



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES:

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District provided resource conservation assistance and information services to over 2500 constituents of the District. Utilizing District capacity and technical assistance funding was provided through an ODA/OWEB grant of \$72,674.00.

District staff participated in

- 6 tabling events providing conservation information and services to over 2000 District constituents.
- 14 conservation presentations to a variety of landowner and student groups discussing topics that included water quality issues, soil structure and health, composting, pasture and livestock health, riparian and aquatic species enhancement, and potential career opportunities in conservation.
- provided technical assistance to 312 individual landowners through site

visit evaluation, one-on-one walk in customer assistance, and provided technical information via phone/email.

- From these contacts 14 landowner management plans were developed on 162 acres, staff developed 1 large OWEB grant application for riparian enhancement on 7 acres and 5 small OWEB grant projects encompassing 87 acres with total funding of \$ 98,000.00.



LOCAL MANAGEMENT AREA (LMA)

The Upper Willamette SWCD continues to serve as the Local Management Agency for the implementation of the Southern Willamette and Upper Willamette/Upper Siuslaw Agricultural Water Quality Area Management Plan/Rules and part of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Water Quality program to address the Clean Water Act of 1993.

During the 2015-16 fiscal year District staff has provided committee coordination, administration and technical assistance to both plan areas. In the Southern Willamette LMA staff completed "on the ground" work for three small grant projects totaling \$ 42,000.00 in grant and landowner funds encompassing 31 acres. Conservation practices implemented by staff for these projects included invasive species removal, tree/shrub establishment, manure composting, exclusion fencing, and heavy use protection. Staff has extended the focus area work timeframe in the Gettings Creek sub-basin to accommodate a late developing project to enhance 7 acres of riparian habitat in the lower reach of the stream with a projected cost of approximately \$50,000.00.

Staff has also provided coordination and administration for the Upper Willamette/Upper Siuslaw LMA focus area that encompasses the South Fork Siuslaw 6th field sub-watershed. Staff has provided outreach to landowners residing within the focus area through 2 workshop meetings and numerous outreach mailings. Two projects have been developed and shall be partially funded using a Bureau of Land Management federal grant provided to that area of \$25,000.00 for "on the ground" work.

DISTRICT PARTNERSHIPS:

During the 2015-16 fiscal year the Upper Willamette SWCD has partnered with other conservation organizations and agencies to provide conservation services.

➤ **Crow Creek project:**

The District is partnering with the Lane County Public Works, Siuslaw Watershed Council, and the BLM to implement riparian enhancement on a one mile reach of Crow Creek a tributary to the North Fork Siuslaw River.

➤ **Lane County Land Management:**

The District provides technical consultation in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife to ensure that the County Riparian Ordinance goals are being met by conservation projects implemented in Eastern Lane County.



➤ **Benton County SWCD:**

The District is partnering with the Benton SWCD to conduct soil testing on potential wild prairie restoration projects in Lane County.

➤ **McKenzie Collaborative Partnership – Pure Waters Program (PWP)**

Pure Water Programs (formerly VIP/Voluntary Incentive Program) is a drinking water source protection strategy that rewards rural landowners who maintain high quality land along the river, helping to protect water quality in the McKenzie Watershed and avoid future water treatment costs. EWEB hopes to follow the VIP pilot program with a full on program (PWP) sometime in 2017. The program is designed to develop long term agreements for protection and/or restoration activities and naturescaping, and establish methodology for calculating a return on investment for watershed protection. If successful the program will offer a comprehensive approach to drinking water source protection and a model for other communities. The program afforded the District a .5 FTE and funding totaling \$36,085.00 for the year.

➤ **Upper Willamette Groundwater Management Area (GWMA)**

District staff continues its participation in the Upper Willamette GWMA committee. Staff regularly meets with agricultural sub-committee members that have developed a project with funding from the EPA Region 10 grant program to study agricultural production lands for nitrate leaching below the root zone that potentially can enter groundwater in the designated GWMA

area. Monthly sampling as well as soil testing has continued throughout the year with results being shared with producers individually and at producer workshops provided in the area. Staff has provided technical assistance by providing best management practices to producers that will assist in the reduction of nitrate leaching. The District is

working with the Benton SWCD, EPA and private fertilizer companies using an ODA fertilizer grant to test new/improved fertilizer products for reduction in their leaching potential.

➤ **Soil Sampling Program:**



District staff continues to partner with Sure Crop Farm Service a local agricultural service business to provide small acreage landowners nutrient soil sampling for their properties. The service includes an analysis report of soil samples landowners provide to the district from a certified soils laboratory along with soil amendment recommendations by District staff. The cost for each soil sample is \$65.00. Over the fiscal year the District received over 30 soil samples for analysis.

➤ **DISTRICT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:**

During the 2015-16 fiscal year District staff worked to develop conservation projects utilizing a variety of grant fund source:

❖ **OWEB Small Grant Program:**

The Upper Willamette SWCD utilizes both the Upper Willamette East and West small grant programs to assist in funding smaller conservation projects. During the 2015-16 fiscal year staff managed 5 small grant projects in these areas. Assistance included project assessment, development and design, implementation of conservation practices and grant administration and reporting. Conservation practices utilized include manure management, heavy use protection, exclusion and cross fencing, invasive species removal, grass waterway for bio-filtrating surface water runoff, oak habitat enhancement, and rotational grazing systems for small livestock operations. District staff continues to represent the District on both the Upper Willamette East and West grant review teams.

❖ **OWEB Large Grant Program:**

During the fiscal year District staff worked to develop two large OWEB grant projects. One encompasses enhancement of 4400 feet of riparian area along Gettings Creek, a tributary on the Coast Fork Willamette River. Installing over 15,000 native trees/shrubs. The second project shall provide technical assistance to landowners in the McKenzie

Watershed in conjunction with the Pure Waters Partners (PWP), to assist in riparian enhancement and planning. Funding is pending approval by OWEB.

➤ **INFORMATION SERVICES:**

District staff is often the recipient of many information requests. As well as technical and service information provided to constituents of the district at events, District provided the following in-house services:

- a). 24 Lane County land use permit reviews by District zone representatives.
- b). 16 Lane County Riparian Ordinance projects.
- c). 30 walk-in customers for soil type analysis
- d). 136 walk-in customers seeking conservation program information.

➤ **OUTREACH/EDUCATION:**



During the 2015-16 fiscal year District staff provided outreach/education activities to constituents in several ways.

Staff provided conservation and District services information by display tabling at multiple events that included the Local Food Connection, River Confluence Celebration, "We are Bethel" Celebration, Veneta Earth Day celebration, OSU Small Farms Conference in Corvallis and rural community events in Lorane, Junction City and Coburg.

Information distributed consisted of District Services, Conservation programs, soil sampling, ODA agricultural Water Quality program, and conservation education through the "wheel of Conservation" game for Kids.

The District staff worked on planning and organizing a tour, and partnered with OR Department of Agriculture & the McKenzie Collaborative Partnership to host the event. The tour (planned for August) of the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest in Blue River will focus on water quality conservation on land uses in the McKenzie watershed, along with a stop at Fil Acres, owned by John and Carol Sullivan.



H J Andrews

➤ **DISTRCT USDA/NRCS PARTNERSHIP:**

- ✚ The Upper Willamette SWCD works in close partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide conservation to district constituents, our staff provides both technical and administrative support to further the federal agency's conservation efforts.
- ✚ A summary of conservation practices applied by both the Upper Willamette SWCD and NRCS technical staff on cooperating landowner's properties include:

<u>Conservation Practice</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>2015-16 Applied</u>
Access Road	ft.	200
Brush Mgmt.	ac.	60
Composting facility	ea.	4
Conservation Crop Rotation	ac.	115
Conservation Cover	ac.	189
Fence	ft.	15,600
Fish Passage	mi.	1.5
Forest Mgmt. Plan	ea.	11
Forest Stand Improvement	ac.	263
Grass Waterway	ft.	800
Heavy Use Protection	sq. ft.	8,700
Hedgerow Planting	ft.	3,902
Herbaceous Weed Control	ac.	916
Integrated Pest Mgmt.	ac.	537
Irrigation Water (Micro)	ac.	196
Livestock Pipeline	ft.	3,300
Nutrient Mgmt.	ac.	299

Prescribed Grazing	ac.	541
Restoration/mgmt./declining habitat	ac.	345
Riparian Forest Buffer	ac.	20
Seasonal High tunnel system	sq. ft.	2,178
Tree/Shrub establishment	ac.	224
Upland Wildlife Habitat mgmt.	ac.	570
Watering Facility	#	6
Wetland Enhancement	ac.	422
Woody residue treatment	ac.	213

Total NRCS Program Contracts 2015-16 **8**

NRCS Program Dollars Spent in Lane County **\$ 345,778.00**

➤ **UPPER WILLAMETTE SWCD BOARD AND STAFF STRENGTH:**

The Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District (UWSWCD) are governed by an elected board of seven volunteer Directors. There are five zone director positions representing the five discrete geographic boundary areas within the district's overall boundaries. There are two additional Director Positions' which are considered at-large board positions. Currently there is one zone position that is vacant. The District would benefit from filling the vacant zone position in addition to appointing any landowner owning or managing a minimum of 10 acres of land within the District's boundaries as Associate Directors. The Associate Director Positions can provide valuable input towards District issues and projects although are not allowed to vote on District decisions.

The UWSWCD is solely financed by grant income, the Board and staff is responsible for securing all grant funding. Currently the District employs three staff members, one FTE Technical Watershed Specialist/District Manager, one .5 FTE Watershed Technician and one .5 FTE Administrative Specialist. The day-to-day services provided by District staff have been summarized in this report.

The volunteer Directors of the District conduct many functions on behalf of the District. They are not compensated for their time and travel expenses to represent the District at meetings, functions or special projects. During the last fiscal year the Board members contributed approximately 820 hours of time and logged over 2300 miles on their private vehicles conducting District business. The approximate value of their contributions to the UWSWCD is illustrated below:

Approx. 820 hours @ \$45/hr.	\$ 36,900.00
Approx. 2,300 miles @ .575/mi.	<u>\$ 1,232.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 38,132.00

➤ **ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO LANE COUNTY:**

Through the combined strength of the Upper Willamette SWCD and our conservation partners, a total of **\$627,537.00** of outside money was brought into the Lane County economy for local expenditures for labor, services, supplies and materials dedicated to assisting Lane County landowners with natural resource issues and concerns.

Included in that and through the dedicated efforts of our staff and board the Upper Willamette SWCD contributed **\$170,674.00** through grant funds from the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.



Zone	Director	Terms Expire (12/31)
1	Vacant	2018
2	Don Mogstad	2016
3	Gary Jensen (Board Chair)	2018
4	Todd Anderson (Secretary/Treasurer)	2018
5	Ralph Perkins (Vice Chair)	2016
At-Large (1)	Walter Borntreger	2016
At-Large (2)	Tim Hovet	2018

District Staff

Dave Downing District Manager/Senior Watershed Technician
 Lily Leitermann Watershed Technician
 Lynn Gilliland Administrative Specialist

USDA/NRCA Staff

Tom Burnham District Conservationist
 Wallace Jennings Soil Conservationist

DISTRICT FINANCES:

Please refer to the attached Approved Operating budget for 2015-2016 and Balance Sheet for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2016.