

COOS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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List of Cooperators

FEDERAL

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA)
USDA, US Forest Service
USDOI, Bureau of Land Management
USDD, Army Corps of Engineers

COOS COUNTY

Board of Commissioners
Planning Commission
County Forester
Drainage District Chairman
County Water Master
Coos County Weed Advisory Board
County Road Department
Coquille Watershed Association
Coos Watershed Association
Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership

PORTS

Port of Bandon
Port of Coquille

OREGON

Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Special Districts Association
Oregon State University Extension Service
Department of Forestry (ODF)
Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Soil and Water Conservation Commission

DISTRICT STAFF

Caley Sowers/ Watershed Technical Specialist/Office Manager
Modena Thomas/Office Assistant

ACCOUNTANT

Coquille Valley Accounting (CVA)
John Fandel
Seth Fandel

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors and Employees 2014-2015

Zone 1

Adela Villers
61456 Lower Mattson Road
Coos Bay, OR 97420
(541) 290-9650

Zone 5

Vacant

Associate Directors

Sharon Waterman

Zone 2

Dan Pierce
Secretary
85091 North Bank Ln.
Coquille, OR 97423
(541) 347-5110

Member at Large, Position #1

Ernie Newton
Treasurer
1631 Bothwick St.
Myrtle Point, OR 97458
(541) 572-2589

Director Emeritus

Gordon Ross
Joe Cortez
Ken Messerle
Dan Varoujean

Zone 3

Charlie Waterman,
Vice-Chairman
87518 Davis Creek Lane
Bandon, OR 97411
(541) 347-3453

Member at Large, Position #2

Mark Villers
Chairman
61456 Lower Mattson Road
Coos Bay, OR 97420
(541) 290-9650 (cell)

District Staff

Caley Sowers
*Watershed Technical
Specialist/Office Manager*
371 N. Adams St.
Coquille, OR, 97423
(541) 396-6879

Zone 4

Vacant

Registered Agent

Charlie Waterman

District Staff

Modena Thomas
Office Assistant
(541) 396-6879

Coos SWCD Committees:

Projects Committee

Dan, Charlie,
Mark and Ernie

Plan of Work

Caley Sowers

Budget Committee

Dan Pierce and Mark Villers

Guerin Memorial Essay Contest

Sharon Waterman, Ann Guerin
Cheryl Griffith

Website Committee

Caley Sowers and Mark Villers

Personnel Committee

Mark Villers and Charlie Waterman

LAC Representative

Caley Sowers and Dan Pierce

Coquille Watershed Representative

Caley Sowers and Ernie Newton

Scope of Work

Caley Sowers and Beth Pietrzak

Small Grant Team Representative

Mark Villers & Ernie Newton

South Fork Advisory Rep.

Caley Sowers

Technical and Financial Resources for Landowners

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District

Caley Sowers — *Watershed Technical Specialist*
371 North Adams Street
Coquille, OR 97423
(541) 396-6879

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Services

Eric Morkberg — *District Conservationist*
382 North Central Blvd.
Coquille, OR 97423
(541) 396-2841 ext 105

Curry County Soil and Water Conservation District

94181 4th Street
Gold Beach, OR 97444
(541) 247-2755

Oregon Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Division

635 Capital Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532
(503) 986-4700

Oregon State University Extension Service

Cassie Bouska — *Extension Agriculture*
631 Alder Street
Myrtle Point, OR 97458
(541) 572-5263

Coos Watershed Association

Jon Souder — *Director*
PO Box 5860
Charleston, OR 97420
(541) 888-5922

Coquille Watershed Association

Kelly Miles — *Director*
55153 Picture Valley Road
Coquille, OR 97423
(541) 572-2541

Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership

Mike Mader — *Director*
PO Box L
Lakeside, OR 97449
(541) 759-2414

Oregon Department of Forestry

63612 5th Road
Coos Bay, OR 97420
(541) 267-4136

Coos County Water Resources Department

Gregory Wacker — *District 19 Water master*
290 North Central Street
Coquille, OR 97423
(541) 396-1905

USDA - Farm Service Agency

Bret Harris — *County Executive Director*
376 N. Central Blvd.
Coquille, OR 9423
(541) 396-2841 ext. 100

Coos/Curry CREP Tech

Barbara Grant
(541) 396-4323 ext. 106

Bureau of Land Management

1300 Airport Lane North Bend, OR 97459
(541) 756-0100

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Pam Blake
381 North 2nd Street
Coos Bay, OR 97420
(541) 267-2721 ext. 27

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Don Yon — *Coastal Zone Management*
811 SW 6th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
(541) 229-5994

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

63538 Boat Basin Road
PO Box 5430
Charleston, OR 97420
(541) 888-5515

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Mark Grenbemer
221 West Stewart Avenue - Suite 201
Salem, OR 97501-3647
(541) 776-6010 ext. 231

Coos County Planning Department

Jill Rolfe, Planner
225 N. Adams Street
Coquille, OR 97423
(541) 396-3121 ext 210

Coos SWCD Annual Financial Review Fiscal Year 2014-2015

FY 2014-2015 COOS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

ODA Scope of Work Funds Estimated Budget		1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter (extended)	Total Expenses to Date
FY 2014-2015		July 1 – Sept. 30 2014	Oct. 1 – Dec. 31 2014	Jan.1 – Mar. 31 2015	April 1- June 30 (extended to July 31) 2015	(Updated Quarterly)
Quarterly Payments:		\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$50,000.00
Beginning Balance:	\$15,415.22 (carry-over from previous fiscal year)	\$27,915.22	\$30,885.20	\$28,654.34	\$34,753.55	
Direct Expenses:						
Personnel	\$49,200.00	\$7,548.11	\$10,868.44	\$5,292.47	\$17,054.76	\$40,763.78
Staff Training	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$560.80	\$400.00	\$50.00	\$1,010.80
Education/Outreach	\$1,550.00	\$772.05	\$1240.50	\$0.00	\$842.00	\$2,854.55
Contracted Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,688.69	\$8,688.69
Travel & Mileage	\$2,500.00	\$161.84	\$693.13	\$138.60	\$1,639.55	\$2,633.12
Supplies & Materials	\$2,800.22	\$90.35	\$119.42	\$36.32	\$34.22	\$280.31
Production Costs	\$3,620.00	\$163.50	\$21.00	\$0.00	\$2,790.63	\$2,975.13
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administration*	\$4,545.00	\$794.17	\$1,227.57	\$533.40	\$3,653.70	\$6,208.84
Total Expenses	\$65,415.22	\$9,530.02	\$14,730.86	\$6,400.79	\$34,753.55	\$65,415.22
Remaining Balance	\$0.00	\$18,385.20	\$16,154.34	\$22,253.55	\$0.00	\$0.00

The above table demonstrates our Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Scope of Work Funds estimated budget and actual expenses for each quarter. Note that we started the year with a carry-over of \$15,412.22 from the previous fiscal year, and ended with a zero balance. The next table outlines the spending of our District Operations grant funds, which are primarily used for operating costs such as office rent, utilities, book-keeping, insurance, and satisfying certain legal requirements each year.

Coos SWCD Annual Financial Review Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Coos SWCD 2014-2015 Financial Report of Expenses: ODA District Operations Funds

	FY 2014-2015 Actual Expenses
Total District Operations funds received	\$20,930.00
Expense Category (Please list all; add more lines if needed):	
In-house personnel	\$640.00
Education and Outreach	\$600
Contracted services	\$11,320.00
Travel & Mileage	\$522.61
Supplies and materials	\$974.13
Operating Costs	\$4087.78
Equipment	44.88
Risk and Accountability	\$2740.60
Total All Expenses	\$20,930.00
Remaining Balance (should be \$0.00)	\$0.00

Budget Category Definitions:

- In-house personnel: includes salaries/wages, benefits, accrued leave liability, taxes and workers compensation insurance.
- Contracted services: includes any payments made to a contractor(s) or subcontractor(s) for services related to the Scope of Work or the District Operations Fund.
- Travel: includes mileage, meals, per diem, and lodging for projects and tasks.
- Staff training: includes registration, mileage, meals, per diem, and lodging related to staff receiving training.
- Supplies/materials: includes items that are used to complete the Scope of Work tasks and District Operations. Do not include supplies and materials used for education and outreach.
- Education and Outreach: includes facility rental, copying, printing, signs, publishing, supplies/materials, web design, tours, workshops, postage, etc.
- Equipment: items \$250 and over which includes computers, printers, software, monitoring equipment, GPS units, cameras, etc. required to complete the Scope of Work tasks and District Annual Work Plan. All equipment purchased must reside with the District.
- Fiscal administration (only allowed for the Scope of Work fund and not to exceed 10% of the Scope of Work expense): includes costs directly associated with implementing the SOW, tracking and reporting, SOW fiscal administration, SOW task management and development. Not intended to cover the SWCD's overall operating expenses.
- Operating costs (only allowed for the District Operations fund): includes office rent, office equipment rent/purchase (purchased equipment must reside with district), postage, printing, utilities, etc.
- Risk and accountability (only allowed for the District Operations fund): includes statutory requirements, audits/annual reviews, annual reports, annual board meetings, board meetings and minutes, risk management and insurance, etc.

COOS SOIL AND WATER Conservation District

MISSION STATEMENT

SWCDs help landowners and managers plan and apply conservation practices that conserve water, maintain soil health and productivity, enhance wildlife habitat, and improve watershed function. SWCDs serve as a central hub by helping landowners and land managers access available technical, financial, and educational resources from local, state, federal, and other sources in their efforts to implement good conservation management, comply with environmental regulations and endangered species act requirements, and be good land stewards.

THE FUNCTION OF THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

To take available technical, financial, and education resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water, and related resources.

- Applied from Pete Nowak's "The Conservation District Official: Villain or Victim?"

COOS SWCD GOALS

- ◆ To promote wise use of renewable resources through locally led voluntary conservation.
- ◆ Conserve, protect and develop natural resources for the economic benefit of the people of Coos County.
- ◆ Encourage measures for the protection of waters of Coos County.
- ◆ Assist local landowners in the developing and utilizing their resources to reduce soil erosion, conserve and improve water quality, maximize crop and forage production, improve fish & wildlife habitat, and to support the economy of Coos County.

HISTORY OF COOS SWCD

The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1962, and coordinates government assistance with conservation needs, provides assistance, information, and education for Coos County farmers, ranchers, and woodlot owners to implement sound resource management and conservation practice.

The Coos-Coquille Agriculture Water Quality Management Plan (AgWQMP) was developed in 1998 for the 1993 directives of Senate Bill 1010. The document consists of an education component and a set of rules addressing measures that safeguard water quality, the beneficial uses of water resources, and provide best management practices for water quality concerns. The plan also includes the basins of Ten Mile Lakes, Four Mile Creek and Two Mile Creek as well as the Camas Valley and Lower Umpqua areas in Douglas County. Two Public hearings were held in Coos County in the fall of 2001; and after a period of public comment and review the Coos-Coquille Ag WQMP was adopted by the Board of Agriculture in March of 2002. The Coos SWCD provides support to the Local Advisory Committee (LAC), which meets every two years for a review of the WQMP and associated rules.

COOS SWCD DISTRICT OFFICE



The Coos Soil & Water Conservation District building is located at 371 North Adams Street Coquille, Oregon. The office hours are from 8am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday and anyone is welcome to come by. Pamphlets, brochures, and packets are available right when you enter the office. So feel free to come in and get any information you need related to agriculture, farming practices, water quality, herbicides and so on. Please stop by any time.

Weed wrenches: for extracting noxious weeds on your property (ex. gorse and scotch broom) are also available for rent for up to 2 weeks for a \$25 refundable deposit at the Coos SWCD (396-6879) and NRCS (396-2841) offices in Coquille.



COOS SWCD STAFF

Caley Sowers

Watershed Technical Specialist/Office Manager



Modena Thomas

Office Assistant



We look forward to hearing from all professionals in the natural resource field as well as any concerned citizens or landowners. As employees of a non-regulatory agency, we are willing to go out to landowner's farms or ranches and assist in any way possible. Our positions here is to cooperate with local agencies to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to help them farm and ranch to the fullest extent possible while staying compliant with water quality.

2015 COOS SWCD DIRECTORS



(Left to right): **Caley Sowers** - Watershed Technical Specialist/Office Manager; **Charlie Waterman** - Vice Chairman, Zone 3, County Planning Commission, Coos Forest Protective Assoc.; **Dan Pierce** - Secretary, Zone 2, Local Rancher; **Ernie Newton** - Treasurer, Member at Large #1, President of the Coquille Watershed Assoc. and Water Plant Operator for the City of Myrtle Point; **Mark Villers** - Chairman, Member at Large #2 and owner of Blue Ridge Timber Co.

Not pictured: **Adela Villers** - Zone 1 and **Modena Thomas** - office assistant

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

Got Manure? Need Manure?



Coos SWCD is in the process of compiling a list of local people who have manure, either for sale or for free, and for people in need of manure for fertilizer. If you would like to be part of this list, please contact our office today to let us know. We will put you in contact with other local people who can help fulfill your manure needs. Please call us at 541-396-6879 or email us at info@coosswcd.org to find out more information.

We can also help you if you have any questions about being in compliance with the Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan & Rules. Often people believe they are doing the right thing, until someone files a complaint and the landowner get a visit from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and is told they must relocate their manure pile or alter their management. The Coos SWCD is a non-regulatory organization that exists to help landowners avoid such situations. If you have any questions or concerns about something on your agricultural property, please do not hesitate to call us. We can provide information, make recommendations, answer questions, and if necessary we have resources to help you address water quality issues.

COOS SWCD PROJECTS - MANURE MANAGEMENT

This project was a joint effort between Coos SWCD and a local boarding stables operator to improve manure management methods on the property. The landowner did not own any heavy equipment, and relied mainly on the boarders to clean out their horse's stalls and empty the bedding into a pile outside the barn where it could compost naturally. After some concerns arose that some of the old piled manure might be in a place where heavy rainfall could cause it to leach into a small perineal stream that was located at the bottom of a ravine behind the barn, the Coos SWCD worked with the landowner to devise an improved management strategy. We came up with a plan and design based off the average number of horses boarding at the facility at any given time, and applied for an OWEB small grant to construct this basic lean-to manure storage and composting facility. It is set up so the landowner can utilize an O2 aerated composting system which she already owned, and now it produces this horse boarding stable with a covered area and non-permeable surface on which to store manure until it can be used as fertilizer in the landowner's greenhouse.



COOS SWCD PROJECTS - OFF-CHANNEL WATERING

This project combined funding from multiple sources: OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board) Small Grant Program, CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program), and EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) to accomplish several tasks. The first and foremost issue to tackle was the need for an alternative watering source for the livestock. The animals had previously been watering directly out of the South Fork of the Coquille River and frequently lounging on the banks, presumably contributing to nutrient and sediment contamination of the water and preventing establishment of riparian vegetation.

An OWEB small grant funded the installment of an off-channel watering trough system for the animals, eliminating the need for them to water directly from the river in the future. After the watering system was installed, the riparian areas along the main river, as well as along a small seasonal drainage on the property, were fenced and protected through CREP, and planting of additional native species will be taking place this winter.

The EQIP program also funded some of the pasture crossing-fencing, and help to provide the landowners with the means to manage their grazing more efficiently, as well as funding some brush management in the form of mechanical removal of the non-native species such as Himalayan Blackberry and Hybrid Poplar that had been historically planted in the pasture.



COOS SWCD PROJECTS - IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY

This project, located on the East Fork of the Coquille River just above the East Fork - North Fork Confluence, funded the installation of a K-line pod irrigation system that increases efficiency and reduces water use. Efficient irrigation systems and water management in the Coquille Watershed have a significant positive effect on water quality. On this property, installation of the K-line system should increase the efficiency of the landowner's irrigation system by 26.7%, according to NRCS worksheet Water Savings Estimator for Irrigation System Planning and Ranking. This should result in an estimated annual water savings 6.8 acre-inches per acre, or 35 acre feet total.

K-line systems are custom designed to each particular field, applying precisely the correct amount of water necessary, eliminating wasteful overwatering and deep percolation. They do this by applying the water slowly and gently over a longer period of time, allowing the soil to absorb the maximum amount of moisture without surface runoff. The East Fork Coquille is 303(d) listed for temperature, and the North is 303(d) listed for temperature and dissolved oxygen.

In context of the watershed as a whole, the general idea is that the need to use less water for irrigation should result in more water left in-stream. While the difference from one landowner's improvements in efficiency may not provide a measurable impact on the watershed; the cumulative effects of all of the improvements being made, as more and more landowners upgrade to the more efficient irrigation systems, will provide a noticeable impact on flow levels over time.



The Guerin Memorial Essay Contest

By: Anne Guerin

The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District directors have honored the memory of Dorothy Guerin for 33 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.

- 1. Explain how conservation practices used by landowners (farmers, ranchers, timber holders) can benefit water quality in Coos County/Oregon.**
- 2. What conservation practices used by landowners and/or the public in Coos County are utilized to protect soil and decrease erosion?**
- 3. 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?**
- 4. What is the impact of WOTUS (Waters of the United States) on Coos County agricultural operations and what conservation techniques could be used to mitigate impacts.**

2015 contest winners will be announced this year at the annual meeting on December 10, 2015 at 6pm at the OSU ext office in Myrtle Point. Please contact our office at 541-396-6879 for 2016 deadline.

First Place -\$150, Second Place - \$125, Third Place -\$100

COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2015



Coos County Fair 2015 - A special thanks to the Coquille Indian Tribe for donating the use of the tent for the 2015 Coos County Fair. Participating in the Natural Resource tent this year were The Coquille Indian Tribe, Coos Soil and Water Conservation District, Powers & Bandon Native Species Centers, Coquille Watershed, Oregon Forestry Association/ OSU, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Services, and the Coos County Weed Board.



Fencing and Pasture Management for Livestock & Wildlife Workshop - On May 28, 2015, Coos SWCD teamed up with other agencies to give the public a free workshop to assist landowners in improving their fences and pasture management for livestock and wildlife. The workshop had an attendance of 43 landowners from Coos and Curry County.

Guest speakers included Randy Bailey from Gallagher Fencing who did an informative demonstration of the latest fencing options which included containment and exclusion fencing techniques. Barbara Grant of Curry SWCD and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) was also present to answer questions and suggest funding options to landowners; Jeff Jackson with

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) informed participants of different ways to deal with elk issues they may be experiencing on their property. A special thank you to Carolyn Crane for allowing us to use her property for the demonstrations.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2016

Join Coos SWCD and other local agencies at our free Permitting/Fish Passage Workshop on January 21, 2016. We will be assisting landowners with the permitting process, especially as it pertains to dike repair/maintenance, tide gates, and ditch and drainage maintenance. We will have several agencies available to answer questions and assist in how to start the permitting process. Please contact our office at 541-396-6879 for more information and to register for this free workshop (space is limited).

Have an idea for a workshop or a class you would like to see in our area? Please contact our office at 541-396-6879 or email us at info@coosswcd.org to tell us your idea and we will see what is available.

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



2015 REPORT-COOS COUNTY

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Coquille Field Office, 382 N. Central Blvd, Coquille Or 97423

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a technical Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). NRCS was established in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) to carry out a continuing program of soil and water conservation. The Secretary of Agriculture organized NRCS in 1994 through authority provided in the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. NRCS combines the authorities of the former SCS as well as additional programs that provide financial assistance for natural resource conservation.

NRCS/ role is to provide technical and financial assistance to help our customers care for the land. As a result of our assistance, land managers and communities take a comprehensive approach to the use and protection of soil, water, and related resources in rural, suburban, urban, and developing areas. The assistance we provide is based on an understanding that the land-the landscape as a whole-must be the focus of conservation. Using this comprehensive approach, the people we help are able to help the land function as a living, sustainable system that provides a high standard of living and quality of life today and for future generations.

Fiscal Year 2015 Accomplishments in Coos County, Oregon:

CONSERVATION BENEFITS	ACRES
Conservation Plans Written (16)	1,987
Land with conservation applied to improve water quality	269
Land with conservation applied to improve irrigation efficiency/ irr.management	233
Land with conservation applied to improve forest health	65
Stewardship activities applied on land to improve environmental quality (CStP)	273

Financial Assistance- Coos County:

During the federal fiscal year funds were obligated to new program participants to provide assistance for implementing voluntary conservation practices on private working lands. This includes farms, ranches and nonindustrial private forest lands for the following category of resource concerns:

Resource Category- Coos County	NEW Funds Obligated for 2015 Contracts
Forest Health	\$53,084
Forest Health – Beginning Farmer	3,360
Water Quality/Quantity	72,002
Water Quality/Quantity – Beginning Farmer	69,357
Drought Initiative	32,155



United States
Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

Coos/Curry Co. Office
376 N. Central Blvd.
Coquille, OR 97423-1244

Phone: (541) 396-4323
FAX: (877) 885-8382
Email: bret.harris@or.usda.gov

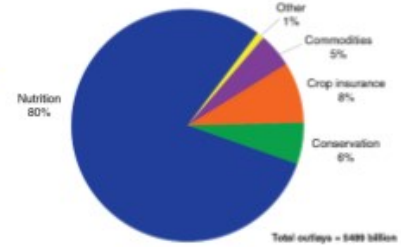
The **Farm Service Agency (FSA)**, working in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) provides farm production, conservation and environmental protection programs, disaster assistance, and farm loan programs to area farmers and ranchers. FSA helps administer the “non-Nutrition” portion of the Federal Farm Bill funds.

Local staff, under the direction of the Local “County Committee”, administers FSA programs. Local farmers and ranchers elect the FSA County Committee members. The FSA Committee is *the most direct link* between USDA (Federal Agency) farm programs and local producers. The County Committee system *helps shape nationwide programs into programs that work at the local level.*



FSA staff is here to help our area producers, and we have some good programs currently at work in Coos County:

Projected outlays under the 2014 Farm Act, 2014-2018



Source: USDA Economic Research Service using data from Congressional Budget Office, Cost Estimates for the Agricultural Act of 2014, Jan 2014.

Summary of FSA Assistance Programs used by Coos County farmers & ranchers:

PROGRAM	Assistance to Coos Co. Producers
LFP, LIP, & ELAP for livestock losses	2014 pasture losses due to drought - assistance provide to 76 individual operations. Over \$255,000 in LFP payments issued.
LFP, LIP, & ELAP for livestock losses	2015 pasture losses due to drought - assistance provide to 75 individual operations, with additional sign-ups and payments expected by the 1/1/2016 deadline. To-date, over \$920,000 in LFP payments have been issued to Coos County livestock producers.
Commodity Loan/LDP Programs	<i>No payments for FY 2014 or 2015</i>
Margin Protection Program (MPP) Dairy	<i>No payments for FY 2014 or 2015 - about 1/2 of the dairies in the county are participating</i>
Conservation Reserve Program - CREP	26 contracts on over 175 riparian acres. Annual “rental payments” totaling over \$19,000 as well as cost-share and incentive payments made for practice establishment, including: exclusion fencing; site preparation; and tree/shrub plantings.

Summary of FSA Loan Program Assistance:

Direct FSA Loans	\$128,000
FSA Youth Loans	\$1,250
FSA Guaranteed Loan Program Assistance	FSA works with local lenders to “guarantee” loans for local producers that might otherwise not be funded

2015 FSA Direct Loan Assistance to Coos County Producers: \$129,250



FSA Disaster assistance programs:

PROGRAM	POLICY
Livestock Disaster Assistance (LFP/LIP/ELAP)	LFP program provides compensation to livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses because of a qualifying <i>drought or fire</i> – minimum 8 consecutive weeks at drought level D2 during the grazing season. LIP provides assistance to livestock producers for eligible livestock deaths due to adverse weather or predation by Federally Listed species. ELAP provides assistance to producers that have losses because of disease, adverse weather, or other conditions.

USDA-Farm Service Agency is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider



CRP/CREP (Conservation Reserve / Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program):



Farmers and ranchers provide unique benefits to the public. Not least among agricultural contributions are protecting water quality, preserving open space, providing fish and wildlife habitat, and buffering populated areas from floods. Cost-sharing restoration of riparian buffers helps defray the cost to individual operators of protecting surface water resources. CREP’s annual rental payments and additional incentive bonuses help riparian buffers make financial sense for Oregon farmers.



PROGRAM	POLICY
Commodity Loan/LDP Programs	Due to relatively high market, FSA has not made a payment under this program several years. This is an example of how Federal agriculture programs provide help during disasters & times of low prices, but not a “government give-away programs” .
Margin Protection Program (MPP) Dairy	The MPP-Dairy offers insurance protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a dollar amount selected by the producer. Dairy operations may annually select a percentage of coverage from 25 to 90 percent of the established production history by paying the appropriate premium and fee.



FSA Farm Loan Programs:

FSA continues to work with area farmers and ranchers, assisting them where appropriate with farm financing. FSA makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain independent commercial credit from a bank, Farm Credit System institution or other lender. FSA loans can be used to purchase land, livestock, equipment, feed, seed and supplies. The loans can also be used to construct buildings or make farm improvements. If you're having trouble getting commercial credit, check with your county office staff about a FSA loan. Our **direct loan portfolio has outstanding (principle only) balance of nearly \$3.7 million in direct loans**

USDA was established over 150 years ago and called “the peoples department” by President George Washington. Though our name has changed over the years, FSA’s relationship with farmers and ranchers, dating back to the 1930’s, remains the remains key. The grassroots approach FSA uses continues to give farmers a much-needed say in how Federal actions affect their communities and their individual operations. The farmer elected County Committee system remains the cornerstone of FSA’s efforts to preserve and promote American agriculture.



Producers & others interested can enroll in the new GovDelivery system for notices, newsletters and electronic reminders and discontinue their slow and costly paper copies received through the mail. You can subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe> or use the box “*Sign up for updates*” on the FSA homepage at www.fsa.usda.gov .

FSA Office staff, along with the Coos/Curry FSA Committee, looks forward to assisting all the farmers and ranchers in the area should they choose to take advantage of any of the various USDA programs available.

Respectfully,

/s/ Bret A. Harris
Bret A. Harris
County Executive Director

The 2015 Coos/Curry FSA Committee

LAA-1 – Robert Nelson, Member
LAA-2 – Beau Allen, Chairman
LAA-3 – Jim Donaldson (Curry County) Vice-Chair.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a unique State and Federal cooperative program that provides cost-shares, incentive payments, and an annual rental payment to agricultural landowners who choose to restore and protect riparian buffers in order to protect streams adjacent to pasture or crops. Each participant chooses a contract duration between 10 and 15 years.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) provides special incentives to program participants; Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) provides forestry technical support; Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the program, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical support. Because of the scarcity of NRCS technical staff hours to support CREP here in Coos and Curry Counties, Curry SWCD provides an OWEB-funded CREP Technician to fill the gap.

Our CREP Technician serves both Coos and Curry Counties from the USDA Service Center in Coquille, helping to address resource concerns on agricultural land. From July 2014 through June 2015, we report the following progress:

- 44 outreach contacts
- 20 site visits
- 53 landowners provided with technical assistance
- 7 practice inspections on 62.5 acres riparian buffers
- 19 annual status reviews on active contracts

Due to high level of participation satisfaction, re-enrolling was a popular option in 2015 for CREP participants who originally signed up in 2000, and we are already getting calls from participants whose contracts will expire in October 2016.



For information about the Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, call Barbara Grant at the NRCS office in the USDA Service Center in Coquille: 541-396-2841 Ext. 106, or stop by the office at 382 North Central Boulevard.

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District

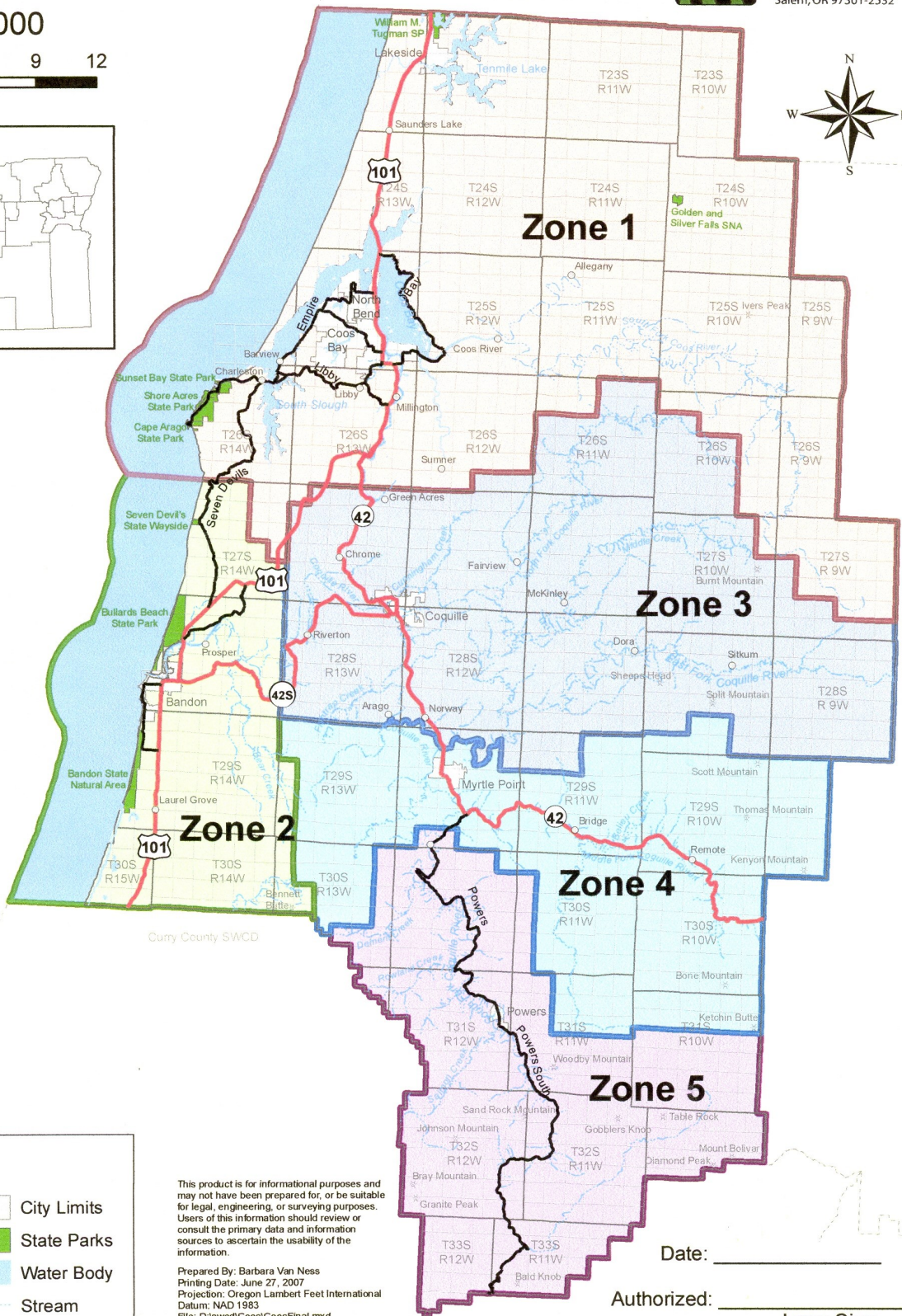
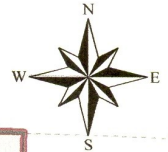
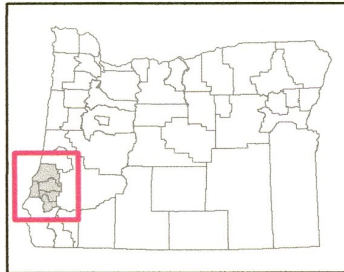


Oregon

Department of Agriculture

635 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532

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Legend

- City
- ✱ Summit
- Major Road
- Major Hwy
- City Limits
- State Parks
- Water Body
- Stream

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 Larry Ojua