

# COOS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



**2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

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# COOS SOIL AND WATER Conservation District

## MISSION STATEMENT

*SWCDs help landowners and managers plan and apply conservation practices that conserve water, maintain soil health and productivity, enhance wildlife habitat, and improve watershed function. SWCDs serve 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 be good land stewards.*

## THE FUNCTION OF THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

To take available technical, financial, and education resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water, and related resources.

*- Applied from Pete Nowak's "The Conservation District Official: Villain or Victim?"*

## COOS SWCD GOALS

- ◆ To promote wise use of renewable resources through locally led voluntary conservation.
- ◆ Conserve, protect and develop natural resources for the economic benefit of the people of Coos County.
- ◆ Encourage measures for the protection of waters of Coos County.
- ◆ Assist local landowners in the developing and utilizing their 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.

## HISTORY OF COOS SWCD

The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1962, and coordinates government assistance with conservation needs, provides 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 safeguard 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 Ag WQMP 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.

# List of Cooperators

## FEDERAL

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA)  
USDA, US Forest Service  
USDOI, Bureau of Land Management  
USDD, Army Corps of Engineers

## COOS COUNTY

Board of Commissioners  
Planning Commission  
County Forester  
Drainage District Chairman  
County Water Master  
Coos County 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

# Coos Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors and Employees 2013-2014

## Zone 1

Vacant

## 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 4

Beau Allen,  
668 7<sup>th</sup> St.

Myrtle Point, OR 97458  
(541) 297-4072

## Zone 5

Vacant

## Member at Large, Position #1

Ernie Newton

### **Treasurer**

1631 Bothwick St.  
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 (cell)

## Registered Agent

Charlie Waterman

## Associate Directors

Rob Weekly

## Director Emeritus

Gordon Ross

Joe Cortez

Ken Messerle

Dan Varoujean

## District Staff

Caley Sowers

*Watershed Technical  
Specialist/Office Manager*

371 N. Adams St.

Coquille, OR, 97423

(541) 396-6879

## District Staff

Modena Thomas

Office Assistant

(541) 396-6879

## Coos SWCD Committees:

### Projects Committee

Dan, Charlie, Beau,  
Mark and Ernie

### Plan of Work

Caley

### Budget Committee

Dan and Mark

### Guerin Memorial Essay Contest

Sharon Waterman, Ann Guerin  
Cheryl Griffith & Dawn

### Website Committee

Caley and Mark

### Personnel Committee

Mark and Charlie

### LAC Representative

Beau

### Coquille Watershed Representative

Caley and Ernie

### Scope of Work

Caley and Beth Pietrzak

### Small Grant Team Representative

Mark & Ernie

### South Fork Advisory Rep.

Caley Sowers

## Technical and Financial Resources for Landowners

### **Coos Soil and Water Conservation District**

Caley Sowers — *Watershed Technical Specialist*  
371 North Adams Street  
Coquille, OR 97423  
(541) 396-6879

### **USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Services**

Amy Wilson — *District Conservationist*  
382 North Central Blvd.  
Coquille, OR 97423  
(541) 396-2841 ext 105

### **Curry County Soil and Water Conservation District**

94181 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gold Beach, OR 97444  
(541) 247-2755

### **Oregon Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Division**

635 Capital Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301-2532  
(503) 986-4700

### **Oregon State University Extension Service**

Amy Peters — *Extension Rangeland Faculty*  
631 Alder Street  
Myrtle Point, OR 97458  
(541) 572-5263

### **Coos Watershed Association**

Jon Souder — *Director*  
PO Box 5860  
Charleston, OR 97420  
(541) 888-5922

### **Coquille Watershed Association**

Kelly Miles — *Director*  
55153 Picture Valley Road  
Coquille, OR 97423  
(541) 572-2541

### **Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership**

Mike Mader — *Director*  
PO Box L  
Lakeside, OR 97449  
(541) 759-2414

### **Oregon Department of Forestry**

63612 5<sup>th</sup> Road  
Coos Bay, OR 97420  
(541) 267-4136

### **Coos County Water Resources Department**

Mitch Lewis — *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 9423  
(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**

Pam Blake  
381 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Coos Bay, OR 97420  
(541) 267-2721 ext. 27

### **Oregon Department of Environmental Quality**

Don Yon — *Coastal Zone Management*  
811 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204  
(541) 229-5994

### **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

63538 Boat Basin Road  
PO Box 5430  
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 N. Adams Street  
Coquille, OR 97423  
(541) 396-3121 ext 210

## COOS SWCD DISTRICT OFFICE



The Coos Soil & Water Conservation District building is located at 371 North Adams Street Coquille, Oregon. The office hours are from 8am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday and anyone is welcome to come by. Pamphlets, brochures, and packets are available right when you enter the office. So feel free to come in and get any information you need related to agriculture, farming practices, water quality, herbicides and so on. Please stop by any time.

**Weed wrenches**: for extracting noxious weeds on your property (ex. gorse and scotch broom) are also available for rent for up to 2 weeks for a \$25 refundable deposit at the Coos SWCD (396-6879) and NRCS (396-2841) offices in Coquille.



## COOS SWCD STAFF

### Caley Sowers

*Watershed Technical Specialist/Office Manager*



### Modena Thomas

*Office Assistant*



We look forward to hearing from all professionals in the natural resource field as well as any concerned citizens or landowners. As employees of a non-regulatory agency, we are willing to go out to landowner's farms or ranches and assist in any way possible. Our positions here is to cooperate with local agencies to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to help them farm and ranch to the fullest extent possible while staying compliant with water quality.

## 2014 COOS SWCD DIRECTORS



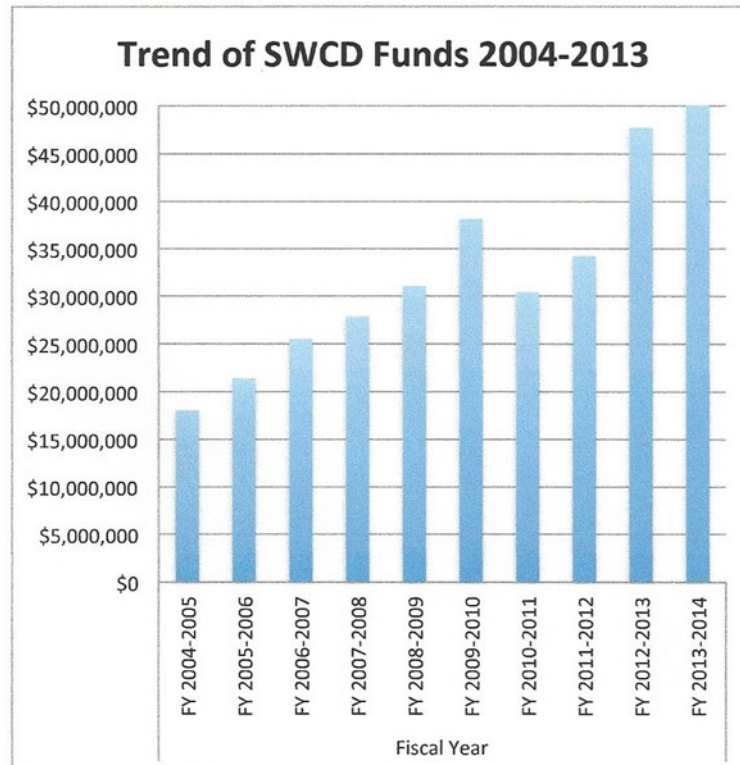
(Left to right): **Dan Pierce** - Secretary, Zone 2, Local Rancher; **Beau Allen**, Zone 4, Member of Myrtle Point City Council, FSA, Country Committee; **Charlie Waterman** - Vice Chairman, Zone 3, County Planning Commission, Coos Forest Protective Assoc.; **Ernie Newton** - Treasurer, Member at Large #1, President of the Coquille Watershed Assoc. and Water Plant Operator for the City of Myrtle Point; **Steven Scheer**, Zone 1, Head of the Weed Board, Member of the County Planning Commission. Not pictured: **Mark Villers** - Chairman, Member at Large #2 and owner of Blue Ridge Timber Co.



# Coos SWCD Annual Financial Statement

## Coos Soil & Water Conservation District ODA Scope of Work Budget vs. Actual July 2013 through June 2014

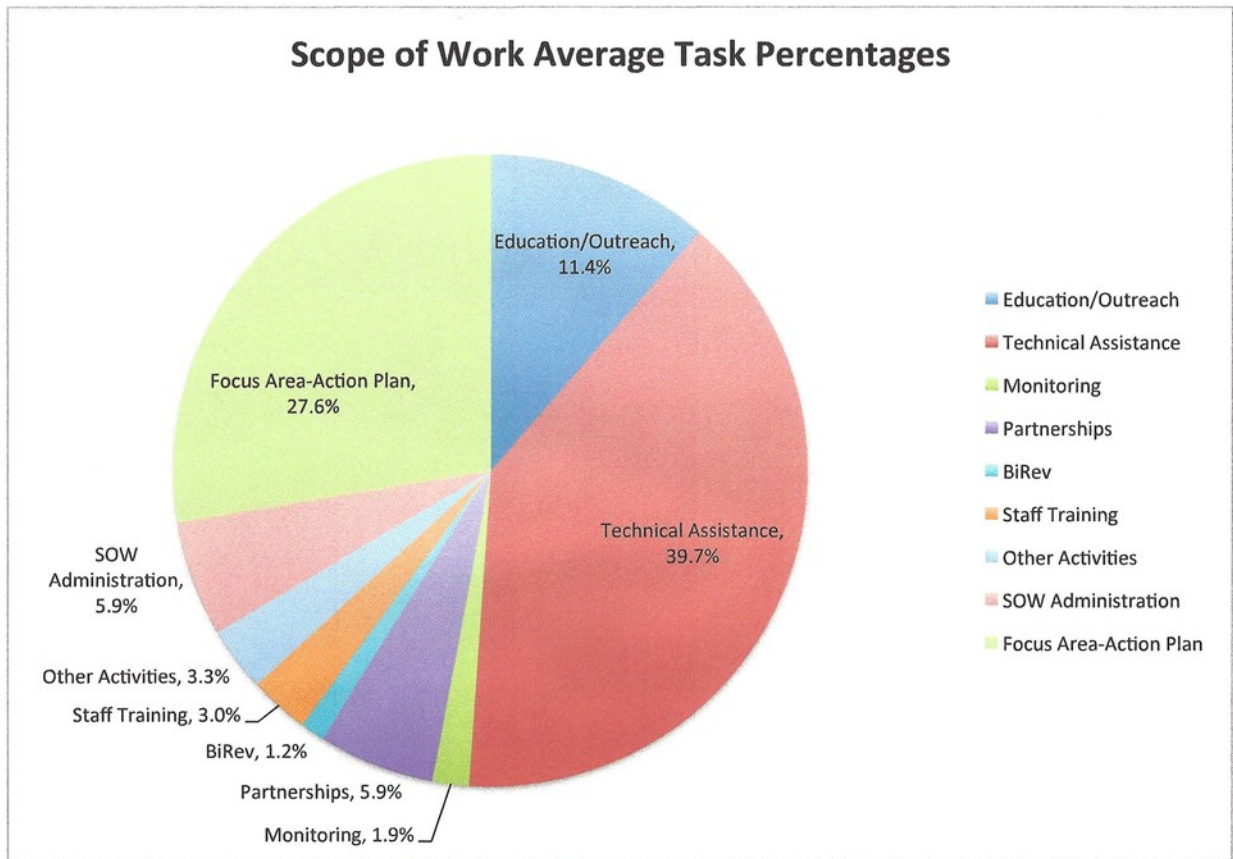
	Jul '13 - Jun 14	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Carry Over	11,894.22	11,894.22	0.00	100.0%
OWEB Grants	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	100.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>61,894.22</b>	<b>61,894.22</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Administrative Fees	1,769.29	4,545.00	-2,775.71	38.9%
Caley Payroll	28,223.11	38,205.00	-9,981.89	73.9%
Education Outreach and Workshop	461.95			
Production	174.30	1,250.00	-1,075.70	13.9%
Repay unused Funds	11,894.22	11,894.22	0.00	100.0%
Supplies & Materials	483.00	2,500.00	-2,017.00	19.3%
Training	540.00	0.00	540.00	100.0%
Travel & Mileage	1,786.19	3,500.00	-1,713.81	51.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>45,332.06</b>	<b>61,894.22</b>	<b>-16,562.16</b>	<b>73.2%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>16,562.16</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>16,562.16</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



# SCOPE OF WORK SUMMARY

*Fiscal Year runs July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014*

Landowners provided technical assistance to:	42
Site visits:	18
Number of Projects written and Approved:	1
Presentations:	5 with 116 attendees
Displays:	3 with 315 viewers
Workshops Held:	2 with 45 attendees
Documents Developed:	2
Newsletters:	1 with 400 mailed
Students Events:	4



# LANGLOIS MOUNTAIN RAIN GAUGE SITES:

**Launched August 30, 2011**

In the early summer of 2011 former board member Tom Forgatsch (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 the Coos SWCD to set up the two devices, collect the data, and share the data with BLM. Coos SWCD staff will go to the two sites located up Langlois Mountain Road at ~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 the batteries.



Site 1: Hilderbrand's Property  
(N 42 55.724' W 124 24.604')  
Elevation: 1,006 ft, HOBO #194840



Site 2: Steve Kalina's Property  
(N 42 57.174' W 124 18.135')  
Elevation: 1,323 ft, HOBO #270940

2012-2013			2013-2014			Difference from 2012/13- 2013/14	
Month:	Site 1	Site 2	Month:	Site 1	Site 2	Site 1	Site 2
Sept. 2012	0.07	0.04	Sept. 2013	4.79	7.40	4.72	7.36
Oct. 2012	4.84	7.63	Oct. 2013	1.15	1.59	-3.69	-6.04
Nov. 2012	8.9	15.32	Nov. 2013	2.69	1.12	-6.21	-14.2
Dec. 2012	12.34	17.19	Dec. 2013	*No data	*No data	No Data	No Data
Jan. 2013	3.91	5.22	Jan. 2014	1.51	*No data	-2.4	No Data
Feb. 2013	2.39	3.64	Feb. 2014	5.38	*No data	2.99	No Data
March. 2013	4.23	3.65	Mar. 2014	4.62	*3.96	0.39	*0.31
April. 2013	2.33	4.19	April. 2014	2.27	2.68	-0.06	-1.51
May. 2013	0.04	0.15	May. 2014	1.82	3.42	1.78	3.27
June. 2013	1.42	* No data	June. 2014	0.63	1.02	-0.79	No data
July. 2013	0	*No data	July. 2014	0.63	0.95	0.63	No data
Aug. 2013	0.64	* 0.33	Aug. 2014	0.01	0.02	-0.63	-0.31
<b>2012-13 Total:</b>	<b>41.11</b>	<b>53.02</b>	<b>2013-14 Total:</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>*18.2</b>	<b>-15.61</b>	<b>-34.82</b>

# The Guerin Memorial Essay Contest

**By: Anne Guerin**

The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District directors have honored the memory of Dorothy Guerin for 32 years by sponsoring the Guerin Memorial Essay Contest, and 10 years ago including her husband Tom, who was a director for many years. Before her early death in 1980, Dorothy worked in the CSWCD office, a position she very much enjoyed. Tom initiated the memorial in 1982, which has been sustained over the years by generous donors both on and off the board of directors.

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.

A bit of personal history: Tom and Dorothy were good examples of the impact of education and exposure to better practices by their involvement with the CSWCD. With no garbage service on their ranch south of Myrtle Point, tin cans, once emptied of their contents, were tossed down the hill by the garage, some of them eventually tumbling into the creek that ran by our old ranch house. That practice stopped. In an attempt to reduce erosion on the banks of the Middle Fork of the Coquille that ran beside the Bull Pasture, Dad had old car hulks planted. That, too, was no longer done. Tom saw that new and better practices needed to be implemented. Perhaps some of these young essay entrants will eventually become farmers, ranchers, or loggers, and will also strive to adapt their ways to what is going to better protect the land and water where they live and work.

The contest is open annually to all Coos County students (including home-school students) from grades 7 through 12.

**Essay Guidelines:** Select one essay topic out of the three provided. The essay must be a minimum of 500 words, and should show that the writer has researched the topic and understands the issues.

- **Explain how conservation practices used by landowners (farmers, ranchers, timber holders) can benefit water quality in Coos County/Oregon.**
- **What conservation practices used by landowners and/or the public in Coos County are utilized to protect soil and decrease erosion?**
- **How have farming, ranching, or timber land management practices changed over the last 100 years to protect the environment and water quality in Oregon or Coos County?**

The essay should have the following heading on the top of the paper: student's name, essay title, school name (or home schooled), age, grade, and phone number. All applicants must provide four copies of their essay to the Coos SWCD office in Coquille by 4:30 p.m. on November 17, 2014. Students are encouraged to carefully edit their essays. Typed essays are preferred but legibly written essays in black or blue ink are acceptable. The winners of the contest will be notified and awards presented at the Coos SWCD Annual Meeting.



First Place-\$150, Second Place- \$125, Third Place-\$100

## Winners of the 2013 Guerin Memorial Essay Contest

Each year, the winners of the Guerin Memorial Essay Contest are invited to attend the Coos SWCD Annual Meeting and Dinner, where they are asked to read their essays out loud. They are then presented with certificates of award, cash prizes and in the case of the first place winner, an engraved plaque to be displayed at their school until the following year. The 2014 winners will be presented at this year's annual meeting on Friday, December 19, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

### 2013 First Place: Caitlin Ford Coquille High School, Grade 11



### 2013 Second Place: Nicole Fossum

Home-School, Grade 8

### 2013 Third Place: Marissa Gouvea

Coquille High School, Grade 11



## COOS COUNTY FAIR NATURAL RESOURCE TENT 2014



A special thanks to the Coquille Indian Tribe for donating the use of this great tent for the 2014 Coos County Fair. Also returning to the tent this year was the Coquille Watershed Stream Trailer. The stream trailer was designed to be used as a teaching tool. Many agencies collaborated and donated to see this project completed. Inside the Natural Resource tent this year were The Coquille Indian Tribe, Coos Soil and Water Conservation District, Powers & Bandon Native Species Centers, Coquille Watershed, Oregon Forestry Association/ OSU, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Services, and the Coos County Weed Board.



## Oregon Cattlemen's Association Range Monitoring Workshop

Due to Oregon's intermingled patterns of public and private lands, the coordination of information is essential for sustainable grazing and protection of habitat and healthy pasture. The OCA has been awarded a grant for the Oregon Resources Monitoring Program; the primary goal of which is to develop a co-operative monitoring program between federal and state regulatory agencies and producers.

The OCA is currently in the second year of the program and has:

- Completed field testing of the monitoring guide protocols;
- Finalized the monitoring guide and is close to finalizing the letter of support to be signed by co-operators (i.e. BLM, USFS, ODA, DEQ, ODFW, OWEB, NRCS, OACD);

Conducted multiple Monitoring Training Workshops from April-October 2014.

In September, the Coos SWCD was proud to host the Oregon Cattlemen's Association for one of their hands-on Vegetation Monitoring Methods Training workshops.



Coos SWCD Director Dan Pierce (pictured in the photo above, accompanied by pet sheep Heidi) hosted the training at his ranch located on the north bank of the Coquille River. Instructor Pat Larsson of the OCA covered the basics of two different methods of vegetation monitoring; the Residual Vegetation Method, and the Sequential Pole Method. Participants then went out into the field (literally) to test the methods and record their results. The purpose of the training was to provide ranchers with a simple method of establishing baseline forage and pasture monitoring, both for environmental risk management and to be able to effectively identify whether modifications of grazing strategy are needed to optimize pasture health and to maximize production.

For those of you who missed this opportunity in September, educational resources from the workshop, such as the Oregon Resources Monitoring Guidebook and DVD, are available at the office in limited quantities. Stop by and get yours while supplies last!



Have a new idea or topic for a workshop or class? Please feel free to contact the SWCD District office. We host several workshops throughout the year and we would love to know what you are most interested in learning about.

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District  
371 N. Adams St. Coquille, OR, 97423

Phone: 541-396-6879

Email: [info@coosswcd.org](mailto:info@coosswcd.org)



# 2014 REPORT

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Coquille Field Office  
 382 N Central Blvd, Coquille OR 97423

## COOS COUNTY 2014

<b># New Contracts in 2014:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>New acres contracted in 2014:</b>	<b>245</b>
<b>Funds obligated:</b>	<b>\$172,513</b>

*Benefits from Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CStwP) Oct. 1, 2013-Sept. 30, 2014*

CONSERVATION BENEFITS	ACRES
Conservation plans written	183
Land with conservation applied to improve water quality	155
Land with conservation applied to improve irrigation efficiency	126
Land with improved agricultural irrigation water management	109
Land with conservation applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat quality	10
Stewardship activities applied on land to improve environmental quality	273

**FINAL TALLY: CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM**

The Conservation Security Program was piloted in Coos and Curry Counties in 2005. This year marks the end of those contracts. Based on the experiences of the pilot, a new program, Conservation Stewardship program (CStwP) has been created.

Conservation Security Program 2005-2014 Coos & Curry Counties			
County	Payments made	Acres treated	No. contracts
COOS	\$4,736,473	19,742	61
CURRY	\$1,769,964	9,690	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,506,437</b>	<b>29,432</b>	<b>89</b>



# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance

Our CREP Technician serves both Coos and Curry Counties from the USDA Service Center in Coquille. The CREP technician helps address resource concerns on agricultural land and provides NRCS program support. In Fiscal Year 2013-14 the combined enrollment of CREP projects stayed steady at 59 projects with no projects expiring. This fiscal year Curry SWCD secured an OWEB CREP TA grant that will continue to fund support of this work calendar years 2014 and 2015, and we reported the following progress:

- 55 outreach contacts
- 14 site visits
- 18 landowners provided technical assistance
- 15 practice inspections on 88.7 acres riparian buffers
- 7 annual status reviews on active contracts



*A steep grazed bank with slumping exacerbated by cattle pressure will be fenced and planted with native trees to help reduce the loss of soil to the stream below.*

## COOS SWCD PROJECTS 2013-2014

### OWEB SMALL GRANT: K-LINE IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

Photos taken & provided by: USDA/NRCS, Coos SWCD & Pacific Ag. Staff

These projects were part of an ongoing effort to address poor irrigation systems and management education along with riparian habitat & buffer improvement in the Coquille watershed area.



Dal King K-Line irrigation project: Aug. 27, 2013



Dal King K-line irrigation project: Sept 4, 2013

This grant project, partnered with the NRCS EQIP program, was able to assist the landowner to install a 54 pod K-line irrigation system which includes approximately 3,600 feet of buried mainline that ranges from 2"-4" PVC pipe. This project has improved irrigation efficiency on approximately 31 acres of grazing and hay pasture that border 3,827 feet of river. This project now connects 2.75 miles out of a 4.75 mile stretch of recent irrigation efficiency projects on the North Fork of the Coquille River.



Bill Mast K-Line irrigation project July 24, 2013



Bill Mast K-Line irrigation project: Sept. 4, 2013

This grant project, partnered with the NRCS EQIP program, was able to assist this landowner to install a 208 pod K-line irrigation system which also includes approximately 8,300 feet of buried mainline that ranges from 2"-6" PVC pipe. This project has improved irrigation efficiency on approximately 75 acres of grazing and hay pasture that border one mile of stream. This project now connects 2.16 miles out of a 2.75 mile stretch of recent irrigation efficiency projects on the North Fork of the Coquille River.

## Sustainable Manure Management Planning



In the summer of 2013, Coos SWCD staff joined Oregon Department of Agriculture on a compliance site visit to a landowner in Coos Bay regarding manure management practices at a small horse stabling facility. The Coos SWCD is always a non-regulatory agency, but may accompany other regulatory agencies such as ODA on site visits relating to issues of agricultural water quality. After the site visit, the landowner was determined by ODA to be in violation of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan and Rules due to the practice of storing manure on a steep hillside that sloped down into a small perennial stream.

Since then, the landowner has been working diligently with the Coos SWCD to develop a sustainable plan for manure management on the property. District staff helped the landowner to research and design a small aerated composting facility which utilized an O<sub>2</sub> Composting Micro-Bin System that the landowner had previously purchased but was not currently using. A similar successful small grant that had been written by Curry SWCD was used as a model for the project design.

The facility would consist of a 4-bin lean-to built onto the side of the landowner's existing barn wall. The Coos SWCD applied for an OWEB small grant on behalf of the landowner to help alleviate the costs of construction and installation of the aerated system. The small grant was approved in May of 2014, and construction of the lean-to is scheduled for winter 2014-15. The landowner has agreed to continue to work with the Coos SWCD over the next 2-5 years to help demonstrate the effectiveness of the aerated composting method to other landowners by hosting small farm tours or workshops.



## The Johnson Creek Stream Survey and Assessment Project



Johnson Creek is a medium sized direct ocean tributary that flows across the beach into the Pacific ocean 2.9 miles south of the Coquille River. The watershed is a mixed use sub-basin of predominantly forestry, agriculture and rural residence. Cranberry production and timber harvest are important industries in the watershed. Coho salmon are considered to have been in relatively high abundance historically in the watershed, however, are considered to be present currently at very low levels. The stream is considered fully occupied by Coastal Cutthroat Trout.

In July 2014 Coos SWCD and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) coordinated to complete a field assessment to inventory land use within the vicinity of the stream and valley floor, water quality issues (i.e sediment entry points from uplands), invasive plant issues, and document specifics of the number of stream crossings (culverts and bridges) and the functionality of those crossings for native migratory fish. Although Coos SWCD and ODFW recognized the need to have a better understanding watershed conditions and fish passage conditions in the Johnson Creek sub-basin it was through the behest of several agricultural landowners who had contacted the Coos SWCD in early 2014 regarding various issues with dams, water supply, and failing culverts on Johnson Creek located just south of Bandon that the work was completed.

After initial visits to three different sites on Johnson Creek, it became much more apparent that there existed a lack of solid up-to-date information on the condition of the stream riparian corridor habitats and stream channel, what type and how many barriers to fish passage existed, the, and the presence or absence of salmonids in the lower, mid, and upper watershed. The limited information resulted in wide speculation among both agency staff and landowners on the various factors. This made it difficult to determine the viability and value of any potential projects to improve conditions on Johnson Creek, and inhibited the Coos SWCD's ability to provide technical assistance to landowners.



## The Johnson Creek Stream Survey and Assessment Project cont.

It was suggested at a meeting between the Coquille Watershed Association, Coos SWCD, and ODFW, that a base assessment of the stream would be a valuable asset. All landowners with property on Johnson Creek were contacted for permission to access prior to the assessment. The survey was conducted between 07/08/2014 and 07/10/14. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Biologist Christopher Claire, and Field Technician Helena Verduyn assisted Coos SWCD staff with the survey.

The technicians photographed and marked the GPS coordinates of each culvert they encountered during the survey, as well as noting the size and condition. They also noted tributaries, took water temperatures, and made note of pumps, ponds, beaver dams, and bridge locations, presence of invasive plants such as gorse and reed canary grass, and the general condition of fish habitat encountered along the way.

The final report of the Johnson Creek Survey and Assessment is still being compiled, and is scheduled to be made available to the public in early 2015. Printed color copies will be sent to each landowner on Johnson Creek who participated in the survey, and a digital copy will be available on the Coos SWCD website. If you would like a copy of the Assessment please contact the Coos SWCD District Office. This report will provide a more firm understanding of the water quality, invasive plant, and fish passage conditions in the watershed providing critical information to move forward with project development and obtaining grant funding for projects.



Figure 1. Johnson Creek watershed, located south of Bandon, OR.