



# COOS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2014 NEWSLETTER

## Coos SWCD Issues Call to Landowners to Make Use of OWEB Small Grant Funds

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands and other natural areas. OWEB grants are funded from the Oregon State Lottery, federal dollars, and salmon license plate revenue. OWEB offers a variety of grant types and programs.

The Small Grant Program in particular is an easy-to-engage-in, competitive grant program that awards funds of up to \$10,000 for on-the-ground and in-stream restoration projects. Oregon is currently divided up into 26 Small Grant Team (SGT) areas. The Coos/Coquille SGT was allocated \$100,000 for the 2013-2015 biennium, which ends next June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Last year, the Coos Soil & Water Conservation District (Coos SWCD) submitted 7 high priority applications for funding through the OWEB small

grant program. All seven applications were approved and all of those projects have since been completed. The majority of the projects focused on irrigation efficiency, with one culvert replacement for in-stream fish habitat improvement. The total amount of OWEB small grant funds awarded to these 7 projects exceeded \$50,000. Other organizations in Coos County who can apply for small grants on behalf of landowners include the Coquille Watershed Association, Ten Mile Lakes Basin Partnership, Coquille Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

Unfortunately this year, over \$70,000 of that \$100,000 in allocated funding currently remains unused due to a lack of grant applications. Whatever funds remain unused at the June 2015 deadline will be returned to OWEB. According to Kelly Miles, Director of the Coquille Watershed Association and Chair of the local small grant team, this has never happened before, so it remains uncertain what the consequences will be, though it's very likely to result in diminished funding for Coos County landowners in the 2015-17 biennium.

The Coos SWCD would like to issue a call to all agricultural landowners to make use of the small grant funds before May 2015. Projects must have a direct benefit on improving in-stream process and function, fish passage, wetland and riparian process and function, road impact reduction, or water quality. Each project must have at least 25% in matching funds, mostly through landowner labor and supplies. Some examples of project types include fencing to exclude livestock from riparian areas, planting to restore riparian areas, developing and installing off-channel watering for livestock, irrigation efficiency improvement, and culvert replacement. Once a grant is submitted and approved, landowners have two years to complete the project, so as long as applications are approved before May 2015, the project can still be completed even after the deadline has passed. The review process on small grant applications usually takes less than 60 days. Please contact the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District office in Coquille at 541-396-6879 for more information.

# 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

# The 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 will be 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 for the rest of the year. The 2014 winners will be presented at this year's annual meeting on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM.

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



**“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?”**

Some things haven't changed much in the past 100 years. My family has been working in the wood products industry for my whole life. People have been working in the timber industry for over a century in the Coquille Valley. Oregon is one of the world's great tree-growing areas. The state's soils and climate provide ideal conditions to grow such commercially viable species as Douglas fir and ponderosa pine. Forests cover more than 30 million of Oregon's 62 million acres - almost half of the state's landmass. The Oregon Department of Forestry estimates logging totaled 3.6 billion board feet in 2011. While much of this timber feeds Oregon's wood products industry, creating jobs and income, many jobs are also created planting, growing, and harvesting this resource.

On the other hand some things have changed, such as how we get the timber from forest to mill. In the past certain practices used to destroy spawning areas for salmon, habitat for animals, and causes bank erosion. Practices such as splash dams were a tool used to transport timber in Oregon between 1880's-1957. The dams spanned the width of the stream and timber would collect behind the dam; loggers would release the spillway and the logs would float downstream mills. This caused stream substances such as gravels and cobbles were washed away. The stream environment was often adversely affected by splashing. Moving logs dug furrows in the gravel and suddenly increased flows sourced or moved the gravel bars, leaving only barren bedrock or heavy boulders.

Now-a-days instead of splash dams, loggers use roads to get timber from the forest to the mill. Roads are an essential part of forest management. Of all the development, harvest and management activities that occur in forests, roads have been number one source of sediment. Road sediment can be significantly reduced if best road construction and maintenance practices are used. When properly built and maintained, on gentle and moderate slopes with stable topography, roads have a low potential for contributing sediment. If not well-planned, constructed and maintained roads located next to streams, on steep slopes, or on unstable topography have the potential to produce sediment for a long time. Roads cannot be constructed without causing significant impacts to streams and water quality. One example is a road constructed in the bottom of a very narrow canyon. This cannot be done without filling in part of the stream channel.

Each year in Oregon, nearly 80 million new seedlings are planted to replace harvested trees. Every harvested acre must be replanted within two years. For every tree that gets cut down must be replaced according to the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Modern forest management requires the retention of vegetation within riparian areas along streams, lakes, wetlands and other waters. The Forest Practices Act is administered and enforced by the Oregon Department of Forestry. It applies to all commercial forest management activities on state and private lands. On federal lands the management of these zones is guided by other regulations and management plans. But, the requirements of the Oregon Forest Practices Act must always be met or exceeded.

My family has been working in the wood products industry for a long period of time. My parents work at the mill, where my stepmom runs the machines and my father fixes all the machines. My father has been working in the mill for about sixteen years now and my stepmom has been working there for about two years

now. Even before my father started working there my grandpa worked at the mill. Working in the wood products industry has provided insurance, money for food and bills, and also a home. The money helps take care of my two sisters, five brothers, and myself. Without a job at the mill we wouldn't have the stuff we need to take care of the family. Without proper care of our natural resources, many people including my family would not be able to benefit from these beautiful natural resources that Oregon provides.

## Second Place: Nicole Fossum

Home-School, Grade 8



**“Improving Our Water Quality”**

What can landowners do to benefit water quality in Oregon? There are many ways to benefit water quality. For example, farmers can use cover crops to protect the groundwater. Ranchers can water their livestock off-stream and they can use hardened crossings. Timber holders, such as Weyerhaeuser, can reduce and recycle the water that their mills use.

Farmers use nitrogen in their fertilizer to produce bumper crops. Sometimes, leftover nitrogen seeps below the roots and affects the groundwater. As a contribution to improving water quality in Oregon, farmers can use cover crops, which absorb nitrogen. Cover crops are usually planted before fall to prevent nitrogen from soaking into the ground. Farmers have discovered that cereal grains, legumes, and grasses work best as cover crops in Oregon. "Scavenged nitrogen is stored in plant tissues until spring, when the cover crop is incorporated into the soil," as recorded in Oregon State University's "Using Cover Crops in Oregon" document. Cover crops are an efficient way for farmers to protect water from contamination.

Ranchers can also contribute to better water quality by watering livestock off-stream and by developing hardened crossings. When livestock cross and drink from streams and rivers they contaminate the waterways. U Watering off-stream allows livestock several water sources, rather than one. Ranchers can water off-stream by using bilge pumps and by pumping water from wells and springs. Hardened crossings are gravel walkways placed across the low areas of streams. Fences are placed on the sides of them to keep the livestock on the crossings. According to "The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds," a guide for ranchers, "Well-designed hardened crossings, with a possible need for some training, will often turn into preferred access points for livestock." These conservation practices will protect the water from bacteria spread by livestock.

Weyerhaeuser, a timber holder, is using conservation practices to be more efficient with their water consumption. At Weyerhaeuser's cellulose fibers mills, one gallon of water is reused about twelve times before it is returned to the supply source. The way the water is reused, the mills are able to return about eighty-seven percent to the original water supply. Weyerhaeuser's goal is to reduce the amount of water used by twelve percent by 2020.

In addition to reducing water consumption, Weyerhaeuser is also working to better the quality of water. They said, "To improve water quality, our mills focus on reducing manufacturing biodegradable organic residuals in wastewater measured as BOD." Weyerhaeuser treats the wastewater carefully or they send it to public treatment facilities. They also try to discharge as little wastewater as possible. Weyerhaeuser has already reduced the BOD discharge by twenty-one percent, eleven percent more than their goal, which was set in 2010.

In conclusion, landowners are very active in using conservation practices to benefit water quality in Oregon. Farmers are using cover crops to protect the groundwater. Ranchers are using off-stream watering and hardened crossings. Timber holders are consuming efficient amounts of water and are improving the quality of discharged water. Together these groups of people are working hard to improve water quality in Oregon.



Guerin Memorial Plaque awarded to the school of the first place winner.

# Third Place: Marissa Gouvea

Coquille High School, Grade 11



## **“What Conservation practices used by landowners and/or the public in Coos County are utilized to protect soil and decrease erosion?”**

Soil conservation is a big deal in farming and agriculture because we as humans need crops to survive. If the world didn't have good soil, then we wouldn't be able to produce food/crops for us to live off of. Pasture management, no till farming, crop rotation, and fertilization, and cover crops are all different conservation practices used by landowners and the public in Coos County to protect soil and decrease erosion. Farmers can produce crops that will be filled with vitamins and nutrients by using these conservation practices.

Pasture Management is when farmers divide their fields with cross fencing so the animals are rotated around to different sections. This gives the pasture the time it needs to heal after the animals have grazed. The livestock causes the damage to the fields if they are left to graze there too long. In the winter the ground is especially soft. The hooves of the animals tear up the earth and soil. This leaves the earth exposed, causing erosion.

No-till farming is another conservation practice farmers use to protect their soil from erosion. No-tilling a farm is when you don't plow a farm to grow your seeds. The tilling is used to remove weeds and shape the dirt. The till shapes the dirt into rows for planting and furrows for irrigation. This can cause soil compaction, loss of organic matter, the death of helpful soil microorganisms, and of course, soil erosion.

Crop Rotation and Fertilization helps farmers maintain the health of their soil. With farmers fertilizing their soil, it replenishes the soils nutrients and makes the soil healthier. Crops such as hay can heavily drain the soil of its nutrients. When the crops get rotated, it allows some pastures the time to lie unplowed or fallowed. This means farmers shouldn't grow anything in them. Cover crops are crops or plants that are used to protect the crops being harvested. Clover is a good example of a cover crop. Clover is used to provide the soil with protection during the winter. The clover helps with water filtration and gets rid of weeds. Farmers tend to grow clover between the rows of fruit or berries. This helps control erosion and prevents the ground from freezing over. Farmers grow cover crops to help with managing bugs, soil quality, animal control, and water conservation. Most cover crops have no commercial value and are most likely planted around edible crops. Farmers will most likely grow cover crops to help restore organic matter. It can also increase microorganisms.

Cover crops common in Oregon includes: barley, oats, buckwheat, crimson clover, red clover, subterranean clover, and wheat. Cover crops are usually not grown for harvest, but they do enhance the soil with organic matter, cycle nutrients, and protect the soil from erosion. Cover crops have the ability to collect dry matter, which gives energy for soil organisms, contributes to soil organic matter, improves tilth, and acts like a tub for nutrients.

From my perspective, I would want fresh, clean, naturally grown crops. Coming from the city, I never had much of a clue about farming or agriculture. When I came to Oregon, I found out that farming is a big deal in everyday life. People need crops to live and survive. We get our vegetables and fruit normally from Walmart or Safeway. When farmers grow crops, they want the best soil and fertilization possible to get the best product. When I buy veggies or fruit I don't want them to be rotten or chemically enhanced. I want them to be grown in thick, nutrient rich, and fertilized soil. It matters a lot to me about how nutritious these crops are because I want to be healthy. I want crops that will give me plenty of vitamins and nutrients. We can achieve this by using pasture management, cover crops, no-till farming, and crop rotations and fertilization conservation practices in Coos County to protect our soil and decrease erosion to our crops.

For more information on applying for the Guerin Memorial Scholarship, please contact us at 541.396.6879.

# 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.

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!



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.

**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)**



## The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Project

The Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality uses Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships to identify potential problems and improve water quality associated with pesticide use around Oregon.

Established in 2000, the PSP approach uses local expertise combined with water quality sampling results to encourage voluntary changes in pesticide use and

practices. These changes can lead to measurable environmental improvements, thus making water safer for aquatic life and humans. Healthier rivers and streams are essential for communities that may rely on them for drinking water or manufacturing processes, for people who swim and fish in these waters, and for myriad other uses.

### What Partnerships Do

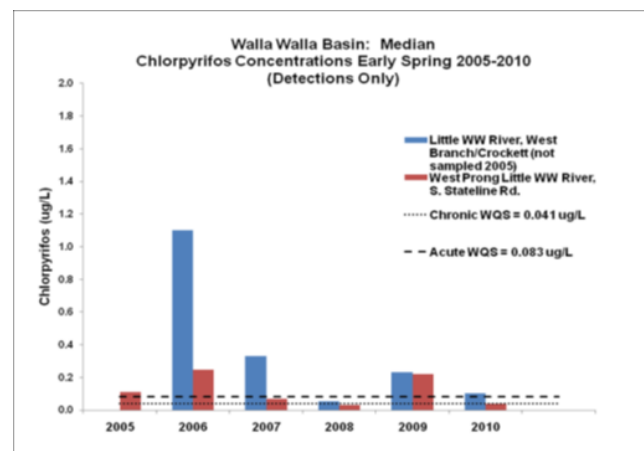
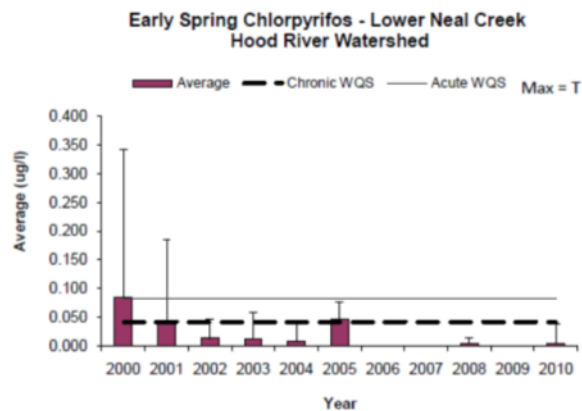
- Identify local, pesticide-related water quality issues
- Share water quality monitoring results early and often with local communities and all those who have a direct interest in the state's waters
- Explain data in relation to effects and water quality criteria or benchmarks
- Engage pesticide users and technical assistance providers to identify and implement solutions
- Use long-term monitoring to measure success and provide feedback to support water quality management.

The partnerships use both water quality and crop quality as measures of success. Pest management and water quality management must both be effective for long-term stewardship of natural resources.

### Early Success Stories

Working closely with local stakeholders in the early 2000s, DEQ started two pilot projects in the Columbia Gorge area: Hood River and Mill Creek. DEQ and others with direct interest in local water quality assessed whether current-use pesticides were detectable in local surface waters at concentrations of concern. In both basins, initial data showed repeated detections of the pesticide chlorpyrifos at levels that didn't meet state water quality standards. Hood River also had ambient water quality that didn't meet standards for the insecticide azinphos methyl, and Mill Creek had elevated levels of the insecticide malathion. Local partners, including Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers and the Oregon State University Extension Service, used the water quality data and local expertise to change the region's pesticide management and application processes.

Both pilot projects showed substantial improvements in water quality associated with changes in pesticide management practices. Improvements in the Hood River watershed are shown on the following graphs.



### Local Efforts

As of September, 2014, the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District has joined the Pesticide Stewardship Project, along with the Curry SWCD. The sites selected for water sampling include Croft Lake, Cunningham Creek in Coquille, and Two Mile Creek just south of Bandon. SWCD staff will collect samples every two weeks through the month of December. The samples will be analyzed at the DEQ laboratory in Salem. Results will be made available to the public.

### Future Events

In relation to the PSP Program, a legacy pesticide collection event will be held in the spring of 2015 at Beaver Hill Disposal's new chemical collection facility. Specific date and time are still TBA, but it is thought that a two part collection event will take place. The first part will be for the collection of household and other chemicals; the second part for pesticides and/or herbicides. A reservation will most likely be required for individuals wishing to dispose of large quantities of chemical. More information on this event will be made available to the public in the coming months. Please continue to check the Coos SWCD website for updates ([www.coosswcd.org](http://www.coosswcd.org)).

### For more information

Contact Kevin Masterson, DEQ toxics coordinator, Portland, at 503-229-5615, or call toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5615. You may also email [masterson.kevin@deq.state.or.us](mailto:masterson.kevin@deq.state.or.us)

# OFF-CHANNEL WATERING FOR LIVESTOCK

Source: Fact Sheet No. 9: Providing Stockwater in Fields and Near Streams- Tips for Small Acreages in Oregon. Washington County SWCD, 1999.

Livestock that are allowed free access to drink from creeks, streams, and rivers may be more at risk for potential health problems and decreased productivity. If you own pasture that borders a stream or river, you probably already know the environmental benefits of keeping animals away from sensitive riparian areas and streambeds. But, did you know there are also substantial animal health benefits to restricting livestock access to waterways?

It is commonly known that stream protection practices such as watering troughs, stream crossings, livestock fencing and stream buffers help reduce sediments and livestock nutrients from entering our waterways. Just as importantly, however, these practices can reduce health problems, increase milk production and minimize infectious diseases and physical damage to dairy and beef herds.

A watering trough provides a safe, clean, reliable water supply for animals away from streams. Most farmers report that livestock prefer watering troughs to streams and springs. It has also been shown that livestock gain up to 30 percent more weight on clean water and graze more efficiently when troughs are distributed throughout pastures.

## Animal Average Drinking needs\*

Dairy cow	.....	27 gal/day
Beef cow	.....	12 gal/day
Horse	.....	12 gal/day
Pig	.....	8 gal/day
Sheep	.....	4 gal/day
Goat	.....	4 gal/day

\*On hot days, animals may need twice as much water.



## Environmental Benefits:

### ■ **Efficient Pasture Management:**

A selectively placed watering trough can make pasture management easier. Having multiple troughs in a pasture also allows for the opportunity to install cross-fencing and to rotate cattle from field to field (known as rotational or intensive grazing). This practice can enable a landowner to get the most out of his or her pasture without over-grazing.

■ **Reduced Erosion:** Watering troughs help reduce stream bank erosion from messy or muddy areas caused by regular animal traffic. One study found five times the number of trout in streams with non-eroded banks versus those with eroded banks.

■ **Cleaner Water:** Clean water is essential to people, fish, and the environment. When livestock deposit manure near or in water, the components of manure may be harmful. Phosphorus increases algae blooms, ammonia kills fish, and coliform bacteria can sicken or kill people with weakened immune systems.

■ **Riparian Habitat:** The trees, shrubs, and tall grass next to streams provides food and cover for 74 percent and 94 percent of western and eastern Oregon wildlife, respectively. One study found 89 different bird species on un-grazed banks compared to only two bird species (grackles and starlings) on grazed banks. Without stream fencing, livestock may trample grass nests, wade through spawning beds, and muddy the water.

## Animal Health Benefits:

### ■ **Lower Risk of Infection:**

Watering troughs reduce mastitis problems caused when livestock enter muddy streams or spring heads seeking water.

■ **Increase Weight:** A healthy supply of clean water can stimulate appetite and improve milk production in dairy cows.

■ **Avoid Toxins:** Watering troughs reduce the risk of livestock ingesting toxic and potentially fatal algae—such as blue-green algae—that bloom along the edges of streams where animals drink. Also, high levels of nitrates found in many streams are unhealthy for livestock and can threaten the health of unborn calves.

■ **Reduce Risk of Injury:** Muddy areas near streams may also increase foot rot, leg injuries, and stress.

## Financial and Technical Assistance:

There are funds available to assist landowners who are willing to fence off streams and creeks and provide alternative water sources to their livestock. Oregon Watershed Enhancement board offers a small grant program (awards up to \$10,000 with required landowner contribution of at least 25 percent in match).

Please contact the Coos SWCD if you are interested in learning more.

Phone: 541-396-6879 or email: [info@coosswcd.org](mailto:info@coosswcd.org)



# 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>

# WANTED

## INVASIVE

Japanese and Himalayan

## KNOTWEED



Photo by Britt Slattery, USFWS

**Knotweed is an ornamental plant native to Asia. Japanese knotweed is characterized by a wide, heart-shaped leaf, and Himalayan knotweed has an elongated leaf. Both types have bamboo-like, green or reddish stems, and bright green leaves 1-12" wide with smooth edges. Knotweed begins its growth in April, and by July it can reach a height of 12 feet! Large spikes of small, white flowers bloom in late summer. In the winter months, although the plant lies dormant and dead, brown stems may remain standing. When it colonizes in areas such as the Coquille watershed, it out competes and permanently displaces native vegetation. It is extremely aggressive and grows very quickly - up to a foot a week. Native animals and fish cannot use it for food or shelter. Therefore, knotweed destroys terrestrial and aquatic habitat that would otherwise be suitable for wildlife. The food chain could also be disrupted because knotweed takes nitrogen out of the soil without replacing it with leaf litter. Knotweed is most commonly found in the flood plains along rivers and streams. However, it will thrive in any moist soil or river cobble in full or partial light. It is important that you avoid cutting down the knotweed because it can regrow even stronger and small cuttings of the plant can re-sprout elsewhere if not contained.**

**If you have seen this plant on your property, please contact the Coos SWCD**

**541-396-6879**



You Are Cordially Invited to:  
**The Coos SWCD**  
**2014 Annual Meeting**

**When:** Friday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 9:30 PM.

**Where:** OSU Extension Building at 631 Alder St. Myrtle Point

**Featuring Guest Speakers**

**David R. Bower, of Ewing Irrigation, Presenting “Conserving Water and Energy through Automated Irrigation”**

**And**

**Cassie Bouska, OSU Extension Agriculture, Presenting “Pasture Management Strategies to Promote Water Quality”**

The meeting is open to the public. Dinner (provided by the Spruce St. Bar and Grill) is \$8.00 per person;  
Please RSVP by calling the District office at 541-396-6879,  
or by email: [info@coosswcd.org](mailto:info@coosswcd.org)

**COOS SOIL  
AND WATER  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

***2014 Newsletter***

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE