

Coos Soil and Water Conservation District

SWCD 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 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.*

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 fisheries habitat, and to support the economy of Coos County.



HISTORY:

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 practices.

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 Tenmile Lakes, Fourmile Creek and Twomile Creek as well as the Camas Valley and Lower

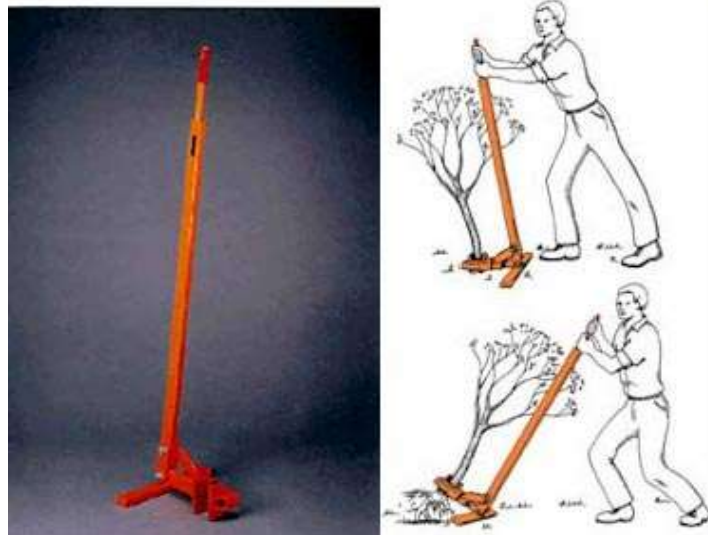
Umpqua areas in Douglas County. Two Public hearings were held in Coos County in the fall of 2001; and after a period of public comment and review the Coos-Coquille Ag WQMP was adopted by the Board of Agriculture in March of 2002. The Coos SWCD provides support to the Local Advisory Committee (LAC), which meets every two years for a review of the WQMP and associated rules.

COOS SWCD'S ADDRESS



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

ERIC HIMMELREICH

(Watershed Technical Specialist/Office Manager)

I look forward to hearing from all professionals in the natural resource field as well as any concerned citizens or landowners. I am willing to go out to landowner's farms or ranches and assist in any way possible. I am also willing to write grants to assist the landowners with small to large conservation projects.



Please call the Coos Soil & Water Conservation District at (541) 396-6879 or e-mail the district at coosswcd@aol.com.

2010 COOS SWCD DIRECTOR'S

ZONE 1



Ron Petock and wife F.J.

ZONE 2



Sharon Waterman

ZONE 3



Charlie Waterman

ZONE 4



Joe Cortez

ZONE 5



Jim Maitland

Director At-Large



Fred Wiebe

Director At-Large



Dan Varoujean

COOS SWCD OWEB SMALL GRANTS PROJECTS:

METTMAN CREEK- Clarno's Riparian Fencing & Planting Project

This project was started during the summer of 2010. The planting should be done after the winter of 2010. 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 is 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)

Photos Taken June 23, 2010: After Fencing, but before tree planting



John Rossback- Riparian Fencing & Planting Project 2010 – 2011



Ditches will be fenced, planted, & managed



This fish bearing creek will be fenced and planted (right side)

This project will address water quality concerns in riparian process and function. This property has a degraded area where livestock currently have access and can disturb sensitive areas by repeated entry, trampling of riparian areas. Another aspect that this project will address is the amount of sediment and manure that enter the fish bearing creeks and the landowners ditches that drain into Catching Slough. This project also hopes to improve shade and lower water temperatures on all creeks and ditches on Rossback's property.

The proposed solution to address all of these concerns is to fence off approximately one mile of riparian areas (ditches/creeks) with fences for livestock exclusion and supply off-stream watering in the form of underground piping and five stock tanks. The fence will be constructed from treated cedar posts and 48"-52" woven wire material. The fence will be built on both sides of the ditches but only the western side will be built with a permanent fence that will be planted. The other side of the ditches will have a temporary electric fence, so the landowner can use best pasture management and be able to clean his ditches. A fence will be built on the northern side of the fish bearing creek and planted, because the southern side of the creek was already planted and fenced from a prior Coos Watershed Association project. The protected area inside the fence-line will be planted with up to 1,000 native trees at 8 foot spacing that survive well in flood prone riparian habitats for example (spruce, ash, cedar, cascara, big-leaf maple, and willows). Blackberries and other invasive plant species will be managed by the landowner.

This project may not get finished by the end of 2010, but the project has until May of 2012 to be completed. This project will help water quality, but it will also help the landowner. With a new fence and an off-stream watering system the landowner will have a lot of options on how he can rotate livestock in his pastures. It also makes his property safer, no more chances for cattle to hurt themselves or drown in the creek.

Coos SWCD Outstanding Cooperator of the Year for 2010: Ed Groves



Elk Creek Ranch: 148 acres located between Myrtle Point and Sitkum on the East Fork Coquille River and the confluence of Elk Creek.

Ed Groves and his family were the Coos SWCD Outstanding Cooperator for the year of 2010. They completed a large scale irrigation efficiency project with the collaborated efforts of the Coos SWCD as well as the Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCS) the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) in order to put in a 50 acre k-line irrigation project on their property. This project was completed in October of 2009. This project was important because this new more efficient irrigating system will use 60% – 70% less water from the Coquille River to water the landowner's fields. Along with all the agencies that took part in the project the Groves family all pitch in to help, including Ed Groves wife Julie and his daughters Emily and Bethany.

Ed and Julie bought this ranch back in 2001 and have 20 Black Angus, two horses, three dogs and a cat. The family said that this property is very special to them because Ed's grandparents homesteaded on Elk Mountain which is approximately 12 miles above their property. The groves said that they have driven past their current home for years and loved looking at it from afar. Elk Creek starts up the mountain on the homestead and ends as it flows into the Coquille River on their property.

Below are some of the pictures of the instillation of the k-line project. The entire project was designed and constructed by Pacific Ag Systems, Inc., and the Coos SWCD would especially like to thank David Bower and Tye Fountain. Also below is the Conservation Farm Plan that Ed's daughter Emily completed through Oregon State University. The Coos SWCD would like to thank the entire Groves family and really appreciates all the work and involvement they have done and continue to do for their property and their community. Well done!

GROVES IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY PROJECT PHOTOS:



Trenching Work



More Trenching Work



Trenching Work



New k-line pods



Supplies and Materials



Finished k-line project

FARM CONSERVATION PLAN FOR ELK CREEK RANCH

Prepared For Ed Groves 98436 Shiloh Lane, Myrtle Point, OR 97458

Prepared by: Emily Groves, Oregon State University Student, Corvallis, OR 97330

INTRODUCTION

Farm Location/Context

Elk Creek Ranch is located 12 miles East from Myrtle Point on Sitkum Lane. It resides in Coos County along the East Fork of the Coquille River. This ranch is owned by Ed and Julie Groves and operated by family. It consists of 148 acres, with approximately 50% of this being bottom ground or pasture, while the remaining 50% contains timber approximately 8 years old. Elk creek runs through this ranch joining into the East fork of the Coquille River (see map 1). This ranch produces Black Angus beef cattle as well as the feed for its livestock. Currently this property supports 20 head (pair) of cattle and harvests two of its pastures for hay once a year. These bottom pastures are fertilized by Triple 16 and Urea alternating each every other year, keeping the impacts to surrounding ecosystems a minimum.

This Ranch falls entirely within the Coquille Watershed Association, which is active in watershed conservation and enhancement in overall watershed health. This farm plan will incorporate watershed support services to contribute to conservation efforts.

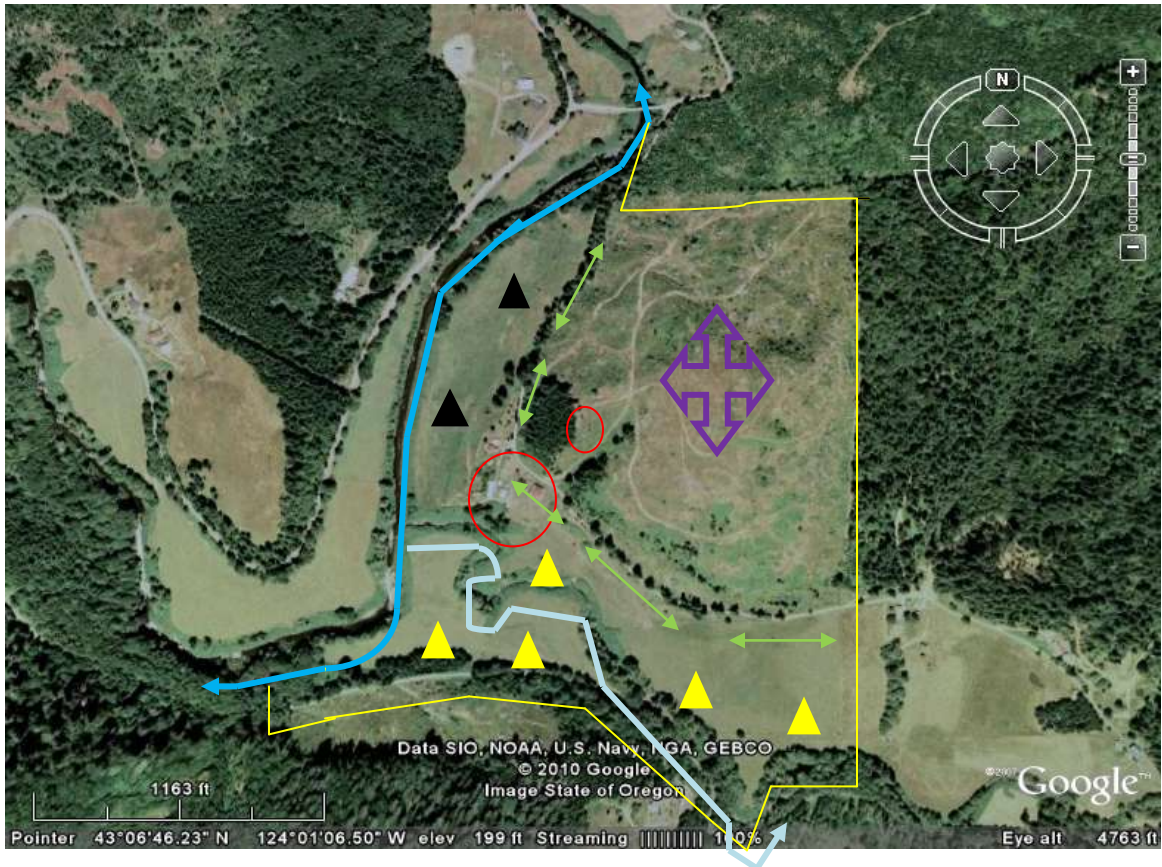
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This plan will achieve the following goals/objectives.







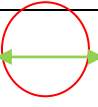

- 1) Maintain livestock production, while increasing feed yield.
- 2) Conservation of both water and power through more improved irrigation methods.
- 3) Reduce stream/bank erosion, improve riparian zone health.
- 4) Improve overall watershed health.

The primary objectives of this ranch/farm plan are to increase production while implementing both water and power conservation techniques. Secondary goals are to enhance riparian zone health, by reducing erosion and exposure to contaminants. Lastly overall watershed health will be addressed to better contribute to the efforts by the Coquille Watershed Association as a whole.

MAP 1/ Ranch Identification



LEGEND MAP 1

	Property Boundary
	E. Fork Coquille River/Property Boundary
	Elk Creek Boundary
	Fields/Pasture prepared & harvested for feed
	Fields/Pastures used for livestock grazing
	Upper Timber/Wooded property
	Buildings located on property
	Road/Driveway

CONSERVATION AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENTS

The following projects or steps will be implemented to obtain the previous mentioned objectives; each will address different areas as well as have significant impacts to the overall conservation plan. The primary objectives will be achieved by the installation of a new more efficient and eco-friendly irrigation practice, which will subsequently improve riparian ecosystem health and increase production and forage yields. The installation of new K-line irrigation systems will allow for more bottom ground to be used for hay production by increasing irrigation capabilities, as well as the significant reduction in water and electricity used to sustain the new system. Fish friendly screens are designed to fit the new K-line irrigation thus improving aquatic habitat and detriment to species.

Secondary goal for this ranch include reductions in riparian zone erosion and improvement of overall watershed health will be achieved by installation of a bridge for cattle crossing Elk Creek, which will prevent any further erosion due to ground disturbance as well as reducing any possible contaminants to the water source. In addition vegetation will be restored to provide shade and bank stability as well as a buffer to enhance riparian zone and watershed health.

Costs Provided by: Pacific Ag Systems, Inc. 93780 Highway 99 South Junction City, Oregon 97448

K-Line Irrigation Costs

ITEM	COST
Suction & Fish Screen	\$3,341.50
Pump, Trailer & Panel	\$6,762.31
Pump Discharge	\$5,375.73
PVC Mainline	\$14,995.90
Bridge Crossing	\$2,902.22
K-Line Above Ground	\$16,223.15
Design & Technical Support	\$5,440.00
TOTAL	\$55,040.81

The installation and purchase of the K-Line irrigation system allows for several opportunities of cost sharing, or grants from both state and federal organizations. National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has grants toward the overall costs of this project around the sum of \$32,000. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will assist in offsetting the cost of the pump and screen in the amount of \$6,000 to \$8,000 due to its benefit to fish and habitat conservation. Additionally Oregon

Department of Agriculture (ODA) Soil & Water Division has funds available around the amount of \$8,000 to offset costs even further. With the before mentioned possible funds to offset the cost of the new K-line Irrigation system the cost to the farmer still remains at about \$9,000 give or take. While the cost of this project is significant the advantages of its implementation is astronomical. It provides significant water and power conservation, as well significant increase in production capabilities.

After speaking with the Director of the Coquille Watershed Association Kelly Miles, grants are also available to cover all of the costs of installation of a bridge and vegetation along Elk Creek. This coverage of all costs is due to the elimination of possible contaminants as well as fish habitat restoration that will be possible by removing the cattle crossing across the creek bed itself. Meetings with Kelly Miles will be established at the property in conjunction with a fish biologist to observe and provide preliminary information to assist in the grant writing to provide the funding for this project.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Ed & Julie Groves for access to their property and allowing me to observe and research all aspects of the property. Similarly I would like to thank them for working with me to develop a plan that will enhance their property as well as meet their conservation goals. Several organizations assisted me in my research of several different projects including implementation and price associated with those projects. Those organizations include The Coquille Watershed Association and Pacific Ag Systems, Inc. The Coquille Watershed Association gave me information pertaining to the goal of the watershed as a whole as well as information on the different grants and monies available to help the landowner obtain those goals. Pacific Ag Systems, Inc. is an organization that specializes in K-line system installation and helped me to implement a plan and estimations for Elk Creek Ranch.

SOURCES

Pacific Ag Systems, Inc. 93780 Highway 99 South, Junction City, Oregon 97448. Phone: 541-998-1983, Fax: 541-998-6768, Email: PacAg@aol.com

Kelly Miles Director, Coquille Watershed Association, 55153 Picture Valley Road, Coquille, OR 97423.
www.coquillewatershed.org Phone: 541-572-2541

Ed and Julie Groves, 98436 Shiloh Road, Myrtle Point, OR 97458. Phone: 541-572-5615

National Resource Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Review of Local Agriculture Water Quality Area Plan and Rules 2010



Coos Soil & Water Conservation District

On April 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Coquille Community Building-Recreation Center in Coquille, the Coos and Coquille Area Agricultural Water Quality Local Advisory Committee (LAC) held its biennial review of the local agriculture water quality area plan and rules. From 1998 through

2002, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the LAC developed an Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan (Area Plan) and associated Administrative Rules (Rules) for the Coos and Coquille Area. ODA adopted the Area Plan and Rules in January 2001. Every two years the LAC meets to review the implementation of the Area Plan, application of the Rules and consider any updates to the Area Plan.

When developing the Area Plan and Rules, the LAC identified several objectives to protect and improve water quality:

- To maintain, to protect, and to improve water quality;
- To encourage the voluntary development of farm plans for all agricultural producers;
- To raise public awareness of agriculture's contribution to improving water quality;
- To provide public education about positive management practices and implementation;
- To encourage and assist landowners in developing monitoring plans that will continue to reinforce the idea of water quality improvement in the Coos, Coquille, and Ten Mile watersheds.

The LAC reviewed these objectives and other elements of the Area Plan during the review meeting on April 28, 2010. An update of local and statewide compliance actions was given by the local ODA Water Quality Specialist, Eric Nusbaum. The recently adopted Ten Mile Basin Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) was also discussed.

For more information regarding the Biennial Review meeting or the Area Plan and Rules, please contact the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District at (541) 396-6879.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH:

2009 GUERIN MEMORIAL ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

This contest was advertised for 7-12 grade students throughout Coos County. Entries were received from Coquille High School and Myrtle Point High School. There were two grade categories this year (7-9 grades) and (10-12 grades). The students had three topic choices to choose from this year which was agreed upon by the Coos SWCD director's. Topic number one was conservation practices in Coos County which benefit salmon habitat. Topic number two was water conservation techniques and how they affect water quantity and quality. Topic number three was logging or agriculture conservation practices that benefit fish and wildlife habitat. Anne Guerin presented the awards to the students at the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting and all the students were well represented by family and friends.

1st Place (10-12 grade)



Christie Andy (C.H.S.)

2nd Place (10-12 grade)



Chase Berry (M.P.H.S.)

3rd Place (10-12 grade)



Travis Abbey (C.H.S.)

1st Place (7-9 grade)



Sara Roman (M.P.H.S.)

2nd Place (7-9 grade)



Austin Flood (C.H.S.)

3rd Place (7-9 grade)



Marcus Allen (C.H.S.)

First Annual Free Manure Pick-up Day at the G-G Ranch



This event on April 24, 2010 was an opportunity to help a landowner that needed help managing the amount of manure that she had in her storage facility. The manure storage

shed was built in 2008 but due to the amount of horses using her ranch there was a need to find a way to distribute this surplus of a very valuable soil additive to Coos County residents. The Coos SWCD looked at this a win-win for both the landowner and the community. The landowner was able to get rid of a surplus, but also gave her a way to sell the compost to returning visitors. This event was advertised by the Coos SWCD to be a one day free family event complete with pony rides, balloons, and gift bags for the kids.



This event was also an opportunity to involve the OSU Master Gardeners. Darlene Judd and her husband Mark Judd did a one hour talk about composting and garden secrets. The presenters had about 15-20 people that came and talked with the two of them. She had a lot of great handouts for example the Territorial Seed Companies Spring 2010 Catalog. The Coos SWCD also took this opportunity to give a lot of handouts about manure management. A lot of questions were asked by visitors and quite a few people came just to talk to her about composting and gardening.



Overall people came for the free poo! A total of forty-six pickups came with a few repeat offenders. The landowner got rid of over 50 cubic/yards of horse manure and reduced the amount of manure in her 24'x32' storage shed by two-thirds! Thanks to everyone involved.



MYRTLE POINT DRINKING WATER QUALITY WORKSHOP

March 4, 2010



This meeting was a chance to talk to the landowners that live on the North Fork and the East Fork of the Coquille River about drinking water quality, and it was a chance for them to talk to each other also. Ernie Newton from the Myrtle Point Drinking Water Treatment Facility really helped in explaining a lot of technical information regarding the water treatment process. Jackie Fern (DEQ) and Eric Nusbaum (ODA) were also in attendance. The crowd definitely was concerned about future regulations and requirements, but was willing to work with the Coquille Watershed Association and the Coos SWCD to try to get some work done. The group wanted testing done for e-coli and also testing for DNA to show that wildlife is a huge factor for e-coli being in the river. This meeting really broke the ice with some of the landowners and I have received some calls and interest in technical assistance soon afterwards.

Natural Resource Days at the South Slough Interpretive Center

The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District participated for the first time in the Natural Resource Days at the South Slough Interpretive Center the week of March 1-4. The event was very well organized thanks to the staff at the South Slough as well as staff from Oregon State Extension Service. The students aged 10-11 were able to learn about seven different aspects related to forestry for example aging trees by counting the number of dark

tree rings, using a compass, tree identification, and much more. The volunteer instructors were all professionals from local agencies for example Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Forest Service, and Plum Creek Timber. The kids had a lot of fun learning; there were games at lunch time and also a poster contest. This was a great event for the kids as well as for the volunteers; some of which have been doing this for many years (10+).



Eric Himmelreich (Coos SWCD) teaching 5th grade Millicoma students



COOS COUNTY FAIR NATURAL RESOURCE TENT 2010



The Natural Resource Tent was donated by the fair for the second straight year and once again was a great success. The tent was in a different location this year, adjacent to the animal exhibits. Tristan Huff from OSU extension organized the tent this year. The tent had a few new displays this year, for example the Coquille Tribes display. Once again the Coquille Watershed Association hosted the popular button making booth where kids and adults were able to select, color, and make buttons of their choice. The ODFW fish tank show casing local fish was visited by every adult and child that came into the tent. This tent is a great opportunity to get a lot of natural resource information from one location.



2010 CONFERENCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

[CONNECT 2010 in Canby, Oregon](#)



Connect 2010 was held at Canby Grove for the second straight year. Once again this training was very valuable. To have technical training every year specific to your job with Professionals from other district's is extremely educational. Once again I gained new contacts and new ideas to help our district. There are plans for this training in 2011, but the location is currently unknown.

Riparian buffers address site-specific resource concerns and provide large-scale benefits:

The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The Curry SWCD Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Technician (CREP Tech) provides technical assistance to Coos and Curry County pasture owners who choose to reduce sediment-bearing overland flow, restore native riparian vegetation, and exclude livestock from sensitive stream banks. FSA's CREP program has proven extremely popular on working ranches in Oregon, where a philosophy of "Farm the best, buffer the rest" has improved ranch operations and enhanced wildlife and fish habitat with site-specific help. Coos and Curry landowners can reach CREP Technician Barbara Grant at the Coquille USDA Service Center, 541-396-2841 Ext. 106.

With smart planning, beneficial impacts of riparian buffers continue to grow

The combination of CREP's 40% "practice incentive payment" bonus and the 75% cost-share covers approved costs and more. The CREP Cumulative Impact Bonus (CIB), which provides a special one-time payment where at least one-half the streambank on a 5-mile reach of stream is enrolled, has been used to especially good effect in Curry County this year.

CIB areas encompass much of the Floras Creek watershed riparian zone along pastures in the Langlois Drinking Water Protection Area, where riparian buffers are especially appreciated by surface-source drinking water customers. Another new Cumulative Impact Bonus in Curry County provides incentive to landowners along Willow Creek, and Butte Creek and Morton Creek pasture owners have received Cumulative Incentive Bonuses from the streams' headwater source streams to outlets along New River.

CREP addresses resource concerns and differing long-range goals

The two largest CREP projects installed this year were on widely different operations:

One large-scale fencing project helped a well-established beef producer on the North Fork of Floras Creek address concerns about herd health and livestock containment in cooperation with a Watershed Council grant administered by Curry SWCD. The NF Floras project implemented new off-stream stock watering facilities with OWEB funds, and installed new fences and buffer plantings with CREP dollars.

A second project of a similar acreage used much less fencing to exclude neighboring cattle from headwaters creeks while protecting newly-designated wildlife and timber areas on two-thirds of the ranch.

While the first landowner used CREP to enhance and expand his livestock operation with the smart use of riparian fences to create more efficient pastures, the second used CREP to cut back on his grazing land and start a long-range plan to convert under-used pasture to forest.



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 2010 Accomplishments in Coos County, Oregon:

Practice Name	Units	Applied Amount	Number of Projects
Access Control	ac	16	1
Access Road	ft	5,235	6
Brush Management	ac	375	25
Critical Area Planting	ac	2	1
Fence	ft	4,420	2
Fish Passage	mi	11	5
Forage Harvest Management	ac	29	1
Forest Slash Treatment	ac	25	9
Forest Stand Improvement	ac	395	19

Heavy Use Area Protection	ac	2	5
Irrigation System, Sprinkler	ac	190	8
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline, High-Pressure, Underground, Plastic	ft	12,966	5
Irrigation Water Management	ac	57	3
Pasture and Hay Planting	ac	16	5
Prescribed Grazing	ac	208	11
Pumping Plant	no	7	6
Riparian Forest Buffer	ac	17	2
Tree/Shrub Establishment	ac	151	10
Tree/Shrub Pruning	ac	98	3
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	ac	23	6
Underground Outlet	ft	805	4
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	ac	200	15
Wetland Enhancement	ac	115	1

For additional information on NRCS and USDA Programs visit our internet webpage at: www.or.nrcs.gov



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: (541) 396-5106
 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.

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 nation-wide programs into programs that work at the local level.*** Some of these programs currently at work in Coos County are:



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



We currently have **27 active CREP contracts in Coos County**, with more in progress, and more interest being generated. These **27 contracts cover over 230 acres** of riparian area, are protecting **over 22 miles of Coos County streams**, and earning Coos County producers **over \$23,500 in annual “rental” payments**.

More interest in this program is being generated as producers talk with their enrolled neighbors and through contacts made by Curry SWCD CREP Technician, Barbara Grant.

FSA Conservation Loan Program:

Conservation of natural resources, including soil, air and water, is a high priority to Americans. Many farmers and ranchers who need and want to implement conservation measures on their land are faced with costly expenses needed to implement these practices. Many of these individuals utilize USDA’s conservation programs, such as the EQIP and the CREP programs; however, these programs are limited to providing only a portion of the cost to implement the conservation practice.



In response to these issues, the 2008 Farm Bill authorized the new Conservation Loan program (CL), which allows FSA to provide direct or guarantee conservation loans to eligible borrowers to cover the cost of implementing qualified conservation projects. The CL Program contains ***waivers for several specific requirements from many of FSA’s traditional loan programs, such as the family farm size test, test for other available credit, and graduation requirements for standard loans.*** These differences effectively replace FSA’s traditional role as a “safety net” for America’s farmers with the ***objective to encourage natural resource conservation.***

These exceptions will allow FSA to provide access to conservation financing to more farmers and ranchers who are not our typical customers. In addition to the standard application requirements for FSA loans, CL applicants must provide the following:

- Approved Conservation Plan - must address conservation practices that will be financed by the request.
- NRCS-CPA-1155 and/or Toolkit Plan

- Transition plan (for applicants requesting priority funding) can be:
 - Part of the conservation plan, or
 - Organic plan - *must be approved by a certified agent and the state organic certification program, or*
 - Part of a grant awarded by USDA – must be awarded by the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.



FSA Disaster assistance programs were modified by the last Farm Bill:

The Farm Bill tied *eligibility for FSA provided disaster aid to having federal crop insurance or federal coverage for non-insurable crops (NAP) prior to a natural disaster.* A key component of the “new” disaster assistance is that **for any crop (except grazing) to be covered, all crops (except grazing) on all farms (in all counties) must have coverage.** *Grazing assistance programs are separate, and require a separate “grazing” NAP coverage on any grazing lands for which disaster assistance may be sought in the event of a natural disaster.*

The NAP service fee is \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 per producer with farming interests in multiple counties. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees. Crop insurance prices vary by crop and by level of coverage – *Check the RMA website for agent listings.*

FSA “Standard” Farm Loan Programs:



FSA continues to work with area farmers and ranchers, assisting them where appropriate with farm financing. Our direct loan portfolio has outstanding principle balance of over \$4.19 million in direct loans (Coos County only) and over \$3.7 million in new loans (including guarantees) for FY2010.

FSA makes both direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to family-size farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain 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.



FY-2011 Crop Commodity Loan Programs:

Wool program for 2010-crop

Producers enter into an agreement with CCC to receive loan deficiency payments (LDP) benefits in lieu of crop loans for 2010 FY crops. *Page 1* is the LDP agreement, which may be filed at any time (*such as at the beginning of the fiscal year or acreage certification*) **but before beneficial interest is lost.** This page only needs to be **filed once per crop year**, and will cover all eligible commodities (*wheat, corn, oats, barley, wool*), and if the producer is multi-county, all counties in which the producer has an interest in an eligible commodity. The final date to file *page 4 (application for payment)* on 2010 crop wool & mohair is January 31, 2011.

Information on all FSA programs is always available in the Coos/Curry FSA newsletter and on the FSA web page at [http:// www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) .

FSA Program Information

The most reliable information on new and existing FSA programs can be found at the FSA web page www.fsa.usda.gov. This Website is continuously updated. Furthermore, an e-mail alert option is available so you can receive automatic updates when new information is posted.

Special

* FSA EMAIL NEWS

If you would like to be notified by email of FSA program changes and/or information on new programs, please send me an email (bret.harris@or.usda.gov) and I'll add you to the list. You can specify livestock or crop information (or both) and you will receive "advanced copies" of the newsletter via email.

USDA was called "the peoples department" by President George Washington, and though our name has changed over the years, FSA's relationship with farmers and ranchers dates back to the 1930's. The grassroots approach FSA uses continues to give farmers a much-needed say in how Federal actions affect their communities and their individual operations. After more than 75 years, the farmer elected County Committee system remains the cornerstone of FSA's efforts to preserve and promote American agriculture.

My staff and I, along with the Coos/Curry FSA Committee, look forward to assisting all the farmers and ranches in the area as they take advantage of the many USDA programs available.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Bret A. Harris

Bret A. Harris
County Executive Director
For the Coos/Curry FSA Committee

2010 Coos/Curry FSA Committee:

LAA-1: Sharon Waterman

LAA-2: Beau Allen

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