



King Conservation District

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Legislative District: 1, 5, 11, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48 Congressional District: 1, 7, 8, 9

Other Accomplishments



Provided 12 fire workshops in 6 communities reaching 380 people and completed 63 wildfire home safety evaluations.



Improved and/or renewed 196 acres of farmland by maintaining agricultural ditches in partnership with King County.



Invested \$6.3 million in local food and farm projects since 2015. 25% of 2020 grants awarded to BIPOC led groups.

2019-21 Biennium Feature Accomplishment

Discovery Farms - Riparian Buffer Evaluation

Resource Challenge

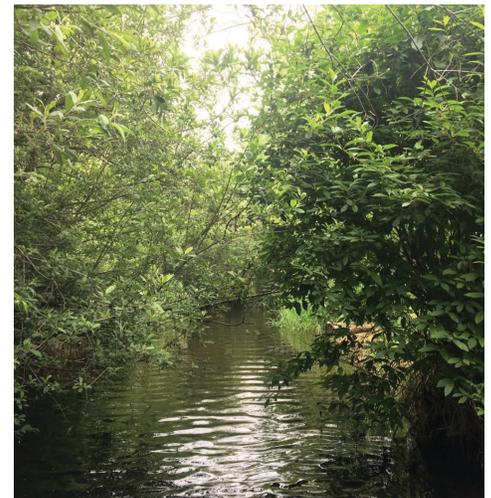
A leading cause of salmon habitat degradation is high stream temperatures. Vegetated riparian buffers (a combination of trees and shrubs planted along a stream) provide shade to protect streams from the summer heat. Salmon recovery activities regularly involve planting buffers along waterways. The Discovery Farms model of on-farm research was used to evaluate the effectiveness of these buffers in maintaining cool stream temperatures in streams that run through agricultural lands in King County.

Project Summary and Results

Thirty streams, including agricultural ditches, were monitored for two years. The streams ranged from no buffers to forested buffers over 200 feet wide.

The study shows that differences in air temperature can be as high as 51°F without a buffer and water temperatures can rise as much as 37°F in a day without canopy cover. It also shows that relatively small buffers (up to 30 ft) can have a significant impact in moderating stream temperature. This may provide insight for future decision making around natural resource considerations for farms and salmon.

From 2020-21, King Conservation District enhanced 3.6 miles of riparian buffer.



Left: Newakum Creek in Enumclaw with no buffer yet. Right: Boise Creek in Enumclaw with a King Conservation District buffer planted in 2006.

Priorities moving forward...

- ▶ Identify and plan four shoreline armor removal projects on Puget Sound through Shore Friendly King County collaboration to improve marine shoreline health.
- ▶ Support three new community garden projects focusing on frontline communities in King County to increase access to local, culturally relevant food.