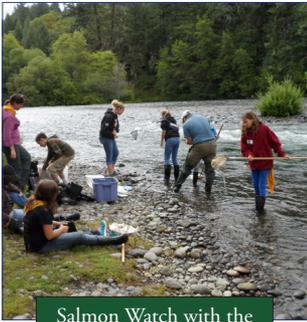


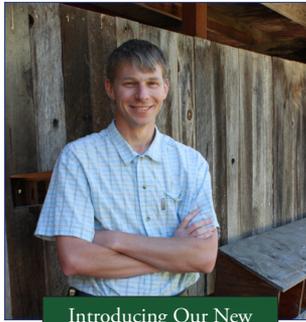


# JACKSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report  
July 1, 2013- June 30, 2014



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Day Camp p.10



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**YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014**

**RECEIPTS**

Property Taxes	\$ 820,512
ODA	\$ 70,930
Tours, Workshops, Classes	\$ 5,917
Interest	\$ 6,256
Grant Revenue	\$ 73,265
Lease Revenue	\$ 23,160
Miscellaneous	\$ 572
Total Receipts	\$ 1,000,612

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Personnel Services	\$ 342,620
Materials and Services	\$ 325,712
Capital Outlay	\$ 456,133
Total Disbursements	\$ 1,124,465

**EXCESS OF REVENUES**

**OVER EXPENDITURES**    -\$ 123,853

Other Funding Sources    \$ 0

**FUND BALANCE**

Beginning of Year	\$1,251,152
End of Year	\$1,127,299



Allocated District Funds	\$47,704.00
Leveraged Funds	\$153,595.00

The Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District is a non-regulatory agency dedicated to helping landowners implement best management practices.



We believe enhanced management will reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, air quality, wildlife habitat, and the quality of life for the people of Jackson County and beyond.

By providing technical assistance, education and financial aid, we work to improve soil and water conservation while supporting the social and economic values of Jackson County.

*A Few of the Practices We Implemented with NRCS*



- Pressurized irrigation sprinkler systems
- Irrigation method conversion
- Tree and shrub pruning
- Irrigation water management
- Pumping plant design
- Forest stand improvement
- Woody biomass removal
- Irrigation conveyance pipelines
- Fish and wildlife structures
- Seasonal high tunnels
- Rainwater harvest
- Stormwater runoff control
- Downspout disconnection
- Rain gardens
- Bioswales
- Native planting
- Xeriscaping
- Bird gardens
- Ecolawns
- Erosion control





## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

With this year's Annual Report, let us welcome three new staff members to our District family.

These talented new editions to our staff bring with them new ideas and approaches that increase our adaptability to meet the needs of Jackson County citizens.

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. The increasing need for stewardship (i.e. wise use) has never been more apparent.

It is also apparent to the residents of Southern Oregon that agricultural and forestry needs are growing in our rural and urban settings. To balance the needs of the people and the needs of the land we must look at the system as a whole and manage not just for today, but for the future as well.

The opportunities for assistance afforded by the hardworking staff of Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) are available to all and are broad ranging. For both rural and urban citizens alike, our staff

provides technical support through on-the-ground site visits and the development of individual management plans. We offer education opportunities and resources that are available in many different formats. We even offer financial assistance to projects and organizations that support stewardship and conservation in action.

Our success is greatly enhanced by our cooperative efforts with interagency partners who share our vision and commitment to the health of our resources. The bottom line: the JSWCD is growing and bearing fruit for the people of Jackson County.

Allan Campbell  
*Chairman of the Board*  
*Jackson SWCD*



## JSWCD STAFF



Randy White  
*District Manager*



Markie Germer  
*Administrative Secretary*



Lori Tella  
*Urban and Community Planner*



Paul DeMaggio  
*Natural Resource Project Technician*

## INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS



### Clint Nichols

#### *Rural Natural Resource Planner*

Clint is a recent graduate from Southern Oregon University with a B.S. in Environmental Studies, focused on ecology and conservation. He has worked on forest and watershed health issues with the US Forest Service in both the Sierra

Nevada and Lassen National Forests. He also worked with the Ashland Forest Resilience Stewardship Project, studying natural fire regimes in the Ashland Creek watershed. While working for the National Park Service, he studied vegetation patterns in Lava Beds National Monument and Crater Lake National Park.

Besides his expertise in watershed and forestry issues, Clint brings with him a wealth of technical knowledge to help landowners analyze and manage their resources with science-based planning. In addition, Clint hopes to add to landowner options with his interests in agroforestry, irrigation improvement, local food markets and pasture management.

## Jennifer Sawtell

### *Education and Outreach Coordinator*

Jennifer began her career working with youth, in outdoor education in Central Oregon. She later moved to Ashland to finish her B.S. in Environmental Studies in Biology at Southern Oregon University.

While living in the Rogue Valley, she worked in education and outreach with organizations such as the Ecology Center of the Siskiyou, the Table Rocks Education Program, the Siskiyou Field Institute and the Medford Bureau of Land Management. She later worked throughout Oregon as a field biologist for TerraMar Environmental Research, Oregon State University, and the U.S.



Geological Survey.

She returned to teaching outdoor education with Oregon State Parks and has worked in the Western U.S. as an Education and Outreach Professional with entities such as the U.S. National Park Service, the Buffalo Bill Center Museums, private schools, colleges and non-profit organizations.

She returns to Jackson County with a strong commitment to conservation and broad perspective of resource issues in the West. She also has a deep respect for the values and culture unique to Southern Oregon and looks forward to her role in conservation and stewardship education in this special place.

## Ashley Parret

### *Media and Marketing Coordinator*

Ashley graduated from Southern Oregon University with a B.S. in Communications and a Minor in Emergent Media and Digital Arts. Her background includes producing the local, weekday morning news for Fox 26, Medford, developing media campaigns for local businesses, and producing segments for Southern Oregon Public Television.

Currently she is developing a video that reveals, in detail, the history and evolution of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, how JSWCD fits into that story, and what we as a district, envision for the future.

She is also in the development stage of a photo and video library for use by the residents of Jackson County. These resources will provide insight into common, natural resource concerns and will include how-to videos, before and after

photos of our projects, and other great educational material.



# CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS



*Sprinkler pods in Little Butte Creek*

## Converting from Flood to Sprinkler Irrigation in Little Butte Creek Watershed

**J**SWCD, in partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), completed a flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation conversion on 73.5 acres in the Little Butte Creek Watershed in March. JSWCD provided technical and grant assistance, while NRCS provided technical oversight and additional funding. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) supplied grant funding as well. The irrigation contractor and landowner provided materials and labor to install the irrigation system.

This was the fourth phase of the Little Butte Creek Water Quality Improvement Project on a large ranch along Little Butte Creek. All phases have consisted of flood to sprinkler irrigation conversion, thus far converting 300 acres to more efficient irrigation methods. This conversion has eliminated erosion concerns, while increasing crop yield, irrigation efficiency, and lowering runoff return flows into Little Butte Creek.

This particular phase was pressurized by a 10 horse-power pump and variable frequency drive on 47.5 acres and pressurized by gravity on the remaining 26 acres. The sprinklers were all K-Line pods with Nelson rotators. Pod sprinklers were chosen because they are resilient to cattle and have a soft water application which is appropriate for the sloping heavy clay soils on this property.

## Monitoring Flood Irrigation Return Flows

**W**e recently partnered with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Southern Oregon University (SOU) to conduct monitoring of irrigation return flows on 73.5 acres of flood irrigated pasture in the Little Butte Creek Watershed.

Monitoring revealed high levels of E. Coli, high temperatures, and high flow rates returning to Little Butte Creek. This data helped support the decision to implement the transition from flood to sprinkler irrigation, improving water quality in Little Butte Creek.

## Converting from Flood to Sprinkler Irrigation in Butte Falls

The plan for the conversion of 18 acres of flood irrigated pasture to pod sprinklers in Butte Falls was confirmed and District funds were approved in May 2014. This landowner was previously flood irrigating using Eagle Point Irrigation District (EPID) water. Water flowed over his property and subsequently into the downhill neighbor's property. This posed a problem to the landowner because of the large amount of water saturating his land which led to an increase in water loving plants and a decrease in beneficial pasture grasses. The solution, which will be finished in Spring 2015, was to switch to sprinkler irrigation and use a pump to boost pressure. The landowner also attended the JSWCD Pasture Management Class to learn about his pasture options and had Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Forestry assess an upland, forested area on his property. This landowner is truly taking a holistic approach to his property management.



*Water Pump in Gold Hill*

## Pump Efficiency Project in Gold Hill

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) partnered with JSWCD to provide technical assistance to improve pump efficiency on 44 Acres in Gold Hill. The property was previously hayed using wheel lines but the new landowner is moving towards organic row crops. The current diesel pump was not suited for this transition because of its high pressures and flow rates.

NRCS funding was approved for the project to use a smaller deisel pump, thereby reducing fuel usage and lessening costs to the landowner. The landowner will also be required, through NRCS, to follow an irrigation water management plan to ensure the most efficient use of his irrigation water.

## Flood to Drip Irrigation in the Applegate Valley

JSWCD assisted with funding a project converting flood to drip irrigation on four acres along the Applegate River. This practice reduces water saturation and irrigation return flows into the Applegate River, as well as improving irrigation efficiency.

The Freshwater Trust (TFT) partnered with the landowner, sharing a pump and filter station. The landowner will use the system to drip irrigate his hops and TFT will use it to drip irrigate a developing riparian planting along the Applegate River.



*Soil Saturation in the Applegate*

# PARTNERING IN EDUCATION

## Partnering with the City of Gold Hill

The District and the city of Gold Hill partnered this year to address water quality issues and to assist in the cleanup of the Rogue River. High temperatures and bacteria pollution have prompted the Department of Environmental Quality to list the Rogue as an “impaired water body” under the Clean Water Act.

Together, the District and the City of Gold Hill hired Nicolas Lennartz, a RARE student (Resource Assistance for Rural Environments), to serve as their Water Quality Improvement Coordinator. Among other projects, Nicolas did a great job helping to integrate low impact development (LID) practices into the city code. At the city

level, new LID ordinances and protocols were adopted. Other projects included a rain barrel workshop and installation at City Hall and a demonstration on building a rain garden on city property.

Seven Basins Watershed Council helped to complete portions of the plan by marking storm drains and doing outreach to local schools and community organizations. JSWCD, the City of Gold Hill and Seven Basins Watershed Council also coordinated to host a booth at the Gold Dust Days event, which included an interactive stormwater demonstration built out of Legos.



*Building rain gardens in Gold Hill*

## Battle of the Bones

JSWCD partnered with Rogue Valley Sewer Services to host a booth at the Battle of the Bones. The booth theme was Stormwater 101; teaching that storm water can drain in to creeks untreated, and that rain harvesting and low impact development can help reduce pollution.

For some, this was the first time they had heard of stormwater management. A raffle for a rain barrel helped to bring in the crowds.

## Watershed Exploration Days

In September and October 2013 the District partnered with the Bear Creek Salmon Festival to coordinate Watershed Exploration Days. The project, coordinated by several partners, included more than 20 events encouraging the public to get out and explore Bear Creek and the surrounding watershed. Events included salmon viewing, water conservation classes, restoration work parties, tours

and events like Salmon Festival. The District held booths and interactive activities at several of the festivals as well as hosting classes.





*Salmon Watch at the Forest and Range Day Camp*

## Salmon Watch

Funding provided by JSWCD was used to re-establish the Salmon Watch Program in the Rogue Valley. The program provided opportunities for students from Ashland, Talent, Medford, and Central Point to learn about salmon and water quality in the Rogue Basin.

The Salmon Watch program provides field-based, hands-on learning that connects kids to creeks through lessons focused on salmon biology and life cycles, water quality, aquatic macroinvertebrates, and riparian ecosystems. Partners included, Rogue Valley Sewer Services, Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State University (OSU) Extension, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, local Watershed Councils, OSU's Streamwise Program and Southern Oregon University. The coordinated effort reached hundreds of students!

## PSP Monitoring

The JSWCD is working with a Pesticide Stewardship Partnership to help keep our rivers fishable and swimmable. The project involves first collecting water samples to find out what kind of toxins are in the creeks. Next we will develop education and outreach programs to help educate on better practices.

This partnership has been very successful in other communities. Residents can make a big difference in the quality of their water by reducing the amount of chemicals and pesticides they apply to their lawns. Agricultural growers can use

special techniques to use less chemicals, while saving money.



*Pesticide sampling in a local creek*

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR JSWCD

### The Newly Formed Rogue River Watershed Council

The new Rogue River Watershed Council was created this year with the merging of Little Butte Creek Watershed Council, Bear Creek Watershed Council, Upper Rogue Watershed Association and Stream Restoration Alliance of the Middle Rogue. We look forward to partnering with them in the future.

### Working with the Rogue Basin Partnership

The Rogue Basin Partnership is a collaborative partnership made up of SWCD's, Watershed Councils, non-profit organizations, private consultants and businesses. This partnership extends from the headwaters of the Rogue River and its tributaries, all the way to the estuary in Gold Beach. We look forward to working together soon.



### Equipment Rentals

We now have equipment for rent to help landowners put conservation into practice. A new equipment rental page will soon be available on the JSWCD website or contact the office for more information.



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