

# *Coos Soil & Water Conservation District Cooperator of the Year*

## **Johnson Creek Stream Crossing Project**

Each year, the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District chooses one outstanding cooperator to receive particular recognition at the Coos SWCD Annual Meeting as our “Cooperator of the Year.” This year the award goes to Bob and Cindy McWhorter, for their work with the District on the OWEB Small Grant-funded project “Johnson Creek Stream Crossing.”

The McWhorter property is located on Johnson Creek, south of Bandon. In late 2018-early 2019, the culvert of the McWhorter property began to deteriorate rapidly, resulting in the partial collapse of the stream crossing. The culvert degraded to a level where rust gaps in the bottom allowed for streamflow to run partially through the culvert and partially under the pipe. This resulted in flows being directed in multiple pathways and ultimately creating velocity issues within the stream. If this problem were not addressed, the collapse of the culvert would threaten to impair both the landowner’s and fish access to the upper reaches of Johnson Creek. Additionally, through continued erosion and collapse of the pipe would contribute a substantial sediment input to the stream effecting fish habitat and instream flow. To address the problem the McWhorter’s are working with Coos SWCD to replace the failing culvert with a new stream crossing bridge. This will result in alleviating the high potential of complete road prism failure and restore full fish access to the creek. While the McWhorters may have been able to handle this problem themselves, they made the decision to reach out to the Coos SWCD to make sure that the new bridge was designed properly to ensure all environmental benefits that could be received, would be.

Bob and Cindy McWhorter continuously prove to be amazing stewards of their land. They take the time to host outreach events on their property, where they help educate the public on how to effectively manage forest lands. They also are extremely knowledgeable and friendly people who continue to pursue being good environmental stewards of the land. The Coos SWCD would like to thank Bob and Cindy for all the work and involvement they have done and continue to do for their property and community.

*Below are photos from the failing culvert on the McWhorter property*



Forest Access road erosion due to collapsed culvert - Pipe Outlet (5/09/2019)



McWhorter pipe inlet. (5/09/2019)