

K-LINE IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

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



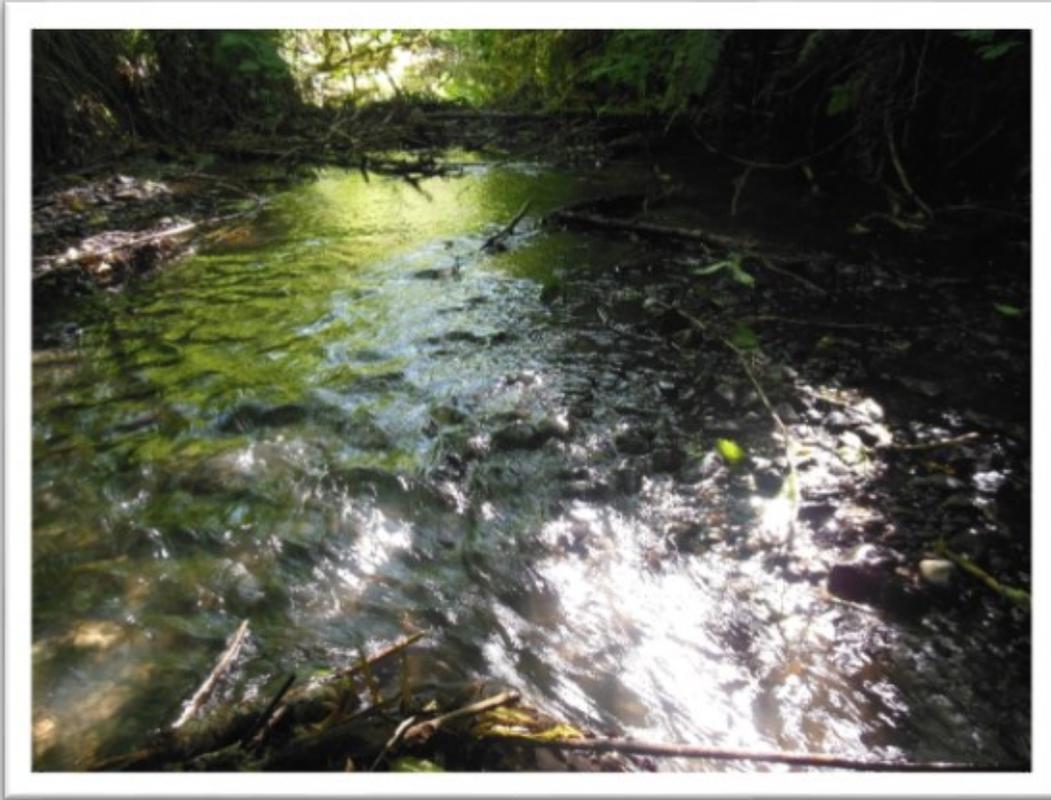
In the summer of 2013, Coos SWCD staff joined Oregon Department of Agriculture on a compliance site visit to a landowner in Coos Bay regarding manure management practices at a small horse stabling facility. The Coos SWCD is always a non-regulatory agency, but may accompany other regulatory agencies such 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 O₂ 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.

Johnson Creek Stream Survey and Assessment Project



This stream assessment was done at 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. After initial visits to three different sites on Johnson Creek, it became apparent that there existed a lack of solid up-to-date information on the condition of the stream. What and how many barriers to fish passage existed, the condition of habitat, and the presence or absence of salmonids were all unknown factors subject to wide speculation. 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.

It was suggested at a meeting between the Coquille Watershed Association, Coos SWCD, and ODF&W, 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.

