



# Skagit Conservation News

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 1

WINTER NEWSLETTER



# 2023 ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE

## FAQs

### **HOW DO I ORDER PLANTS?**

Online Pre-Order will begin January 3, 2023 at 10AM. Please sign up for our mailing list to be alerted when we open up the sale. All plants are sold on a first come, first serve basis. Quantities are limited and many species will sell out so please order early.

### **WHERE DO I PICK UP MY PLANTS?**

All orders must be picked up on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at the Plant Materials Center.

*\*Any plant orders not picked up will be donated to local restoration projects.\**

WACD Plant Materials Center  
16564 Bradley Rd  
Bow, WA 98232

### **HOW BIG ARE THE PLANTS?**

Your plants will be bare root. This means they will not be coming in a pot, but rather a compact bundle that will be packed in a convenient bag for travel.

### **WHAT IS THE MINIMUM ORDER?**

For bundling purposes, the minimum plant order is \$50 before taxes.

### **WHAT IF THE PLANTS ARE SOLD OUT?**

We are sorry if we've sold out of plants. Please look at other options in the area with this PDF

### **RETURNS AND CHANGES**

All sales are final, we do not accept product returns or changes, If you have made an order and would like more plants, please place another order. If we cannot fill part of your order due to a shortage from the nursery, a plant substitution or refund will be offered.

# NATIVE PLANT LIST

	PLANTS
E	Grand fir, <i>Abies grandis</i>
E	Noble fir, <i>Abies procera</i>
E	Western red cedar, <i>Thuja plicata</i>
E	Sitka spruce, <i>Picea sitchensis</i>
E	Shore pine, <i>Pinus contorta</i>
E	Douglas fir, <i>Pseudotsuga mezesii</i>
E	Port Orford Cedar, <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>
D	Oregon ash, <i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>
D	Vine maple, <i>Acer circinatum</i>
D	Quaking aspen, <i>Populus tremuloides</i>
D	Cascara, <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>
S	Blue elderberry, <i>Sambucus cerulea</i>
S	Red osier dogwood, <i>Cornus stolonifera</i>
S	Mock orange, <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>
S	Tall Oregon grape, <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>
S	Red flowering currant, <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>
S	Nootka rose, <i>Rosa nutkana</i>
S	Hooker willow, <i>Salix hookeriana</i>
S	Kinnikinnick, <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>
S	Salal, <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>
S	Evergreen huckleberry, <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>

PRE-ORDER  
ONLINE:  
JANUARY  
3RD @ 10AM

[ABOUT](#)

[PLANTING GUIDE](#)

[SHOP PLANTS](#)

PLANT  
PICK UP:  
MARCH  
18TH

E = EVERGREEN D = DECIDUOUS S = SHRUB

# 2022 CONSERVATION INVESTMENTS

Since 1942 we've partnered with our Skagit community in installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) throughout the County. Now we'd like to celebrate the hard work and dollars invested by, and for, our community to keep our natural resources healthy for future generations.

*But what is a BMP?* **Best Management Practices** are tools that landowners can use to run an efficient and cost-effective farm, while keeping their landscapes healthy. Whether the BMP be *physical, structural* or a *management practice*, they are benefiting wildlife, improving your energy efficiency, and making management easier on you. Because of variability, BMPs must be tailored to the type of operation, the physical conditions, and environmental factors.

**\$28,022** cost share provided by VSP

**\$51,261** landowner match

**\$171,193** cost share provided by NRCS

**\$225,022** cost share provided by WSCC

**\$475,994** Total 2021 investment in agricultural BMPs



# WHAT IS LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT & WHY SHOULD I CARE?



Low Impact Development (LID) is a stormwater management approach that works with nature to manage rainwater as close to where it falls as possible.

As water runoff flows across the ground, it picks up what it touches. The further runoff travels, the more polluted it becomes. Fast moving water is not able to filter into the soil, so unless something intercepts it, the

runoff water carries dirt, chemicals, and other pollutants until it runs into a low area like streams, lakes, and eventually the bay!

Low Impact Development manages water on your own site, focusing on slowing rainwater down, controlling the quantity and flow of stormwater, soaking it up, and using soil and plants to clean it. Slowing the water down limits erosion and runoff of polluted water, filters it, and keeps water usable onsite. The good news is that not only do LID techniques improve water quality, restore ground water reserves, and create a healthier yard, but many of these techniques are easily accomplished, beautiful, and low maintenance additions to our homes that don't require any extra cost, just a different plan.

- Retain trees and other vegetation which intercept precipitation.
- Create beautiful and useful outdoor spaces that limit lawn and other compacted areas while maintaining soil that can absorb water.
- Disperse water by directing runoff from roofs to rain catchments or planted areas.
- Grade only as much of the land as needed so soil, terrain, and plants can slow runoff.
- Use natural mulch to improve soil's ability to absorb and filter water.
- Place driveways and parking areas thoughtfully to limit compacted soil and direct runoff to planted areas.

# 2022 RIPARIAN INVESTMENTS

**CREP** is a voluntary program that pays landowners to establish forested buffers along streams where riparian habitat is a significant limiting factor for salmon. In addition to providing fish and wildlife habitat, buffers of native vegetation help protect water quality, stabilize stream banks, reduce erosion, lower water temperatures, and provide attractive borders for privacy and protection. Sound like CREP might be right for your property? Visit us for more [information!](#)



In 2022, the Washington Legislature appropriated \$10 million in funding to be used in incentive-based funding to help with salmon recovery projects. The **Salmon Recovery Funding (SRF)** Program encourages incentive programs with landowners that focus on the restoration of critical areas in salmon habitat, otherwise known as riparian restoration projects. **Since July**, 11 projects have been awarded funding within Skagit Conservation District, encompassing 15,755 linear feet of stream (3 miles) and 8,620 native trees/shrubs!

The WSCC program guidelines allow for four types of projects to be funded with this allocation.

- 1 Landowner Implemented Cost Share Projects**  
Like the majority of SCD projects
  - 2 District Implemented Projects**  
Often large-scale or complex projects involving permitting and interagency coordination
  - 3 Project Planning and Design**  
This allows for project design and permitting costs to be covered in preparation for construction in the future.
  - 4 Incentives Programs**  
Eligible projects can receive a one-time payment equal to 5 times the CREP soil rental rate, as well as a 20% bonus payment when a planting exceeds 100 feet in width, or a 40% bonus for projects that meet the WDFW site potential tree height chart for your area.
- Of the 11 projects funded through the Salmon Recovery Program, 3 are receiving cash incentives!

We partnered with the Skagit Watershed Council and WSCC to learn more about landowner perceptions of riparian plantings and programs that can help fund this work. Some barrier's landowners reported included **arduous cost-share application processes** and **insufficient compensation to do this work**, as well as the **planting width requirements** in some programs.

Other CD's have developed cash incentive programs that help offset lost revenue when farmers plant perennial species along waterways where they previously cropped. Skagit CD decided to develop a cash incentive program, similar to CREP. Our new program is available to a wide variety of stream-side properties. Eligible projects can receive a one-time payment equal to 5 times the CREP soil rental rate, as well as a 20% bonus payment when a planting exceeds 100 feet in width, or a 40% bonus for projects that meet the WDFW site potential tree height chart for your soil type. Of the 11 projects funded through the Salmon Recovery Program, 3 are receiving cash incentives.

Funding for this program is allocated to the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC). All projects must be completed by June 30, 2023. Landowners who are interested in pursuing project funding should reach out to the Skagit Conservation District for application assistance.



**APPLY NOW**

# BOARD SUPERVISOR ELECTION

The Board is a governing body of five supervisors who are unpaid public officials that oversee the work of the Conservation District. Three of the Board of Supervisors are elected by the voters of Skagit County and two are appointed by the WA State Conservation Commission. Skagit Conservation District will hold an election for one position on the Board.

## CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023 BY  
4:30 PM

## PUBLIC POLL ELECTION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023 FROM  
8:00 AM UNTIL 12:00 PM

## APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR APPOINTED POSITION

NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2023



**TO CAST YOUR VOTE** attend our public walk-in poll, which will be held from 8 AM to 12 PM on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 2021 E College Way, Mount Vernon, WA. Voters must be WA State registered voters and live in Skagit County. To be an elected candidate, you must be a WA State registered voter, live in Skagit County and file an information form with SCD by 4:00 pm Wednesday, January 25, 2023. Candidate information forms are available by contacting Cindy Pierce at 360-428-4313.

**IN ADDITION** a SCD board seat is available for appointment by the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC). Applications and supporting materials must be received by the WSCC to be considered for the position no later than March 31, 2023.



# COVER CROP GRANT PROGRAM



This Fall, Skagit County VSP and Skagit CD are teaming up to provide grants to help farmers offset the cost of cover crop seed. Cover crops are a great way to recycle nitrogen, improve soil, reduce erosion, improve water quality, and maintain living roots and the soil biotic community. This is a first-come, first served, seed reimbursement, program that has no acreage minimum or maximum and excludes cash crops. Applicants must plant by October 31st and terminate by June 1st.

## IN 2022

- ▶ 6 applicants
- ▶ 635 acres planted
- ▶ Top species: Triticale & Annual Ryegrass





# Pasture Management Schedule

Follow these guidelines for a flourishing pasture this year. Managing your pasture creates less chores, healthier animals, and clean water!

## JANUARY

- Restrict livestock from wet pastures and surface waters until later this year.
- **Collect manure and store it covered.**
- Pre-order native plants at the District's plant sale for windbreakers, streams and restoring habitat.

## FEBRUARY

- Make sure you have **portable electric fencing** to divide your pasture into smaller paddocks when the fields are ready to be grazed.
- If your manure storage is full, contact the District to join the manure share program.

## MARCH

- Restrict livestock access from surface water, wells, and septic drain fields.
- Review your farm plan for fertilizer and lime needs for the upcoming season and reserve our equipment now.
- **Time for a soil test.**

## APRIL

- Apply *35% of total amount* of manure/fertilizer recommended by soil test if fields are not saturated.
- Touch-up confinement areas by reseeding and pick a top-dress for heavy use areas.

## MAY

- Apply up to *40% of annual fertilizer* needs. Add compost now too.
- Rotate animals off pastures when grass height is down to **3 inches**.
- Allow livestock back on pasture when grass is at least **6 inches**.

## JUNE

- Avoid **under grazing**: Don't allow the grass to get ahead of the livestock
- Now is a great time for manure applications to fields. Contact the CD if you would like to rent our ground-driven, broadcast manure spreader.