

COOS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board of Directors & Employees.....3

Coos SWCD Committee Members.....3

List of Cooperators.....4

Technical and Financial Resources for Landowners.....5

Coos SWCD Annual Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2016 -2017.....6

Coos SWCD Annual Financial Review: Scope of Work.....7

Coos SWCD Annual Financial Review: District Operations.....8

History of Coos SWCD.....9

Goals of Coos SWCD.....9

Coos SWCD Mission Statement.....9

Function of Coos SWCD.....9

Coos SWCD District Office.....10

Coos SWCD Board & Staff.....10

Guerin Memorial Essay Contest.....11

Guerin Memorial Essay Contest Winner.....12

Coos SWCD Education & Outreach.....13

Coos SWCD’s District Projects.....14

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).....18

Langlois Mountain Range Gauge Sites.....18

Coos SWCD Zone Map.....19

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EMPLOYEES 2017

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

Chuck Steffensmeier
2250 Lynn Drive
North Bend, or 97459

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

District Staff

Modena Thomas
Office Assistant
379 North Adams Street
541.396.6879

Associate Directors

Sharon Waterman

COOS SWCD COMMITTEES 2017

Projects Committee

Dan, Charlie, Mark & Ernie

Plan of Work

Caley Sowers

Budget Committee

Dan Pierce & Mark Villers

Guerin Memorial Essay Contest

Ann Guerin, Cheryl Griffith,
Sharon Waterman

Budget Committee

Caley Sowers & Mark Villers

Small Grant Team Representative

Caley Sowers

Personnel Committee

Mark Villers & Charlie Waterman

LAC Representative

Caley Sowers & Dan Pierce

Coquille Watershed Representative

Ernie Newton & Caley Sowers

Scope of Work

Caley Sowers & Beth Pietrzak

Small Grant Team Representative

Mark Villers & Ernie Newton

LIST OF COOPERATORS

FEDERAL

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA)

USDA, US Forest Service

USDOJ, Bureau of Land Management

USDD, Army Corps of Engineers

COOS COUNTY

Board of Commissioners

Planning Commission

County Forester

Drainage District Chairman

County Water Weed Advisory Board

County Road Department

Coquille Watershed Association

Coos Watershed Association

Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership

PORTS

Port of Bandon

Port of Coquille

OREGON

Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Special Districts Association

Oregon State University Extension Service

Department of Forestry (ODF)

Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Soil and Water Conservation Commission

DISTRICT STAFF

Caley Sowers ~ Watershed Technical Specialist/Office Manager

Modena Thomas ~ Office Assistant

ACCOUNTANT

Coquille Valley Accounting (CVA)

John Fandel

Seth Fandel

TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR LANDOWNERS

Coos Soil & Water Conservation District

Caley Sowers ~ Watershed Technical Specialist
371 North Adams Street
Coquille, OR 97423
541.396.6879

USDA ~ Natural Resource Conservation Service

Eric Moeggenberg ~ District
Conservationist 382 North Central Blvd
Coquille, OR 97423
541.824.8091

Curry County Soil & Water Conservation District

94181 4th Street
Gold Beach, OR 97444
541.247.2755

Oregon Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Division

635 Capital Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532
503.986.4700

Oregon State University Extension Service

Cassie Bouska ~ Extension Agriculture
631 Alder Street
Myrtle Point, or 97458
541.572.5263

Coos Watershed Association

Elizabeth Galli-Noble ~ Director
186 N 8th Street
Coos Bay, OR 97420
541.888.5922

Coquille Watershed Association

Melaney Dunne ~ Director
309 North Central Blvd.
Coquille, OR 97423
541.396.2541

Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership

Mike Mader ~ Director
PO Box L
Lakeside, OR 97449
541.759.2414

Oregon Department of Forestry

63612 5th Road
Coos Bay, OR 97420
541.267.4136

Coos County Water Resources Department

Gregory Wacker ~ District 19 Water Master
290 North Central Street
Coquille, OR 97423
541.396.1905

USDA ~ Farm Service Agency

Bret Harris ~ County Executive Director
376 N Central Blvd
Coquille, OR 97423
541.396.2841 ext. 100

Coos/Curry CREP Tech

Barbara Grant
541.396.4323 ext . 106

Bureau of Land Management

1300 Airport Lane
North Bend, OR 97459
541.756.0100

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Bryan Duggan ~ Basin Specialist
381 North 2nd Street
Coos Bay, OR 97420
541.269.2721 ext. 234

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Don Yon ~ Coastal Zone Management
811 SW 6th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
503.229.5994

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

63538 Boat Basin Road
PO Box 5003
Charleston, OR 97420
541.888.5515

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Mark Grenbemer
221 West Stewart Avenue - Suite 201
Salem, OR 97501-3647
541.776.6010 ext. 231

Coos County Planning Department

Jill Rolfe ~ Planner
225 North Adams Street
Coquille, OR 97423
541.396.3121 ext. 210

COOS SWCD ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW: FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

Coos SWCD 2016-2017 Budget					
Funds	Total	Guerin Memorial Fund	SWCD General Fund	District Office Operations	Dept. of Agriculture Scope Of Work Fund
Beginning Balance	\$ 39,988.75	\$ 2,242.15	\$ 37,241.35	\$ -	\$ 505.25
Income					
ODA/SOW capacity Grants	\$ 72,674.00			\$ 21,774.00	\$ 50,900.00
other grants	\$ -				
Misc. Income	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 4,300.00		\$ -
Mileage	\$ 700.00		\$ 700.00		
Interest	\$ 175.00		\$ 175.00		\$ -
Total Income	\$ 78,649.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 5,175.00	\$ 21,774.00	\$ 51,405.25
Income + beginning balance	\$ 118,637.75				
Expenses					
Caley Payroll	\$ 35,440.00		\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 32,440.00
Modena Payroll	\$ 15,005.25		\$ 1,690.00	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 9,015.25
Contracted Services	\$ 6,500.00			\$ 6,500.00	\$ -
Advertising/legal Notices	\$ 1,750.00			\$ 150.00	\$ 1,600.00
Annual Meeting/report	\$ 610.00			\$ 610.00	\$ -
Audit	\$ 40.00			\$ 40.00	\$ -
Awards	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00			\$ -
Fees (Bank)	\$ 550.00		\$ 550.00		\$ -
Insurance	\$ 1,125.00			\$ 1,125.00	\$ -
Postage	\$ 1,130.00			\$ 130.00	\$ 1,000.00
Power	\$ 960.00			\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Rent	\$ 1,800.00			\$ 1,800.00	\$ -
Telephone/Internet	\$ 1,500.00			\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Vehicle Maint.	\$ 289.00		\$ 200.00	\$ 89.00	\$ -
Website Mnt.	\$ 600.00			\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Travel & Mileage	\$ 700.00			\$ 200.00	\$ 500.00
Training	\$ 1,250.00				\$ 1,250.00
Supplies & Materials	\$ 530.00			\$ 530.00	\$ -
Production	\$ 800.00				\$ 800.00
Equipment	\$ 700.00		\$ -		\$ 700.00
Administration costs/Fees	\$ 3,300.00				\$ 3,300.00
	\$ -				\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 74,954.25	\$ 375.00	\$ 2,440.00	\$ 21,774.00	\$ 50,905.25
Ending Balance	\$ 43,683.50	\$ 2,267.15	\$ 39,976.35	\$ -	\$ -

COOS SWCD ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

Coos SWCD 2016-2017 Financial Report of Expenses: ODA Scope of Work Funds						
July 1, 2016 - July 31, 2017						
Estimated Budget		1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total Expenses to Date
2016-2017		July 1 - Sept. 30 2016	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31 2016	Jan. 1 - Mar 31 2017	April 1 - July 31 2017	(updated quarterly)
Quarterly Payments	\$50,900.00	\$12,725.00	\$12,725.00	\$12,725.00	\$12,725.00	\$50,900.00
Beginning Balance	\$1,647.69	\$14,372.69	\$16,350.92	\$13,391.36	\$12,725.00	
SOW Expenses*						\$0.00
Personnel	\$38,850.00	\$9,184.98	\$13,008.66	\$8,027.35	\$11,655.59	\$41,876.58
						\$0.00
Contracted Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
						\$0.00
Travel	\$2,000.00	\$245.00	\$22.68	\$0.00	\$227.70	\$495.38
						\$0.00
Staff Training	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$705.78	\$0.00	\$705.78
						\$0.00
Materials & Supplies	\$5,050.00	\$76.78	\$43.47	\$756.82	\$841.71	\$1,718.78
						\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
						\$0.00
Administration**	\$3,900.00	\$1,240.01	\$1,809.75	\$3,901.41	\$0.00	\$6,951.17
						\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$50,900.00	\$10,746.77	\$15,684.56	\$13,391.36	\$12,725.00	\$52,547.69
Remaining Balance	\$0.00	\$3,625.92	\$666.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

The above table demonstrates our Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Scope of Work Funds estimated budget and actual expenses for each quarter.

COOS SWCD ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

	FY 2016-2017 Actual Expenses
Total District Operations funds: Expense Category	\$21,774.00
Statutory Accountability:	
Annual Report	\$ 900.22
Annual Meeting	\$ 98.83
Advertising and Legal Notices	\$ 61.94
District Operations :	
Office Rent	\$ 1,800.00
Office Utilities	\$ 2,635.33
Insurance	\$ 1,658.60
Director's Expenses	\$ 125.00
In-house Personnel:	
Salary/Wages	\$ 6,734.07
Contracted Services :	
Bookkeeping/CPA	\$ 6,162.50
Travel/Mileage:	
Mileage	\$ 380.38
Materials and Supplies:	
website maintenance	\$ 312.50
office supplies	\$ 625.40
postage	\$ 279.23
Total All Expenses	\$21,774.00
Remaining Balance (should be \$0.00)	\$0.00

This table outlines the spending of our District Operations grant funds, which are primarily used for operating costs such as office rent, utilities, book-keeping, insurance, and satisfying certain legal requirements each year. Both the Scope of Work and District Operations Fund Budgets are also included in our Annual Budget on page 6.

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), wich meets every two years for a review of the WQMP and associated rules.

COOS SWCD GOALS

- * To promote wise use of renewable resources through voluntary and locally led conservation efforts.
- * Conserve, protect and develop natural resources for the economic benefit of the people of Coos County.
- * Encourage measures for the protection of waters throughout Coos County.
- * Assist local landowners in the development and utilization resources to reduce soil erosion, conserve and improve water quality, maximize crop and forage production, improve fish & wildlife habitat, and to support the economy of Coos County.

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.

COOS SWCD DISTRICT OFFICE



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 & STAFF



Pictured left to right: **Modena Thomas** ~ Office Assistant; **Caley Sowers** ~ Watershed Technical Specialist/Office 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

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 35 years, and Tom Guerin for the past 12 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

2017 Guerin Memorial Essay Contest Winner

Erosion On The Coquille River

I've been fortunate to grow up on a ranch in Coos County, where, throughout my life, soil erosion and soil quality have been issues we're always working to improve. Conservation practices were something my dad would often do and talk about, but until recently, I didn't realize exactly what was happening and the impact it could have.

An issue our ranch has constantly worked with, and many other property owners as well, has been losing riverbank to the Coquille River. Whether North, Middle, or South Fork, Coos County is abundant with people who cherish living with the bountiful influence of the river. Some enjoy summer days at swimming holes, others spend fall days fishing, and personally, I can say ranches like ours value immensely the soil quality and excellent hay that comes with owning property near the river. The only real downside of having property near the river is losing that property to the river.

For years, families have battled, trying not to lose river banks during flood season, with mixed results of success. While it may only seem like a couple of feet a year, it is alarming how fast it adds up. It's not just any land either, property owners are losing some of their most fertile and productive land to erosion.

The issue of erosion doesn't just affect our property owners, it's effecting our environment as well. While within moderation, it is true erosion has benefits for our wildlife and local ecosystem, the effects of too much erosion are detrimental. Over time, as more and more erosion occurs, rivers naturally become wider and more shallow as the river works its "path of least resistance". Not only does this leave many aquatic animals, such as Salmon, in a poor position with less cover, but also many non aquatic animals in riparian zones as well.

As a property owner, it can sometimes feel as though erosion is something we receive little to no support with, whether from the government or agencies such as ODFW. However, when looking at the lack of support, compared to things such as the droughts a few years back, where family farms and ranches could apply for federal aid, it's easy to spot the difference. Not to say it isn't a real issue, but there is a lack of quantifiable evidence to support the funding or attention of erosion as a threat to our environment. The effect erosion has on wildlife or the water system is something that is very difficult to measure, whereas something like the droughts could be measured by annual rainfall. With vague, frankly, unknown consequences, it's easy to see why there is an absence or lack of funding, support, or even awareness; that is unless, it's your property falling into the river each year.

So as a land owner, erosion is left up to you to solve. Even working within state guidelines, there are conservation practices you can take as a land owner to preserve your property.

Construction is one major cause of erosion and can be avoided moving construction away from areas susceptible to erosion. As said in the Oregon Land Owner's Guide, "Whether logging, farming, building a house or recreation site, locating all roads away from the river is one of the most important actions you can take." This will not only help avoid erosion, but better protect yourself from losing personal property in the event of heavy erosion or a flood.

One commonly used conservation practice used by property owners with the ability to do so is to move rock on to riverbanks. Of course, this must be done within the parameters of Fish and Wildlife, but as long as guidelines are followed, this is one technique some have found success in.

However, probably the most popularly used conservation practice used by property owners for years has been to plant vegetation. Planting, whether it be grass or trees, has been a functioning conservation practice for years now, and still works today. Establishing a root system that holds the soil together is essential for the success of vegetation combatting erosion. The problem arises when the plants simply don't get enough time to grow.

Often, property owners will begin planting to combat erosion, but before the plants have time to truly establish root systems to stabilize soils, they are washed away by floods. Many find themselves planting and re-planting year after year, hoping this will be the year their property might get a break in the floods enough to allow their vegetation to grow and protect their riverbanks.

So while yes, as a property owner there are several conservation practices you can take, often erosion is something out of your control. Erosion is a bigger issue than many people realize, but it's something greatly changing agriculture and property management as we know it. Unless some kind of major changing happens, whether it government funding or improving technology, our riverbanks will continue to erode. As long people in Coos County continue to fish, swim, and farm, land conservation will continue the same.

-Jack Isenhardt,
Age 17, Grade 12
Myrtle Point HS
12

Coos SWCD Education & Outreach

Coos County Fair 2017

Coos SWCD does multiple outreach and educational events throughout the year. Our most recent was in the Natural Resource Tent during the Coos County Fair. We were joined by many 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. Each agency took a turn in providing a fun and educational demonstration or activity to all who visited our tent.

Coos SWCD chose a fun activity for our local youth with the coloring of buttons. Each child was able to color a button while learning about our local natural resources. They were then able to take their buttons home. We were able to speak with approximately 350 people during our days there. We passed out pamphlets with everything from information about knotweed to funding that landowners can receive when working with Coos SWCD. Overall, it was another successful year at the Coos County Fair.

Natural Resource Tent



Coos SWCD booth

Grazing Management in Sensitive Habitat Areas

During the year, Coos SWCD offers free to low cost courses to help educate local landowners on different techniques to improve their operations. In May of this year a free three day course on grazing management in sensitive habitat areas was offered. Roughly 20 landowners attended to learn different strategies. Experts were onsite from the National Riparian Service Team and the Oregon Riparian Team to provide in classroom sessions, along with daily field workshops.

Attendees learned how to develop riparian resource objectives, develop and implement successful grazing strategies, as well as design practical grazing strategies that foster sustainable conditions.

“Anyone who manages or works with managers of livestock and riparian areas would benefit from this course.” Drew Harper, (Curry SWCD)

“Excellent course! Almost a full course w/projects and team/group work crammed into 3 days. Excellent instructors/instructions & presentations by Sandy Wyman, Chad, Dave, and Chris.” Bonnie Montoya-May, (Local Landowner)

“Good, balanced, non-biased, science-based information that can be valuable to participants across the spectrum.” Leigh Ann Vradenburg, (Klamath Basin Partnership)



Myrtle Lane Dairy Manure Management

Completed: 2015-2017

Myrtle Lane Dairy is an organic dairy operation with a calf barn, which at any given time houses an average of about 70 jersey calves. According to the USDA NRCS Agricultural Waste Management Handbook(1992), the average 1000 pound dairy cow produces about 80 lbs of manure per day, so if we estimate that the average calf produces 8-10 lbs per day, that is roughly 600 lbs of manure produced daily at 18,000 lbs per month. Manure that is accumulated must be stored typically six months out of the year (Nov-April), until conditions are dry enough to spread on the fields as fertilizer.

The manure from the calf barn was being piled at the east or back end of the barn as stalls were cleaned, and stored uncovered on bare ground through the winter.

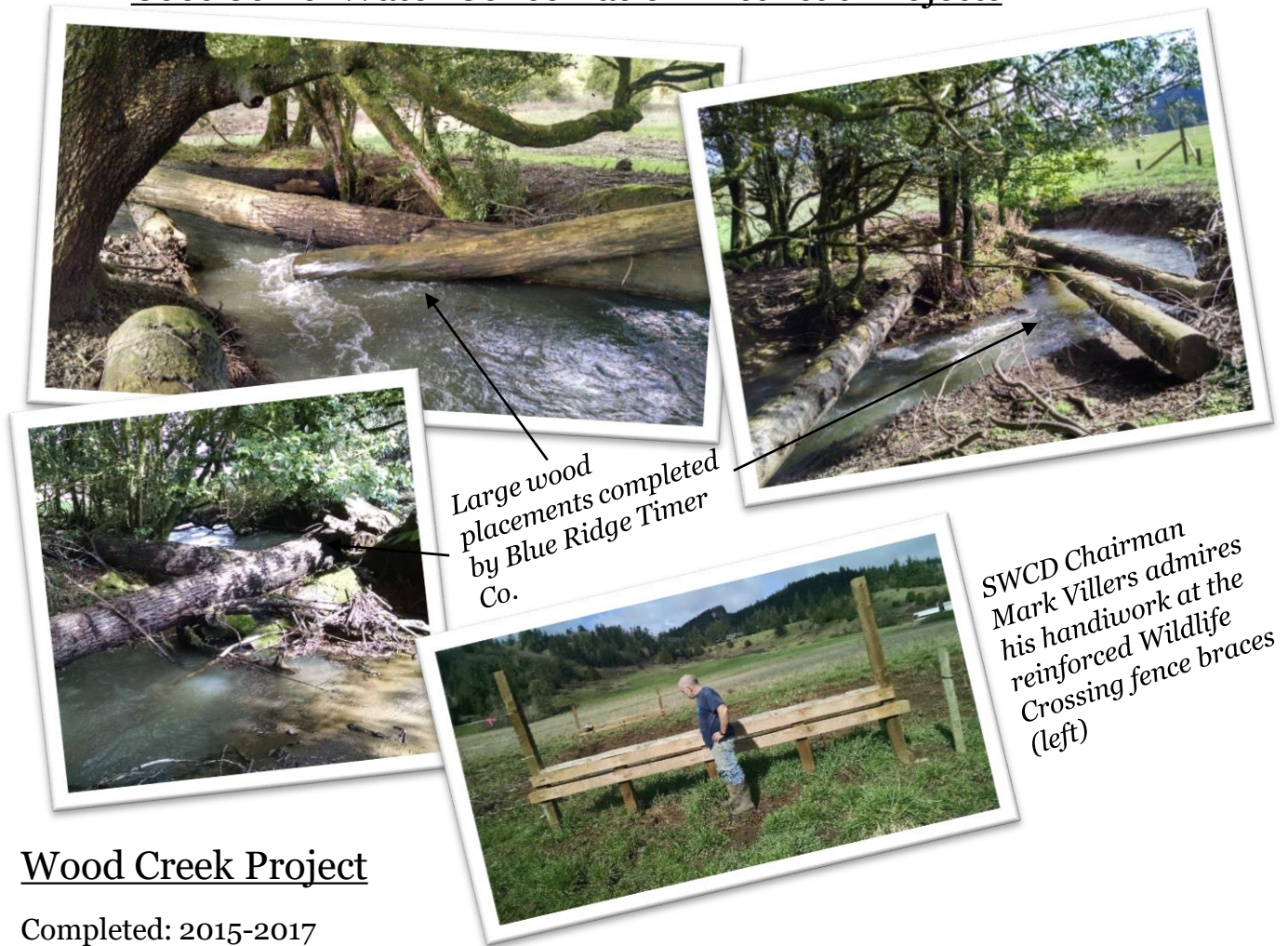
Manure management was improved by covering a bare floor with a 6" base of sand and gravel foundation. A firm non-erodible surface was provided in order to store the manure on a covered area that prevented run-off during the winter months.

Manure will now be safely stored here, where it will be kept high and dry all winter.



Manure was originally stored here, behind the barn...

Coos Soil & Water Conservation District's Projects



Wood Creek Project

Completed: 2015-2017

Wood Creek is a tributary of the North Fork of the Coquille River, which is habitat for both Coho salmon and winter steelhead. The approximately 3400 foot section of Wood Creek which intersects this agricultural property, had a riparian zone primarily dominated by invasive Himalayan Blackberry, with a few stands of myrtle trees shading predominately bare patches of earth beneath.

Himalayan Blackberry thickets are a problem because they cannot provide significant shade for stream water except where streams are deeply entrenched beneath the thickets, and also cannot contribute to large woody debris in the channel. Overall plant and animal diversity is likely to be higher in areas with more diverse native vegetation.

We received an OWEB small grant in the amount of \$10,000 for this restoration project. Funds were used for large wood placement to improve in-stream habitat; to remove the Himalayan blackberries; fence livestock out of the stream channel; and replant the area with a mixture of native species. Approximately .3 miles of fencing was added, in addition to two wildlife crossings specially designed to combat the problem of elk damaging fences.

The idea is that as the native riparian vegetation grows, the wildlife crossings will remain clear of vegetation and thus become the most convenient place for the elk to cross. The elk will (ideally) use these crossings rather than jumping over and damaging the wire fencing.

Rolfe & Steffensmeier Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Projects



These two projects addressed water quality and quantity issues by installing K-line sprinkler systems on a combined 145 acres of pasture. K-line systems have been developed and designed to provide for efficient watering of pasture lands. They also are easily moved on the pasture to the locations needing watered. The resultant saving in water use compared to traditional irrigation tactics, such as flood irrigation or traditional sprinkler irrigation, help to address the need to maintain stream flows while facilitating pasture production. Maintaining stream flows assists with keeping temperatures lower and providing more wetted area for fish production. Additionally, highly efficient K-Line systems allow for adequate watering, while preventing overland flow of water that would potentially bring animal wastes or agricultural fertilizers into the streams.

Components of the K-line system include a pump and pumping station mounted on a portable trailer, fish screen, buried PVC mainline, pod sprinkler system, as well as other materials. The system mainline will consist of 2" - 6" schedule 40 PVC pipe and will be permanently buried.

This will reduce exposure to sun and livestock, as well as labor hours needed to assemble, disassemble and store the system seasonally. The small, flexible, strong, lightweight lines can be moved easily with a 4 wheeled ATV.

A Farm Irrigation Index rating worksheet was conducted by NRCS for these fields, demonstrating the overall potential efficiency for the irrigation system at both project sites will increase from 51% to 70%. The estimated amount of water that will be saved is 6.8 acre - inches of water per acre, resulting in an annual water savings of 26.7%.



Offield Creek Riparian Restoration Project

Completed: 2016-2017

This project partnered the Coos SWCD with Northwest Youth Corps Conservation Crew (NWYC) and local rancher and SWCD director Dan Pierce to construct 3000' of Fence in August/September of 2016 on the Pierce Ranch, located on North Bank road along the lower main stem Coquille River. Fencing setbacks varied from 15ft-60ft, ultimately resulting in a total riparian exclusion area of approximately 8 acres.

During the fence construction phase, our NWYC workers took a short break while Chris Claire, ODFW Habitat Protection and Conservation Biologist, provided an educational demonstration for the kids by backpack electro-shocking Offield Creek for juvenile salmonids. We found both a juvenile cutthroat and a Coho, and Chris gave a brief explanation of juvenile salmonid Identification. We also discussed the goal and purpose of the work we were doing (to improve riparian habitat and water quality) and what it's like to have a career in a natural resources-related field.

The planting phase of this project was completed later, in February 2017 by Coos SWCD, ODFW, and two volunteer workers. Plants used were primarily willow and cottonwood cuttings obtained from local sources, about half from onsite and the other half were taken from a stand further up North Bank road, near Winter Lake. As of fall, 2017, the planted trees are looking great and we expect a high survival rate. This project was a pleasure and a great success!



NW Youth Corps helped with fence construction



First summer's growth: look at those trees go!



CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Barbara Grant of Curry County SWCD serves as the CREP Technician for both Coos and Curry Counties. Her office is located in the Coquille USDA Service Center at 382 N. Central Blvd. Barb reports seeing impressive results on maturing CREP projects in both Coos and Curry Counties. This buffer (right), planted in 2006, provides a diverse forested wildlife corridor between forest patches on the hills of northern Curry County, dividing a large pasture into two management units to enhance ranch operations, and protecting water quality in a Crystal Creek tributary. The buffer will be protected for a total of 15 years while the landowner receives an annual rental payment on the acreage excluded from grazing and maintained for wildlife.



Land owners in Coos and Curry County continue to make good use of this very popular State-Federal cost-share and land rental program. We enrolled several new project participants in Fiscal year 2016 and continued to provide support for participants enrolled in both counties. CREP projects in our area have begun to mature and show great results. The buffer on the right was planted in 2005, designed to exclude grazing from the landowner's most difficult ground while protecting the stream at the base of an erosion-prone hillside.

LANGLOIS MOUNTAIN RAIN GAUGE SITES

LAUNCHED AUGUST 30, 2011

In the early summer of 2011, former board member, Tom Forgatsh (Coos SWCD Zone 2 Director), thought of an idea for a project. He felt that it was necessary to collect data to better determine how much water is actually available to landowners and cranberry growers near the ocean. Tom Forgatsch called around and was able to get approval from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to borrow two rain gauges worth \$1,285. The agreement was for Coos SWCD to set up the two devices, collect the data, and share the data with BLM. Coos SWCD staff go to the two sites located up Langlois Mountain Road at the 2.5 mile marker (Site 1) and 12 miles up the road (Site 2) once every month to record the data and check the condition of the devices and batteries.

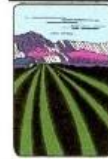


Site 1: (N 42 55.724' W 124 24.604')
Elevation: 1006 feet



Site 2: (N 42 57.174' W 124 18.135')
Elevation: 1323 feet

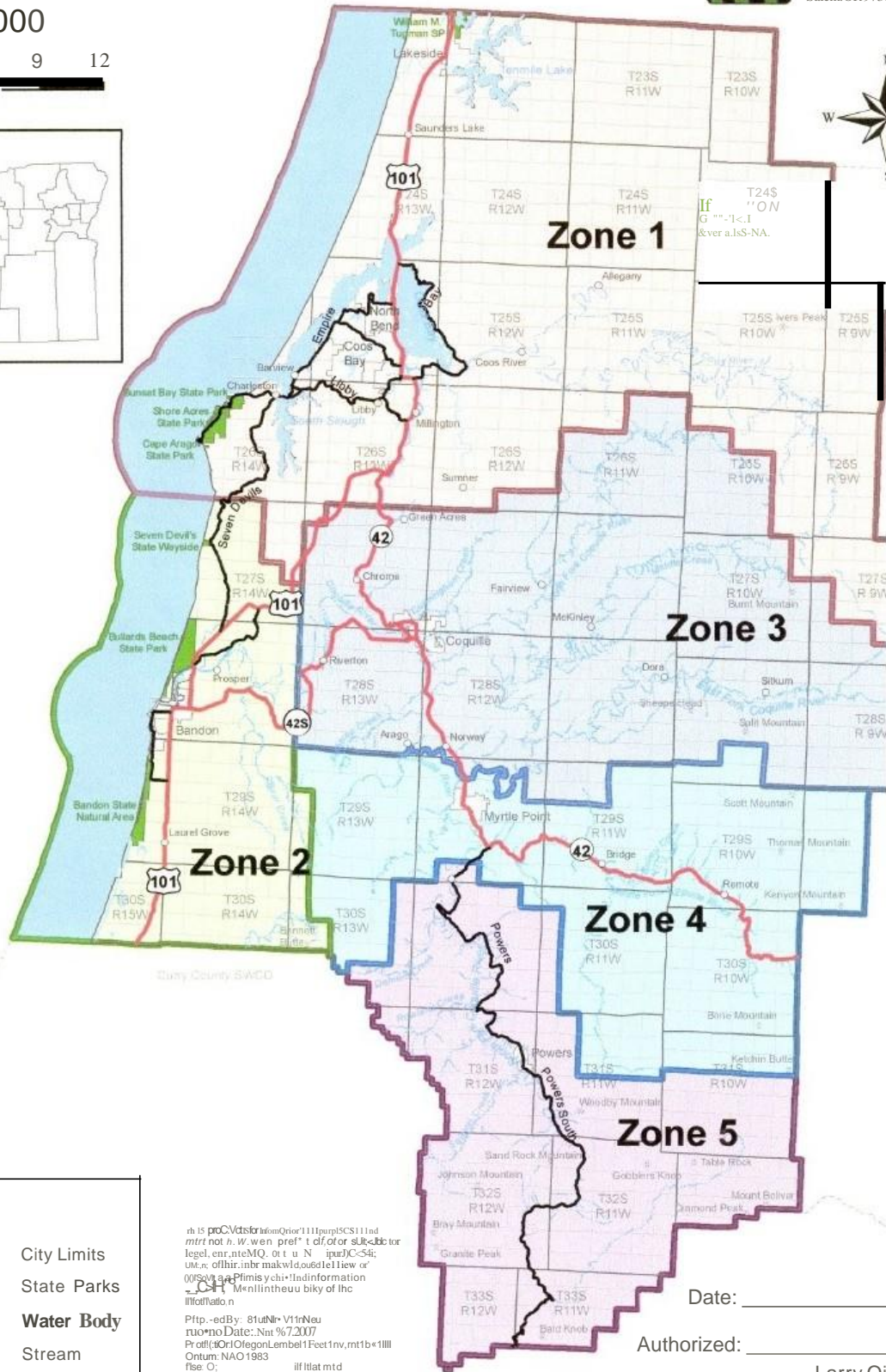
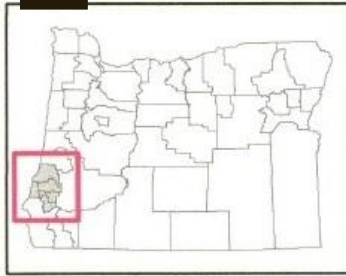
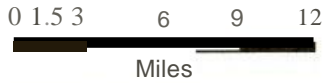
Coos Soil and Water Conservation District



Oregon
Department

635 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532

1:450,000



Legend

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

rh is procVtsfor from Qior 1111 purp 5CS111 ad
mtr not h.w.wen pref t d f, or sile-lic for
legel, enr, nte MQ, or t u N ipar) C-54;
ul: n: of h: n: br mak w d, ou se l e l hew or
W/Soy a a P f m i s y c h i l l a d i n f o r m a t i o n
- C H I M e n l i n t h e u b i k y o f l h c
l l l o f l a t o n
P l p - e d B y : 81 u t N - V i t r N e u
r t u o n D a t e : N a t % 7.2007
P r o f f i t O r O f e g o n L e m b e l 1 F e e t I n v, r t b 1 x 1 l l l
O n t u m : N A O 1983
f s e O ; i l l f l a t m t d

Date: _____

Authorized: _____

Larry Ojua