



Groundwork

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Splinters from the Board

June: The annual meeting was held June 5th. Minutes from the May meeting, and budget committee were presented and approved. The April and May Treasurers Reports were also presented. Updates to the DCS policy were presented and approved along with 24-25 reimbursement rates. Other action items presented and approved was the 2022-23 Annual Report and Audit ,as well as approval to negotiate a scope of work with Emily Stranz from DS Consulting to facilitate the board through developing a succession plan as part of an NACD grant requirement. The budget hearing was held and the board approved adopting the budget, making appropriations, imposing the tax, and categorizing the tax. Project updates were also provided as well as agency and committee reports.

July: The board met on July 10th. Minutes from the June meeting were approved as well as the Treasurers Report. 11 Cost share applications were presented, 9 were approved, one was denied and another was tabled. The 2024-25 Annual Plan of Work was presented and approved. The board also approved extending the GSI contracts for the 15mile and Mosier projects; delegating Shilah or Josh to contract helicopter services for the 15mile LWD project with the USFS; as well as approved the Cooperative Agreement for 2024-25 with WyEast. Directors also approved moving board meeting dates to the 2nd Wednesday of each month, and agreed to donate \$1,000 to the Wasco County Youth Livestock Auction pool. Emily Stranz attended to kick off the board succession planning and work with members to schedule meeting times. Project and Partner updates were also shared.

Watershed Council Updates

- The Dalles Watershed Council met September 16th to discuss the results of their summer E. coli monitoring, as well as the growing SWCD noxious weed control program. Average E. coli concentrations in the lower part of Mill Creek were better than last year, while concentrations were higher further up the creek.
- The Bakeoven and White River watershed councils will hold/held a joint meeting at the Imperial River Company in Maupin to discuss the ongoing Bakeoven Upland Restoration project funded by OWEB, as well as the Community Wildfire Defense grant.
- The Fifteenmile Watershed Council is hosting a meeting on October 3rd at the USFS building in Dufur to discuss this year's FAST season, as well as the upcoming OWRD water budget study to be completed for the Fifteenmile Watershed.
- The Mosier Watershed Council will meet on October 23rd at the Mosier Grange to discuss progress made on the Mosier Million Well Replacement Project, as well as the upcoming Watershed Council Action Plan project.
- The next Coordinating Board meeting will be held on October 9th, following the SWCD board meeting. Agenda items will include Watershed Council Evaluations, as well as presenting the Annual Report.

In Remembrance

JOSHUA THOMPSON

On August 21st, our community was hit with the devastating news that Joshua Thompson was in a tragic car accident. His memorial service took place on a Thursday afternoon where over 800 people gathered in Tygh Valley to pay their respects and honor a wonderful father, remarkable friend, fisherman, outdoor enthusiast, farmer, volunteer, jokester, and all around wonderful individual. The number of people who attended his service is a testament to the kind of person Josh was; he was always ready to set aside his own plans to assist a friend or even a stranger in need.

His passing has left our service center and the entire community with a big hole that can never be filled. Josh will be truly missed by us all.



Farm Service Agency

- **Acreage Reporting:** Please Schedule an appointment for 2025 acreage reporting before the following deadlines.
 - Fall -planted crops: 12/15/2024
 - Honey: 1/2/2025
 - Perennial Fruit Crops: 1/15/2025
- **CRP (Conservation Reserve Program):** Payments for existing contracts will go out in October. Please update any banking changes with FSA to ensure your payments are timely deposited.
- **ECP (Emergency Conservation Program):** Coming soon for fence repair/replacement on wildfire-damaged acreage.
- **ELAP Losses: (Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program):** Losses from wildfire must be submitted by January 30, 2025.
- **EFRP (Emergency Forest Restoration Program):** Coming soon for non-industrial timberland on wildfire-damaged acreage.
- **FSCSC (Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops):** Eligible specialty crop growers can apply for assistance for expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification on their calendar year 2024 expenses beginning July 1, 2024, through Jan. 31, 2025.
- **LIP (Livestock Indemnity Program):** Death losses from 2024 events must be submitted by March 2, 2025.
- **NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program):** Submit production records for losses within 60 days of harvest. If you need more time, please request an extension before October 15, 2024.
 - Deadline to purchase 2025 NAP Coverage:
 - Sweet cherries, blueberries, honey: 11/20/2024.
 - Rangeland and hay crops: 11/30/2024.
- **OCCSP (Organic Certification Cost-Share Program):** Certification costs may be reimbursed at 75%, not to exceed \$750 per scope. Deadline to apply for 2024 expenses is October 31, 2024.
- **TAP (Tree Assistance Program):** File claims on dead fruit trees, bushes or vines within 90 days of the weather event, or when loss becomes apparent.

NRCS

In Fiscal Year 2024, Wasco NRCS enrolled over 63,000 acres in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Approximately \$2.7 Million was awarded to Wasco County farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners to assist with projects such as wildfire fuels reduction, forest health, invasive species removal, livestock grazing and water infrastructure, and irrigation upgrades.

In Fiscal Year 2024, Wasco NRCS enrolled over 8,000 acres in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and awarded approximately \$800,000.

We continue to have financial and technical assistance opportunities for private landowners in Wasco County. If you are interested in implementing conservation activities on your property such as forest health and fuels reduction, livestock infrastructure, juniper removal, invasive species treatment, energy-saving irrigation upgrades, or wildlife habitat enhancements, please reach out to our field office! Location: 2325 River Rd. Ste. 3 The Dalles, OR 97058. Phone: 541-298-8559 Email: Emily.Huth@usda.gov

OSU Extension

Agricultural Hazardous Waste Collection Events:

Thursday, Oct. 24th, 10am - 2pm, The Dalles Disposal Service, 1317 W. 1st St. & Friday Oct. 25th, 10am - 2pm, Wasco Event Center, 903 Barnett St.

*Producers, pre-register one week prior to event at tricityrecycle.com/biz

Pesticide Trainings: Need Credits? In person classes will be offered in the Dalles and Moro in early December. If you want more opportunities before that, the OSU PSEP program is offering 4 online webinars in October. Visit <http://beav.es/iyZ> for more info.

Beef Quality Assurance Training (BQA) for Cow

Calf Producers: A one day BQA training if planned for November in The Dalles, for more information and to register email jacob.powell@oregonstate.edu or call 541-298-3581. BQA is a nationwide certification program to ensure a safe, wholesome, and quality beef product for consumers. Being BQA certified can improve sale value of marketed beef cattle and may be an industry requirement in the future.

Wy'East RC&D

Wy'East recently welcomed two new Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) AmeriCorps Fellows, Anna Peach and Jackie Solomon. Jackie will continue providing technical assistance and application support to agriculture producers and rural small business on the USDA Rural Energy for America Program which provides funding for energy efficiency upgrades as well as renewable energy projects. Anna will focus her time on rural energy resiliency, mainly developing a plan and feasibility analysis for the Dufur Rural Innovation Hub, which will serve as a rural resiliency hub and center for innovative agricultural, irrigation and energy conservation practices on-farm, as well as showcasing cleantech and other cutting-edge technologies in a rural context. Wy'East was a sponsor for Sustainable Northwests Energy Symposium that took place Sept. 18-20, in The Dalles. Attendees participated in several tours including The Dalles Dam, the Dufur School District Clean Energy project, 280 Earth Carbon Capture facility and PaTu Wind Farm. For more information, Robert at info@wyeast-rcd.org.



Wildflower Talk

NEW!

urban conservation program

Western rattlesnake plantain *Goodyera oblongifolia*

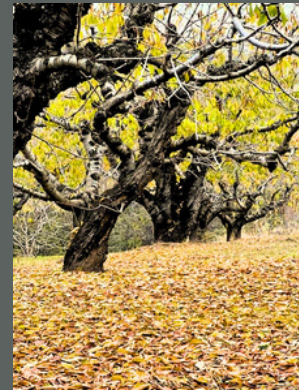
Article by Kristin Currin at Humble Roots Nursery

This summer, the Tides Foundation awarded the Wasco SWCD with \$100,000 through funding from Google Data Centers Grants, to implement conservation practices in urban areas throughout Mosier and The Dalles. This Urban Conservation Program will be structured the same as our regular District Cost Share program, and offer a 50% cost share to landowners/applicants and award up to \$2,500 for approved projects. Eligible applicants must be Wasco County residents or landowners with small acreage (under 5 acres) or own property in urban areas within The Dalles or Mosier area. SWCD staff will provide technical assistance to applicants by providing project designs, native plant recommendations or assisting with developing a budget and completing the application process. Successful applicants will have 1 year from the approval date to complete their project and submit all receipts for reimbursement.

Western rattlesnake plantain is a terrestrial, perennial orchid. It is found growing in forested, mountainous areas west of the Rocky Mountains, as well as in the Great Lakes region, and is one of four species of *Goodyera* native to North America. Terrestrial orchids, such as a rattlesnake plantain, are known for having complex relationships with specific soil mycorrhiza upon which their health and growth depends. This makes them highly sensitive to disturbance. Known for its distinctly white-lined and veined basal leaves, Western rattlesnake plantain can be mistaken for understory plants that have similar leaf venation.



- The program will focus on prioritized resource concerns such as:
 - Erosion Control (*bioengineering, geotextile fabric*)
 - Water conservation (*rainwater harvesting, mulching*)
 - Integrated Pest Management Activities (*Noxious weed control*)
 - Riparian Enhancement (*Planting native species, riparian buffers*)
 - Energy conservation (*Micro Irrigation*)
 - Invasive Species (*revegetation following removal of non-native species*)



If you have a project in mind and would like to learn more, contact Abbie Forrest at 541-296-6178 x102 or abbie.forrest@wascoswcd.org.

Welcome to the Team!

Please join us in welcoming our newest service center team member, Dean Dark, who has been hired as the Lower Deschutes Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator.

Dean was raised in Burns, OR, and took on work at a cattle ranch after graduating high school. He has called the Gorge home since 2009. For the past 12 years, Dean worked for APHIS through USDA, assisting landowners in managing wildlife conflicts. He enjoys anything that allows him to be outdoors, particularly hunting, fishing, and trapping. Dean also loves dedicating his time to coaching his children in sports. Be sure to say hello to Dean the next time you visit the office!



fifteenmile action to stabilize temperatures (FAST)

ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESS

This was the 10th year of the FAST program, and another successful season of FAST is in the books. This season was once again a fairly mild season temperature wise, with the exception of one heat wave that hit in mid July. That being said, a good water year, combined with some summer rain in July attenuated the impact of the heatwave on the creek, allowing us to skirt by without the need to issue an alert. A post season discussion will be held at the next Fifteenmile Watershed Council meeting on October 3rd at the Dufur Ranger Station.

FAST signups for the 2025 irrigation season will take place in January with contracts to be executed no later than June 1st. If you have any questions, or want to know more about the program, reach out to Drake Gilbert at drake.gilbert@or.nacdn.net or 541-296-6178 x117.



(ob)noxious weeds

Mediterranean Sage *Salvia aethiops*

Mediterranean sage is a B listed noxious weed and widespread throughout the Eastern and South Eastern part of the State. Native to the Mediterranean region and North Africa, it's introduction was the result of importing contaminated alfalfa seed. It is primarily a rangeland invader, with plants having a pungent mint-like odor, and very fuzzy leaves. The first record of this plant in Oregon was in 1921 in Wheeler County.

Mediterranean sage is a biennial growing generally two feet tall. First year of growth consists of a large grayish rosette supported by a stout taproot. It is a prolific seed producer dispersing them similar to a tumbleweed across rangeland in late summer and fall.

Though not as impacting as other weed species, this plant is a troublesome pest in pastures and rangelands throughout eastern Oregon. Biocontrol has aided in limiting rapid spread of the plant. One agent, a root weevil has successfully established in Oregon now for many decades.



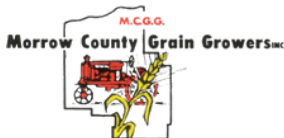
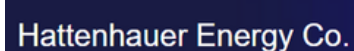
Information provided by Oregon Department of Agriculture Weed list

Picture credit: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/Weeds/OregonNoxiousWeeds>

announcements & important dates

- Photo contest: The SWCD is accepting photos entries until November 1, 2024. If you would like to submit an ag-related photo please visit the website for forms and full contest rules.
- The SWCD has moved their monthly board meetings to the second Wednesday of the month.
- The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on October 9th, at 1:00pm at the USDA Service Center in The Dalles.
- Listen for SWCD & Partner updates on the KODL Coffee Break the first Monday of each month at 10:07 AM on 1440 AM Radio, 100.7 FM or streaming online at kodl.com.
- Upcoming office closures: Columbus Day, Oct 14. Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Thanksgiving, Nov. 28.
- If you would like to receive this newsletter digitally please email wasco@wascoswcd.org.

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