

COOS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2018 Annual Report



Celebrating 56 Years of Service

379 North Adams St.
Coquille, OR 97423
541.396.6879



COOS SWCD

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HISTORY OF COOS SWCD

The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1962 to coordinate government assistance with conservation needs, provide assistance, information, and education for Coos County farmers, ranchers, and woodlot owners to implement sound resource management and conservation practice.

The Coos-Coquille Agriculture Water Quality Management Plan (AgWQMP) was developed in 1998 for the 1993 directives of Senate Bill 1010. The document consists of an education component and a set of rules addressing measures that safe guard water quality, the beneficial uses of water resources, and provide best management practices for water quality concerns. The plan also includes the basins of Ten Mile Lakes, Four Mile Creek and Two Mile Creek as well as The Camas Valley and Lower Umpqua areas in Douglas County. Two public hearings were held in Coos County in the fall of 2001; and after a period of public comment and review the Coos-Coquille AgWQMP was adopted by the Board of Agriculture in March of 2002. The Coos SWCD provides support to the Local Advisory Committee (LAC), which meets every two years for a review of the WQMP and associated rules.

COOS SWCD MISSION STATEMENT

Coos SWCD helps landowners and managers plan and apply conservation practices that conserve water, maintain soil health and productivity, enhance wildlife habitat, and improve watershed function. SWCD serves as a central hub by helping landowners and land managers access available technical, financial, and educational resources from local, state, federal, and other sources in their efforts to implement good conservation management, comply with environmental regulations and endangered species act requirements, and encourage good land stewardship.

FUNCTION OF THE COOS SWCD

The function of the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District is to make technical, financial, and educational resources available to local landowners and to assist in any way so they achieve their conservation goals. The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District building is located at 379 North Adams Street in Coquille, Oregon. Office hours are 8am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Stop by to talk with our staff about financial assistance, farming practices, water quality, herbicides, or any agricultural needs that you may have. Our staff is available to all citizens, landowners, and any professionals in the natural resource field. We are a non-regulatory agency, able to assist landowners with financial and/or technical assistance throughout Coos County. We also coordinate with other agencies to provide assistance and education to landowners so they are able to receive the most up to date options available to implement good conservation management, comply with environmental regulations and endangered species act requirements, and be good land stewards. Stop by or call us at 541.396.6879 to set up an appointment to discuss your needs.



COOS SWCD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EMPLOYEES 2017-2018

Zone 1

Adela Villers
61456 Lower Mattson Road
Coos Bay, OR 97420
541.290.9650

Zone 2

Dan Pierce
Secretary
85091 North Bank Ln
Coquille, OR 97423
541.347.5110

Zone 3

Charlie Waterman
Vice-Chairman
87518 Davis Creek Lane
Bandon, OR 97411
541.347.3453

Zone 5

Vacant

Zone 5

Vacant

Member at Large, Position #1

Ernie Newton
Treasurer
1631 Bothwick Street
Myrtle Point, OR 97458
541.572.2589

Member at Large, Position #2

Mark Villers
Chairman
61456 Lower Mattson Road
Coos Bay, OR 97420
541.290.9650

Registered Agent

Charlie Waterman

Director Emeritus

Gordon Ross
Joe Cortez
Ken Messerle
Dan Varoujean

District Staff

Caley Sowers
**Watershed Technical
Specialist/Office Manager**
379 North Adams Street
541.396.6879

Modena Thomas
Office Assistant
379 North Adams Street
541.396.6879

Associate Directors

Sharon Waterman



Pictured left to right: **Modena Thomas** ~ Office Assistant; **Caley Sowers** ~ District Manager; **Chuck Steffensmeier** ~ Zone 5; **Charlie Waterman** ~ Vice Chairman, Zone 3, County Planning Commission, Coos Forest Protective Association; **Ernie Newton** ~ Treasurer, Member at Large #1, Past President of Coquille Watershed Association & Water Plant Operator for City of Myrtle Point; **Dan Pierce** ~ Secretary, Zone 2, Local Rancher; **Mark Villers** ~ Chairman, Member at Large #2, owner of Blue Ridge Timber Co.; **Adela Villers** ~ Zone 1, Veterinarian

COOS SWCD ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW
FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

Coos SWCD 2017- 2018 Financial Report of Expenses: ODA Scope of Work and District Operations Funds								
July 1 2017 - June 30 2018								
Scope of Work Estimated Budget		District Operation (DO) Estimated Budget	1 st Quarter SOW & DO	2 nd Quarter SOW	3 rd Quarter SOW	4 th Quarter SOW	SOW Total Actual Expenses FY 2017-2018	DO Actual Expenses FY 2017-2018
2017-2019		2017-2019	July 1 - Sept. 30 2017	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31 2017	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31 2018	April 1 - June 30 2018		July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018
Original Contract	\$109,884.00	\$47,092.00					\$54,942.00	
Payment Request			\$37,281.50	\$13,735.50	\$13,735.50	\$13,735.50		\$0.00
Beginning Balance			\$37,281.50	\$37,416.54	\$37,703.30	\$35,059.49		\$23,546.00
Salaries, Wages, and Benefits	\$86,900.00	\$17,500.00	\$12,216.38	\$12,442.38	\$14,063.65	\$9,331.52	\$48,053.93	\$7,215.79
Contracted Services	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,111.25	\$2,000.00	\$3,111.25	\$3,681.24
Materials & Supplies	\$8,484.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,258.75	\$0.00	\$908.61	\$1,597.31	\$3,764.67	\$947.79
Travel	\$5,400.00	\$700.00	\$125.33	\$146.40	\$295.80	\$781.83	\$1,349.36	\$438.17
Equipment	\$2,600.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$859.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$859.96	\$1,764.95
Operating Capacity* DO funds only		\$19,392.00						\$9,498.06
Total Expenses	\$109,884.00	\$47,092.00	\$13,600.46	\$13,448.74	\$16,379.31	\$13,710.66	\$57,139.17	\$23,546.00
Remaining Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,681.04	\$23,967.80	\$21,323.99	\$21,348.83	-\$2,197.17	\$0.00

The above table demonstrates our Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Scope of Work and District Operations Capacity Funds estimated budget and actual expenses for each quarter. Scope of Work funds are used to fund technical assistance to landowners, promote water quality workshops, conduct water quality monitoring, and develop grant proposals to fund projects. District Operations grant funds are primarily used for Coos SWCD operating costs such as office rent, utilities, book-keeping, insurance, and satisfying certain legal requirements each year, such as our annual meeting and report.

Funds to support soil and water conservation district capacity have been appropriated by the Oregon Legislature to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The funds appropriated for this purpose are from constitutionally dedicated State Lottery funds (Article XV, section 4b). Oregon Lottery Funds are dedicated under Ballot Measure 76 and awarded by OWEB to fund Oregon's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Oregon Department of Agriculture has established an agreement with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (hereinafter "OWEB") for the distribution of grant funds to Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

COOS SWCD ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

Funds	Total
Beginning Balance	\$ 47,552.15
Income	
ODA/SOW capacity Grants	\$ 78,488.00
other grants	\$ 48,876.00
Misc. Income	\$ 400.00
Interest	\$ 350.00
Total Income	\$ 128,514.00
Income + beginning balance	\$ 176,066.15
Expenses	
District Manager Payroll	\$ 43,000.00
Administrative Assistant Payroll	\$ 15,600.00
Temp. Watershed Tech. Payroll	\$ 8,500.00
Contracted Services	\$ 6,500.00
Advertising/legal Notices	\$ 350.00
Annual Meeting/report	\$ 500.00
Audit	\$ 40.00
Awards	\$ 375.00
Fees (Bank)	\$ 550.00
Insurance	\$ 1,700.00
Postage	\$ 750.00
Power	\$ 960.00
Rent	\$ 3,600.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 2,100.00
Vehicle Maint./fuel	\$ 500.00
Website Mnt.	\$ 624.00
Travel & Mileage	\$ 1,550.00
Training	\$ 200.00
Supplies & Materials	\$ 1,500.00
Production	\$ 1,580.00
Equipment	\$ 2,050.00
Project Expenses	\$ 41,876.00
2 yr status Monitoring	\$ 1,000.00
Administration costs/Fees	\$ 1,000.00
	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 136,405.00
Ending Balance	\$ 39,661.15

Guerin Memorial Essay Contest

By Anne Guerin

Since early in the 1980's, the Guerin Memorial Essay Contest was created to inspire young people to think about conservation issues involved with use of land and water and what they produce. Perhaps an involvement with these issues will leave a positive impression on those researching and writing on their chosen land and water use topic.



I think of another positive outcome about the young writer's involvement. The essay contest exposes him or her to an organization that promotes education and assistance in developing best use practices in land and water stewardship.

This second aspect leads me to, once again, reflect on my father's involvement with the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District, as a rancher benefitting from the aid of the organization and as a Coos SWCD director. Unlike many ranchers, dad did not grow up on a ranch. When he moved to the Guerin Ranch in 1945 with his wife and young daughter, he had been living in Los Angeles for years, working in pharmaceutical sales, doing electrical work for a Hollywood studio, and working as an inspector at Hughes Aircraft. It was his father, who had retired as a civil engineer, who encouraged him to come help him with the ranch, finding that it was more work than he had energy for. So, Tom loaded his wife and young daughter and their worldly goods into a sedan pulling a small trailer and off to Oregon they went.

When interviewed later in life about that dramatic change in his lifestyle, dad called himself a "city kid" trying to run the show in those early years on the ranch. But he adjusted....and was a quick study. I can conjure up in my mind's eye images of him working cattle on foot in the corral. He was quiet, smooth, and efficient.

I see a couple large influences in his ranching success. Dad made friends with other ranchers, sharing ideas and sharing chores, learning all the time. And he was a joiner: Agricultural Farm Service Agency, Oregon Farm Bureau, Farm Credit Services, Western Oregon Livestock Association, Oregon Cattleman's Association, Coos County Fair Board, Oregon State Fair Board, and Oregon State Livestock Marketing Board. Late in life he received the designation of Diamond Pioneer, and Agricultural Career Achievement Award. If any of these organizations had a publication, it appeared in our mailbox and was read cover to cover. He was always receptive to new ways of doing things, new information, ways to improve his herd and his systems.

The Los Angeles city kid made good on the ranch... with plenty of help from all those people in all those organizations he joined. I find that inspirational, and perhaps others will, too.

GEURIN MEMORIAL ESSAY CONTEST

The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District directors have honored the memory of Dorothy Guerin for the past 36 years, and Tom Guerin for the past 13 years by sponsoring the Guerin Memorial Essay Contest. The essay contest promotes an opportunity to engage young people in Coos County in research and reflection on natural resource issues that are important to the county and the state as a whole. The topics emphasize conservation practices that protect land and water values. The winner receives a plaque to be displayed in his/her school for the remainder of the year, plus \$150. Second place winner receives \$125, while third place winner receives \$100. Contest open to all Coos County students from grades 7 through 12 (including home school). Contact Coos SWCD at 541-396-6879 or info@coosswcd.org for more information.



Tom & Dorothy Guerin

The 2018 Winner of the Guerin Memorial

Essay Contest:

How Might the Water Scarcity or Quality Affect Agriculture in Coos County?

By Courtney D. Jeffs, Marshfield High School



Water scarcity and quality can drastically affect the agriculture of Coos County. We will explore the issues of the topic and how it impacts our community.

Agriculture is one of the most important necessities that we have in the Coos County area. We depend on livestock, produce, and other products that agriculture can produce. When it comes to water scarcity and quality, it is important for us to maintain a sufficient amount of water in adequate quality so that our community can continue to thrive.

One of the issues we face today as a community, is a growing population. With the population getting larger in our area, we have been required to enhance agriculture so that we can harvest produce much faster. This enables us to provide enough produce for everyone in the area when they need it. Most farmers use plant growth regulators to accelerate the growth process of the produce, however, they also use herbicides to kill weeds, insecticides to kill the bugs, and fungicides to get rid of the diseases the plants may obtain. When these chemicals are used for growing crops, it increases the risk of contamination in our water. The chemicals cause a discharge of water pollutants that spread across the surface of the water creating bacteria. When this occurs, water quality is susceptible to disease, sickness, and viruses. If the water quality were to be insufficient, we would be using contaminated water to grow our produce. If the water were to be contaminated, it would not only impact the environment, but it would cause the farmed produce to be polluted.

When water quality is insufficient, it concerns more than just produce, it can have an effect on the livestock on our farms which is a large part of the agriculture. If the water quality were to have chemical pollutants, the livestock would be in danger of getting a virus or disease. If that were to happen, the products we gain from livestock such as milk, cheese, meat, would also be infected with contamination.

The scarcity of water, even if it were to be sufficient quality, would be a major issue for both livestock and crops. If we had a scarcity of water in the Coos County area, we would not be able to grow our produce because crops are dependent on water to grow. Growing crops is dependent on a large amount of water, so if the water were to be scarce, we would not be able to harvest. It would not only influence crop growth, but it would also alter livestock and how they live. Livestock require almost as much water as farming crops does, if the livestock were not able to have enough water, they would be unhealthy and dehydrated, ultimately ending in death. Our area would face water scarcity if we were to have a drought, luckily, Coos County has not had a drought or water scarcity in a few years.

With the evidence provided, we are able to conclude that agriculture is a critical system for our county to strive and maintain a high yet healthy population.

Congratulations Courtney!

Invasive and Noxious Weed Programs

Invasive species, such as knotweed (*right*), are a threat to property and the local ecology, so the Coos SWCD and local watershed councils are urging landowners to become familiar with the local species of invasive and noxious weeds and to be aware of the methods and resources available to treat them.

Knotweed is one highly invasive plant that can damage ecological systems by dominating riparian areas, outcompeting other beneficial native plants, and creating a monoculture. This can carry negative impacts to salmon habitat and other important resources. Knotweed is also a significant problem to infrastructure, being able to grow underneath the footings of a house or barn and disrupt the foundation. Knotweed can even result in difficulties with property insurance or property sales.



Treatments for invasive species can require specific measures. While some people advocate sending out excavators to rip up concentrations of invasive species, sometimes such treatments can actually make the problem of spreading even more significant. When landowners cut down knotweed, load it in wheelbarrows or trucks, and dump it in the woods or on vacant land, they can actually be causing more harm by spreading the knotweed.



It is not possible to eradicate all of the noxious/invasive weeds in Coos County, but the goal is to control them before they have a chance to spread further. We have teamed up with multiple agencies to educate residents of Coos County about noxious weeds by joining the South Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area.

Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) are local organizations that facilitate collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries for more effective noxious weed and invasive plant management. CWMAs are non-governmental, non-regulatory and are run solely on the participation of active partners. They facilitate improved sharing of local and regional resources that are essential to prevent noxious weed and invasive plant invasions.

Established in 2017, the South Coast CWMA represents Coos and Curry counties. The South Coast CWMA mission is to reduce the negative impact of invasive plant species on the economy, environment and human health by collaborating with the community through education, information exchange and coordinating regional efforts for control. The South Coast CWMA works cooperatively by collaborating on treatment measures to remove new infestations early in the invasion cycle before they become well established, widespread, and much more damaging to natural resources. Our partners recognize that invasive plants and noxious weeds are everyone's problem. The South Coast CWMA provides the best opportunity to educate and engage the local community. In order for the South Coast CWMA to be successful, it is essential to continue to develop new partnerships and increase our collaborative approaches to weed management.

Attending South Coast CWMA meetings and/or becoming a member of the South Coast CWMA can truly help the efforts to reduce the spread of noxious and invasive plants in our area and increase community support. Working together, we can lessen the impact of invasive plant species and their threat to the economy, environment, and human health. I look forward to seeing you at our South Coast CWMA meeting.

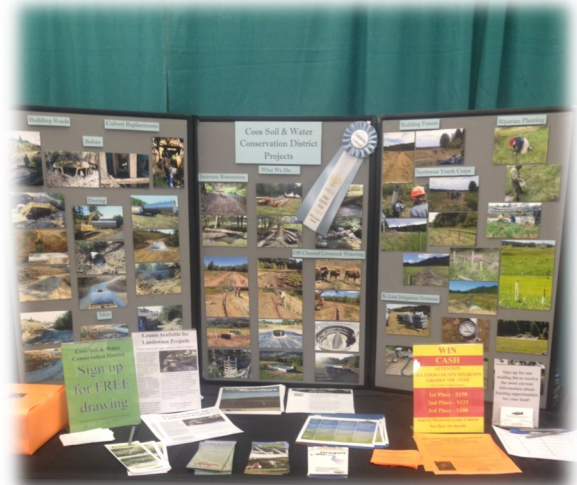


Coos SWCD Education & Outreach

Coos County Fair 2018

Coos SWCD is involved with outreach and educational events throughout the year. Our most recent was in the Clarno Building during the Coos County Fair. We were joined by other agencies within our community, whom we partner with throughout the year to provide landowners with more options to increase the use of their land. Agencies took turns in providing a fun and educational demonstration or activity to all who visited us. Special activities, such as, knot tying techniques, making a snowy plover, and button making were offered to children each day during the fair.

The fair was a success, we were able to speak with approximately 350 people during our days there informing landowners how we can help them with improving their lands and what funding options are available. We passed out pamphlets with everything from information about knotweed to fund-



Coos SWCD booth

ing that landowners. Our table even won a ribbon this year. Overall, it was a successful event and we look forward to working with all of the landowners we met over the week in the future.

Water Quality Monitoring

Coos SWCD conducts summer stream temperature monitoring at 25 lower Coquille River mainstem and tributary locations, between the municipalities of Bandon and Coquille. One of the primary water quality impairments in this section of the mainstem includes water temperatures that can reach over 70° from July through September, causing adverse or lethal impacts to salmonids. Temperature is an especially important criteria in the reach due to the critical nature of the lower Coquille mainstem for rearing of juvenile fall Chinook salmon and moderate numbers of Coho. The reach is also an important migration corridor for salmon and steelhead. High summer temperatures result in the reach having very limited potential for anadromous salmonid rearing from July to September. Rearing and migration reaches must have cold water refugia that are sufficiently distributed to allow salmon and steelhead locations where they can physiologically persist without significant adverse effects from higher water temperatures elsewhere. The overall goal of this project is to collect previously undocumented data on distribution of summer cold water refugia for rearing of ESA listed and non-listed salmonids in the lower Coquille River mainstem project area.

The data collected from this project will augment and support the Coquille Watershed Association (CWA) Tide Gate Survey (*Coquille Tide Gate Inventory & Project Development Report, Coquille Watershed Association 2016*), which identified and mapped tide gates in a 37-mile span of the tidally-influenced lower Coquille River.



(Above) Coos SWCD Watershed Technical Specialist Rushal Sedlemyer holds up a cable attached to a temperature monitoring device on Fahy Creek.

Coos Soil & Water Conservation District's Projects

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR LANDOWNER PROJECTS

Landowners looking for financial help with agricultural projects that have a direct benefit to watershed health can apply for up to \$15,000 in assistance. Projects must have a direct benefit on improving in-stream process & function, fish passage, wetland & riparian process & function, road impact reduction, water quality & quantity and irrigation efficiency.

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Small Grant Program provides up to \$15,000 in Oregon Lottery funds for individual projects that help restore watershed elements such as creeks, rivers or wetlands.

We submit the application for review on behalf of landowners. The review process usually takes less than 60 days and successful applicants have up to two years to complete the funded project.

Please contact Coos SWCD at 541-396-6879 or email info@coosswcd.org to find out if your project qualifies.

Culvert Replacement

The watershed problem this project seeks to address is removing and replacing a highly deteriorated, rusted, and undersized culvert (5' diameter by 20' length) located on main-stem Adams Creek, which enters South Tenmile Lake at Shutters Arm. This specific project area is on privately owned agricultural land that is seasonally grazed (May-October) by a herd of 11-40 cows. During the winter rainy season, the pastures are almost entirely inundated and cattle are moved off location typically from October/November through the following spring. The main Adams Creek stream channel runs centrally down the length of the pasture, with the left and right forks branching out to flow in channelized "ditches" along the north and south perimeter of the pasture. A stream crossing on the main (middle) Adams Creek channel provides farm and livestock access for crossing from the south side of the pasture to the north side. The crossing had a severely undersized and partially collapsed culvert, which was causing a pinch point in the channel, as well as being in danger of washing out and destroying the stream crossing entirely. Coos SWCD worked with the Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership to replace the culvert with an active-channel width concrete slab bridge. This project was funded by an OWEB small grant for \$15,000.



Coos Soil & Water Conservation District's Projects

Riparian Enhancement

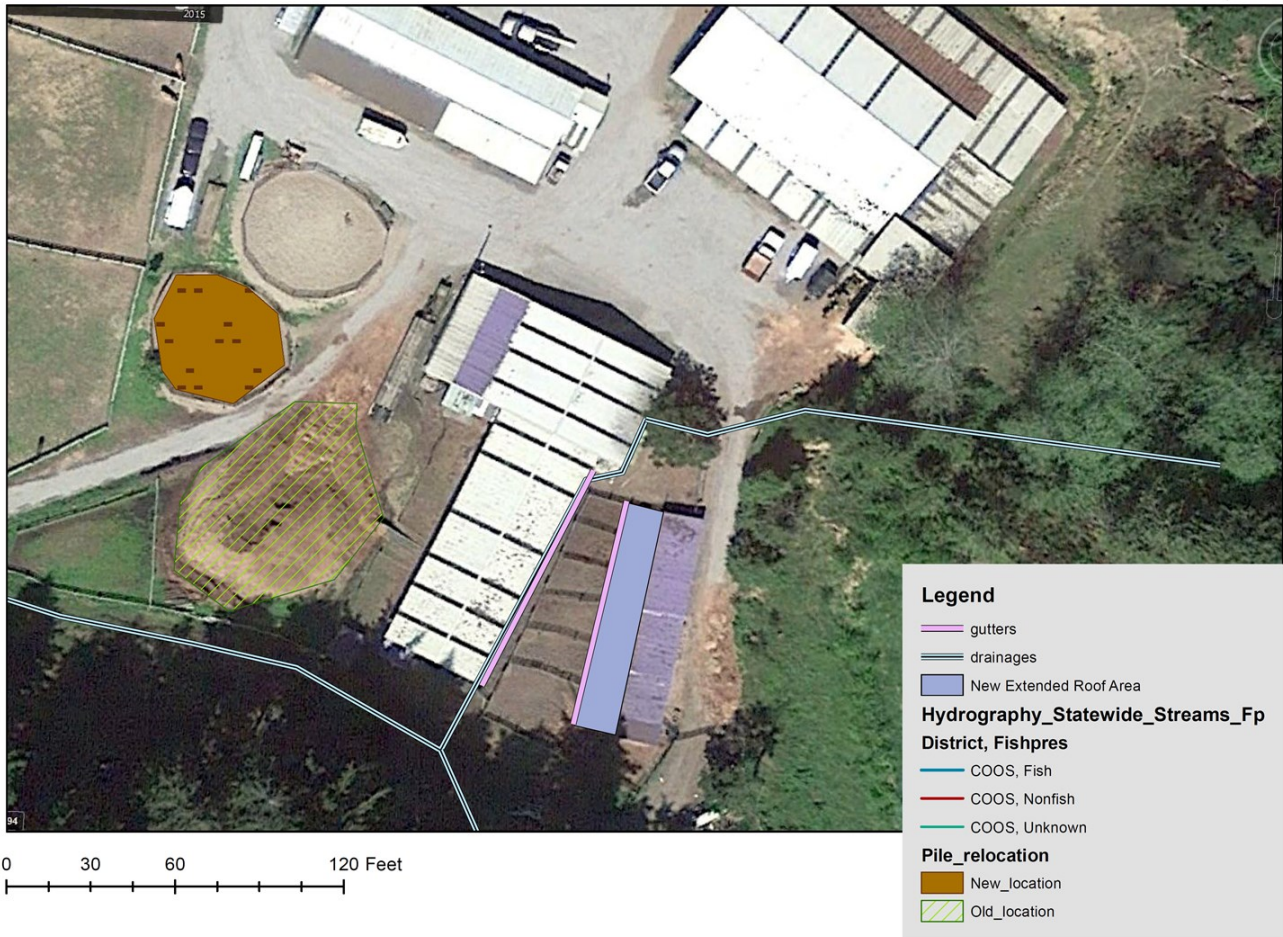
This small farm property is 17.04 total acres with approximately four acres of pasture, and is currently utilized for limited livestock grazing. The operation has, depending on season and time of year, anywhere from 16-48 goats and 2 horses utilizing the pasture. The pastures are equipped with an off-channel watering trough system and so the animals do not need to water directly from the river and can therefore be completely excluded from the channel. The primary resource concern we were able to help the landowner with here was the lack of sufficient established riparian vegetation to provide shade and stream bank stability along the approximate 700 feet of riverbank of the North Fork Coquille River. With funds from an OWEB small grant, the landowner constructed the barbed wire fence you see in the photos (right) and Coos SWCD crew members and partners were able to plant approximately 400 native trees.



2018 COOPERATORS OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Larry and Cindy Johnson *Of Trillium Stables*

Trillium Stables Agricultural Water Quality Project



Background:

Trillium stables is a small family farm and horse boarding facility housing anywhere between 20-30 horses throughout the year. In addition, the farm is home to numerous ponies, donkeys, turkeys, peacocks, ducks, and chickens as well as several cats and dogs. The property slopes westwards towards lowland (wetland) seasonal pasture through which numerous channelized tributaries of Isthmus Slough join and flow together out into the main Isthmus Slough channel. Several small, unnamed perennial streams drain down from the upper slope (east and southeast sides of property) and run alongside the barn and paddock areas, ultimately draining into the channels which run through the pastures, and out into Isthmus Slough. These streams for the most part flow directly through the barnyard and therefore were running through areas which are heavily concentrated with animal wastes and, during rainy months, mud. There was especially high potential for contaminated runoff from the barnyard area due to the high concentration of animals, lack of groundcover, and large amounts of water draining through this area and directly into Isthmus Slough tributaries in the rainy winter season. The site also lacked sufficient ground cover and vegetation in some areas to help provide shade, bank stability, and filtration of runoff. Sediments and farm wastes contribute to impaired ecological function in stream networks, which reduces water quality for beneficial uses, and the productive potential for salmonid species.

Solutions:

Larry and Cindy were a pleasure to work with and over a 2 year period they employed a number of creative manure and run-off strategies. With OWEB small grant funds, over 130 ft. of rain gutters were installed on the barn and covered paddock area. The covered paddock area and the rain gutters helps to reduce the amount of mud and manure runoff from the paddocks. Larry also relocated the manure storage pile to reduce potential runoff and spread it over his pastures in the summer for fertilizer. Grass seed was spread on the newly created buffer area between the paddocks and the barn to grow a filter strip, which would help clean water as it drains into the streams and into Isthmus Slough. However the numerous fowl on the property tended to eat the grass seeds and the landowner could not get any grass to grow. The alternative solution was to install a culvert underground for that segment of stream which runs through the paddock area along the barn. Larry also utilized electric fencing in several areas to create setbacks on the streambanks, to allow vegetation to reestablish. These project activities together will effectively provide a direct reduction in the potential for animal wastes and sediments generated by agricultural activities to be entered into the two small streams that move through the barnyard and feeding area, out into the wetland segments of the stream network where there is potential for juvenile coho to rear during winter months.

(Below) Initial site visit, December 2015 shows original condition of the small hillside pasture which was being used as an exercise area, and tributary stream.



(Above) Follow-up site visit, October 3rd 2017 shows improved condition of the small hillside pasture (now retired) which was being used as an exercise area, and vegetation beginning to grow up along tributary stream.

(Right) follow-up site visit, April 25th 2018 shows improved condition of the small hillside pasture (now retired) which was being used as an exercise area, and vegetation grown up along tributary stream.



BEFORE



Paddocks between barn and stables. BEFORE: Highly concentrated mud/manure runoff area (6- 14-2017)

AFTER



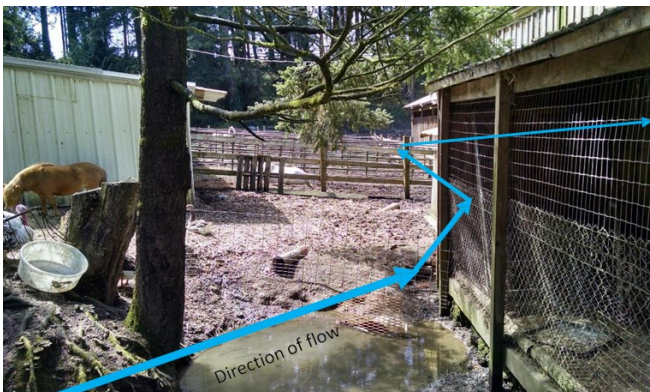
Paddocks between barn and stables. AFTER: Paddocks have been reduced and covered with roofing. Sparsely grassed area in the center is to be used as a buffer. Vegetation has been slow to grow due to compaction and poultry eating the grass seeds (8-8-2018).



Main Barn, adjacent drainage: BEFORE (6-14-2017)



Main Barn, adjacent drainage: AFTER (8-8-2018)



BEFORE water flows directly through the stable yard and alongside main barn (6-14-2017)



Main Barn, adjacent drainage (facing south). AFTER: Culvert has been installed so that there is no longer any above-ground flow through the stable yard; tree removed and vegetable garden planted (7-3-2018).

BEFORE

AFTER



Initial site visit, December 2015. Original location of manure pile.



Final site visit, August 2018. Original location of manure pile (now an exercise area)



Initial site visit, December 2015. Original location of manure pile.



FINAL site visit, August 2018. New location of winter-storage manure pile, on a hardened gravel surface overlaid with rubber stall mats, and with telephone pole curbs to further prevent any runoff in direction of stream.



Initial site visit, December 2015 shows highly concentrated manure- runoff flowing directly into the tributary stream



FINAL site visit, August 8th 2018 shows improved condition of the corral area; the pile has been relocated; gutters and roofing have been constructed on the west side of the barn to prevent runoff from the stalls on that side. A vegetative buffer has been established along the tributary stream.

The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance in Coos and Curry Counties

CREP requires the exclusion of livestock, haying, and harvesting from all enrolled acreage for the life of a 10 to 15 year contract. Participating landowners receive payments and follow NRCS-approved specifications to install fences, plant trees & shrubs, and maintain the restored riparian buffer.

Ten years is not long in the life of a working ranch, but for an individual operator this commitment can be intimidating. A decade working around a poorly placed fence corridor is a headache that no producer needs.

Established in 1998, the Oregon CREP is a unique state-Federal partnership that pays cost-shares and annual rental payments to landowners who choose to restore riparian buffers to protect water quality and provide wildlife habitat corridors.

CREP provides 75% in cost-shares on approved project installations, and 40% plus in incentive payments, more than covering typical basic installation costs.

What doesn't work for riparian restoration on ag land?

1. Working without full landowner buy-in: Fences get damaged; weeds thrive, and trees need extra attention. A landowner who takes ownership of his or her project will take action or seek help, but for an operator who is only tolerating someone else's buffer project, or who only wanted a fence a few years ago, project maintenance will be a low priority.
2. Pastures in rough shape are sometimes an indicator of a rancher who needs more support, possibly an owner who is best served by a farm plan to improve pastures before incorporating riparian restoration. Assistance from NRCS, SWCD, and Watershed Councils can be combined with CREP to reach resource-protection goals while improving pasture productivity.
3. Wide buffers on very narrow pastures: Further narrowing the pasture without reducing livestock numbers promotes livestock trailing, creates new areas of compaction, and may even increase sediment loss in the wet season.
4. From an operational point of view, too wide a buffer on a marginally-productive pasture means lost feed on a field that is barely worth using to start with. Retiring a poor pasture with high management and labor costs may be a better business decision in some cases.
5. Steep cut-banks on an actively meandering river: A river creating a new channel undercuts its current banks every year and dumps the material in bars. If an operation cannot dedicate space to account for future river movement, planting trees on top of a steeply incised bank is a wasted effort without a reach-scale stabilization plan. High mortality is also common in seedlings perched high above the water table along an incised reach.
6. On the other hand, nothing saves money, time, and labor like a good fence in the right place. Besides enhancing instream and wildlife habitat, fenced and restored riparian corridors can be a fantastic way to divide grazing units, reinforce the security of a stream-side perimeter, and screen biting winds. A carefully planned riparian buffer and fence is a core piece of infrastructure that enhances long-term profitability.

...So, what does work for riparian restoration and for ranch owners?

1. A design that complements ranch operations. Obviously, a riparian corridor's location is dictated by the stream, and NRCS specifications keep up focused on quality, but poring over aerial photos and exchanging ideas on-site about crossings, widths, fences, and fence types is invaluable. A good design requires lots of discussion between rancher and technical assistance provider.
2. Enough money, labor, and time to cover a basic installation. With a committed and energetic landowner and a sturdy fence, a simple restoration planting plan can out-perform elaborate projects that were built with less landowner input.
3. A committed, enthusiastic landowner who has helped design this important ranch infrastructure, finds the fence useful, and takes pride in watching the buffer mature. To be a useful partner to this landowner, TA staff must understand how buffers affect adjacent pastures, not only fish and wildlife habitat. The gold standard is a landowner who looks at his fencing plan and says, "This is exactly what I was hoping to do...someday."

(right) Nothing saves time and money like a good fence in the right place. Riparian corridors planned well add value to the ranch and earn their keep!



(left) System-wide instability means trees at the top this 40' bank can't survive as a powerful river constructs a new channel and abandons its old banks to form a terrace. Colonizing willow at the toe of the former bank will eventually slow erosion and help build new floodplain.

TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR LANDOWNERS

Coos Soil & Water Conservation District

Caley Sowers ~ Watershed Technical Specialist
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541.396.6879

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Eric Moeggenberg ~ District Conservationist
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Curry County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Oregon Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Division

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503.986.4700

Oregon State University Extension Service

Cassie Bouska ~ Extension Agriculture
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Coos Watershed Association

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Coquille Watershed Association

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Oregon Department of Forestry

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541.267.4136

Coos County Water Resources Department

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USDA ~ Farm Service Agency

Bret Harris ~ County Executive Director
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Coos/Curry CREP Tech

Barbara Grant
541.396.4323 ext . 106

Bureau of Land Management

1300 Airport Lane
North Bend, OR 97459
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Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

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Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

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Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

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541.888.5515

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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Coos County Planning Department

Jill Rolfe ~ Planner
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A BIG THANK YOU
TO ALL OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCE

&
COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

FEDERAL

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA)

USDA, US Forest Service (USFS)

USDOJ, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

USDD, Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

OREGON

Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO)

Oregon State University Extension Service

Department of Forestry (ODF)

Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Department of State Lands (DSL)

Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD)

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

COOS COUNTY

Board of Commissioners

Planning Commission

County Forester

Drainage District Chairmen

County Weed Advisory Board

County Road Department

BASIN

Coquille Watershed Association

Coos Watershed Association

Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership

ACCOUNTANT

Coquille Valley Accounting (CVA)

John Fandel

Seth Fandel

TRIBES

Coquille Indian Tribe

Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Siuslaw, and Lower
Umpqua

PORTS

Port of Bandon

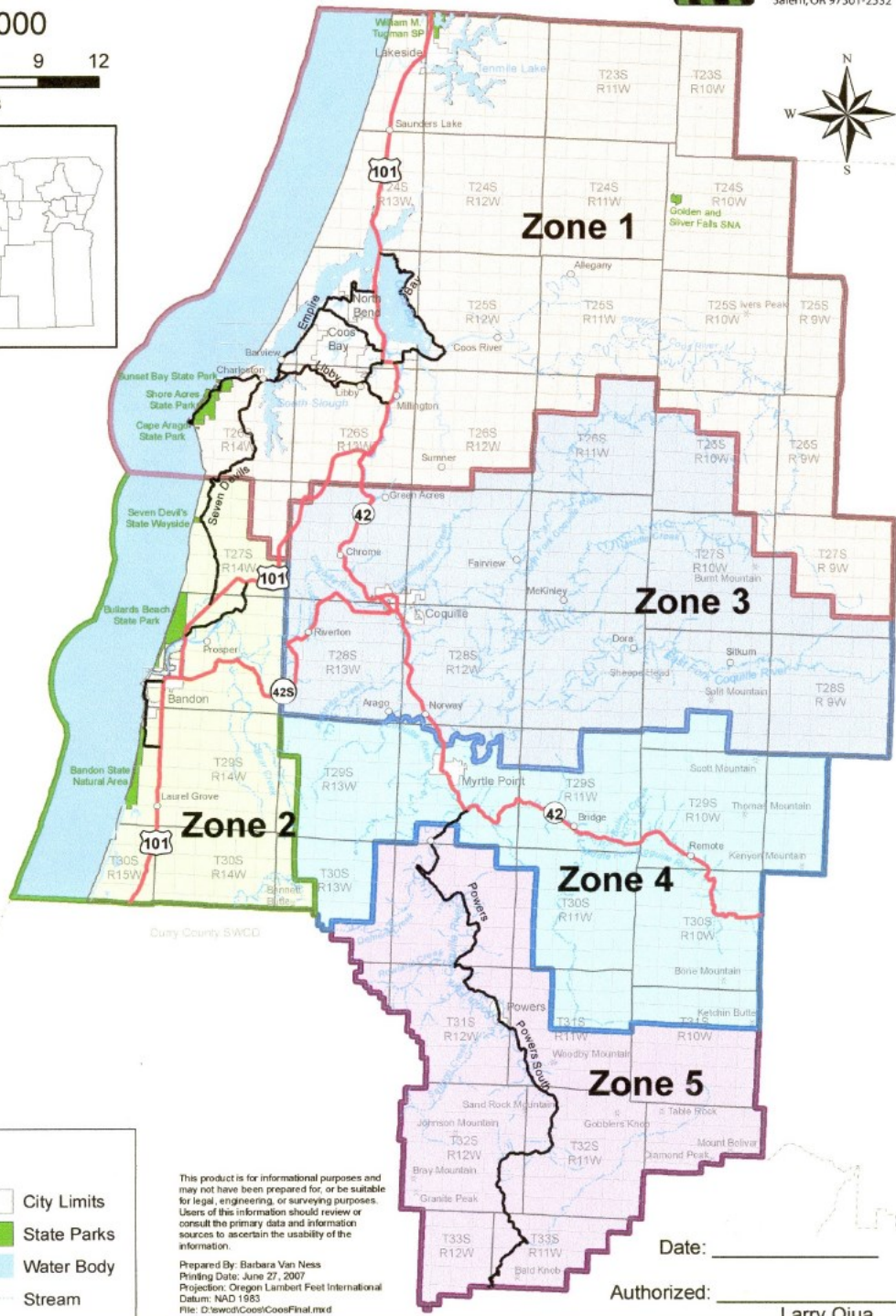
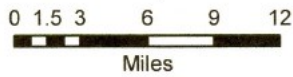
Port of Coquille

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District



Oregon
 Department of Agriculture
 635 Capitol St. NE
 Salem, OR 97301-2532

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Legend

- City
- Summit
- Major Road
- Major Hwy
- City Limits
- State Parks
- Water Body
- Stream

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