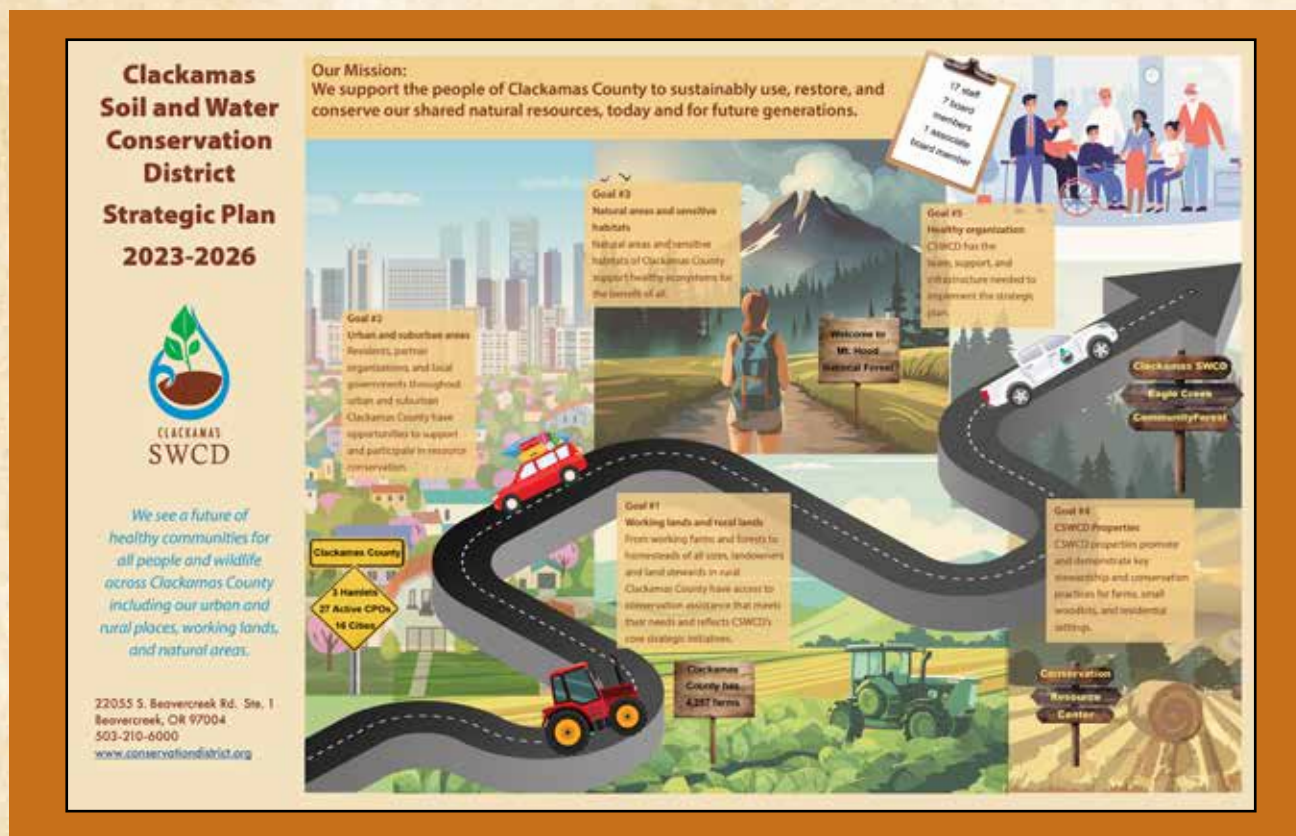


Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District

2022-2023 Annual Report



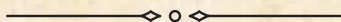
A Look Back - District Manager

The landscape for conservation has changed. Fewer undeveloped acres, new invasive species, and significant climate events are more common. While not everyone agrees on the causes or solutions, one thing is certain, “Change” is the theme in all our programmatic work. This annual report reflects change. The completion of a five-year strategic plan identifies new District priorities so we may rise to the challenge of combatting new invasive species; restructuring our programs to address post-wildfire events; and providing improved and updated resources/services to the communities we serve. Also this year, we said farewell to a seasoned conservationist but celebrated future conservation leaders joining our ranks.



Navigating change and keeping your sanity is a challenge. I found great benefit from the formation of a District Manager “support group”. Three years ago, when I came to Clackamas, I connected with the new District Manager at East Multnomah SWCD. We shared challenges, brainstormed solutions, and shared resources. The cohort of two has grown to eight SWCD managers in the Willamette Basin. We meet quarterly to discuss and collaborate. This support helps us know we are not alone in navigating changing times.

Chris Lapp



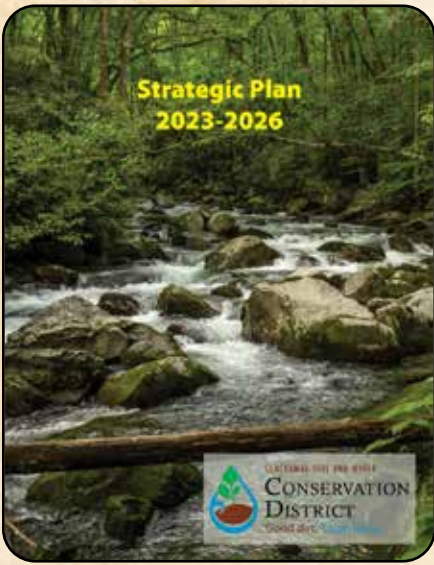
Thoughts on the Year -Chair of the Board

Thank you for taking the time to review our annual report for 2022-23. And what a productive and exciting year it has been! It was rewarding to direct our focus on the work itself rather than dealing with past pandemic-related barriers to the mechanics of our effort. Some highlights include:

- Increasing support grants for Watershed Councils and Farmer’s Markets after responsible budget decisions limited these funds.
- Exciting plans for the Conservation Resource Center as we implement the visions we had when we first committed to this project.
- Successful strategic planning efforts continue to help define the role of the District moving forward.
- Our DEI efforts continue to guide the language of the District, improving how we work with partners, cooperators, and each other.

These efforts have certainly positioned the District for a bright, productive future.

Jeff Becker

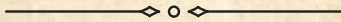


For the past twelve months, the District has worked to create a roadmap to guide us for the next three years and beyond.

The plan was developed collaboratively by Board directors and staff with input from our stakeholders and partners. It articulates both traditional and new approaches to support the natural resource priorities of the District and to realize our full conservation mission potential.

This [Strategic Plan](#) will serve as a framework to guide the actions of the District for the coming years. We recognize that, as with all strategic plans, it is a fluid plan, and we will utilize adaptive management practices to accomplish

our stated goals and strategies.



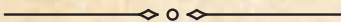
The [Emerald Ash Borer](#) (EAB), an invasive insect, was discovered in Forest Grove, Oregon this year. EAB threatens ash trees that have been heavily used in riparian restoration throughout the Willamette Valley for years.

The conservation community has banded together to learn more and track this potentially devastating invasion. District staff have joined in the effort and set traps around Clackamas County.



E.R.Day, Virginia PISU, Bugwood.org

Restoration projects and technical assistance for landowners now include warnings about the insect and provide alternatives in native tree planting recommendations.



Reducing Pesticide Drift With Windsocks

When we partner with other organizations, we accomplish much more than we would alone. This year the District joined forces with the Clackamas River Water Providers to produce a series of 4 videos on ways to reduce pesticide drift and pesticide use.

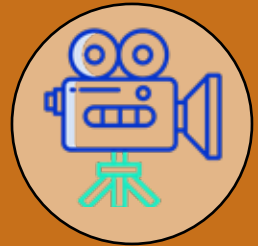
These videos were between 2:53 and 6:54 minutes long and featured local

producers discussing practices they use that are advantageous to their operation, but also provide an ecological benefit. These and our other videos may be viewed on our [Clackamas SWCD Vimeo Channel](#).



274

Site visits to provide conservation assistance to Clackamas County residents



8

New District videos this year with 510 views on our [Vimeo Channel](#)



\$ 54,762

Dollars in on-the-ground conservation projects in Clackamas County



A drone was purchased to assist in conservation planning and in educational video production



Clair Klock with Chris Lapp



Jordan DeLawder



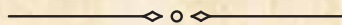
Monte Mattsson



Bee Sinichko

Clair Klock retired this year after having served local SWCDs for over 25 years. For 21.5 of those years he was with Clackamas SWCD! From his videos, site visits, and workshops to his active rainwater harvesting advocacy Clair is the most recognized and widely loved staff person in the District! He has a passion for conservation that will undoubtedly bring him back to the District to volunteer or serve on committees. **We will miss you, Clair!**

There was no time for sadness as we had three new faces join the District this year. Jordan DeLawder joined our Conservation Planning Department, while Bee Sinichko and Monte Mattsson became our new WeedWise Specialists. **Welcome to the new staff members!**

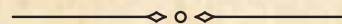


Restoration after the 2020 Labor Day Wildfires has required partnership, dedication, and patience from landowners and natural resource partners. Restoration efforts included the District partnering with the Clackamas River Basin Council, Molalla River Watch, the Pudding River Watershed Council, and OSU Extension to help folks access



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board restoration grants for eligible landowners in the Riverside and Beachie Creek fire footprints.

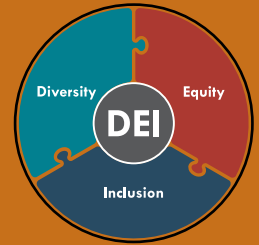
Projects included the removal of hazard trees, control of invasive weeds, replanting of native vegetation, and moisture-saving mulch. Due to drought and excessive heat, a grant extension will allow dead seedlings to be replaced this spring.



The white rock larkspur (*Delphinium leucophaeum*) is on the [Oregon endangered species list](#), with fewer than 20 known locations for this plant across its range in the northern Willamette Valley. The majority of the known sites are located in Clackamas County.

District staff have coordinated with interested agencies, SWCDs, and a private landowner to devise a plan for seed collection and transport from multiple sites.

The goal is to work with Metro's Native Plant Nursery to use the collected seed to diversify the genetics of the existing populations and outplant new populations, building resilience for this declining species.



Our [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement](#) and [web accessibility statement](#) were developed and published



410

Subscribers to our monthly wrap-up of conservation posts



9

In-person events offered/ sponsored after 3 years of virtual only options



75,182

Times articles were viewed on [conservationdistrict.org](#) website this year

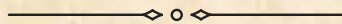


As recovery from the 2020 Labor Day Wildfires continues, our WeedWise program is partnering with the Mt Hood National Forest to support noxious weed control in the Riverside Fire footprint.

Two agreements resulted from the partnership. The first allocates an additional

\$762,000 to existing funding that will support three new WeedWise program staff, pay for contracted weed control services and equipment to support the planned efforts.

An additional \$250,000 is allocated under a second agreement supporting contracted weed control services within the burn areas of the Riverside Fire. These additional resources total \$1,012,000 over the next 4 years to support weed control efforts.



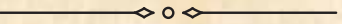
Finally, we held the first in-person workshop at the Conservation Resource Center!



In April 2020 the Gardening for Wildlife workshop was supposed to be the first workshop held at the Conservation Resource Center. However, everything was canceled in spring, 2020.

It was an exciting day, March 4, 2023, when we greeted attendees in our conference room and online to learn about creating habitat for wildlife in home landscapes.

This workshop was offered through a partnership between the Clackamas River Basin Council, The National Wildlife Federation, The Backyard Habitat Certification program, and the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District.



Good invasive weed control starts upstream. This year we treated a class B noxious weed, parrot feather, which invaded the lower pond at the Conservation Resource Center.

The District receives many calls for parrot feather infestations. Staff provides technical guidance on integrated pest management to control this weed which includes raking the plant out of ponds. Also, this year, we added two new pond rakes available in our [District Tool Library](#).



Luckily, the District's lower pond serves to capture and prevent the dispersal of parrot feather downstream. During late summer, our pond dries out allowing for complete control.



2,219
Landowners giving permission to treat invasive weeds



4,835
Acres of invasive weeds surveyed and treated



58
Partnering organizations in invasive weed management

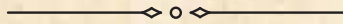


\$ 429,219
Dollars spent on contractors to manage noxious weeds



The [Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program](#) (WHCMP) received a boost this year with the passage of Oregon House Bill 2527, streamlining the administration of this program. The WHCMP is a critical tool used by SWCDs to encourage private landowners to implement and maintain practices that promote vital habitat. For example, incentivizing oak habitat restoration, which requires a lengthy time investment in project management and maintenance with little commercial benefit.

This is why a coalition of eight Soil and Water Conservation Districts that focus on Oak Habitat Restoration/Protection worked with the OR Dept. of Fish Wildlife to educate legislators on why streamlining the program was necessary. It allows properties to be managed for their wealth of habitat values, instead of transitioning into other uses when ownership changes. As an example, a District restoration oak habitat project from years ago was protected by WHCMP and now we are collaborating with the new owners to continue protecting the valuable habitat type with the benefit of this program.



Our [Equipment Rental Program](#) was resurrected and revitalized this year with the addition of staff member Gus Liszka and the



Gus Liszka

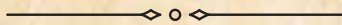
purchase of a new no-till drill.

This purchase expanded our rental capacity and supports the promotion of soil health practices that include reduced tillage.



"The Equipment Rental Program provided specialty equipment I could not access at typical rental yards and is too expensive to buy for a small farm operation.

A really good fit." ~ Andy Franklin Boring, OR



The Conservation Investments Program was revived this year with the addition of Conservation Investments Coordinator, Heather Neilsen. Heather has an extensive septic system program background, so it was no surprise that her first act was to work with District staff on an \$800,000 septic grant application for American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The application was successful!

Is Your Septic System Failing?

Grants are available to repair or replace your old septic systems or connect to sewer where available.



The District was awarded funds to help those with income limitations repair or replace their septic system. There is a great need for this type of assistance in Clackamas County.



Heather Neilsen



47

People took advantage of our [Equipment Rental or Tool Library](#)



Honored Beaver Creek Tansy Tamers for fighting local invasive weeds.



305

Total acres treated using our [Equipment Rental implements](#)

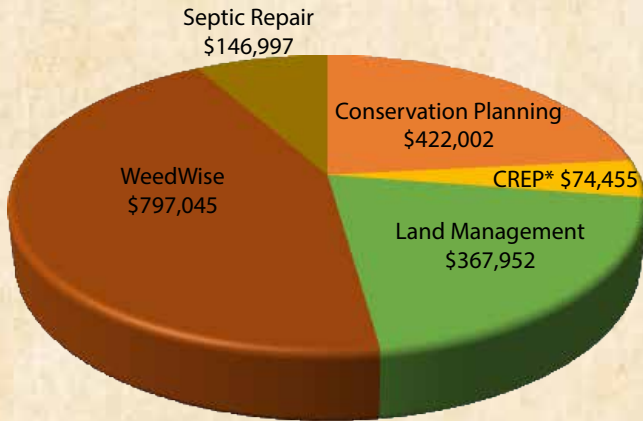


\$146,997

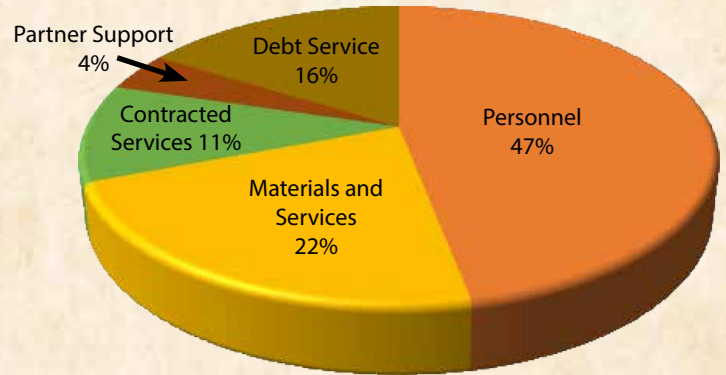
in [grants and loans](#) were awarded this year to repair or replace failing septic systems.

Financial Summary FY 22-23

Technical assistance and on-the-ground funding



General Fund Allocation



*Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Fund Balance Table

Fiscal Year 2022-2023**	General Fund	Conservation Grant Fund	Conservation Loan Fund***	Working Lands Legacy Fund
Total Revenue	3,628,649	308,895	132,867	3,120
Total Expenditures	3,275,029	424,947	82,636	-
Transfer in/(out)	(10,013)	55,987	(45,974)	-
Beginning Fund Balance	2,202,437	136,381	36,744	139,755
Ending Fund Balance	2,546,044	76,316	41,001	142,875

**Audited numbers

*** The numbers in this column reflect the activity for the District's participation in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Staff

Nicole Ahr Conservation Specialist	Jordan DeLawder Conservation Specialist
Suzi Cloutier Conservation Specialist	Justin Cooley WeedWise Specialist
Drew Donahue Multi-County CREP Technician	Scott Eden Conservation Specialist
Jason Faucera Land Management Mgr.	Tami Guttridge Office Administrator
Lisa Kilders Education /Outreach Mgr.	Clair Klock Resource Conservationist
Chris Lapp District Manager	Sam Leiningner WeedWise Program Mgr.
Gus Liszka Maintenance/Equip. Rental Program	Monte Mattsson WeedWise Specialist
Cathy McQueeney Education /Outreach Specialist	Heather Nielsen Conservation Investments Coord.
Jenne Reische Conservation Planning Mgr.	Bee Sinichko WeedWise/CWMA Coordinator
Nathan Tucker Fiscal Administrator	

Board of Directors

Jesse Nelson Vice Chair	Zone 1
Jim Johnson	Zone 2
Jeff Becker Chair	Zone 3
Joan Zuber	Zone 4
Don Guttridge Secretary	Zone 5
Roger Fantz Treasurer	At Large
Jan Lee	At Large
PK Melethil	Associate Director
Ron Oberg	Director Emeritus
Michael Weinberg	Director Emeritus

The Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the District. The District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.