

## Survey Says...

How satisfied are our clients with our farm plan services? What opinions do people have about King CD and how would they rate their interactions with our staff? These are just a few of the questions we hoped to answer with a recent survey conducted by the WSU Division of Governmental Studies and Services. The survey included people who had used our farm plan services (e.g., farm planning, site visits, manure spreader, soil testing) between spring 2007 and fall 2009. Approximately 400 people were contacted and over a third responded. We were very pleased to find that the feedback was extremely positive. In fact, 99% of respondents said they would recommend King CD to friends, neighbors or colleagues!

Responses to questions regarding impressions of King CD and the services we provide were especially positive. The average score on each of these questions was between Excellent and Good, with the most positive rankings given for Employee Courtesy, Plan Presentation and Staff Site Visit. Here's a sample of just a few of the comments:

"Everyone I've met is friendly, patient and helpful. Thank you - couldn't do it without you. I was initially a skeptic but am now a fan."

"Staff have been wonderful, dedicated and enthusiastic."

*(continued on page 2)*



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KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
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# Survey Says...

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"Good luck on funding. Hope y'all survive this downturn and keep doing what you do. Thanks for your help."

"I have really felt honored to be able to get to know your representatives."



The ultimate goal of farm planning is to help landowners get conservation projects on the ground. This confinement area was funded in part by the King CD Landowner Incentive Program.

The survey included questions about communication and awareness (website, newsletter, etc.); services obtained; and customer service and satisfaction. Participants were also asked what they see as the critical issues facing King County residents that King CD should address.

The top critical issue raised was land use planning impacts and

protection of agricultural land. People expressed concerns about growing restrictions on flood-prone acreage, inability to use land fully due to the critical areas ordinance and intrusion of suburban development. The second most common issues raised were related to water quality, erosion and mud management. Comments here included recommendations for King CD to continue helping farmers restore streamside habitat, provide mud management for livestock and reasonable flood control.

While the results of the survey were overwhelmingly positive, we still found areas where we could move from Good to Excellent. We've already made steps to improve our farm plan documents with a new format that we hope will be more user-friendly. We are continually looking for ways to improve. We may do this survey again, so if you are asked to participate, we hope you will! If you have feedback about how we are doing, we would love to hear it- write us at [district@kingcd.org](mailto:district@kingcd.org).

To see the full report, executive summary and a PowerPoint presentation on the survey, visit: [www.kingcd.org/about-customer-survey.htm](http://www.kingcd.org/about-customer-survey.htm)

Approximately 180-200 people contact us for farm planning services every year. Approximately 60% of those result in a farm plan. Others take advantage of our other services such as using our manure spreader, soil testing program and site visits.

## Composting Solutions at the Triple J Ranch

Text and Photos by Alayne Blicke, Horses for Clean Water

Triple J Ranch, a private 20-horse boarding facility, is set on a quiet ten acres surrounded by forest just off the Issaquah-Hobart Road. This brand new, environmentally-friendly horse operation has mud-free paddocks, chore-efficient automatic feeders, native plants for wildlife and mats in every stall. The clean, friendly atmosphere lends to making everything about the place feel "green."

"Initially being green wasn't our goal, but economically it ended up making sense," explains Triple J's owner Denise Harris. "Especially with manure management," she adds. "It was going to cost us a whole bunch of money to deal with stall waste disposal. We don't have space to make an enormous pile so we were going to pay to haul it off – at a cost over \$1,000 per month. It just made good financial sense to invest in a compost system that would work for us." Because the composting process reduces the size of a manure pile by nearly 50 percent, Triple J has substantially decreased the volume of their stall waste. "Plus, we end up with compost that we can give away, use ourselves or maybe one day sell. But right now we make money just by giving it away because we don't have to pay disposal costs."

Triple J uses a unique Aerated Static Pile method for composting designed by engineer Peter Moon, founder of O2Compost (for more info, visit [www.o2compost.com](http://www.o2compost.com)). This past June, the King CD sponsored an

educational event at Triple J Ranch with Peter Moon to look at how stall waste is handled at this facility. With the Aerated Static Pile method, air is pumped into the compost pile with the aid of an electric blower. Oxygen helps feed the micro-organisms that digest the raw manure and speeds the process along. A by-product of the microbial activity is heat, which kills weed seeds, parasites, pathogens and fly larva. Properly managed aerobic compost piles smell earthy, not offensive. And this particular method of composting quickly produces a high-quality, finished compost product.



To learn more about other manure management options and get ideas on how to set up livestock property in a chore-efficient, environmentally-sensitive manner join the King CD and Horses for Clean Water at our last farm tour of the year on October 2 from 10 am to noon in Des Moines. To register and receive directions, contact the King CD at 425-282-1949 or [signup@kingcd.org](mailto:signup@kingcd.org).

# National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Partnership

The King CD recently entered into a partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to support the Community Salmon Fund. The Fund is a source of grants for salmon restoration projects that have strong community involvement from landowners, local volunteers, students and other community groups. "NFWF's mission is closely aligned with King CDs. We both want to get restoration projects on the ground," said King CD Board Chair, Bill Knutsen. Historically co-funded by King County and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Community Salmon Fund was in danger of disappearing when the County was forced to withdraw funding at the last minute. "King County had the vision and commitment to start and maintain this program for more than ten years—we were very pleased to be able to step up and help keep it alive."



*The King County Salmon Fund has made many projects possible over the past 10 years. Needle Creek Slope Stabilization crew members are sitting on "coir logs," made from coconut husk fibers and used to stop erosion along steep slopes.*

Sara Hemphill, King CD Interim Executive Director, agrees. "We're stepping into some big shoes. We look forward to continuing a productive partnership with this esteemed national organization."

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a private non-profit that preserves and restores our nation's native wildlife species and habitats. The Community Salmon Fund is just one of several grant programs. The program was developed to help support local groups interested in salmon recovery. "In many cases, all that these groups needed was a small commitment of funds to kick-start their projects and engage local landowners," said Krystyna U. Wolniakowski, Director of NFWF's Western Partnership Office. "We realized that even relatively small grants could leverage impressive community involvement and outcomes."

The King CD will be contributing \$120,000 of funding which will be matched by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This will allow for almost a quarter million dollars of funding for projects in 2010. Depending on King CD's 2011 budget, this amount may increase in the future. "We are very pleased with our new partnership with King CD and will now have even more opportunities to partner with agricultural landowners dedicated to improving stewardship on private lands important to fish and wildlife species," said Wolniakowski.

Created by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and then matches those investments with private funds. To find out more, visit [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

## Farm Tours & Workshops

### FARM TOUR

**Small Farm in the Busy City  
Des Moines**

**Saturday October 2 from 10 am to noon**

Nestled under the SeaTac flight path you'll find a picturesque three-acre farm complete with horses, goats, a pony, chickens, ducks, dogs and cats. Join us to learn about the challenges and rewards of carving out a small farm in an urban environment. Learn about building a covered arena in a tight space, renovating a farm building, lots of cost-cutting options and see an amazingly efficient design for a compost bin.

**All Events Are FREE!**

To register for FARM TOURS and receive directions, call 425-282-1949 or email [signup@kingcd.org](mailto:signup@kingcd.org)

To register for WORKSHOPS and receive directions, call 425-282-1904 or email [paul.borne@kingcd.org](mailto:paul.borne@kingcd.org)

### WORKSHOP SERIES FOR HORSE AND SMALL FARM OWNERS

Classes will be held in the Woodinville Water District Offices

**Thursday evenings, October 14 to November 4 from 6:30-9pm, FREE!**

Discover ways to reduce mud, improve pastures, manage manure and protect streams and wetlands.

- **October 14**, Stream and Wetlands: Living with Livestock near Water
- **October 21**, Mud Management: Record Rainfall / Record Mud (Alayne Blickle, guest speaker)
- **October 28**, Manure Management: Got Livestock? Got Manure! (Alayne Blickle, guest speaker)
- **November 4**, Pasture Management Becoming a Grass Farmer

# King CD Landowner Partnerships: Restoration Projects Fall 2009 - Fall 2010



## 1 Barden Cattle Farm – Vashon Island, Fall 2009

Cattle pasture buffer restoration: Fenced cattle out of 850 ft. of salmon-bearing Judd Creek and planted 1,110 native plants.

## 2 Volunteer Opportunity!

### Caterpillar Creek Farm - Vashon, upcoming Fall 2010

Sheep pasture buffer restoration: King CD will be removing invasive plants and planting native trees and shrubs along this wetland stream buffer. Contact King CD if your group is interested in scheduling an event here.

## 3 Volunteer Opportunity!

### Longfellow Creek – Seattle, ongoing

A partnership between King CD, Green Seattle Partnership, Longfellow Creek Watershed Council and Seattle Parks has provided the resources to restore this 11-acre site. Come out and help us restore Longfellow Creek, one of the last salmon streams in Seattle. See our volunteer opportunities on page 8 for more details.

## 4 Deutsch – Tukwila, Spring 2010

Horse/alpaca/goat pasture buffer restoration: King CD removed invasives and planted 431 native plants along 760 ft. of wetland/stream tributary of the Duwamish River.

## 5 Volunteer Opportunity!

### Totem Lake – Kirkland, ongoing

Totem Lake is a 17+ acre wetland complex owned by King CD in Kirkland. Over the years many invasive species have been removed and replaced with native trees and shrubs. Totem Lake provides habitat for many birds and reptiles. Contact King CD if your group is interested in scheduling an event here.

## 6 Volunteer Opportunity!

### Wood-n-brook Farms – Redmond, upcoming Fall 2010

Horse pasture buffer restoration: King CD will be removing invasive plants along a section of Bear Creek and planting native trees and shrubs in their place. Contact King CD if your group is interested in scheduling an event here.

## 7 McCain – Kent, Spring 2010

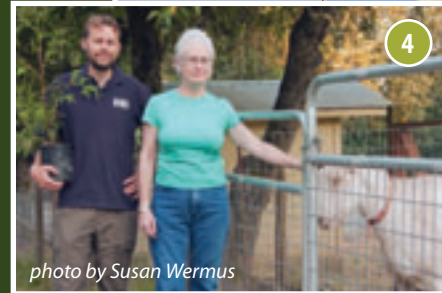
Hay pasture buffer restoration: King CD removed invasives and planted 421 native plants along 290 ft. of salmon-bearing Little Soos Creek.

## 8 Thomasson Dairy Farm – Enumclaw, Fall 2009

Cattle pasture buffer restoration: King CD removed invasives and planted 312 native plants along 220 ft. of a tributary to the White River.

## 9 Goodman – Enumclaw, Spring 2010

Hay pasture buffer restoration: King CD removed invasive plants, replacing them with 1,027 native plants along 875 ft. of a tributary to salmon-bearing Newaukum Creek.



## 10 Upshaw – Maple Valley, Fall 2009

Horse pasture buffer restoration: Fenced horses out of 330 ft. of salmon-bearing Taylor Creek, a tributary of the Cedar River. King CD also removed invasives and planted 558 native plants.

## 11 Jacobs – Enumclaw, Spring 2010

Horse pasture buffer restoration: King CD removed invasive plants, replacing them with 1700 native plants along 630 ft. of salmon-bearing Newaukum Creek.

## 12 Circle Creek Farms – Duvall, Fall 2009

Horse pasture buffer restoration: King CD removed invasive plants, replacing them with 350 native plants along 360 ft. of Weis Creek, a salmon-bearing tributary of the Snoqualmie River.

## 13 Volunteer Opportunity!

### Gieber – Fall City, upcoming Fall 2010

Come out Nov. 6 and help King CD as we work to restore Patterson Creek. Volunteers will be helping to plant native trees and shrubs. See our volunteer opportunities on page 8 for more details.

## 14 Volunteer Opportunity!

### Hawk's Rest – Fall City, upcoming Fall 2010

Horse pasture buffer restoration: King CD has already removed invasive plants over 20,000 sq. ft. and will be replanting this area of Patterson Creek with native plants this fall. Contact King CD if your group is interested in scheduling an event here.

## 15 Storrs Horse Farm – Snoqualmie, Fall 2009

Horse pasture buffer restoration: King CD removed invasives and planted 340 native plants along 210 ft. of Kimball Creek, a tributary of the Snoqualmie River.

## 16 Eversole Horse Farm – Snoqualmie, Spring 2010

Horse pasture buffer restoration: Fenced horses out of wetland and replanted 16,000 sq. ft. of wetland buffer with 945 native plants.

## 17 Volunteer Opportunity!

### Rosebud River Ranch – Snoqualmie, upcoming Fall 2010

Come out on Dec. 4 and help King CD as we try to restore this trout-rearing tributary of the Snoqualmie River. Volunteers will be helping to replant 49,000 sq. ft. with native trees and shrubs. See our volunteer opportunities on page 8 for more details.

## 18 Pearson – Snoqualmie, Spring 2010

Immediately downstream from the upcoming Rosebud River Ranch project, King CD removed invasives and planted 775 native plants along 540 ft. of this tributary of the Snoqualmie River.

FALL 2009  
THROUGH  
FALL 2010

PROJECT  
TOTALS

Total project area restored = 6.4 acres

Stream/wetland shorelines restored = 1.25 miles

Total native plants installed = 7,969

# New Crop of Farmers Ready to Go: Where's the Land?

By Mary Embleton, Executive Director of the Cascade Harvest Coalition and King CD Advisory Committee Member

Do you have unused or underutilized farmland? Want to see your land kept in farming? Maintain the current use tax status of your property? See the next generation of farmers succeed? If so, please consider enrolling in Washington FarmLink, the state's leading program to link aspiring farmers and landowners and help build sustainable farming operations.



*Michaele Blakely, Growing Things Farm, Carnation, explains crop rotations to beginning farmers.*

A new crop of farmers is ready! FarmLink currently has nearly 300 farmers enrolled that are looking for land and only 65 enrolled with land for linking – a ratio of 5:1. While somewhat better than the nationwide average (about 10:1), it still means that there are many more folks looking to get into farming than land available.

FarmLink's mission is to help farmers and farmland owners identify, consider and implement options to keep farmland in production and for sustaining healthy, viable farm operations, by:

- Addressing the critical issues of farm transition;
- Identifying strategies to help keep agriculture viable;
- Helping farmers better steward our agricultural resources; and
- Bridging the gap between individual services that are currently being offered to the farming community.

FarmLink helps ensure that working farms remain in production and helps facilitate the transition of farms to the next generation by connecting people with the resources and technical expertise necessary to achieve these goals through: (1) a farmer/landowner matching service; (2) educational workshops; (3) a comprehensive one-stop resource center; and (4) one-on-one assistance.

FarmLink has provided services to nearly 900 individuals, kept over 800 acres in active production, conducted over two dozen educational workshops and established an informational resource center. Most

farmers enrolled in FarmLink have training and experience. However, with few land opportunities available, we are losing the chance to increase the diversity of farm products available to local consumers and to maintain our agricultural land base.

## Who Will Farm?

Washington has been losing its local food resources at an alarming rate – nearly 350,000 acres of farm land were lost between 2002 and 2007. Age, finances and other barriers are also creating a dearth of new farm operators. In 2007, the average age of farm operators was 57. Nearly 60 percent of farm operators in Washington are 55 years and older. The number of farmers less than 35 has steadily declined to less than 5 percent. These statistics take on greater importance when we consider that 70 percent of all farmland will change hands in the next 10-15 years.

The need to keep farmers on the land is key to maintaining the land's integrity. While there are many groups, including local land trusts and non-profit grassroots organizations, that actively pursue and promote farmland preservation, how is the issue of farm transition to the next generation being addressed? How do we keep agricultural lands as working farms?

## The FarmLink Response

In the late 1980's, programs began to emerge to address issues facing farmers and farmland in transition. Most have developed more recently – in the late 1990's – and are operated by both public and non-profit organizations. All have the goal of fostering viable and sustainable farm transitions.

Twenty-six "farm link" programs currently exist in 21 states. Common among them are providing information on tools to facilitate farm transfers and access to technical and/or financial assistance. Many, like Washington's FarmLink Program, provide a matching service connecting farmland owners with beginning farmers.

The farm link model offers opportunities to facilitate farm transition. However, while the desire to enter farming remains strong – with ratios of beginning/retiring farmer inquiries running as high as 10:1 – the barriers to entry remain formidable.

*Mary Embleton is Executive Director of the Cascade Harvest Coalition, a non-profit organization that works to develop and promote sustainable local food systems. For more information on the Cascade Harvest Coalition and its programs visit [www.cascadeharvest.org](http://www.cascadeharvest.org), e-mail [mary@cascadeharvest.org](mailto:mary@cascadeharvest.org), or call 206-632-0606.*

# King CD Grant Program Highlights

The King CD grant program funds a wide array of projects and programs that steward natural resources. Approximately \$3.8 million in grants will be awarded to cities, agencies and non-profits within the District this year. Here's a snapshot of just a few of the projects made possible with King Conservation District funding :

## Middle Green River Restoration Projects

King CD's grant program has helped fund numerous King County restoration projects along the Middle Green River, a crucial waterbody for fish. Restoration projects have removed invasive plants, replacing them with native trees and shrubs that improve water quality and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. King CD grant funding has also helped cover costs for the installation of log jams in Newaukum Creek (a tributary to the Middle Green River) and the relocation of a levee along the Green River near Auburn, both of which will significantly improve salmon habitat.

Over the last ten years, over 85,000 native trees and shrubs have been planted along the Middle Green River. "King CD funds have not only helped cover the costs associated with planting, but also the site preparation and maintenance that ensures these plants actually *survive*. Maintenance is crucial in order to achieve high plant survival rates," says Josh Kahan, King County Green and White Basin Steward. "If it wasn't for King CD, we'd be planting a much smaller number of trees. King CD funding is that critical. Instead of 85,000 plantings, we'd be looking at 25 or 30,000. Instead of 100 acres, we'd be looking at 30. King CD funding allows for more robust projects and results."



Log jam in Newaukum Creek

## Riverton Site Public Engagement and Conceptual Design

A King CD grant will help the City of SeaTac engage the community and build consensus for public uses on the Riverton site, a parcel owned by the City in a diverse residential neighborhood. The community engagement process will result in the development of conceptual site plans. Potential uses could include a mix of parks and open space (currently lacking in the area); a community garden (the site is centrally located in a neighborhood that's experiencing significant growth, including multi-family housing

which provides less space for on-site gardening); or other public amenities such as an arts or educational center.

## Rain Garden Installation, Training and Education

King CD grants have helped fund rain garden classroom training, hands on installation of demonstration rain garden projects and extensive community outreach. The grants have resulted in trained rain garden installers, curriculum materials and several installed demo gardens. Launch of a 5-year, "1,000 Rain Gardens Challenge" is also an important part of the program. For more information on the program and some great rain garden resources, visit the Stewardship Partners website at: [www.stewardshippartners.org](http://www.stewardshippartners.org)



Rain garden photo courtesy of Stewardship Partners

## Shoreline City Hall

King CD funding enabled the City of Shoreline to incorporate water quality improvement features into the design and construction of their new city hall building. The features include green roofs and rain gardens with native vegetation, and irrigation systems that reuse water. The best management practices implemented will demonstrate to the community how to reduce surface water runoff, reduce impervious surfaces and use native vegetation throughout the landscape.



Green roof, City of Shoreline City Hall

# Volunteer Opportunities

King Conservation District invites you to participate and learn about restoring streams and wetlands, using native plants to restore native plant communities and engineering techniques to enhance fish and wildlife habitat. These projects are both fun and educational. Contact Adam Jackson at (425) 282-1908 or email [volunteer@kingcd.org](mailto:volunteer@kingcd.org) for more information on these and other volunteer opportunities.

## Garden of Goo

### Wetland Plant Nursery, Renton

Native plants grown from locally collected seed are the cornerstone of conservation and ecological restoration. Learn about growing native plants for stream and wetland restoration projects while helping to perform critical nursery tasks. Activities may include starting plants from seed, divisions and transplants, or helping to maintain nursery stock by watering and weeding.

**Event Dates: Sept. 17; Oct. 8, 22, 23; Nov. 5, 20**

All events will be held from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

## Nurturing Nature

### King County

The King CD stream and wetland restoration program has many successful restoration projects throughout the county with many more scheduled for installation. Experience different aspects of a restoration project: preparing sites by removing invasive species, planting native trees and shrubs and spreading mulch to help ensure a successful project. Come and help improve our local aquatic areas and keep our environment a healthy place for us and for wildlife!

**Event Date: Nov. 6 (Fall City); Dec. 4 (Snoqualmie)**

Both events will be held from 9:00 am -1:00 pm.

## Urban Forest Restoration

### Longfellow Creek, Seattle

Join King CD and the Green Seattle Partnership to help restore habitat on Longfellow Creek in West Seattle. Longfellow Creek is one of only four salmon streams in Seattle. Come join our ongoing efforts to replace invasive ivy and blackberry with native trees and shrubs.

**Events Dates: Sept. 18; Oct. 9 (Duwamish Alive event); Nov. 20**

All events will be held from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.



## Fall 2010 Duwamish Alive!

Come out and celebrate our hometown river! The Duwamish River has only 3% of its original habitat remaining. Join the King Conservation District, Longfellow Creek Legacy Council and the Duwamish Alive Coalition and 100's of other volunteers lending a hand in our efforts to restore the Duwamish watershed. Longfellow Creek is a main tributary to the Duwamish and its health has a direct effect on the health of the Duwamish. Come pull some weeds, spread some mulch and plant a tree to help restore and maintain the health of our urban waterways!

For information about the event or the Duwamish Alive Coalition please contact Adam Jackson at 425-282-1908 or email [volunteer@kingcd.org](mailto:volunteer@kingcd.org).



The **Conservation Connection** is published quarterly by King Conservation District. Materials contained in this publication may be reprinted with credit given to the **Conservation Connection**, King Conservation District. Address correspondence to King Conservation District, 1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130, Renton, WA 98057; 425-282-1900

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King Conservation District is a subdivision of state government created to promote the wise use of natural resources. Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at our office in Renton. The public is encouraged to attend.

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