

Out of the Blues

Umatilla County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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Kyle Waggoner - District Manager

Updates from the District

Greetings! Here are the latest happenings within the Umatilla County SWCD:

Staff changes—We welcomed Kyle Waggoner in his new role as district manager, as well as our new CREP technician, Amanda Schachtschneider in July. Stop in to the office to meet them and say hello, and read about their backgrounds on the Staff page of our website.

Soil training field day—We traveled to Condon in August for a refresher course in soil testing techniques. We came back ready and able to answer your questions on soil compaction, water infiltration, and soil pH. We can also show you how to use NRCS' Web Soil Survey Tool to investigate the soil types in your neighborhood.

OWEB Grants—Kyle has been hard at work to find you money for projects on your property! In August, he wrapped up the semi-annual small grant cycle, where we work with land owners to develop project proposals totaling less than \$10,000. These projects can be used to improve irrigation systems, enhance streams, and develop springs, to name just a few areas.

We are now taking applications for OWEB large grants, which can fund projects up to \$200,000. Stop by or give us a call if you have a project you would like to submit a funding request for.



Our soil field day in Condon!

Amanda Schachtschneider—CREP Technician

Upcoming events

October 15—Deadline to submit OWEB large grant application

October 18 & 19—SWCD office will be closed

November 8 & 9—OWEB CREP training for techs

The Benefits of Buffers

Have you heard all of the benefits of creating a riparian buffer on your property?

- FSA CREP will cover 115% of the costs of implementation and planting, then will pay a rental rate for the life of your renewable, 10-15 year contract.
- Increase your water table and improve soil water storage and recharge abilities.
- Create habitat for game species, such as grouse, deer, and elk.
- Prevent loss of crop and pasture land by reducing soil erosion from streams.
- Reduce the amount of nutrients and pesticides that can enter the stream.

If you would like to plan and implement a riparian buffer on your property, call Amanda for technical assistance and a site evaluation. 278-8049, ext. 134.

Featured Noxious Weed



Creeping Yellowcress

- Perennial forb
- Grows up to 20" tall
- Yellow flowers with four small petals
- Taproot with creeping rhizomes; spread via tillage