



District Priorities for Fiscal Year 2017-2018

The following priorities for the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 compliment the priorities outlined in the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District's 5-year plan. For fiscal year 2017-2018, the District will focus on several operational and conservation goals.

Operational goals

- Maintain capacity to provide assistance to small farms and rural landowners.
- Leverage relationships with partners for mutual benefit.
- Permit, fund, and construct a new District headquarters and meeting facility.
- Develop funding options for the Working Lands Legacy Fund.
- Maintain funding provided from the District's Conservation Fund to private landowners and partners.
- Enhance 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.
- Begin outreach and implementation of our Septic System Loan Program.

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 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Becker, Chair, Zone 3 Director

Jesse Nelson, Vice Chair, Zone 1 Director

Roger Fantz, Treasurer, At Large Director

Don Guttridge, Secretary, Zone 5 Director

Jim Johnson, Zone 2 Director

Joan Zuber, Zone 4 Director

Jan Lee, At Large Director

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Jackie Hammond-Williams, Associate Director

P. K. Melethil, Associate Director

Mark Sytsma, Associate Director

Jim Toops, Associate Director



DISTRICT STAFF

Nicole Ahr, Conservation Specialist

Scott Eden, Conservation Specialist

Jason Faucera, Conservation Planning Program Manager

Tami Guttridge, Administrative Assistant

Sarah Hamilton, WeedWise Specialist/ CWMA Coordinator

Lindsey Karr, WeedWise Specialist/CRISP

Lisa Kilders, Education and Outreach Program Manager/Asst. Mgr.

Clair Klock, Senior Resource Conservationist

Sam Leining, WeedWise Program Manager

Jeff Lesh, WeedWise Specialist

Cathy McQueeney, Education and Outreach Specialist

Eann Rains, Conservation Investments Program Coordinator

Jenne Reische, Riparian Specialist

Tom Salzer, General Manager

Nathan Tucker, Fiscal Administrator

Matt VanWey, Conservation Specialist



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 is generally at 50% of eligible costs.

Loans

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.

This year we have a new pilot loan program for failed or failing septic systems. The District will provide 100% loans up to a maximum of \$25,000 for eligible homeowners in the Clackamas River watershed to repair or replace their systems.



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. We also support local Farmers Markets that in turn provide opportunities for local farmers to succeed.

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

Workplace - creating a permanent facility for serving our customers

Worms (soil health) – promoting soil health and fertility



Conservation Priority— Water Quantity

Resource concerns:

- Adequate water quantity for habitat and agriculture
- Active soil erosion
- Insufficient stormwater control

FY 2017-2018 Priorities:

- Promote irrigation efficiency practices
- Provide technical assistance for irrigation water management

Planned actions:

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



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

Key partners:

- State of Oregon
 - Department of Environmental Quality
 - Water Resources Department
 - Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Energy Trust of Oregon
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Local watershed councils





Conservation Priority - Working Lands

Resource concerns:

- Conversion of high-value farmland to non-farm uses
- Protection of forest, farm, and field land near urban centers

FY2017-2018 Priorities:

- Be a vocal proponent for the protection of working lands
- Continue to develop a conservation easement program
- Acquire lands for preservation as needed
- Promote succession planning



Key partners:

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

Planned actions:

- Protect land by holding conservation easements
- Acquire farm and forest land when needed to assure preservation
- Promote succession planning for farm and woodlot owners

Other benefits of this work:

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



CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER

CONSERVATION
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Good dirt. Clean water.



Conservation Priority - Weeds

Resource concerns:

- Displacement of native vegetation
- Reduction of crop yields
- Impairment of fish and wildlife habitat
- Threat to human and livestock health
- Reduction of forage for livestock
- Decrease in property values
- Acceleration of streambank erosion
- Threat to water quality
- Limitation of land use

FY 2017-2018 Priorities:

- Provide early detection and rapid response to new infestations
- Educate landowners and District staff
- Provide control for targeted species
- Lend tools for manual control of invasive weeds
- Participate in activities with regional entities engaged in invasive plant issues
- Build regional coordination and education to deal with new and continuing threats
- Provide live plant specimens to regional partners for educational purposes



Planned actions:

- Provide early detection and rapid response to new infestations
- Educate landowners on identification and control of invasive weeds
- Provide free chemical, manual, and bio-control 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
- Respond to landowners contacting the district with concerns about weeds

Key partners:

- 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 Extension Service
- Oregon Invasive Species Council
- Sandy Basin Vegetation Restoration Coalition
- USDA Forest Service
- Watershed councils





Conservation Priorities—Soil Health

Resource concerns:

- Depletion of soil organic matter causing reduction in water holding capacity and nutrient retention in soils
- Increased erosion of soil with poor structure and low infiltration rates
- Susceptibility of crops growing in poorly functioning soils to pests and disease requiring more chemical application

FY 2017-2018 Priorities:

- Support soil health workshops
- Include soil health considerations in conservation plans
- Provide soil testing for farm fields as part of a plan development
- Support the NRCS Multnomah/Clackamas Soil Health Conservation Implementation Strategy
- Make conservation equipment available

Planned actions:

- 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



Key partners:

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



CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER

CONSERVATION
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Conservation Priority - Wildlife

Resource concerns:

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

FY 2017-2018 Priorities:

- Begin outreach to landowners with oak habitat along Molalla River
- Develop educational materials for landowners with oak
- Support in-stream and riparian restoration work
- Promote native plants and pollinator habitat
- Present workshops on native wildlife habitat

Planned actions:

- 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



Key partners:

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





Conservation Priority— Water Quality

Resource concerns:

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

FY 2017-2018 Priorities:

- Better manure management
- Reduce pesticide use and drift
- Increase streamside and field borders
- Reduce sewage in water
- Make conservation equipment available

Planned actions:

- Support streamside planting
- Promote filter strips and ground covers
- Reduce pesticide usage and drift
 - Present pesticide reduction workshops
 - * Sprayer calibration
 - * Beneficial insects
 - Distribute windsocks to agricultural applicators
- Provide conservation equipment to cooperators
 - No-till drill
 - Drag harrow
 - Manure spreader
- Promote better manure management
 - Promote covered storage
 - Promote manure composting
 - Promote mud and manure management practices
 - Provide temporary tarps to cover small manure piles
- Provide financial assistance for septic system inspections and repairs in the Clackamas River watershed



Key partners:

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





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.

Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) - The District, with the Clackamas River Basin Council and additional funding from Metro initiated this partnership to improve the management of invasive species within the Clackamas River watershed in northwestern Oregon. Additional partners in this important initiative include: the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area, Bureau of Land Management, Clackamas County Parks, Clackamas County Water Environment Services, Natural Resources Conservation Service, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Control Program, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Portland General Electric, and the United States Forest Service.

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.