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Season of Renewal & Restoration

As we wrap up a busy fall season, Grays Harbor Conservation District is carrying that momentum into winter. Field crews, community partners, and volunteers have all played a role in supporting restoration efforts, education programs, and landowner services across the district.

Winter marks an important transition point—prime time for planting, project preparation, and behind-the-scenes planning that sets the stage for a successful year ahead. In this newsletter, you'll find updates on recent accomplishments, a look at what's coming next, and opportunities to get involved in the months ahead.

We're excited to share the progress happening across our communities and landscapes!



Become a Lower Satsop Steward!

Do you love spending time outdoors? Looking for a meaningful way to support salmon habitat and the health of the Satsop River? Join our brand-new volunteer program: Lower Satsop Stewards!

This program brings together community members who are passionate about restoring riparian habitat at the WDFW Lower Satsop Ponds. Volunteers will help with hands-on stewardship activities throughout the year, including:

- Native plantings
- Invasive species removal
- Habitat restoration and maintenance

No experience is necessary—we provide tools, training, and snacks. All you need is a willingness to learn and a love for the environment.



BECOME A LOWER SATSOP STEWARD!

JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER EVENTS FOR RIPARIAN RESTORATION AT THE WDFW LOWER SATSOP PONDS

OUR MISSION: A HEALTHIER SATSOP

The riverbank, or **Riparian Zone**, is the lifeline of a healthy river. Invasive plants are choking out this vital habitat.

By removing these weeds and planting native species, we are:

- **Cooling the water**
- **Stabilizing the banks**
- **Restoring the habitat**

YOUR ROLE AS A STEWARD

Plant Native Vegetation

Restore the Habitat by Removing Invasives

Learn about Local Ecology & Become an Ambassador

READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT EVENT!

READY TO JOIN THE STEWARDS?

We Welcome Everyone! No experience needed

When: 10AM-12PM
Dec 6, Mar 7, Jun 6, Sept 19

Where: 110 Keys Rd, Elma

Bring: a water bottle and weather appropriate clothing/shoes

Contact: khunter@graysharborcd.org



Volunteer With Us

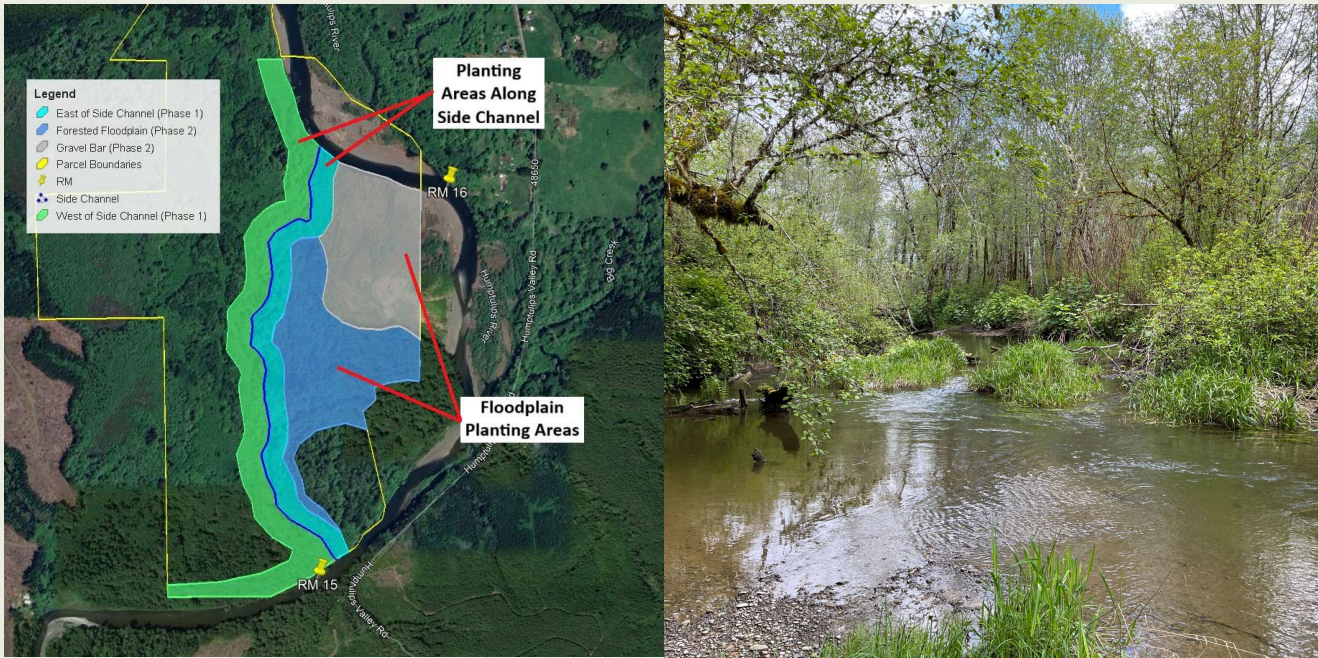
Join us in making a difference with our new Volunteer Sign-Up Form! Whether you're into tree planting, education, or community events, there's a spot for you! Click the button below to get involved with your local conservation district.

[Sign Up Here!](#)

Restoring the Humptulips:

Riparian Restoration

We're excited to share progress on the Humptulips Riparian Restoration project! This project focuses on supporting natural plant succession by underplanting conifers in an alder-dominated floodplain along a unique side channel of the river. Funded through the Aquatic Species Restoration Program, it addresses key habitat features that salmon need to thrive. The native spruce, hemlock, and cedar we're planting will intercept rainfall and provide shade to keep the river clean and cold. Over time, these trees will also contribute wood to the river, which helps slow flows, shape gravel bars, and create pools essential for salmon spawning, refuge, and cover during their migration. We are grateful to our project partner, the Grays Harbor Audubon Society, and the landowners for joining us in improving fish and wildlife habitat in the Humptulips watershed.



JOIN OUR TEAM

Apply Online at
graysharborcd.org/career-opportunities

Grays Harbor Conservation District is hiring Riparian Restoration Crew Members and a Marine Resiliency Technician. Full-time, permanent positions starting winter 2025/2026 in Elma, WA, with work throughout Grays Harbor County. These positions are dependent on continued grant funding.

Starting wage: \$21/hr

Benefits: Medical, dental, retirement

To see full job descriptions and apply, visit the GHCD Careers page:

www.graysharborcd.org/career-opportunities

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis; interviews start Fall 2025.

Balancing Agriculture and Conservation: Fence Cost Share Success

As part of our ongoing Agriculture Program, this fence cost share project helped local landowners improve livestock management through cross fencing for rotational grazing. Funded by the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), the project focused on reducing nutrient and pathogen runoff, protecting surface and groundwater, and improving pasture and soil health. The property, located near wetlands and within a flood zone, historically faced challenges with livestock concentrating on limited high ground during seasonal flooding. By installing new fencing and creating designated paddocks, the project improved grazing distribution, enhanced forage conditions, and supported long-term agricultural viability, all while safeguarding nearby natural resources.



Mark Your Calendar: Board Election Coming Up



Grays Harbor Conservation District will hold a **poll-site election** for one board seat on **Friday, March 13, 2026**, at:

150 Technology Lane, Suite 201, Elma, WA

Polling Hours: 12–7 p.m.

Who Can Vote?

- Any **registered voter living within the Conservation District boundary** is eligible.
- Voters may **vote in person on Election Day** without requesting a ballot.

Optional Mail or Drop-Off Ballots (If You Can't Vote in Person)

This is a poll-site election, where most voters will cast their ballot in person on Election Day. However, if you won't be able to make it to the polls, you may request a ballot for mail or hand-delivery.

- **Ballot request deadline:** February 20, 2026, 5 p.m.
- **How to request:** In person at the GHCD office, by phone (360-214-9620), or by email (khunter@graysharborcd.org).
- **Returning your ballot:**
 - **By mail:** Must be postmarked by March 13, 2026.
 - **In person:** Must be returned to the GHCD office by 7 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you prefer, you do **not need** to request a ballot — you can simply vote in person at the polling site on March 13.

Interested in Running for the Open Seat?

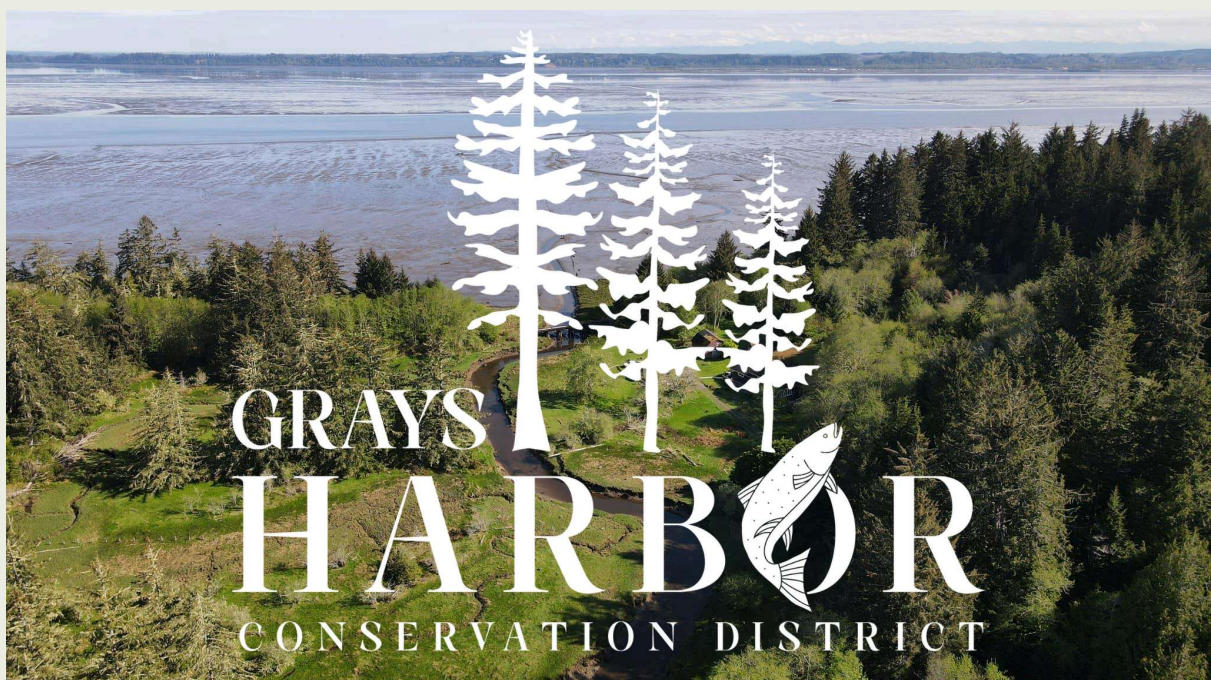
- Candidates must be **registered voters residing within the Conservation District boundary**.
- **Filing deadline:** February 13, 2026, at 5 p.m.

- Candidate filing information is available on our website or can be requested by emailing khunter@graysharborcd.org.

Thank you for staying connected with Grays Harbor Conservation District! We hope you've enjoyed learning about our recent projects, upcoming events, and ways to get involved. Your support—whether through volunteering, attending events, or spreading the word—makes a real difference in our community and local ecosystems.

For the latest updates, event announcements, and ways to get involved as they happen, be sure to visit our website at graysharborcd.org and follow us on social media [@graysharbor.cd](https://www.instagram.com/graysharbor.cd).

We'll be back with our next newsletter in March, bringing more highlights and opportunities to engage with the District. Until then, enjoy the changing seasons, and we hope to see you at one of our winter volunteer events!



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