



JACKSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report
July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015



Highlights

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Collecting
Agricultural
Pesticides



Water Wise
Education in
Ashland



Irrigation
Water-Quality
Monitoring



Irrigation
Conversion in the
Applegate

**YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES- CASH BASIS

RECEIPTS	
Property Taxes	\$ 852,972
ODA	\$ 70,930
Tours, Workshops, Classes	\$ 5,826
Interest	\$ 6,810
Grant Revenue	\$ 13,777
Lease Revenue	\$ 29,255
Miscellaneous	\$ 467
Total Reciepts	\$ 980,037
DISBURSEMENTS	
Personnel Services	\$ 356,535
Materials and Services	\$ 470,221
Capital Outlay	\$ 33,344
Total Disbursements	\$ 860,100
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 119,937
FUND BALANCE	
Beginning of Year	\$1,127,299
End of Year	\$1,247,236



Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District is a leader in providing scientifically-based technical assistance, education, and financial resources. We support landowners in implementing best management practices; enhancing the natural environment, while protecting Jackson County's cultural, social and economic values.



Chairman's Corner

With this 2014-2015 Annual Report, let us reflect on a comment by Benjamin Franklin; "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn". The key word in Franklin's comment is quite obviously "involve". That is also the key element in the continually growing success of Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, as our staff assists county landowners and residents in the fulfillment of our mission, "to conserve, protect, and develop natural resources for their social, economic, and environmental benefits".

Of course, soil and water are two primary keys to all life forms on planet Earth. The needs and demands of our ever-increasing human population have resulted in the deterioration of the

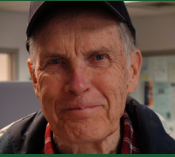
quality of water and soil in many areas around the world including the United States- including Jackson County. The increasing need for stewardship (wise use), has never been more apparent.

The opportunities for assistance, afforded by the Jackson SWCD staff are being accomplished through their efficiency in technical support, on-the-ground site visits, development of individual management plans, and financial assistance. These endeavors are greatly enhanced by interagency partners such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the USDA Farm Service, the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center and the newly formed Rogue River Watershed Council.

The bottom line: Jackson SWCD is growing and bearing fruit for the people of Jackson County, as a result of the involvement of people who care.

Allan Campbell
Chairman of the Board
Jackson SWCD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Allan Campbell
Chairman
Zone: At Large



Barbara
Niedermeyer
Vice-Chairman
Zone 2



Larry Martin
Treasurer/
Secretary
Zone 1



Marilyn Rice
Zone: At Large



Juanita Wright
Zone 3



Don Hamann
Zone 4



Ron Hillers
Zone 5



Stan Dean
Associate
Director

In February of 2015 Stan Dean was appointed by the Jackson SWCD Board of Directors as an Associate Director. Although Stan has no voting rights on the Board, he has become an invaluable asset. He serves as a liaison for JSWCD with the Rogue River Watershed Council and is a strong advocate for water conservation as a member of the OSU Extension's Land Stewards Advisory Council.

He is a registered civil engineer in both Oregon and California. His professional career focused on municipal wastewater treatment, municipal water supply, water resources, water quality, and environmental regulations.

Stan considers his second (unpaid) career to be promoting and facilitating good land stewardship. We feel very fortunate to have Stan's insight.

About Our Board...

In order to represent the varied interests for different regions of Jackson County, the Oregon Department of Agriculture provides zoning of each district. Two director positions are “at-large” positions. Zoned directors must reside within the zone they are representing and be registered voters. Each board member serves their position in four year terms.

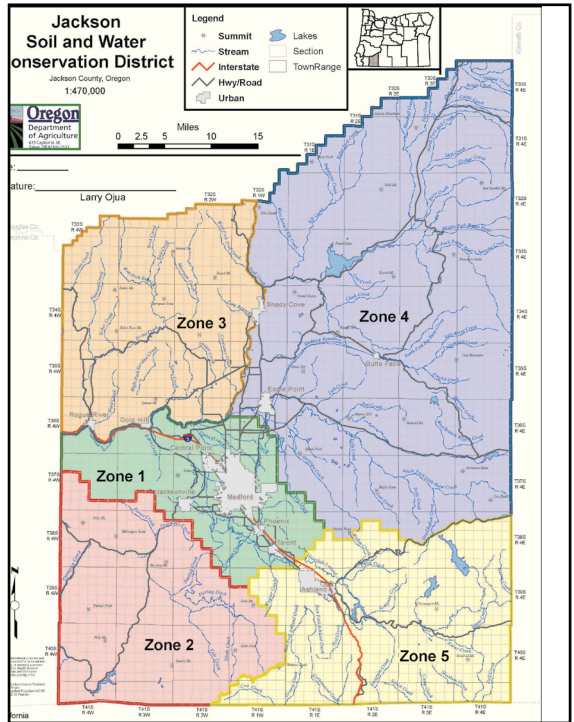
*summarized from
ORS 568.560*

Special Thanks to Our Water Quality Monitoring Intern

In the spring, we hired Ben Moore, a recent graduate from Southern Oregon University with a BS in Environmental Studies, to conduct a water quality monitoring study on a cattle pasture and a hay field in the Rogue Valley.

Ben assisted the District by measuring flood irrigation return flows to area streams, collecting water samples to test for bacteria concentrations, measuring turbidity, and using real time instruments to collect water temperature and depth.

Before monitoring even began, Ben constructed the water control structures at both sites that allowed



us to accurately measure the volume of water returning to streams. He collected water samples and downloaded real time data every two weeks, then tabulated the data and created graphs that showed the relationships between flow and temperature, and grazing management and bacterial and sediment deposition in return flows.

In the next few years, we plan to continue monitoring irrigation practices with these landowners as they convert to more efficient irrigation practices.

We'd like to give special thanks to Ben for his dedication as an intern with us. Interns and volunteers help us better serve our community as a whole. Thanks Ben!

JACKSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF



Randy White
*District
Manager*



Markie Germer
*Administrative
Secretary*



Lori Tella
*Urban and
Community Planner*



Paul Demaggio
*Natural Resource
Project Specialist*



Jennifer Sawtell
*Education
and Outreach
Coordinator*



Clint Nichols
*Rural Natural
Resource Planner*



Ashley Parret
*Media and
Marketing
Coordinator*

Partnering with NRCS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has continued to be a valued partner in conservation and has worked with the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District on priority resource concerns including water quality, forest restoration, and fuels reduction on private lands around the county.

In collaboration with key partners, NRCS received over \$1 M from the Chief's Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership to fund the Ashland Forest All-Land Restoration Project (AFAR). AFAR will implement forest restoration and fuels reduction in and around the Ashland Municipal Watershed, reducing wildfire threats, protecting water quality and improving wildlife habitat.

\$3 M in conservation funding also became available through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). A proposal, sponsored by Lomakatsi Restoration Project and supported by a number of key partners, focuses investments on oak woodland restoration near the Table Rocks and the Colestin valley in Jackson County.

Water Quality investments, including over \$150K in irrigation improvements, continued to take place last year in the Little Butte Creek watershed. The NRCS also continues to provide technical and financial assistance in organic agriculture, high tunnels, and forestry related practices in focused areas county-wide.

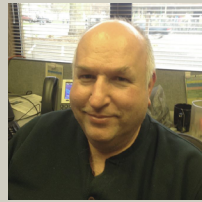
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



Erin Kurtz
District
Conservationist



Peter Winnick
Soil
Conservationist



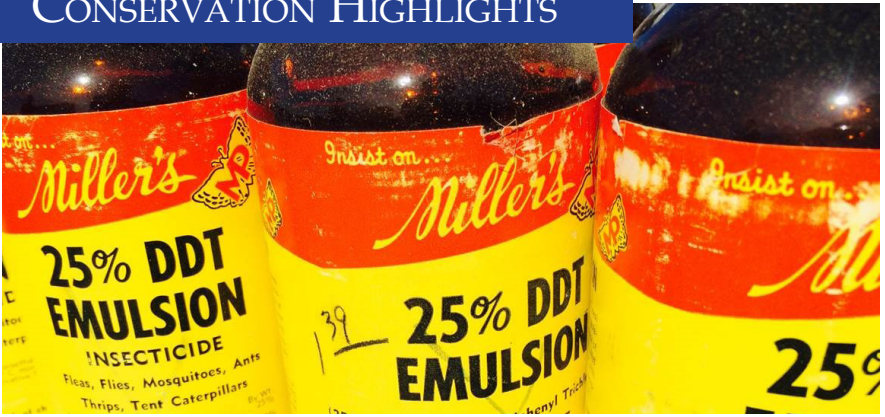
Bill Cronin
State Irrigation
Engineer

FARM SERVICES AGENCY

Joe Hess
County Executive Director

For more specific information on programs offered: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/programs/?cid=nrcs142p2_044053

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS



Bottles of DDT (banned in 1972) that had been waiting for safe disposal

Collecting Pesticides to Protect Our Water

With help from our partners in the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership, Jackson SWCD took part in an event last March to collect agricultural pesticides and contaminated containers for safe disposal. Such an event had not been previously recorded in Southern Oregon, leaving local residents with agricultural chemicals that could destabilize or corrode through containers, putting local water sources at risk.

With funding from the Department of Environmental Quality, and assistance

Working Together with Gold Hill Irrigation District

In the Gold Hill Irrigation District a flume that crossed Foothills Creek south of the Rogue River did not meet the standards for exposed pipe and had begun to deteriorate due to sun exposure. As a result, irrigation water was impacting Foothills Creek through erosion and damage to the riparian area. Nearby, a flume was depositing water into a wide earthen basin before continuing on to the conveyance ditch,

from the the Oregon Department of Agriculture, a company specializing in chemical waste disposal was hired to help us collect a total of 10,585 pounds of pesticide waste. Residents registered their chemicals for safe collection but were allowed to remain anonymous.

Several partners were involved in planning and advertising the event including Rogue Disposal and Recycling, Harry and David, OSU Extension, the Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Rogue Valley Sewer Services, and the Rogue River Watershed Council. Rogue Disposal generously donated the use of a large lot at their White City Transfer Station for the event.

which also showed signs of erosion due to uncontrolled flow from the pipe.

The project consisted of constructing a new head gate on the east side of Foothills Creek, inserting a new, UV rated pipe within the existing pipe, and constructing a new apron and wing wall on the west side of Foothills Creek to catch and slow water flow as it leaves the pipe. Together with the Gold Hill Irrigation District, we were able to correct these issues and reduce this man-made erosion into Foothills Creek.

Erosion Control, Exclusion Fencing and Riparian Planting on the South Fork of Little Butte Creek

Jackson SWCD, in partnership with Tim Weaver from Little Butte Creek Watershed council completed a joint project of riparian restoration, exclusion fencing, and erosion control on a property on the South Fork of Little Butte Creek. Jackson SWCD provided technical and grant assistance for the erosion control while the Little Butte Creek Watershed Council coordinated the riparian restoration and exclusion fencing.

This property has been the subject of many years of riparian projects and irrigation projects in coordination with the watershed council. Although

the property has changed hands, the riparian restoration from a few years ago is still providing bank stabilization and reducing blackberry invasion, while the sprinkler system from over 5 years ago is working as planned. The new riparian restoration, blackberry removal and erosion control will assist with the conservation of this property's natural resources and improve water quality in Little Butte Creek for many years to come.



Completed riparian planting implemented by the LBCWC

Cleaning Up Near Ashland

Before an Ashland area landowner could convert part of their land into a small vineyard, they needed to deal with 600 cubic yards of construction debris and dirt that had been left on the property by the previous owner. The slope of the fill was being easily eroded during storm events and depositing waste dirt into neighboring properties.

Our technical staff, helped them research local landfill requirements for accepting construction waste. They also helped them estimate the amount of fill and the approximate cost of removal so that they could safely remove the debris and stop erosion. With the removal of the potentially hazardous construction waste, they are now able to move forward with their goals and dreams for their property.

Helping Landowners Change Irrigation Methods in the Applegate Valley

Some landowners know what they want and just need a helping hand. Such was the case with a small farm owner in the Applegate Valley who came to us looking for alternatives to flood irrigation.

After offering advice on which alternatives might work for them, and giving guidance on their soil infiltration and crop water needs, we helped them apply for funding to convert a 5 acre field from flood to sprinkler irrigation. By making the switch they'll not only save water but they'll also save their valuable soil from running off of their property and into the local stream.

PARTNERING IN EDUCATION



RARE intern Molly Bradley

RARE intern in Gold Hill

In 2014-2015 Jackson SWCD partnered with the City of Gold Hill to hire an intern to serve as shared staff, who would focus on water quality and stormwater education in Gold Hill.

As the RARE intern (Resource Assistant for Rural Envrionments), Molly Bradley improved awareness of human impacts on water quality via the City's website and the release of quarterly newsletters focused on water quality related issues. Using existing momentum of the excellent work of the 2014 RARE student, Nicholas Lennartz, Molly spent the

majority of her time administering and implementing a newly adopted Surface Water Management Plan.

Together, Molly Bradley and Lori Tella, our Urban Conservation Planner, collaborated on stormwater education at the local middle school, worked with local citizens on a riparian trail network proposal, and provided education through events and free classes such as Streamside Gardening. Through the educational program, students at Hanby Elementary School built the city's first bioswale demonstration, to help slow and filter stormwater runoff before it enters the Rogue River.

Following her year with the RARE AmeriCorps Program, Molly accepted a position with the City of Rogue River as their Planner. We are pleased that she will continue to make a difference in our community. A special thanks to Molly for all of her enthusiasm and hard work, and to City Manager Rick Hohnbaum, for his support of the RARE program and dedication to stormwater quality in Gold Hill.

2nd Annual Water Conservation Summit

Jackson SWCD hosted a gathering of local water managers and representatives in May of 2015, to discuss water issues in Southern Oregon. More than 45 different organizations, including federal, state and local government agencies, irrigation districts, non-profits and private entities, were invited to share information and discuss projections for Jackson County's water supply.

As we faced our fourth consecutive year of drought, several agencies presented research findings and programs, developed for addressing the pressing issues concerning the quality and quantity of our water. Managers hope to continue this annual discussion focused on responsible management of water resources. A special thanks to Eric Dittmer, Robert Coffan and Craig Tuss for their work organizing this open forum.



Synlawn and permeable paver demonstration with educational sign in North Mountain Park

Water-Wise Landscaping Demonstration

In partnership with North Mountain Park Nature Center, Ashland Parks and Recreation, and the City of Ashland, Jackson SWCD completed a joint project to demonstrate water-wise landscaping. The demonstration, located at North Mountain Park Nature Center, includes permeable pavers, artificial turf, and signs to educate visitors on the water saving installation.

The benefit of both permeable pavement and synthetic turf is that they are porous, allowing water to infiltrate through them and into the soil. This helps to recharge groundwater and helps to filter pollutants that would flow directly to the stream. Synthetic turf also eliminates the need for watering a lawn, and doesn't require fertilizers or pesticides while preventing weeds and providing a pleasing visual landscape.

Jackson SWCD provided technical and grant assistance while the North Mountain Park Nature Center

coordinated the project, with assistance from the City of Ashland. Leave your Mark Landscaping and Carols Colors provided discounted prices and volunteered their time to design and install the water-wise features. Educational signs were designed by Karen Onkka and KVO Industries.

The installation is a nice addition to the many water-saving demonstrations in the gardens of North Mountain Park, which provide visitors with many options for saving water at home.



Interpretive sign at the Water Wise Demo

Spring Pesticide Collection Event

For those who missed the 2015 Agricultural Pesticide Collection Event (*see page 7*), there will be two more events in 2016. The Grants Pass event will be held Friday March 4th and a second event will be held in White City, Saturday March 5th. Containers as well as chemicals will be accepted, registration is required. See our website for registration details.

Free Pump Efficiency Testing

Landowners can have their pump efficiency tested this summer, through Jackson SWCD. Our Resource Project Specialist, will visit with landowners during irrigation season to test irrigation pumps and create a free report about possible energy and water savings. Call Paul DeMaggio to learn more.



Equipment Rentals

We now have equipment for rent to help landowners put conservation into practice. See the new Equipment Library on our website or call our Rural Natural Resource Planner, Clint Nichols for more information.



Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District

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