

## Coos SWCD's 2011 Outstanding Cooperator of the Year:

### **Brett Clarno: Clarno Ranch**



### METTMAN CREEK- Clarno's Riparian Fencing & Planting Project

Brett Clarno has 48 acres just east of the old Kentuck Golf Course in North Bend. He runs 10 buffalo year round and 20 beef cows in the summer. Brett also leases 5 addition parcels to run feeder cattle. He knew his place needed fencing upgrades and he had heard about the watershed program and he felt it was a win-win situation. Brett was able to get low cost fencing and was able to protect Mettman Creek and start a new riparian zone with trees that benefit the fish and the aquatic organisms. Brett is satisfied that the project now self sustained, except for the occasional beaver or nutria damage. Brett says that for the future he would like to talk to owners of his leased properties to get them interested in the OWEB Small Grants Program. Brett would like to thank the Coos Watershed who started this project and the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District, and all beneficiaries who donated time or money to projects like this.

This project was started during the summer of 2010 and completed in January of 2011. This project fenced 3/4 miles of Mettman Creek on one side. The fencing allowed for the management of blackberries, the exclusion of cattle, and the chance to establish a new riparian area with trees and shrubs. Mettman Creek is a Coho creek so the added shade and bank stability will be very important for fish in this creek in the future. The landowner has been very helpful and flexible with this project, and that was very important. This landowner has even been flexible on what type of material he used for fencing, when it was brought to his attention that the small grants team was concerned about putting in creosote railroad ties near a fish stream.

**Before Photos:** winter 2009 (Blackberries but no riparian trees or shrubs)



**After Photos:**

