



UMPQUA

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 415, Reedsport, Oregon 97467 (541) 662-1341

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Newsletter – March 2023

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District is a non-regulatory agency here to help our community conserve natural resources through educational, financial and technical assistance. Since 1953 Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District has been serving the residents of Northwestern Douglas County by partnering with landowners to empower them to be stewards and experts on their own land.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mud & Manure Workshop and Field Tour

Workshop discussion focused on management techniques to reduce mud and manure in the field and paddock. Technical assistance for land improvement.

When: Wednesday, March 22nd from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Oregon State University Auditorium,
1134 SE Douglas Avenue, Roseburg, OR 97470

Cost: \$15

Register by March 12th by going to:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/events/mud-manure-management> or by contacting Logan Bennett at Logan.bennett@oregonstate.edu or by calling (541) 236-3015.

Healthy land leads to healthy animals. Horses and Livestock are important parts of many people's lives, but often times the paddocks and pastures these animals inhabit can become muddy and mucky. Learn how to improve and manage your livestock living areas in this workshop. Presenters: Tammy Barnes – Oregon State Extension Service Assistant Professor (Practice) Animal and Rangeland Science, Logan Bennett – Oregon State Extension Service Small Farms Program Coordinator, Rhonda Black – Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Conservation Planner, and Cindy Bright – Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District Conservation Technician.

Field Tour of ranchland that has been impacted by trampling and erosion, followed by improvement techniques. Funding for land improvement may be available.

When: June 2023. Exact date yet to be determined.



Healthy land leads to healthy animals. Horses and Livestock are important parts of many peoples lives, but often times the paddocks and pastures these animals inhabit can become muddy, mucky, and unclean. Learn how to improve and manage your livestock living areas in this workshop.

March 22nd, 2023
5:00 - 7:00 pm

Tour to follow in June

1134 SE Douglas Ave, Roseburg, Oregon 97470

Lecture and hands-on workshop

March: Discussion focused on management techniques to reduce mud and manure in the field and paddock. Technical assistance for land improvement

June: Field tour of ranchland that has been impacted by trampling and erosion, followed by improvement techniques. Funding for land improvement may be available.

COST: \$15.00

Register online: <https://beav.es/iHt>
or click on the QR code
or call 541-672-4461

Registration required
by March 12th.



Oregon State
University



OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by 3/13/2023 to [phone number]

UPCOMING EVENTS

OSU Best Field First: A Forage Planning Series

You can't go wrong with this program!

From OSU, "This educational program assists forage producers in making decisions on managing pastures and hay grounds. Topics include using maps to determine physical soil properties, estimate current and potential production, and form management units. This information is then used to take soil samples for fertility testing and to make agronomic, and economic input decisions. Part of this process includes the option of selecting to focus work on your *best field first*. This can help producers prioritize funding for inputs and time spent on multiple fields. At the completion of the program custom reports will be provided which will be useful in future classes and consultations on forage production."

There are a total of 4 sessions all of which can be attended virtually. In-person options available by contacting OSU Livestock Forages Specialist Shelby Filley at (541) 236-3016 or by emailing shelby.filley@oregonstate.edu

When: Wednesdays, March 15th & 29th and April 12th & 26th

Where: Virtual with in-person options available

Cost: \$20

Registration: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/events/best-field-first-forage-planning-series>

Session I: March 15th - Using Potential & Current Forage Yield in Management Decisions

Session II: March 29th - First work session with the instructor (prerequisite - Session I)
April 12th - Second work session with the instructor (prerequisite - Session I)

Session III: Access on your own - Supplemental Information online

**Session IV: April 26th – Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District & USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Overview of Landowner Conservation Programs**

SERVICES

Soil Testing

Are You Prepared for Spring? Do you know your soils pH?

The first of Spring is almost here. Contact the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Office today to schedule your soil test in preparation for those frequently needed early spring lime applications! Soil tests are currently free to District residents and provide application rates for lime, nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, and boron.

Farm Conservation Planning

Farm Conservation Plans are documents developed jointly by Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District and land managers. Farm Conservation Plans include actions that land managers can take to achieve their land use goals while protecting water and other natural resources. The planning process takes into consideration the size of the farm, type of soils, slope of the land, proximity to streams or water bodies, type of livestock or crops, and resources such as machinery, buildings and available finances.

Umpqua SWCD's Conservation Planner looks at changes that can be made to improve farm productivity and reduce impacts on natural resources. Some examples include stream-side fencing, gutters and downspouts, composting manure, pasture management and renovation, weed management, creating sacrifice areas, cross fencing and pasture rotation of livestock. Our Farm Conservation Planner can offer technical assistance on questions such as what grasses to plant, how to build a fence and when to mow.

Once the land manager has decided which changes they'd like to make on their property, they work with our Conservation Planner to set a tentative implementation schedule. Revisions of the schedule and the plan can be made as the goals and needs of the land manager change.

Farm Conservation Plans can help land managers, who have livestock, to meet the requirements of the Oregon Department of Agriculture Umpqua Basin Agricultural Water Quality Area Plan. This document can be found by going to:
<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/NaturalResources/UmpquaAWQMAreaPlan.pdf>

All aspects of Farm Conservation Planning services provided by Umpqua SWCD are free of charge and without obligation. Umpqua SWCD is a non-regulatory, non-enforcement agency.

Weed Wrench Loan Program

Weed Wrenches are woody plant pullers and available for loan through Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District. These plant pullers are most effectively used when the soil is soft in the spring and are suited for leveraging scotch broom, small trees, and even blackberry roots from the soil. Requires a \$25 refundable deposit for a 2-week time period. Contact us today to rent one of these helpful tools.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grants are available to District residents and producers for a variety of water quality/Ag WQ and habitat improvement projects through our Umpqua 7 Small Grant Team.

Contact the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Office in order to begin the application process. Grants are available in amounts up to \$15,000.

Project Examples:

Livestock Exclusion Fencing, Off-Stream Watering Systems, Hardened Livestock Feeding Areas, Improved Livestock Crossings and Livestock Access Roads, and More!

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Director's Meetings

March 16th, April 13th, May 11th, and June 8th.

Our meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month and held virtually.

Please email rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com to obtain meeting information and instructions for attending virtually.

Umpqua Basin Agriculture Water Quality Area Plan 2023 Biennial Review Meeting

When: Thursday, March 9th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with both virtual and in-person meeting options available.

Where: USDA NRCS Roseburg Service Center Office, 2593 NW Kline Street, Roseburg (in-person) or by Microsoft Teams (virtual). Contact Umpqua SWCD for instructions on how to join the meeting virtually.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is not revising the Area Plan in 2023. The ODA Agriculture Water Quality Program, Department of Environmental Quality, Umpqua and Douglas Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers will all provide updates to the Umpqua Basin Local Advisory Committee for their report to the Board of Agriculture.

Douglas County Cooperative Weeds Management Area Meeting

When: Tuesday, March 14th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: Roseburg Public Library, Deer Creek Room, 1409 NE Diamond Lake Blvd, Roseburg, OR 97470

Are you curious about the status of weeds in Douglas County and/or interested in invasive plant removal? If so, this would be a great meeting to attend. To reserve your seat at this informative meeting please RSVP our partners with Douglas SWCD by calling Maggie Begoun at (541) 900-0354 as meeting space is limited.

DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District is currently looking to fill two positions on the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors.

District Organization and Leadership:

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District is administered by a governing body of five unpaid directors duly elected on Oregon's general election ballot by the residents of Douglas County who reside within the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District boundaries. Directors serve four-year terms.

Three of the five director positions are classified as zone positions, and must meet the zone requirements provided by ORS 568.560. To qualify as a zone director, a person must own or manage 10 or more acres of land within the zone, or meet requirements in lieu of land ownership/management, and be a registered voter.

The additional two director positions are considered at-large positions. To qualify for an at-large position, a person must live within the boundaries of the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District and be a registered voter.

For more information on board position requirements, refer to ORS 568.560, or talk with a current Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Director, or the District Manager. For more information see: https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_568.560

Current Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Directors are:

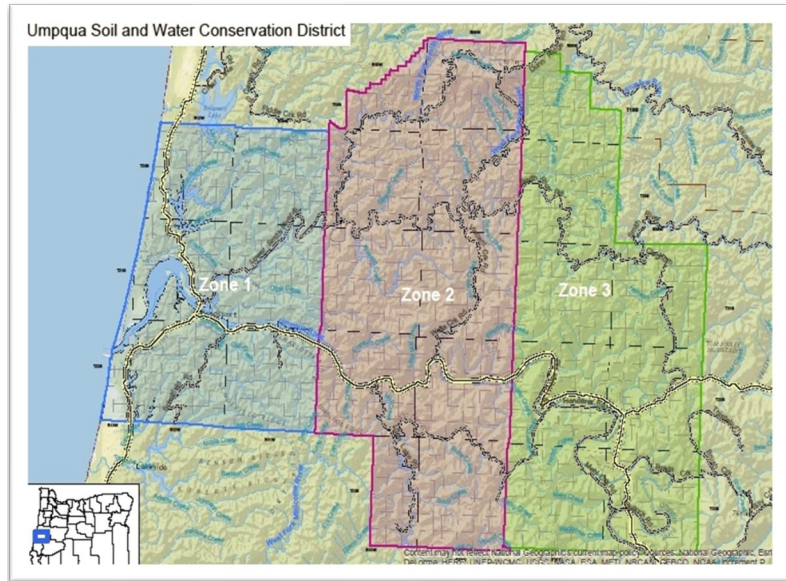
Zone 1 – Tom Black, Zone 2 – Bob Miller, and At-Large 2 – Cliff Glover. *Vacant positions are: Zone 3 and At-Large 1.*

DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT

Director Responsibilities:

The Board of Directors set the direction of the District through the development and/or oversight of the strategic plan, biennial work plan, and District policies, with input from the District Manager and Staff. The Board and Staff enjoy a great working relationship that ensures natural resource stewardship programs and projects are available to all Douglas County citizens within the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District boundaries.

An individual Board member may only exercise their authority and responsibility of his or her position when the Board is in legal session and only as part of a specific Board action (e.g. resolution, motion, policy, etc.) and must be recorded in the public meetings minutes. Individual Board members may be given limited authority to act on behalf of the Board only when authorized by a specific Board action.



The responsibilities of the Board of Directors include but are not limited to the following tasks: Approval and tracking of budgets, require and understand sufficient financial reports, oversight, employee performance reviews, approval and monitoring of annual work plan, strategic plan development and approval, represent Interests of Constituents, come to meetings informed and prepared, stay abreast of local conservation issues, promote the District's work to local landowners, local and state agencies, legislators, and other organizations.

In addition to the responsibilities listed above, the Directors, as a Board, have legal powers under ORS 568.550. To find out more go to: https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_568.550

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email? Send us an email with "newsletter" in the subject line to rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com to let us know! If you are not yet receiving this newsletter and would like to, but don't use email, call (541) 662-1341 and we'll add you to our mailing list.

CONTACT INFORMATION

How to contact Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District:

Email: rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com

Telephone: (541) 662-1341

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 415, Reedsport, Oregon 97467

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UmpquaSoilandWaterConservationDistrict

MISSION

"The mission of the locally led Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide assistance to any individual, group, or agency in applying natural resource conservation practices for the wise use of their natural resources."