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Upcoming Events

9/18 BSWCD Annual Meeting
1/31 Native Plant Sale Order Deadline
2/21-22 BSWCD Native Plant Sale
2/28 OSU Small Farms Conference

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The Role of Leadership in Our Mission

Holly Crosson, District Manager

I once heard someone say, "If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader." I'd like to share a few ways we've embraced this role over the last year.

- Our Invasives Program Coordinator, Heath Keirstead, facilitates the Benton County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). This group, with over 80 members and friends, coordinates invasive species outreach and control efforts. The CWMA was awarded an Oregon Department of Agriculture grant to control water primrose and yellow floating heart, two invasive aquatic weeds that significantly impact waterways.
- Benton SWCD's Soil Conservationist, Teresa Matteson, received a USDA Risk Management grant that brings together partners from six SWCDs, two universities, NRCS, and many farmers in the region to improve soil health.
- Crystal Durbecq coordinates the District's Willamette Mainstem Cooperative (WMC), a collaborative effort between more than a dozen organizations and private landowners to improve stewardship along the river from Corvallis to Albany. A successful year culminated in the award of a two-year Meyer Memorial Trust grant to reduce the impacts of aquatic and riparian invasive plants.
- BSWCD's Resource Conservationist, Donna Schmitz, is partnering with EPA, DEQ, and others in the Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area to address nitrate in groundwater in Benton, Linn, and Lane Counties.

These examples illustrate Benton SWCD's success as a conservation leader: building partnerships that enable all of us to accomplish more, together! Read on to learn other ways we have inspired action in our community during the past year.

You are invited to our Annual Meeting

WHEN:
Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014
5:00-8:00 PM

WHERE:
Tye Wine Cellars
26335 Greenberry Road
Corvallis

Celebrate Benton County Terroir

*A farm to fork showcase
of local food producers and their soils*

RSVP by 9/11/2014

tmatteson@bentonswcd.org • 541-753-7208
This event is free and open to the public.



*Meet the Farmer
See the Soil
Taste the Harvest*

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
5:00-6:00	Tye Winery Site Tour	Buchanan Family
6:00	Savor the Flavors of Benton County Terrior	Meet • See • Taste
6:30	Benton SWCD Annual Meeting	Dr. Cliff Hall
6:45-7:30	Benton County People and Soils	Special Guests

Technical Assistance to Over 100 Landowners in FY 2013-14

Donna Schmitz, Resource Conservationist

ODA Jackson-Frazier Focus Area

High resolution ortho-photography was used to characterize vegetation types within a 70' riparian buffer. The data, see table below, will focus outreach efforts in the Jackson-Frazier Watershed and encourage landowners to increase vegetation along the streams. Work included:

- One 15-acre wetland/riparian restoration plan for Mountain View Creek was developed by OSU Ecology students.
- Co-hosted a riparian restoration tour with OSU Forestry Extension at Half-Moon Bend.
- A presentation on Wildlife Habitats and Conservation Funding opportunities inspired residents to improve wildlife habitat on their property as part of an effort that certified Benton County as Oregon's FIRST Community Wildlife Habitat. More information at www.bentonswcd.org.



© Donna Schmitz

Unlike the photo above, Frazier Creek vegetation should include larger trees and shrubs to provide shade to the stream.

Conservation Site Visits

- 72 site visits for water and habitat quality resource concerns.
- Technical assistance to over 100 Benton County residents.

Conservation Incentive Program (CIP)

CIP funds projects for Benton County residents to implement conservation practices on their land. CIP provided:

- Four landowners with funds to pay for riparian trees and shrubs.
- One hard rock area and improved drainage around a barn.
- The Chip Ross Oak Woodland/ Savannah Management Plan.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Along with regional partners, BSWCD received an OWEB grant to plan riparian forest buffers for acres enrolled in this USDA Federal Farm Program. This collaborative work:

- Completed three conservation plans and installed 13.7 acres of riparian forest buffer.
- Enrolled four land management units into the CREP program.
- Developed a CREP outreach brochure.

Groundwater Management Area (GWMA)

- Thanks to an Oregon Department of Agriculture Fertilizer Research Grant we continued to study nitrate leaching under several different management practices, soils and crops.
- This work relies on strong partnerships with EPA, DEQ, ODA, NRCS, Linn SWCD and Upper Willamette SWCD.
- We hosted an Irrigation Water Management and Soil Health Workshop attended by 29 participants.
- Intern Susanna Pearlstein conducts water quality sampling and works with participating landowners to document fertilizer use and cropping history.



© Susanna Pearlstein

Blake Hatteberg, Dynamac, installs instruments to capture soil water for nitrate monitoring.

Jackson-Frazier Focus Area Vegetation Data

Map Category	Acres	%
Tree	88.7	47
Shrub	11.7	6
Ag Infrastructure	6.7	4
Grass-Ag	59.7	31
Bare-Ag	22.9	12
Total	190.6	100

Soil Quality Movement

Teresa Matteson, Soil Conservationist



© Teresa Matteson

A Pasture Management and Soil Health tour visited Lone Star Ranch near Philomath to learn how rotational grazing techniques are used to manage native plants.

Risk Management Education Partnership Program

- \$96K grant to deliver soil health education to 520 farmers and ag professionals during 13 workshops in Oregon.
- Soil health education to over 180 high school and OSU students.
- Partners: Umatilla County SWCD, Clatsop SWCD, Polk SWCD, Josephine County SWCD, Tualatin SWCD, OSU Extension, NRCS, WSU, OSU, Monroe High School, and especially farmers who shared their knowledge, sites and experiences.

Soil Quality Project

- Soil samples from 29 farm fields; 4 outside Benton Co.
- OSU interns: Natalie Allen, Henry Cakebread, Jason Hayes, Jacob Kollen, Brent Adams - Thanks for all your work!

Soil Quality Network

- Worked with OSU Small Farms to conduct 16 ag professional phone interviews for project evaluation.
- Conservation Biology Institute and OSU Small Farms helped develop the SQN Map - visit it! GET ON THE SQN MAP!!! <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/node/175840>

Native Plant Sale 2014

Alice Fairfield, Coordinator

- 374 customers.
- Distributed 17,000 native plants.
- 62 volunteers worked 230 hours.
- Best selling plant: Douglas Fir (1350).
- January Lecture: Bill Proebsting—Creating Backyard Bird Habitat.
- Seven education discounts supported native plantings at schools.
- New plants for 2014: Coyote Bush, Crevice Alumroot, Bleeding Heart, Evergreen Huckleberry.



© Holly Crosson

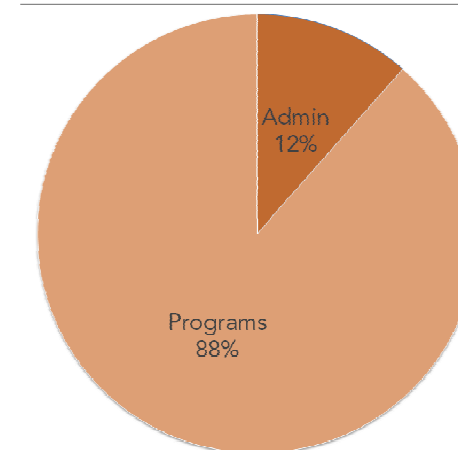
Volunteers are the driving force behind the Native Plant Sale success.

Thanks everyone!

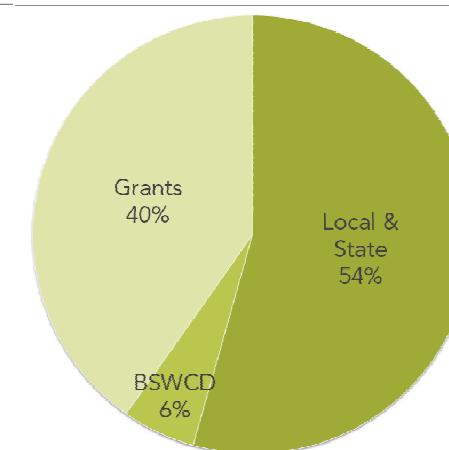
2013-2014 Financial Report *audit not complete at printing*

Jen Floro, Office Manager

EXPENDITURES



SUPPORT & REVENUE



The majority of our expenditures, 88%, directly support our programs and community conservation grants.

Beginning Balance 7/1/2013	\$318,261
Support & Revenue	
Local & State	\$404,488
Benton SWCD	\$40,048
Grants	\$299,380
Total	\$743,916
Expenditures	
Operations	\$79,295
Programs	\$609,134
Total	\$688,429

The Willamette Mainstem Cooperative

Crystal Durbecq, Willamette Mainstem Coordinator & Plant Specialist

A collaborative project funded through a Meyer Memorial Trust Willamette River Initiative grant.

Mission

The Willamette Mainstem Cooperative (WMC) is a group of landowners, organizations, and volunteers working together to improve stewardship across all landownerships along the mainstem of the Willamette River. The mission of the WMC is to promote, facilitate, and share long-term stewardship of natural resources along the river, through the collaborative efforts of individual landowners and interested organizations. The focus of the WMC is the Corvallis to Albany river reach.

Accomplishments

- From 2012 to present the WMC has accomplished the following:
- Brought in over \$250,000 for funding of restoration, invasive plant control, outreach efforts, and assessment of river habitat.
- Invasive plant survey and habitat assessment for over 2,550 acres on the Willamette River from Corvallis to Albany.
- Generated over 50 maps and reports for landowners who participated in the survey and assessment.
- Held several workshops and meetings attended by over 100 stakeholders to educate on invasive species issues and plan future endeavors.



© Maya Evelyn
A native bee visits a camas flower on the Willamette River.



© Jeff Locke
Willamette Riverkeeper volunteers and BSWCD's Crystal Durbecq pull invasive water primrose from a gravel bar.



© Andy Neil
Willamette River side-channel infested with invasive water primrose (*Ludwigia* species).

Key Partners

Funders:

- Meyer Memorial Trust
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon State Weed Board
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

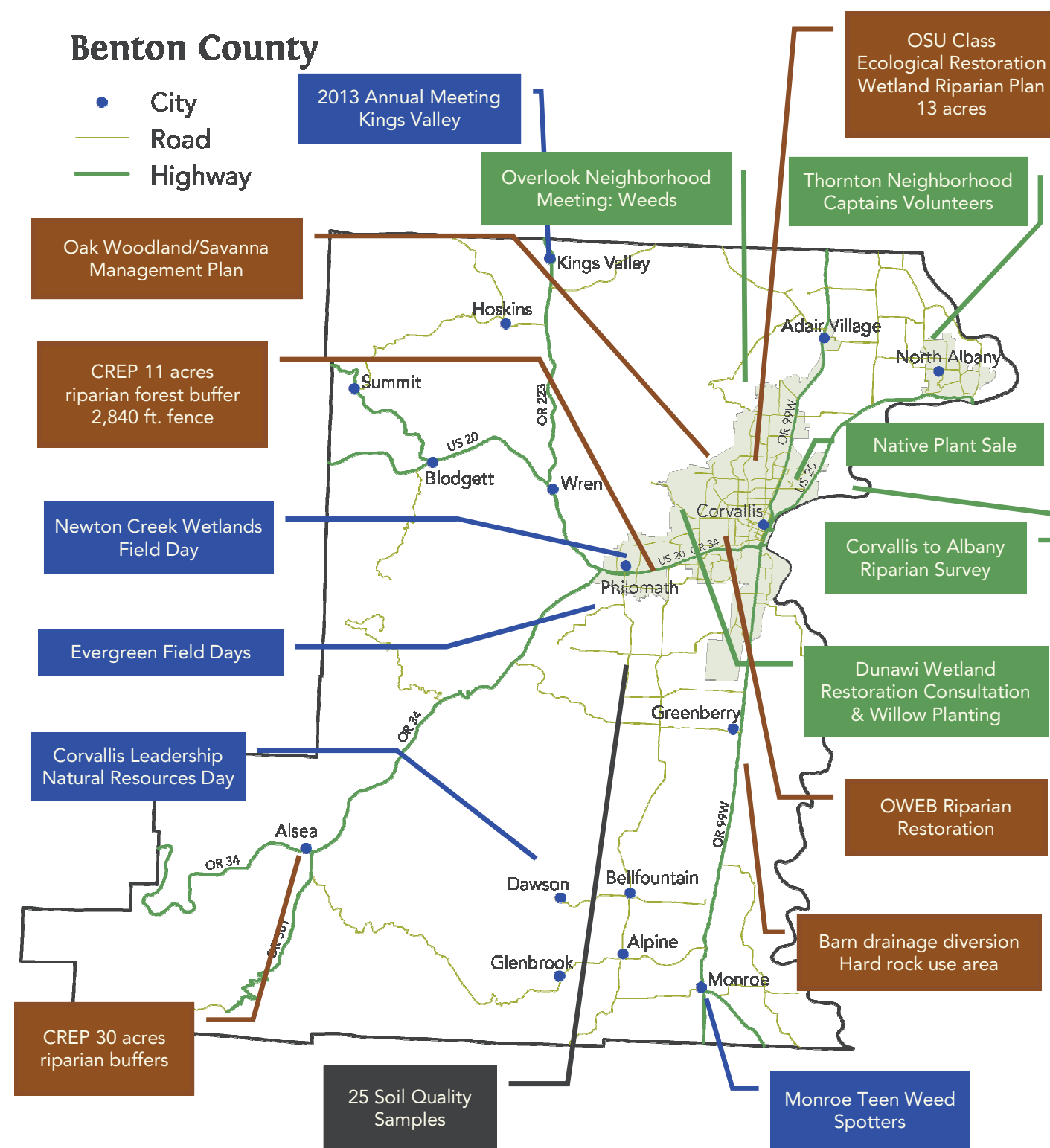
Steering Committee:

- Benton Soil & Water Conservation Dist.
- Bonneville Environmental Foundation
- Calapooia Watershed Council
- Greenbelt Land Trust
- Kenagy Family Farms Inc.
- Linn Soil & Water Conservation Dist.
- Oregon State Parks & Rec. Dept.
- Oregon State University Extension

Stakeholder Group:

- Cascade Pacific RC&D
- City of Albany
- City of Corvallis
- The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Gilmour Farms LLC
- Private landowners
- River Spirit Journeys
- Stahlbush Island Farms
- Western Invasives Network
- Willamette Riverkeeper

Conservation in Benton County!



Benton SWCD Board of Directors—Thank you for your service!

Pat Malone—Zone 1; Marvin Gilmour—Zone 2; Cliff Hall, Chair—Zone 3; Bobby Bewley—Zone 4; Frank Nusbaum—Zone 5; Jerry Paul, Treasurer—At Large; Henry Storch, Vice Chair—At Large.



Soil Quality Project intern, Jacob Kollen anticipates sample collection.



Outreach Intern Taylor Williams at the 2014 Native Plant Sale.



Guests at the 2013 Thank You Celebration enjoyed a worm compost demonstration.



BSWCD's Crystal Durbecq led a Sierra Club hike in McDonald Forest and covered native & invasive plant identification.



A brigade of cyclists enjoyed a leisurely ride through the Oak Creek watershed during the 7th annual urban creek tour.

Scholarships & Internships

- 1 Invasives intern
- 1 Mapping intern
- 2 Outreach interns
- 5 Soil Quality Project interns
- 1 Summer Ag Institute scholarship

8 BSWCD Outreach Events

- Annual Meeting
- Volunteer Celebration
- Stakeholder meeting
- OSU Non-profit Career Fair
- Sustainability Town Hall

48 Adult Education Events 1498 adults reached

- Irrigation & Soil Health workshops
- Willamette River boat trips
- Conservation site visits
- SWCD staff trainings
- Native plant lecture
- Weed talks & walks
- Volunteer trainings
- Field tours

Social Media & Publications

- 354 Email announcements
- 9,000 Website visits
- 64 Facebook posts
- 33 Blog posts
- 3 Maps for WMC
- 5 E-news mailings
- 2 Printed newsletters
- 1 Water Weed Guide

6 Conservation Education Grants funded. Average Grant: \$875 for projects including:

- Wetland field trips
- Educator workshop
- Raised garden beds
- Native arboretum signs
- Bird habitat construction
- Garden education

23 Youth Education Events 1008 Students Reached

- Forest Camp
- Salmon Watch
- Get Outdoors Day
- Monroe Teen Weed Spotters
- Other field days

6 Volunteer Events 52 Volunteers

- Weed pulls
- Native Plant Sale
- Willow stake planting
- Native seed processing



WATER WEEDS
Guide to Aquatic Weeds in Benton County

BENTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BENTON COUNTY Cooperative Weed Management Area

Download our water weed guide, based on a King County publication.



Hoover teacher K. McNutt and her 1st grade students created bird habitat with a BSWCD grant.



Monroe Teen Weed Spotters visited the Crocker Farm to learn about soil quality and invasive plant control.



Rachel Danielson, an OSU grad student, explored soil science with students at the Evergreen Field Day.



Volunteers learned to process native camas seed at Gilmour Farm.



Volunteers planted willow stakes at Benton County's Dunawi Creek wetland restoration site.

Benton Soil and Water CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Secret Life of a Bio-control Agent:

Sign up to receive our e-newsletter, distributed every other month.

Upcoming Events
07/12 [Willamette Paddle & Pull](#)
08/09 [Willamette River Relay](#)
09/06 [Let's Pull Together Event](#)
09/18 [Our Annual Meeting at Tye](#)

See you at these events!

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