



UMPQUA

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 415, Reedsport, Oregon 97467, (541) 662-1341

Email: rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com

Website: <https://umpquasoilandwater.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UmpquaSoilandWaterConservationDistrict

Newsletter – December 2023

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District is a non-regulatory agency here to help our community conserve natural resources through educational, financial and technical assistance. Since 1953 Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District has been serving the residents of Northwestern Douglas County by partnering with landowners to empower them to be stewards and experts on their own land.

NEWS

Glover Estuary Enhancement Tide Gate Installations

We have great news to share! New tide gates were installed at the Glover Estuary Enhancement Project site in September 2023.

This project began in 2016 after an Umpqua SWCD Board Director invited the landowner to a business meeting to learn more about the Tide Gate Program and Umpqua SWCD in general. Following that meeting, the landowner invited us to his property to look at the tide gates and to meet our partners. At that time, Umpqua SWCD was working through an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Technical Assistance (TA) Grant which funded outreach and tide gate prioritization efforts in both the Lower Umpqua and Smith River watersheds. Prior to this point, Umpqua SWCD was working under a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Grant in order to locate and document tide gates. Both of these grants helped us to create partnerships with other like-minded organizations. Soon, our efforts created increased interest in the tide gate effort and grew into a large partnership group, and the Umpqua Estuary Restoration Partnership was formed. This group served as a technical advisory group to Umpqua SWCD and our project partners.

In 2018 our project partner at The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR) applied to OWEB for a Technical Assistance Grant to fund design, engineering, and permitting for this tide gate project. The next phase was to apply for an OWEB Restoration Grant which was awarded in 2019. The OWEB Restoration Grant is providing funding for the replacement of two failing tide gates with new culverts with side opening tide gates fitted with Muted Tide Gate Regulators (MTR) in order to increase fish passage, upgrade tidal channels where needed, build livestock grazing management fencing and off-channel water systems, replace low water fords with 4 bridges, and enhance channels with native plants.



March 2023 – Tide gates fabricated and ready for delivery.



September 2023 – One of the tide gates & culverts being moved to the installation location.



Glover Estuary Enhancement Tide Gate Installations



September 2023 – Single tide gate and culvert installation.

MTRs can be adjusted at each tide gate to provide a designated number of flooded acres at high tide in the winter and a designated number of acres during high tides in the summer. In this case, the acres of summer flooding will occur within the channels. Tide gates like these improve fish passage in the Umpqua River Estuary and this is important for Oregon Coast coho and eulachon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and Pacific lamprey. Use of MTRs can provide natural subirrigation in pastures during the summer months for increased pasture forage while improving water quantity and quality.

It's a win-win to improve salmon habitat and increase productivity on agricultural lands.

MTRs work because the side-hinge tide gate control is dependent on the interior water level with the MTR being in the default open position, whereas traditional top flap gates are dependent on the exterior water levels with the tide gate being in the default closed position. Additionally, MTRs are fitted with a weighted float tank that provides an auxiliary source of energy to open the gate during times of small to absence flows. More information about MTRs can be found at Nehalem Marine Manufacturing's website, <https://www.nehalemmarine.com/muted-tidal-regulator>.

Join us and our partners for a post tide gate installation tour in the near future!



October 2023 – Post construction meeting at the single tide gate site.



Interior view of MTR System with walkway installed on the left, and tide gate culverts installed on right.



September 2023 – Set of tide gates in process of being installed.

Interested in replacing your tide gates that may be undersized or not working as well as you would like?

Umpqua SWCD can assist you with your tide gate replacement project(s)!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Soil Health Management 101 for Landowners

Whether you run a commercial farm, ranch, or a back yard garden this workshop is for you!

You don't want to miss this great opportunity to attend a soil health workshop in beautiful Winchester Bay!

Presented by Oregon State University Extension Service and Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District.

Soil management is critical for crop production and longevity of your land. In this workshop, participants will learn how to manage their landscape to maximize their production goals. Participants will learn about long-term management for soil sustainability, using the various forms of fertilizers and pesticides, and the many ways of improving soil quality.

OSU County Extension Service Small Farms & Master Gardiner Coordinator Logan Bennett and Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Planner & District Manager Rhonda Black will present information about best management practices to improve soil tilth including various soil conditions, soil quality and structure, erosion control, fertilizer needs, how to take and interpret soil samples, plus answer questions at this soil tilth workshop.

When: Saturday, January 20th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

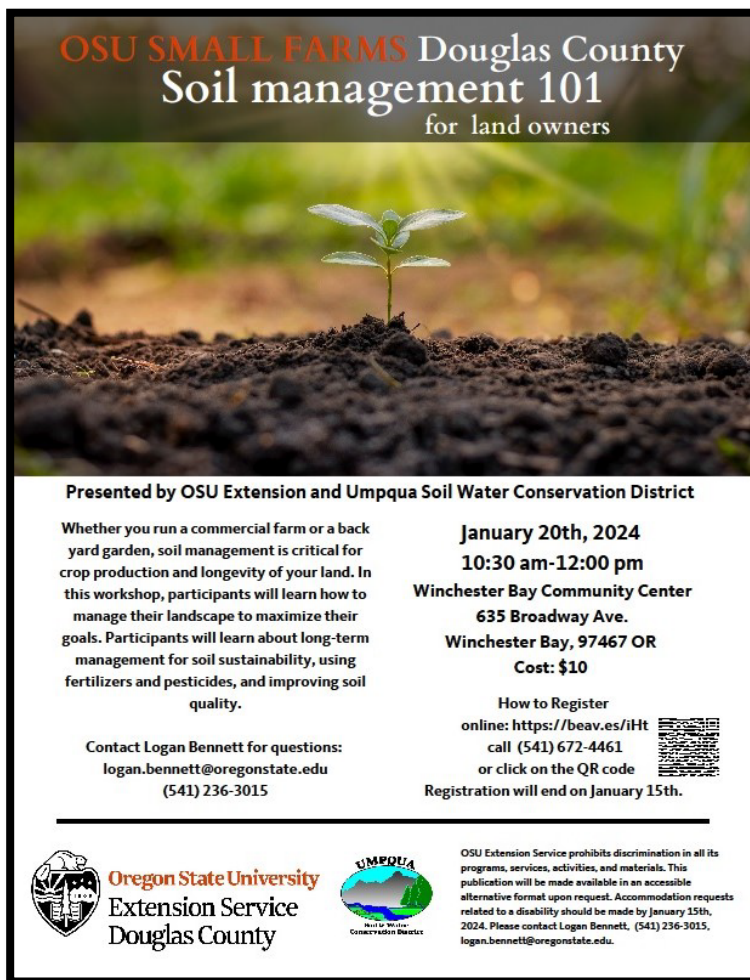
Where: Winchester Bay Community Center

635 Broadway Ave., Winchester Bay, OR 97467

Cost: \$10

Register by going to:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/events/soil-management-101-land-owners> or by contacting Logan Bennett at Logan.bennett@oregonstate.edu or by calling (541) 672-4461.



OSU SMALL FARMS Douglas County
Soil management 101
for land owners

Presented by OSU Extension and Umpqua Soil Water Conservation District



Whether you run a commercial farm or a back yard garden, soil management is critical for crop production and longevity of your land. In this workshop, participants will learn how to manage their landscape to maximize their goals. Participants will learn about long-term management for soil sustainability, using fertilizers and pesticides, and improving soil quality.

January 20th, 2024
10:30 am-12:00 pm
Winchester Bay Community Center
635 Broadway Ave.
Winchester Bay, 97467 OR
Cost: \$10

How to Register
online: <https://beav.es/iHt>
call (541) 672-4461
or click on the QR code

Contact Logan Bennett for questions:
logan.bennett@oregonstate.edu
(541) 236-3015

Registration will end on January 15th.

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials. This publication will be made available in an accessible format upon request. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by January 15th, 2024. Please contact Logan Bennett, (541) 236-3015, logan.bennett@oregonstate.edu.

SERVICES

Soil Testing: Are You Prepared for Spring Planting? Do you know your soils pH?

Spring is right around the corner! Contact the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Office today to schedule your soil test in preparation for spring fertilizer and lime applications. Spring lime applications helps to balance soil pH, allows essential nutrients to feed the grass, manages moss and weed problems, fortifies plants with calcium, and improves the performance of fertilizer.


Lime should never be applied to pastures or lawns that are stressed or dormant, so please keep that in mind. Soil tests are currently free to District residents and provide application rates for lime, nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, and boron.

Weed Wrench Loan Program

Weed Wrenches are woody plant pullers and available for loan through Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District. These plant pullers are most effectively used when the soil is soft in the spring and are suited for leveraging scotch broom, small trees, and even blackberry roots from the soil. Requires a \$25 refundable deposit for a 2-week time period. Contact us today to rent one of these helpful tools.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Natural Resources Conservation Service & Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Local Work Group Meeting



**DOUGLAS COUNTY-
REEDSPORT AREA
NRCS LOCAL WORK
GROUP MEETING**

NRCS & SWCD Local Work Group Meetings are a valuable part of the NRCS planning, and it provides an opportunity for Conservation organizations and land managers to be part of a collaborative effort to improve natural resources within your county. **You are invited to:**

- ✓ Hear about and provide input on USDA programs and current projects
- ✓ Discuss current Douglas County, Reedsport area natural resource and agricultural production issues
- ✓ Connect with other conservation partners, agricultural producers and forest owners
- ✓ Strategize on future USDA program implementation in the Douglas County, specifically Reedsport area, related to local food production, and other opportunities

WHERE: Reedsport Port of Umpqua Annex, 1841 Winchester Ave.

DATE: January 24th, 2024
TIME: 1PM—4:30PM

For more information contact:
Rhonda Black (SWCD) 541-662-1341, rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com or
David Ferguson (NRCS) 541-378-3536, david.ferguson@usda.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.or.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

When: Wednesday, January 24, 2024
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Where: Port of Umpqua Annex Building,
1841 Winchester Ave., Reedsport, OR 97467
Cost: Free
Contact: David Ferguson (NRCS) 541-378-3536,
david.ferguson@usda.gov, or Rhonda Black
(Umpqua SWCD) 541-662-1341,
rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com

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- Hear about and provide input on USDA programs and current projects.
- Discuss current Douglas County, Reedsport area natural resource and agricultural production issues.
- Connect with other conservation partners, agricultural producers and forest owners.
- Strategize on future USDA program implementation in the Douglas County, specifically in the Reedsport area, related to local food production, and other opportunities.

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Director's Meetings

January 11th, February 8th, March 14th

Our meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month and held virtually.

Please email rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com to obtain meeting information and instructions for attending virtually.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grants are available to District residents and producers for a variety of water quality/Ag WQ and habitat improvement projects through our Umpqua 7 Small Grant Team! Now is the time to start thinking about projects to implement in the Summer and Fall of 2024. You know your property better than anyone else. Look around and let us know what you need assistance with.

Contact the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Office in order to begin the application process. Grants are available in amounts up to \$15,000.

Project Examples:

Livestock Exclusion Fencing, Off-Stream Watering Systems, Hardened Livestock Feeding Areas, Improved Livestock Crossings and Livestock Access Roads, and More!

UMPQUA OAKS

Steve Denney – Coordinator for the Umpqua Oaks Partnership

Oaks are an extremely important tree species that exist world-wide. In North America oak species support more forms of life than any other tree genus and since they produce enormous root systems, this fact alone makes them important tree species when it comes to soil stabilization, carbon sequestration and watershed management.

In the Umpqua Watershed, we have five species of oaks including the Oregon White Oak, California Black Oak, Tan Oak, Saddlers Oak and Canyon Live Oak. Native American Tribes depended on oaks for food by processing acorns for flour and actively managed oak trees with the use of controlled burning to remove the understory and promote grass production for attracting deer, elk and bear for hunting.



Oak Woodlands at Dear Ranch

Oaks have not been a featured tree species since there are limited commercial uses and have been removed for firewood, cleared for livestock pasture, converted to conifer production and cleared for intensive agriculture such as vineyards. Since the mid 1800's the emphasis has been to put out fires which, along with invasive species such as blackberry, English Hawthorne and Scotch Broom, have allowed a build-up of fuel loads making the land more susceptible to the catastrophic fire events we have experienced in Oregon over the last decades.

Oaks have other advantages as well since they are long lived, 300-400 years with some living over 400 years and they are a very drought resistant species which is valuable in today's climate.

Three years ago, the Umpqua Oaks Partnership was formed by landowners, the public, non-governmental entities and governmental agencies to help educate the public on the value of oaks and what they might do to actively manage, conserve and restore oaks to the landscape. For more information on Oaks contact Steve Denney, at stevedenn@mydfn.net or by phone at 541-671-1803.

DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT

Director Responsibilities:

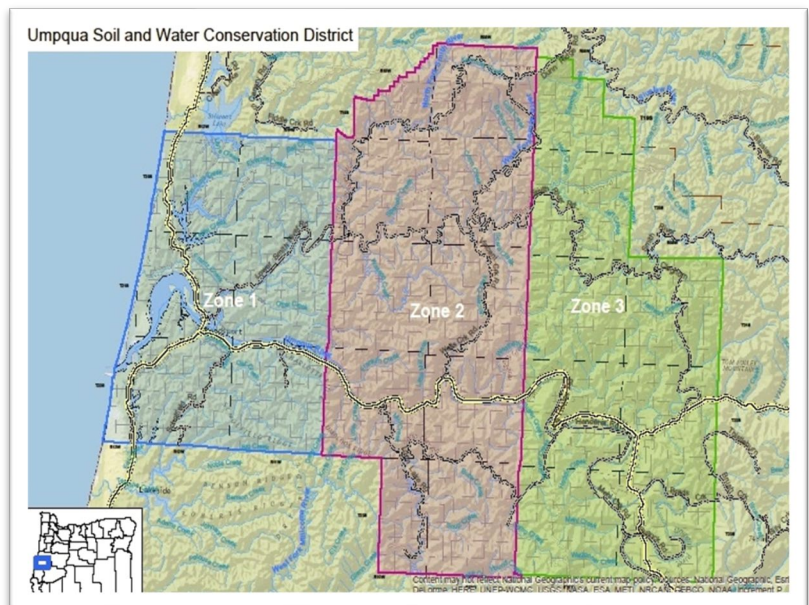
The Board of Directors set the direction of the District through the development and/or oversight of the strategic plan, biennial work plan, and District policies, with input from the District Manager and Staff. The Board and Staff enjoy a great working relationship that ensures natural resource stewardship programs and projects are available to all Douglas County citizens within the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District boundaries.

An individual Board member may only exercise their authority and responsibility of his or her position when the Board is in legal session and only as part of a specific Board action (e.g. resolution, motion, policy, etc.) and must be recorded in the public meetings minutes. Individual Board members may be given limited authority to act on behalf of the Board only when authorized by a specific Board action.

The responsibilities of the Board of Directors include but are not limited to the following tasks:

Approval and tracking of budgets, require and understand sufficient financial reports, oversight, employee performance reviews, approval and monitoring of annual work plan, strategic plan development and approval, represent Interests of Constituents, come to meetings informed and prepared, stay abreast of local conservation issues, promote the District's work to local landowners, local and state agencies, legislators, and other organizations.

In addition to the responsibilities listed above, the Directors, as a Board, have legal powers under ORS 568.550. To find out more go to: https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_568.550



DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT

The District is currently recruiting for the Zone 3 position to be appointed to the Umpqua SWCD Board of Directors.

Zone Director qualifications:

- Must be a registered voter within the Umpqua SWCD boundary in Douglas County.
- Reside within the zone being represented within the District.
- Own or manage 10-acres of land within the zone represented, *or*
- Serve at least one year as a Director or Associate Director and have a District-approved conservation plan.

An interactive map of the District and zones can be found at:

<https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=31b2f5ae9d494ecfbf7ff2608061a63f>

Please contact Umpqua SWCD if you are interested in becoming a Zone 3 Director!

FARM CONSERVATION PLANNING

Farm Conservation Plans are documents developed jointly by Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District and land managers. Farm Conservation Plans include actions that land managers can take to achieve their land use goals while protecting water and other natural resources. The planning process takes into consideration the size of the farm, type of soils, slope of the land, proximity to streams or water bodies, type of livestock or crops, and resources such as machinery, buildings and available finances.

Umpqua SWCD's Conservation Planner looks at changes that can be made to improve farm productivity and reduce impacts on natural resources. Some examples include stream-side fencing, gutters and downspouts, composting manure, pasture management and renovation, weed management, creating sacrifice areas, cross fencing and pasture rotation of livestock. Our Farm Conservation Planner can offer technical assistance on questions such as what grasses to plant, how to build a fence and when to mow.

Once the land manager has decided which changes they'd like to make on their property, they work with our Conservation Planner to set a tentative implementation schedule. Revisions of the schedule and the plan can be made as the goals and needs of the land manager change.

Farm Conservation Plans can help land managers, who have livestock, to meet the requirements of the Oregon Department of Agriculture Umpqua Basin Agricultural Water Quality Area Plan. This document can be found by going to:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/NaturalResources/UmpquaAWQMAreaPlan.pdf>

All aspects of Farm Conservation Planning services provided by Umpqua SWCD are free of charge and without obligation. Umpqua SWCD is a non-regulatory, non-enforcement agency.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email? Send us an email with "newsletter" in the subject line to rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com to let us know! If you are not yet receiving this newsletter and would like to, but don't use email, call (541) 662-1341 and we'll add you to our mailing list.

MISSION

"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."

CONTACT INFORMATION

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District:

Email: rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com , Telephone: (541) 662-1341

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 415, Reedsport, Oregon 97467

Website: <https://umpquasoilandwater.com/> , Facebook: www.facebook.com/UmpquaSoilandWaterConservationDistrict

