

WICD works with landowners to prepare forest management plans and assists them with implementing recommended best management practices. The WA Department of Revenue Designated Forest Land (DFL) tax program provides a property tax incentive for forest land five acres or larger to produce forest products. To help offset forest management costs, WICD aids landowners to comply and utilize this DFL program. In FY18, 38 forest landowners with 689 acres received assistance. WICD also offers Firewise™ help to reduce wildfire risk. In FY18, 59 landowners with 208 acres received Firewise™ assessments.

### Key Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission; Island County; WSU Extension Forestry; Washington Department of Natural Resources; local fire districts

## Priorities for 2019...

- ▶ As summers becomes hotter and drier and the wildland/urban interface on Whidbey Island increases, so does wildfire risk. WICD needs designated funding to meet public demand for its Firewise™ services.
- ▶ A new strategy for WICD's alternative stormwater management program entails convening neighbors together to collaboratively resolve complex water-related challenges.