
District Priorities for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

The following priorities for the period from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 complement the priorities outlined in the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District's 5-year plan. For fiscal year 2015-2016, the District will focus on several operational and conservation goals.

Operational goals

- Increase capacity to provide assistance to small farms and rural landowners.
- Leverage relationships with partners for mutual benefit.
- Design a new District headquarters and meeting facility.
- Develop funding options for building the new headquarters.
- Develop funding options for the Working Lands Legacy Fund.
- Increase funding provided from the District's Conservation Fund to private landowners and partners.
- Increase outreach regarding manure management, water quality, invasive weeds, small farms, and protection of working lands.
- Continue repairs to the century-old barn at the District's farm property in Beaver Creek, OR.

Conservation goals

- Our primary goals continue to revolve around water quality, water quantity, wildlife habitat, weed management, and soil health, as expanded upon in the included focus sheets.

Who are we?

The Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District (District), is legally defined as a subdivision of state government authorized by ORS 568.210 through 568.933, but we function as a local special district. A locally elected board of directors leads the District. In 2006, the voters of Clackamas County authorized a property tax levy to fund the conservation services of the District. In addition, we leverage District resources through outside funding sources and form strategic partnerships to accomplish our work.

What do we do?

We work cooperatively with private landowners to conserve natural resources for today and for future generations.

Who do we work with?

If you are a private landowner, you are our primary focus! Private landowners can use natural resources in ways that help conserve them for others, or in ways that deplete or harm these resources. Part of our mission is to help people become better stewards of the natural resources they control.

We are not regulators

We do not have statutory authority to issue regulations or cite people. Soil and water conservation districts were formed to work with willing landowners to help conserve our renewable natural resources. This is what we mean when we say we work cooperatively with private landowners.

Our work benefits public resources

Unlike most governmental entities, we are charged with helping to conserve natural resources by working on public and private lands. Our conservation work primarily benefits public natural resources, and may provide incidental benefits to participating landowners.

Vision, Mission, and Values

Through the formation of the Strategic Plan, the District developed the following vision, mission and values for the organization:

Vision

Our District is a place where our creatures and communities thrive, where:

- Farms have healthy soils to grow the crops we need.
- Invasive weeds are controlled before becoming a problem for farming and wildlife.
- Irrigation systems are efficient, saving water and energy.
- Streams are shaded with native trees and shrubs, and streambanks are stable.
- Precious soil stays in fields instead of blowing or washing away.
- Water is clean and healthy for wildlife and for people.

Mission

To provide technical and practical services designed to conserve and use resources sustainably today and for future generations.

Values

- We strive to maximize community, environmental, and economic benefits simultaneously through our projects and programs.
- We reduce, reuse, recycle, and restore our natural resources.
- We are accountable to our voters, taxpayers, and residents.
- Our technical assistance to landowners is based in science and time-proven practices.
- We form and nurture strategic partnerships with others to accomplish our work.
- We leverage District resources through outside funding when possible.
- We work as members of a flexible and responsive team.
- We treat everyone with respect.
- We support continuous learning and professional development.

District Board and Staff

The District values its board and employees. We emphasize professional growth and development and are committed to recruiting and retaining the best people in the industry.

<p>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p> <p>Ron Oberg, Chair, Zone 2 Director Joan Zuber, Vice Chair, Zone 4 Director Don Guttridge, Secretary, Zone 5 Director Jesse Nelson, Treasurer, Zone 1 Director Jeff Becker, Zone 3 Director Roger Fantz, At Large Director Jan Lee, At Large Director</p> <p>ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS</p> <p>Jim Johnson, Associate Director Lowell Hanna, Associate Director P. K. Melethil, Associate Director Jim Toops, Associate Director</p>	<p>DISTRICT STAFF</p> <p>Tom Salzer, General Manager Jeremy Baker, Rural Conservation Specialist Jason Faucera, Rural Conservation Specialist Sarah Hamilton, WeedWise Specialist/ CWMA Coordinator Lisa Kilders, Education and Outreach Program Manager/Asst. Mgr. Clair Klock, Senior Resource Conservationist Sam Leininger, WeedWise Program Manager Jeff Lesh, WeedWise Specialist Cathy McQueeney, Education and Outreach Specialist Eann Rains, Conservation Investments Program Coordinator Jenne Reische, Riparian Specialist</p>
---	---

Focus Components

Technical Assistance

When landowners access our knowledge, skills, and abilities, we call that technical assistance. Our assistance is available at no cost to any landowner in Clackamas County. We listen to the landowner's goals and concerns before we assess the natural resources on the property. Once we understand the landowner's needs, we can provide assistance identifying sound conservation practices that improve water quality and quantity, promote soil health, enhance wildlife habitat, control invasive weeds, and protect working lands.

Financial Assistance

We have several tools that can be use individually or in combination to help landowners install conservation practices that benefit the natural resource and achieve the goals of the landowner. Our tools for funding implementation of conservation practices include:

Grants

Grant awards are determined by availability of funds, project type, and environmental benefits. Grants may be considered taxable income and we explain that during our meetings with the landowner.

Cost Share

Cost-share arrangements are determined by availability of funds, project type, and environmental benefits. Cost sharing is where the District grants some funding and the landowner provides some resources (time, materials, or money). The grant portion of a cost-share arrangement is normally 50 to 75-percent of the total cost of the project.

Loan

We may provide low-interest loans to landowners and land managers for the implementation of targeted conservation practices that have significant environmental benefits. We sometimes provide a loan for the landowner's share in a cost-sharing agreement.

Local Partner Support

We provide financial support to many of our local partners such as watershed councils, non-profit organizations, and other conservation organizations that undertake conservation work that advances our natural resource goals.

Working Lands Program

This is a voluntary program to protect, enhance, and restore high-value working lands such as farms, fields, and forests. Several tools available include conservation easements, donation to the District, bequests that leave land to the District upon the passing of a landowner, and purchase of property. We work with landowners, land trusts, and easement holders to realize these goals.

Conservation Priorities

The District provides technical assistance to landowners (rural acreages, small and large farms, nurseries, woodlots, forests, private, public, institutional, and non-profit) in a variety of conservation priorities. These priorities are listed below:

Water – protecting water quality and water quantity

Weeds – managing invasive weeds

Wildlife – restoring riparian and upland habitat for fish and wildlife, plus promoting habitat corridors in urban and rural landscapes

Working lands – protecting our best farms, fields, and forests from conversion

Worms – promoting soil health and fertility



Conservation Priority— Water Quality

Resource concern(s):

- Warm temperatures of surface water
- Pesticides in water
- Soil particles in water
- Manure in water
- Sewage in water

Planned action(s):

- Streamside Planting
- Promote filter strips and ground covers
- Present pesticide reduction workshops
- Present pesticide sprayer calibration workshops
- Distribute windsocks to agricultural applicators
- Provide no-till drill to cooperators
- Provide drag harrow suitable for small farms
- Purchase manure spreader for mid-size farms
- Promote covered storage and composting of manure
- Promote mud management practices
- Provide tarps to cover small manure piles
- Provide financial assistance for septic system inspections and repairs in the Clackamas River watershed
- Provide assistance for implementing high tunnels for small farmers

Other benefits of this work:

- Cleaner water benefits all creatures and communities in Clackamas County
- Help protect drinking water sources
- Help landowners comply with water quality regulations

Potential funding source(s):

- Clackamas River Water Providers
- District property tax levy
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan)



Manure piles contribute nutrients and bacteria to our creeks, streams, and rivers. Proper management can eliminate the impact of manure on water quality.

Key partner(s):

- Clackamas County Water Environment Services
- Clackamas Pesticide Stewardship Partnership
- Clackamas River Water Providers
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Association of Nurseries
- Oregon Christmas Tree Growers Association
- Oregon State University Cooperative Extension
- Oregon State University Integrated Plant Protection Center
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Watershed councils

Good dirt. Clean water.

For more information, contact:

Lisa Kilders, Education and Outreach Program Manager
(503) 210-6002 ~ lkilders@conservationdistrict.org



Conservation Priority— Water Quantity

Resource concern(s):

- Water quantity for habitat and agriculture
- Soil erosion
- Stormwater control

Planned action(s):

- Promote soil moisture monitoring
- Promote more efficient application of irrigation water
- Promote energy conservation
- Provide financial assistance for irrigation conversion, setting up soil moisture monitoring systems, and variable frequency drives
- Promote rainwater harvesting for small scale irrigation and stormwater control



Conversion from overhead sprinkler to drip system in a blueberry field and incorporating irrigation management practices resulted in significant water savings.

Other benefits of this work:

- Increased water available for wildlife
- Protection of drinking water for communities in Clackamas County
- Reduction of irrigation induced erosion
- Reduced stormwater runoff and increased infiltration to groundwater

Potential funding source(s):

- District property tax levy
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan)

Key partner(s):

- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Watershed councils

Example of water savings from irrigation conversion:

Clackamas County berry grower converting from big gun irrigation system to drip irrigation system.

	Old system	New system
Water use	23.4 acre in/ac	13.1 acre in/ac
System efficiency	50%	94%
Annual water savings	N/A	11.2 acre in/ac 46%

For more information, contact:

Lisa Kilders, Education and Outreach Program Manager
(503) 210-6002 ~ lkilders@conservationdistrict.org

Good dirt. Clean water.



Conservation Priority— Weeds

Resource concern(s):

- Displacing our native vegetation
- Reducing crop yields
- Harming fish and wildlife
- Adversely effecting human health
- Reducing forage for livestock
- Damaging property values
- Increasing erosion
- Decreasing water quality
- Limiting land use

Planned action(s):

- Provide early detection and rapid response to new infestations
- Educate landowners on identification of invasive weeds
- Provide free control via chemical control, manual control, and biocontrol for target species
- Lend tools such as weed wrenches for manual control of invasive weeds
- Reach out to landowners in areas where invasive weeds have been identified

Other benefits of this work:

- Provide opportunity for native plants to vegetate areas where control has been applied
- Prevent new infestations from taking hold in the county
- Reduce long term pesticide use with early detection and control

Potential funding source(s):

- District property tax levy
- Oregon State Weed Board
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



Outreach efforts include billboards used to educate landowners on the danger of invasive weeds and to encourage them to control weeds on their property

Key partner(s):

- Bureau of Land Management
- Clackamas County
- Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership
- Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area
- 4- County Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Metro
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon State University Cooperative Extension
- Oregon Invasive Species Council
- Sandy Basin Vegetation Restoration Coalition
- USDA Forest Service
- Watershed councils

Good dirt. Clean water.

For more information, contact:

Lisa Kilders, Education and Outreach Program Manager
(503) 210-6002 ~ lkilders@conservationdistrict.org



Conservation Priority— Wildlife

Resource concern(s):

- Loss of habitat for native wildlife
- Loss of Oak Savanna in the Willamette Valley
- Loss of contiguous travel corridors for wildlife
- Gaps in food sources for wildlife

Planned action(s):

- Remove in-stream dams
- Incorporate fish habitat features into stream restoration projects
- Provide financial assistance for streamside and in-stream restoration projects
- Present workshops on streamside plantings and bank stabilization
- Install raptor poles
- Promote native plant use in landscapes, hedgerows, and riparian plantings
- Promote altered mowing schedules of roadside areas to protect nesting birds
- Install practices for native pollinator habitat
- Present workshops on native wildlife habitat

Other benefits of this work:

- Increase native pollinator populations
- Provide nesting sites and food sources for native wildlife including bees
- Reduce the need for pesticides

Proposed funding source(s):

- District property tax levy
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Department of Wildlife
- Natural Resources Conservation Service



Fish surveys identify species that use stream habitat for spawning and rearing. Fish habitat improvements can be incorporated into many riparian restoration projects.

Key partner(s):

- Clackamas County Water Environment Services
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Watershed councils
- Xerces Society

Good dirt. Clean water.

For more information, contact:

Lisa Kilders, Education and Outreach Program Manager
(503) 210-6002 ~ lkilders@conservationdistrict.org



Conservation Priority— Working Lands

Resource concern(s):

- Development on prime agricultural fields
- Protection of forest, farm, and field land near urban centers

Planned action(s):

- Protect land by holding conservation easements
- Acquire farm and forest land
- Promote succession planning for farm and woodlot owners



Manure piles contribute nutrients and bacteria to our creeks, streams, and rivers. Proper management can eliminate the impact of manure on water quality.

Other benefits of this work:

- Increased local food production
- Assuring that farm land is available for future farmers

Potential funding source(s):

- District property tax levy
- Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Fund
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Key partner(s):

- Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
- Columbia Land Trust
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon State University Cooperative Extension
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Willamette Valley Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Good dirt. Clean water.

For more information, contact:

Lisa Kilders, Education and Outreach Program Manager
(503) 210-6002 ~ lkilders@conservationdistrict.org



Conservation Priority— Soil Health (Worms)

Resource concern(s):

- Soil organic matter depletion reduces water holding capacity and nutrient retention in soils
- High erosion potential with poor soil structure and low infiltration rates
- Crops growing in poorly functioning soils are more susceptible to pests and disease requiring more chemical application

Planned action(s):

- Deliver soil health workshops focusing on the four soil health principles to build high functioning soils:
 - Keep it covered
 - Diversity above for diversity below
 - Keep a living root in the soil
 - Minimize disturbance
- Promote soil building practices that support the four principles of soil health
 - Cover crops
 - Crop rotation
 - No-till and minimum tillage
 - Grazing management
 - Conservation cover
- Provide no-till drill to cooperators
- Provide soil testing as a service in conservation planning
- Support the NRCS Multnomah/Clackamas County Soil Health Conservation Implementation Strategy



Assessing the health of your soil leads to selection of best management practices to address nutrient deficiencies.

Other benefits of this work:

- Healthy soil can reduce nutrient loading and sediment runoff, increases efficiencies, and sustains wildlife habitat
- Healthy soil with high organic matter holds more water reducing irrigation
- Healthy soils are high-performing, productive soils

Funding source(s):

- District property tax levy
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Key partner(s):

- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon State University Cooperative Extension
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Oregon Chapter of The Soil and Water Conservation Society

For more information, contact:

Lisa Kilders, Education and Outreach Program Manager
 (503) 210-6002 ~ lkilders@conservationdistrict.org

Good dirt. Clean water.

Key Partners

The District collaborates with multiple partners. Key partners and descriptions of their relationships with the District follow:

Clackamas County – The District works collaboratively with the County on a variety of projects including outreach and education, invasive weed management, and urban conservation.

Educational institutions – The District works with local educational institutions and students to implement projects and provide educational information. Institutions include the Sabin-Schellenberg farm, Springwater Environmental School, Clackamas Community College, and others.

Local business and other conservation organizations – The District continues to work with a diverse set of partners from both the public and private sectors. For example, recently the District has collaborated with DePave, Friends of Trees and SOLV.

Metro – The District works with Metro to support Low-Impact Development practices and designs. The District also partners with Metro to control invasive species on projects in Clackamas County.

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) – The District serves as the local management agency to support ODA's Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans and provides technical assistance to landowners who may not be in compliance.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) – The District has received significant grant funding from DEQ to implement a variety of water quality projects.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) – The District partners with ODFW on riparian restoration projects and relies on their expertise for many other projects and funding applications.

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) – The District works with ODF to promote sustainable forest management, fuels reduction, and wildfire prevention.

Oregon State University Cooperative Extension – District staff and Board members have worked cooperatively with Extension staff on a variety of Extension programs. The District continues to field referrals from the extension office for many small farm conservation practices.

Oregon State University Integrated Plant Protection Center (IPPC) – District staff work with the IPPC on pesticide reduction projects.

USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – The District works with NRCS staff on a number of initiatives, including sharing training, technical information, and conservation tools.

USDA/U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – The District works with the USFS primarily through the Clackamas Stewardship Partnership to support a collaborative model of forest health and restoration activities.

Watershed Councils and Land Trusts – The District provides outreach, technical support, monitoring conservation planning and some financial support to watershed councils and land trusts in the county.