



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District

July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES:

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District provided resource conservation assistance and information services to over 1,800 constituents of the District.

Utilizing District capacity and technical assistance funding was provided through an ODA/OWEB grant of \$72,644.00.

District staff participated in:

- 4 tabling events providing conservation information and services to over 1,500 District constituents.
- 11 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.
- Providing technical assistance to 280 individual landowners through site visit evaluation, one-on-one walk

in customer assistance, and provided technical information via phone/email.

- From these contacts, 12 landowner management plans were developed on 160 acres; staff developed 2 large OWEB grant applications, one for technical assistance to assist landowners on riparian assessments and plans and one DEQ application for a riparian enhancement project within the district's priority area. 5 small OWEB grant projects were approved encompassing 98 acres with total funding of \$ 78,000.00.



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 2016-17 fiscal year District staff has provided committee coordination, administration and technical assistance to both plan areas. In the Southern Willamette LMA, staff finished up on the last project in the targeted area. Conservation practices implemented by staff for the project included invasive species removal, tree/shrub establishment, manure composting, exclusion fencing, and heavy use protection. Staff submitted a grant application for a 7-acre riparian enhancement project which was approved, but fell short of the priority funding line. Staff is working to complete final assessment on the focus area.

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 3 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 2016-17 fiscal year the Upper Willamette SWCD has partnered with other conservation organizations and agencies to provide conservation services.

❖ 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.

❖ Oregon Department of Agriculture:

The District is partnering with the ODA in a water quality monitoring project. This project shall provide ODA and ODEQ with water temperature data in areas where conservation on agricultural land has occurred. The District has selected four sites on Gettings Creek in the Coast Fork Watershed to monitor temperature conditions.

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

The District continues its participation in the Pure Water Programs (formerly Voluntary Incentive Program (VIP)) 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. Following the completion of the pilot process with 16 individual landowners, the partnership has recently rolled out the full program offering to targeted landowners in the McKenzie Watershed. Landowner participation has been good in the early stages. If successful, the program will offer a comprehensive approach to drinking water source protection and a model for other communities. The program has continued to afford the District a .5 FTE and funding totaling \$36,085.00 from OWEB 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 the soil samples provided by the landowners 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.

Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District
780 Bailey Hill Rd., #5
Eugene, OR 97402

Soil Testing

Diagnostic Test: \$65.00

Organic Matter (%)	Phosphorus (ppm)
Potassium (ppm)	Magnesium (ppm)
Calcium (ppm)	pH
SMP Buffer pH	Salts
Base Saturation	Potassium (%)
Magnesium (%)	Calcium (%)
Sodium (%)	Hydrogen (%)
Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)	

PLUS, RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

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DISTRICT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

During the 2016-17 fiscal year, District staff worked to develop conservation projects. The District utilized a variety of grant fund sources, listed as follows:

❖ **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 2016-17 fiscal year staff developed 7 projects with individual landowners within the district. District staff received funding approval for 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, fencing for exclusion and cross fencing, invasive species removal, grassed 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 grant projects. The first project shall provide technical assistance to landowners in the McKenzie Watershed in conjunction with the Pure Water Partners (PWP), to assist in riparian enhancement and planning. OWEB provided funding for this project. The second grant was an ODEQ 319 grant to fund a riparian enhancement project on Papenfus creek, a tributary to the Coast Fork Willamette River. This project did not receive funding.

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:

- ❖ 29 Lane County land use permit reviews by District zone representatives
- ❖ 12 Lane County Riparian Ordinance projects
- ❖ 33 walk-in customers for soil type analysis
- ❖ 166 walk-in customers seeking conservation program information

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

During the 2016-17 fiscal year District staff provided outreach and education activities to constituents in several ways.

Staff provided conservation and District services information through display tables at multiple events that included the Local Food Connection, River Confluence Celebration, OSU Small Farms Conference in Corvallis and rural community events in Lorane. Information distributed consisted of District Services, Conservation programs, soil sampling, and the ODA agricultural Water Quality program.



The District staff worked on planning and organizing a tour, and partnered with the Bauman Family Tree Farm to provide a tour to the public of a working forest using conservation measures to sustain their property.



Several of the Bauman Tree Farm tour participants discussing forest health

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>2016-17 Applied</u>
Access Road	ft.	200
Brush Mgmt.	ac.	21
Composting facility	ea.	3
Conservation Crop Rotation	ac.	33
Conservation Cover	ac.	156
Fence	ft.	3,250
Fish Passage	mi.	1.2
Forest Mgmt. Plan	ea.	4
Forest Stand Improvement	ac.	341
Grass Waterway	ft.	800
Heavy Use Protection	sq. ft.	9,800
Hedgerow Planting	ft.	1,200
Herbaceous Weed Control	ac.	586
Integrated Pest Mgmt.	ac.	536
Irrigation Water (Micro)	ac.	19.6
Livestock Pipeline	ft.	1,848
Nutrient Mgmt.	ac.	194
Prescribed Grazing	ac.	79
Restoration/mgmt./declining habitat	ac.	171
Riparian Forest Buffer	ac.	20
Seasonal High tunnel system	sq. ft.	2,478
Tree/Shrub establishment	ac.	224
Upland Wildlife Habitat mgmt.	ac.	370
Watering Facility	#	4
Wetland Enhancement	ac.	292
Woody residue treatment	ac.	178
Firebreak	ft.	4,000
Total NRCS Program Contracts 2016-17		11
NRCS Program Dollars Spent in Lane County		\$ 378,785.00

UPPER WILLAMETTE SWCD BOARD AND STAFF STRENGTH:

The Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District (UWSWCD) is 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. The District would benefit from appointing landowners 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 they are not allowed to vote on District decisions.

The UWSWCD is solely financed by grant income; the Board and staff are 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 680 hours of time and logged over 2,100 miles on their private vehicles conducting District business. The approximate value of their contributions to the UWSWCD is illustrated below:

Approx. 680 hours @ \$45/hr.	\$ 30,600.00
Approx. 2,100 miles @ .535/mi.	<u>\$ 1,123.50</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 31,723.50

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.



2016- 2017 BOARD & STAFF

Zone	Director	Terms Expire (12/31)
1	Al Hrynyshyn	2018
2	Don Mogstad	2020
3	Gary Jensen (Board Chair)	2018
4	Todd Anderson (Secretary/Treasurer)	2018
5	Ralph Perkins (Vice Chair)	2020
At-Large (1)	Jim Evangelista	2020
At-Large (2)	Tim Hovet	2018

District Staff

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

USDA/NRCS Staff

Tom Burnham	District Conservationist
Keir Thomas	Soil Conservationist
Suzy Liebenberg	Wetlands Specialist

DISTRICT FINANCES:

Please refer to the attached Approved Operating budget for 2016-2017 and Balance Sheet for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2017.