

Wasco County Watershed Councils Annual Report FY 2015/2016

Wasco County Watershed Councils Coordinating Board

The Coordinating Board met 4 times over the course of the last year. The board spent a lot of time discussing the structure and roles of the board. The Coordinating Board used this last year to update their by-laws and meeting rules, worked on a prioritization process for the Action Plan, as well as updated their Annual Work Plan.

Coordinating Board Members:

Mosier - Kris McNall & Bryce Molesworth
The Dalles - Ken Bailey & Bruce Lumper
Fifteenmile - Bill Hammel & Phil Kaser
White River - Pat Davis & Herb Snodgrass
Bakeoven / Buck Hollow - Bob Krein



Mosier Watershed Council

The Mosier Watershed Council held 5 watershed council meetings. They started a surface water committee to address noxious

weeds, plant acorns, and discuss the UPRR project and restoration opportunities. The State legislature approved \$1,000,000 to be used for well repair and replacement. In addition to the Mosier Million, the council was also able to put into place "Special Well Construction Standards" that now require drillers to work closely with OWRD on site location, well depth, and well construction. The council has been focused on working with OWRD, GSI and the SWCD to prioritize and assess wells, starting in zone 1. The council has worked together to inform the public and get as many well owners to participate in the program as possible. They have also worked with local watershed council members and OWRD to explore deeper sources of groundwater. The project was awarded funding through OWRD, and is expected to start work soon. The council has also been very interested in the monitoring and restoration efforts that are and will continue to take place due to the train derailment in June. There was an emergency meeting called to inform the council on the details and environmental damage of the derailment, to discuss restoration plans, and to outline how groundwater pollutants will be monitored into the future.

The Dalles Watershed Council

The Dalles Watershed Council held 5 watershed council meetings and one summer celebration.

The council was focused on the completion of the Mill Creek Side-Channel project. The project was completed Fall of 2015 and the plantings and reseed-ing was completed in the Spring of 2016. The side channel project has hosted numerous tours with different agencies very interested in the success of the side channel. The council also received presentations and annual reports on the data collection regarding the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership from ODA and DEQ, E. coli monitoring, ODFW fish counts in Mill Creek as well as Lamprey monitoring efforts of the Confederate Tribes of Warm Springs. The council has also been interested and kept up to speed on the Mill Creek Trail and Greenway efforts. The council spent a day planting the Creekview property with native plants to help stabilize the eroding hillside and along the creek for additional shading.

Urban Conservation Planning has also started taking shape with Nate Woodard leading the charge to develop an education and outreach program for urban Creekside landowners.



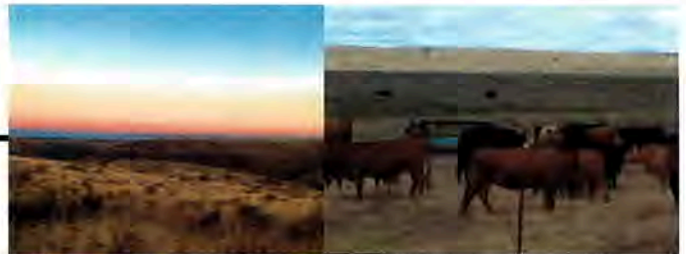


Fifteenmile Watershed Council

The Fifteenmile Watershed Council held 5 council meetings. The council had another successful year of the FAST program. The 2015 irrigation season was one of the hottest on record with two alerts being issued lasting a total of 16 days. Although

stream temperatures reached 76 degrees, there were no reported fish kills. The first alert extended from June 24 to July 8. The participation of landowners in the FAST program kept 3.00 cfs instream during that time period. While the council has continued interest in the FAST program they have also focused on water storage. After the completion of the above ground storage feasibility study, which found a reservoir to be very expensive with residual unknowns, the council has been working towards an alternative. They have received presentations from OWRD, USGS, and GSI about the potential for subsurface storage. The council's goals have been to gain knowledge on the geology, hydrology and water availability of a subsurface storage facility. The council applied to OWRD for \$150,000 and OWEB \$50,000 for the managed underground storage feasibility study, both of which were awarded funding. The SWCD also worked with ODA on extending the Fifteenmile Creek Subbasin Reservations that were approved in June. The council received the 2015 data results from DEQ on the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership, along with Monitoring updates from ODA and the annual steelhead update from ODFW.

Bakeoven / Buck Hollow Watershed Council



They have held 2 joint meetings this fiscal year with the White River Watershed Council. The first joint meeting with the White River council was followed by the local neighborhood meeting in Maupin. The councils received updates from NRCS on Conservation Programs, FSA with Farm Bill updates, OSU, SWCD and Wy'East RC&D updates.

The Bakeoven / Buck Hollow Watershed Council sat down and discussed resource concerns and range management needs, which resulted in working with the SWCD and NRCS to pursue funding opportunities. The council submitted an application for a technical assistance grant that will be used to inventory and assess upland conditions in the Bakeoven watershed as a basis for a Resource Management Plan that will be used by the watershed council to prioritize restoration projects.



White River Watershed Council

The White River Council held 2 watershed council meetings in conjunction with the Bakeoven/Buck Hollow Watershed Council.

White River watershed council members and landowners have been busy working with the SWCD and NRCS on the Regional Conserva-

tion Partnership Program (RCPP). This project includes: The removal of six fish passage barriers to increase fish habitat access; Improve irrigation efficiency to save 7,300 acre feet of water annually; Restore flows in 21.9 miles of stream; and other identified activities to increase water quality, improve irrigation efficiency, and improve fish habitat in this critical area.