



Discretionary Fund Summary

▶ Manure Compost Bins

▶ **Project Type:**
Restoration - Livestock
Recreational Horse

▶ **Project Partners:**
Snohomish Conservation
District

▶ **Amount of DF Rebate
Award:**
\$5,701.50

▶ **Grant Recipient
Match:** (e.g., landowner
cash, landowner in-kind services
or materials, grants from other
agencies):

\$1,900.50

▶ **Total Project Cost:**
\$7,602.00

▶ **Year Completed:**
2015

The Clean Water District Discretionary Fund:

The Discretionary Fund is available to assist private landowners, community groups, and/or local agencies in undertaking small scale, on-the-ground projects to improve water quality for shellfish protection on private or public property.

Project Description:

For years, Lyn has been an active member of her community, hosting workshops and tours of her facility to help educate others on best management practices and protecting water quality. Lyn has seven horses on her property, located in the Lower Stillaguamish River drainage basin. This area is considered a high priority area for reductions in fecal coliform bacteria sources that potentially may contaminate surface water. Just one 1000-pound horse produces 40-50 pounds of manure every day, and this manure has fecal coliform bacteria in it. It is important to properly store and compost horse manure to keep fecal coliform bacteria from entering local waterways during a rain event. Previously, Lyn had only one compost bin which she was using to compost her horse manure waste, and she knew she needed more space. With guidance from the Snohomish Conservation District, Lyn took advantage of the Stillaguamish Clean Water District Discretionary Fund program to install two new horse manure compost bins. Lyn now actively manages her new horse manure bins. She hauls the horse manure to the bins, blends the material, adds water throughout the mixture to reach a moisture level similar to a wrung out sponge, and then allows the compost pile to cook for approximately three weeks. Once the compost has cooked, Lyn lets the pile cool for a month or two. Then it is ready to use. The finished compost can be spread lightly as a soil amendment, tree mulch, or fertilizer on her property without risking fecal coliform bacteria pollution to the local waterways and groundwater. By implementing the two horse manure bins, Lyn is now better able to collect and compost horse manure on her property.



Elisa Dawson
425-388-6466



Elisa.dawson@snoco.org



www.cwd.surfacewater.info



Snohomish County
Public Works
Surface Water Management