

2024-2025 Annual Report



CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER

**CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

Good dirt. Clean water.

A Message from our District Manager

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our team, we have achieved significant progress in our strategic plan goals over the past year. One key milestone was the successful launch of a new website. This platform enhances public engagement by providing improved navigation, increased user-friendliness, and a more visually appealing experience for all users.

Additionally, we directed an award of \$394,000 from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to our Septic Loan Program to assist rural homeowners in upgrading aging septic systems. This program not only supports individual homeowners, but also plays a vital role in protecting water quality across the county.

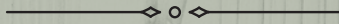
Our educational workshops and field days reached over 140 participants, furthering our commitment to community education and land stewardship. We continued in our longstanding commitment to support landowners and our partners in restoring private and natural lands affected by the 2020 Labor Day wildfires. These are only a sample of the accomplishments that reflect the hard work and dedication of everyone in our organization.

Within our organization, improvements in our procedures allowed us to operate and manage our work more effectively. We switched banking institutions to improve purchase card management and transitioned to an online payroll management system. Upgrades in effective data collection and disbursement practices made for ease of decision-making and execution.

Staff committed their time and energy to ensure more structured equity work and training. This also supports our mission and helps ensure our work is more inclusive.

Our achievements are not accomplished in isolation. We recognize the importance of our partnerships with watershed councils, as well as with local, state, and federal agencies and organizations. These collaborations are essential in supporting working lands and expanding the conservation footprint within Clackamas County.

Chris Lapp



Thoughts on the year – Chair of the Board

As another successful year closes, I am proud to share what we have achieved.

This year, to help the board focus on functioning at a higher governance level, we have made changes in our process. The board created committees for detailed work, allowing more time to meet the growing needs of the District.

Board committees worked alongside staff to review and update policies and the District's employee handbook to reflect current laws and practices.

Advocacy and land protection issues were taken up outside of board meetings, at committee levels, to bring efficiency to Board decision making.

In addition, we were pleased to welcome new Zone 3 Director Joe Matteo and new Associate Directors Matt Bunch and Nicki Passarella to the District.

We look forward to more success in the next fiscal year!

Don Guttridge

The New Website is Live!

Conservation is for everyone, and making our website reflect this was a task in our 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. This year, we completed the task.

The website is the door to our conservation world. Enter and find out about the District and our services. You will find posts about projects, events, and timely conservation practices

that can help you care for your land. You can also learn about agricultural equipment available to rent. In addition, you will find technical conservation information, videos, and a library of documents, ranging from District Board meeting minutes to barn owl nest box plans.

Interested in seeing a month's worth of conservation posts? Sign up for our monthly wrap-up to help you stay informed about what is happening in our Conservation District. <https://conservationdistrict.org/>



Clackamas County Priority Weed Control

Over the past year, the WeedWise program continued its work to control high-priority noxious weeds in Clackamas County. These weeds are a serious threat to the County due to their ability to spread quickly and damage our farms, forests, and natural areas. They also reduce the health and livability of our communities.

We are working hard to stop these priority weeds from becoming widespread.



What Does Technical Assistance Mean?

The Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District offers Technical Assistance at no cost. But what does that really mean?

It means that when you contact us, we provide help based on your needs and wants. If you report a high-priority invasive weed, a WeedWise Specialist or contractor may visit your property to assess the issue and possibly help arrange for removal.

For concerns such as erosion, manure, irrigation, or other land management issues, a Conservation Specialist may make a one time visit to your property and recommend helpful conservation practices. Or you may want a full conservation plan and assistance from the planner to implement a project. It is up to you.

Send us a message or give us a call anytime, and we will do our best to help!



CRISP Celebrates 10 Years!

The Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) is celebrating its 10th year of protecting the Clackamas River from invasive species. This partnership includes 14 public agencies and non-profit organizations. The WeedWise program has coordinated CRISP's work since it began in 2015.

Over the past 10 years, CRISP has treated 35,231 acres, surveyed 24,404 acres, planted 1,032,758 trees and shrubs, planted 33,900 plugs and bulbs, and spread 2,834 pounds of native seed to help restore more than 26 miles along the Clackamas River. This is truly an achievement worth celebrating.



Native Plant Trailer Reovation

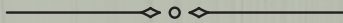
A full makeover was completed on the Native Plant Trailer this year. You may have seen this display at local events around the County. Overtime however, the plants had become overgrown and needed to be replaced. It took a while to fill in, but the trailer made it's debut at McIver State Park!

Plaza and Landscaping Project Complete

When the Conservation Resource Center was built in 2019, we delayed finishing the plaza and landscaping to focus on the building itself. This year, we completed the outdoor area that supports the needs and values of the District.



The space now includes a native pollinator garden, a shade garden, full-sun native plantings, a covered area, and a ramp to improve accessibility. The redesigned space allows us to host events, provide examples to inspire native landscapes at home, and offers a gravel pathway to provide access for exploring the plants up close.

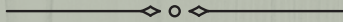


Septic System Loans Help Water Quality



In April 2025, the District received another Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. This allowed us to offer zero-interest loans to support septic repair and conservation projects to protect water quality. Nineteen septic repair projects were completed using local contractors. These projects added nearly \$394,000 to the local economy while helping protect groundwater.

Homeowners from Beaver Creek, Canby, Colton, Damascus, Estacada, Lake Oswego, Molalla, Oregon City, Rhododendron, Welches, and West Linn participated.



New Life from Scorched Earth

A Colton property suffered significant damage from the 2020 Labor Day Wildfires that resulted in over 95% canopy mortality in the riparian area and surrounding forest. The landowners reached out to the District for assistance to restore this once healthy forest area.



With our assistance, the landowners enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to restore a tributary to Nate Creek. Restoration efforts include planting native trees and shrubs, and removing invasive species introduced to the newly exposed soil.

The landowners have demonstrated exceptional stewardship, going above and beyond the required program plan to care for the riparian area. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2026. See project photo on front cover.



Oregon White Oak Habitat

The planning team worked with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to continue our Oregon white oak habitat conservation work. This year, \$55,502 was granted for three oak projects covering 27 acres.

Planners helped landowners design projects to remove plants that compete with oaks, plant new oaks, and protect habitats from invasive weeds.



credit: New Brunswick Today

Update on an Invader

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is one of the most harmful forest pests in North America. It was found in Clackamas County in 2024.

In response to the outbreak, Conservation Planning and WeedWise staff worked together to help prepare local residents. They created new EAB outreach materials.

Additional efforts include starting a citizen science program to increase local awareness and monitoring.

Pesticide Collected!

This year, the District, in partnership with the Clackamas River Water Providers and the Oregon Department of Agriculture, offered agricultural producers safe disposal of old, restricted, or unusable pesticides at no cost. The event took in 22,396 pounds of pesticides!

Since 2007, we have collected 98.55 tons of pesticides. Everything that comes in helps reduce the risk of spills or improper disposal.

It had been three years since the last collection event in Clackamas County, and producers were very excited to take part. One producer left us with this quote.

"Thank you! Really, thank you! These things are so important. It gives the chance for farmers to get rid of their old pesticides instead of mixing it up and just spraying it somewhere to get rid of it!"

Pounds of Pesticides	Date Collected
22,396	2025
10,000	2022
12,790	2019
19,500	2018
9,150	2017
12,437	2016
18,627	2013
21,166	2011 - October
35,184	2011 - March
18,351	2009
17,500	2007
197,101	pounds
98.55	tons

Funding Partnership with NRCS



The conservation planning team, in partnership with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is proud to report a new Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding pool to implement the Molalla National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) plan.

The Molalla NWQI program supports practices such as field borders, filter strips, and better irrigation systems to improve water quality in the Molalla River. In the first year, we shared information about the program with many residents. The planning team helped fifteen applicants and successfully installed one large irrigation improvement project.

New District Mini Grant Program Launched

This year, the Conservation Planning team piloted a new mini-grant program to make conservation more accessible for urban and rural-residential landowners. The program focused on reaching communities we have not historically served.

Each mini grant of up to \$2,000, supported small conservation projects such as riparian restoration, oak habitat work, native hedgerows, manure storage, and rainwater harvesting. In the first year, the program funded and completed two pollinator hedgerows, one oak habitat project, one small-scale manure composting facility, and one riparian improvement project.



The District plans to expand the program to include habitat kits next year.



Equipment Rental Program Meeting Demand

Steady demand keeps our Equipment Rental Program busy, especially during the fall and spring. This year, we added a 185-cubic-foot capacity manure spreader to the fleet. While the 44-cubic-foot spreader works well for small properties, the new one will better support larger operations.

This year, our equipment was rented 30 times and used on 480 acres. With the new manure spreader, we expect summer rentals to increase as more people work to reduce manure piles to avoid nutrient and bacteria runoff into creeks.



30 Years of Service to the District

Don Guttridge, who represents Estacada, central and east Clackamas County, celebrated 30 years of service to the District. He was first elected in 1994. Since then, Don has held every position on the District Board of Directors. We appreciate his long-standing dedication to conservation.

Forest Planning and Fuels Reduction



In recent years, we have reduced forest fuels through thinning and limbing our young stands of trees at the Eagle Creek Community Forest (ECCF). This year, we thinned 63 acres of the forest, for a total of 130 acres treated in two years.

Staff and the ECCF Advisory Committee also began developing an update of the 2020 forest management plan. This update will guide our forest management for the next

decade and beyond. The plan supports the District's goal of sustainable forestry that balances ecological and economic needs.

Fire-Adapted Weed Management

Nearly half of Clackamas County is made up of public lands, including the Mt. Hood National Forest. Many of these areas have been affected by wildfires in recent years.

The WeedWise program has been working with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to control noxious weeds in these fire-impacted areas. This year, we assigned staff to focus on controlling fire-adapted weeds so our forests and natural areas can recover and grow strong.

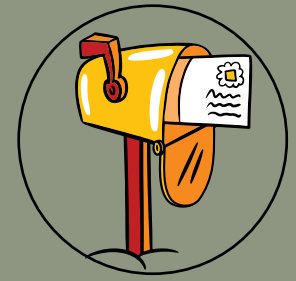


Community Learning

The Conservation Resource Center was very active with community workshops this year. For example, the *Mud, Manure, and Pasture Management* workshop drew a full crowd, with a waiting list of those wishing to attend the fall session. This two-day class included an evening field visit to a nearby horse property. You can be sure we will offer more workshops on these topics in the future.

Another popular event was a two-part series, *Soil Health: Tools You Can Use* and *Cover Crops in Perennial and Multi-year Cropping Systems*. A mix of producers attended to learn about these important topics for sustainable agriculture.

The *Streamside Restoration Workshop* welcomed 20 participants for a day of learning about how and why restoring streamside areas is important. The workshop explained how these projects help protect water quality and support healthy wildlife habitat.



Many received mail!

Sometimes, old fashioned postcards and letters are the most effective way to reach our rural customers. Partners like Clackamas River Water Providers help pay for these mailings:

- 1,150 Emerald Ash Borer
- 1,500 Mud, Manure, and Pasture
- 1,160 Oak Restoration
- 1,317 Molalla National Water Quality Incentives Program
- 2,409 Invasive Weed Control
- 4,000 Pesticide Collection Event
- 7,800 Septic Maintenance



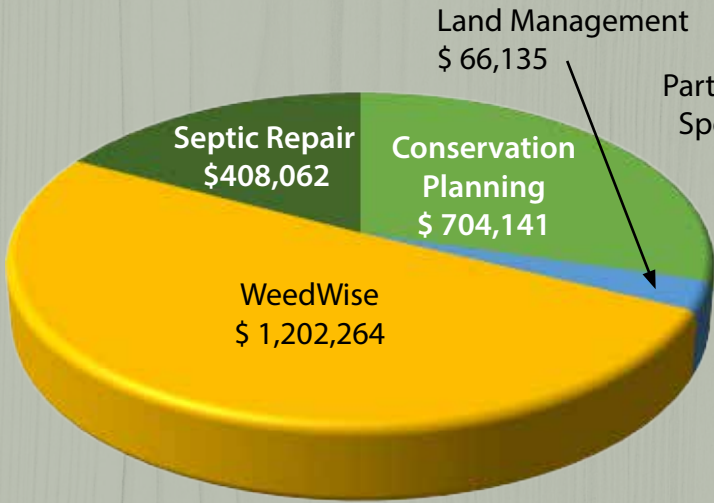
Field day Success

Education happens outdoors too! *Cover Crops Field Day for Christmas Tree Growers* drew a large crowd to a local farm where participants learned how cover crops can support soil health and help farms handle weather challenges.

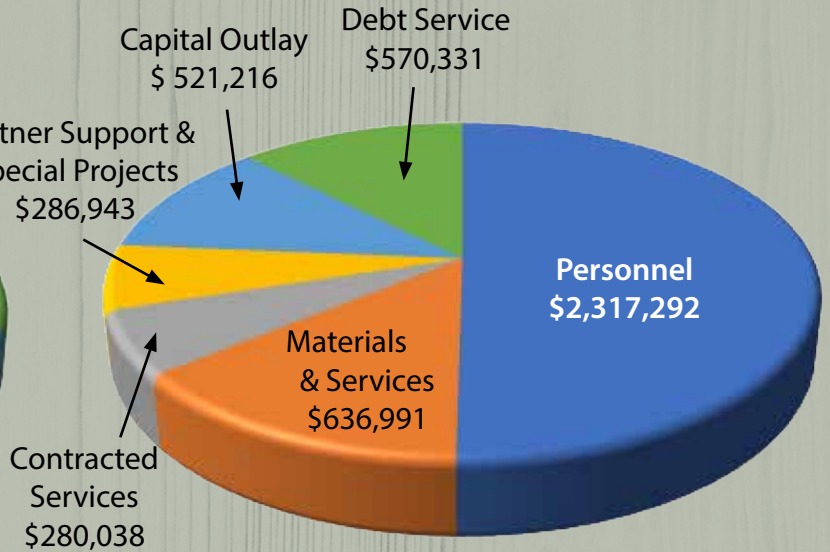
Those with pastures were invited to attend a Pasture Walk to discuss weeds, forage, and overall pasture health. This event was held in partnership with the Oregon Forage and Grassland Council.

Financial Summary FY 24-25

Technical Assistance and On-the-Ground Funding

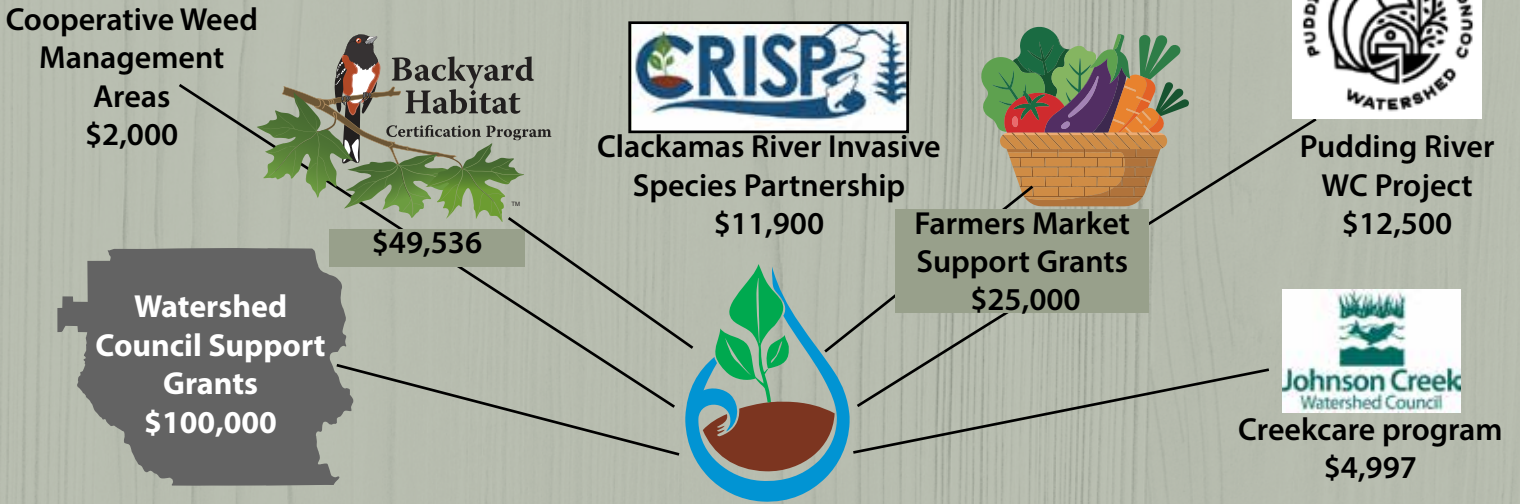


General Fund Allocation



Supporting Our Partners

Supporting organizations whose mission aligns with ours to expand the reach of conservation



Fiscal Year 2024-2025	General Fund	Conservation Grant Fund	Conservation Loan Fund*	Working Lands Legacy Fund	Compulsory Maintenance Reserve Fund
Total Revenue	4,051,242	514,259	501,587	5,714	-
Total Expenditure	4,443,932	600,433	425,215	--	--
Transfer In/(Out)	(280,000)	250,000	--	--	30,000
Beginning Fund Balance	2,306,866	711,463	51,924	148,360	--
Ending Fund Balance	1,634,176	875,289	128,296	154,074	30,000

* Revenues in the loans fund represent balance payments from borrowers and draws from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Staff



Brendan Addis Conservation Specialist	Brendan Fordyce WeedWise Specialist	Gus Liszka Maintenance/Equip. Rental Program
Suzi Cloutier Conservation Specialist	Tami Guttridge Office Administrator	Monte Mattsson WeedWise Specialist
Justin Cooley WeedWise Specialist	Samantha Kelly Seasonal WeedWise Technician	Cathy McQueeney Education /Outreach Specialist
Jordan DeLawder Conservation Specialist	Hayden Jorde Seasonal WeedWise Technican	Heather Nielsen Conservation Investments Coordinator
Drew Donahue Conservation Specialist	Lisa Kilders Education /Outreach Manager	Jenne Reische Conservation Planning Manager
Scott Eden Conservation Specialist	Chris Lapp District Manager	Nathan Tucker Fiscal Administrator
Jason Faucera Land Management Manager	Sam Leiningner WeedWise Program Manager	

Board of Directors



**Front: Jan Lee, Don Guttridge, Joan Zuber
Back: Jim Johnson, Roger Fantz , Joe Matteo
Missing: Jesse Nelson**

Jesse Nelson Vice Chair	Zone 1
Jim Johnson	Zone 2
Joe Matteo	Zone 3
Joan Zuber Secretary	Zone 4
Don Guttridge Chair	Zone 5
Roger Fantz Treasurer	At-Large
Jan Lee	At-Large

Matt Bunch	Associate Director
Nicki Passarella	Associate Director

Ron Oberg	Director Emeritus
Michael Weinberg	Director Emeritus