



Conservation is about people and place

What do you like about the place you live?

For many people, it is a connection to nature. People have told me they like to see the mountain and the forested hills. Others have said they like songbirds and butterflies. Still others like being near water. Some folks like to be near working farms.

Landscapes speak to us

How we connect with the environment around us may differ from person to person, but often an environment we love is really a reflection of the habitat available for wildlife. Whether you like mountains or forests or rivers or lakes or prairies or farms, each has habitat components that speak to us as humans.

What people want and need – and where they live, work, and play – are powerful factors in maintaining and developing healthy habitat. We help people use natural resources in ways that sustain rather than damage those resources.

Managing your landscape

The landscapes we live in affect us as much as we affect the places we live.

These incredible landscapes we see around us are managed landscapes. They've been managed by human actions for thousands of years. Letting a place "go back to nature" means removing all management from the landscape, something not seen in the Willamette Valley since the last ice age.

Suddenly removing all management can cause more harm than good. A well-planned transition between management styles is important to protecting resources. Weed control and riparian restoration are two examples of managing landscape conditions to restore key habitat components.

Management affects wildlife and our quality of life

Even in heavily managed landscapes, you still see wildlife. You might think that means the managed habitat is all those creatures need, but often our native creatures simply pass through poor habitat to get to islands of good habitat they need to survive and thrive. How each landowner manages the habitat under their stewardship has a direct impact on wildlife and on the quality of life we enjoy in this incredible place called the Willamette Valley.

We can help you use your resources in ways that help wildlife thrive, and keep those resources viable for future generations of people who choose to live, work, and play in this amazing place we call the Willamette Valley. It's what we do. Give us a call at (503) 210-6000.

I encourage you to follow us online at <http://conservationdistrict.org>

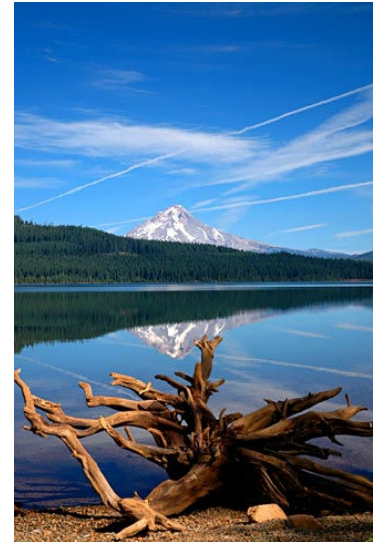


Photo by Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives

Projects

Here you'll find highlights of some of our larger initiatives. Typically, these address multiple conservation needs, making them more complex to plan and implement.

3D Water Quality Project

Overview: Our "3D" project is funded through a grant from the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Two years of water quality sampling in Deep, Doane, and Dolan creeks revealed some specific water quality problems, mainly involving nutrients, bacteria, and pesticides. Currently, we are reaching out to streamside landowners to establish filtering buffers to keep soil out of these streams. We are actively partnering with the Clackamas River Basin Council. Their Shade Our Streams program meshes well with our project. Cleaner, cooler water and better habitat conditions are our goals.

Bugs!

We are gearing up to sample the macroinvertebrate populations in Doane, Dolan and North Fork Deep Creeks this September or October. Macroinvertebrate populations are biological indicators of the overall health of the stream.

In addition to gathering information on these three streams, the Clackamas River Water Providers is commissioning an analysis of the macroinvertebrate sampling that has already been completed in the entire Clackamas Watershed. The company contracted to do this work will do a gap analysis and propose a monitoring plan that will allow us to look at the health of the entire watershed.

We expect several different organizations will "adopt" parts of the watershed and agree to participate in regular macroinvertebrate collections.



Stonefly nymphs.
Source: <http://www.epa.gov/bioindicators/html/stoneflies.html>

Livestock

Jenne drafted a conservation plan for a cattle operation in the 3D area. Dolan Creek runs through this ranch. Installing a livestock exclusion fence will keep animals out of the creek, and planting native vegetation along the waterway will shade the water, filter sediment, and help prevent pollutants from entering the stream. The conservation plan will be implemented starting this fall with funding being provided through a District grant to the landowner.

Primary benefit: **Water quality**

All benefits: Water quality Water quantity Wildlife habitat Weed control Watershed health Weather impacts
 Working lands Working together Workshops, education, outreach Workplace functions, accountability

Milk Creek Instream and Riparian Habitat Enhancement Project

Overview: Eroding streambanks, a scoured channel, and lack of habitat for fish are the focal points for our Milk Creek project. Funding is being provided by a variety of partners. This is a complex project because it involves working in the stream bed, reshaping a streambank, and restoring appropriate native vegetation. Cleaner water and better habitat conditions are the primary benefits planned for this work.

We received bids from three stream restoration contractors for installing the engineered log jams designed for this project. Aquatic Contracting, LLC was selected as the project contractor by the Board of Directors at their July 17th meeting. We have drafted the contract and sent it to Aquatic Contracting for signature.

Landowner agreements for the Milk Creek project are being finalized. Meetings were held with each landowner in July to go over the project work, expectations, and the terms of agreements.

Other tasks that were completed or worked on for the Milk Creek project this month included:

- Locating and making arrangements for purchasing and hauling the rest of the large wood needed for the project;
- Holding a site meeting with the largest landowner and Aquatic Contracting to go over access and staging;
- Meeting with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife habitat biologist to review the plan for fish salvage and relocation during the project implementation;
- Mailing an informational post card to 350 residents surrounding the project;
- Meeting with nearby neighbors to the project site to answer questions about our work on Milk Creek;
- Setting easement locations for the properties;
- Installing a monitoring camera at the County wood storage site; and
- Checking on the status of our state and federal permits.

Primary benefit: **Wildlife habitat**

All benefits: Water quality Water quantity Wildlife habitat Weed control Watershed health Weather impacts
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Water ~ Weeds ~ Wildlife

WATER QUALITY and QUANTITY = Protecting and restoring the quality of surface and ground water, and assuring future supplies of water for people, plants, and animals. *District programs include water quality monitoring and many conservation practices. Rain gardens and bioswales help clean water before it infiltrates into ground water. Rainwater harvesting and irrigation system improvements are good examples of water quantity practices.*

Failing on-site septic systems and water quality

When a private septic system fails, it smells bad, untreated sewage may come into contact with domestic and wild creatures, and bacteria-laden water may discharge into surface ditches and streams. It's not a good situation.

Does the District have an appropriate role in dealing with failing on-site septic systems? That's the question we're thinking about. We are considering a collaborative project to help with repairing failing septic systems in the Clackamas River Watershed.

The Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) completed a risk assessment for the Clackamas River...a river that provides drinking water for 300,000 people. One part of this analysis was determining potential threats from septic systems. Of the 9,000 septic systems identified in this watershed, 1,000 were ranked as high risk. The CRWP, Water Environmental Services and Clackamas County SWCD are discussing a collaborative approach to addressing failing septic systems. Most likely, this would involve outreach, education, subsidized inspections, and offers of financial assistance to replace or repair these septic systems.

This may also be a great opportunity to develop our loan program. Low-interest loans to fix failing systems would protect natural resources and help landowners deal with failing systems.

Potable water from rainwater harvesting system

Recently, a landowner requested and received a site visit to develop a plan to provide drinkable water using a rainwater harvesting system. The system would also increase irrigation for the landowner's garden.

How does this kind of system benefit natural resources? In this specific situation, it will decrease the use of groundwater in a state-listed groundwater restricted area. That means more water will be available for others.

The treatment of stormwater with a rain garden will decrease contributions to a roadside ditch.

Urban situations are often different

Erik met with an Oregon City landowner who is dealing with backyard drainage and flooding issues. The soil conditions of the site are challenging, so we may propose a combination of practices, including rainwater harvesting, rain gardens, and nativescaping.

Erik also provided additional technical assistance to an Oregon City resident who is interested in a small green roof project. We don't have many of these to show people, and the landowner is quite willing to show off the roof as a demonstration project. Installation is tentatively planned for fall 2012.

Primary benefit: **Water quality**

All benefits: Water quality Water quantity Wildlife habitat Weed control Watershed health Weather impacts
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WEEDS = Detecting, controlling, and eradicating invasive plants. *Invaders affect wildlife and crop production. In some cases they pose health risks to people and animals.*

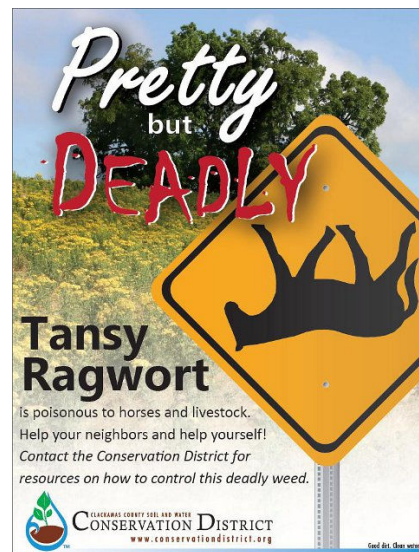
Weed reports

It is weed season! The WeedWise program has been fielding a high volume of calls and reports from local landowners about management and enforcement of troublesome weeds such as Tansy Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) and Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*). We have no enforcement authority, so we seek to control weeds through voluntary cooperation, and we encourage that cooperation by offering technical assistance and financial help.

Staff fielded several reports submitted to the Oregon Invasives Species Hotline including reports of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), and Orange Hawkweed (*Heiracium aurantiacum*).

Tarweed was positively identified by Sam. We gave pointers to a landowner on control of this stinky, sticky, sometimes invasive species. Seeds and roots are often at imported to new landscape via compost and fill soil. The best control is eliminate the problem by not letting it go to seed. More:

<http://californiarangeland.ucdavis.edu/Weeds/tarweed.htm>



Pond weeds continue to surface

Sam visited four ponds in the Beaver Creek area impacted by dense infestations of Common Elodea (*Elodea canadensis*) and Parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) and drafted a series of management options to control these species.

Sam visited a site in Eagle Creek and referred the landowner to the planning staff for additional consideration regarding riparian and wildlife restoration.

Primary benefit: **Weed control**

All benefits: Water quality Water quantity Wildlife habitat Weed control Watershed health Weather impacts
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WILDLIFE = Developing habitat conditions to enhance the life cycle of wild creatures. *CREP and riparian restoration activities are focused on habitat but offer additional benefits.*

Community planting event coming in December

Mark your calendars! A unique partnership between Friends of Trees, Trillium Primary School and the Clackamas County SWCD is beginning to take shape. A community planting event involving teachers, students, neighbors, and other volunteers has been scheduled for December 1st in West Linn. The event will focus on revegetation of a forested wetland on the school property. Next spring, we'll hold another collaborative planting event that enhances the science curriculum of the elementary students. Our staff contact on this work is Erik.

Pesky ground squirrels

We fielded calls on pesky California ground squirrels. The local population seems to be increasing. These squirrels can burrow as deep as five feet down. They can go under foundation walls and can turn a gravel garage floor or greenhouse floor into a mess of overturned soil and rocks.

They can also cause considerable damage to buildings by tearing out insulation. In lawns and gardens, they eat roots and undermine the landscape.

Some of the calls have been from equestrian facilities where folks are worried about horses stepping in holes made by the squirrels. These critters often find our home and family environments inviting because better soil fertility increases the variety of food sources.



California ground squirrel.
Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:CA_Ground_Squirrel_on_rock.jpg

Controls include trapping, installing hardware cloth around and under gardens, and poisoning. However, poisoning is not a good solution as pets, hawks, and other predators may be harmed when poisoned rodents become prey.

Oregon Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program

Clair and Rhoda visited a 46-acre property where the owner is interested in the possibility of turning a significant portion of the property into oak habitat via the Oregon Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program. More: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/whcmp/index.asp>

Primary benefit: **Wildlife habitat**

All benefits: Water quality Water quantity Wildlife habitat Weed control Watershed health Weather impacts
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Our Other W's

WATERSHEDS = Working toward stronger, more resilient watershed conditions.

Shade Our Streams program

Jenne worked closely with Clackamas River Basin Council staff to support their Shade Our Streams program. We discussed coordinating fall knotweed control efforts and how to reduce the sense of "agency overload" for affected landowners.

Watershed health event in October

Lisa reports a watershed health event is in the process of being planned by the Oak Lodge Sanitary District, WES, Clackamas River Basin Council, North Clackamas Watersheds Council and the Clackamas County SWCD. A tentative date of October 29th is set for the four-hour event. Activities include a Bite of Milwaukie, games for kids, and informational booths for adults. Stay tuned for more details as they are confirmed!

WEATHER = Developing responses to our changing climate, and to floods and droughts.

Increasing the amount of weather data collected locally is a baseline strategy to help us deal with weather-induced changes.

Free weather updates for agriculturalists

We have subscribed to free weather updates for Oregon farms. You can too! This free e-mail notification can be received by visiting http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Subscribe_to_State_Reports/index.asp and selecting the Oregon topics you're interested in from the scrolling list.

WILDLANDS = Working to improve and protect wildlands, including prairies and forests. *One*

way we address wildland issues is by working with the Clackamas Stewardship Partners. Encouraging fire breaks and fire-resistant native plants around buildings also helps protect wildlands.

Clear Creek

Jeremy met with Clackamas River Basin Council staff and with Nathan Poage (Coordinator, Clackamas Stewardship Partners) to plan the August CSP field trip. That tour will showcase restoration efforts in the lower watershed and feature a visit to an 18-acre Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program project on a tributary to Clear Creek.

WORKING LANDS = Providing service to help keep agricultural lands healthy and productive.

Our work with nurseries, Christmas tree farms, crop and food producers, and farmers markets all fit in this category.

Horses

We finalized a grant agreement for a heavy use area at a horse boarding facility in Lake Oswego. We expect installation to occur in August and September.

Forests

Jenne conducted a site visit with stewardship forester Mike Haasken to a forest landowner in the Redland area to discuss planting additional trees to meet forestry requirements.

Livestock

Jason provided assistance to a landowner looking to get a pasture back in shape by eliminating Tansy Ragwort and improving soil fertility.

Watering project

Jason inspected and finalized a pasture improvement project that provided livestock watering facilities and cross-fenced pastures on a cattle operation adjacent to the Molalla River.

Photos from this project show trenching for the water line, fencing, and the watering facility designed to be used from both pastures. Having a single watering facility for two pastures was a cost-cutting move and seems to be working well.



WORKSHOPS, OUTREACH, EDUCATION = Reaching and teaching citizens, agencies, partners, and others.

Videos

Erik and Jason are close to finishing our first two Conservation Clip videos for the *How to Install a Rain Garden* series. They should be available on our website in early August!

Outreach about weeds

Sam and Jeff sent out a mailing to 1,350 landowners who may be at risk of Garlic Mustard invasion. The purpose of this mailing was to aid in our early detection efforts, and the results will help with site prioritization and control efforts in the spring 2013 field season.

Sam also worked on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) fact sheets for ten common urban weeds. This work is being done in cooperation with partners from the Four County Coordinated Weed Management Area (CWMA) through a grant funded by the Western IPM center.

We're developing a weed outreach calendar to better target our windows of opportunity to encourage voluntary control of invasive species.

In response to a multitude of Tansy Ragwort reports, we started crafting outreach materials. The fliers will go out in response to reports of large tansy outbreaks and will be carried out in conjunction with biocontrol surveys. We'll redistribute biocontrol agents as needed to help achieve acceptable control of Tansy.

Backyard habitat

Erik continues to evaluate the Backyard Habitat Program as those folks pilot a new Urban Meadowscaping program in the region. The program is in response to repeated requests by residential landowners for low-maintenance lawn alternatives. Two of the research test plots may be located here in Clackamas County. To demonstrate the level of interest in this program, an upcoming 30-seat meadowscaping workshop sold out in 12 hours! With a larger venue, over 70 people will now be in attendance!

WORKING TOGETHER = Developing and nurturing key partnerships to help achieve our conservation mission. *Captured here are actions that help us build and maintain important conservation relationships.*

Weeds

Sam contacted partners from Oregon State Parks and Portland State University to coordinate False brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) control efforts near Milo McIver Park. This infestation is believed to be the most upstream occurrence of False brome in the Clackamas Basin.

Conservation Partnership

Jeremy participated in "Field Office of the Future" sessions designed and facilitated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. These sessions focused on evaluating current services provided through field offices and formulating actions that might be taken to maintain or enhance services to meet conservation needs on private lands.

Sustainability

Clair provided written comment to Metro for their Sustainable Practice and Landscape focus groups. He emphasized partnerships for education, and using low-cost methods to help involve all economic groups in sustainable practices.

Oaks

Erik attended a neighborhood meeting hosted by Metro to learn about the oak woodland restoration project currently being planned in the Canemah Bluff area.

Erik and Jeremy attended an open house hosted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as they seek input on their Willamette Valley Conservation Study. USFWS is asking how they can be a better partner for conservation work throughout the Willamette Valley. We learned they are involved in oak savanna/woodland restoration projects in just about every Willamette Valley county...except in Clackamas County! We look forward to changing that!

Greenroof

Erik attended the monthly meeting for the Greenroof Information Think-Tank (GRiT), which was hosted on the new greenroof at Gunderson Industrial in northwest Portland. Gunderson has installed two habitat greenroofs on their property and look to build many more. Both roofs are being studied by university students and include a variety of soil depths, kinds of native vegetation, and habitat logs to promote pollinator habitat. It's quite a sight!

Lake Oswego area

We had a very productive conversation with our friends from Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Oswego Lake Watershed Council and Friends of Tryon Creek to discuss conservation education and outreach opportunities in the Lake Oswego area.

Small Farm School

Jason, Lisa, and Ron continue to work closely with OSU Extension Small Farms to present the first annual Small Farm School, scheduled for September 8th. All classes are confirmed, registration is open and the logistics are in place.

WORKPLACE = Assuring accountability and the sound delivery of services.

ODA reporting

Sam and Jeff completed the WeedWise program summary for the Oregon Department of Agriculture annual report.

Real estate

Tom and Don met with a commercial realtor to discuss our future office and property needs.

Tracking conservation actions

Jason and Tom met with a contractor to discuss the Conservation Actions and Tracking System (CATS) database, and are looking to begin development this fall.

Waiting list

Yes, we have a waiting list. This is a predicted outcome of increasing our outreach efforts and working with more people on larger projects. Development of the CATS database will help us make sure nobody falls through the cracks, and will also help us be more effective and more efficient in providing planning assistance to landowners.

Training

Erik, Tom, and Sam attended Edward Tufte training on depicting data.

Jason completed Adobe video editing training for using Premiere and After Effects to produce better videos.

Annual audit

Yes, it's time to plan for our annual audit. We expect on-site work with our auditor will occur in August and we're aiming for a final audit report in September. That is much earlier than last year, and much of the credit for this goes to Marlene!

OUR PEOPLE

Board of Directors

Chair – Ron Oberg
Vice Chair – Mike Weinberg
Secretary – Joan Zuber
Treasurer – Don Guttridge
Member – Jan Lee
Member – Jesse Nelson
Member – vacant

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Roger Fantz, Lowell Hanna, Janiece Miller, Jim Toops

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Find our staff online at <http://conservationdistrict.org/about/district-staff>

COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

APHIS – USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	MOU – Memorandum of understanding (aka MOA)
ARCSA – American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association	NCPRD – North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District
BLM – Bureau of Land Management	NCUWC – North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council
BMP – Best Management Practice	NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
BOLI – Bureau of Labor and Industries	NPDES - National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
CCC – Clackamas Community College	NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
CCE – Common Computing Environment	OACD – Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
CCSWCD – Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District	OAN – Oregon Association of Nurseries
CEDARS – Clackamas Early Detection and Reporting System	OCEAN – Oregon Conservation Employees Association Network
CIG – Conservation Innovation Grant	ODA – Oregon Department of Agriculture
CRBC – Clackamas River Basin Council	OAN – Oregon Association of Nurseries
CSP – Clackamas Stewardship Partners	OSU – Oregon State University
CSP – Conservation Stewardship Program - NRCS Cost Share Program	OTAC – Oregon Technical Advisory Committee
CWMA – Cooperative Weed Management Area	OWEB – Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
DEQ – Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	OWHCMP – Oregon Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Mgt. Program
DOG – Dollars On the Ground (CCSWCD cost-share program)	PGE – Portland General Electric
EDRR – Early Detection and Rapid Response	PRWC – Pudding River Watershed Council
EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program - NRCS Cost Share Program	RAC – Resource Advisory Committee
ESA – Endangered Species Act.	RC&D – Resource, Conservation and Development
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency	RWH – Rainwater Harvesting
FSA – Farm Service Agency	RFP – Request for proposal
GIS – Geographic Information Systems (Mapping Software)	RUSLE – Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation
GOCWC – Greater Oregon City Watershed Council	SDAO – Special Districts Association
IPM – Integrated Pest Management	SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office
ITB – Invitation to bid	SWCD – Soil and water conservation district
LGIP – Local Government Investment Pool	UERC – Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium
LID – Low Impact Development	USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
MOA – Memorandum of agreement (aka MOU)	USFS – United State Forest Service
	USGS – United States Geological Survey
	WES – Water Environment Services