



Lakeview Soil and Water News

Oregon Expands Sage Grouse Conservation Agreements

Oregon's collaborative model of protecting sage grouse habitat expanded March 18th as private landowners represented by five soil and water conservation districts signed on to agreements that cover more than 2.3 million acres.

The agreements reached with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cover ranchers and other landowners in Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Lake, Malheur and southern Union counties. A signing ceremony took place in Juntura, in Malheur County in the southeast corner of the state.

Landowners who voluntarily sign what is called a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assur-

ances (CCAA) agree to manage their range in a way that removes or reduces threats to greater sage grouse. The bird is a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act this fall.

In return, landowners are protected from additional regulation for 30 years, even if sage grouse are listed as endangered. Oregon ranchers describe the requirements as reasonable. They agree to do such things as mark fences so bird don't fly into them, remove intrusive juniper trees that provide

perches for grouse predators and crowd out sage, put escape ramps in watering troughs and keep grazing cattle out of grouse gathering areas, called leks, during mating season.



If you have questions about the CCAA or would like to sign up please call Brandi at 541-639-6264 or Justin at 541-219-2698 for more information.

Inside this issue:

NRCS Programs	2
New Employee	2
Restoration Opportunities	3
Rural Living Handbook	3
District History and Mission	4

THE DISTRICT'S MAJOR FOCUS IS THE WISE USE OF RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH LOCALLY LED VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION.

NRCS Programs

In addition to the SWCD's established independent technical staff, the district relies on the personnel of state and federal agencies. Chief among the cooperating agencies are the Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. These agencies receive federal funds earmarked by Congress for direct technical and financial assistance.



provides opportunities for beginner farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged producers. Encourages producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their agricultural and forest land.

CREP—Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program contracts require a 10-15 year commitment to keep lands out of agricultural production, ensuring lasting benefits.

Qualified practices include filter strips, forested riparian buffers and the establishment or restoration of wetlands and ground cover to provide habitat for wildlife.

EQIP—Environmental Quality Incentive Program provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns. Provides

assistance to farmers and ranchers in complying with federal, state, and tribal environmental laws, and encourages environmental enhancement. The purposes of the program are achieved through implementation of a conservation plan, which include structural, vegetative, and land management practices on eligible land.

ACEP—Agricultural Conservation Easement Program provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural use of the land. Under the wetlands Reserve Easements component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

CSP—conservation Stewardship Program provides participants with financial and technical assistance to maintain and manage the existing conservation on their land while also undertaking additional conservation practices. The program

New District Wildlife Biologist



The Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is pleased to announce the hiring of Wildlife Biologist Brandi St. Clair. Brandi is no newcomer to Lake County. She was born and raised in Lakeview and graduated high school in 2004. She attended Oregon State Univer-

sity and graduated in 2008, majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife Science. Upon



graduating, Brandi has worked for the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon

State University, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. As of July 1st, she will be working with Lake County landowners who desire to participate in the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurance (CCAA); an agreement that will protect sage grouse habitat and protect landowners from additional regulations if or when the sage grouse are listed as endangered.

If you have an interest in participating in the CCAA, you can sign up with Brandi by calling 541-639-6264

Restoration Opportunities

The Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council (LCUWC) and the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has many goals to accomplish for Lake County this year.

A large part in accomplishing these goals is seeking funding from local and state organizations to complete watershed restoration or enhancement projects.

The large grant submission cycle is upon us. Writing and project planning begins 6 months to a year in advance of the final grant application submission.

In addition to large grants, small grants less than \$10,000 are available for landowners to support their restoration efforts.

If you are interested in implementing a watershed enhancement project, the LCUWC and SWCD invite your ideas and questions and potentially visit your property to discuss restoration opportunities.



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Rural Living Handbook

The Lakeview and Fort Rock/Silver Lake Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD) has published a Rural Living Handbook for Lake County. This handbook is an informational guide to welcome newcomers to our county. It's designed to introduce current as well as prospective rural landowners to land-stewardship resources, conservation techniques and other available resources.

Many people accustomed to services normally provided by urban governments are surprised by the hard work required to manage rural property.

This handbook can be a resource in determining whether the rural lifestyle is for them. It contains information about agencies and organizations that can help clarify rules, regulations, policies, rights and planning decisions during a transition to living in rural Lake County.

It provides answers to Lake County history and facts, weather, buying and developing property, land-use planning, home gardening, irrigation, agriculture, Ag Water Plan and Rules, water resources, animal disposal, soils, weed management, forest management,

flooding, fire prevention, burning, recycling, Lake County events, marketing and funding for conservation projects.

The Handbook will soon be available at the Chamber of Commerce, Real Estate offices, Bureau of Land Management, Building Department and the Soil and Water Conservation office.

If you would like more information on the Rural Living Handbook, you can drop by our office at 17612 Hwy 395 Lakeview or give us a call at 541-947-5855.



District History and Mission

LAKEVIEW SWCD

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Lakeview, OR 97630

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Providing Local Solutions to Local Problems

Due to the cost of mailing the quarterly newsletters, the SWCD would like to email our newsletters to you.

If you have an email address, please let us know by emailing it to:
LakeviewSWCD2@hotmail.com or call us at
541-947-5855

During the 1930s, the "Dust Bowl" made the need to conserve natural resources, and particularly soil, very clear. Agencies, ranging from Land Grant Universities to the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, researched and implemented conservation practices throughout the nation. Eventually, the Soil Conservation Service was created, under the Soil Conservation Act of 1935, to develop and implement soil erosion control programs.

It soon became evident that local leadership was needed to coordinate efforts of conservation agencies to tie them into local conditions and priorities. As a consequence, in 1937 the United States Congress developed a model conservation district law for consideration by state governments.

In 1939, the Oregon legislature passed legislation, which enabled the establishment of conservation districts in Oregon. Conservation districts were charged with directing programs to protect local, renewable natural resources.

Conservation Districts are local government subdivisions, established under state law, to carry out programs for the conservation, use and development of soil, water and related resources. Districts coordinate and implement resource and environmental programs at the local level in cooperation with federal and state agencies. They have demonstrated capabilities in resource protection, development and management, which equip them to be catalysts in bringing together facets of the community that will benefit from a united undertaking to address resource problems and needs.

The Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was established July 31, 1947. The Lakeview SWCD board consists of five directors elected by the public at the November General Election, which is held in even-number years. Three of the five director positions are classified as zone positions, and must meet the zone requirements provided by ORS 568.560. The other two director positions are considered at-large positions. To qualify as an at-large position, a person must live in the Lakeview area and be a registered voter.

District directors are your neighbors; men and women from your business and professional communities and the farmers and ranchers who understand the ecological relationship of soil, water, plants and animals.

The mission of the Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide technical assistance to individuals, groups, and other agencies for the purpose of managing and enhancing our natural resources, environment, and economy with a vision to conserve and develop Lake County's soil, water and related resources for the economic and environmental benefit of the people.

Lakeview SWCD
17612 Hwy 395
Lakeview, OR 97630

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