

Coos SWCD News

Coos Soil & Water Conservation District

Serving Coos County since 1962

Winter/Spring 2013

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Election Results: All board positions were on the 2012 November Ballot for Coos Soil and Water Conservation District. Returning to the board are Charlie Waterman, Mark Villers, and Ernie Newton. Newly elected members are Steven Scheer, Dan Pierce, and Beau Allen. (See pg.2)

We Need Your Help!

As the many local agencies will be reviewing their focus areas and target projects for the upcoming year it's important we know what concerns and needs the land owners have. Please contact the Coos SWCD and let us know what you think would benefit the Agriculture landowners/ managers and water quality.

EXAMPLE:

- Chemical Collection Day
- Strategic gorse control
- Cranberry/ Blueberry Automation and efficiency programs
- Irrigation, pasture management, and off channel watering
- Heavy Use area, culverts, and crossings
- Erosion control
- Manure storage
- Facility efficiency upgrades

Now is the time to plan for projects so we can find and apply for additional grant funding. See pg 7-9 for more information.

Meet Coos SWCD's new Board!

Steven Scheer- Zone 1, term expires December 31, 2016. Steve lives in the Charleston area and owns timber land. Steve also serves on the Coos County Weed Board and County Planning Committee.

Dan Pierce- Zone 2, term expires December 31, 2014 Dan lives on the outlying area of Coquille where he raises beef cows. Dan also has property with cranberry bogs.

Charlie Waterman- Zone 3, term expires December 31, 2016. Charlie lives in the Bandon area where he raises beef cows and sheep.

Beau Allen- Zone 4, term expires December 31, 2016 Beau lives in the Myrtle Point. Area and currently raises beef cows. Beau also serves on the Farm service agency Board, and City of Myrtle Point.

Ernie Newton- At Large¹, term expires December 31, 2014. Ernie lives in Myrtle Point, works for the City of MP as the Water Plant Operator and is President of the Coquille Watershed Association.

Mark Villers- At Large 2, term expires December 31, 2014. Mark lives outside of Coos Bay, Owns Blue Ridge Timber Cutting Inc., and specializes in in-stream restoration work.

Zone 5 remains vacant. If interested contact Dawn at the District office 541-396-6879.

2012 Annual Meeting



This year the Annual meeting was held in Myrtle Point at the OSU Extension office. The event was catered by Spruce Street Bar and Grill. We had roughly 37 people attend this year.

While the Spruce Street served up Chicken Cordon Blue, salad, chili, and corn bread the board conducted their official business.

*Commissioner Bob Main gave a brief update on the legislative progress and budget then moved into current concerns with local land owners, the Bandon Marsh Complex. Mr. Main has also wrote a letter of concern on behalf on local landowners.

*A presentation for the Guerin Memorial Essay Contest winners was held

*Dawn Weekly presented projects that were completed over this last year. Door prizes were handed out.

* Special guest speaker George Taylor came down from Eugene and spoke on Climatology patterns that effect our streams and rivers and growing seasons. Everyone enjoyed his presentation. He explained how historical data is important to go back as far as possible to see the whole picture. He touched base on how the ocean currents trigger our seasons; La Nina, El Nino, or regular.

2012 Guerin Memorial Essay Winners!

Ireland Tall Hunter an 8th grader of Myrtle Point Jr./ Sr. High School won 1st place in this years essay contest. She received \$150.00, an award, shirt and the traveling plaque with her named engraved on it. This plaque will be displayed at her school until September of next year. She wrote her essay on “ Conservation Techniques That can be used to decrease soil erosion in coos county.”



Kayley Leslie a 10th grader of Myrtle Point Jr./Sr. High School won 2nd place in this years essay contest. She received \$125.00, an award, and a shirt. Kayley wrote her essay on “ What conservation techniques can be use by the landowner in Coos County to decrease soil erosion?”

Nicole Fossum a 7th grade home schooled student of North Bend area won 3rd place in this years essay contest. She received \$100.00, and award and a shirt. Nicole wrote her essay on “What can loggers and farmers do to benefit fish and wildlife habitat?”



Essays are reviewed by a committee. Prior to review office staff removes all personal information and the committee reviews at an anonymous level. To read the winning essay in their entirety please contact the District office. If you would like to donate to the Guerin Memorial Essay contest please contact the Dawn Weekly Coos SWCD –District Manager 541-396-6879.

Coos SWCD's 2012 Cooperator of the Year:

Sandy Jones



Sandy Jones has approximately 6.5 acres in the Green Acres area. In 2007 Sandy and her Father discussed the need of replacing the two culverts. They spoke to neighbors and friends from which they learned it was a fish bearing stream. They discussed the options of culvert or Bridges and the cost. Around June of 2008, Sandy contacted ODF&W fish biologist Chris Claire. Chris was able to give Sandy a starting point; she would need a Fish Plan and a few permits along with the in-stream work schedule. Chris informed her to contact the Coos Watershed for technical assistance and possible financial assistance for the project. However, due to the scope of work and their current full schedule they referred her to Coos Soil and Water. Eric met with Sandy and liked the project however funding was done until next year. In the mean time Sandy worked on quotes from contractors with different ideas. The project was put on the back burner when her father passed away. Then in 2010 she hired Messerle & Sons to dig out the drainage ditches. They spoke of the need to get the culverts replaces and Messerle & Sons provided her with a CD with pictures of similar past projects where they had used Pre-Formed Bridge Spans. By January 2011 Sandy talked with Eric and decided that she wanted to hire Messerle & Sons to replace two culverts with bridges. They began working with Benny Dean, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin the permit process. They Worked with Chris Claire, ODF&W to obtain a fish plan. Between January and April there were meetings and phone calls between multiple agencies to make sure this project met all agencies criteria. In April Eric submitted the grant. In May Army Corps awarded the permit, in June both the ODF&W Plan and the OWEB small grant, and the County Land use were approved. culverts were replaced.

Attention Landowners & land managers

My name is Dawn Weekly and I am the Watershed Technical Specialist for Coos SWCD. I would like you to take a moment and think of the SWCD as a central Hub that helps landowners and managers gain access to technical, financial, and educational resources. Coos SWCD is a non-regulatory partner through which participation with landowners and managers is strictly voluntary.

Each year we set focus areas that we try to maximize technical and financial resources in. Focus areas are usually set because regulatory agencies have concerns in an area that does not meet The Ag Water Quality Management Plan that was approved by Oregon Legislature in 1993. A large request from the landowners/managers for assistance with Best Practice Management projects is another. Our assistance is not limited to these areas but we do try to focus resources.

Currently, the North Fork and East Fork of the Coquille River along with Daniels Creek watershed are part of our focus areas. We are not here to tell anyone they are doing something wrong. We want to help provide technical and sometimes financial assistance to do it better and potentially help you be more efficient and/or increase productivity while helping your watershed. Our goal is to help landowners do the best they can with what they have while meeting the State goal to improve the overall water quality.

Please take a moment to look at the next page and see if there might be some area we can help. I like to get out of the office!! I can also do a workshop for the whole neighborhood/ watershed or just have coffee and talk about the possibilities.

Do You....	SWCD can..
..have ideas for projects on you property but not sure where or how to start?	..help you design a plan that's right for you and your property. Small or large.
..Is cost for improvements a concern or barrier?	..help find and write grants to help with cost. Many projects qualify for grant or private foundation funding.
..want someone to help you with ideas?	..provide technical resources ,we can get information for just about anything.
..have concerns about regulatory agencies?	Good news, Coos SWCD is non-regulatory. Our primary function is to work with land owners on a voluntary basis to stay in compliance!
..have invasive weeds such as; Himalayan Black Berries, Gorse, onion weed, Knotweed or others, not sure what it is??	..help find grants, cost share and private foundations that fund the fight on invasive weeds. Did you know there is a Weed Board in Coos County to help identify and treat weeds!
..have creative ideas, ideas to save energy.	Funding may be available for energy efficiency upgrades and innovative ideas. Upgrades to Irrigation and Dairies are a couple.
..already have a nice piece of property?	We would love to give you recognition for that as well!! Coos SWCD is administering the Watershed Friendly Steward Award program.

Save the Dates!!

- **OSU Extension** will be holding Artificial Insemination (AI) for cattle class in Roseburg March 27-29 for more information 541-572-5263
- April 10th -12th **Natural Resource Day** at South Slough
- April 28th-May 5th **Stewardship Week**- Looking for good stewards. Contact Coos SWCD. Qualified landowners will receive a metal plaque to display on their property.
- **Coquille Watershed** will be hosting field days. Dates and times TBA 541-572-2541
- May 6th-12th **MP FFA** plant sale from 8am- 4pm 4” veggies and hanging baskets.
- **Free Fishing Days** June 1st-2nd.
- **Powers Fishing Derby & Town wide Garage Sale** June 8th.
- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**. Interested in finding out more? Are you interested in a workshop/ presentation? Contact Barbara Grant and Bret Harris at the USDA center 541-396-2841.
- **Native Species** plant sales! Both Powers and Bandon High School have Native Species shrub and trees. For more information on these programs contact Powers 541-439-2291 Bandon 541-260-2182
- **USDA Discrimination** claims for Hispanic and Women Farmers who believe they were improperly denied loan benefits need to file by March 25, 2013. Contact you local USDA center at 541-396-4323 or 1-800-508-4429 online at www.farmerclaims.gov
- Grant Deadlines vary, so if you have a project we need to be planning ahead, call us 541-396-6879

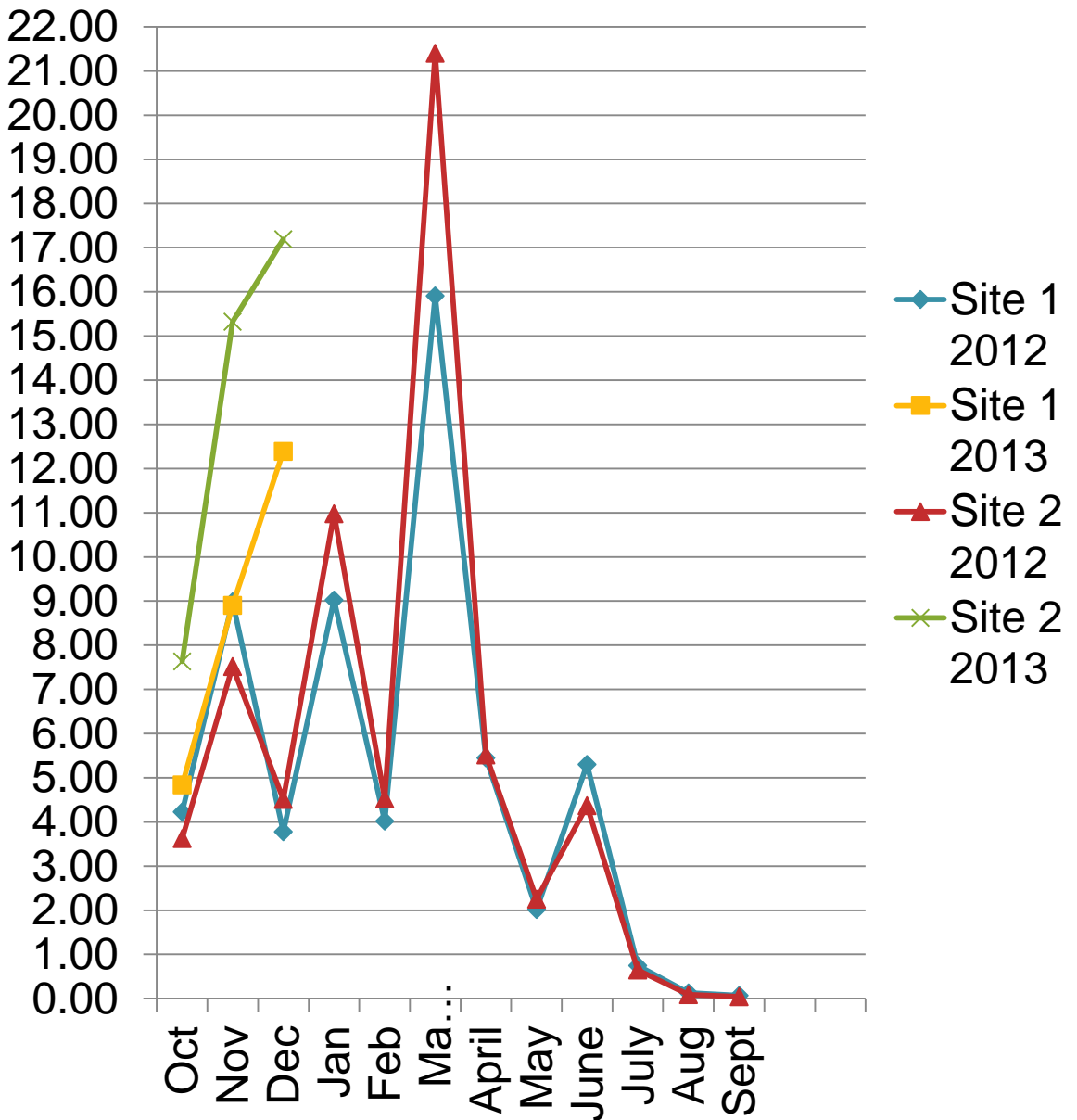
Langlois Mountain Rain Gauge

Inches by month
and year.

2011-2012		
Month:	Site 1	Site 2
Oct. 2011	4.23	3.62
Nov. 2011	8.98	7.52
Dec. 2011	3.78	4.51
Jan. 2012	9.02	10.98
Feb. 2012	4.02	4.52
March. 2012	15.91	21.40
April. 2012	5.45	5.52
May. 2012	2.02	2.25
June. 2012	5.30	4.37
July. 2012	0.75	0.65
Aug. 2012	0.13	0.09
Sept. 2012	0.07	0.04
Total:	59.66	65.47

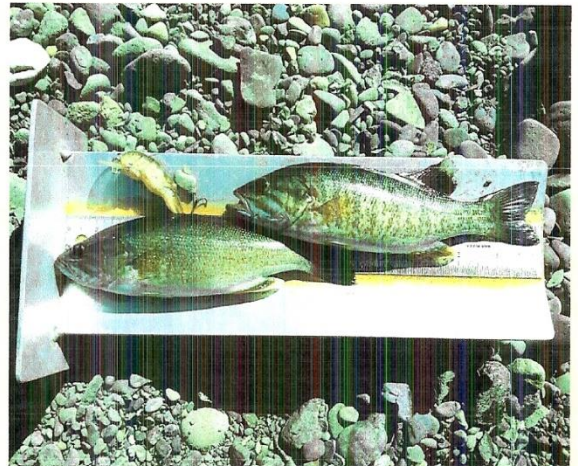
2012-2013		
Month:	Site 1	Site 2
Oct. 2012	4.84	7.63
Nov. 2012	8.90	15.32
Dec. 2012	12.39	17.19
Jan. 2013	3.91	0.05
Feb. 2013	2.39	3.64
March. 2013		
April. 2013		
May. 2013		
June. 2013		
July. 2013		
Aug. 2013		
Sept. 2013		
Total:	26.13	40.14

Rainfall totals by year and site



WANTED

INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF WHOMEVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT INTRODUCTION OF SMALL MOUTH BASS IN THE COQUILLE BASIN.



The illegal introduction of species into our waters has been identified as the single largest issue fishery managers face in our nation. A few thoughtless individuals are responsible for the loss of our precious fisheries.

Don't let them get away with it!

Anyone with information about the incident should
call the TIP Hotline at (800) 452-7888.

REWARD up to \$3,300

**YOU CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS AND
STILL COLLECT YOUR REWARD!**

Turn In Illegal Introductions (TI3) is a joint project of OR BASS Nation, OR Black Bass Action Committee, and The BASS Federation, and initial funding was provided by these 3 organizations.





OUR MISSION

To make Available Technical, Financial & Educational Resources, Whatever Their Sources. To Focus Them so That They Meet The Needs Of Local Land User For Conservation Of Soil, Water & Other Resources.

Oregon Law...

In 1993 Oregon Legislature passed a Senate Bill 1010. SB1010 directed Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to work with farmers and ranchers to develop area-wide water quality management plans for watersheds. The Coos-Coquille Area Agriculture Water Quality Management plan (AGQMP) was developed to address issue on behalf of agricultures role in responding to the Federal Clean Water Act and other federal and state mandates. The AGQMP plan and rules were put together by local advisory groups made up of local members of the community, mainly farmers and ranchers.

So what is Coos SWCD role in this? Coos SWCD is acting as an outreach liaison for ODA as a non regulatory agencies. ODA believes that a voluntary program, in which landowners are given every chance to address the problem on their own, and offered technical/financial assistance, will ensure that the area wide plan will achieve it goal. However, should landowners continue not to do anything to deal with documented water quality issues, penalties can be administered such as not correcting a condition that pollutes the waters of the state.

We understand that this is your lively hood and the amount of time and money some projects take is rather overwhelming. That is where we can help provide both a short term and long term plan. We can also help look for financial assistance. One small step forward is better than lost and overwhelmed....

~Call or stop by.....Dawn Weekly~

USDA to Offer New Microloan Program



The U.S. Department of Agriculture is offering a new loan program to assist beginning farmers, veterans and smaller farm operations.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the new microloan program today, stating that it will provide loans for under \$35,000 to help launch start-ups and provide needed resources and increased equity so farmers can graduate to commercial credit and expand their operations.

“I have met several small and beginning farmers, returning veterans and disadvantaged producers interested in careers in farming who too often must rely on credit cards or personal loans with high interest rates to finance their start-up operations,” said Vilsack. “By further expanding access to credit to those just starting to put down roots in farming, USDA continues to help grow a new generation of farmers, while ensuring the strength of an American agriculture sector that drives our economy, creates jobs, and provides the most secure and affordable food supply in the world.”

The less burdensome and more simplified loan process will allow producers to apply for a maximum of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation, delivery vehicles and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing and distribution expenses.

Since 2009, USDA has made more than 128,000 loans totaling nearly \$18 billion. The number of loans to beginning farmers and ranchers increased from 11,000 in 2008 to 15,000 in 2011. More than 40 percent of USDA’s farm loans now go to beginning farmers, while lending to socially-disadvantaged producers increased by nearly 50 percent since 2008.

<http://fsa.blogs.govdelivery.com/2013/01/15/usda-to-offer-new-microloan-program/>

Reminders

- **Regular Meetings:** 4th Thursday of every month
- **Landowner Resource Guides available at office**
- **Conservation/Farm Planning**
- **Technical & Financial Assistance**
- **Weed wrenches:** for extracting noxious weeds on your property ex. gorse and scotch broom are available to borrow at the Coos SWCD (396-6879) and NRCS (396-2841) offices in Coquille.



Coos Soil & Water Conservation District
371 North Adams Street
Coquille, OR 97423

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