



# UMPQUA

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

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Newsletter – December 2024

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

## Groundwork: The Basics of Soil Science

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Presents:

### GROUNDWORK: THE BASICS OF SOIL SCIENCE



**WHEN:** FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH FROM 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**WHERE:** THE GREAT GARDEN, 2605 LONGWOOD DRIVE, REEDSPORT, OREGON 97467

**COST:** FREE TO ATTEND! NO SIGN UP REQUIRED.

#### Hands on Workshop!

Join the Umpqua Soil Water Conservation District for an enlightening soils class! Participants will delve into the fascinating world of soil composition, learn how to conduct soil tests, and discover effective fertilization techniques to enhance soil health. Experts from the Natural Resource Conservation Service will also be on hand to share their knowledge and insights. Don't miss this opportunity to improve your soil management skills and connect with fellow enthusiasts!

#### NRCS Soil Health Trailer!

Come by and check out the NRCS Soil Health Trailer complete with rain simulator, and the opportunity to visit with the NRCS Soil Conservationist about science-based soil information to help manage, conserve, and appraise soil.

Need more information? Call (541) 662-1341, email: [rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com](mailto:rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com)

Don't miss this great opportunity to join Umpqua SWCD, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Logan Bennett for our no cost, hands-on class workshop, "Groundwork: The Basics of Soil Science" at the Great Garden in Reedsport.

We've got two hours planned for you, with everything you need to know about the fascinating world of soil composition, learn how to conduct soil tests, and discover effective fertilization techniques to enhance soil health. Experts from the Natural Resource Conservation Service will also be on hand to share their knowledge and insights. Don't miss this opportunity to improve your soil management skills and connect with fellow enthusiasts!

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We're looking forward to visiting with you at the Great Garden, at 2605 Longwood Drive in Reedsport on February 7<sup>th</sup>!

Need a reminder-flyer?

<https://www.umpquasoilandwater.com/files/fcab0c21c/02-072025+Umpqua+SWCD+Soil+Health+Class+Flyer.pdf>





# Fall Farm Tour: Livestock Heavy Use Area & Rainwater Runoff Management

A quiet visit to two Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grant Projects near Reedsport, Oregon.

Did you miss our Small Farm Tour in November near Reedsport? If so, we'll have additional tours at later dates, which will give you other chances to visit our rainwater management project with a heavy use area, and our riparian protection/livestock exclusion fencing project complete with "elk jumps" incorporated into the fencing system. Small projects, like these, improve water quality on agriculture lands. Want to learn more about Oregon's Agriculture Water Quality Management Plan for the Umpqua Basin?

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



November 11<sup>th</sup> Small Grant Farm Tour.



Livestock Exclusion Fencing with Elk Jump.



Runoff Management: Gutters, Downspouts, Drainpipe, and Heavy Use Area.

## MEETINGS OF INTEREST

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

January 9<sup>th</sup>, February 13<sup>th</sup>, March 13<sup>th</sup>

Meetings are generally held the 2nd Thursday of each month and held virtually.

Meeting information can be found on our website at <https://www.umpquasoilandwater.com/board-meetings>

Elk Creek Watershed Coalition, Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., in-person at the Drain Civic Center located at 205 West A Avenue, Drain, Oregon 97435.





The Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaboration began in 2014 and its members were concerned about the loss of open sand habitat at the Oregon dunes. The open sand is being taken over by invasive plant species like European beach grass, Scotch broom and gorse. Members included ATV enthusiasts and other recreationists, members of environmental groups, members of tribes, local, state and federal agency representatives, and local businesses. Its mission is “The Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative works to collaboratively support, guide, and promote Oregon dunes restoration and the preservation of the open sand habitat that benefits the plants, animals, and people who live and play in this special place.”

Volunteer efforts to remove the invasive Scotch broom and gorse started in 2015. In 2020 with the Covid pandemic the Collaborative stopped meeting, although volunteer efforts and the steering committee continued. Now, the steering committee would like to revive the larger ODRC group and broaden its efforts to restore the open sand habitat of the Oregon dunes. If you would like to attend the next meeting, go to the ODRC website, and sign up at [www.SaveOregonDunes.org/Volunteer](http://www.SaveOregonDunes.org/Volunteer) and in the comment section, state you would like to attend the next ODRC meeting.

ODRC is in need of volunteers to help distribute brochures to local businesses and attend volunteer events to remove Scotch broom and gorse. Last year 50 volunteers contributed 111 hours of their time to remove 3 acres of Scotch broom at 4 different locations at the Oregon dunes. Much more needs to be done, so if you can help by volunteering or donating, go to [www.SaveOregonDunes.org](http://www.SaveOregonDunes.org). If you would like to learn more about the Oregon dunes ecosystem and ODRC, there is a 7-minute video at [www.SaveOregonDunes.org/Learn](http://www.SaveOregonDunes.org/Learn) (Saving the Oregon Dunes).



ODRC Scotch Broom Removal Work Party.



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)!**



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

**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 of 2025.

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, Heavy Use Livestock Areas such as Hardened Livestock Feeding Areas, Improved Livestock Crossings, Manure Storage Facilities, and More!

**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/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](mailto: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.

## DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT

### **The District is currently recruiting for the Zone 2 and Zone 3 positions 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 2 or Zone 3 Director!

### **Director Responsibilities:**

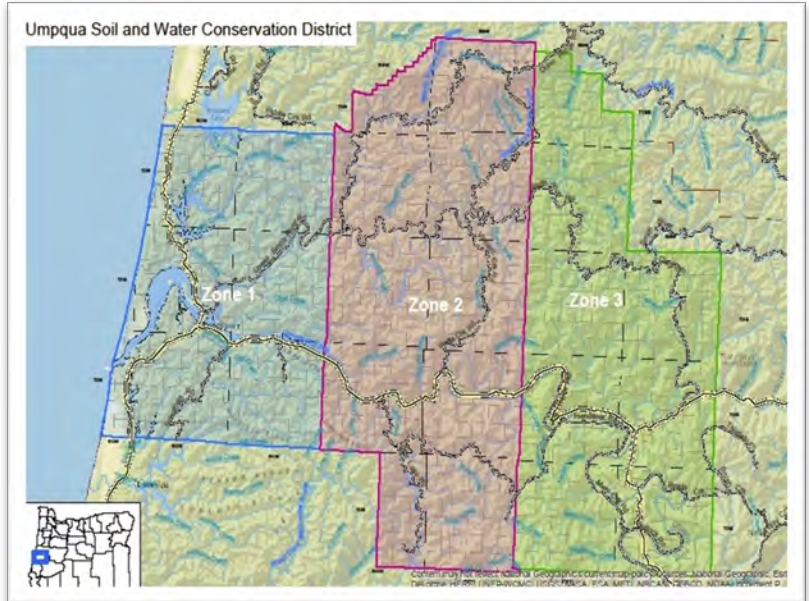
The Board of Directors set the direction of the District through the development and/or oversight of the strategic plan, biennial work plan, and District policies, with input from the District Manager and Staff. The Board and Staff enjoy a great working relationship that ensures natural resource stewardship 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](https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_568.550)



## MISSION STATEMENT

**“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:**

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

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Check out our website! Go to <https://www.umpquasoilandwater.com/> where you can find out meeting information, event flyers and links, newsletters, our YouTube Channel and more!

