



# HORIZONS

## 2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Fall 2013  
Volume 22 Issue 1

*SERVING BENTON COUNTY SINCE 1956*

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### Upcoming Events

- 10/7** BSWCD Annual Meeting
- 1/31** Native Plant Sale Order Deadline
- 2/12-13** Soil Quality Network 2014
- 2/22** OSU Small Farms Conference
- 2/22-23** BSWCD Native Plant Sale
- 2/27-28** Oregon Society of Soil Scientists Meeting
- 3/TBD** Irrigation Workshop

### Connect With Us

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## A Six-Month Reflection and a Glimpse at the Future

Holly Crosson, District Manager

One of my favorite sayings is "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." We at the Benton SWCD could not do what we do without the thoughtful and dedicated participation of so many partners. Thank you one and all, for your continued support!

As the new District Manager, I hit the ground running in January when my very first day of work included a meeting with our twenty-plus CWMA partners, an array of grant and budget-related meetings, and a Board of Directors meeting that evening. The pace has not slowed much since. Within these pages you'll hear about some of the accomplishments by BSWCD staff. But we hope you will dig deeper and visit our brand new website to learn much more about what we do, and how you can get involved. In the coming months we will be working to enhance communication with our conservation partners, volunteers, and the entire community. From the Native Plant Sale on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014, and new restoration work on the Willamette River, to collaborative county-wide invasive weed control and prevention projects, soil quality workshops, youth education, and technical assistance opportunities for landowners, we are here to help. Please contact us!

## A Fresh Look for BSWCD Website and Logo!

Heath Keirstead, Youth Education & Invasives Program Coordinator

We worked with Madison Avenue Collective to create a content-rich site that is easy to navigate and beautiful to view. New features include: a native and invasive plant database, up-to-date project pages, and The Dirt: our fabulous new blog! Send us your thoughts about the website and tell us what the logo (upper left corner of this page) represents to you.

# OUR STAFF

Holly Crosson



District Manager

Jen Floro



Office Manager

Donna Schmitz



Resource Conservationist

Teresa Matteson



Soil Conservationist

Heath Keirstead



Youth Education & Invasives Program Coordinator

Crystal Durbecq



Willamette Mainstem Coordinator & Plant Specialist

Tom Snyder



NRCS District Conservationist

Alice Fairfield



Plant Sale Coordinator

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected Volunteers



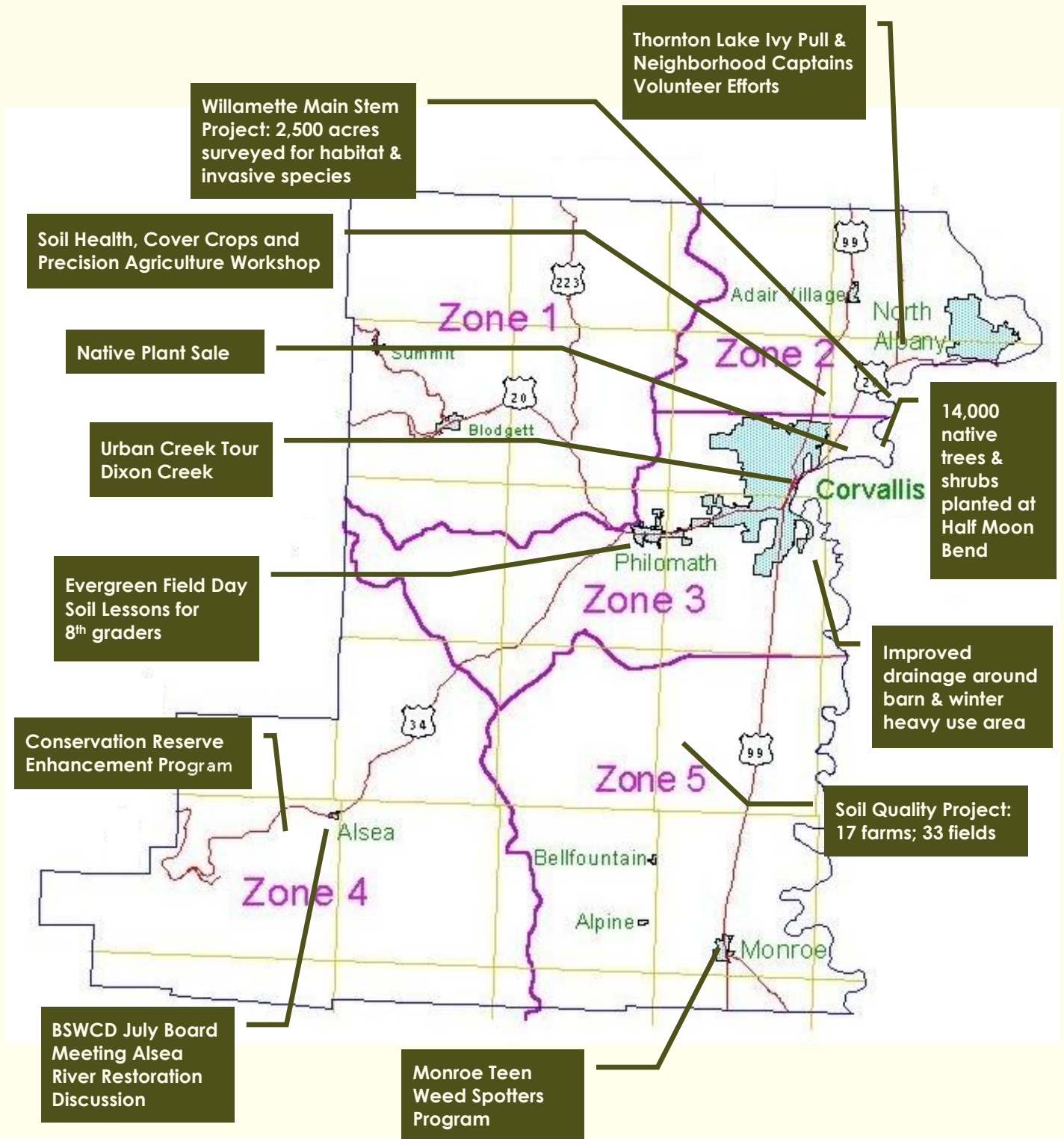
From Left: Pat Malone—Zone 1; Jerry Paul—At Large; Frank Nusbaum—Zone 5; Cliff Hall, Chair—Zone 3; Bobby Bewley, Treasurer—Zone 4; Henry Storch, Vice Chair—At Large; Marvin Gilmour—Zone 2.

Associate Directors



(Not Pictured) Tim Dehne, Rana Foster, Mark Taratoot

# CONSERVATION ON THE GROUND!



Thank you, Volunteers and Partners! You extend our reach!



The banks of the Willamette River

## The Willamette Mainstem Cooperative

*A collaborative project funded through a Meyer Memorial Trust Willamette River Initiative grant.*

Crystal Durbecq, Willamette Mainstem Coordinator & Plant Specialist

### Total Grant Budget

\$188,612

### Project Focus

Our focus is to assess the banks of the Willamette River from Corvallis to Albany for invasive weeds and high quality habitat. With our partners we have surveyed over 2,500 acres of riparian habitat on this stretch of river. The data we have gathered from this assessment will inform current and future restoration projects on the river.

Vital components of this project include outreach to landowners and partnership building with local groups. Our mission is to promote, facilitate, and share long-term stewardship of natural resources along the Willamette River, with a focus centered on the Corvallis to Albany reach, through the collaborative efforts of individual landowners and interested organizations.

### Key Partners

- Bonneville Environmental Foundation
- Oregon State University Extension
- Calapooia Watershed Council
- Linn Soil & Water Conservation District
- Oregon Parks and Recreation
- Meyer Memorial Trust
- Oregon State Weed Board
- Local Landowners
- Greenbelt Land Trust
- Carex Working Group



C. Durbecq & B. Withrow-Robinson discuss plans for Half Moon Bend.



Pacific Tree Frog found in M. Gilmour's wapato patch.



Wapato tubers harvested for the 2012 Annual Meeting.

# We Are Making Ripples

Heath Keirstead, Youth Education & Invasives Program Coordinator

6 Student Interns.



Monroe Teen Weed Spotters\* plant golden paintbrush at Finley Refuge.



Weed Spotter Julie S. pulls ox-eye daisy at Finley Refuge.

10 Volunteer Weed Pulls.

14 Days of K-12 Education Events.

22 Formal Member Organizations in the Benton County Cooperative Weed Management Area.

27 Trained Weed Spotter Volunteers.



Monroe Teen Weed Spotter\* teaches elementary student at the Wildlife Stewards Summit.

70 Community Members Attended the Dixon Creek Tour.

125 People Attended Weed Talks Hosted by Benton SWCD.

1,438 K-12 Students Were Directly Reached by Our Staff & Volunteers.

14,893 People Touched by Conservation Education Grants.



Volunteer Wendy M. releases seed beetles on Scotch Broom in McDonald Dunn Forest.

\*Teen Weed Spotters is a cooperative program of Benton SWCD and OSU Extension Service, Benton County 4-H.



72 farmers and agricultural professionals invested a beautiful May day in soil health education.

## Soil Health is Now a National Initiative!

Teresa Matteson, Soil Conservationist

The Soil Quality Project four year success is due largely to a strong partnership with Oregon State University. The OSU Crop and Soil Science Department values the program's on-the-ground connection with growers. To support our work, OSU provides lab space, mentors, and a direct connection to awesome student interns.

Amy Garrett, Oregon State University Extension Small Farms Program, manages the Soil Quality Network and the SQN Website. Watch for our global map of all things soil quality!

Visit [BentonSWCD.org](http://BentonSWCD.org) to read more.

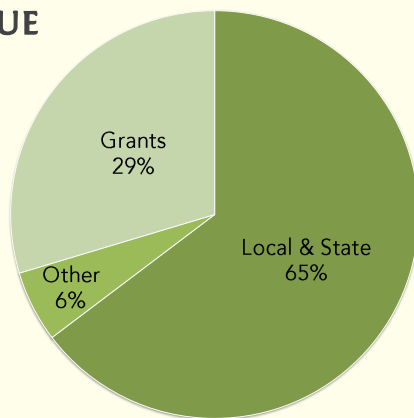


OSU student interns Jason Hayes, Fran Lacroix and Natalie Allen exercised their soil science skills in local ag fields.

## 2012-2013 Financial Report *audit not complete at printing*

Jen Floro, Office Manager

### SUPPORT & REVENUE



### EXPENDITURES

The majority of our expenditures, 86%, go directly to support our programs and community conservation grants.

<b>Beginning Balance 7/1/12</b>	<b>\$322,818</b>
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### Support & Revenue

Local & State	\$407,533
Grants	\$186,710
Other	\$35,712

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$629,955</b>
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### Expenditures

Operations	\$89,972
Programs	\$570,261

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$660,233</b>
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# Technical Assistance to Over 80 Landowners in FY 2012-13

Donna Schmitz, Resource Conservationist

## Conservation Site Visits

- 71 site visits to evaluate conservation needs and provide recommendations for practice implementation and funding opportunities.

## OWEB Small Grants

We help Benton County landowners apply for Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grants for Conservation and Restoration Projects.

- 2 landowners installed drains and hard rock around their barns for winter heavy use areas.
- 1 manure composting system.
- 1 project provided OSU students the opportunity to plan and implement a riparian restoration project at the Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture.

## Conservation Incentive Program (CIP)

This BSWCD program aids Benton County residents who want to implement conservation practices on their land. This year we contributed to the development of the Chip Ross/OSU Forests Restoration Plan to restore oak woodland, savanna and prairie habitats.

## Oregon Governor’s Fund for the Environment (OGFE)

In FY 2012-13, we completed a two-year Governor's Fund (OGFE) grant. OGFE, administered by National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, is local money from civil suits for environmental damages. We put those dollars to good use!

### OGFE Project Outcomes:

- Developed an outreach plan to promote riparian restoration in Benton County watersheds.
- 1000 landowner contacts.
- 4 Living on the Land workshops.
- 1 Living on the Land tour.
- 2.5 stream miles in riparian buffer protection with fencing.
- 40 site visits.
- 23 acres of riparian plantings
- 15,800 plants installed
- Riparian and wetland restoration assessment on 690 acres
- 81 riparian acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.



Manure Composting Facility



FSA & NRCS staff discuss buffer width with landowner.

### OGFE Partners

- Greenbelt Land Trust
- OSU Extension
- Marys River Watershed Council
- Luckiamute Watershed Council
- Calapooia River Watershed Council

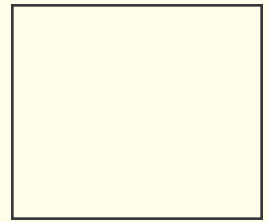


The quintessential Benton County panorama.



# Benton Soil and Water CONSERVATION DISTRICT

456 SW Monroe Avenue, Suite 110  
Corvallis OR 97333  
541-753-7208  
www.BentonSWCD.org



## Please Join Us for Our Annual Meeting



**WHEN:**  
Monday, October 7, 2013  
5:30-8:00 PM

**WHERE:**  
Kings Valley  
Community Center  
Hwy 223 & Maxfield Creek Rd.

This event is free and open to the public.

## Kings Valley, Past & Present

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
5:30-6:15	Optional Tour of Restoration Sites	Dr. Cliff Hall, BSWCD Chair
6:00	Dinner: Southwestern Buffet	
6:30	Welcome	Dr. Cliff Hall, BSWCD Chair
6:40	Luckiamute Watershed Council in Kings Valley	Kristen Larson, LWC Coordinator
7:05	History of Fort Hoskins	Dr. David Brauner, OSU Prof. Anthropology

The Mission of Benton SWCD is to provide leadership to Benton County residents through education and technical assistance for conservation and responsible use and management of soil, water and related resources.