



CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER

# CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Good dirt. Clean water.

**2018-2019**

**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

As another year closes we look back to see from where we came and in what direction we are heading.

Our mission is to provide technical and practical services designed to conserve and use resources sustainably today and for future generations. These resources include water quality and quantity, soil health, and wildlife habitat.

We have made investments in habitat restoration, streambank protection, and similar work that will remain on the landscape for generations protecting our shared resources.

Surprisingly, most of the conservation actions that we help people accomplish have a relatively short lifespan. For instance, livestock exclusion fencing, off-channel water for animals, heavy use areas, and many other practices each have a limited life. While these practices protect our resources, they are not designed to be permanent, long-lasting features on the landscape.

This year, the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District chose to balance these short-term conservation practices with long-term investments. One investment that we are particularly proud of is the acquisition of the Eagle Creek Community Forest. This 319-acre working forest will provide recreation, protect water quality and wildlife habitat, and produce revenue for conservation programs for many, many decades to come.

A second accomplishment was starting the construction of a new, permanent facility that will help us provide better customer service and will ultimately cost less than leasing office space. The new Conservation Resource Center in Beaver Creek, Oregon will be the permanent home for the District. Here we will offer conservation programs and services and provide demonstration and education opportunities for our local landowners today and for future generations.

That is a lot of change in just one year. The new forest and the new building both impact the District substantially over the next few years. It will take us some time to adjust to these ripples, but one thing won't change: our commitment to provide the best conservation service to the people who want our help.

Thank you for another great year, and we look forward to sharing with you more wonderful successes in the years to come!

Yours for conservation,

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

Tom Salzer  
General Manager





## Successes in Conservation Planning

### Oak Habitat Conservation

This year we successfully recruited landowners to conserve Oregon white oak habitat! Twenty-two landowners received technical assistance and seven undertook restoration projects with funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Restoration on over 100 acres of oak included removing fast-growing trees like Douglas-fir and English hawthorn that compete with the slow-growing oak trees for light.

This year we highlight an early adopter of oak conservation. The Smyrna United Church of Christ, south of Canby, approached the District several years ago with a desire to plant trees and create a natural area. The District recommended appropriate trees and through our cost-share program provided plant material at no cost to the church.

In total, 150 Oregon white oaks were planted on 4 acres adjacent to the church. These trees will become an oak woodland and provide habitat and refuge in a highly fragmented

area of the Willamette Valley.

Future plans include a walking trail and interpretive signs.

### Irrigation Efficiency

Long-time cooperator, Ray Kaser, has been working with the District to convert his hazelnut orchard from handline sprinklers to an efficient micro-irrigation (drip) system.

Through an Oregon Water Resources Department program he gave back 25% of his instream water rights for aquatic life in Butte Creek. In exchange, he was allowed to use his water savings to expand orchard acreage.

Phase 1, installed in 2018, included a fish friendly siphon, pump, and filter station, plus pipes and tubing to irrigate 43 acres.

This past summer, Phase II was completed on an additional 17 acres. His efficient irrigation system, combined with intensive scheduling using soil moisture probes, has resulted in less water used leaving more hazelnut trees and more water in Butte Creek!



irrigation pump



fish friendly siphon



irrigation line



system running

**Efficient drip irrigation system leaves more water for fish**



**Orange hawkweed:** A high priority weed targeted for control



**Garlic mustard:** A regional target for control and containment

## 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 **221** weeds and **92** priority weeds
- Provided assistance to **1,516** residents
- Maintained permissions with **2,267** landowners responsible for **268,003** acres of property
- Surveyed **195** properties
- Carried out **838** treatments on **484** sites totalling **1,883** infested acres
- Sent targeted mailings to **1,107** households
- Partnered with **54** public and non-profit organizations
- Administered **2** Cooperative Weed Management Areas
- Tracked **58,062** 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
- Continued 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

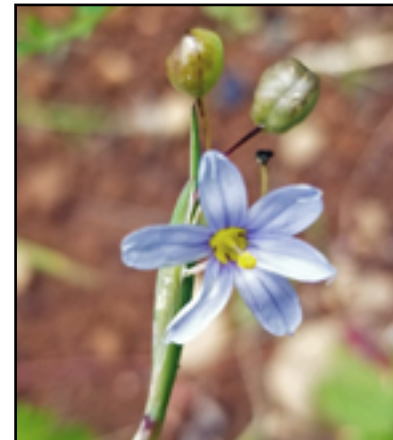
In 2018-2019 the Conservation Planning Program provided:

- » Technical resources and assistance to **192 landowners**;
- » Site visits with landowners on **102 properties**;
- » **Nine** conservation plans on **341 acres** prepared to help guide land management;
- » Implementation of **20 conservation projects** which included these practices:



**Oregon white oak restoration**

Conservation Cover - 3.3 acres	Livestock Watering Facilities - 5	Riparian Forest Buffer - 21 acres
Fencing - 4,460 feet	Prescribed Grazing - 66 acres	Roof Runoff Structures - 4
Heavy Use Areas - 17,424 square feet	Restore Declining Habitat - 35 acres	Tree/Shrub Establishment - 35 acres
Irrigation Water Mgmt. - 43 acres	Riparian Cover - 2,000 square feet	Use Exclusion - 10 acres



**Project Highlight:** The WeedWise program has been working with CRISP partners from the Mt. Hood National Forest to help protect the rare plant known as pale blue-eyed grass (LEFT) from encroachment by invasive weeds and woody trees and shrubs.



## Financial Summary - How Our Conservation Dollars Return to the Community

### The District embarked on two major projects in FY 2018-19.

With assistance from The Trust for Public Land (TPL), the US Forest Service (USFS), and Weyerhaeuser, the District acquired 319 acres of forested land in the Eagle Creek area. Our partnership with TPL allowed us to leverage their expertise in transferring these types of properties. The Weyerhaeuser land was first purchased by TPL and immediately resold to the District at cost. The District worked with the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) to source funding for the acquisition. The District was also awarded a USFS Community Forest Grant of \$550,000 to help offset the acquisition cost.

In February 2019, the District broke ground on our new headquarters, the Conservation Resource Center (CRC), located in Beaver Creek, Oregon. Project funding was secured with the help of SDAO. The District was able to secure a \$5,475,000 loan to complete the construction of the CRC; the loan will be repaid over 20 years.

The District will occupy the CRC in December 2019.

**Equipment in our rental program** was rented 23 times this year, providing access to a no-till drill, manure spreader, and aerator to assist landowners in conservation-minded land management.



No-till drill available for rent

**Grants to our partners** this year included support grants to ten **watershed councils** in Clackamas County totaling \$118,000.

**Farmers market** support grants were awarded to eight farmers markets totaling \$32,000.

**The District provided loans** to 3 landowners for conservation practices totaling \$40,910 and to one landowner for a residential septic system replacement totaling \$25,000.

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

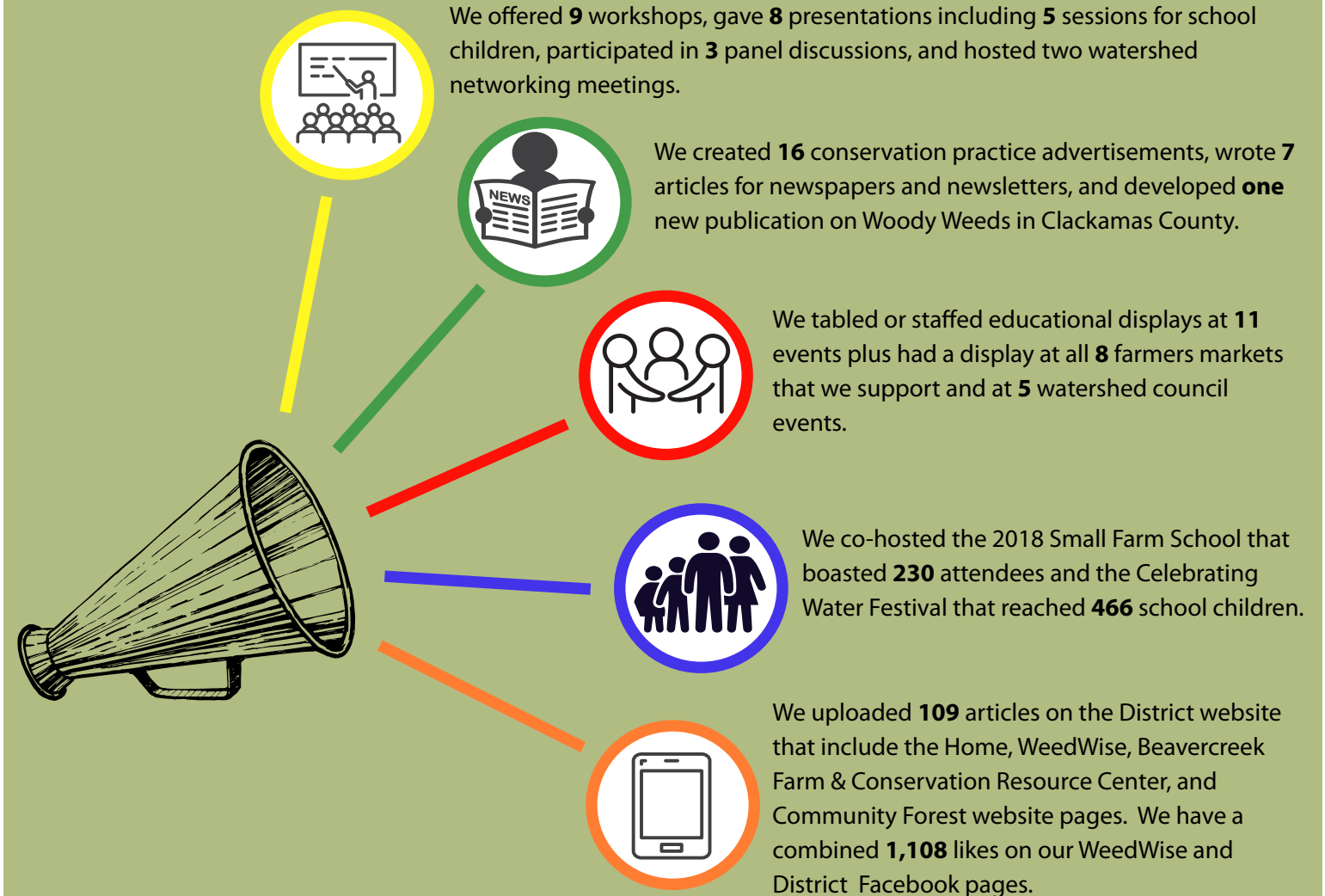
**Grants to landowners this year** totaled \$59,242 to help install many conservation practices.

**Academic scholarships** were proudly awarded to Ethan Gallant from Boring and Alexa Hayes from Damascus, each receiving a \$3,000 scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year.



Alexa Hayes and Ethan Gallant with District Chair Jeff Becker.

## Education and Outreach Serving the Residents of Clackamas County

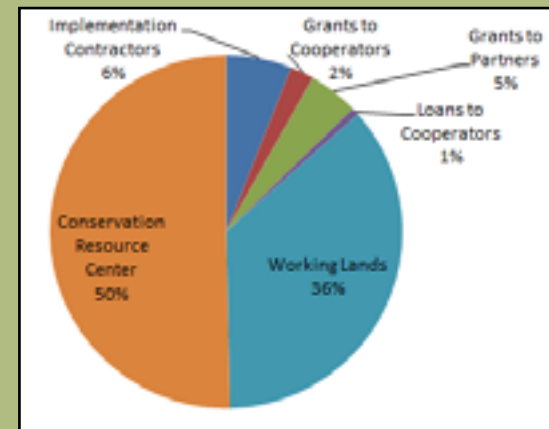


### Expenditures by Fund

Accrual Basis	General Fund	Conservation Grants Fund	Conservation Loans Fund	Building Reserve Fund	Working Lands Fund
<b>Beginning Balance 07/01/2018</b>	1,311,274	153,618	236,206	24,895	42,489
Income	2,716,486	122,709	98,358	5,479,699	2,044,059
Expenses	-2,191,785	-528,617	-83,364	-2,746,876	-1,355,061
Transfers Out of Fund	-515,000				
Transfers Into Fund		400,000		115,000	
<b>Ending Balance 6/30/2019</b>	1,320,975	147,710	251,200	2,872,718	731,487

Audited Numbers for Fiscal Year Ending 2019

### Expenditures by Program



### Spotlight on Our Favorite

**Soil health** is everyone's business! From the backyard to the schoolyard to the farmer's field, people participated in learning about and checking out their own soil health. As we improve our soil health, we reduce erosion and grow healthier crops that need less fertilizer and fewer pesticides. An added bonus, healthy soil holds more carbon thus reducing the effects of climate change!

Our "Soil Your Undies" campaign grabbed the attention of those reading the local newspapers, stopping by our booth at a number of local events, or attending one of our **two** workshops for teachers and school garden educators. Soil health lessons were also provided to **five** grade school classes.



**Ken Baker, local hazelnut grower, has healthy soil!**



## 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 Melethi

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.