



CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Good dirt. Clean water.

2016-2017

Annual Report

We see the District as a place where our communities, environments, and economy thrive together. Our mission is to help create that future. We provide technical service and support designed to help people use natural resources sustainably today and for future generations.



Message from the General Manager

From all of us at the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, thank you for another great year of conserving natural resources. Inside this report you'll find highlights of our work with people and organizations who share our interest in assuring that natural resources in Clackamas County are available for future generations.

Our professional staff provides technical advice about management of water, wildlife habitat, soil, and invasive weeds. These services are free. Our WeedWise program is a leader in addressing priority invasive species. In this capacity, we employ many tools to reach the landowners who make our work successful.

Clackamas SWCD is fiscally healthy through the careful management of the financial resources provided primarily by Clackamas County taxpayers. We work hard to leverage and supplement tax revenue by obtaining grants to help landowners implement conservation actions. We also support the work of partners where their activities align with our mission and goals.

What this report does not spell out is the quality of our Board members. The Clackamas SWCD Board of Directors is a high-functioning team. Their decision making is informed by citizen concerns, customer feedback, and information from staff. The staff team is a group of professionals with the common goal of working well with people to conserve natural resources.

Our work touches the creatures and communities in Clackamas County. In the city or in the country, our work improves natural resource conditions for everyone. We know we could not do this work without the landowners who chose to work with us this year. We are both proud and humbled by your confidence in us. Thank you!

Yours for conservation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Salzer".

Tom Salzer
General Manager





Drip Irrigation: Low pressure systems reduce pump wear and repair costs.



Joy Viola, Northeastern University, Bugwood.org

Acorn Woodpeckers: Improved habitat help native bird populations.

Successes in Conservation Planning

Our planning team works with landowners across a wide variety of land uses and conservation issues.

From small rural residential properties to full scale agriculture, our planners provide technical resources to help landowners make informed decisions about managing their land.

A great example of our services is highlighted in our assistance to irrigators in 2016-17. We helped five growers convert to more efficient drip irrigation systems on a total of 229 acres of hazelnuts, nursery stock, and berries.

The cumulative annual water savings from these conversions is estimated at 327 acre-feet, equivalent to 106 million gallons! These systems also significantly reduce energy and labor costs.

Our planners strive to provide solutions on local farms that benefit all of Clackamas County.

Urban conservation efforts were bolstered by a significant investment of District funds for the

expansion of the popular Backyard Habitat Certification Program into West Linn, Milwaukie, Oak Grove, Johnson City, and Jennings Lodge. The District will continue to fund the expansion in 2018.

This program assists urban residents in restoring native wildlife habitat by address five issues which reflect District concerns and values:

- Invasive Weeds
- Native Plants
- Pesticide Reduction
- Stormwater Management
- Wildlife Stewardship

The District is very interested in the movement of wildlife, including pollinators, and the importance of the habitat connectivity between existing natural areas in our urban centers with those in our rural communities

By supporting the expansion of the habitat program, landowners will have the technical assistance they need to improve that connectivity for wildlife.

WeedWise Highlights

The WeedWise program's initiatives focus on the active management of priority invasive weeds as well as providing assistance to Clackamas County residents.

In the past year the WeedWise program has:

- » Evaluated and **updated the Clackamas Weed List** with 217 weeds and 90 priority weeds;
- » Provided assistance to **2,888 residents**;
- » Maintained permissions with **1,862 landowners** for **109,338 acres** of property;
- » Surveyed **230 properties** totalling **3, 809 acres**;
- » Carried out **287 weed treatments** on **283 infested acres**;
- » Sent targeted mailings to **2,101 households**;
- » Partnered with **54 public and non-profit organizations**
- » Administered **2 Cooperative**

Weed Management Areas

- » Tracked **42,902 weed observations**.

Over the last year the WeedWise program has also been working on a number of large scale projects including:

- » County-wide *Rapid Response* weed control effort that targets all high priority Oregon class A noxious weeds in Clackamas County;
- » Development of the **Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)** for weed control efforts in the Clackamas River Basin;
- » Continuation of our *Weed Smackdown* in conjunction with the **Sandy River Basin Watershed Council** to survey and control priority weeds in the Sandy River Basin;
- » Coordinating and sponsoring the expansion of the *Backyard Habitat Certification Program* to target invasive weeds in the urban areas.



Goatsrue: A new priority weed discovered on the Clackamas River



Japanese knotweed: A primary target for weed control efforts

In 2016-2017 the Conservation Planning Program provided:

- » Technical resources and assistance to **207 landowners**;
- » Walked and visited with landowners on **124 properties**;
- » Prepared **23 conservation plans** to help guide land management;
- » Implemented **14 conservation projects**. We assisted with these practices:



Livestock water system

Fence – 4,710 feet	Gutters and Downspouts – 4 systems	Heavy Use Areas – 15,575 square feet
Underground Outlet – 150 feet	Tree and Shrub Establishment – 6 acres	Forest Stand Improvement – 4 acres
Forest Site Prep – 7.6 acres	Irrigation Tail Water Recovery – 1 system	Irrigation Pipeline – 23,460 feet
Micro-irrigation and Water Management – 200.3 acres	Irrigation Pumping Plant – 1 system	Brush Management – 5.6 acres
Prescribed Grazing – 5 acres	Livestock Water System – 2 systems	



Before (left) and After (right): The WeedWise program recently assisted a resident with a large milk thistle infestation in a horse pasture. The results above were realized after only one year of active management.

Outreach Highlights

In 2016-2017 our outreach events focused on a wide variety of topics for a wide variety of audiences. We hosted:

- Dealing with Mud and Drainage (for horse owners)
- Introduction to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (for local realtors)
- Soil Health Workshop for School and Community Garden Educators
- Taking Advantage of Beneficial Insects to Control Crop Pests (for producers reduce pesticide use)

We also participated in **Small Farmer and Rancher Day** at the Capitol with local high school students. District staff helped them learn about agricultural legislation and how it affects local farms.

New outlets for circulating conservation information were developed in 2016-2017 including space in:



Beneficial insect field day

- *Oregon Horse Country* (e-newsletter for horse owners)
- *Forest Tree Leader* (Clackamas Farm Forestry Association quarterly newsletter)
- *Citizen News* (a quarterly newsletter from Clackamas County)

Our social media presence increased tremendously this year. In 2017 we reached 400 followers

on our facebook page.

Our website posts and events were on average updated weekly. Posts are packaged up and sent as a monthly newsletter to 128 subscribers.

Oregon white oak restoration was a hot topic this year. Outreach and planning this year prepares for projects next year.



Farmer and Rancher Day at the Capitol



Even One Oak Matters



Alayne Blicke workshop speaker

Financial Summary

Our equipment rental program began in 2001 with the 7' no-till drill. Today we have eight pieces of equipment to offer, but the 7' no-till drill is still the favorite. It was rented this year by seven landowners to seed 93 acres. These numbers were significantly down from last year due to an extremely wet spring.

Watershed Council Support Grants were offered again in 2016-2017 with \$95,000 awarded to nine watershed councils in Clackamas County.

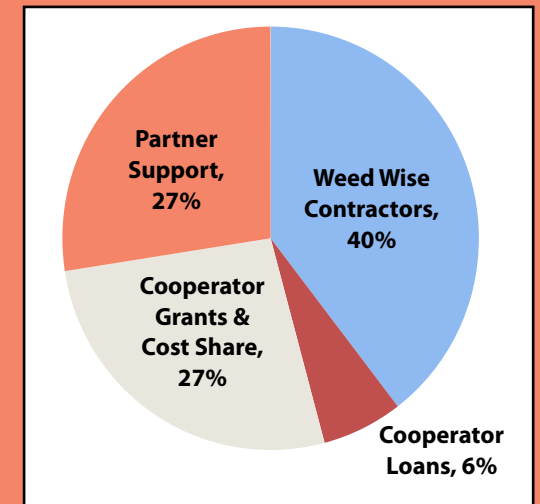
Farmers Market support grants totaling \$39,343 were also awarded to nine farmers markets.

The District loan program made \$45,624 in payments this fiscal year on three loans. The loans were awarded to help pay for two irrigation projects and one livestock exclusion fencing project.

Grants to landowners this year totalled \$194,318 to help install many conservation practices.



How Our Conservation Fund Dollars Return to the Community



Pesticide collection events held in November and April safely disposed of 21,587 pounds of restricted or unusable pesticides. The District, Clackamas River Water Providers, and state agencies paid for the safe disposal.

Academic Scholarships were awarded to three students in 2017. Scholarship amounts were \$1,500 each for the 2017-2018 school year.

Congratulations scholarship winners!



Rebecca Whitlock and Adan Vasquez
Missing: Julia Barnes

Conservation Fund Expenditures

Accrual Basis	General Fund	Conservation Grants Fund	Conservation Loans Fund	Building Reserve Fund	Working Lands Fund
Beginning Balance 7/1/2016	1,078,983	552,879	0	94,536	57,686
Income	2,712,146	106,732	93,170	1,928	0
Expenses	1,802,555	726,423	48,430	93,333	53,253
Transfers Out of Fund	517,882	134,000	0	0	0
Transfers Into Fund	0	490,882	134,000	0	27,000
Ending Balance 6/30/17	2,506,456	558,070	178,740	3,131	31,433

Board of Directors

Chair
Jeff Becker
Zone 3

Ron Oberg (thru 12/31/16)
Jim Johnson (1/1/17 - 6/30/17)
Zone 2

Vice Chair
Jesse Nelson
Zone 1

Joan Zuber
Zone 4

Treasurer
Roger Fantz
At-Large

Jan Lee
At-Large

Secretary
Don Guttridge
Zone 5


Associate Directors

Jackie Hammond-Williams
Mark Sytsma

PK Melethil
Jim Toops

Director Emeritus

Michael Weinberg



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