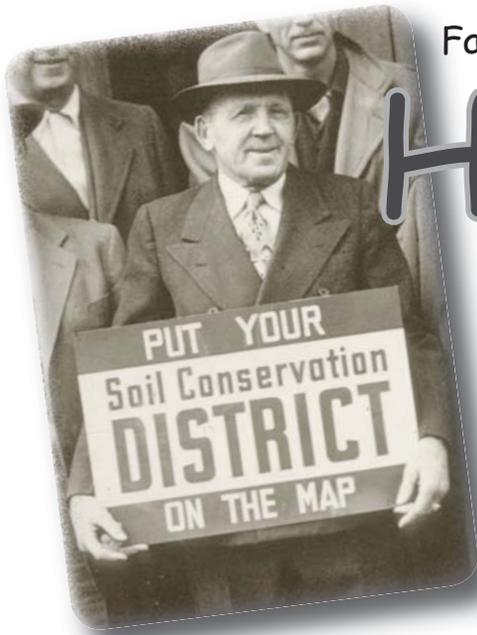


Fall 2006

# Horizons

Volume 15 Issue #4



SERVING BENTON COUNTY OREGON SINCE 1956

## Celebrating 50 Years of Conservation

2005-2006 annual report

*This report outlines the conservation services that Benton SWCD Directors, Staff and Volunteers provided for the residents of Benton County between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.*

Our partners include businesses, agencies, non-profits and landowners who dedicate time and energy to the restoration and maintenance of Benton County's natural resources.

We worked with:

- ODA and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to draft a voluntary Action Plan for the Groundwater Management Area.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop five Environmental Quality Incentives Program contracts, which allocated over \$305,000 to implement conservation practices on cropland, pasture, forestland and wildlife acres.
- Oregon State University Animal Science Department to develop two riparian restoration projects on 295 acres along Soap and Berry Creeks.
- several partners to develop the Alsea Stewardship Group and identify project types to be implemented by the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to generate a stewardship fund. In the future, private landowner projects will be supported through these stewardship funds.
- the Northwest Oregon Invasive Weed Management Program to begin a project to inventory and control Japanese knotweed along the Luckiamute River in Benton County.

We assisted:

- OSU to plan riparian fencing, watering facilities and site preparation for tree planting on 154 riparian acres along Oak Creek. These projects are funded through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).
- the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to implement the Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Rules (Senate Bill 1010) and served as the Local Management Agency.
- the USDA-Farm Services Agency to issue a total of \$115,202 to Benton County landowners for Conservation

Reserve and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs.

We participated in:

- the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grant Review team for three grant areas within our District.
- the Landowner Incentive Program grant review team for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- 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, Benton County, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Corvallis Public Works.

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.

*Annual Report - continued on page 2*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Topic	page
Annual Report	1, 2, 6
Chairs' Perspective	2
Conservation Calendar	3
Then and Now 1956 - 2006	4
Compost & Plant Pathogens	5
50 Years of Conservation Celebration	5
Recycled Party Ware	5
Groundwater Management Meetings	5
Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem	6
Annual Report Budget	7
Welcome Heath Keirstead	7
Then and Now Ag Stats	7
What did FDR write?	8
Mission, Directors, Staff	8
Native Tree and Shrub Sale Order Form	Insert



## *The Chair's Perspective*

by Tom Bedell

**In December 1956**, a group of forward-looking people formed the Benton SWCD. They may not have thought of themselves as visionaries, but now 50 years later we can definitely say that they were. At our annual meeting on November 28, we will celebrate 50 years of continuous service to Benton County citizens. District founders laid a solid foundation for the District and each year is more exciting and productive than the last one.

From the historical record, I reckon there was a five-person Board of Directors the first two years and since 1958, a seven-person Board. The first five elected Directors were Don Hector, William Powell, Herb Seehafer, Robert Stone and Cy Thompson. Over the past 50 years, some 71 people have served as Directors. We owe a great deal to them for maintaining and improving a viable District.

This issue, our 2005-2006 annual report, refers to numerous activities in which the District was intimately involved. As I read the staff reports each month, I am proud of the varied ways we help citizens further the protection and management of Benton County's soil and water resources. This report only highlights a small part of these myriad activities.

With our typical dry Willamette Valley summer, it is important to remember that an average of over 40 inches of rain usually falls between September and June. All Oregon citizens are responsible for protecting soil and water from pollution. The Benton SWCD can assist land stewards in identifying pollution prevention practices, such as: covering livestock manure to prevent contamination of ditches and waterways, correctly spreading manure on cropland or pastures instead of heaping it in open piles, and maintaining or restoring vegetation along streams, ponds and lakes to protect banks from erosion, improve soil structure and reduce the flow of sediment-laden runoff. As a result of Senate Bill 1010, administrative rules were developed in the Mid Willamette and Mid Coast Water Quality Plans. All land used for agriculture, from Christmas tree plantations to livestock holding facilities and paddocks, is under the jurisdiction of these rules. The Benton Soil and Water Conservation District does not enforce the rules: our service is helping people understand them and their applicability. Please call our office if you have questions.

Lastly, three BSWCD Director positions will be on the November 7 ballot. Influence the next 50 years of BSWCD history by casting your votes to elect our volunteer Director candidates.



*Annual Report - continued from page 1*

As a result of the funds generated by the 2004 tax levy of \$.05/\$1,000 appraised value, we were able to expand our operations by:

- hiring a District Manager, Gordon Cumming.
- hiring an Educational Coordinator, Heath Keirstead, who oversees our Making Ripples Program.
- convening a Budget Committee which approved the 2006-2007 budget.

We provided direct landowner assistance by:

- assisting over 8 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 and project management to several of these grants.
- assisting in leveraging \$32,500 of cash and in-kind services to secure over \$53,175 in OWEB small grants. This represents over \$85,675 used to implement local conservation projects in Benton County. These projects included riparian fencing and planting, heavy use area protection, noxious weed control and upland and wetland wildlife habitat improvement.
- developing two additional riparian restoration plans on 28 acres and assisted landowner in planting 77 acres of riparian buffer.
- offering technical advice to over 75 Benton County residents on soil and water conservation issues; such as, drainage problems, fish passage, manure/mud problems, developing soils maps, native plant recommendations, permits required for conservation activities, soil quality, surface and ground-water quality/quantity.

Our education and outreach efforts included these activities:

- We shared soil and water science concepts, such as watershed processes, soil biology, soil physical properties, compaction and erosion, and the soil's services of water infiltration, storage and purification with over 2520 students during a full spectrum of events, including: Kids Day for Conservation, Corvallis Outdoor School, Forest Expo, Spring Field Day, Forest Field Day, and Forest Camp.
- We provided Water Wise curriculum materials to nearly 1000 students during the annual Conservation Poster Contest.
- Four issues of our newsletter, Horizons, were delivered to a total of 6792 postal addresses and 627 email addresses. Over 700 printed copies were manually distributed.
- We provided district resources to the community, such as the stream simulation table, curriculum materials, seed drill, tree planting equipment, and ArcView soils map productions.
- We recruited, trained and managed 19 volunteers, developed

*continued on page 6*

# Conservation Calendar - Fall 2006 to 2007



Date & Time <i>Location</i>	Event	For more information contact:
First Monday of each month - unless it is a holiday - 7:00 PM <i>Call to confirm location</i>	<b>Benton SWCD Board Meeting</b> meet the Benton SWCD Board and Staff Get involved in Benton County conservation!	Benton SWCD - <a href="mailto:office@bentonswcd.org">office@bentonswcd.org</a> (541) 753-7208 <i>All Benton SWCD meetings are free and open to the public. We encourage your participation!</i>
<b>Deadline</b> <b>November 1</b>	Natural Resources Scholarships <i>Benton County residents who are first-year college students are eligible to apply for six \$1000 scholarships!</i>	Visit our web page for more information and the application form <b><a href="http://www.bentonswcd.org">http://www.bentonswcd.org</a></b>
<b>Deadline</b> <b>November 1</b>	Benton SWCD Conservation Grants for Educators <i>These grants are available for major efforts in Natural Resources Education that are long-term; possibly school-wide, district-wide, or county-wide, and/or collaborative.</i>	Visit our web page for more information and the application form <b><a href="http://www.bentonswcd.org/teachers">http://www.bentonswcd.org/teachers</a></b>
NOW through the school year...	<b>Benton SWCD Making Ripples Program</b> has funds for curriculum, projects and supplies related to watershed education. <i>Cosponsored by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board</i>	Benton SWCD - Heath Keirstead (541) 753-7208 <a href="mailto:hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org">hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org</a> <i>Grant applications are available on our web site</i> <b><a href="http://www.bentonswcd.org">http://www.bentonswcd.org</a></b>
November 3, Fri. 5 PM through November 4, Saturday 3:30 PM <i>HJ Andrews Experimental Forest</i>	<b>Writing in the Woods</b> a FREE PLT/Wild Workshop for teachers. Learn how to use writing to provide insight for science and science as inspiration for writing. GUEST SPEAKER - KLCC's <i>Natural World</i> John Cooney	Call or email Angela Andre (541) 510-8888 <a href="mailto:angela@interact-nature.com">angela@interact-nature.com</a>  To register: Oregon Forestry Education Program <b><a href="http://wwwdata.forestry.oregonstate.edu/ofepo/calendar.aspx">http://wwwdata.forestry.oregonstate.edu/ofepo/calendar.aspx</a></b> click on HJ Andrews Workshop
November 8 - 9 Wednesday & Thursday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM <i>OSU Alumni Center Corvallis</i>	iSNAP Education Project Workshop Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management Options: <i>Practices and Tools to Protect Water Quality and Crop Yields</i>  Oregon State Pesticide Recertification Credits available	Brochures and online registration at <b><a href="http://isnap.oregonstate.edu">http://isnap.oregonstate.edu</a></b> Questions? email <a href="mailto:mary.staben@oregonstate.edu">mary.staben@oregonstate.edu</a> 541-737-2683 <i>\$150 early registration, \$175 after October 25</i>
3 Sundays - 9 AM to Noon Nov 19, Dec 17, Jan 21 <i>meet at Avery Park Rose Garden in Corvallis</i>	<b>Naturalist Adventure</b> Plants, mushrooms, animal tracks, birding - nothing of interest will be ignored. Children welcome; trips not structured for small children. Please no dogs. <b>Free!</b>	Visit Neighborhood Naturalist web site <b><a href="http://www.neighborhood-naturalist.com">www.neighborhood-naturalist.com</a></b> <i>Listen to WV bird sounds online, find book and field guide lists, view newsletter archives</i>
November 28, Tuesday 7:30 - 8:45 PM <i>Corvallis Public Library Meeting Room</i> Open to the public!	<b>Join Benton SWCD as we</b> <b>Celebrate 50 Years of Conservation!</b> with awards, entertainment, refreshments and <b>Guest Speaker: Benno P. Warkentin</b> <b>Footprints in the Soil</b>	For more information contact Benton SWCD (541) 753-7208 <a href="mailto:office@bentonswcd.org">office@bentonswcd.org</a> 
December 5, 6 and 7 Tues. through Thurs. <i>LaSells Stewart Center Corvallis</i>	<i>Oregon Department of Agriculture presents</i> <b>Oregon Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium</b> <i>Oregon re-certification credits available</i>	Call Jo at 503-986-4621 email <a href="mailto:jdavis@oda.state.or.us">jdavis@oda.state.or.us</a> Visit <b><a href="http://oregon-gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/calendar.shtml">http://oregon-gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/calendar.shtml</a></b>
Starting January 3 Wednesday evenings 7 - 9 PM <i>Firehouse #5, Corvallis</i>	<b>Naturescaping Your Country Home</b> for homeowners with more than 1 acre - 8 week course led by instructor Beth Young - cosponsored by Benton SWCD, Corvallis Environmental Center, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Institute for Applied Ecology and Corvallis Public Works.	Corvallis Environmental Center (541) 753-9211 <b><a href="http://www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org">http://www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org</a></b> <i>pre-registration required \$49</i>
<b>February 3, 2007</b> plant pick up Saturday only <i>Eichler Hay Company</i>	<b>Benton SWCD</b> <b>Native Tree and Shrub Sale</b> 	<b>See early order form in this issue - Insert</b> Also available online at <b><a href="http://www.bentonswcd.org">www.bentonswcd.org</a></b> or at the Benton SWCD office (541) 753-7208 305 SW C Avenue, Suite 2 in Corvallis

Discovering the original *District Program and Work Plan* written after BSWCD's first year of service inspired *Donna Schmitz*, Resource Conservationist, to compare

# 1956 Then and Now 2006

*Benton County land managers have taken conscientious strides in tackling district problems identified in our 1956 archives.*

**Woodland Management:** Spotty or no natural regeneration of logged timber land, and logging through streams were identified as issues contributing to Benton County soil erosion in 1956. With the passage of the Forest Practices Act in 1971, land that has been logged must be re-planted within six years. Today, a minimum 50-foot riparian buffer adjacent to streams must remain largely intact during logging operations. For more Forest Practices Act info, visit <http://www.odf.state.or.us/pcf/fp/fpa.asp?id=401010207>.

**Soil Survey:** In 1956, it was recognized that timberland and farmland owners needed to know the capability of their soils for timber/crop growth, yields and erosion potential. As a result, the Benton County Soil Survey was published in 1975. The latest electronic version is currently available at [http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/pnw\\_soil/or\\_data.html](http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/pnw_soil/or_data.html).

*Some of the problems identified in 1956 continue to be resource concerns today.*

**Soil Erosion:** 1956 files indicate that sheet and gully erosion was occurring on sloped farm land and erosion on bottom land soils occurred when there wasn't adequate cover during erosive winter rains. "Serious stream bank erosion occurring along most of the streams in Benton County" continues to be an issue today. Anytime land managers manipulate the vegetative cover, the soil resource is exposed to erosive forces. We continue to work with land managers to correct these problems.

**Irrigation:** The 1956 work plan predicted a future shortage of irrigation water. It encouraged reservoir development and the distribution of information on efficient use of irrigation water. Excess nitrates in drinking water wells have dictated the recent declaration of a Groundwater Management Area (GWMA) adjacent to the Willamette River and east of Hwy 99W. Failing septic systems, abandoned wells, and agricultural activities-such as excess nitrogen and irrigation water applications-have contributed to this resource concern. Today, our work includes promoting irrigation water management. See *GWMA meeting notice page 5*.

**Soil Fertility:** "Acquaint the farmers with the benefits of commercial fertilizers and the planting of soil building crops...Good soil building crop rotations and use more green manure crops" were recommendations fifty years ago. Promoting proper nutrient management, as well as, implementing good pasture management practices continues to be in our work plan today.

**Invasive Weeds:** Canada thistle, wild garlic, tansy ragwort, morning glory, St. Johnswort, and blackberries were weeds identified in 1956, and they continue to be a problem today. The original work plans suggested that "an active weed control program... should be established." It suggested that the District work on a "cooperative effort with individual farmers, landowners, timberland owners and the County Weed Control Program". Another recent discovery in our files revealed an *Order Creating a Weed Control District in Benton County* by the Board of Commissioners in 1983. Invasive and noxious weeds continue to be resource concerns and we are not aware of a functioning Weed Control District that exists today.

*Some things have changed...*

**Drainage:** The fickle pendulum of management practices has shifted some 1956 problems to 2006 solutions. Such is the case with drainage of the land. The 1956 Action Plan noted that "most of the bottomlands are seriously in need of drainage" by "deepening, widening and clearing existing stream channels". The District's 1956 work plan identified the need for open and tile drain systems to make agricultural land productive and move floodwaters faster through cleared stream channels. Today, a large amount of effort and public money are allocated to restore wetland hydrology to some of the land drained during the 1960's and 70's. Woody debris that was cleared out of stream channels to improve drainage is now being replaced to create wildlife habitat and improve stream channel structure.

**Water Quality:** Of significance, water quality issues were never mentioned in the 1956 plan of work. In 1963, the Oregon Legislature added "and Water" to the name of Soil Conservation Districts. In 1993, the Oregon Legislature approved the Agricultural Water Quality Act (Senate Bill 1010). Local water quality plans were developed to identify voluntary measures and strategies for landowners to prevent and control water pollution resulting from agricultural activities, such as soil erosion, excess nutrient loss from fields, and degraded streamside vegetation areas.

**District Partners - You!** As the State of Oregon realized the need for the establishment of conservation districts in Oregon, the citizens of Benton County had the foresight to establish the District within the county boundaries in 1956. In 2004, Benton County residents approved a tax levy to support the continuation and expansion of the education and technical programs of the District. A lot has been accomplished in the last fifty years. With the continued support of its residents, the District has a bright future to assist in conserving and improving the natural resources of Benton County.

*Compare Then and Now Benton County Ag Stats on page 7*

**Organics Recycling and Plant Pathogen Suppression  
with Dr. Harry Hoitink**  
Professor Emeritus, Ohio State University  
**Wednesday, Dec 6** South Seattle Community College  
*presented by Washington Organic Recycling Council*  
**2006 Annual Meeting**

Dr Hoitink is one of the world's leading scientists in the area of organic waste recycling with emphasis on biological control of ornamental plant diseases. He will address compost process controls and their effect on beneficial microbial activity and product quality. A second presentation will center on Production Composts that provide consistent broad-spectrum plant disease suppressive properties. Additional presenters include Rita Hummel and Andy Bary from WSU.

This event is an exceptional learning opportunity for composters, horticulturists, orchardists, organic farmers or anyone utilizing organics in sustainable agricultural programs.

For more information contact WORC (360) 556-3926 or email [info@compostwashington.org](mailto:info@compostwashington.org). Registration is open to members and non-members [www.compostwashington.org](http://www.compostwashington.org)

*Read more about Dr. Hoitink's research at*  
<http://www.ohio-state.edu/~plantdoc/faculty/hoitink.php>

**YOU are invited to attend OUR  
50 Years of Conservation  
Celebration**  
*November 28, 7:30 PM*  
*at the Corvallis Library meeting room*

**Guest Speaker:**  
**OSU Soil Professor Emeritus and Author**



**Benno P. Warkentin**  
**Footprints in the Soil**

stories of soil users in the last two millennia

Awards ~ Entertainment ~ Refreshments

**In August**, we joined partner Natural Resources agencies and non-profits in hosting a Benton County-wide *Reduced Waste Party* to honor the many volunteers who support our missions and share our goals. As a result, we have started a collection of recycled, reusable utensils, plates, napkins and serving dishes.

**Use it up    Wear it out**  
**Make do    Do without**  
*Benjamin Franklin*

**Fine china and Irish linen they are not.** Heck, they don't even match. BUT, they are available for community use. For a \$10 refundable deposit and the time and energy to wash up, you too can have *Reduced Waste Parties*. Stop sending paper and plastic ware to the landfill!

*Call or email us for recycled party ware availability! (541) 753-7208 [office@bentonswcd.org](mailto:office@bentonswcd.org)*

**Groundwater Management Area Action Plan: Opportunity for Public Comment**

In 2004, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality declared a Groundwater Management Area because of the high levels of nitrate found in the groundwater. Most residents in this area of the Southern Willamette Valley get their drinking water from groundwater, and high levels of nitrate pose a health risk.

The Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Committee, a group of interested citizens, has drafted a plan for voluntary actions to improve groundwater quality. They now invite your comments on this plan at a series of open house meetings in the Southern Willamette Valley. *See dates and locations in table, right.*

Meeting agenda: The first hour will be an open house, followed by a presentation and discussion with Committee staff. The meeting will also provide the opportunity for anyone to have their verbal comments recorded for the Committee to review.

When	Where	Sponsor
Oct 23 5 PM	Monroe High School 365 North 5th Monroe	TBA
Oct 25 5 PM	Coburg Municipal Court 32694 East Pearl St Coburg	East Lane SWCD
Oct 30 5 PM	Corvallis Library 645 NW Monroe Ave Corvallis	Benton County Environmental Health Dept

*For More Information:*  
*The Action Plan is housed in the Monroe, Corvallis, Harrisburg & Junction City Libraries, at Coburg City Hall, and at <http://groundwater.oregonstate.edu/willamette/Plan.htm>*  
Contacts: Audrey Eldridge, DEQ, (877) 823-3216, ext. 223  
Denise Kalakay, Lane Council of Governments, (541) 682-7415

*Annual Report - continued from page 2*

- 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 2005 and Spring Field Day 2006.
- Eighty-eight (88) Benton SWCD volunteers donated 2070 hours to conservation education, District outreach, and related issues.
  - We awarded ten \$250 Conservation Mini Grants to Benton County Educators for field trips and hands-on service learning projects.
  - Our Making Ripples Program was awarded a \$38,785 Education Grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to (1) provide curriculum materials and workshops to Benton County educators, (2) support K-12 service learning projects that build watershed knowledge, (3) cosponsor Naturescaping courses, (4) produce a Keepers of the Creek Guidebook, and (5) publish a Making Ripples newsletter.
  - Over 160 Benton County residents received soil and water conservation technical assistance from the District during this year.
  - We sold over 12,700 native trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses as well as several pounds of native grass seed to over 200 people during the Native Tree and Shrub Sale.
  - From our Native Tree and Shrub Sale proceeds, we dedicated six \$1000 scholarships for Benton County residents who are first-year college students interested in Natural Resources studies.
  - We met with over 3700 adults during education and outreach activities, training sessions, or meetings where we promoted cost share programs, grants, Senate Bill 1010 program rules, our District mission, educational programs, such as Naturescaping, and technical assistance.
  - We attended more than 60 meetings with conservation partners to collaborate on raising natural resource awareness in Benton County.
  - We coordinated a Dixon Creek restoration project with Corvallis High School students, Corvallis Public Works and local landowners.

Below is a list of Benton Fish Passage Improvement Program (BFPIP) activities:

- The BFPIP developed a 6-month *Order of Actions Plan* to address in-stream restorations and fish barrier removals throughout an entire chosen 7th-field subwatershed. The document explicitly:
  - *States the role of each primary partner.*
  - *Defines plan advantages, one of which results in greater numbers of identified barrier removals within a common drainage system.*
  - *Describes the BFPIP and the area supported by this plan including a reference map.*
  - *Lists the specific logical order of actions by the BFPIP in conjunction with its primary partners, including: leading meetings, coordinating surveys, analyzing data, and writing restoration grants.*
- The BFPIP chaired the Marys River Fish Passage Committee, which is composed mainly of Marys River Watershed Council members. The committee's purpose is to identify a

7th-field subwatershed of high ecological priority for BFPIP *Order of Actions Plan* application.

- BFPIP survey teams, composed of dedicated community volunteers, completed 159 culvert surveys in the Marys and Luckiamute major watersheds. Of these 159 culverts, 12 were assessed as full barriers to fish passage, and 4 were assessed as partial barriers. All identified barriers were part of the BFPIP *Order of Actions Plan* and are included in 2007 restoration grant applications.
- The BFPIP continued its relationship with the OSU Digital Library, storing GIS inventory of in-stream structures, as well as streams and other support features, in an advanced GIS database.
- The BFPIP developed a method to accommodate simultaneous GIS database updates by concurrent survey teams.
- The BFPIP is leading an effort to develop a statewide GIS inventory of in-stream structures and their support features with ODFW, OSU Library, the Institute for Natural Resources, and several watershed councils including the Luckiamute, Marys, Siuslaw, North and South Santiam, Alsea, Yamhill, and MidCoast.
- We gave BFPIP presentations to 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.

*BSWCD is now one quarter into FY 2006-07 with a wealth of projects, workshops and partnerships on the future's radar!*

**For more information call (541) 753-7208**

*See the Annual report budget on page 7*

## Caution: Slow Moving Vehicle

Need a travel game to stay alert or entertain the kids while driving? Count the number of red-and-orange, reflective, triangular signs used to mark driveways, fences, or mailboxes.

Unfortunately, people don't realize the signs are actually Slow-Moving Vehicle emblems  
**AND, it's against the law to use them for anything else!**

The Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) Health & Safety Committee has created a new *Rural Road Safety* brochure to educate the public on the proper use of SMV emblems and how to share the roads with farm equipment. Oregon Department of Transportation sponsored the brochure printing.

Help raise awareness on the proper use of SMV emblems by sharing this information with family, friends and neighbors.

Request a *Rural Road Safety* brochure by contacting us at (541) 753-7208 or email [office@bentonswcd.org](mailto:office@bentonswcd.org).

Get the brochure online at

[http://www.oregonfb.org/images/pdf/Road\\_Safety.pdf](http://www.oregonfb.org/images/pdf/Road_Safety.pdf)

Fiscal Year 2005-06 Operating Budget	
Income Source	\$ Amount
Contributions/donations	334.50
Newsletter Ads	50.00
Postcard/handbook sales	162.90
OWEB Conservation Projects	162,448.86
OWEB Small Grants	10,485.86
Grant Administration	17,774.73
Projects	2,057.00
Property Taxes	265,910.90
ODA	41,104.00
LMA	7,672.00
NRCS	1,800.00
Title II	65,014.00
Benton County Public Works	5,000.00
Annual Tree Sale	20,251.90
Miscellaneous Income	240.00
Interest Checking/Saving	4,334.97
Reimbursed Income	567.05
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>605,208.67</b>
Expense Source	\$ Amount
Projects	185,103.93
Education & Outreach	6,586.50
Insurance	951.00
Operations	83,046.82
Payroll	203,892.59
Annual Tree Sale	13,732.42
Contingency	4,051.38
Miscellaneous Expenses	268.03
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>497,632.67</b>
<b>Carryover to 2006-2007</b>	<b>107,576.00</b>

## Success of Education Program Warrants New Staff Member

Our Making Ripples Program (MRP) has been growing from seeds planted in 2000 by past Director, Mary Eichler. The MRP received a 2005 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Education Grant which justified the addition of an Education Coordinator to the BSWCD staff. We hired Heath Keirstead in July to coordinate the OWEB grants. Heath's work promotes watershed curriculum and education in Benton County schools and provides educator watershed workshops and Naturescaping courses.

Having coordinated Corvallis Outdoor School soil field study for Benton SWCD in 2003, Heath's wholehearted dedication and organization skills are not new to the District.

Heath received a Masters in Soil Science from OSU in 2004, where she studied belowground carbon storage in the Cascades. During and after college, Heath has researched water dynamics of Ponderosa pine forests in the Metolius, studied the fragile biological soil crusts blanketing the Desert Southwest, and taught students from kindergarten to college level. These rich and varied experiences make her a uniquely qualified choice for the new education position. She is eager to sink her roots into the Benton County education community by supporting conservation efforts and watershed understanding on school grounds and at local parks and natural areas.

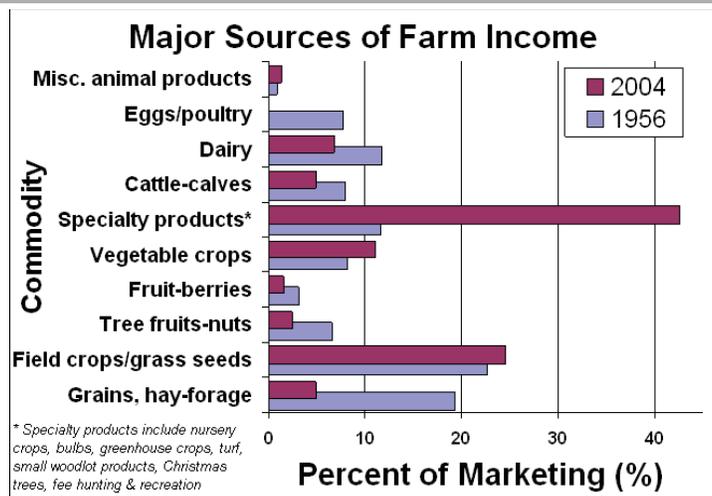
Contact Heath for information about grants, educator workshops, our new MRP education newsletter, and potential partnerships with us and other community agencies (541-753-7208).



From left to right, Melissa Hogan, Heath Keirstead, Rogelio Ayala, Jeff Hess and Stefanie Breder-Albright smile after Corvallis Outdoor School.

### from page 4... Then and Now Benton County Ag Stats

Benton County Agricultural Statistics comparing Then and Now		
year	1956	2006
Benton Co. population	31,570	78,000
# of farms > 10 acres	1581	635
major sources of farm income	general livestock, dairy, poultry	specialty crops (see table at right)
market value of ag products	\$9.1M	\$105.4M (2005)





NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CORVALLIS, OR  
PERMIT NO 112



305 SW C Avenue, Suite 2  
Corvallis, OR 97333  
Phone: (541) 753-7208  
E-mail: office@bentonswcd.org  
Web: www.bentonswcd.org

**Help us save valuable resources two ways...**

1. Switch from snail mail to email by sending an email to [tmatteson@bentonswcd.org](mailto:tmatteson@bentonswcd.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 will remove you.

This newsletter is printed on 30% recycled paper.  
Please recycle it again,  
or better yet, pass it to a friend!



*Bruce Reininger, above, is one of 71 directors who has volunteered through 5 decades to put Benton SWCD on the Conservation map.*

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

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS**

- Rana Foster
- Mark Taratoot



**STAFF**

- Gordon Cumming, District Manager
- Jennifer Floro, Office Manager
- Donna Schmitz, Resource Conservationist
- Chris Stebbins, Fish Passage Program Coordinator
- Teresa Matteson, Education and Outreach Director
- Heath Keirstead, Education Coordinator
- Alice Fairfield, Native Tree Sale Coordinator

From a letter to the Governors of all states  
dated February 26, 1937

“The dust storms and floods of the last few years have underscored the importance of programs to control soil erosion. I need not emphasize to you the seriousness of the problem and the desirability of our taking effective action, as a Nation and in the several States, to conserve the soil as our basic asset.”

“The Nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself.”  
*Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States*

*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.*