



# CONSERVE WATER PROTECT SALMON

*Healthy streams, rivers and wetlands are vitally important for salmon habitat. The Chehalis River and its tributaries are important sources of water for home and irrigation needs, along with water drawn from wells -local aquifers. Using water wisely means more water for fish and other wildlife.*

## Conserve Water Indoors by:

**Over 50 % of the water we use inside a home takes place in the bathroom.**

- Use a leak-free, high efficiency toilet, and use a wastebasket, not a toilet, for trash. Toilets account for almost 30 % of all indoor residential water consumption.
- Turn off the water while shaving or brushing teeth and save up to 4 gallons a minute, or up to 200 gallons a week for a family of four!
- Shower instead of taking baths, as showers use less water. Keep your showers to under 5 minutes, you'll save up to 1,000 gallons a month!

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

## Conserve Water Outdoors by:

**Nearly 30 % of water is used outdoors. In the hot summer months, a household's outdoor water use can be as high as 70%.**

- Convert lawns to native plants, low-water landscaping and use 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 (this includes 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 Lakes, Rivers, and Streams

- Use natural ground cover, porous gravel or bark for paths and driveways.
- Keep land alongside lakes, river and streams as natural as possible. The shade helps to keep the water cool for salmon.
- Ensure that roof runoff soaks into the ground. Prevent erosion. Avoid piping to ravines or streams.
- Keep trees or other native vegetation along bluffs or hillsides to reduce erosion.
- Compost grass clippings and other plant materials.

The South Fork of the Chehalis River hit 80.7 degrees on July 29, 2018. Temperatures above 73-77 degrees are considered lethal to salmon.



# PROTECT WATER QUALITY AND SALMON



Rain Garden



Recent studies show that non-point source pollution contributes to the death of more than 50% of Coho salmon before spawning.

## Tips to Protect Water Quality and Salmon

- Pick up pet waste and dispose of properly.
- 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.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste at hazardous waste collection sites.
- Inspect and maintain septic system yearly and pump out 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 of.
- Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom, not the hose.



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Porous Pavers

## Builders

- Use low impact development techniques like porous pavers.
- Incorporate wetlands as a feature of project. Wetlands purify water, provide flood protection, recharge groundwater and help to maintain stream flows.

## Contact Your Local Conservation District for More Information:

**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



Salmon are able to detect water temperature differences within half a degree. They move to areas that are cooler and more favorable in an activity called "thermoregulation."

Interested in restoring salmon habitat in a creek near you?

Visit: [www.chehalisleadentity.org](http://www.chehalisleadentity.org) or contact the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity Coordinator, [kharma@chehalis tribe.org](mailto:kharma@chehalis tribe.org)