



CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER

# CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Good dirt. Clean water.



**2017-2018**

**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

An annual report is usually all about what we accomplished, but I will start with something more fundamental: how we came to be and why we exist.

On May 13, 1936, the Standard District Act was published, providing model legislation for each state to adopt, or modify and adopt, so that they could form conservation districts. Such districts were to be governed by local citizens who had a deep understanding of conditions in their communities and were connected to the land.

In Clackamas County, two conservation districts were formed in 1958 and 1961. The two then merged in 1974 into the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District. We serve the entire county.

Why did local landowners vote to create your soil and water conservation district? Districts work with customers who want to work with them. Districts are not regulatory. We work on private lands, often spanning multiple generations on one property. These things make soil and water conservation districts valuable and unique.

We are a bridge that links landowners, agencies, and others to achieve shared goals. Customer service is our daily bread-and-butter. As Clackamas County continues to grow, we find an ever increasing demand for our help. I'm pleased to say that the District has responded well, adjusting the way we work in order to provide the services our constituents want and need.

This was a year of building our foundation for better customer service and stronger conservation outcomes. The work we accomplished this year sets the stage for significant investments that will occur in fiscal year 2018-2019. I look forward to reporting on a conservation easement and the purchase of a 319-acre working forest. We will also report on the construction of the District's new, permanent service center. None of these major steps forward would occur without the dedication of our board and staff.

We continued to support our farmers market and watershed council partners in their work to deliver focused assistance within their communities. And our WeedWise folks assisted an astounding number of people with their invasive weed issues.

Do we have more challenges ahead of us? Of course we do! Your soil and water conservation district has a highly capable Board of Directors and a strong cadre of skilled staff. I have every confidence that we will continue to achieve win-win solutions with our customers. It's what we do best.

Yours for conservation,



Tom Salzer  
General Manager





pre-project tour 2016



large wood placement



bank sloping



one year later 2018

**Milk Creek stream bank and floodplain restoration**

## Successes in Conservation Planning

In September of 2017, the District completed a stream bank and floodplain restoration project on Milk Creek near Mulino. Prior to the project, fish habitat and water quality were impacted due to a lack of large wood in the creek and turbidity (muddy water) from bank erosion.

The District was able to coordinate technical and financial resources to move erosive stream flow away from the bank using downed trees. This reduced bank erosion while creating areas of slower flows and pools that provide resting places for juvenile salmonids and resident fish.

We reconnected and vegetated the floodplain allowing water a place to go during high flows. This reduces erosion and increases water storage.

The resulting project is both a win for the landowners and for the habitat and people that live in the Milk Creek Watershed and areas downstream.

### Restoring Oregon White Oak Habitats

Less than 10% of Oregon white oak habitats remain in the Willamette Valley and more than 90% of those

habitats are on private lands. This leaves soil and water conservation districts (SWCD) with a major role to reach out to, educate, and assist landowners in conserving and restoring these important habitats.

Our District, in collaboration with West Multnomah SWCD, was awarded over \$225,000 of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funds over three years to work with private landowners on Oregon white oak habitat projects.

We provided technical assistance to 36 interested landowners. Five of those landowners have undertaken restoration projects with NRCS and District funding to restore over 48 acres of oak habitat!

The projects range from removing conifers that compete with oaks to planting oak trees and oak-associated wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs.

Many important wildlife species are likely to benefit from these projects including western gray squirrel, acorn woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, western meadowlark, and western bluebird.

In 2017-2018 the Conservation Planning Program provided:

- » Technical resources and assistance to **212 landowners**;
- » Walked and visited with landowners on **121 properties**;
- » Prepared **15 conservation plans** to help guide land management;
- » Implemented **14 conservation projects**. We assisted with these practices:



Oregon white oak habitat

Brush Management - 448 acres	Heavy Use Areas - 13,360 square feet	Riparian Forest Buffer - 9 acres
Conservation Cover - 1 acre	Irrigation Water Mgmt. - 84 acres	Streamside Habitat - 1 acre
Fencing - 1,660 feet	Prescribed Grazing - 3 acres	Streambank Protection - 250 feet
Forest Site Prep - 8 acres	Restore Declining Habitat - 500 sq ft.	Tree/Shrub Establishment - 8 acres



## WeedWise Highlights

The WeedWise program 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:

- » Maintained the *Clackamas Weed List* with **220** weeds and **92** priority weeds;
- » Provided assistance to **4,492** residents;
- » Maintained permissions with **2,064** landowners responsible for **170,868** acres of property;
- » Surveyed **314** properties;
- » Carried out **309** weed treatments on **1,690** infested acres;
- » Sent mailings to **4,784** households;
- » Partnered with **54** public and non-profit organizations;
- » Administered **2** Cooperative Weed Management Areas;
- » Tracked **47,269** separate weed observations.

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

- » A county-wide *Rapid Response* weed control effort that targets high priority noxious weeds across Clackamas County;
- » Continuing ongoing weed control efforts in conjunction with the *Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership* (CRISP) to support weed control efforts within the Clackamas River Basin;
- » The continuation of our *Weed Smackdown* in conjunction with partners from the *Sandy River Vegetation Restoration Coalition* to survey and control priority weeds in the Sandy River Basin;
- » Coordination and sponsorship of the *Backyard Habitat Certification Program* to target invasive weeds in the urban areas of Clackamas County.



**Oblong Spurge:** A high priority weed discovered at several new locations



**Japanese knotweed:** A primary target for weed control efforts



**Project Highlight:** The WeedWise program has been working in conjunction with partners from the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture and the Mt. Hood National Forest to control a large infestation of orange hawkweed in northeast Clackamas County.

## Financial Summary

### Our equipment rental program

includes nine pieces of equipment. The greatest demand by far is for our 7-foot no-till drill. This year, 9 renters seeded 154 acres in pasture grasses and cover crops. Renters help with minor maintenance, sharing information, and reporting problems.

### Watershed council support grants

were offered again in 2017-2018 with \$108,250 awarded to ten watershed councils in Clackamas County. In addition we provided funds for two council projects totaling \$40,063.

### Farmers market support grants



totaling \$40,627 were also awarded to nine farmers markets.

### The District offers loans to

landowners for many water quality practices including the reduction of bacteria from septic systems.

This year we made a loan to install erosion control practices for \$3,978.

## How Our Conservation Dollars Return to the Community

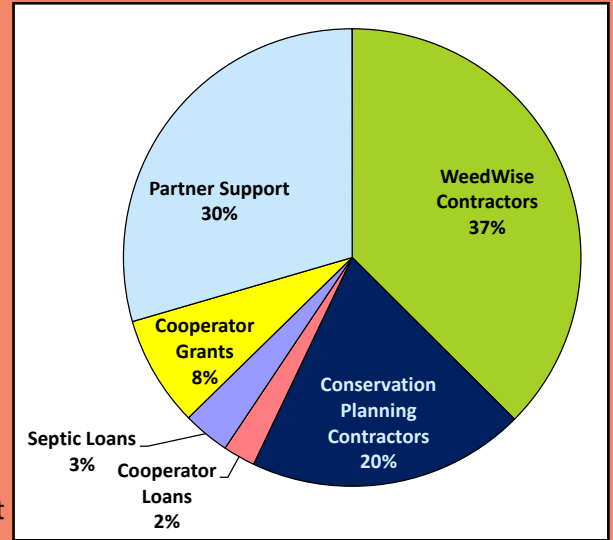
Another loan for \$13,333 was combined with a grant to help a producer convert to efficient drip irrigation and install an irrigation water management system. This resulted in the return of 2,821,869 gallons of water annually to Butte Creek in the Pudding River Watershed.

Our residential septic system repair loan program is a pilot program in the Clackamas River Watershed that began in August 2017. We made one loan this fiscal year for \$25,000 to replace a failed septic system.

**Local contractors were hired** this year to install conservation practices totaling \$148,764 and to control invasive species totaling \$283,990.

**Grants to landowners this year** totaled \$59,242 to help install many conservation practices.

**Academic scholarships** were proudly awarded to two students in 2018. Ethan Gallant from Boring and



Danielle Bull from Damascus each received a \$3,000 scholarship for the 2018-2019 school year.



Ethan Gallant and Danielle Bull with District Chair Jeff Becker.

## Conservation District Expenditures by Fund

Accrual Basis	General Fund	Conservation Grants Fund	Conservation Loans Fund	Building Reserve Fund	Working Lands Fund
<b>Beginning Balance 7/1/2017</b>	1,470,692	290,707	178,740	3,131	31,433
Income	2,476,269	86,474	120,103	2,430	1,056
Expenses	-2,258,526	-584,010	-42,312	-54,632	0
Transfers Out of Fund	-375,000				
Transfers Into Fund		250,000		125,000	
<b>Ending Balance 6/30/18</b>	1,313,434	43,171	256,531	75,929	32,489

Audited Numbers for Fiscal Year Ending 2018



# Education and Outreach

The list of our activities in 2017-2018 was so long it surprised even us!  
To make it easier to digest, we give you Outreach by the Numbers!

**7** workshops and field days organized with our partners and offered to the general public

**24** media partners who printed articles, advertisements, or information from the District

**28** events where the District had a booth or display



**142** people attended our field days and workshops



**7,574** mailers to Clackamas County landowners including newsletters, postcards, and factsheets and WeedWise mailers



**11,800** recycled burlap coffee bean bags were given to landowners for invasive weed and erosion control

**19,500** pounds of pesticides collected in Molalla at a pesticide collection event organized by the District and the Pudding River Watershed Council



**5** schools hosted the District for soil health lessons with the students



**6** teachers attended a water quality workshop provided in part by the District

**30** school and community garden educators attended our annual District led training on soil health



**94** posts on our Conservation District website

**209** participants at 2017 Small Farm School sponsored in part by the District

**308** likes on our WeedWise program Facebook page

**662** likes on the District's main Facebook page

**667** students, teachers, and helpers attended the Celebrating Water Festival provided in part by the District



## Board of Directors

Chair

**Jeff Becker**

Zone 3

**Jim Johnson**

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

Paula Gagnon

PK Melethil

Jackie Hammond-Williams

Jim Toops

## Directors Emeritus

Ron Oberg

Michael Weinberg

The Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the District. The District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.