

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Heidi Eisenhour, Commissioner

DATE: July 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Chimacum Drainage District #1 (DD1) reactivation Hearing

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Drainage districts are local special purpose districts organized under chapters 85.06.010 and 85.38.180 of the Revised Code of Washington. DD1 was formed on June 23, 1919. The original territory of DD1 encompassed about one-third of the Chimacum watershed, totaling 7,526 acres (see Figure 1).

DD1 remained active until 1974 but has been inactive since then. Considerable drainage system infrastructure was completed in the early years of the district but keeping up with ongoing maintenance has always been a challenge. (More information [here](#)). Flooding and drainage problems have persisted throughout the past half century, much as they did during the previous half century, impacting landowners and fish habitat. During the past few decades, drainage problems have worsened because of increasing beaver populations and the lack of comprehensive maintenance. During this period of drainage district inactivity, drainage system maintenance responsibilities have fallen upon individual landowners. This has resulted in inconsistent, inefficient, and sometimes ineffective efforts to address conditions, that by their very nature, demand a comprehensive approach to be successful.

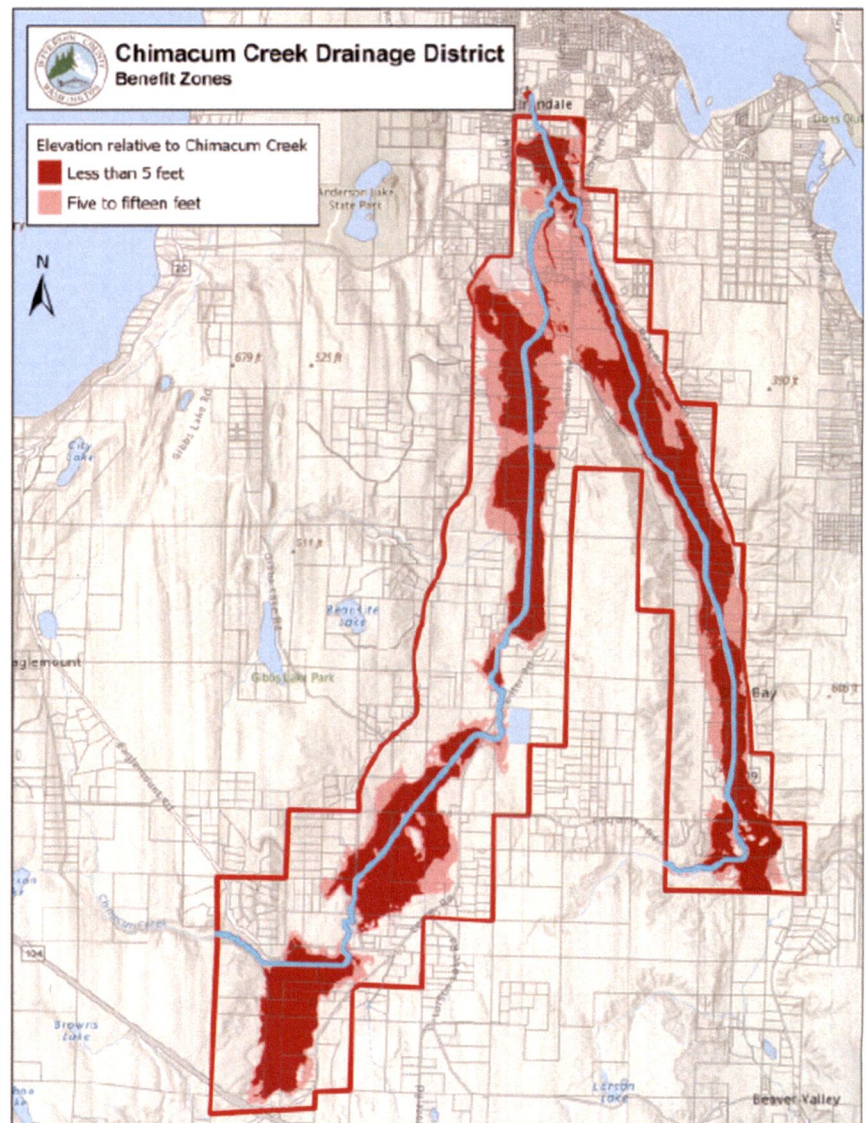


Figure 1. Elevation relative to Chimacum Creek

ANALYSIS:

Over the course of the past few years, we explored - via mtgs with the Conservation District, public focus groups, an open house, and finally a survey sent to all landowners in the DD1 geography - the pros and cons of reactivating DD1. The BOCC also held two hearings and decided to keep DD1 in its inactive status rather than dissolve while we undertook this outreach. The Jefferson Conservation District (JCD) and WSU Extension were major partners in the outreach led by consultants from Maul, Foster and Alongi. A number of options for drainage management were considered including Individual Landowners Manage the Creek, Organizations Support Landowners, Drainage District (DD), Watershed Improvement District (WID) and Flood Control District (FCD). The outcome of all of this community engagement has been strong interest in reactivation of DD1 and engaging JCD in undertaking drainage maintenance and improvement activities.

Since our recent workshop on this matter, our GIS Lead – Kevin Hitchcock – did the analysis included here of ‘Elevation relative to Chimacum Creek’ to start analyzing the potential for Benefit Zones in DD1. Additionally, JCD has begun initial DD1 maintenance budget analysis (included as additional background for this hearing). The purpose of this hearing is to give background, hear community input and consideration authorizing reactivation of DD1.

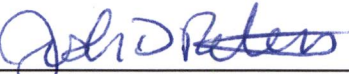
FISCAL IMPACT:

TBD.

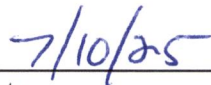
RECOMMENDATION:

- Review DD1 Story Map - <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d1b7dc353a624aa691bf12395396f8b2>
- Review DRAFT DD1 Elevation Map – Kevin Hitchcock
- Hear from JCCD re: drainage maintenance budget information and their plan for year 1 activities while DD1 is being reconstituted – Joe Holtrop
- Hear testimony from constituents.
- Discuss and potential motion to pursue reactivation.

REVIEWED BY:



Josh Peters, County Administrator



Date

Chimacum Creek Drainage Maintenance Budget Analysis

July 3, 2025

Anticipated Maintenance

Below is a summary of the most significant Chimacum Creek drainage maintenance needs:

- Reed canarygrass (RCG) management
 - Approximately 7 miles of stream channel require periodic (once every two to three years) treatment to remove RCG
 - Unknown length of ditches requires RCG control
 - Annual mowing of ditch banks and some stream banks can lessen the need for RCG removal from the waterways
- Beaver and beaver dam management
 - Beaver activity, particularly new dam construction, should be monitored at least a couple times per year. Removal or alteration of dams over one year old may require mitigation.
 - Management options include installation of beaver deceivers and pond levelers, and trapping

Anticipated Near-term Costs

The current estimate for RCG removal is roughly \$15,000 per mile. If one-third of the 7 miles of stream channel are treated each year, the annual cost would be approximately \$35,000 (2.33 miles x \$15,000). Treatment once every three years is a viable option, especially if banks are mowed. If banks are not mowed, treatment every other year may be necessary in some stream reaches. The cost of beaver monitoring and management are unknown.

Anticipated Long-term Costs

Establishment of woody riparian buffers along waterways, including hedgerows along narrow waterways and forested buffers along wide channels, will suppress RCG growth, thus substantially reduce the need for RCG control. It is estimated that over 5 of the 7 miles of stream channel currently plagued with RCG could support woody buffer establishment. Approximately 1.85 miles of stream channel are in areas of organic soils that are prone to extensive flooding that makes successful woody vegetation establishment extremely challenging.

Establishing woody buffers to the point where RCG is sufficiently suppressed that it no longer constricts water flow will require at least a decade of maintenance. However, state and federal programs currently exist to cover the costs of woody buffer establishment and maintenance. Jefferson County Conservation District (JCCD) has utilized such programs for decades.

Eventually, RCG removal could be reduced to about 2 miles of stream channel, which if done every other year would cost about \$15,000 (current estimated cost) annually, or \$10,000 annually if done once every three years.

Conservation District Assistance

Jefferson County Conservation District is prepared to contribute staff time for technical assistance, such as for permit application and compliance, beaver monitoring, grant writing, and woody buffer establishment, at least for the next few years. In addition, JCCD has access to grant funding to support RCG removal (currently through June 2027). Up to \$80,000 could potentially be secured over the next two years. Additional funding from JCCD may also be available for this work.

Drainage District Assessment Options

One scenario for assessing properties in the current boundaries of the Chimacum Drainage District is to divide the district into benefit zones based on flooding vulnerability, such as land elevation relative to stream channel elevation. For example:

- Lands with elevations 5 feet or less above the stream channel elevation could be assessed at 100 percent.
- Lands with elevations 5 to 15 feet above the stream channel could be assessed at 50 percent.
- All other lands could be assessed at 25 percent.

A GIS analysis of the drainage district using these criteria resulted in the following:

- Benefit Zone 1 (<5') = 1,896 acres
- Benefit Zone 2 (5-15') = 1,091 acres
- Benefit Zone 3 (>15') = 3,537 acres

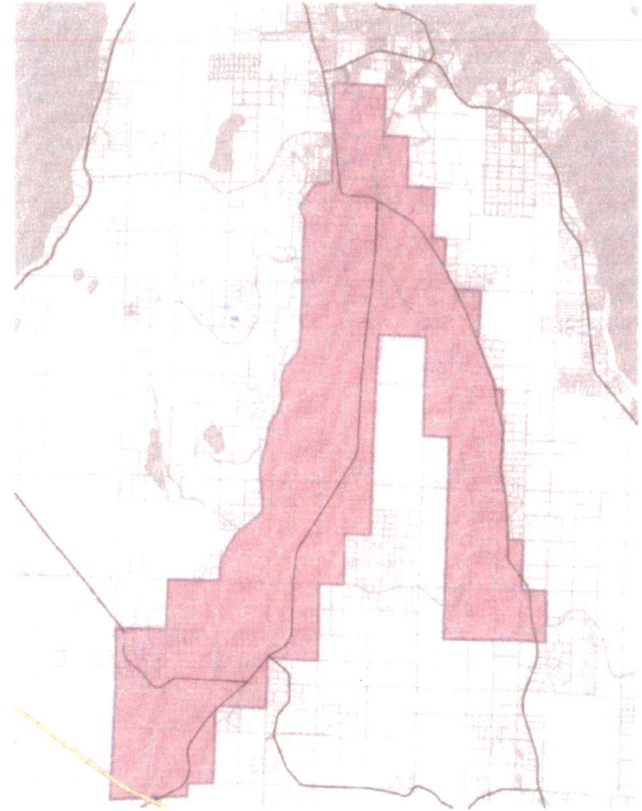
Using the above example, at a full assessment rate of \$2 per acre, \$6,779 could be generated, broken down by benefit zone as follows:

- Benefit Zone 1 (<5') = 1,896 acres x \$2 = \$3,792
- Benefit Zone 2 (5-15') = 1,091 acres x \$1 = \$1,091
- Benefit Zone 3 (>15') = 3,537 acres x \$0.50 = \$1,896

Some lands would likely be exempted from assessments for various reasons, including senior exemptions, or assigned a lower assessment rate because of conversion to wetland habitat (thus not or minimally benefiting from drainage maintenance activities). Decisions about exemptions not codified would be made by the directors of the drainage district.

Given the availability of technical and financial assistance from JCCD, the amount of assessment revenues generated in the example above likely far exceeds the near-term needs. Therefore, the assessment rate could be lower or assessments could be collected for future needs.

Initially, drainage district assessments would only need to cover administrative costs, such as insurance, bonding, and elections. Long-term assistance from JCCD is uncertain; however, through establishment of woody buffers, annual maintenance and associated costs would go down over time, thus reducing the need for outside assistance.

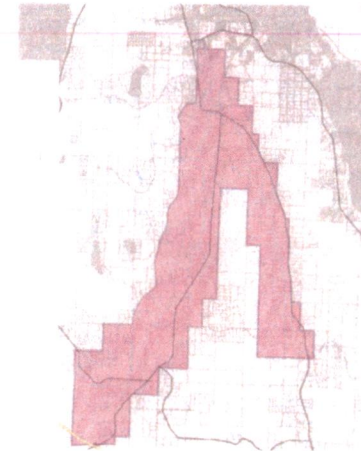


The Jefferson County Conservation District used Natural Resource Investment funding to help 15 landowners restore salmon habitat in Chimacum Creek through removal of reed canary grass. Registered as a noxious weed, the overgrowth of grass choked stream flow and contributed to flooding, pollution, and low oxygen levels.

- from PT Leader article about focus group meeting March 2024

Chimacum Drainage District workshop

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	I NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	N/A	TOTAL
Flooding is a challenge for me.	39.47% 15	15.79% 6	2.63% 1	15.79% 6	15.79% 6	10.53% 4	38
Reed canarygrass is a problem and is hard to manage.	57.89% 22	15.79% 6	7.89% 3	5.26% 2	5.26% 2	7.89% 3	38
I need help understanding what regulations apply to me when managing the creek on my property.	15.79% 6	36.84% 14	21.05% 8	7.89% 3	5.26% 2	13.16% 5	38
I find the permitting process for managing flooding on my property challenging.	26.32% 10	23.68% 9	13.16% 5	5.26% 2	10.53% 4	21.05% 8	38
My neighbor's management of Chimacum Creek impacts my property.	36.84% 14	28.95% 11	2.63% 1	5.26% 2	10.53% 4	15.79% 6	38
Beavers are impacting my property.	26.32% 10	15.79% 6	15.79% 6	10.53% 4	13.16% 5	18.42% 7	38
Fish habitat is degraded on my property.	23.68% 9	18.42% 7	15.79% 6	7.89% 3	7.89% 3	26.32% 10	38



Chimacum Drainage District workshop

ANSWER CHOICES

I am a steward of the land.

I want to support salmon runs in Chimacum Creek.

I want to support local agriculture.

I want to support my neighbors who have challenges with the Creek on their property.

I want individual property managers to be responsible for managing the Creek.

I would be willing to pay a reasonable levy/fee if the main challenges on Chimacum Creek were addressed by a special district.

Other (please specify)

Total Respondents: 38

RESPONSES

84.21% 32

71.05% 27

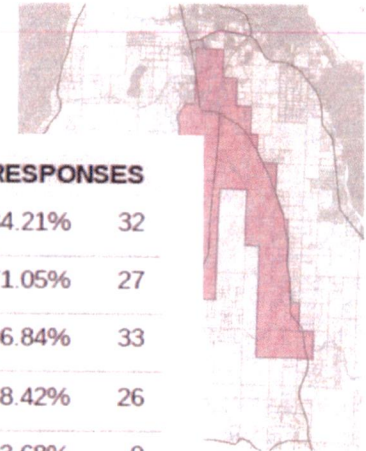
86.84% 33

68.42% 26

23.68% 9

60.53% 23

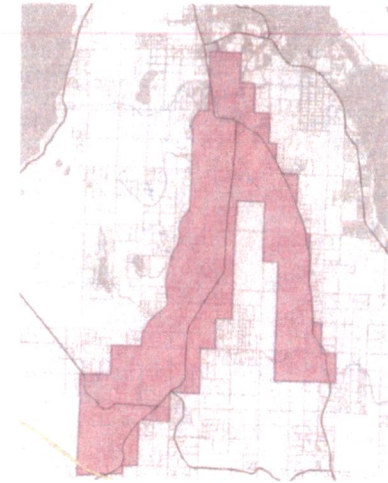
23.68% 9



Chimacum Drainage District workshop

Options considered

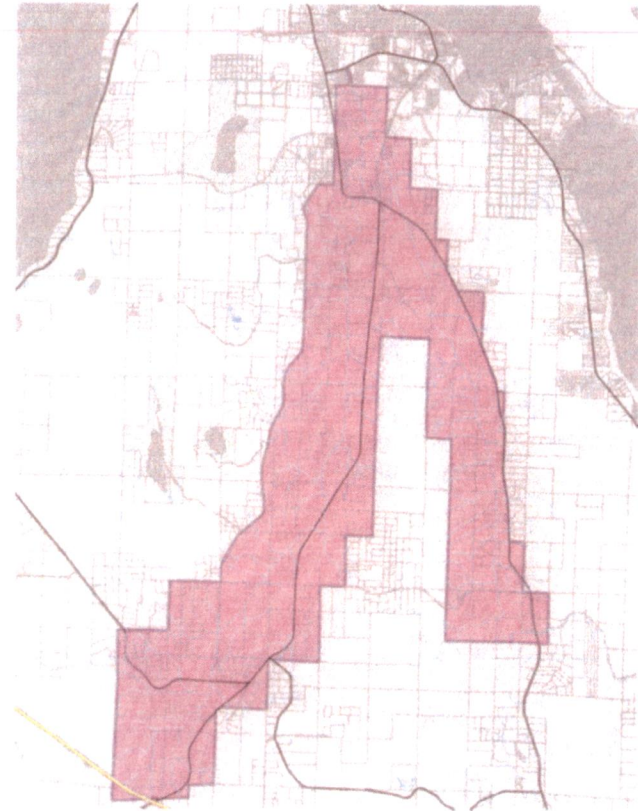
Scenario	Financial Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility	Formation	Governance
1 Individual Landowners Manage the Creek	Landowners are responsible for costs of managing their section of creek	Management is voluntary. A landowner may choose not to maintain their section	None	None
2 Organizations Support Landowners	Landowners pay management costs, with technical and financial support from organizations	Management is voluntary. A landowner may choose not to maintain their section	None	None
3 Drainage District (DD)	Landowners pay annual benefit assessment and Drainage District uses money for maintenance	Drainage District is responsible for management and maintenance	Vote by County Board of Commissioners	3 district board members elected by district landowners
4 Watershed Improvement District (WID)	Landowners pay annual benefit assessment for WID maintenance or other management needs	WID manages and maintains, and can also purchase land, water, and water rights to support local water supply needs	Requires a vote by 2/3 of landowners in proposed district	Board members elected by WID landowners
5 Flood Control District (FCD)	Landowners pay annual levy for flood control activities	FCD manages and maintains	County Board of Commissioners vote to create a subzone of an existing FCD	Board of Commissioners can serve as governing board, appoint an advisory board, or appoint independent governing board



Chimacum Drainage District workshop

Potential steps for standing up Chimacum Drainage District (DD1)

1. Jefferson County works with JCD to identify old Chimacum Drainage District boundaries, acreage, assessed valuation, & # of land owners PLUS assessment of methods for collecting assessments including assessment of benefits accrued to landowners in different sections of DD1.
2. BoCC holds Hearing on Reactivation Resolution per RCW 85.38.220 finding that Reactivation is in the Public Interest (see #3 above), and after Reactivation Resolution is adopted, Appoint an initial Board per RCW 85.38.070.
3. DD1 Board works with Auditor to open Filing Period & hold General Election or Special Election per RCW 85.38.060 & .070 & .100 & .105 & .110-.130
4. DD1 Board passes Resolution to opt in for Rates & Charges per RCW 85.38.140.
5. DD1 Board, County Engineer & BoCC create/adopt system of rates & charges per RCW 85.38.140-165.
6. DD1 & BoCC imposes annual assessments per RCW 85.38.160(4)-(6) & RCW 38.38.170, collected by Treasurer
7. DD1 enters into a contract with JCD to undertake drainage maintenance and improvement projects in DD1, exercising powers authorized by RCW 85.38.180. and other statutes.

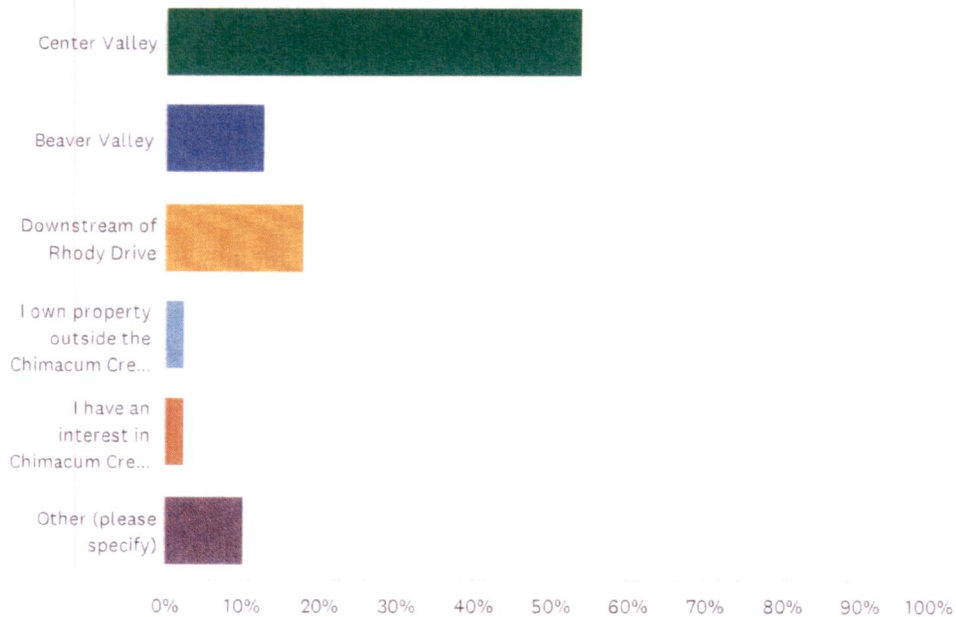


Chimacum Drainage District workshop

Jefferson DD1 Survey

Q1 Where do you own land in the Chimacum Creek Drainage District?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

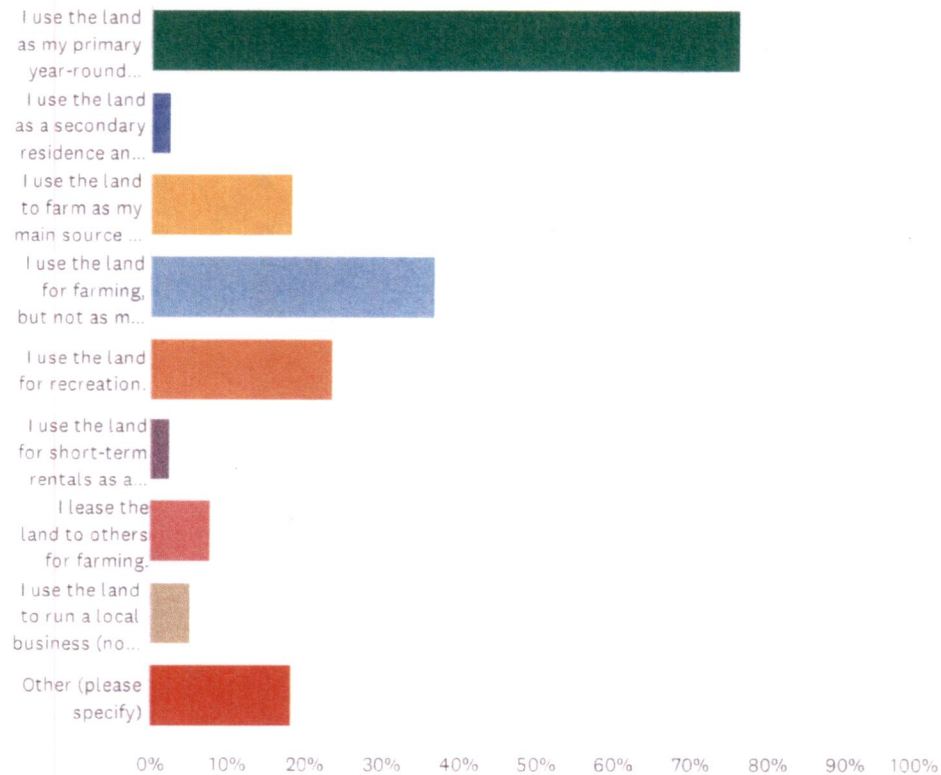
Center Valley	53.85%	21
Beaver Valley	12.82%	5
Downstream of Rhody Drive	17.95%	7
I own property outside the Chimacum Creek Drainage District in Jefferson County	2.56%	1
I have an interest in Chimacum Creek but am not a property owner	2.56%	1
Other (please specify)	10.26%	4
TOTAL		39

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I'm filling out for Jefferson Land Trust - the Land Trust owns land throughout the District, and holds conservation easements throughout the district	4/21/2025 10:58 AM
2	Center Valley Highlands	3/30/2025 9:22 AM
3	Both Center Valley and Beaver Valley	3/27/2025 7:04 PM
4	I have family members and friends who live along Chimacum creek.	3/18/2025 11:02 AM

Jefferson DD1 Survey

Q2 Please select which statements describe how you use land in the Chimacum Creek Drainage District. You can select multiple statements.

Answered: 38 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES

- I use the land as my primary year-round residence.
- I use the land as a secondary residence and live there part-time.
- I use the land to farm as my main source of income.
- I use the land for farming, but not as my main source of income.
- I use the land for recreation.
- I use the land for short-term rentals as a landlord.
- I lease the land to others for farming.
- I use the land to run a local business (not farming).
- Other (please specify)

Total Respondents: 38

RESPONSES

76.32%	29
2.63%	1
18.42%	7
36.84%	14
23.68%	9
2.63%	1
7.89%	3
5.26%	2
18.42%	7

OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

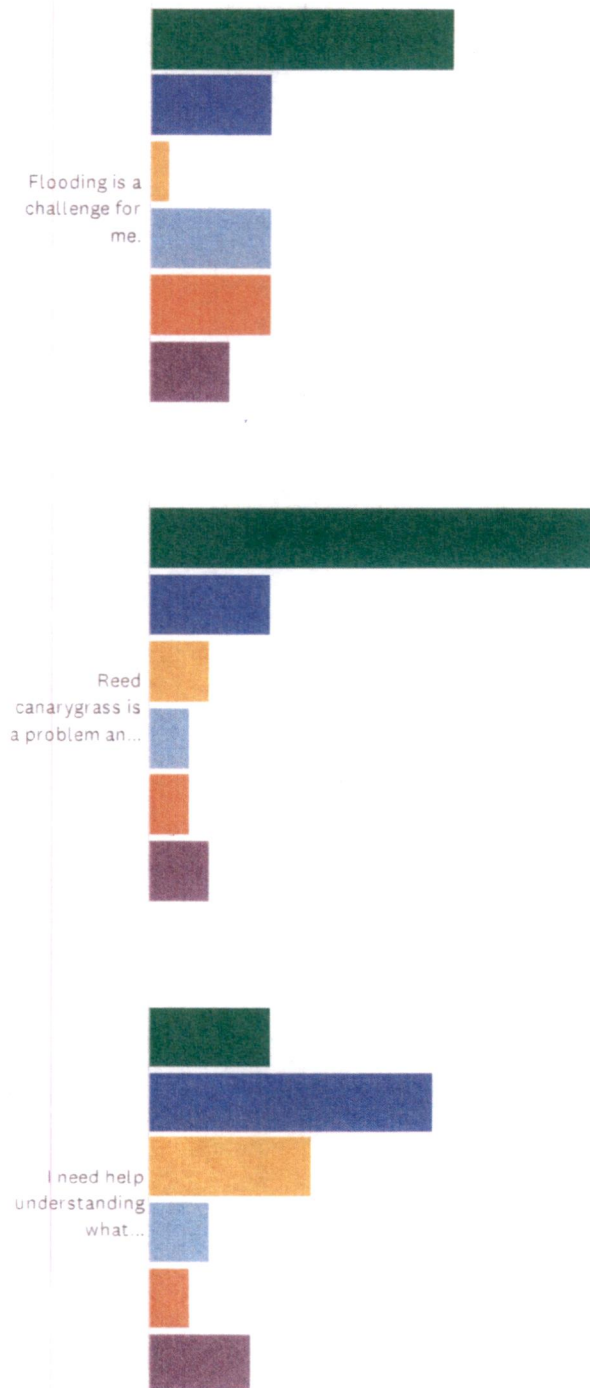
DATE

Jefferson DD1 Survey

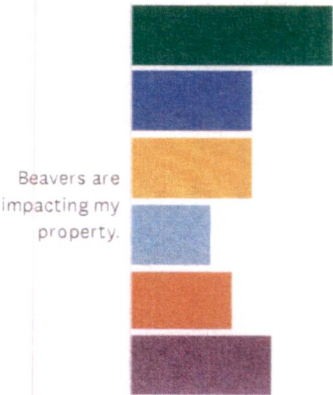
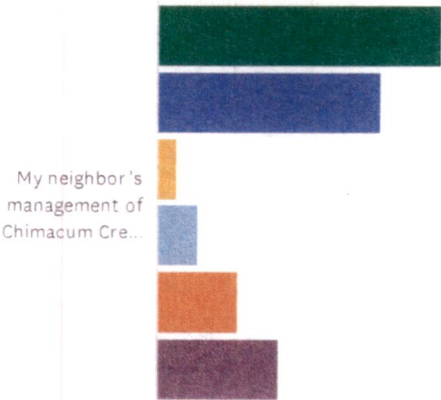
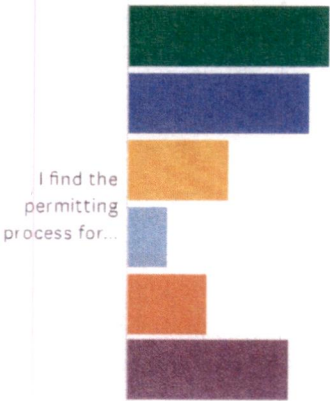
1	The Chimacum Ridge Community Forest is also partly within this district, and it is managed to produce economic, ecological, and social benefits for the community through active forest management. It includes a full-time residence as well. The Land Trust leases land within the district to farmers, and holds conservation easements on several farms which help ensure the habitat and agricultural values of those farms are managed with future generations in mind.	4/21/2025 10:58 AM
2	I use the land for Timber and Community Education	3/27/2025 7:04 PM
3	I live on land part time with my daughter. She owns the land.	3/18/2025 11:02 AM
4	Chimacum Grange property, community center	3/13/2025 8:59 PM
5	currently vacant, possible future residence	3/12/2025 7:32 PM
6	We keep three horses on the property	3/9/2025 5:09 PM
7	Art studio and developing a local business	3/9/2025 11:54 AM

Q3 Please share how much you agree or disagree with the following statements on challenges faced by local property owners. If the statement does not apply to you, then select N/A.

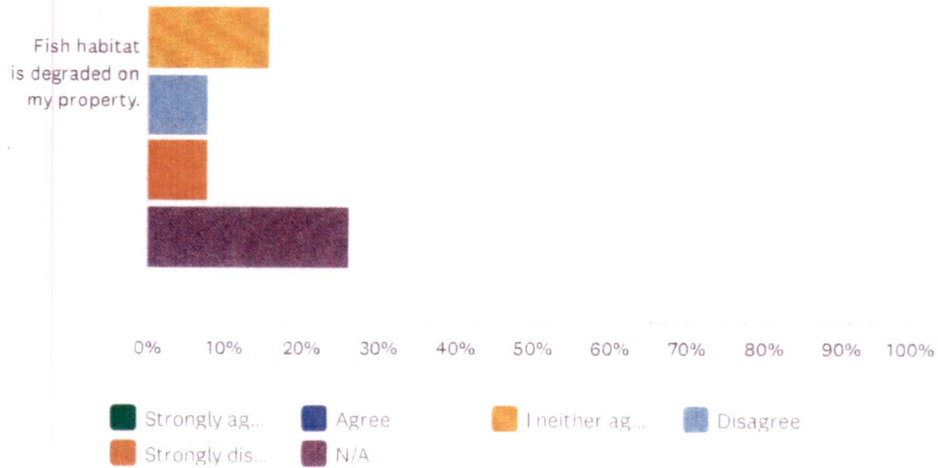
Answered: 38 Skipped: 1



Jefferson DD1 Survey



Jefferson DD1 Survey



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	I NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	N/A	TOTAL
Flooding is a challenge for me.	39.47% 15	15.79% 6	2.63% 1	15.79% 6	15.79% 6	10.53% 4	38
Reed canarygrass is a problem and is hard to manage.	57.89% 22	15.79% 6	7.89% 3	5.26% 2	5.26% 2	7.89% 3	38
I need help understanding what regulations apply to me when managing the creek on my property.	15.79% 6	36.84% 14	21.05% 8	7.89% 3	5.26% 2	13.16% 5	38
I find the permitting process for managing flooding on my property challenging.	26.32% 10	23.68% 9	13.16% 5	5.26% 2	10.53% 4	21.05% 8	38
My neighbor's management of Chimacum Creek impacts my property.	36.84% 14	28.95% 11	2.63% 1	5.26% 2	10.53% 4	15.79% 6	38
Beavers are impacting my property.	26.32% 10	15.79% 6	15.79% 6	10.53% 4	13.16% 5	18.42% 7	38
Fish habitat is degraded on my property.	23.68% 9	18.42% 7	15.79% 6	7.89% 3	7.89% 3	26.32% 10	38

Jefferson DD1 Survey

Q4 Are there other issues that impact you related to Chimacum Creek?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 22

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Flooding generally is degrading the agricultural values of certain areas of conservation easement protected farmland.	4/21/2025 10:58 AM
2	Occasional flooding in isolated areas, beavers fell trees from time to time	4/10/2025 8:31 AM
3	Flooding	4/2/2025 9:27 PM
4	For decades, individual property owners have been responsible for maintaining Chimacum Creek. Over time, invasive canary grass and beaver dams have increasingly clogged the waterway, causing flooding and environmental strain. However, removing the canary grass or notching beaver dams now requires special permits, which are extremely difficult sometimes impossible to obtain due to ecological regulations surrounding fish and salmon habitats. Not just ecological regulations but the willingness for neighbors cooperation. Neighbors may share a road for instance but the beaver dam is or canary grass is on the person's property that either does not want to take action or spend the money to get the permit or take action even after offering. Now there is flooding and erosion with no solution. This creates a frustrating conundrum, property owners are expected to maintain the creek, but they're legally prevented from doing so. The government created a system that now requires a government solution, funded again by taxpayers. To make matters more complicated, the local population is largely older and physically unable to do the demanding work needed even if it were allowed. Reestablishing the Chimacum Drainage District is being considered as a way to centralize efforts and possibly secure the necessary permits, but transparency is critical. Residents need clear, honest communication about how decisions are made, where money is going, and who is held accountable. The permitting problem and lack of access to reasonable solutions have led to inaction, and the community deserves a process that is both effective and fair.	3/30/2025 9:22 AM
5	I have 2 creek systems on my property.. one is running thru my fields n blocked from entering the other creek system from canary grass an rock... turning grazing land into unusable wet lands..	3/28/2025 7:10 AM
6	Black berry's and silt sediment	3/27/2025 9:14 PM
7	Not directly	3/27/2025 7:04 PM
8	The additional drainage coming from properties above me (hillside).	3/27/2025 5:52 PM
9	Increasing rains and early mountain snow melt leave cause erosion and leave creek low in late summer.	3/18/2025 11:02 AM
10	No	3/17/2025 10:19 AM
11	The invasive canary grass along the creek is spreading rapidly in my wetland and grazing areas, and spreading to the portion of the farming land I have	3/16/2025 9:19 PM
12	Downstream mismanagement or no management of creek maintenance. In 2019 Jefferson County adopted the new flood zone maps from FEMA which changed some properties that the creek borders from a Flood zone C designation (least strict) to a Flood Zone A designation (most strict, like rapidly flowing water with waves). This presents increased building challenges, cost in building, and long term insurance costs. I would think a drainage district would be able to have some influence on educating FEMA on the actual rise and fall of the flood waters in the valleys and the fall that affects how much flow the creek actually experiences.	3/12/2025 9:51 PM
13	Cost of fixing the drainage issue. Permitting. Soil degradation due to flooding. Decreased use of farmland due to flooding. Loss of income.	3/12/2025 12:04 PM
14	No, we have a small pond that drains to Center valley	3/11/2025 11:07 AM
15	My neighbor turning a wetland into a junkyard, making retrieving the junk almost impossible as	3/9/2025 8:59 PM

Jefferson DD1 Survey

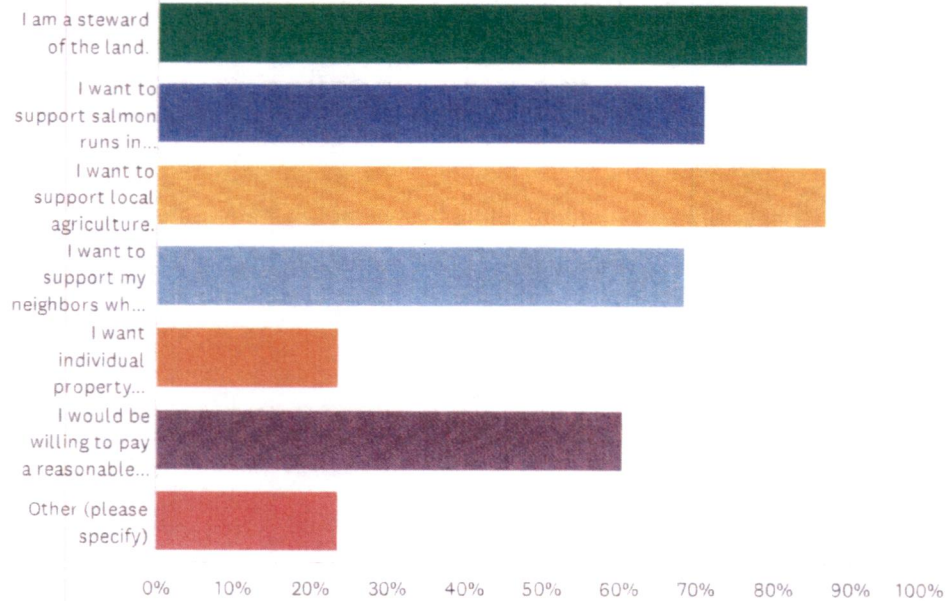
it starts to sink and eventually gets swallowed. I'd more like to see a task force doing something about the people turning farmland into a toxic dump site in salmon bearing habitat and highly sensitive habitat.

- | | | |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 16 | The creek runs stronger and faster in the winter which erodes my land which did not historically happen. | 3/9/2025 11:54 AM |
| 17 | THE BUFFER SHOULD BE REDUCED TO 50'. | 3/8/2025 2:13 PM |

Jefferson DD1 Survey

Q5 Which of the following value statements do you agree with? Please select all that apply.

Answered: 38 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

I am a steward of the land.	84.21%	32
I want to support salmon runs in Chimacum Creek.	71.05%	27
I want to support local agriculture.	86.84%	33
I want to support my neighbors who have challenges with the Creek on their property.	68.42%	26
I want individual property managers to be responsible for managing the Creek.	23.68%	9
I would be willing to pay a reasonable levy/fee if the main challenges on Chimacum Creek were addressed by a special district.	60.53%	23
Other (please specify)	23.68%	9

Total Respondents: 38

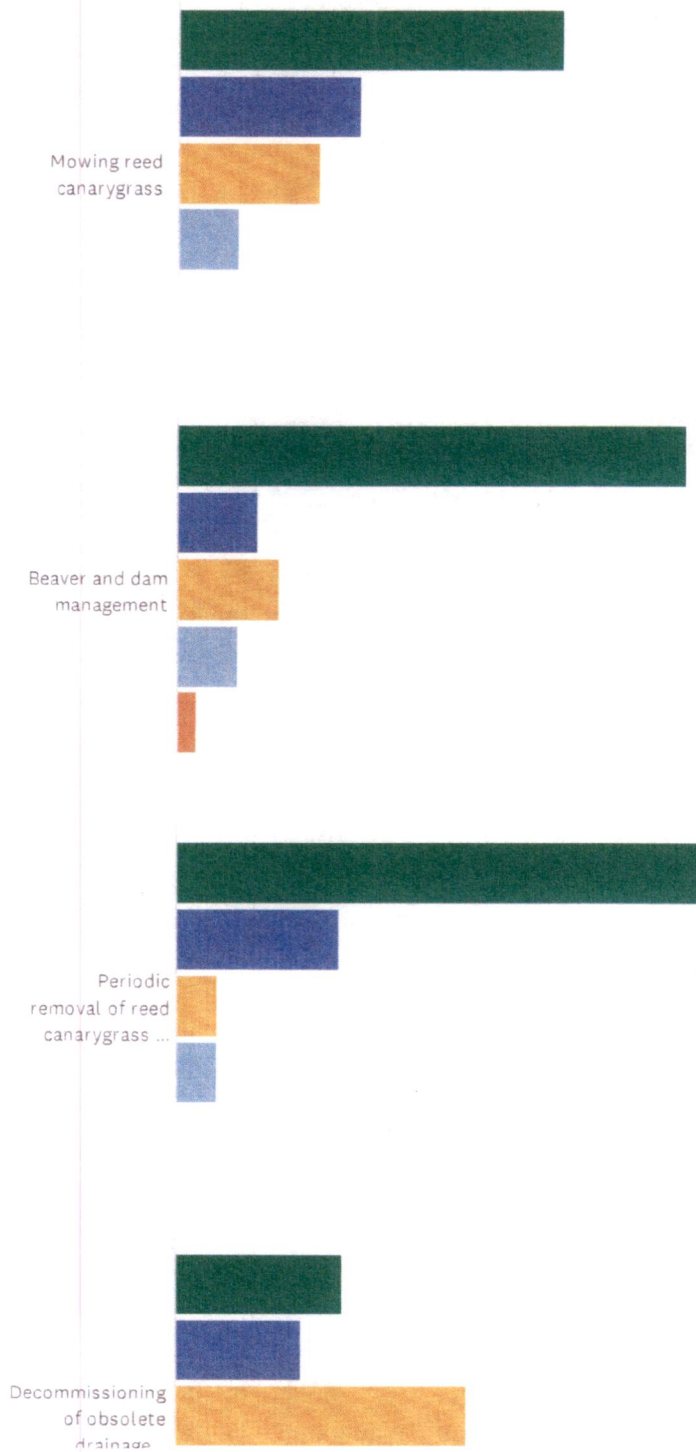
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	We understand the creek and drainage system of the district were engineered to facilitated the creation of productive farmland in the valleys over 100 years ago. We also understand that in order to sustain the agricultural productivity in many parts of these valleys, drainage is necessary. We also understand that habitat for salmon and other wildlife was not adequately considered when creating the drainage system, and that habitat was severely degraded and destroyed in that process, and in subsequent years of management. If re-activated, the drainage district must work with partners and landowners to actively help improve the habitat conditions in the system..	4/21/2025 10:58 AM

Jefferson DD1 Survey

2	Regulation and permitting needs to be reformed.	3/30/2025 9:22 AM
3	I would be willing to pay a reasonable levy/fee to help clean up and remeander Chimacum Creek, and restore more of the beaver habitat.	3/16/2025 9:19 PM
4	I would be willing to pay a portion for work completed. I don't want to fund more employee hours.	3/13/2025 9:36 PM
5	Please define reasonable levy. Tens of dollars is reasonable. Hundreds of dollars is not.	3/12/2025 4:12 PM
6	Managing the creek from a watershed perspective rather than an individual landowner perspective is essential. Everyone should have to contribute based on linear feet of creek frontage, regardless of impact on their own property.	3/11/2025 11:34 AM
7	I want no new taxes or fees on my land, nor loss of use through unreasonable regulation. n	3/10/2025 6:16 PM
8	I care about the beaver populations and salmon runs. The early snowpack melt effects salmon runs in the summer.	3/9/2025 11:54 AM
9	I DO NOT NEED GOVERNMENT MICRO MANAGING MY PROPERTY	3/8/2025 2:13 PM

Q6 Please share how much you support or oppose the following management strategies for Chimacum Creek.

Answered: 38 Skipped: 1



Jefferson DD1 Survey



Jefferson DD1 Survey



Jefferson DD1 Survey

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

■ Strongly su...
 ■ Support
 ■ I neither su...
 ■ Oppose
 ■ Strongly op...

	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SUPPORT	I NEITHER SUPPORT NOR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	TOTAL
Mowing reed canarygrass	50.00% 19	23.68% 9	18.42% 7	7.89% 3	0.00% 0	38
Beaver and dam management	65.79% 25	10.53% 4	13.16% 5	7.89% 3	2.63% 1	38
Periodic removal of reed canarygrass and aquatic vegetation from the stream channel	68.42% 26	21.05% 8	5.26% 2	5.26% 2	0.00% 0	38
Decommissioning of obsolete drainage ditches	21.62% 8	16.22% 6	37.84% 14	13.51% 5	10.81% 4	37
Willow removal/replacement	27.03% 10	18.92% 7	37.84% 14	13.51% 5	2.70% 1	37
Planting hedgerows along waterways	26.32% 10	18.42% 7	28.95% 11	21.05% 8	5.26% 2	38
Removal of sediment buildup in specific reaches of drainage ways	55.26% 21	26.32% 10	13.16% 5	5.26% 2	0.00% 0	38
Riparian buffers (i.e. tree and shrub plantings) with willing property owners	42.11% 16	23.68% 9	18.42% 7	10.53% 4	5.26% 2	38
Stream channel restoration with willing property owners	42.11% 16	31.58% 12	18.42% 7	5.26% 2	2.63% 1	38
Large scale stream and wetland restoration projects with willing property owners	42.11% 16	21.05% 8	21.05% 8	10.53% 4	5.26% 2	38
Compensating landowners for converting flooded farmland to wetlands	34.21% 13	15.79% 6	26.32% 10	10.53% 4	13.16% 5	38
Water storage during the winter for irrigation use	28.95% 11	31.58% 12	28.95% 11	7.89% 3	2.63% 1	38

Jefferson DD1 Survey

Q7 Are there other options that should be considered for managing drainage and the creek?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 22

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Water storage is important, and we need to be thinking about the ground as a storage space... Smart management can help ensure that in the winter the groundwater is fully charged and the ground is saturated in a way that can provide a slow release for agricultural and habitat needs. Also, it's very important to emphasize that any of the buffer plantings will require ongoing maintenance, and landowners often don't embrace that maintenance - so, a drainage district could potentially be involved in regular maintenance of those habitat buffers to the extent that it helps with the drainage and habitat function of the system.	4/21/2025 10:58 AM
2	Prioritize the goals! Which is number 1? Salmon or farmland? Enable farmers to be able to legally get rid of beavers! Such as help them become a licensed trapper!	4/2/2025 9:27 PM
3	Beaver dams need to be addressed and need to line up people to contract for the canary grass removal since the window to do this work is so small. Need to calculate costs and how much needs to be generated to cover this &/or if there are any grants to help.	3/31/2025 4:39 PM
4	Simplify and streamline the permitting process. Provide assistance for elderly and disabled landowners. Form a local crew or task force for coordinated maintenance. Improve transparency and communication between agencies and residents. Allow community-wide or district-level permits to reduce burden. Support low-maintenance native plant buffers. Offer educational resources and workshops on creek management. Partner with conservation groups for balanced, practical solutions.	3/30/2025 9:22 AM
5	Safety from floods due to early snow melt and increased raining	3/18/2025 11:02 AM
6	Monitoring the water quality.	3/17/2025 10:19 AM
7	Remeandering and restoring original Creek course as much as possible. Encouraging farmers to consider other, non-destructive uses for their lands.	3/16/2025 9:19 PM
8	Making the creek an accessible walking park if possible	3/14/2025 2:35 PM
9	50 ft on either side of the creek is an easement but still owned by the land owner. Once a year the district has access to perform maintenance, which would need to be defined, for a certain amount of time agreed upon by the land owners. Good luck! Thanks for making the effort.	3/12/2025 9:51 PM
10	Expanding existing Drainage District Boundaries; homes being built on uplands, logging are causing additional runoff.	3/12/2025 12:04 PM
11	There are so many birds that use the flooded valley bottoms and I would want to know how the proposed strategies would affect them.	3/11/2025 11:56 AM
12	I think the creek should be circuitous and bend rather than going straight.	3/11/2025 11:07 AM
13	Balance between fish and Farming needs to be found. Removing Farmland and restricting use is not fish management. Taking of land without reduction of taxes is Theft.	3/10/2025 6:16 PM
14	I highly encourage the cleanout of the drainage to continue all the way to the canal, not just ending at rhody drive. It needs to be cleaned all the way out in order to alleviate the water backups. I find it hard to believe that salmon swim up the east fork of chimacum drainage to spawn, as it dead ends at Egg and I road, its 100% peat with zero gravel to nest in, the water is warm, choked with RCG, very low in oxygen, and very high in tannins. I do not believe there are any salmon in beaver valley between Egg and I Rd and the Chevron. That being said, management styles should be different for Center and Beaver Valley, as one is actual salmon habitat and one is not.	3/9/2025 8:59 PM
15	What are we doing about run off from roads in the county impacting salmon?	3/9/2025 3:48 PM

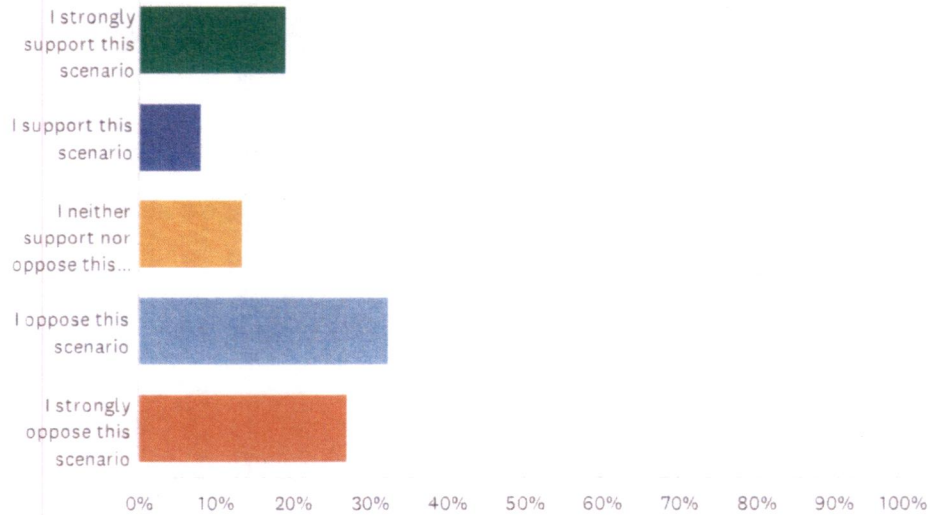
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- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------|
| 16 | Protecting chimacum creek will require mixed strategies that were not historically used that need to be used due to climate change. For example, storing and retaining water up creek to use down creek for the salmon and to replenish our aquifers. Beaver dams could be a natural solution to retaining water an then releasing it later for the salmon. | 3/9/2025 11:54 AM |
| 17 | CHIMACUM CREEK SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE. | 3/8/2025 2:13 PM |

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Q8 Please share your level of support or opposition for individual property owners managing the creek.

Answered: 37 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES

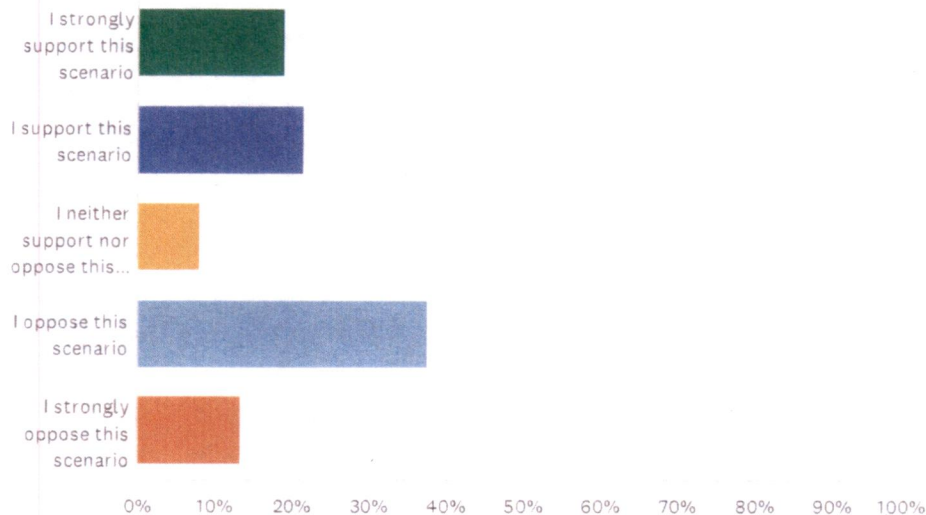
RESPONSES

I strongly support this scenario	18.92%	7
I support this scenario	8.11%	3
I neither support nor oppose this scenario	13.51%	5
I oppose this scenario	32.43%	12
I strongly oppose this scenario	27.03%	10
TOTAL		37

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Support individual landowners managing their own property, but establish a process to address situations where one landowner's inaction or issues with the creek negatively impact neighboring properties.	3/30/2025 9:22 AM
2	this is not effective	3/11/2025 11:51 AM
3	no need to pay salaries and use fees for administration which takes away from projects.	3/10/2025 6:42 PM

Q9 Please share your level of support or opposition for individual property owners managing the creek with assistance from agencies and organizations.

Answered: 37 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

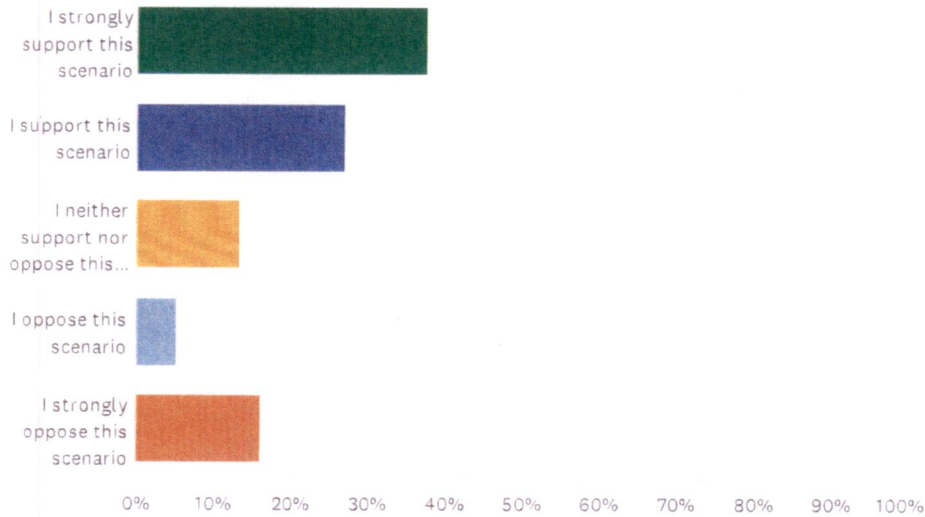
I strongly support this scenario	18.92%	7
I support this scenario	21.62%	8
I neither support nor oppose this scenario	8.11%	3
I oppose this scenario	37.84%	14
I strongly oppose this scenario	13.51%	5
TOTAL		37

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Don't you think something is broken if technical assistance is needed for a simple permit?...	3/30/2025 9:22 AM
2	better than 1, but not nearly enough	3/11/2025 11:51 AM
3	allows for landowners to have a say in how their property is managed without being dictated to.	3/10/2025 6:42 PM

Jefferson DD1 Survey

Q10 Please share your level of support or opposition for reactivating the Drainage District.

Answered: 37 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

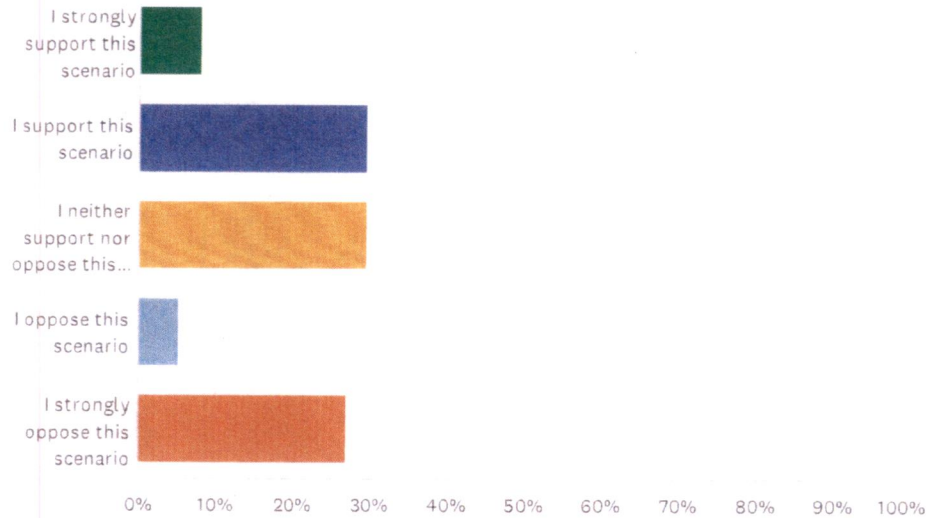
I strongly support this scenario	37.84%	14
I support this scenario	27.03%	10
I neither support nor oppose this scenario	13.51%	5
I oppose this scenario	5.41%	2
I strongly oppose this scenario	16.22%	6
TOTAL		37

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Everyone is thinking this is just a move to take peoples land from them by claiming environmental wetland or reserve. This gives the government a reason to be on peoples land and inspect it which then gives reason to "preserve".	3/30/2025 9:22 AM
2	This proposal may lead to significant cost burden for some land owners. How can costs be mitigated?	3/17/2025 10:34 AM
3	I need more information as to what they would be doing to the creek.	3/14/2025 2:45 PM
4	Taxes and fees are already too high and burdensome.	3/10/2025 6:42 PM
5	I can not afford more fees or levies.	3/9/2025 9:10 PM
6	I don't think the landowners think they could afford on going cost	3/9/2025 4:00 PM

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Q11 Please share your level of support or opposition for creating a Watershed Improvement District.

Answered: 37 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

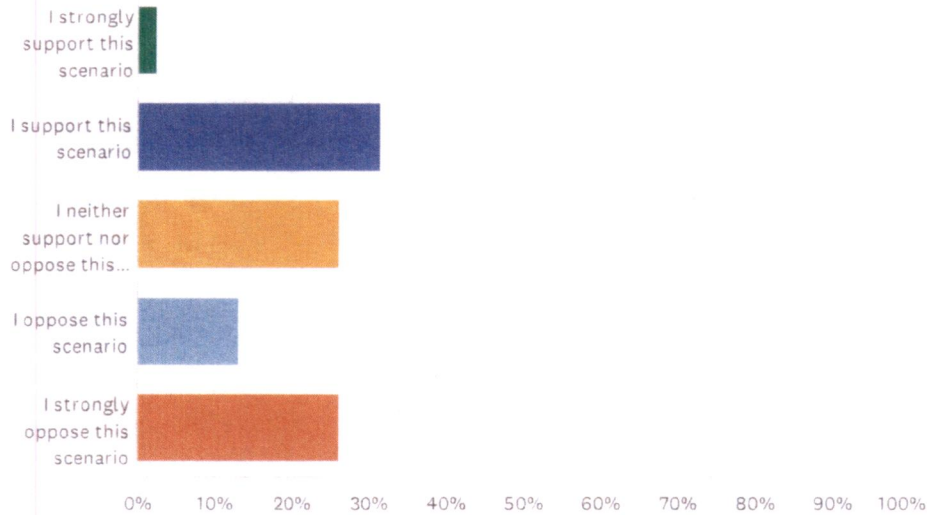
I strongly support this scenario	8.11%	3
I support this scenario	29.73%	11
I neither support nor oppose this scenario	29.73%	11
I oppose this scenario	5.41%	2
I strongly oppose this scenario	27.03%	10
TOTAL		37

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Too much government.	3/17/2025 10:34 AM
2	I don't fully understand what this would look like and am concerned about potential nightmare of issues around water rights. This could open up a whole can of worms... I would want to know a lot more before supporting this.	3/11/2025 11:51 AM
3	County already wants to control wells in the watershed, how are water rights going to be allotted when the county and State limits future water already.	3/10/2025 6:42 PM
4	I can not afford more levies or fees. I'd rather do the work myself which i already do, than have to pay for another levy or fee for work THAT I ALREADY DO.	3/9/2025 9:10 PM
5	I don't think landowners will support giving control of their property	3/9/2025 4:00 PM

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Q12 Please share your level of support or opposition for creating a Watershed Improvement District.

Answered: 38 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

I strongly support this scenario	2.63%	1
I support this scenario	31.58%	12
I neither support nor oppose this scenario	26.32%	10
I oppose this scenario	13.16%	5
I strongly oppose this scenario	26.32%	10
TOTAL		38

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	The main issue is flooding, so perhaps this focusses energy on that, without getting too involved with landowners. That said, the root of the problem is much bigger so perhaps the other scenarios would in the long term be more impactful. I would want to know more about how this differs from #3.	3/11/2025 11:51 AM
2	I already pay for storm water on my taxes and see no results.	3/10/2025 6:42 PM
3	I do not want to pay more for a levy for work I already manage on my own.	3/9/2025 9:10 PM
4	I don't want the Port of Port Townsend dictating what is done in the county	3/9/2025 4:00 PM

Q13 During the 2024 community workshops participants shared ideas for how to increase support for a special district. Examples that community members shared included changing the size of the district to make it larger or smaller, the amount of money property owners pay depending on the level of work needed for their property, and a cap on the amount of money that the special district could levy on property ideas. Please use this space if you would like to share ideas for what would increase your support for a special district that manages Chimacum Creek.

Answered: 20 Skipped: 19

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	There have been several studies of the watershed that provide a lot of foundational information that will support smart active management. We encourage using this science-based information to conduct management that will best prepare us all for the predicted future climate.	4/21/2025 10:58 AM
2	How have other districts in other communities navigated the complexities of a levied district	4/10/2025 8:31 AM
3	Either charge a per acre fee or per parcel fee	3/31/2025 4:39 PM
4	i believe having maximum clarity and transparency on cost and requirements through out will provide maximum acceptance for the drainage district. i also for see the biggest hurdles being funding/cost and concerns of government over reach. on a side note as a property owner on the creek, giving able body land owners the option to self preform creek maintenance along with helping others using district funding may be appealing to those whom dont want just any old contractor on there property.	3/31/2025 9:05 AM
5	Clear budgets and spending transparency Caps on fees and lower rates based on property impact Community accountability through regular reviews Shared maintenance crews for those who need help A way to resolve issues when one property affects another Let low-impact properties opt in or pay less Help landowners access grant funding Emphasize how supporting local agriculture benefits the whole community, strong drainage supports food production, local jobs, and keeps land productive and get the entire town involved. but they are voluntary support.	3/30/2025 9:22 AM
6	My support for a levy would be affected by the assessment process regarding the equation needed to be created in determining amount a property owner would pay. My concern is upland properties that affect the lowland with primary land use practices included in the assessment of dues. Practices on acres that aid or hinder flood mitigation, flow regulation and improved water quality from upland acres need to be assessed. Higher rates for practices that lead to poor water quality and flooding (clear cutting large acres, large homes/septic's, poor culvert infrastructure, amount of impermeable surfaces, poor vegetation buffers in tributaries. Potential incentives for practices that maintain forest and vegetation coverage, protect and maintain upland wetlands, minimal infrastructure, and noxious weed management, especially near tributaries drainages.	3/27/2025 7:04 PM
7	I think the district needs to be expanded. I don't think ludlow creek is on here and they also flood really bad taking out driveways and culverts.	3/27/2025 3:56 PM
8	Residents don't have much money in this county. They cannot be burdened with increased regulations and costs.	3/18/2025 11:12 AM
9	Provide expertise and keep costs low for land owners. Offer a reward system for compliance.	3/17/2025 10:34 AM
10	I don't mind paying fees to support work on the creek, but I want to support salmon habitat restoration on the creek as opposed to maintaining drainage ditches. If there is some middle	3/14/2025 2:45 PM

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ground that supports salmon and the farmers, I would go for that.

11	Limit levies to the cost of management field work accomplished. Allow drainage district members to vote up or down proposed projects and budgets.	3/13/2025 9:42 PM
12	I think the size of the district should either be county wide or just the affected property owners.	3/12/2025 4:16 PM
13	If the amount of money property owners pay depending on the level of work needed for their property, I would be in 100% for whatever was proposed.	3/11/2025 12:04 PM
14	The fee really needs to be assessed on property tax so everyone pays. Historically it has only been the farmers and people who care who have contributed. It's fair that all property owners along the creek pay their fair share. I think the fee should be a set amount of \$ per linear feet of each side of the creek. So, if someone own 1000' on both sides of the creek, they are charged for 2000'. If someone owns 4000' on one side of the creek, they are charged for 4000'. The model of owners who have more work to do to pay more is not equally sharing the load. Obviously there would need to be an assessment of creek frontage, hopefully this could be done with maps online, otherwise if it's boots on the ground I imagine this could cost a whole bunch of money out the gate.	3/11/2025 11:51 AM
15	Spend the money collected already from taxing landowners in the area for storm water on the projects in the area. Do not add additional taxes and fees to landowners.	3/10/2025 6:42 PM
16	Did not go	3/10/2025 11:00 AM
17	I would support it if it was run by a community volunteer group, and did not have to increase what I pay to simply live here.	3/9/2025 9:10 PM
18	Knowing how much it will cost.	3/9/2025 4:00 PM
19	It is an unfair burden to make landowners pay for creek restoration with money they don't have. If we are held responsible, the costs should be low and relative to the property owner's income. The area is not wealthy.	3/9/2025 12:01 PM
20	GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO STAY OUT OF THIS.	3/8/2025 2:16 PM

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Q14 Are there other solutions or scenarios that the County should consider for managing the Creek?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 24

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Once a solution is arranged, there will be a fair amount of regular work to maintain and restore the system, and engaging with the Chimacum Schools to participate in that could provide a lot of benefits to the community, and the land, in the long-term.	4/21/2025 10:58 AM
2	I'm just in favor of management scenarios that benefit both agriculture where it makes common sense and has long term viability and habitat restoration and conservation where the conditions are naturally conducive. I'm concerned that a lot of resources will go towards trying to make ag land out of what naturally wants to be wetland/ or that has been made to be more prone to flooding due to historic land use practices. Thus more suited to wetland habitat.	4/10/2025 8:31 AM
3	Seeking the permit to fix the damage done by beavers as an umbrella permit like what has been done for the canary grass removal.	3/31/2025 4:39 PM
4	a perfect world i see is a drainage district that works for the land owners to gather or produce funding and fight for blanket type permitting for work to be done while allocating funding for the creek maintenance by the linear foot. this funding could be sent to land owners self preforming the work supervised or to an approved contractor voted on by the land owners to do the work for whom aren't equipped to do it them selves.	3/31/2025 9:05 AM
5	Tiered Service Model: Let landowners choose from different service levels (basic, moderate, full), with corresponding fees, based on how much help they need. Pilot Projects: Start with small, focused areas to show proof of concept before expanding district-wide build trust through results. Voluntary Work Days: Organize community creek clean-up days supported by the district to reduce labor costs and increase involvement. Third-Party Management: Contract with a neutral, professional third-party (not county government) to manage maintenance, permits, and enforcement. Mobile Permit Team: A district-funded team that helps landowners get through the permitting process faster and more efficiently. Drainage Watch Program: Similar to Neighborhood Watch local volunteers monitor and report drainage issues for quicker responses. Drainage Co-op Model: Similar to a utility co-op—owned and governed by property owners themselves rather than a top-down agency. Public Infrastructure Investment: Upgrade culverts, ditches, and flood channels in public areas to relieve pressure on private landowners. Incentive Programs: Offer small financial incentives or tax breaks for proactive drainage maintenance or volunteer participation.	3/30/2025 9:22 AM
6	Put a water retention lake on the Shorts Farm property. It already nearly is one anyway. Then permit farmers to do with their land as they want or can.	3/18/2025 11:12 AM
7	Allow nature to take it's course. If a property owner is having issues with flooding that is affecting agriculture, they can take steps to mitigate on their own property. They can offer to pay for mitigation efforts to adjacent property owners if needed.	3/12/2025 7:40 PM
8	Since property owners paying more money is bound to be the issue on passing any of these management scenarios where the properties are required to help, is it possible for the money to be raised entirely from outside organizations from the broader community to help with the ecological programs?	3/11/2025 12:04 PM
9	There needs to be an access right of way for the county or DD/etc. to be able to access the creek on every property. The work should not be optional. Again, this sounds like a nightmare to navigate, but absolutely necessary.	3/11/2025 11:51 AM
10	No, I think this is a good start	3/11/2025 11:13 AM
11	.	3/10/2025 6:42 PM
12	Yes	3/10/2025 11:00 AM
13	Find a way to do it without increased cost to the property owners.	3/9/2025 9:10 PM

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- | | | |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 14 | volunteers, apprenticeships, internships, universities. | 3/9/2025 12:01 PM |
| 15 | THE COUNTY SHOULD JUST LET THE PROPERTY OWNERS TAKE CARE OF THE CREEK. | 3/8/2025 2:16 PM |

Q15 Would you like to share any other feedback or questions with us?

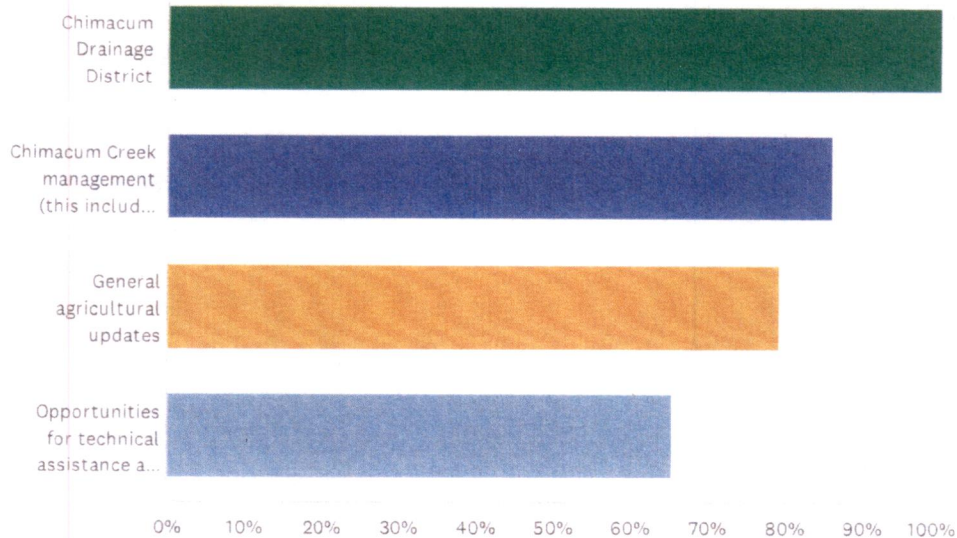
Answered: 12 Skipped: 27

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	One of the benefits of reactivating the drainage district is that the district already holds real-estate interests throughout the channelized system - no other solution could use these interests/rights.	4/21/2025 10:58 AM
2	Thank you for putting this together	4/10/2025 8:31 AM
3	Didn't know a sole leading that meeting! Felt more like your trying to shove a new government job down our throats at our expense!	4/2/2025 9:27 PM
4	creek maintenance should be treated like a shared driveway. land owners must all contribute and understand this work needs to be done. big thanks to everyone working on this! your doing a great job!	3/31/2025 9:05 AM
5	We need real-world solutions that prioritize function and landowner rights over red tape. Transparency must be built into every part of the process especially with money, permits, and project decisions. The current permitting system is broken. If we can't touch a beaver dam or cut back grass without a drawn-out permit, then we're being set up to fail. Any special district must be accountable to the people funding it not just to environmental agencies. If we're paying in, we should have real say over how things are managed.	3/30/2025 9:22 AM
6	As a landowner, I would prefer to choose who performs the necessary work. I also feel very strongly that each landowner should be required to maintain their section of creek.	3/27/2025 5:52 PM
7	How would beavers and dams be managed or maintained?	3/27/2025 3:56 PM
8	My property is located on the outskirts of the zoning map and I don't feel it would be fair for me to pay fees for an issue that does not affect me. nor are there any impacts downstream to Chimacum Creek with my land.	3/12/2025 7:40 PM
9	Thank you for taking this on! It has been a long time coming. I am fully in support. Unfortunately many landowners are oblivious or don't care so it's going to be a long road. Good luck!	3/11/2025 11:51 AM
10	Question #16 will not allow for selecting more than one issue	3/10/2025 6:42 PM
11	78 farmer in the valley Manager 5 miles of chimacum creek Iam a living person with vast knowledge of Manager of chimacum creek and farming the land	3/10/2025 11:00 AM
12	no	3/9/2025 12:01 PM

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Q16 If you would like to receive updates please select all topics you are interested updates on and enter your email in the textbox. Your email will not be linked to your answers in this survey.

Answered: 29 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES

Chimacum Drainage District

Chimacum Creek management (this includes water, agriculture, habitat, and flood management)

General agricultural updates

Opportunities for technical assistance and for resources for agriculture

Total Respondents: 29

RESPONSES

100.00% 29

86.21% 25

79.31% 23

65.52% 19

ENTER EMAIL ADDRESS HERE.

1 info@saveland.org

2 Crystie@chimacumgrain.com

3 krissims@setonconstruction.com

4 aalascola@gmail.com

5 Fastlanefarm@gmail.com

6 bishopfamilyfarm15@gmail.com

7 rhelzer@saveland.org

8 Info@dharmaridgefarm.com

9 wallyh65@yahoo.com

DATE

4/21/2025 10:58 AM

4/10/2025 8:31 AM

3/31/2025 9:05 AM

3/30/2025 9:22 AM

3/29/2025 8:12 AM

3/27/2025 9:14 PM

3/27/2025 7:04 PM

3/27/2025 6:14 PM

3/27/2025 5:52 PM

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10	Kristamudge@hotmail.com	3/27/2025 3:56 PM
11	joseph.goularte@yahoo.com	3/17/2025 10:34 AM
12	eviechlds@gmail.com	3/16/2025 9:26 PM
13	jswalk3@gmail.com	3/16/2025 9:26 PM
14	Chasitysade89@protonmail.com	3/14/2025 2:45 PM
15	chimacumgrange@gmail.com	3/13/2025 9:01 PM
16	dhysko@gmail.com	3/12/2025 4:16 PM
17	westbrookangus@yahoo.com	3/12/2025 12:07 PM
18	desjardins.leah@gmail.com	3/11/2025 12:04 PM
19	karyn@reddogfarm.net	3/11/2025 11:51 AM
20	macintag@msn.com	3/11/2025 11:20 AM
21	gareth@olympus.net	3/11/2025 11:13 AM
22	hickmans@tscnet.com	3/10/2025 7:41 PM
23	jjellis@olypen.com	3/10/2025 6:42 PM
24	See hard copies 4433 Albatross Street,pt	3/10/2025 11:00 AM
25	grayfoxfarm@ymail.com	3/9/2025 9:10 PM
26	pvd@olympus.net	3/9/2025 5:13 PM
27	staceyburrellrn@gmail.com	3/9/2025 4:00 PM
28	helenstimson93@gmail.com	3/9/2025 12:01 PM