The Conservationist

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District Newsletter

Winter 2010 Volume 6 Issue 3

Soil and Water Quality — An Engineers Perspective

By Dan Scalas, Natural Resource Engineer, EIT

Many people believe that the role of Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District is to keep soil from disappearing and water from drying up, but there is more to the District then just conserving soil and water quantity.

Nearly every project we work on conserves not only soil and water quantity, but quality as well. Soil and water quantity and quality go hand in hand, and when I start a project both aspects are always considered.

The exact definition of soil and water quality varies depending on a person's background and views.

Because of my background I define soil and water quality as the ability of a type of soil or water to perform specific functions. For example; to say that one soil is high quality soil because it grows productive wine grapes may be true, but that same soil may not be high quality for other applications.

To assess the quality of specific soil or water types two things need to be done; determination of function, and determination of boundaries. The quality of soil can vary depending upon the desired application. By defining the functions of soil (pasture, garden, building site, etc.) we will be able to determine the parameters that are needed to assess the soil. To define the boundaries of the soil in question, soils can be separated by function, soil type or sometimes physical boundaries (rock outcrops, streams, forests, etc.). The same process can also be applied to water; for example is the water in a pond used only for irrigation or wildlife?

Whether its soil or water quality the same basic assessment procedure can be used.

Soil and water quality can be defined as the ability of a type of soil or water to perform a specific function.

There are two main categories of soil properties that help in assessing quality: static properties and dynamic properties. Static properties are those that don't change or change very little over a long period of time. These properties generally include color, texture, structure, and depth to an impermeable layer which are generally affected by the five soil forming factors: parent material, climate, topography, vegetation, and time.

Dynamic properties are those that change frequently or can be changed and

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Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District is your gateway to natural resource assistance. Board members and staff work with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to ensure educational and on-the-ground technical assistance opportunities take place which help the landowners of Jackson County.

Jackson
Soil and Water Conservation District

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Barbara Niedermeyer, Zone 2
Marilyn Rice, Director, at Large

Associate Directors:
Ed Vaughn Martha Straube
Bob Lozano Margaret Meierhenry

Office Hours:
Monday—Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Board Meetings: All are welcome to attend!
October-March 4 PM April-September 7 PM

USDA
Natural Resource Conservation Service

Staff:
Nicola Giardina, District Conservationist
Peter Winnick, Soil Conservationist
Bill Cronin, Irrigation Engineer

Farm Service Agency

Staff:
Joe Hess, County Executive Director
Diane Rabbe, Program Technician
Donna Finch, Program Technician

County Committee members:
LAA 1 - Suzanne Ginet, Chair
LAA 2 - Charlie Boyer, Member
LAA 3 - Lori Mefford, Vice Chair

Tax Deductibility for
Donations / Contributions

Please think of Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) if you are interested in donating, gifting, granting, and/or bequeathing items, real or personal property, or monetary contributions for soil and water conservation efforts. Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government. IRS Code, **Section 170(c)(1)** states: Contributions or gifts to a state or any of its political subdivisions, i.e., conservation districts, are "charitable" contributions for tax purposes, and are, therefore, **tax deductible.** *(See IRS Publication 526: Charitable Contributions).*

Your help is greatly appreciated.
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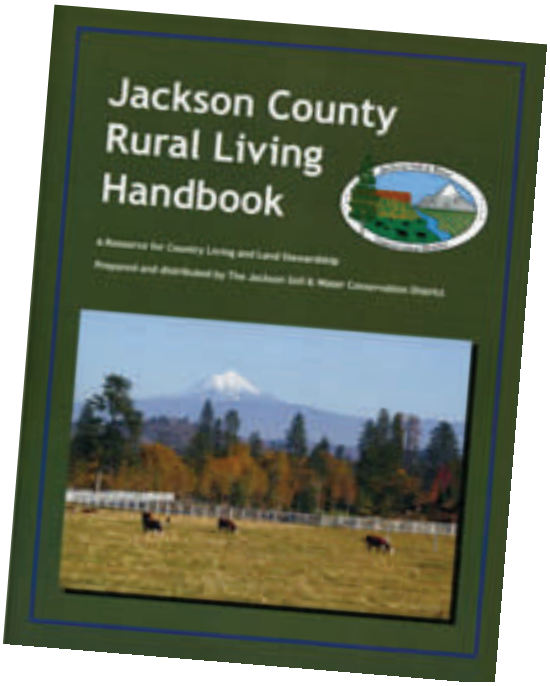
NEWS FLASH!

The Revised January 2010 Jackson County Rural Living Handbook is now available!



The RLH is a valuable resource for country living and land stewardship, prepared and distributed by The Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District, can be pickup at the District office, Jackson County Libraries, local Grange Co-op stores, Sherms Food 4 Less, & Valley Feed in Eagle Point. It is also available online at our web site: www.jswcd.org
Call 541-776-4270 ext.3 for more information.

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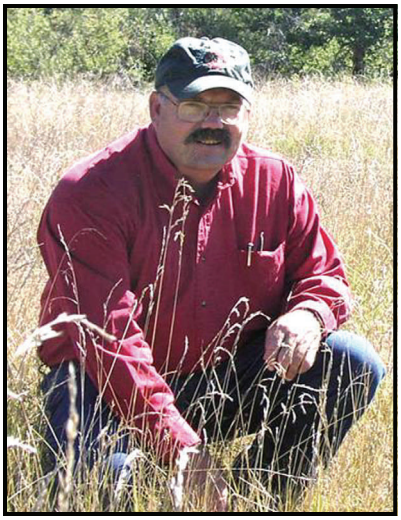


Manager's Message

Randy White
JSWCD District Manager

Hi everyone.

It has been several months since we last visited and things are going great at the District. We continue to grow and now have six people on staff. In addition to myself we have Markie Germer, Administrative Secretary; Angie Boudro, Senior Planner; Vicki Simpson, Urban & Community Resource Conservationist; Dan Scalas, Natural Resource Engineer EIT; and Paul Showalter, Natural Resource Technician (shared on a half time basis with Josephine Soil and Water Conservation District).

We just completed officer elections for the Board of Directors. Allan Campbell is the new Chair, Keith Corp is the new Vice-Chair, and Keith Emerson remains the Secretary/Treasurer. Charlie Boyer (past Chair) continues on the Board and is now the President of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD). Barbara Niedermeyer (past vice-chair) also remains on the Board in addition to serving as the new Secretary for the OACD. Marilyn Rice actively serves on the District Board, on the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and is the Board of Districts representative for the five southwestern counties. Brian Gebhard represents the Sam's Valley and Evans Creek areas on the Board and serves on the personnel committee. He brings years of county government experience to his position, which helps the District form many of its operating policies. We are fortunate to have so much local representation on state-wide organizations that can help this district and the other 45 districts throughout Oregon.

Last month, the Directors and staff held the "Annual Dinner and Conservation Awards" to celebrate the accomplishments of the last year. Over 100 people attended and watched as Don and Cory Hamann received the District's Conservationist of the Year Award. The middle section of this newsletter has more information and photos of the night's many events.

While we are very excited about past accomplishments we are even more energized as we think about the future of the District and how we can better serve the citizens of Jackson County. We are especially interested in hearing from you as the Directors and Staff start the process for the next five-year operating plan. The District is also partnering with several organizations and agencies on numerous projects and educational activities. We will be updating you on these events in future editions of the newsletter and on our web site: http://www.jswcd.org/

Randy

Projects in the works:

- Streamside Stewardship
- Watershed Prioritization
- Grazing Impact Tours
- Urban Living Handbook
- Forage Resource Management Class (8 week course)

"Take your Natural Resource Concerns and turn them into Opportunities"

- *Agricultural Water Quality Management Plans*—What they are and how they affect my operation.
- *Low Impact Development*—Introduction to why we need to look at keeping storm water where it falls: berm and basin rain catchment techniques; rain catchment in barrels and tanks (urban and rural use); rain gardens.
- *Low Impact Development* —Commercial level bioswales and retention.
- Whole farm planning.
- Forest and Range Day Camp June 21 – 25, 2010 (kids going into the 5th and through the 7th grade)
- Irrigation principles: soil/plant/water relationships, distribution uniformity, efficiency, irrigation water management. Available soon for presentations.
- Manure storage facilities and manure management.
- Nutrient and fertilizer management.
- Manure Exchange (see our web site: www.jswcd.org)
- Water rights. Water permitting.
- Water quality requirements.
- Ponds.
- Smart Horse Certification (workshop series)
- Rural Living Handbook – Version 3 (just out)

Soil and Water Quality
(Continued from page 1)

manipulated by type of use or management practices. These dynamic properties fall into three categories: physical (bulk density, infiltration rate, and water holding capacity), chemical (pH, nutrients, and cation-exchange capacity) and biological (microbes, earthworms, and enzymes). Water usually contains only one main category, which is similar to the dynamic properties of soil in that it can change frequently and can be manipulated by use and management practices.

There are many tools available to help quantify and qualify static and dynamic properties (laboratory tests, field test kits, observations, etc.). These tests combined with the help of a professional are the best way to assess quality and then make the proper adjustments to improve it.

Our door at the District is always open and we can help landowners improve their soil and water quality.

JSWCD District projects conserve not only soil and water quantity, but quality as well

Irrigation Season — Rogue Valley Outlook

Eagle Point Irrigation District (EPID)

As of February 11, 2010, the upcoming water year for the Eagle Point Irrigation District is touch and go! A lot will depend on what Mother Natures gives us in the next couple of months.

The present situation is as follows:

Willow Lake: Full capacity is 8300 AF (acre feet). As of February 8th the lake had 2,714 cfs (cubic feet per second) inflow. The lake usually fills mid to late January if we have a normal winter. This year we have hardly any snow in the Big Butte Watershed, so there is no runoff to help fill the lake.

South Fork Big Butte Creek at this time of year runs between 150 to 300 cfs —as of February 8th there was only 61 cfs flow.

The district will keep EPID patrons informed if the number of days between rotation should change.

For more information contact EPID at 541-826-3411

Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID)

As for the whole Rogue Valley, the precipitation is below average and snow is also below average. However, the reservoirs are in good shape do to the carry-over from the previous year.

As far as the upcoming season goes, RRVID should have a normal irrigation season. It will be important that all irrigators be as efficient as possible with their water because of the uncertainty of the 2011 storage levels.

For more information contact RRVID at 541-773-6127

Contact—
Gold Hill Irrigation District at 541-582-1802
Medford Irrigation District at 541-899-9913

Talent Irrigation District (TID)

The Talent Irrigation District is fortunate to have a good carry-over of irrigation water from the 2009 irrigation season. Even though this winter has been fairly dry with lower than average rainfall and snow pack the District should have an adequate supply of water to carry us through the 2010 irrigation season.

The current reservoir elevations as of February 10th are as follows:

Howard Prairie — 40,247 acre feet or 66% of capacity

Hyatt Lake — 12,553 acre feet or 77% of capacity

Emigrant Lake — 19,235 acre feet or 49% of capacity.

For more information contact TID at 541-535-1529

Weed of Distinction — "Creeping Buttercup"

Now is the time to think about what weeds are growing in your pastures and be ready to control them as the growing season begins.

Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens* L) is one of the worst weeds and will invade irrigated pastures in southwest Oregon by means of seed dispersal . It will quickly take over irrigated pastures. Normally livestock will not eat it, but will if there is nothing else to graze.

USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

The plant contains a toxic irritant that produces protoanemonin upon chewing, which causes severe gastrointestinal irritation and ulceration of skin. The highest concentration is when the plant is flowering. All types of livestock are susceptible, but cattle are most commonly affected and mortality may occur. The toxin is unstable, so presence in dry hay is not a problem.

Areas that are overgrazed are most susceptible to invasion. Creeping Buttercup is a perennial and sets a lot of seeds. Spraying with herbicides (e.g. MCPA) while plants are actively growing is the most effective method of control. Contact your favorite farm/ranch supply dealer for more information on mechanical control. Proper grazing management will help stop re-invasion.

For help with grazing and pasture management, contact Jackson SWCD or Jackson County Extension.

Jim Stasz @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

JSWCD will offer a class on ***Soils*** soon. Followed by an ***Irrigation Principles*** class. Watch your email for up-coming information!

Read more about Soils and Water in the revised Jackson County Rural Living Handbook

Soils

Did you know that Jackson County has over 110 different variations of soil types?
A soil test is essential for determining soil fertility on your rural property. You can get more information from the soils section in the Rural Living Handbook

The **Agricultural Water Quality Protection Rules and Plans** section of the Rural Living Handbook contains helpful information on:

*Non-Point Pollution Sources
*Senate Bill 1010
*Soil Erosion
*Riparian Vegetation Destruction
*Irrigation Management
*Crop Nutrient or Animal Waste
*Water Quality Standards and TMDLs

Conservation Awards and Saying 'Thank You to Supporters'

The night of January 15th was an exciting event and held many surprises for Don and Cory Hamann, the recipients of the Conservationist of the Year Award. The annual Jackson SWCD dinner was held for the first time in the Eagle Point High School cafeteria and offered plenty of room to visit with friends, learn about utilizing local foods products, and to participate in the silent and oral auctions to benefit the Fred Straube Memorial Scholarship Fund. Many beautiful gifts were taken home while in-turn supporting a worthy cause and participants had a fun time competing with each other.

The highlight of the evening came when JSWCD had the opportunity to say 'thank you' to so many supporters and to award special folks for their achievements during the past year. There are many wonderful people in Jackson County who quietly participate in conserving the natural resources of our area..

The Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation & Development Council developed the Watershed Friendly Stewardship program to recognize and promote good stewardship. The Council recognized that promoting voluntary stewardship was an essential element of achieving statewide goals for watershed restoration and water quality. Each year, public recognition is given to land stewards who are doing their part to protect and enhance Oregon's watersheds.

This year's award went to **Nancy and Ed Vaughn**, who operate a productive pear orchard with 6,000 pear trees planted. They installed an under-tree sprinkler system for irrigation and frost control, utilizing weather data from the wireless weather station at SOREC and irrigation scheduling software to manage timing and amounts of irrigation.

Randy White, JSWCD District Manager, honored Don and Cory Hamann for their land stewardship—they have created wildlife habitat and reduced fuel loads on forestlands preventing potential catastrophic wildfires. The Butte Falls couple also fenced wetlands, protecting them and providing irrigation to keep them healthy.

The Conservationist of the Year Award is given to individual landowners who are good stewards of their land by supporting agriculture and natural resources. The Hamann's also practice conservation on lands where they contract for log removal and forest thinning projects. And, what would the annual dinner be without Cory's expertise in providing wonderful and unique door prizes for four years.

The Managers Award was presented to Nancy Leonard of the Upper Rogue Independent for coverage of agriculture and youth agriculture events in the valley. Small home-town newspapers are an integral part of rural living— helping to keep everyone informed of events and activities.

A special recognition award was given to Bill and Marion Collins, who have generously offered their property for the Forest and Range Day Camp. JSWCD offers a weeklong educational day camp for youth entering grades 5-7 and the young people leave the camp experience with a sense of stewardship for our natural resources. Angie Boudro, District Senior Planner, praised the Collins' as being a role model by demonstrating conservation practices on their forest and grazing lands.

Don Snyder was also honored for his expertise in preparing educational posters for use in several venues and built a model methane digester used in urban displays for presentation to the public. Vicki Simpson, District Urban & Community Resource Conservationist, was most appreciative of those folks who have offered a helping hand to the District. If there are others who want to participate in the many projects and activities sponsored by JSWCD, just give the office a call!

John Gladman and very proud Grandmother, Marilyn Rice

Young John Gladman of Central Point has demonstrated both knowledge of conservation practices and his ability as an artist. After winning the local district contest, John's poster went on to win the state award, a U.S. savings bond, from the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts. His poster is now entered at the national level and he is awaiting news from the National Association of Conservation Districts judges.

The Fred Straub Memorial Scholarship Fund, sponsored by the Farm and Ranch Resource Management (FARRM) members, earned $2,657 from the auction. The scholarship fund was established for any high school senior or college

Vicki Simpson, Don Snyder, Marion & Bill Collins, Angie Boudro

freshman seeking to further their education in the field of agriculture or natural resources. Martha Straube and Marsha MacCormack, FARRM Scholarship Coordinators were pleased to present a $500 scholarship to Daniel Boyajian and to Stephanie Haupt.

Daniel, who lives near Jacksonville, plans to attend Rogue Community College first, working toward transferring to an agricultural school here in Oregon. He has been an Applegate Valley volunteer fire fighter the last two years, as well as working on a local ranch, training summer interns during the growing season. Daniel has started his own cowherd—well on his way to being a rancher.

Stephanie is a returning recipient of the FSMS and attends Oregon State University as a sophomore in Animal Science. She has been working with sheep and pigs on several farms. Her goal is to finish her Animal Science degree with a pre-veterinary option. Stephanie is currently volunteering and observing in three clinics—Corvallis, Albany, and Medford.

A big 'thank you' goes to all who have supported the scholarship fund so generously!

Marsha MacCormack, Daniel Boyajian, Martha Straub, Stephanie Haupt

Across the City Fence

By Vicki Simpson, Urban & Community Resource Conservationist

Keeping Rain.....Where it Falls

In the fall issue of *The Conservationist*, we began the discussion on creating a site plan for your property so that you could decide how to best use the free and pure rainwater that falls there. By now you know where the flat spots in your yard are and where there are slopes and low spots. Maybe you have had time to observe rainfall on your property and draw arrows on your site plan to indicate where the rainwater flows as it comes off hardened surfaces such as the roof of your house, sidewalks, paving, and even hardened patches of earth.

You will join the tradition of the San Peoples (Kalahari Bushmen), the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, and ancient peoples around the world as you learn how to take advantage of the high quality water delivered free to your home every rainy season. Over the last 150 years, many modern peoples have become accustomed to pressurized tap water in our houses and, as a consequence, we've learned to use about ten times the amount of water that is used per day by people who have to carry their water home from a river, spring or well.

Much of the water we use is for outdoor irrigation and in this article we are going to look at the use of 'earthworks' on our property to store and infiltrate rainwater for irrigation. Using these methods will cut down on the amount of city or well water used to keep trees and plants thriving.

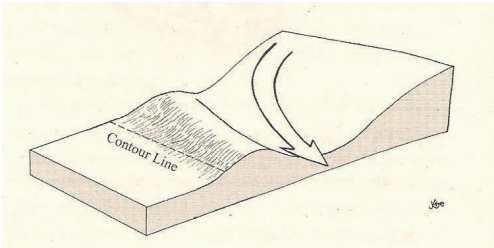
Landscapes that harvest water from the soil and are planted with low-water-use native plants can often subsist on rainfall alone once they are established.

You want to place the 'earthworks' and their plants in areas of the yard where they can provide shade and passive cooling if possible (for instance shade trees on the east and west sides of the house). Plants that need more water should be closer to the house to take advantage of rainwater and greywater. Oregon is in the process of establishing its new greywater codes. Consider planting so that rainwater will be the landscapes primary source of water, greywater its secondary source, and drinking water will be used only in times of real need.

Hardier, native vegetation should be planted near the edges of the property within water harvesting 'earthworks'. These plants can shelter less hardy plants, such as trees, from too much sun or wind and can be habitat and food for wildlife. Some typical 'earthworks' include:

Berms and Basins

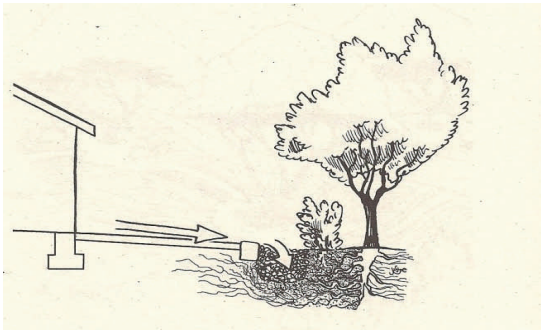
Berms and basins are shallow depressions perpendicular to a slope designed to intercept rainwater as it runs down a slope and slow it down so that it can infiltrate to a localized area where there are plant roots to accept it. The berm on the downslope of the basin allows more water to be captured and held. Berms and basins can be made of excavated earth or brush or rock. They can be used on slopes up to 3:1.



Terrace or Bench

This type of earthwork is a flat shelf built along the contour of a slope. In order to retain water and accumulate organic matter, berms or low walls border them. They are used for orchards, gardens, and other plantings in dry land on slopes up to 2:1. They can control erosion. Do not use terraces on soils prone to water logging where the subsurface can become saturated because soil layers, such as clay, do not allow water to filter through the soil.

French Drain

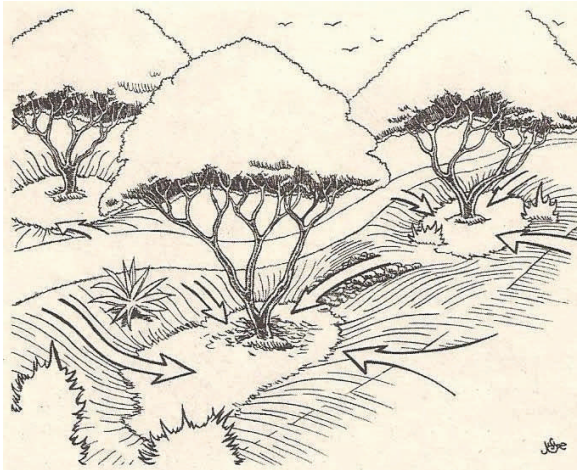


A French drain is a trench or basin filled with gravel, pumice, or chunky bark that lets water drain to plant roots. It can serve as a stable surface to walk across. French drains need air spaces to allow the water through, so it doesn't work to use them where the water brings a lot of sediment with it or silting will develop. French drains can be on fairly flat to gently sloped land and they work particularly well for deep irrigation of landscape. They are not good for use across or beneath roadways or drainage ways.

Infiltration Basin

This is a landscaped, level-bottomed shallow depression that catches and infiltrates rainfall runoff (and greywater in the future). Rain gardens are a good example of infiltration basins.

They work best on fairly level ground and a berm can be created at the downslope edge if the basin is placed on a slight slope. These basins can be connected in a series as from one tree basin to the next or connecting rain gardens. They should not be constructed near a septic drain field or in a low spot that tends to have standing water.



Imprinting

Imprinting is used to re-vegetate denuded areas by making many well-formed depressions in the soil that can collect seeds, water, and organic matter.

Permeable Paving

Paving blocks with ample space between them allow rainwater to soak into the soil below. It is best to use pervious pavers to accept water that falls right on them and does not sheet from another source, because water can only infiltrate slowly on pervious pavement.

Check Dam

A check dam is a low barrier that is designed to be leaky. It allows water to slow and spread. This can be a method of healing an eroding gully.

Mulching is an extremely important 'earthworks' technique. By using compost, manure, straw, and wood chips the soil is kept moist by holding in water and reducing evaporation.

Vegetation is an important component that increases infiltration and soil stabilization. Place plants within or beside every type of water harvesting 'earthworks'. Plants have to be located and spaced according to the size they will be when mature.

Note: all types of 'earthworks' should be located at least 10 feet from a wall or building foundation and should not allow overflow to go beyond the borders of your property.

We are not going to go back to a time where there were fewer paved areas on our land and fewer hardened surfaces, but what we do next to those surfaces can make all the difference in restoring the ability of the land to infiltrate and store water.

'Earthworks' shape the soil to collect and slow down rainwater from roofs, slopes, streets, dripping vegetation, bare dirt sidewalks, and air conditioner condensation. They are inexpensive to maintain and store a large amount of water. They help to control erosion and filter pollutants. If we capture more rainwater we will use less municipal water and importantly, we will help to lessen flooding.

Jackson SWCD Partners in Conservation Education

— Opportunities for youth—

By Marilyn Rice—JSWCD, Director at Large

ENVIROTHON

A Crater FFA team will enter the Oregon Envirothon competition to be held at the Oregon Gardens in Silverton on April 30, 2010. Each year students demonstrate knowledge & skills in five areas: Forestry, Soils, Aquatics, Wildlife, and a Current Issue. This year's topic is ***"Protection of Ground Water Though Urban , Agriculture and Environmental Planning."*** A ten-minute oral presentation exploring this subject is required.

Oregon's winner will join teens from across the USA and Canada in Fresno, California to network and compete for college scholarships. Sponsored by Canon and the National Association of Conservation Districts, Envirothon involves over 500,000 High School students each year. To learn more go to http://oregonenvirothon.org/ . This site has a link to the national Cannon Envirothon web.

RAP CAMP

Know a teenager who enjoys the outdoors and might like to explore a career in the natural resource area? The nineteenth Resources and People (RAP) Camp will be held June 13-19, 2010 at Lake of the Woods. Camp Esther Applegate will be home for students who have completed grade eight through high school. Activities include: swimming, canoeing, hiking; preparing a water quality analysis in a wetland area, experiencing wildlife presentations; take a trip to Crater Lake, enjoy a BBQ at Ft. Klamath Ranch; explore archeology, botany, forestry, fire safety, and more. RAP Camp is also a potential Agency recruiting tool for Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) and Student Career Experience Program (SCEP).

Camp staff and presenters come from agencies such as BLM, USFS, OSU Extension; groups like the Klamath Tribes or Fly Fishers; and others with professional natural resource backgrounds. There is also an opportunity for teachers to earn professional development or graduate credit from Southern Oregon University. Some scholarships are available for campers. For further information and applications visit the web at http://www.rapcamp.org. or contact RAP Camp Coordinator Shirley Kerns, Fremont-Winema National Forest; 2819 Dahlia Street; Klamath Falls, OR 97601; 541-883-6716.

CONTESTS:

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Poster Contest:

The 2010 theme is ***"Conservation Habits = Healthy Habits".*** Each year the poster contest starts at the district level. The contest is open to public, private or home school students. Categories are by grade: K-1; 2-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12. Winning Posters compete at the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) for a Savings Bond and the opportunity to compete in the National Contest.

Jackson SWCD's grade 4-6, 2009 winner will receive a certificate for National participation. Umatilla SWCD's OACD winner in the special category (grade 4-6) "Painting with Soil" received honorable mention and can be seen along with other NACD winners at http://www.nacdnet.org/education/contests/poster/ Rules, judging criteria, and other information are also on this site.

JSWCD and OACD use the Poster Contest topic for speech and essay contests. Students in grades 7-9 and 10-12 may submit a video/taped speech that does not exceed five minutes. Essays are limited to 500 words. Jackson County students have been winners at state in the past.

The deadline for the POSTER, SPEECH and ESSAY Contests will be in late September. However, it is not too soon to get started.

TIP for High School students:

- try your ideas for a classroom assignment soon
- get help from a teacher
- revise over summer

You could be a winner!

NACD Photo Contest:

This contest has two categories: Adult and youth age 18 or younger. Conservation themed photos are e-mailed directly to NACD. (No District or OACD contest)
First place for each theme division is awarded a $50 cash prize. To view past winners, photo categories, and entry instructions visit the web site listed for the poster contest. http://www.nacdnet.org/education/contests/poster/

CALENDAR CONTEST:

Sponsored by Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation students in grades K-6 are eligible to enter original artwork about ***"Oregon Agriculture"***. Artwork

(Continued on page 11)

Opportunities for Youth
(Continued from page 10)

must be submitted by May 15, 2010. Each month features one student's work. Every student who submits an entry will receive a personalized certificate. Thirteen students will receive a $50 savings bond and their artwork will be in the 2010-2011 calendar. For more information see http://aitc.oregonstate.edu/whats/calendar.htm or call 541-737-8629.

2010 — Forest and Range Day Camp

For kids with an interest in the natural world, the Jackson Soils and Water Conservation District offers a weeklong educational day camp for youth entering grades 5-7. This is an outdoor education program focused on forestry and rangeland management. Campers will leave the camp with a sense of stewardship for our natural resources and will have acquired valuable skills and knowledge through hands-on learning and activities.

Camp Dates: June 21-25, 2010
Registration closes: June 11, 2010
Cost: $50

This years activities will include:

- **Learn how to prevent forest wildfires**
- **Learn how to prune trees**
- **Change irrigation**
- **Learn about wildlife in oak woodlands**
- **Don't eat or touch that weed!**
- **Catch beetles to learn about beneficial insects**
- **Learn about honey bees**
- **Determine soil infiltration rates**
- **Climb trees and ride high-lines**

Be sure to register by June 11th
Come and have fun!

Kitchen Corner

If you have a favorite recipe to share, send it along to newsletter@jswcd.org

Berry Crisp

5 cups blueberries (strawberries, blackberries, gooseberries or mixes work well too!)
1/4 cup + 3 Tbsp flour
1/4 cup sugar
1 cup oats
1/3 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Delicious topped with homemade vanilla ice cream!

Heat the oven to 375 F. Mix the berries with 3 Tbsp flour and sugar. In a bowl, combine the oats, remaining flour, brown sugar and cinnamon. Cut in the butter until the mix resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in nuts. Spread the berry mix in a 9 1/2 inch pie pan or square dish. Sprinkle the topping over the berries and bake for approximately 30 minutes.

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Soils Class
The class will cover soil texture and structure, reading soils test results, understanding nutrients, soil forming factors and parent material, land classification, and much more!

Irrigation principles Class

Horses & Wilderness
June 5, 2010 (tentative)

Horse Health
September (tentative)

Horse Cents — March 6, 2010