



What Natural Resource Issue is Most Important to You?

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District Survey

2017-2018

1. Do you live in Clackamas County?

Yes	76
No	36

2. Did you know that the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District's monthly board meetings are open to the public?

	In County	Out of County
Yes	55	29
No	21	7

3. Did you know that the Clackamas SWCD is supported by a small portion of property taxes?

	In County	Out of County
Yes	57	26
No	19	10

4. Did you know that technical advice from the Clackamas SWCD is free to Clackamas County land and property managers?

	In County	Out of County
Yes	55	31
No	21	5

5. Which of the following Clackamas SWCD priorities were you aware of? (Select all that apply)

	In County	Out of County
Protecting water quality	69	30
Reducing agricultural water use	34	20
Invasive weed management	57	34
Providing healthy habitat for fish and wildlife	56	29
Preserving productive farm and forest land	45	25
Improving soil health	43	29
Increasing access to the Backyard Habitat Program	31	18
Providing education about natural resource issues and solutions	55	28

6. What are your natural resource concerns? (Select all that apply)

	In County	Out of County
Water quality	64	29
Water quantity	32	16
Invasive weeds	56	30
Fish and wildlife habitat	53	33
Working lands	33	17
Soil health	45	19
Stormwater management	39	22
Other	6	3

In County (other)

- Use of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides in broadcast spray methods causing widespread environmental and life damage.
- More clear cutting on public land.
- Use of toxic and dangerous herbicides especially aerial spraying by the county which lands or drifts on nonhuman animals and has been demonstrated to present risks to human health especially children. These chemicals need to be avoided all together and your job to protect water, wildlife and health needs to be to teach alternatives: media, TV, billboards, warning signs, etc.
- Using safe alternatives as opposed to the chemical cancer causing ones used in weed abatement, insect control, water purity
- Pollinator friendly environments.
- Preservation of wilderness areas. Conserving land for wild (or “natural”) plants and animals is my most pressing concern. Humans are destroying wildlife habitats and natural resources at an unprecedented rate. We must work now to protect what areas we have left!! The Backyard Habitat Program helps (a little) to mitigate some of this loss. As the population increases, people need to be educated and reminded how to interact with local wildlife. Let wildlife live, don’t feed them, keep outside lights off or facing down to protect migrating birds, etc. etc. Please help this effort too! People also should learn the harmful effects of chemicals -- pesticides and herbicides. They not only kill the targeted plants and animals, they kill many good insects (bees, for example), and mammals. Also, there are proven links of these chemicals to human illnesses (cancer, MS, and other serious conditions). Thank you!

Out of County (other)

- Biodiversity including plants
- Defining “resilience” and finding sustainability with invasives
- Pollinators, School Support

7. What is the one most important natural resource issue that Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District should focus on? (Select one)

	In County	Out of County
Water quality	24	11
Water quantity	5	1
Invasive weeds	14	7
Fish and wildlife habitat	13	11
Working lands	8	3
Soil health	4	3
Stormwater management	4	0
Other	3	0

In County (other)

Combination of education and assistance with soil health and how to improve it and looking at issues associated including invasive weeds. Soil and water, there are not that many groups focused on soil, but many others focused on water issues. Are we following up with restoration after weed control? Water issues are very important too, but maybe just assistance partnering with others who focus on that. Getting into backyard habitat program, why? What are the significant outcomes and or why not just support it like you do watershed councils?

One "other" with no answer

Produce a conservation easement program so people who want to protect their resource lands/water for future generations can have an agency to provide oversight. All the other issues are moot if those of us who work for great resources can have them destroyed once we are no longer able to protect those resources. Otherwise, it is hard to pick one thing off that list - in fact, they are all interconnected and are all important.

Out of County (other) other option not selected

8. How do you prefer to receive information about Clackamas SWCD programs and services? (Select all that apply)

	In County	Out of County
Clackamas SWCD website	38	0
A newsletter	32	0
By email from Clackamas SWCD	39	0
On Facebook	28	0
On Twitter	0	0
Workshops and meetings	19	0
Other	3	1

8. How do you prefer to receive information about Clackamas SWCD programs and services?

(Continued)

In County (other)

- Beavercreek Bulletin
- Via agency partner meetings such as CWMA
- one "other" with no answer

Out of County (other)

- Via agency partner meetings such as CWMA

9. Please tell us what else you would like Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District to know:

In County (other)

- There is one important piece of equipment that, if added to your rental program, could do a lot to safeguard water quality and improve soil health. That is a properly sized manure spreader. There are countless tons of manure being collected from barns and feeding areas, and never spread due to the lack of equipment that is too expensive for many small farms. The nutrients and organic matter in these stores are it being made available to the soil, and are instead either being hauled away or leaching into groundwater. We enjoy working with your knowledgeable and helpful staff.
- I bought a house last year in Canemah in Oregon City. I've been removing huge amounts of ivy, blackberry, and clematis vitalba from my property (and replanting with natives; planning to apply for Backyard Habitat within the next year or two), but the neighborhood around me is totally covered with ivy and clematis. Right now I have thousands of clematis seeds on my land that blew in from the surrounding blocks. I would love to see and participate in invasive weed removal projects in my area. Especially since erosion is a serious issue in Canemah, it would be bad news to see all these ivy-choked trees die.
- Please help small farms from being impacted by large agriculture farm practices that hurt their soil quality. Many small farms are trying to attain organic certification, but are constantly dealing with drift from neighboring farm operations that use broadcast spraying methods. This in turn hurts the production quality and yield of food produced by small farms.
- The district does some great work. Focus on showing how a strategy of spending the district funding is benefiting the residents and environment and how that funding is being used wisely to get the most bang for the buck.
- Please have an annual native plant sale!
- Land without water is not much.
- More focusing on invasive weeds that spread.

9. Please tell us what else you would like Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District to know:

continued

- I'm sure everyone knows it, but the explosive growth being seen in clackamas county is not great for our rivers and streams. There will be more pollutants entering the water and hurting our fish. We should be doing everything we can to try and prevent these pollutants from entering the water as our cities expand.
- To open public land to clear cutting.
- Rafters have taken their toll on the Clackamas River. The bottom is littered with cans and bottles and who knows what else. I know this because the few times we've rafted, we can see all the cans/bottles beneath us. I also saw someone throwing a bottle into the river. Not only should alcohol be banned from McIver, Barton, and all other parks and put-in places along the river, rafters/boaters/floaters should be prohibited from having cans/bottles with them on the river. Drastic? Maybe. But I can see no other way to stop the ongoing destruction of this beautiful natural resource. It breaks my heart.
- Keep poisons and other toxins out of our water, we don't need to drink Roundup or fluoride for that matter.
- I'm so glad you are there! I haven't worked with you yet because I feel like my property is so terrible I won't know where to start. But I wish i could. If only I could get ahead a little bit. Do you have loaner tools? Tool rental is so expensive for small farmers.
- Appreciate your equipment loan program.
- Strong outreach to master gardeners,OSU, and master recyclers though portland city office
- I have seen the Soil and Water District around and about more at events I attend in the last couple years and it seems like your outreach and social media presence has improved and is more effective. This is a great use of our tax base and I appreciate the efforts to help this county's resources improve and stay robust for all of us.
- The fact that the SWCD can nimbly respond to urgent needs that come up, based on strong existing relationships with private landowners, is very valuable.
- I know very little about the function of CSWCD. More information needed.
- The District has to make stronger legal agreements when it enters into projects with private landowners. There is no point in giving away public money if the District fails to have strong agreements for the projects to continue after they are finished. The District needs to be able to recover money spent if grants are not used as intended.
- I think the SWCD is extorting money from Clackamas County taxpayers. In my opinion, the SWCD has exponentially expanded from the pre-tax base core of 3-4 employees into a bloated taxpayer funded bureaucracy intent on preserving their excess salaries and benefits, engaged in non-essential travel, and

**9. Please tell us what else you would like Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District to know:
continued**

money-wasting training of low talent employees. The SWCD appears to fund pet projects with select people (board members?) and do absolutely nothing for the thousands of taxpayers living in the burbs who are funding their cushy office jobs. I would like to see the tax base revoked and see what happens then.

- I appreciate to work you are doing for people, wildlife, and our planet. Thank you.
- Please allot a sufficient budget for public education to preserve natural resources. (See my previous comment). When people understand that we're destroying habitat that cannot be replaced, they should change some of their habits and attitudes. Thank you!

Out of County (other)

- We appreciate the opportunity to get low cost expertise about our land.
- I selected "Fish and wildlife habitat" since it also addresses a lot of the other natural resource issues that are listed.
- Collaboration with other SWCDs and how they benefit each other and how they differ.
- Your collective efforts are appreciated very much!
- You are a leader in conservation and invasive weed efforts across the region. Keep up the great work!
- I work with your Invasive Species team often and they rock!! Thanks for all that you do. SWCDs are so important and I really value your work.
- I love your Weedwise program and strive to be as knowledgeable as Sam one day. Please let me know of any workshops or classes you guys are offering. Keep up the great work!

10. Would you like Clackamas SWCD to follow-up with you?

	In County	Out of County
Yes	7	1
No	69	35