Hood River Soil & Water CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report

July 2016 - June 2017

Inside...

▶ Financial Report, Noxious Weeds, Stew Crew……. 2-3

▶ Indian Creek Stewards, Technical Assistance, OWEB Small Grants Update, NRCS…..….. 4-5

▶ Hood River Watershed Group Activities …. 6-7

▶ Pesticide Partnership, Ag Water Quality Continued... 8-9

▶ IWM Training, Groundwater Monitoring, Cover Story...10

▶ Native Plant Sale Order Form…….. 11

▶ District Plant Sale……... 12

Spotlight on Odell:

Dammed No More!

In summer 2016, the Hood River Watershed Group (HRWG), in partnership with the landowners Larry and Linda Hilton, removed the Odell Dam, restoring year-round fish passage to approximately 5 miles of winter steelhead habitat in Odell Creek. Unlike the recent Powerdale and Condit dam removals, this project required stream channel reconstruction after dam removal. During the 3-month construction period, Odell Creek was diverted through a bypass pipe and over 2,500 cubic yards (~210 dump truck loads) of sediment that had accumulated behind the dam were removed. Once the new channel was excavated, large boulders and cobbles were placed to create the backbone of the new channel. Smaller cobbles, gravel, and sand were placed on top to form the new streambed. Large wood was added along the edge of the channel to improve fish habitat and protect 750 newly planted trees and shrubs from high flows. Lastly, a concrete vault with a fish screen was installed at the edge of the channel to replace the former irrigation diversion provided by the dam.

See "Odell Dam" on page 10

Dept. of Ag Sets Sights on Odell

In fall 2016, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) selected the Odell Creek Watershed as one of six Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) in the state. ODA recently initiated the SIA program as a new approach to providing education and outreach to agricultural landowners to help address water quality concerns on agricultural lands.

Livestock in waterways often results in reduced water quality.

In the Odell watershed, ODA began by using aerial photos and roadside assessments to evaluate agricultural impacts on water quality. Following these evaluations, ODA hosted an Open House in February 2017 where they presented information on the SIA program and gave

See "Agricultural Water Quality" on page 9

"To provide educational, technical and financial assistance to our community for the protection, conservation and restoration of natural resources."

Hood River SWCD
FACTS & FIGURES

The Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a legal subdivision of state government and receives funds to administer its programs from ODA, OWEB, CTWS, irrigation districts, and others. The SWCD is governed by a locally elected, volunteer Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors meets on the first Thursday of each month from 4 - 6 pm at the OSU Extension meeting room, 2990 Experiment Station Rd., Hood River, OR 97031.

Meetings are open to the public. For information or agendas, contact us at info@hoodriverswcd.org or stop by the office at 3007 Experiment Station Rd., Hood River. Office hours are Monday-Friday, from 8 am to 4 pm.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting by calling 541-386-4588.

Directors
Brian Nakamura, Chair
Larry Martin, Vice-Chair
John Joyer, Secretary/Treasurer
Cindy Collins
Rick Ragan

Associate Directors
Chuck Gehling
Richard Larson
Pete Siragusa

Staff
Jordan Kim, District Manager
541-386-4588 jordan@hoodriverswcd.org
Anne Saxby, Financial Manager
541-386-6719 anne@hoodriverswcd.org
Kris Schaedel, Conservation Technician
541-386-4588 kris@hoodriverswcd.org
Cindy Thieman, Watershed Coordinator
541-386-6063 cindy@hoodriverswcd.org
Megan Saunders, Watershed Project Manager
541-386-6063 megan@hoodriverswcd.org

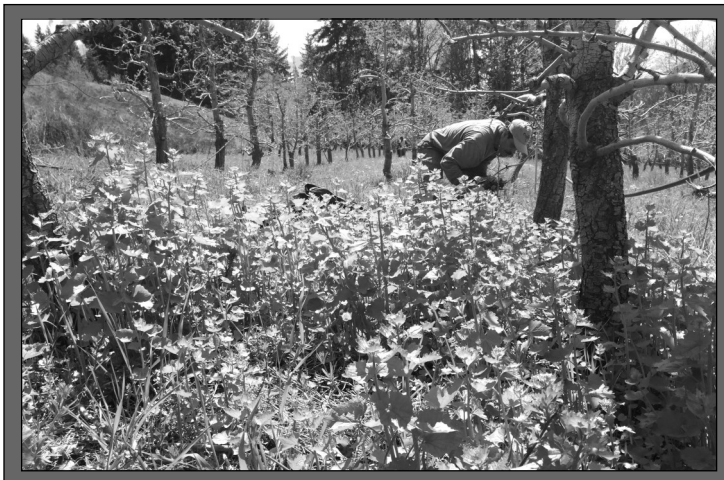
Draft Financial Report
Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Beginning Fund Balance:	$108,102
REVENUES:	
Intergovernmental:	
ODA grants	75,376
OWEB grants	434,093
ODFW grants	65,000
OWRD grants	57,346
USFS grants	53,603
Other grants	5,094
Contracts:	
Irrigation District support	25,500
CTWS support	36,000
PSP sediment sampling - CTWS	4,800
Odell Dam Removal - CTWS	29,999
Neal Creek restoration - CTWS	9,329
Contributions	214
Earnings on Investments	235
Tree sales and landscape fabric sales	10,643
TOTAL REVENUES:	$807,232
EXPENDITURES:	
Administration:	
Personnel Services	58,056
Materials and Services	7,554
Conservation Technician:	
Personnel Services	33,468
Materials and Services	8,399
Hood River Watershed Group:	
Personnel Services	96,239
Materials and Services	16,896
Projects:	
Materials and Services	559,895
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	$780,507
Ending Fund Balance:	$134,827

Seen Any Wildlife?

If so, let us know! Post your sightings and photos on our Wildlife Watch page for others to enjoy. This information will help us catalog fish and wildlife sightings throughout the watershed. Go to hoodriverswcd.org/wildlife-watch/ to share

Fighting the Good Fight:
Battling Noxious Weeds



Crews handpull garlic mustard growing in a Parkdale orchard.

Garlic Mustard

The SWCD secured USFS Title II funds to continue garlic mustard abatement work in the upper valley for a seventh season. This weed eradication project is conducted on private lands at the only two known locations of garlic mustard in Hood River County. Garlic mustard is a high priority weed because of its ability to out-compete native vegetation and become the dominate plant in an ecosystem. Garlic mustard reduces the ecological diversity of a forest and threatens critical habitat and food sources for wildlife. Keep an eye out for this weedy invader. We do not want this one getting out!

County Weed Board

Though Hood River County no longer funds a position to coordinate the County Weed and Pest Control program, it did continue to provide some funding for the program through June 2017. The County Weed Board provided recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on noxious weed control priorities. SWCD staffers Jordan Kim and Anne Saxby, as well as SWCD Associate Director Pete Siragusa, serve on the Weed Board. During the past year, contractors were hired to conduct county-wide surveys for purple loosestrife, knotweed, and rush skeletonweed. Biocontrols were released on purple loosestrife. And public outreach materials were created and dispersed.

BMPS

The Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) has created a list of best management practices (BMPs) for many of the noxious weeds common to this area. The BMPs describe how to prevent, control, and eradicate infestations using a variety of methods. These techniques are suitable for the general landowner and can be implemented on your property. Check out their website at columbiagorgecwma.org to find useful information on identifying and controlling weeds on your land!

Weed of the Month

For the second year, the Hood River County Weed Board, Central Gorge Master Gardeners, and the Hood River SWCD partnered on a "Weed of the Month" outreach campaign in the Hood River area. This project focused on a different weed each month from April-September. Partners produced posters and press releases for local newspapers, recorded PSAs on the radio, and handed out brochures at the Hood River Farmer's Market and other tabling events. Hopefully, you saw the user-friendly information on tree of heaven, Canada thistle, puncturevine, knapweed, knotweed, and English ivy. If not, check the CWMA or SWCD websites for more information.

Hood River Forest Collaborative Update

The Hood River Forest Collaborative (aka the "Stew Crew") is a diverse group of stakeholders that provide input on forest management activities on the Hood River Ranger District. Since early 2016, the group has been developing zones of agreement and identifying shared interests surrounding future forest management activities on 6,050-acre Waucoma planning area near Mt. Defiance. Facilitation for this work was funded by an OWEB grant. Citizens interested in forest health are encouraged to check out the Hood River Forest Collaborative's website at: www.hrstewcrew.org for more information.

How can we help you?

The Hood River SWCD is available to help county residents becoming better stewards of their land. The SWCD works on a voluntary, non-regulatory basis and provides technical assistance free of charge. Contact us by phone, email, or by stopping by the office to talk about potential projects or set up a site visit. The SWCD can assist you with a variety of topics, including: irrigation water management and system upgrades, mud and manure management, livestock and pasture management, stream protection, fish passage, noxious weed abatement, and more. Financial assistance may be available to help you implement these projects. Contact us to find out how we can help you better manage your land for the conservation of natural resources!

Indian Creek Stewards

GROWING ROOTS

With the help of around 50 volunteers, as well as support from OWEB, Pacific Power, SOLVE, and many other project partners, Indian Creek Stewards continued to improve habitat along Indian Creek. Six work parties and five meetings focused on improving the establishment of healthy native plant communities through weeding, mulching, and more at restoration sites along Indian Creek. If you're interested in helping Indian Creek Stewards in

Getting Restoration on the Ground with OWEB Small Grants

Growers receive training on the use of tools like this flow meter.

With the implementation of seven new Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) small grant projects in 2016-2017, about 0.4 acres of riparian habitat have been restored and over 73 acres of orchard land have been upgraded to more efficient irrigation systems. These new irrigation systems will use an average of 58% less water than the systems they replaced, which should result in an estimated 0.53 cfs conserved per year. To further the efficiency of these systems, these six landowners will use flow meters and soil moisture sensors on the upgraded orchards to monitor tree water need and help schedule irrigations. The Hood River SWCD provided training on the use of these management tools. Efficient systems combined with good irrigation water management have been shown to maximize water conservation.

These projects are funded through the OWEB small grant program, which provides $100,000 in Oregon lottery funds to the Hood River Small Grant Team each biennium. In the last year, the $57,450 in OWEB small grant funds spent in Hood River County were matched by $104,111 in local funding.

The Hood River Small Grant Team is made up of representatives from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, the Hood River Watershed Group, and the Hood River SWCD and is assisted by representatives from local and state stakeholders and natural resource agencies. The Team recommends watershed restoration projects in Hood River County for the small grant program funding.

As of July 2017, landowners can apply for up to $15,000 in small grant funding to implement watershed restoration projects on their land. Eligible projects include: irrigation system upgrades, streamside livestock fencing, manure storage facilities, fish passage improvements, and other on-the-ground restoration projects. The small grant program requires 25% match, which can be in-kind labor or materials. For more information about this program or to develop a project proposal, contact Watershed Project Manager Megan Saunders.

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD
OWEB

NRCS Funds Conservation

In 2017, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Hood River County was able to secure funds for another round of applications in the National Air Quality Initiative of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). With nearly $692,000 in funds, 11 contracts were obligated with area growers. NRCS also worked closely with Middle Fork Irrigation District (MFID) to secure funding for on-farm irrigation upgrades through EQIP. Just over $427,000 were obligated, funding 12 contracts with MFID patrons. Two seasonal high tunnel contracts were also obligated through EQIP.

In the last year, two high tunnel systems were installed, 220 acres of smudge pots were removed, 86 acres of woody debris were treated, 3,700 feet of pipeline were installed, 69 acres of microsprinkler irrigation systems were installed, and irrigation water management was applied to 16 acres.

For information on EQIP and other NRCS programs, contact District Conservationist Carly Heron at 541-352-1037.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Over 220 acres of smudge pots like these were removed in the past year from the Hood River Valley through the National Air

All With the Help of Our Friends

We couldn't get by without the support of our partners referenced in this report by the following acronyms:

- Bicoastal Media—KIHR
- Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)
- Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers (CGFG)
- Columbia Land Trust
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation (CTWS)
- East Fork Irrigation District (EFID)
- Dee Irrigation District (DID)
- Farmers Irrigation District (FID)
- Gorge Grown Food Network (GGFN)
- Hood River County (HRC)
- Hood River County School District (HRCSD)
- Hood River Electric Coop (HREC)
- Hood River News
- Hood River Valley Parks & Rec. District (HRVPRD)
- Horizon Christian School (HCS)
- Middle Fork Irrigation District (MFID)
- Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research & Extension Center (MCAREC)
- Mt. Hood Irrigation District (MHID)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- OSU Extension Service - Central Gorge Master Gardener Association (CGMGA)
- Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA)
- Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)
- Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF)
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)
- Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD)
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
- Pacific Power and Light (PP&L)
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- US Forest Service (USFS)
- US Geological Survey (USGS)
- Underwood Conservation District (UCD)
- Individual landowners and Watershed Group members

Thank you!

Special thanks to Chuck Gehling, Sam Doak, Greg Short, Mikel Diwan, and the Field Series trip leaders for their help with the HRWG; to the Central Gorge Master Gardeners who help with the District's plant sale; and to Dede Garcia for her work on the "Weed of the Month" effort.

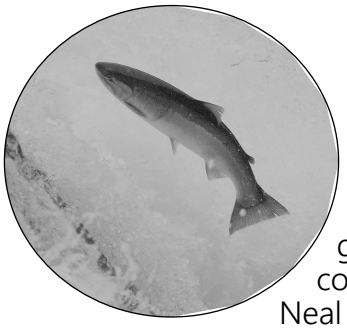
Hood River Watershed Group

To sustain and improve the Hood River Watershed through education, cooperation and stewardship

Summarized below are some of the key projects & accomplishments of the Hood River Watershed Group and its partners in the past year.

HRWG secures $100,000 to Evaluate Feasibility of a Local Water Bank

One of the most significant natural resource issues in the Hood River Basin is water availability for irrigated agriculture and instream flows for threatened populations of salmon and steelhead. With lower summer streamflows expected in the future, water conservation tools will become even more important than they are today. Funding from the Oregon Water Resources Department and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board was awarded to evaluate the viability of a Hood River Water Bank to increase summer stream flows for fish and provide greater irrigation water reliability for perennial crop growers during dry or drought years. Water would come from landowners with annual crops who were willing to forgo some or all of their irrigation water for a season in exchange for financial compensation.



Neal Creek Fish Habitat Project

The Watershed Group was awarded a $98,000 OWEB grant to enhance steelhead and coho habitat on a quarter-mile of Neal Creek. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS) are also providing funding for the project, which is part of a larger effort to improve steelhead and salmon habitat in the Neal Creek Sub-basin. CTWS initiated the project with two landowners off of lower Neal Creek Road after habitat surveys and LiDAR data identified the site as having high potential for improving spawning habitat and floodplain connectivity. The project is scheduled for summer 2018.

FID's Lowline Pipeline Complete

The Lowline Pipeline diverts water from Green Point Creek to provide irrigation water to Farmers Irrigation District's (FID) Middle District patrons. The 30-year old metal pipe leaked badly and was highly susceptible to damage from logging activities and weather events, losing approximately 3 cfs and contributing to slope failures above the West Fork Hood River. Last fall, FID replaced the old pipe with long-lasting fused high-density polyethylene pipe, which will allow them to increase irrigation water reliability and improve stream flows in Green Point Creek. FID will leave at least 1 cfs of the conserved water in Green Point Creek. This creek supports winter steelhead and cutthroat trout and has the highest native fish density in the Hood River Watershed. The HRWG helped secure the OWRD grant providing $800,000 in funding for this project, which was matched by a loan FID obtained from DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund.

Laurance Lake Expansion Study

This project assessed the feasibility of adding 270 acre-feet of storage in Laurance Lake Reservoir by installing an inflatable Obermeyer weir on the existing spillway. The weir would be inflated in spring to capture additional runoff from snowmelt and deflated in July as reservoir levels dropped. The benefits of increased storage include: increased irrigation water reliability, better rearing habitat for bull trout within Laurance Lake, and improved downstream flows and stream temperatures for winter steelhead and spring Chinook. The technical aspects of this study included: 1) an evaluation of instream flow and salmonid spawning/rearing habitat under proposed storage and management changes, 2) a temperature model predicting water temperatures in the reservoir and downstream under different storage and management scenarios, and 3) an assessment of the safety, technical, and economic feasibility of seasonally raising the spillway crest height.

The study showed that increasing reservoir storage would have a positive effect on irrigation water reliability and fish habitat in the summer. In-lake habitat would be improved for bull trout due to better connectivity, cover, and temperature. Downstream benefits would include greater certainty of obtaining habitat and water quality goals, as well as a greater resiliency under potential climate change scenarios. The study also showed that the project is technically feasible from a dam safety, water rights, and regulatory standpoint. However, the project may not be economically feasible. MFID is currently conducting additional evaluations to determine economic feasibility.

Having a hard time deciphering all of the acronyms? *Check out the list of our partners on page 5!*

West Fork and Red Hill Habitat Enhancement Projects

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS) and US Forest Service (USFS) completed two habitat enhancement projects in 2016-17. Phase I of the West Fork Hood River Instream Habitat Enhancement Project placed 430 logs in 21 structures. Within the floodplain the project included tipping 42 trees onto the log structures, and opening seven side channels through berm removal along 0.4 miles of the West Fork Hood River below the confluence with Red Hill Creek. The Red Hill Creek Large Wood Placement Project placed 220 logs in 13 structures within the floodplain along the lower 0.6 miles of Red Hill Creek. Both projects will improve instream habitat for Chinook, steelhead, and coho. Funding was provided by CTWS, BPA, USFS, and the Whole Watershed Restoration Initiative grant (a partnership with OWEB and EcoTrust).

Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Efforts Ongoing

Megan Saunders collects water samples for pesticide analysis.

Since 1999, DEQ has been using a voluntary, collaborative approach called the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) to reduce pesticide levels in local waterways. The Hood River PSP is the oldest PSP in the state. Key components of the PSP are: 1) monitoring for pesticides in surface waters, 2) identifying streams with elevated pesticide concentrations or high number of detections, 3) collaborating with pesticide users to implement voluntary best management practices, and 4) follow-up monitoring to determine improvements over time.

In 2016, twelve regular water sampling rounds were taken by SWCD staff at the same five sites as in past years: East/West Fork Neal Creek, Lower Neal Creek, Lenz Creek, and Odell Creek. All water samples were analyzed for over 120 herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and a few breakdown products (degradates). In addition to grab (instantaneous) sampling, sediment samples were collected twice (once in April and once in September) at eight locations. The sediment samples were analyzed for 37 different pesticides.

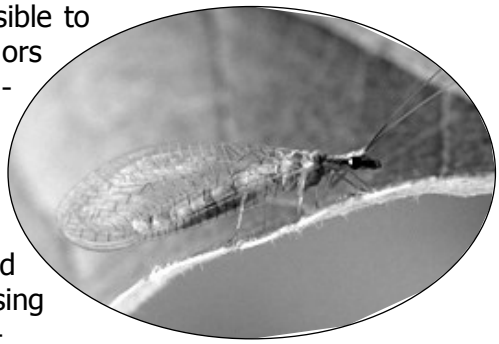
In the 2016 samples, DEQ detected 14 different pesticide analytes (three insecticides, ten herbicides, and one fungicide) in the water samples. No samples exceeded the EPA aquatic life benchmark and no organophosphate insecticides were detected. The most frequently detected pesticides were commonly used herbicides, such as diuron and 2,6-dichlorobenzamide (a breakdown product of Casoron). Diuron was detected in about 58% of samples and 2,6-dichlorobenzamide was found in about 65% of samples, although at very low levels. These herbicides are used by homeowners, on rights-of-way, and by agriculture.

In the 2016 sediment samples, the legacy pesticide DDT and its breakdown products were found. Although DDT has not been used for many years, it can still be found in the soils of many current or former orchards. When any soil disturbance occurs, whether through new development, farming practices, or even cleaning roadside ditches, these soil-bound chemicals can run off into our streams.

Cooperative efforts by local land managers have continued to result in improved water quality. Outreach to pesticide user groups is a collaborative effort, with OSU Extension, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers (CGFG) and the Hood River SWCD providing local outreach, while DEQ and ODA provide statewide information. Primary funding has come from ODA, DEQ, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

Landowners can do their part to minimize pesticide pollution by: 1) applying, storing, and disposing of pesticides according to the label, 2) using pesticides as part of a multi-pronged approach to pest control, with pesticide usage as a last resort, 3) using the least-toxic pesticide possible to address the problem, and 4) maintaining healthy vegetation corridors along streams and ditches on your property to help filter out any chemical laden runoff.

Meanwhile, CGFG and OSU Extension Service finalized a season of natural enemy monitoring funded through a PSP grant awarded by ODA. In fall 2016 and spring 2017, Horticulturalist Steve Castagnoli managed this program, as well as continued sprayer technology training using equipment for airblast sprayer optimization. Both programs are designed to help local and regional orchardists minimize negative impacts of pesticide use while maximizing orchardists' efficacy and efficiency.



Natural enemies like this green lacewing help keep orchard pests in check.

Agricultural Water Quality *(continued from page 1)*

landowners an opportunity to meet with ODA staff and review the results . The 35 landowners who attended this meeting also had the opportunity to meet with staff from the SWCD to discuss opportunities for making improvements on their land.

Since the Open House, ODA has been working on outreach, identifying opportunities for water quality protection, connecting landowners with technical assistance, and pursuing regulatory actions where necessary. The SWCD has been working on a voluntary basis to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners as they implement improvements on their land. Landowners interested in learning more about the Odell SIA process can contact ODA at 503-986-4700.

Other Ag Water Quality Efforts

During the past year, the SWCD completed its work to improve streamside vegetation in the Neal Creek focus area. During the initial assessment of riparian vegetation in 2015, the SWCD found that 25.7% of Neal Creek and its tributaries are in good riparian condition as they pass through agricultural lands, 6.7% are in improving condition, and 1.7% are in poor condition. About 66% of Neal Creek stream miles are not being used for agricultural purposes. At the conclusion of this effort in June 2017, the SWCD found that 7.5% of Neal Creek and its tributaries are now in improving condition and only 0.9% are in poor condition. The amount of land in good condition and not being used for agricultural purposes did not change. Working in tandem with Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers (CGFG), who implemented a streamside planting program funded by CTWS, the SWCD has offered assistance to landowners with inadequate riparian buffers along Neal Creek and its tributaries.

Fencing livestock out of streams helps protect water quality.

Riparian buffers can filter pollutants and shade the stream.

The SWCD acts as the Local Management Agency for the Hood River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area. In this role, the SWCD helps ODA conduct a biennial review of the Area Plan, assists with updates to the Plan, and reports implementation activities to the Hood River Local Advisory Committee (LAC) and the state Board of Agriculture. The LAC is made up of a dozen agricultural stakeholders and assists the SWCD with the review. Six LAC members met on Dec. 14, 2016 to review proposed changes to the Hood River Plan and hear about implementation efforts locally and statewide. No significant changes were made to the Area Plan and the regulations remain the same.

Agricultural landowners are required to:

1. Maintain sufficient vegetation on area streams to control water pollution by moderating solar heating, minimizing streambank erosion, and filtering sediments and nutrients from surface runoff.

2. Prevent animal waste from entering rivers or streams.

The biggest pollutant statewide is solar heating due to irrigation water withdrawals and lack of streamside vegetation. Do you have a stream on your property that needs additional vegetation? If so, contact the SWCD for assistance.

The Area Plan details the many Best Management Practices that landowners can use to prevent water pollution. The Area Plan and Regulations are available online at www.hoodriverswcd.org/resources

Violations of the Area Rules should be reported to Theresa DeBardelaben at ODA: 541-318-9088

Odell Dam (*continued from page 1*)

The Odell Creek Dam was built by Fred and Wilma Plog near the mouth of Odell Creek in 1985. It was operated as a private hydroelectric power-generating facility until 2010, at which time the Oregon Water Resources permit expired. To renew the permit, the dam needed to meet current fish passage and screening standards. However, an economic evaluation determined that upgrading the fish ladder and screen would cost more than future net power revenues would generate. Thus in 2013, the dam operator and landowner agreed to pursue dam removal. Funding for this $450,000 project was provided by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

Large wood was placed and over 750 new trees and shrubs were planted in the area that was once inundated behind the Odell Dam and the new stream banks.

Over 30 Spanish speakers received IWM training in spring 2016.

Monitoring the Underground

For the past three years, the Hood River SWCD has been working with Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and Hood River County to conduct groundwater monitoring in the Hood River Watershed. Groundwater levels are measured quarterly in 51 wells throughout the county. Wells are located on agricultural lands and on rural residential properties. Thus far, water levels in wells have been stable with small seasonal fluctuations.

Although groundwater is not currently utilized much for agricultural or municipal purposes in the valley, the use of groundwater resources is expected to increase in the future due to increased demand and/or decreased surface water availability. The goal of monitoring efforts is to develop baseline data for groundwater levels. For more information on this program contact Conservation Technician Kris Schaedel.

Irrigation Trainings Continue - Now en Español!

In March 2016, the Hood River SWCD and OSU Extension Service hosted the first of two planned Irrigation Water Management (IWM) workshops in Spanish at the Pine Grove Grange. This training was part of a three-year project funded by OWEB. The goal of the project is to encourage increased on-farm irrigation efficiency through active and efficient irrigation water management, resulting in less water being diverted from streams without comprising crop productivity.

Professionals from The Next Step based in Wenatchee, WA provided the day-long training to Spanish-speaking agricultural workers involved in on-farm irrigation. Attendees were given practical information for irrigating efficiently for better crop production and water conservation. Over 30 orchard workers and irrigation specialists attended the training. The SWCD plans to host at least one more training in spring 2018.

Other components of this IWM project include individualized training for four local orchardists and two English-language IWM field tours. If you are interested in attending or have employees who would benefit from this training, please contact the SWCD.

Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District

Conservation Tree & Shrub Sale 2018

ORDER FORM

Name:	
Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
How would you like to be reminded of the pick up date?	☐ Phone ☐ Email (*Must provide email above) ☐ Both

Conifer Trees - $1.50 ea.	QTY
Douglas Fir	
Grand Fir	
Noble Fir	
Western Red Cedar	
Ponderosa Pine	
Western Hemlock	
Total Ordered:	

Deciduous Trees - $2.50 ea.	QTY
Vine Maple	
Quaking Aspen	
Cascara	
Blue Elderberry	
Pacific Dogwood	
Total Ordered:	

Shrubs - $2.50 ea.	QTY
Woods Rose	
Snowberry	
Douglas Spirea	
Mock Orange	
Oceanspray	
Indian Plum	
Red Osier Dogwood	
Serviceberry	
Red Flowering Currant	
Pacific Ninebark	
Golden Currant	
Total Ordered:	

Orders will be available for pick up:
Friday April 6th 1pm-5pm
& Saturday April 7th 9am-1pm

These are bare root seedlings.
Please be prepared to plant them soon after pick up!
More information about each species can be found on the Hood River SWCD website:
www.hoodriverswcd.org

All orders are subject to plant availability. Customers will be notified if shortages occur. Orders are filled in the order they are received. Prepaid orders will receive priority.

~ Order and pay early to ensure availability ~
The last day to order is March 23rd!

TOTAL ORDER

Conifer Trees	_____	x	$1.50	= _____
Deciduous Trees	_____	x	$2.50	= _____
Shrubs	_____	x	$2.50	= _____
			Total Cost of Order:	_____

Paid by: Check Cash

Sorry, we cannot accept credit card payments.

Please make checks payable to the Hood River SWCD.

Submit Order and Payment to:
Hood River SWCD
3007 Experiment Station Road
Hood River, OR 97031

Hood River Soil & Water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
3007 Experiment Station Rd.
Hood River, OR 97031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ODELL, OR
PERMIT NO. 10

Inside...

▶ Focus on Odell: Dam removed, ODA SIA …… 1
▶ Fact & Figures, Financial Report, Noxious Weeds, Stew Crew 2-3
▶ Indian Creek Stewards, OWEB Small Grants, NRCS, Partners ……. 4-5
▶ Hood River Watershed Group Activties…….. 6-7
▶ Pesticide Stewardhsip Partnership, Ag Water Quality Continued ….. 8-9
▶ Cover Story Continued, IWM Trainings, Groundwater…….…….. 10
▶ Native Plant Sale Order Form……..... 11

Now's The Time to Order Your Native Plants!

Every spring the Hood River SWCD hosts a native tree and shrub sale to help promote the planting of native species. This sale also gives local residents a convenient and inexpensive way to obtain their favorite plants. Native plants beautify the landscape, provide food and habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, add value and privacy to your property, and require little maintenance once established.

We offer a variety of native conifers, deciduous trees, and shrubs. These plants are bare-root seedlings, 1-2 years old, grown by regional nurseries. Conifers cost just $1.50 and deciduous trees and shrubs cost $2.50. Tree and shrub orders can be placed *now* by mail or stop by the office. Orders will be accepted until March 23rd. **Purchases can be picked-up on Friday and Saturday, April 6th and 7th, 2018.** Plants that have not been presold will be available for purchase on pick-up days.

Check out the District's website at www.hoodriverswcd.org for more information on plant descriptions, site suitability, and wildlife usage. You can also download an order form online.

During the 2017 native plant sale, nearly 4,300 trees and shrubs were purchased by over 150 landowners. Over 1,000 trees and shrubs were donated for stream bank restoration and other local area projects. For 2018, we have some new species for you to try (cascara and pacific dogwood), as well as the previous year's favorites. Use the order form on the previous page of this newsletter to make sure you get your order in early!