

# WATER CONSERVATION AND SALMON

*Healthy streams, rivers and wetlands are vitally important for salmon habitat. Irrigation and domestic water is often pulled from the Chehalis River its tributaries), along with water drawn from wells, (local aquifers). Using water wisely means more water for fish and other wildlife.*

## **Conserve Waters Indoors by:**

- Take shorter showers
- Convert to low-flow toilets, showerheads and faucets
- Only run the washer or dishwasher when full
- Check and fix any water leaks in pipes and toilets
- Shut off water when lathering, shaving, and brushing teeth

In 2019, WA State had the fourth driest March on record and experienced drought conditions in parts of state.



## **Conserve Water Outdoors by:**

- Convert lawns to native plants, low-water landscaping and drip irrigation
- Use a mulching lawn mower set a 2-3" height to get deeper, healthier roots that retain moisture, and require less water
- Water lawns in the early morning hours so more water is absorbed and utilized
- Limit watering to 1 inch/week including rainfall
- Wash cars parked on lawn, or go to a commercial car wash where water is recycled

## **Conserve Water By Taking Care of Land Alongside River or Stream**

- Use natural ground cover or porous gravel or bark instead of asphalt and concrete for paths and driveways
- Ensure that roof runoff soaks into the ground. Avoid piping to ravines or streams as it causes erosion
- Keep remove trees or other native vegetation along bluffs or hillsides. This reduces erosion and the possibility of mudslides
- Compost grass clippings or other plant materials
- Keep land alongside river and streams as natural as possible



# PROTECT WATER QUALITY AND SALMON

## Tips to Protect Water Quality and Salmon:

- Create rain gardens to filter stormwater and other pollutants from water
- Plant native vegetation along streams to shade the water and keep cool for salmon
- Avoid or limit use of fertilizers and pesticides; if use, use slow-release, natural fertilizers and pesticides
- Pull weeds by hand instead of spraying with chemicals
- Safely dispose of unused and expired medicine
- Safely dispose of household hazardous waste at hazardous waste collection sites
- Inspect and maintain septic system yearly and pump every 2-3 years
- Have private wells tested annually for nitrates and other bacteria and keep all hazardous materials 100 feet or more away from wells
- Pick up pet waste and properly dispose
- Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom, not the hose



**Raingarden**

## Builders

- Use Low-Impact Development techniques
- Incorporate wetlands as a feature of project as wetlands purify water, provide flood protection, help with groundwater retention and maintain stream flows



**Porous Pavers**

## Contact your local Conservation District For More Info!

**Grays Harbor County:** <https://graysharborcd.wordpress.com>

**Lewis County:** <https://lewisconservation.wordpress.com/about>

**Mason County:** <https://www.masoncd.org>

**Thurston County:** <https://www.thurstoncd.com>



**Wetlands**



For information or If you are interested in restoring salmon habitat in a creek near you, please visit [www.chehalisleadentity.org](http://www.chehalisleadentity.org) or contact the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity's Coordinator, [kharma@chehalis tribe.org](mailto:kharma@chehalis tribe.org)