

Horizons

2004 - 2005 Annual Report

awarded Oregon Association of Conservation Districts'
2004 Newsletter of the Year

- serving Benton County Since 1956

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This report outlines the conservation services that Benton SWCD Directors, Staff and Volunteers provided for the residents of Benton County between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005.

We worked with conservation partners in the following ways:

- We served as the Local Management Agency and worked with Oregon Department of Agriculture to implement the Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Rules (Senate Bill 1010).
- We became an active member of the Northwest Oregon Invasive Weed Management Partnership. This partnership identifies noxious weed hot spots in Benton County and seeks funding for inventory and control.
- We obtained a \$9,000 grant to inventory and control Japanese knotweed along the Luckiamute River watershed.
- We acted on the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grant Review team for three grant areas within our District.
- We worked on various conservation and restoration projects with the Marys River Watershed Council, Luckiamute Watershed Council, Greenbelt Land Trust, US Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon Department of Forestry.
- We worked with Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement four Environmental Quality Incentives Program projects and worked with a local landowner to apply for the Wetland Reserve Program.
- We worked with Oregon State University Animal Science Department to develop three riparian restoration projects on 154 acres along Oak Creek. This project was funded through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).
- We developed a riparian restoration plan for the Greenbelt Land Trust and private landowner enrolled in CREP.
- We provided office space for Kelly Albers, Willamette Restoration Initiative (WRI) Conservation Specialist. We worked closely with Kelly to implement several water quality and stream restoration projects in Benton County.
- We assisted in leveraging \$157,000 of cash and in-kind services to secure over \$293,000 in state and federal grants. This represents over \$450,000 used to implement local conservation projects in Benton County. These projects included fish passage barrier removal, riparian fencing and planting, noxious weed control and wildlife habitat improvement.

Please join us as we celebrate another year of service with our Annual Meeting

When: November 29, 2005
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Meeting begins at 7 pm

Where: Benton County Fairgrounds

Guest Speaker: Mark Taratoot
Partnerships in Water Conservation and Reuse





Chair's Perspective

by Tom Bedell



Publishing an Annual Report of District accomplishments and budget is required by the State of Oregon.

While this report is a necessary function, it also gives us the opportunity to report another active, successful and productive 2004-2005 year. The seven elected Board members would like to thank our fine staff: Jennifer Floro, office manager; Donna Schmitz, Watershed Technical Specialist; Teresa Matteson, Education and Outreach Director; and Chris Stebbins, Benton Fish Passage Improvement Program Coordinator. Your District could not function without their hard work.

Later this fall, the District will add a newly created position to the staff. A successful candidate has been identified to fill the position of District Manager. Since its creation in 1956, the District has struggled without the services of an overall manager. Thanks to Benton County citizens' support, the "nickel for conservation" tax rate measure successfully passed last November. With this financial support, we expect to better meet our conservation mission and assist **YOU**, the residents and landowners in Benton County, to achieve your soil and water conservation objectives. In that regard, fall often is the optimum time to get conservation on the ground. I encourage you to let us know if we can be of assistance.

The District's annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, November 29, at 7:00 p.m. at the Benton County Fairgrounds. This year's theme is "Water". Our evening's activities will look at both the quality and quantity of water in Benton County. I hope you will join us.



Annual Report continued from page 1...

- Benton County residents approved a tax levy of \$0.05/\$1,000 appraised value to fund the operations, technical and education programs of the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District. We convened a Budget Committee which approved the 2005-2006 budget.
- We participated on the Landowner Incentive Program grant review team for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- The BSWCD chairman served as Chairman of the Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission and on the Oregon Board of Agriculture representing Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

We provided direct landowner assistance by doing the following:

- We assisted over 15 landowners to apply for the OWEB small grant to help pay for various restoration projects which enhanced native wildlife habitat and improved water quality. We provided fiscal management to several of these grants.
- We worked closely with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement federal farm programs in Benton County. These efforts assisted in conservation plan development for six landowners for a total of 700 acres of wildlife, crop, headquarters and pasture land.
- We assisted NRCS to implement over \$300,000 in conservation practices through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program in Benton County.

Our education and outreach efforts included the following activities:

- We shared the concepts behind watershed processes, soil biology, soil physical properties, erosion, and the soil's services of water infiltration, storage and purification with over 2250 students during a full spectrum of events, including: Kids Day for Conservation, Corvallis Outdoor School, Forest Expo, Earth Faire, and Spring Field Day.
- We provided Celebrate Conservation curriculum materials to 5 teachers and 112 students during the annual Conservation Poster Contest
- Five issues of our newsletter, *Horizons*, were delivered to a total of 6662 postal addresses and 199 email addresses. Over 1000 printed copies were manually distributed.
- Our *Horizons* newsletter was awarded the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts Newsletter of the Year.

We are preparing for the 2006 Native Tree and Shrub Sale

The order form will be available in mid-December

Order pick-up dates are February 4 and 5, 2006

Pre-orders for **large** quantities will be discounted:

- Order 100 of the same tree species for a 10% discount
- Order 1000 of the same tree species for a 25% discount

**Please call us NOW if you are planning
a large order!**

Annual report continued on page 3...

Annual Report continued from page 2...

- We provided district resources to the community, such as the stream simulation table, soil augers, tree planting equipment, and ArcView soils map productions.
- We recruited, trained and managed 19 volunteers, developed curriculum, and cooperated with conservation education partners to provide over 500 6th grade students hands-on learning about soils and watershed processes during Corvallis Outdoor School and Spring Field Day 2004.
- Eighty-six (86) Benton SWCD volunteers donated 1459 hours to the promotion of conservation education, District outreach, and related issues.
- Over 160 Benton County residents received soil and water conservation technical assistance from the District during this year.
- More than 390 adults were contacted during outreach activities, such as the Native Tree and Shrub sale. In addition, over 690 adults attended educational activities, training sessions, or meetings where we promoted cost share programs, grants, Senate Bill 1010 program rules, our District mission, educational programs and technical assistance.
- During our annual fundraiser, we provided low-cost plant materials and raised riparian and wildlife habitat awareness as we sold over 19,800 native trees, shrubs and flowers to more than 281 residents.
- We attended more than 40 meetings with conservation partners to collaborate on raising natural resource awareness in Benton County.
- We coordinated a GIS/GPS Field Day designed to introduce high school students to conservation's advancing technological tools.

The Benton Fish Passage Improvement Program (BFPIP) did the following activities:

- We worked closely with Benton County Public Works to secure \$22,000 in funding for surveying and development of engineering designs for four fish passage barrier culverts along Soap Creek and the Luckiamute River.
- We obtained an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant for \$174,000 to fund replacement of an Oregon State University culvert, a private road culvert on Soap Creek, and two county culverts on the Luckiamute River.
- We provided project and fiscal management of an OWEB grant to implement two public culvert replacements and one fish-way around an agricultural irrigation dam on Beaver Creek.
- We coordinated efforts between ODFW, BLM, USFS,

Polk SWCD, and the Luckiamute, Marys, Siuslaw, North Santiam, Alsea, Yamhill, and MidCoast Watershed Councils for regional approaches to inventorying and documenting fish passage barriers.

- BFPIP supported the Marys River Watershed Council's stewardship plan for the Woods creek subwatershed. The program conducted a stream habitat impact analysis by culvert barriers within the subwatershed.
- We established a partnership with OSU to help maintain a central GIS database of fish passages, which will be readily available to the public through a online web mapping site.
- Ten BFPIP volunteers completed 242 culvert surveys. Of these 242 culverts, 7 were found to be complete barriers to migrating fish and 3 were found to be partial barriers.
- We gave BFPIP presentations to the following groups: Benton County Commissioners, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, local watershed councils, 2005 Society for Conservation GIS Conference, and the Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Committee which granted continued funding for the program through Title II funds.



NOW is the time to sign up for the **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**

EQIP is a locally led, voluntary conservation program designed to assist farmers and ranchers with natural resource conservation concerns.

The USDA - NRCS provides technical and financial assistance on a cost-share basis to help you treat the natural resource needs on your property.

Need more information or want to submit an application for EQIP?

Contact **Thomas Snyder at NRCS**
33630 McFarland Road
Tangent OR 97389
Phone (541) 967-592

Email: thomas.snyder@or.usda.gov

Conservation Calendar of Events ~ Fall 2005

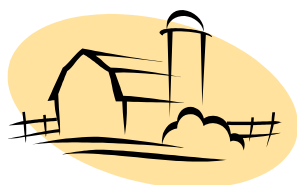
October 13 Mulch/Leaf Composting with Jon Rowley, Seattle P. Patch and Harry McCormack, Sunbow Farms. 7- 9 PM. Free workshop offered by Sustainable Studies Institute & Soil Foodweb, Inc. 728 Wake Robin Avenue, Corvallis

October 14, 15, 16 4-H Wildlife Stewards Volunteer Leader Training Workshop held at the Salem 4-H Center. In Benton or Linn County, contact Jody Einerson at wildlife.benton@oregonstate.edu or call 766-6750 for local school program information. Learn more about Wildlife Stewards at www.wildlifestewards.4h.oregonstate.edu.



October 20 Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development Annual Meeting
Contact (541) 757-4807 for more information.

October 25 Long Tom WC Annual Meeting 6:30 pm, location TBA. A project slideshow and awards will be included. For information call Dana at (541) 683-6578. See Long Tom Watershed Council newsletters on their web site at <http://www.longtom.org>.



Living on the Land

A short course for small acreage management

Six-week program Cost \$30 for entire program; \$10 for individual workshops

Location: Marion County Extension Service, 3180 Center Street NE
Salem, Oregon

DATE	TOPIC
October 17	What to do about weeds and pasture management
October 20	The basics of well water and septic tanks * 1:30—4:30 pm OR 6:00—9:00 pm* this class is free
October 24	Want to know more about your pond and property?
October 26	Your living soil—keeping it productive
November 8	Creating streamside areas that work for you
TBA	Tour of small acreage project

All classes are held from 1:30 to 4:30 pm except when noted above*

Pre-registration is required for all sessions. Call Karen Buell, OSU Extension Service (503) 566-2906 or email Karen.Buell@oregonstate.edu. *This program is hosted by OSU Extension and Marion SWCD.*

Avery House Nature Center Activities Call the Avery House hotline at 758-6198 for more info.

Mushroom Hikes – With the help of mycologists, or mushroom scientists, you can learn about different kinds of mushrooms that grow in our area and the truth behind which are safe to eat!

November 5 Mushroom Hike #1 - 1:00-2:30 at MacDonald Forest Peavy Arboretum

November 12 Mushroom Hike #2 - 1:00-2:30 at Beazell Forest in King's Valley



November 14—16 Oregon Association of Conservation Districts Convention Location: Best Western Agate Beach Inn, Newport, OR. Visit the OACD web site for more information <http://www.oacd.org>

November 17 Biological Pest Control Methods with Joe Whaley, Director of Sustainable Studies Institute. 7 - 9 PM. Free workshop offered by Sustainable Studies Institute and Soil Foodweb, Inc. 728 Wake Robin Avenue, Corvallis.

Benton SWCD Annual
Income and Expense Report
 July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005

Income Source	\$ Amount
Contributions/donations	1,616.75
Newsletter Ads	243.00
Postcard/handbook sales	157.20
OWEB Conservation Projects	107,736.39
OWEB Small Grants	21,484.62
Grant Administration	8,794.40
ODA	40,674.00
LMA	12,672.00
NRCS	32,378.00
Title II	43,693.00
Benton County	10,000.00
Annual Tree Sale	27,724.24
Miscellaneous Income	17.81
Interest Checking/Saving	481.56
Reimbursed Income	1,541.37
Total Income	309,214.34

Expense Source	\$ Amount
Projects	113,777.49
Education & Outreach	6,648.32
Insurance	2,601.88
Operations	27,907.09
Payroll	122,833.86
Annual Tree Sale	18,771.93
Total Expenses	292,540.57

Carryover to 2005-2006	\$16,673.77
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Soilsmith Services offers
Winter Composting on your farm!
Suggested sites are dairy or grass seed facilities

Your site **MUST** provide a covered pole barn over a concrete slab and a water source.

Contact **Shepard Smith** to discuss his services at info@soilsmith.com or call his cell **(541) 231-3225**

We can all be proud and thankful that our mid-Willamette Valley soils grow an abundance of food products. But it may be a stretch of your resource appreciation to consider closing the food production loop by recycling food waste with worms. This process, called

vermicomposting,

is great for diverting land-fill destined resources back into the soil.

Want to know more? Join Benton County's Solid Waste Advisory Council on **October 25th at 6:30 PM** for an informative presentation by Dan Holcombe, Oregon Soil Corporation, <http://www.oregonsoil.com>. Dan will discuss the development of a vermicomposting operation in the Philomath area.

You may have read about Dan's worms in the September 23, 2005 issue of **Capital Press**. The article was titled, *Worm farming gains recognition*.

To attend this presentation, please **RSVP** to Gordon Brown at Benton County Environmental Health Department via email gordon.d.brown@co.benton.or.us or call 766-6170. Gordon will let you know the location of the meeting.

Mark Your 2006 Calendar for two educational opportunities!!!

OSU Watershed Extension will be

offering the **Master Watershed Program**
 for Linn and Benton County residents starting in January 2006

Fee: \$70 for curriculum materials and transportation.

This course will span Thursday and Friday evenings and weekend field trips from **Jan 26 to April 8**.

For more information contact Denise Hoffert-Hay (541) 619-5896 or calapooia@peak.org. To register contact Laurie Gibson at Linn County Extension (541) 967-3871.

Course lecture location: Albany City Hall Council Chambers

Visit this site for all the details:

<http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/wsep/masterprogram.html>

Horse Mud and Manure Management

A workshop sponsored by OSU Extension Small Farms and Benton SWCD

Learn about pasture and manure management for small acreages and information on programs that can provide technical assistance and funding for your property improvements that protect and conserve soil and water resources. Date TBA, targeted for mid to late February.

Japanese Knotweed Control Project

The Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with the Luckiamute Watershed Council, is beginning a project to inventory and control Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) along the Luckiamute River.

As you may know, knotweed is an **incredibly invasive weed** that takes over stream banks, floodplains and gravel bars, making it impossible for native plants to grow. This will result in increased soil erosion, reduced plant diversity, and a reduction in wildlife habitat. In addition, knotweed can interfere with agriculture, block access to riverfront and reduce property values.

The Luckiamute River has been identified as a high priority for control of Japanese Knotweed by the Northwest Oregon Invasive Weed Management Partnership. It spreads readily by seed and can also sprout from small pieces of branch or root. If tackled immediately, this threat can be removed before it gets out of control. Because knotweed spreads so easily and quickly, finding and removing ALL of it along the Luckiamute River is essential. We have contacted all landowners who own property adjacent to the Luckiamute River, but not all of them have responded.



Japanese knotweed is extremely aggressive and forms dense monocultures that displace native plant habitat.

Please contact the District, (541) 753-7208, if you wish to participate in this voluntary weed control effort.

Get to know your local Watershed Council!

Join a meeting, email or surf the web to find out what you neighbors are doing to maintain and restore valuable resources



Luckiamute Watershed Council www.wou.edu/luckiamute meetings 2nd Thursday 7-9pm. Contact Dave Vesely at veselyd@mail.wou.edu or call (503) 838-8804.

Marys River Watershed Council www.mrwc.net meetings 1st Wednesday 7-9 PM Contact Sandra Convey at mrwc@peak.org or call (541)758-7597.

Alesea Watershed Council contact Linda Johnston at 5rivers@pioneer.net or call (541) 528-3221.

Long Tom Watershed Council www.longtom.org winter meetings last Tuesday or summer field work. Contact Dana Erickson for details, call (541)683-6578 or email coordinator@longtom.org.



Jon & Flip Anderson
29730 Harvest Drive SW
Albany, OR 97321
Phone: 541-757-6520
Fax: 738-2607
sevenoaknn@aol.com
www.SevenoaksNativeNursery.com

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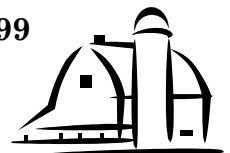
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The future of CONSERVATION

As one year closes another opens. Our vision for Benton County conservation includes Oak Creek riparian plantings at three OSU Animal Science units funded by the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, expansion of our Making Ripples Program, support for educators with mini grants, and the dedication of our Native Tree and Shrub Sale proceeds to scholarships. During our new fiscal year, we have already participated in conservation activities, including those shown in the photos below. We invite you to join us in guiding the future of conservation. Bring your concerns, needs and ideas!



Benton County Farm Bureau, First Alternative Co-op and Benton SWCD co-hosted presentations by **Tom Snyder**, NRCS Resource Conservationist. Tom informed Benton County residents about Federal Farm Bill programs that are available to support conservation practices.



After an NRCS presentation, **Jerry Chiappisi**, left, received a Farm Bill brochure from **Tom Bedell**, Benton SWCD Chair.

Right: Volunteer, **Don Matteson**, engineered a full-scale soil profile for our Kids Day for Conservation (KDC) display.

Below: Toddler, **Michelle Zhou**, studied the importance of soil-dwelling organisms at KDC.

Below right: Benton County businesses, such as **Crystal Lake Public Storage**, helped us by contributing services that support conservation.



Right: BFFIP volunteer, **Laura Duncan-Allen** waited patiently amid blackberries as her survey mates took measurements.



Below: We assisted in obtaining a grant for 4 Luckiamute culvert replacements, such as this one on Soap Creek.





305 SW C Avenue, Suite 2
Corvallis, OR 97333

Phone: (541) 753-7208

Email: bentoncd.@peak.org

Web site: www.peak.org/~bentoncd

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1. Switch from snail mail to e-news...
How? Send an email to teresa.matteson@oacd.org with "e-news" in the subject line.
2. If you don't want to be on this mailing list, call us at (541) 753-7208 and we'll take you off.



This newsletter is printed on 40% recycled paper. Please recycle it again, or better yet, pass this issue to a friend!



Conservation Mini-grants for Educators

We have dedicated \$2500 to a conservation mini-grant fund for Benton County educators. With individual grants capped at \$250, this fund will provide ten Benton County educators with support for soil and water conservation activities.

Contact our office for a Mini-grant application form.
Call (541) 753-7208 or email teresa.matteson@oacd.org.

The form requires the following information:

- Contact information for educator
- Description of activity, including date
- Number of participants expected to benefit
- How does the activity promote the conservation and responsible use of soil, water and related resources?
- How will the results be used and/or shared by others?

Deadline for applications is November 1, 2005.

Mini-grant recipients will be announced November 29 during our annual meeting.

The Benton SWCD mission:

is to provide leadership to Benton County residents through education and technical assistance for conservation and responsible use of soil, water and related resources through a balanced, cooperative program that protects, restores, and improves these resources.

Board of Directors

Tom Bedell, Chair	Andy Gallagher
Eric Horning, Vice Chair	Tim Dehne
Cliff Hall, Treasurer	Anne Rigor
	Joe Hinds

Associate Directors

Rana Foster
Mark Taratoot

Employees

Jennifer Floro, Office Manager
Donna Schmitz, Watershed Technical Specialist
Chris Stebbins, Fish Passage Program Coordinator
Teresa Matteson, Education and Outreach Director

We are looking forward to the arrival of
Gordon Cumming, our new District Manager.

The Benton SWCD is an equal opportunity employer, providing services to the public without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.