

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District

2021-2022 Annual Report



A Look Back - District Manager

Working creatively was again asked of staff as COVID-19 concerns continued. Operating in a virtual environment is taxing and hinders collaboration and impromptu discussions, yet we added staff to provide technical assistance that protects water quality in our Strategic Implementation Area. We also formalized our commitment to develop a new Land Management Program by appointing a program manager.

This last year brought:

- Increased awareness of our online resources to assist residents with property management.
- Education and recognition of how historical inequities reduce resources to underserved communities and a new commitment to use a cultural diversity lens when evaluating services to our constituents.
- Continued responsibility to be tasked as a resource in post-wildfire rehabilitation and risk reduction from the wildfires of 2020 and a need to define that role in relation to other commitments.

Thank you to all the agencies, organizations, and individuals that work in cooperation with us to deliver conservation programs. With your assistance, we continue to make great strides in providing conservation resources and solutions.

Chris Lapp

Thoughts on the Year -Chair of the Board

As we continue to emerge from pandemic-related constraints, the signs of recovery are inspiring. Virtual meetings are transitioning to hybrid models. And while we appreciate the increased inclusion that technology allows, we celebrate the dynamic rewards that are supported by in-person communication and interaction.

Important work continues around long-range planning. The board and staff support a clear pathway for the District's objectives, including recognizing our responsibility to evaluate our role in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion implementation in our programs. This process incorporates not so much a shift in direction, but a widening of our focus.

The Annual Report is a wonderful way to quantify and celebrate the accumulated performance carried out by your Soil and Water Conservation District every day.

Jeff Becker

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 services and support designed to help people use natural resources sustainably today and for future generations.



The role of the District in the Lower and Middle Clear Creek Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) set by the Oregon Department of Agriculture is to offer technical assistance to agricultural landowners to help address water quality concerns. To accomplish this, we provide conservation planning and technical resources, support on-the-ground project design, and apply for incentive-based funding where available.

The land use in this SIA is predominately pasture/hay land so manure and pasture management, fencing, and riparian restoration are the key issues that require assistance. Erosion is another concern brought to us by landowners.

“ I struggle with the damage my horses do to my land and would like to find better ways to manage my land.”
-workshop attendee



The Oak Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) providing five years of funding has now ended and resulted in an impressive amount of oak habitat conservation and restoration in the Molalla River, Rock, Garrett, Bear, Milk, Cedar, and Woodcock Creek subwatersheds.

After five years of social media, fair booths, presentations, a tour, and 1,129 mailings to landowners with oak, we have delivered assistance through emails, phone calls, and greater than 137 site visits! From 2018-2022, we worked with landowners to plan 19 contracts for restoration on 279 acres.



394

Site visits to provide conservation assistance to Clackamas County residents



279

Acres of oak habitat restoration



448

Registrants for virtual and in person workshops and events



1

Mile of stream protected in a single 25 acre Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program contract



The Master Horse Keeping Workshop Series, held in 2022 with our partners at Tualatin SWCD, attracted 246 registrants (110 from Clackamas County). To continue this exciting momentum, the District started the Nay-borly News. Seasonally relevant articles were delivered directly through email in our monthly newsletter of conservation posts. Subscribers ranged from those new to horse property management all the way to those having mastered manure, mud, and water management. The Nay-borly News provided resources for education and enjoyment.

In addition, a library of documents and videos is now on our website to assist horse owners in reaching their farm goals. Find the library at conservationdistrict.org under Programs/ Horse Keeping and Land Management.



This was a year of growth and education for our District under the leadership of our Equity Team. Workshops, exercises, and conversations have led us to a point where we have nearly completed our District Equity Statement.

This statement will help us view our actions and programs through a lens of fairness, equity, and engagement.

The District partnerships run wide and deep. We support those with similar missions providing funding and on-the-ground assistance.

We work with partners to support education for our county residents, staff, and other conservation service providers.

We also partner with many agencies to put conservation practices on the ground. To all of our partners and supporters, we send a huge THANK YOU!



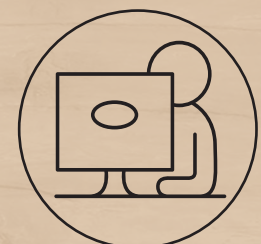
494
Views of District videos
on our [Vimeo Channel](#)



387
Subscribers to our
monthly e-newsletter
wrap-up of conservation
posts



10,000
Pounds of old, unusable,
or restricted pesticides
collected at a partner
supported event



51,412
Articles viewed from our
conservationdistrict.org
website



The WeedWise program continues to support wildfire rehabilitation efforts across Clackamas County. This past year, we assisted in ongoing rehabilitation efforts within the burn and suppression areas of the 2020 Beachie Creek, Riverside, and Dowty Road fires, and the 2021 Bull Complex fire. These efforts are helping to protect sensitive areas and allow the regeneration of native trees, shrubs, and forbs.

*“Thank you so much for your efforts to protect our region.”
- local landowner*



The primary focus of the WeedWise program is to protect Clackamas County from the encroachment of priority noxious weeds.

This past year, the WeedWise program targeted priority noxious weed populations including many notable populations of garlic mustard, knotweed, oblong spurge, orange hawkweed, gorse, goatsrue, plumeless thistle, Italian thistle, milk thistle, meadow knapweed, puncturevine, policeman’s helmet, spurge laurel, sulphur cinquefoil, and false brome. WeedWise crews treated these priority weeds across thousands of acres from remote mountain forests to urban and residential neighborhoods.



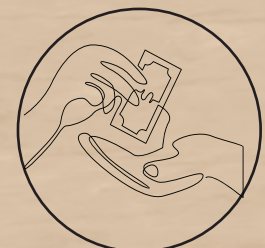
2,120
Landowners giving permission to treat invasive weeds



5,106
Acres of invasive weeds treated at 927 sites



53
Partnering organizations in invasive weed management



\$246,460
Dollars spent on contractors to manage noxious weeds



The Eagle Creek Community Forest (ECCF) Committee became formalized this fiscal year with regular meetings, a committee charter, and the official appointment of members. The June meeting was replaced with a tour of the forest to reintroduce staff and committee members to the forest after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 precautions.

The committee remains supportive of demonstrating sustainable forestry practices to small woodland owners in Clackamas County, and collaborative forest management with the surrounding private and public forests.



Before fuel reduction treatment.

After fuel reduction treatment.



Clackamas SWCD was awarded \$294,420 from the Oregon Department of Forestry as part of Oregon Senate Bill 762's Small Forestland Grant Program for wildfire risk reduction.

Dave Bugni, a member of the George community near Estacada, coordinated forest fuels reduction work with several neighboring landowners in collaboration with the District to proactively protect their community from catastrophic wildfire. Activities included pre-commercial thinning, mastication of brush, pruning low branches, and mulching of large slash piles. Ten cords of the thinned material was donated to the Estacada Food Bank as firewood.



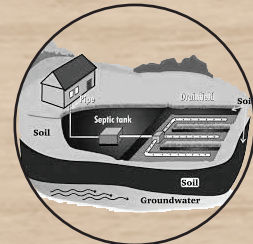
60 of 100
Acres of fuel reduction
completed with neighbors
near the Eagle Creek
Community Forest



315
Acres of Community
Forest Managed by the
District



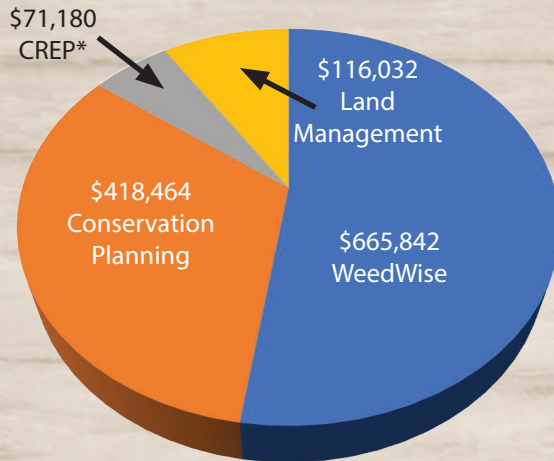
\$414,000
Dollars in on the ground
projects in Clackamas
County



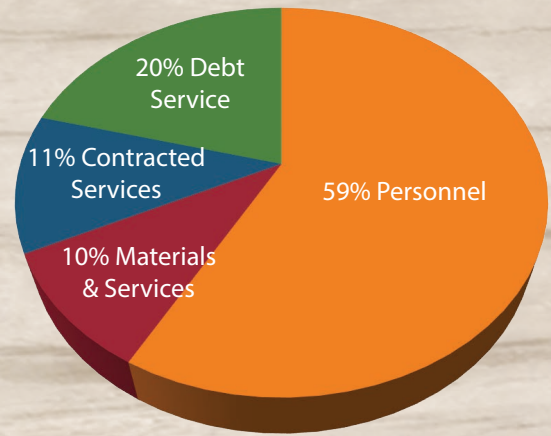
6
New loans for failed or
failing septic systems
totaling \$117,005

Financial Summary FY 21-22

Technical assistance and on-the-ground funding



General Fund Allocation



*Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Fund Balance Table

Fiscal Year 2021-2022**	General Fund	Conservation Grant Fund	Conservation Loan Fund	Working Lands Legacy Fund
Total Revenue	3,361,516	46,633	191,805	597
Total Expenditures	2,542,140	304,734	122,281	0
Transfer in/(out)	(241,800)	207,800	0	34,000
Beginning Fund Balance	1,615,735	189,954	106,949	105,158
Ending Fund Balance	2,202,437	139,381	36,744	139,755

**Audited numbers

Staff

Nicole Ahr Conservation Specialist	Anna Beebe Conservation Specialist
Suzi Cloutier Conservation Specialist	Justin Cooley WeedWise Specialist
Drew Donahue Multi-County CREP Technician	Scott Eden Conservation Specialist
Jason Faucera Land Management Mgr.	Courtney Gattuso WeedWise/CWMA Coordinator
Tami Guttridge Office Administrator	Lindsey Karr WeedWise Specialist
Lisa Kilders Education /Outreach Mgr.	Clair Klock Resource Conservationist
Chris Lapp District Manager	Sam Leiningner WeedWise Program Mgr.
Cathy McQueeney Education /Outreach Specialist	Jenne Reische Conservation Planning Mgr.
Nathan Tucker Fiscal Administrator	

Board of Directors

Jesse Nelson Vice Chair	Zone 1
Jim Johnson	Zone 2
Jeff Becker Chair	Zone 3
Joan Zuber	Zone 4
Don Guttridge Secretary	Zone 5
Roger Fantz Treasurer	At Large
Jan Lee	At Large
PK Melethil	Associate Director
Anna Rankin	Associate Director
Ron Oberg	Director Emeritus
Michael Weinberg	Director Emeritus

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.