

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

February 7, 2018

Convened 1:06PM

- Board approved the 2018 Hold Down rates, renewing the IGA with ODFW for the Mill Creek Monitoring Project for 2018, and approved GSI to move forward with the next phase of the 15Mile Storage Feasibility Study.
 - Board approved one District Cost Share Project for livestock water and requested more information on another, approved sponsorship for the Farm Succession Workshop and promotion of the Field Office Assistant to Basic Planner.
 - The board heard updates from the watershed councils, NRCS, FSA, Wy'East RC&D, and OSU Extension.
- Adjourned: 3:10 PM

March 7, 2018

Convened 1:03 PM

- Board approved one District Cost Share Request for ag efficiency technology, three joined requests for irrigation efficiency and monitoring demonstration, and requested more information on a weed control project.
 - Dan Son of the Lower Deschutes Weed Management Cooperative gave presentation on their efforts to combat noxious weeds along the Deschutes River in Sherman and Wasco Counties.
 - Board heard project updates from area watershed councils.
 - Frank Cochran, NRCS, reported on agency activities and acknowledged Clinton's outstanding performance as acting DC during his absence. He presented 1 CRP conservation plan for approval and signature.
 - Aimee Bell, FSA, reported on upcoming deadlines. She noted that new directives from National require producers of industrial hemp to separate those operations from conventional cropping operations or they will be unable to provide assistance.
 - Robert Wallace, Wy'East RC&D discussed his Renewable Energy Project and other projects in the works throughout Central Oregon.
- Adjourned 2:50 PM

Conservation Calendar

Catch Wasco Co. SWCD on KODL Coffee Break at 10:00 am with Al Wynn, the 2nd Monday of each month! Unless otherwise noted, the SWCD Board Meeting is always the first Wednesday of the month.

- Apr 4 SWCD Monthly Board Mtg. 1:00 PM, Coordinating Board, 3:00 PM, USDA Svc Center Conf Rm
- Apr 11 The Dalles WS Council Meeting, 5:30 PM, USDA Service Center Conf Room
- Apr 13 NCLA Bull Tour - 07:30 AM - Meet at The Dalles Auction Yard
- Apr 16 - 19 CONNECT, Seaside
- Apr 25 Mosier WS Council Mtg, 6:30 PM, Mosier Grange
- May 1 15Mile WS Council Mtg, 6:30 PM, Barlow Ranger Station
- May 2 SWCD Budget Committee Meeting, 10:00 AM & SWCD Monthly Board Mtg, 1:00 PM, USDA Svc Center Conf Room
- May 15 OSU Wasco Co. Crop Tour - 7:30 AM, Meet at The Dalles Auction Yard

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<i>Editor: Tammy Tripp</i>			

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Watershed Updates

For information on any of these watershed councils, please contact Tatiana Taylor, Wasco Co. SWCD at 541-296-6178 ext 117.



Abbie and her husband CJ welcomed their baby girl, Codie Shay Forrest, on January 14th. Abbie will be on maternity leave for the next couple of months. Tatiana Taylor has assumed her Watershed Coordinator duties in the interim. Congratulations Abbie and CJ!

Coordinating Board

The next meeting will be held April 4th, 3:00 PM, immediately following the SWCD Board Meeting.

Fifteenmile Watershed

The council held a special meeting on March 6th to discuss the 15mile Underground Storage Feasibility Study Phase 2, along with the project schedule and budget.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 1st at 6:30PM at the Barlow Ranger Station.

The Dalles Area Watershed

The Council met on January 10th. Presentations included updates on E.coli monitoring in Mill Creek and the Chenoweth Creek Focus Area. The council also heard an update for the Mill Creek Stream Temperature Project.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2018 at 5:30 at The Dalles USDA Service Center.

Mosier Watershed Council

Mosier WS Council met on January 24th. The council received an update on the Mosier Deep Well Project, and Well Assessments/Repair Project. The council also discussed next steps for the Mosier Groundwater Project.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 25th at 6:30PM, Mosier Grange.

Bakeoven/Buck Hollow and White River Watersheds

A joint council meeting was held on February 1, 2018. The councils received updates on the South County RCPP, 3Mile Fish Screen, Forest Collaborative, and the Bakeoven Range Inventory. The next meetings haven't been scheduled.

New Members - The watershed councils are seeking new members. Watershed Councils play an important role in conservation in Wasco County. Council members identify key resource concerns in their watershed, find ways to solve those concerns, and help direct funding and technical assistance

from the Conservation District.

15Mile FAST

The deadline for new sign-ups has passed. 15Mile irrigators are encouraged to contact the FAST Coordinator if interested in signing up for next year's irrigation season. Tatiana can be reached at: 541-296-6178 ext 117, or email her at tatiana.taylor@or.nacdn.net.

Items of Interest/Upcoming Events

NCLA - The Annual Bull Tour is scheduled for Friday, April 13th. Meet at the The Dalles Auction Yard at 7:30. This year's tour will be through Centerville to Goldendale, Washington. Participants will see different rangeland management practices, breeding programs, marketing strategies, and livestock handling facilities.

A bus is available and departs the Auction yard at 8:20 then the Centerville Grange Hall at 9:45 sharp. The bus will return to those stops after dinner.

Cost is \$45, includes morning coffee and donuts, lunch, and a beef tri-tip dinner at the fairgrounds in Goldendale.

RSVP by April 1st to Sherman Co. Extension: 541-565-3230.

OSU Extension - 2018 Wasco County Crop Tour - The date has been set for May 15, 2018. Meet at The Dalles Auction Yard at 7:30 AM. Tour features winter canola trials, scouring rush management, and new Ag technology for precision irrigation, zonal soil sampling, and using drones for aerial imagery of crops.


Sherman Co. Crop Tour is scheduled for May 16th. Details forthcoming.

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ODA - Eightmile Strategic Implementation Area - ODA invites all agricultural landowners in the Eightmile watershed to an Open House to discuss the Eightmile Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) at the Dufur Ranger Station May 16th, from 6:00-8:00pm. ODA will lead the Open House with a presentation covering the SIA purpose, background, and future steps. After the presentation, there will be time for the SWCD, Watershed Council, and other partners to present their work and offer any financial or technical resources to landowners.

For more information about SIAs, contact Shilah Olson, at 541-296-6178 x105, or email: shilah.olson@or.nacdnet.net.

Service Center News

FSA (Wasco Co./Hood River) - The enrollment period for the 2018 crop year, for producers with base acres in ARC or PLC ends on Aug. 1, 2018. Reminder: Producers must have the CCC-941 on file certifying their AGI compliance before program payments are issued.

Signups for the CRP Grassland program is continuous, if you are interested in the program see Aimee in FSA. July 15th is the deadline for Spring Acreage Reports.

For more information on any of these programs, contact Martha at 541-298-8559 ext 104.

SWCD - Wasco County SWCD has chosen the Chenoweth Creek watershed for focused outreach on ag water quality plans and rules. Technical and financial assistance is available to landowners for projects focusing on riparian vegetation, and livestock mud and manure management. Contact Tatiana Taylor for more information.

Mosier Million - Drilling on the first well replacement began Jan 24th. The first three wells are in various stages of completion. This project is expected to replace the top 10-15 commingling wells identified through on-site assessments.

Deep Wells - The first deep well is still under construction with a gap in the casing needing sealed. The SWCD will apply to OWRD in the current grant application cycle for funding

for the second deep well.

NRCS - Over thirty participants, including farmers and representatives from NRCS, Wasco SWCD, FSA, ODFW, ODF, USFS, OSU Extension, Watershed Councils, and Irrigation Districts attended the 2018 Wasco County Local Work Group in February. Participants discussed and prioritized natural resource concerns within the county. The top two concerns were: 1) Insufficient Water -- Inefficient use of irrigation water and 2) Soil Quality - soil acidification. Please contact the office if you would like full details, or information about attending the next meeting.

Applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) are accepted on a continuous basis, and we are now accepting applications for 2019. EQIP funds are available for forestry and wildlife practices, organic operations, seasonal high tunnels, and on-farm energy conservation. CSP rewards and further promotes sound natural resource stewardship for all types of ag operations as well as private forest land owners.

NRCS has a web portal called Conservation Client Gateway (CCG) that allows participants to request assistance, fill out applications, and sign contract documents over the internet. If you are interested in signing up for the Client Gateway or have questions, please contact Frank Cochran at 541-298-8559, ext. 111 or at frank.cochran@or.usda.gov.

Conservation Buffers

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), overseen by Farm Service Agency (FSA), continues to be one of the most effective ways landowners with creeks or streams have to address water quality issues. Increasing vegetation and livestock exclusion through fencing, allows natural processes to take place that stabilize streambanks, filter pollutants, and improves habitat for native fish.

Interested landowners can contact the Conservation District at 541-296-6178 ext 3 for more information.

National Stewardship Week/Poster Contest

The 2018 Stewardship theme is "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home". Stewardship Week 2018 will take place April 29 - May 6. As in past years, Karen Lamson is reaching out to teachers throughout Wasco County to make stewardship education materials available at no charge. This includes homeschools as well.

If you haven't been contacted and are interested in the material give her a call or and send her an email.

The deadline to order Stewardship materials is April 6th.

In celebration of Stewardship Week, the District hosts the annual Stewardship themed Poster Contest for Wasco County schools and home schools. Local winners receive a cash award and are automatically entered in the State level poster contest, held in the fall. Winners from state will then go on to compete nationally at the National Association of Conservation District's annual meeting in February.

The deadline for poster entries is May 11th.

Contact Karen at 541-296-6178 x121, or email her at karen.lamson@or.nacdnet.net for more information. Flyers are also posted on the District website at www.wascoswcd.org.

Small Grant Program

Landowners looking for financial help to prevent stream bank erosion, increase irrigation efficiency, or solve mud and manure problems may qualify for the Small Grant Program.

The Small Grant program is a competitive grant program that awards funds of up to \$15,000 for on-the-ground restoration projects. Depending on the size of the grant, recipients must provide 25% or 50% matching funds in the form of labor, materials and/or cash contributions. The 2018 funding cycle began in September and applications are accepted throughout the year.

For more information contact Shilah Olson at 541-296-6178 ext 105, or email her at shilah.olson@or.nacdnet.net.

Visit us on the web at www.wascoswcd.org

The Garden Plot

by Tammy Tripp



Composting with Worms

Vermiculture or vermicomposting is my favorite form of composting. Granted, having to sort through the castings (worm poo) to take out worms and eggs to seed the next batch is a pain, but there is nothing like it. Not only does worm compost contain higher levels of microbial activity, plants grown in soil amended with it produce higher yields.

The official name for the red wiggler compost worm is *Eisenia fetida*. It has a specialized digestive system that makes it superior for composting. While I prefer to just make a huge pile of yard debris and let the worms do their job in peace, you can make or purchase worm bins if yard space is limited.

The only caveat I would add is to ensure the pH of the compost is tested prior to application. It can change your soil pH rather quickly. If it is too alkaline, add some elemental sulfur to it prior to application. The worms don't like an acidic environment so the compost is more apt to be too alkaline.

Wildflower Talk

by Kristin Currin, Humbleroots Nursery

California Beaked Hazelnut
Corylus cornuta



Corylus cornuta is one of the earliest Pacific Northwest native shrubs to bloom. It is monoecious, meaning it has both male and female flowers on the same plant. Short female catkins with red stigmas and long male catkins bloom from January into March and are wind pollinated. The nuts ripen in early fall. Most commercially grown hazelnuts, also known as filberts, come from European species of *Corylus*.

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