

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District 2011-2012 Annual Report



Your Partner in Conservation Since 1953

- In the early 1930's parallel with the Great Depression came the ecological disaster known as the Dust Bowl. The Dust Bowl began as a long, severe drought in the Great Plains region causing soil to erode and blow away creating huge black dust storms. Eventually, these dust storm reached the entire nation and dust even sifted onto President Franklin D. Roosevelt's desk from the dust clouds. While soil scientist Hugh Hammond Bennett was testifying on Capitol Hill about the erosion problem he threw back the curtains to reveal a sky blackened by dust. Congress unanimously passed the Soil Conservation Act of 1935 declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. Since $\frac{3}{4}$ of the land in the United States is privately owned Congress concluded active, voluntary support from landowners would guarantee success of conservation work on private land. Landowners then formed the soil conservation districts in each of their states. The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District was established on April 30, 1953.

- Conservation Districts can be described as the local committee that increases public awareness and participation in resource conservation. Conservation Districts represent cooperators since cooperators are land users who can speak for the land, and develop plans for resource conservation bringing together entities to work on local common conservation problems. Districts identify barriers preventing land conservation and bring proposed solutions to governing bodies. Conservation Districts are best described as the marriage of education, science and technology in agriculture and natural resources at the local level.

Dust storm approaching Stratford, Texas
April 1935

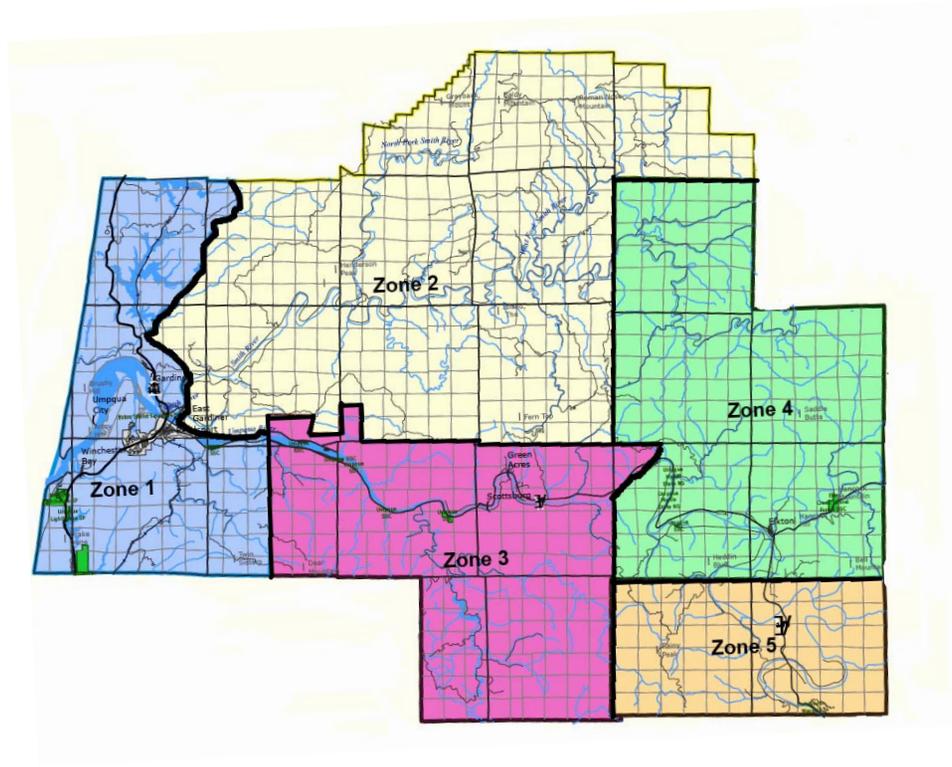


Photo Courtesy of: NOAA George E. Marsh Album

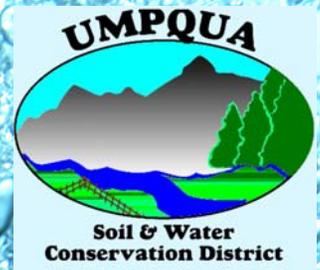


Our Location

The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District boundaries encompass 600,000 acres of northwestern Douglas County in the Lower Umpqua watershed including Winchester Bay, Reedsport, Gardiner, Tahkenitch, Siltcoos, Five-Mile, Smith River, Scottsburg, Ash Valley, Elkton, and Kellogg.



Who We Are



A seven-member Board of Directors elected in the general election serve without pay to administer District activities.

Directors

- Zone 1-Thomas Black
- Zone 2-George Black
- Zone 3-King Phelps
- Zone 4-Rod Brandon
- Zone 5-Lincoln Russell
- At-Large 1-Deborah Yates
- At-Large 2-Bob Sharp

Staff

- Rhonda Black – Conservation Technician/District Manager

Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend meetings, which are generally held at the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District office, located at 1877 Winchester Avenue in Reedsport, Oregon 97467.



“The mission of the locally led Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide assistance to any individual, group, or agency in applying natural resource conservation practices for the wise use of their natural resources”

Our Projects



2005-Umpqua SWCD Photo



2010-Umpqua SWCD Photo

Gorse control: From 2005 until 2011 Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District annually sprayed the “Umpqua Eden Gorse” site to control gorse on Bureau of Land Management property just outside the boundaries of the City of Reedsport thanks to a Rural Advisory Committee (RAC) Grant obtained through the BLM.



Noxious Weed Inventory:
Beginning in 2009 the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District began the process of inventorying noxious weeds within the District boundaries through a BLM Resource Advisory Grant.



Japanese Knotweed

Photo Courtesy of: Glenn Miller

Oregon Department of Agriculture

Our Projects

Weed Wrench Loan Program

Originally funded through the BLM RAC the District continues to promote the Weed Wrench Loan Program to District residents. The Weed Wrench is a “woody plant puller” which works by using leverage to remove plants such as scotch broom by the root which is effective and easy to use. The cost is a \$25 refundable fee for 2-weeks use.



Tide Gate Inventory & Monitoring

Culvert Missing Tide Gate



Tide Gate & Culvert in Good Condition

Funded through BLM RAC the District has been locating and prioritizing tide gates throughout the District for future maintenance and replacements with fish friendlier options for interested landowners.

Projects

Construction of a Culvert & Hardened Crossing on an Umpqua River Ranch near Elkton



Before culvert placement and gravel



After culvert placement and gravel

Funded through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grant Team Umpqua #7, The District was able to provide a sheep rancher with two highly needed culverts (one shown) to reduce mud and erosion on the ranchers property and a hardened livestock crossing through the ranchers creek to reduce sedimentation.



Our Projects

Henderer Road Off-Stream Watering CREP Partnership Project

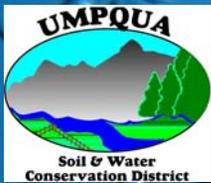
Funded through OWEB Small Grants the rancher was able to develop one spring on the property and provide a second off stream watering trough on the property for watering livestock providing a benefit for both the spring and stream (reduced erosion) and to the livestock as fresh water is pumped into the troughs for the cattle to drink which helps to reduce livestock stress.



Prior to spring development



Post spring development



Our Projects

Kellogg Upland Improvement Project

Funded through OWEB Small Grants this rancher was able to exclude cattle from a seep in the pasture, move a cattle guard to a more effective location, pipe water from a spring to two troughs, and install a hardened heavy use gravel pad under the troughs to reduce mud during the winter months.



Erosion



New Fencing

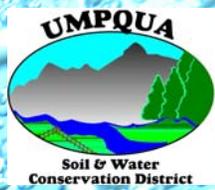


Removed cattle guard from seep run-off



New water troughs on hardened heavy use pad

Our Projects



Built Willow “Wattles” on the Main Stream of the Umpqua River for Stabilization, Erosion and Sedimentation Reduction



Before



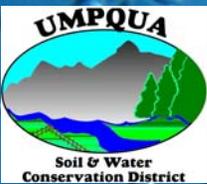
After wattle construction

Funded by OWEB Small Grants a mainstream Umpqua River landowner was able to reduce erosion and sedimentation on the property through the construction of willow “wattles” and stabilized the river bank at the same time.

Before



After wattle construction



Education & Outreach

Fourth Grade Foresters Program

Thanks to technical assistance funds from the Oregon Department of Agriculture the District was able to involve fourth grade students in Oregon's Arbor Day Celebration in concurrence with the fifth and six grade students Douglas fir tree planting days at both Elkton and Highland Elementary schools.



Fourth-graders get fir tree seedlings to plant

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011 9:10 AM PDT

By Deborah Yates, Staff writer

Although Arbor Day is not officially celebrated nationally until the last Friday in April, the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District collaborated with the national conservation group, Fourth Grade Foresters, to provide an opportunity for each fourth-grader in Reedsport and Elkton elementary schools to celebrate the spirit of Arbor Day by planting a seedling fir tree.

District manager Rhonda Black and assistant conservation technician Laura Smith handed out 95 trees last week so all students would have a tree of their own to take home and plant. Along with the trees, each student was given a packet containing information about trees, soils, backyard conservation, bees, composting and dirt.

"The Fourth Grade Foresters project is a fantastic way to get young people involved in the outdoors and interested in nature. Trees are a great renewable resource and good for our watersheds," Black said.

Education & Outreach

BLM Native Planting Project

Funded by the BLM RAC the focus of the Native Plant Project is to teach students why native plants are important to the watershed and how to propagate and plant native plants.

Students from Elkton High Charter School were instructed by Elkton Community Education Center staff on how to propagate plants such as Pacific Dogwood, Wax Myrtle, and Yew providing care for the plants during the hot summer months, then taken out on field trips the next spring to areas along Russell Creek on the Upper Smith River by High School Teacher Randy Harper and Umpqua Soil & Water staff and volunteers where the students planted the plants, used GPS technology to mark where each plant was planted, and noted items such as soil conditions as part of a study the Biology class is completing.

The planting sites are access roads where vegetation was removed in order to place logs and boulders in the stream for fish habitat by the Smith River Watershed Council.

Students receiving instructions upon arrival at the site.



Students planting plants.



An impromptu visit by ODF&W Fish Biologist Dan Jenkins at the planting site. Mr. Jenkins provided information on wildlife habitat and the importance of plant diversity.



Education & Outreach

Tsalila!

Funded through ODA the District is able to reach out to students by providing hands on training about benthic macro invertebrates and how these little creatures indicate water quality and stream health.

Tsalila Field Trips to Charlotte Creek



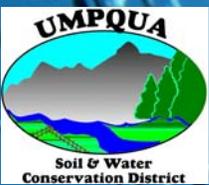
Teaching 6-8th grade students about benthic macro invertebrates (water bugs) and their relationship to healthy streams.



Tsalila Education Days



3rd Grade Students from south coast area schools learning about benthic macro invertebrates at the “Bug Zone” during the Tsalila Festival.



Education & Outreach



Gillirose Vineyard

Flick's Willow Project



Brandborg Winery



Zimmer's Alfalfa Field

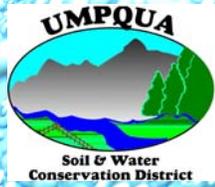


Umpqua Soil & Water 3rd Annual Wine & Agriculture Tour

For the past three-years the District has been doing a wine and agriculture tour to gain awareness among District residents regarding farm conservation practices and to increase local knowledge about farmers and ranchers in the area.

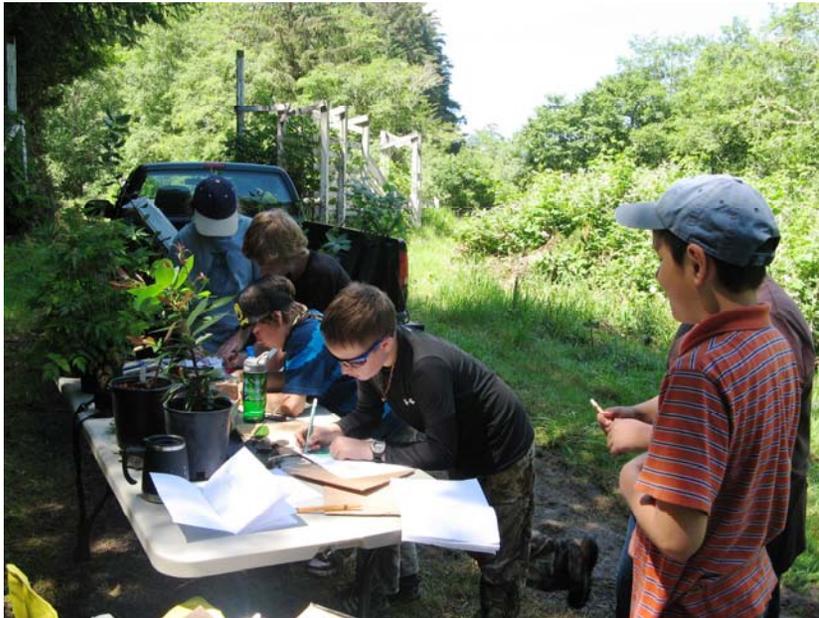
This year the District's tour included visits to Gregory and Trudy Flick's Umpqua River Stream Stabilization project where willows were planted to reduce erosion, a tour of their organic gardens and orchard, and information regarding solar energy. The second visit on the tour was to the Gillirose Vineyard where vineyard owner Gillian Sietz explained viticulture to tour attendees as well as a tour of her beautiful rose garden. Lunch was provided by Tomaselli's Pastry Mill. The third stop was to Brandborg Winery where tour attendees were provided an in-depth tour of the wine making facility. The fourth stop was to Rudy and Rhonda Zimmer's ranch where hay production was explained to tour attendees.

Education & Outreach



Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camps

Assisted the Siuslaw Watershed Council by teaching students the value of native plants historically found at the Fivemile-Bell Restoration Site just north of Gardiner, Oregon.



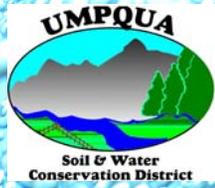
Envirothon

Assisted the Elkton Charter School Envirothon Team and their instructors in preparation for the Envirothon and at the Envirothon at the Oregon Gardens in Silverton, Oregon.

Rookies of the Year

Congratulations Elkton Charter School Envirothon Team and teacher, Randy Harper!





Outreach & Education

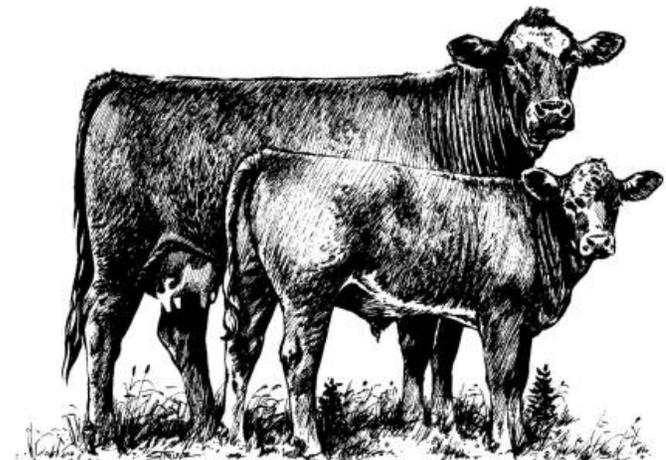
Oregon State University Mud & Manure Management Workshop

Partnered with the Douglas County OSU Extension Service to host a Mud & Manure Workshop. OSU Extension Service Regional Livestock & Forages Specialist Shelby Filley and Raini Rippy presented information about livestock in small pastures, paddocks, confined spaces and how this can equal mud and what to do to reduce that mud. Composting, soil testing, and fertilizer values were also taught in the class.



...And more!

Soil Testing is a service the District provides to area residents. By testing soil residents know how much fertilizer and what kind of fertilizer they need to amend their soil with reducing over-fertilization and the risk of having excess fertilizer wash into rivers and streams. Soil testing is funded by ODA.



Our Partners

The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District works with the following agencies to help residents with their conservation needs:

Bureau of Land Management
National Marine Fisheries Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Oregon Department of Agriculture
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Oregon Department of State Lands
Oregon State University
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
Siuslaw Institute
Siuslaw Watershed Council
Smith River Grange #585
Smith River Watershed Council
United States Forest Service

OUR VISION STATEMENT

“To be a respected, valued community organization committed to managing a natural resource base for future generations. To ensure sustainable agricultural and forest production, supporting functioning human, wildlife, fish and forest habitat.”



Income & Expense

UMPQUA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT	
Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures	
Year Ended June 30, 2012	
REVENUES:	
Intergovernmental	\$108,291
Interest	22
Other Income	1,510
Total Revenues	109,823
Expenditures:	
Personal Services	
Payroll	73,473
Payroll taxes & Benefits	7,205
Total Personal Services	80,678
Materials and Services:	
Rent	9,392
Materials and supplies	2,693
Contract labor	5,000
Training and travel	3,293
Office expense	3,849
Professional fees	2,540
Auto expense	2,524
Telephone and internet	2,391
Insurance and bonds	1,990
Outreach	1,381
Other	6,041
Total Materials and Services	41,094
Capital Outlay	0
Total Expenditures	212,772
Net Change in Fund Balance	-11,949
Fund Balance -- beginning of year	18,565
Fund Balance -- end of year	\$ 6,616

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Conservation District**
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