



**UPPER WILLAMETTE**  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Budget Message Summary

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**Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District shall be funded by a property tax levy.** Historically, the District has operated off grant funding to provide its services. In November 2020 District constituents approved a property tax levy to fund our services to District residents.

**This is our first year utilizing Local Budget Law Protocol.** As a first-year taxing authority the District is adhering to the Local Budget Law protocols to ensure financial transparency.

**Our financial operations are sound and transparent.** Since audits have not been required previously, our past financial reviews have been excellent. Copies of past reviews may be obtained at our Eugene USDA Service Center office. We operate transparently, publishing notices and minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors.

**We will work to expand our Conservation Services** by enhancing programs that we currently provide and develop new programs based on community and partner input.

**Staffing level shall expand to assure high-quality service delivery.** Additional staff will be added to address programmatic needs, as well as transition our internal structure to take on increased capacity and resources.

**Budgeting balances revenue and expenditures to meet UWSWCD's future goals.** The budget shows what it costs to operate the UWSWCD, to deliver expanded services to our constituents, and to invest in long-term conservation actions.

**Short term indebtedness needed to fill transition gap.** The UWSWCD has operated debt-free for many years. With the anticipation of tax-base revenue, the District Board has approved taking on a short-term bridge loan to cover costs associated in the infrastructural changes and expansion of services/programs the District will undertake during our transitional period. The FY2021-22 Budget indicates this action.

On behalf of the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District, I am pleased to present the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.)

Respectfully submitted by,

Dave Downing, Acting Budget Officer