



SWCD NEWSLETTER

Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District Newsletter

June 2014

Fourth Grade Foresters

In 1885 a national group of educators urged observation of Arbor Day in the nation's schools on the official Arbor Day of their own State. Somehow the School Arbor Day tradition began to fade away and now only relatively few kids get a tree to take home and plant on their State's Arbor Day.

Tillamook County SWCD decided it was time to reverse the decline. Just in time for Arbor Day fourth graders at participating Tillamook County schools received an individually packaged 12" – 18" tree of their own to take home and plant. Every tree was packaged by adults with disabilities, helping workers earn a paycheck.

Tillamook County SWCD has been sponsoring this project for over 10 years. Trees take carbon dioxide (CO₂) out of the atmosphere to help reduce warming and help clean the air we breathe. Planting trees is a simple, inexpensive and easy way to address the problem.

Fourth Grade Foresters USA was kicked off in 2006. Since then thanks to 2,592 project sponsors like Tillamook County SWCD, more than **505,000 trees have been distributed to fourth graders in 6,800 schools across the country.**

There are more than 3.5 million fourth graders in the United States. Together they can begin to plant a forest of their own...a forest that will benefit everyone for generations to come. 🌲



Find us on the web at:
tillamookcountyswcd.org

Tillamook County SWCD
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(503) 842-2240



4th Grade Foresters at Nestucca Valley Elementary with their Arbor Day Trees

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The Board meets at 1pm on the third Thursday of each month.



Your Conservation District

For the last 74 years all of the conservation work of Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has been accomplished through grants and our partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to promote best management practices and to bring federal dollars for conservation practices that benefit our community.

In 2012, thanks to Tillamook County voters, ballot measure 29-129 created a permanent tax rate of \$.06 per \$1000 assessed property value beginning in 2013-14 to support the work of Tillamook County SWCD.

This local support will ensure the District's continued ability to serve the people of Tillamook County, and will provide local control to offer the full complement of available conservation practices. These local dollars will enable the District to obtain matching funds by applying for project and grant monies.

Tillamook County SWCD provides technical, financial and education assistance to the local community to solve natural resource problems and address conservation priorities including erosion control, flood hazards, water conservation and quality, farm land productivity, integrated pest management, invasive species control, watershed protection and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement and management.

If you have a natural resource or conservation concern you would like to address, give us a call at (503) 842-2240, we will do our best to help.

Serving Tillamook County since 1940

Tillamook County SWCD was established in 1940 as a political subdivision of the State of Oregon, organized in south Tillamook County. The District operates under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 568, with assistance and direction provided by the Oregon Department of Agriculture through the Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission and is governed by seven unpaid, locally elected directors. ♿

Board of Directors

Zone 1

Walter Porter

Term Ends 2014

Zone 2

Daren Filosi

Term Ends 2014

Zone 3

Clarence (Bub) Boquist

Term Ends 2016

Zone 4

Bryan Measor

Term Ends 2016

Zone 5

Bill Hagerty

Term Ends 2016

At Large 1

Larry Zweifel

Term Ends 2016

At Large 2

Rudy Fenk

Term Ends 2014



Chair Rudy Fenk

Interested in joining our board?

August 26, Deadline to file as a candidate for the 2014 election.

November 4, General Election

Election packets available on our website, or for pickup at front desk.

The Impact of Noxious Weeds

“Noxious weeds pose a significant threat to Oregon agriculture and natural resources. They can invade farm land and pastures, increasing the overall cost of farming.

Noxious weeds in the natural environment may crowd out native plants, and may be toxic to native wildlife species.

The economic cost of controlling noxious weeds is borne by all of us, even if we live in an urban environment.

Noxious weed control increases the cost of agricultural products. Tax money is required to remove noxious weeds from the edges of our roads, parks, state forests, schools and cities, resulting in higher fees and taxes. Removing noxious weeds from our lakes and waterways, and then restoring them, is very expensive.

By controlling noxious weeds landowners protect life and health, improve habitat for fish and wildlife, maintain native plant communities, minimize the impacts to agriculture production, and save money.



- 1) **Canada Thistle** - Image courtesy of Glen Miller, Oregon Department of Agriculture
- 2) **Bull Thistle** - Image courtesy of Eric Coombs, Oregon Department of Agriculture
- 3) **Tansy Ragwort** - Image courtesy of Eric Coombs, Oregon Department of Agriculture
- 4) **Purple Loosestrife** - Image courtesy of Bonnie Rasmussen, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Whack These Weeds Now!

Please control your weeds before they go to seed.

Tillamook County SWCD can help landowners to control weeds. Our Noxious Weed Control Program focuses on four species of state-designated noxious weeds: Tansy Ragwort, Canada Thistle, Bull Thistle, and Purple Loosestrife.

We can work with landowners to identify noxious weeds and develop a site-specific management plan for their control and eradication. Additionally, if spray equipment is required it can be rented on a daily basis through the SWCD office.

Did you know that it is a violation of Oregon State Law to allow any designated noxious weed to go to seed within a weed control district? And did you know that Tillamook County is a weed control district? We sure are. It is the responsibility of every landowner in the county to control noxious weeds on their property and to report weed infestations.

If you have any questions about noxious weeds, need to report a weed infestation, or require technical assistance, please call 503-842-2240 ext. 111.

The OSU Extension Service can also assist with noxious weed identification and recommendations for control measures. Phone them at 503-842-3343. 📞

Activity Summary 2011-2013

Ever wonder what keeps us so busy at Tillamook County SWCD? Here's a summary!

Planning and Implementation Activities

Provided assistance to NRCS to develop **30** Conservation Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP's) covering 2,450 acres.

Created **35** CNMP's covering 6,325 .7 acres.

Created **9** CNMP's covering 1,278.3 acres for NRCS EQIP

63 Water Quality improvement projects including these practices:

- 39,022 feet of livestock exclusion fence,
- 6,335 feet of pipeline,
- 17 livestock watering facilities,
- 6.91 acres of tree shrub establishment,
- 28.25 acres of livestock use exclusion,
- 124.2 acres of filter strips,
- 7,343.3 acres of nutrient management,
- 497 acres of prescribed grazing,
- 1 roof runoff structure
- 2,298 feet of underground outlet,
- 3 waste storage facilities,
- 1,658 acres of waste utilization,
- 1,575 feet of irrigation water conveyance,
- 520 animal units of amendments for treatment of ag waste.
- 6 Waste Transfer
- 186.9 acres of Forage Harvest Management
- 3,731.3 Waste Recycling
- 2 acres of Access Control
- 129 acres of Forage Stand Improvement
- 3 acres of Riparian Forest Buffer
- 277 acres of Stream Habitat Improvement
- 3 acres of Tree Shrub site prep
- 27 acres of Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- 2,600 feet of Access Road



District Manager Ray Monroe

Outreach and Education Activities:

566 landowners contacted with **63** that were provided with technical/ financial assistance.

2 workshops with 24 attendees-topics included: Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan and Rules, riparian function and plantings, pasture and manure management, rain gardens and storm water management, general water quality/quantity issues and conservation planning.

5 displays with over 2800 visitors.

7 Agriculture Water Quality Presentations with 131 attendees focused on riparian function and the Water quality Management area Plan.

1,704 fact sheets handed out pertaining to: Water Quality area plan, Nutrient management and systems, weed management and riparian plants, conservation planning, technical and financial assistance.

10 newspaper articles with target audience of 160,000 rural residential landowners, livestock managers and hobby farmers.

63 on-site evaluations addressing water quality due to run-off, erosion and manure application.

1 Irrigation Brochure developed

Funding Secured:

Over \$100,000 for water quality related projects. (Including \$70,000 from DEQ 319 and \$50,000 from Tillamook County).

\$40,000 from the Tillamook County Creamery Association's Environmental Stewardship program to help fund water quality projects for member producers.

The District also advertised "fee for services" to do water quality projects. 🚧

Backyard Planting (BYPP)

Tillamook County SWCD partners with the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) in this cost-free, voluntary assistance program for private landowners that want to remove invasive species from their streambanks and improve habitats for fish and wildlife.

Tom McDermott, the BYPP Coordinator, works with private landowners to develop site-specific riparian restoration plans. Restoration plans detail how the BYPP will remove invasive riparian plant species like blackberry, reed canary grass, and knotweed and which native tree and shrub species will be planted in their place.

All of the work including planning, invasive species removal, and maintenance (2-3 years) are provided completely free to the landowner.

For more information:
<http://www.tbnep.org/backyard-planting.php>



Tom McDermott, BYPP, visits with students at the 2014 Children's Clean Water Festival

Teaching the Next Generation

Tillamook County SWCD's exhibit at this year's Children's Clean Water Festival focused on how plants improve water quality in riparian areas (stream sides).

Our booth was manned by Tom McDermott, TEP Backyard Planting Program Coordinator. Tom provided samples of native tree and shrub species that live in healthy riparian areas and talked about how they can influence water quality indicators such as stream temperature, sedimentation, and bacteria.

The exhibit also featured a display panel with photos of invasive plant species, before and after photos of riparian areas illustrating how best management practices for livestock, such as off-stream watering devices and exclusion fences can help plants contribute to a healthy riparian zone.

Upon arriving at the Festival, each 4th grade class was greeted by a friendly volunteer guide who led them through a series of rotating presentations and exhibits about water. It all added up to a day rich in tangible learning, enhanced by good clean fun.

But, the day doesn't stand alone. During the months prior to the festival, the Festival Coordinator Dean Bones, visited each classroom preparing the 4th graders for their day in the field. The presentations were geared to supplement the new Oregon Science Standards and the program is financially supported, in part, by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality 319 funds. ♿



2014 District Activities

This year is shaping up to be another busy one for the Tillamook County SWCD.

- Participate in the Children's Clean Water Festival & 4th Grade Foresters
- Create and update Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans as required
- Attack invasive Knotweed infestations in the Nestucca and Trask basins.
- Remove Scotch Broom along Highway 101, Highway 22 & Kiwanda Shores
- Work with The Capes HOA to inventory Scotch Broom and English Ivy
- Install livestock exclusion fences & off-stream water along **7** riparian areas
- Respond to noxious weed complaints in a confidential manner.
- Prepare and staff a display for County Fair booth.
- Plant trees and shrubs along the riparian areas fenced above.
- Provide conservation technical assistance as requested

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services.

Tillamook County SWCD
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