



# Annual Report

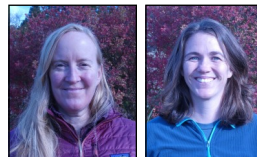
We here at the Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) appreciate everyone who reached out to us this year and those of you we got to work with. Our success comes from community members like you who value and steward the natural resources of Hood River County.

The SWCD was established to promote and enhance the county's natural resources with a particular focus on agricultural and working lands. The SWCD acts as the fiscal and employment sponsor of the Hood River Watershed Group, which is featured in the insert in this report. The Watershed Group was established to protect and restore native fish populations and wa-

tershed health. Each organization has its own vision, mission, and decision making process. We work together, and with local partners, to implement projects that benefit natural resources and promote water conservation and agricultural productivity.

This year has brought many challenges as well as opportunities to improve our services. We continue to work on becoming a more accessible and inclusive organization. We are also now offer online ordering for the plant sale! We hope you find the new system easier to navigate.

Thank you for your continued support!



Heather Hendrixson & Kris Schaedel

## Pesticide Education Grant Awarded!



The Hood River SWCD was recently awarded \$33,000 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to provide three years of pesticide trainings, in both Spanish and

English, to local orchardists and their employees. Trainings will cover hands-on sprayer calibration and optimization, as well as best management practices for applying pesticides. We will also be working with landowners interested in establishing vegetative buffers around waterways to reduce pollution entering rivers and streams. Look for announcements and registration information this winter!

## Agricultural Water Quality

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality



Program focuses on voluntary and cooperative efforts by landowners to protect water quality. The Area Plan and Rules, updated in 2020, describe desired conditions on ag land and detail the Best

Management Practices that landowners can use to prevent water pollution. The updated plan and rules are available on our website

[www.hoodriverswcd.org/resources](http://www.hoodriverswcd.org/resources)



(photos show before (left) and after (right) implementing a riparian fencing and planting project on a small stream)

# HOOD RIVER SWCD

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

The Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District is a legal subdivision of state government. And is governed by a locally elected, volunteer Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors meets on the first Thursday of each month from 4pm - 6pm. Meetings are currently being held via Zoom. Call ahead for accommodations.

Meetings are open to the public. For information or agendas, contact us by phone or email. Once our offices open again to the public, stop by at 3007 Experiment Station Road, Hood River. Office hours are Monday-Friday, from 8 am to 4 pm.

**Directors**  
 Brian Nakamura, Chair, Zone 2  
 Rick Ragan, Vice-Chair, At-Large  
 Pete Siragusa, Secretary/Treasurer, Zone 1  
 Ben Saur, Zone 3  
 Andrew Halliday, At-Large

**Associate Directors**  
 Chuck Gehling  
 Larry Martin  
 Richard Larson

**SWCD Staff**  
 Heather Hendrixson, District Manager  
 541-386-4588 heather@hoodriverswcd.org  
 Kris Schaedel, Conservation Specialist  
 541-386-4588 kris@hoodriverswcd.org

**Watershed Group Staff**  
 Cindy Thieman, Watershed Coordinator  
 541-386-6063 cindy@hoodriverwatershed.org  
 Alix Danielsen, Restoration & Outreach Project Mgr.  
 541-386-6063 alix@hoodriverwatershed.org

## Financial Report Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District

<u>Beginning Fund Balance:</u>	<u>\$184,325</u>
<b>REVENUES:</b>	
Intergovernmental	
ODA grants	83,315
OWEB grants	276,073
Other grants	77,228
Contracts	
Irrigation District support	29,000
CTWS support	33,008
Miscellaneous	2,359
Tree sales	11,953
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>	<b><u>\$512,936</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Salaries and Benefits	218,297
Professional Fees	6,279
Materials and Services	28,373
Tree and Plant Sale	4,367
Projects	291,750
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b><u>\$549,067</u></b>
<u>Ending Fund Balance:</u>	<u>\$148,194</u>

We'd like to extend our sincere gratitude to  
**Cindy Collins**  
 for serving on the board of directors since 2009. Your  
 commitment was invaluable. Thank you! We'd like to  
 welcome our newest board member  
**Andrew Halliday ~ Welcome Andrew!**

## Technical Assistance Round-Up



The SWCD is a non-regulatory provider of financial and technical assistance. In the last year we fielded over 100 phone calls, went on 25 socially distanced site visits, exchanged over 125 emails, and followed up with technical guides and information for landowners and land managers. Those calls and visits often led to funding for projects. We also assisted over 165 people during our annual plant sale. Topics covered everything from weeds, water, and irrigation, to oaks, pollinators, and livestock. We are always available to help county residents become better stewards of their land, free of charge.

*Heather Hendrixson and Kris Schaedel discuss projects in the field. We'd love to "hang out" and talk with you too!*



This year the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) secured funds for the East Fork and Mt. Hood Irrigation Districts for irrigation improvements. The East Fork

Watershed Restoration Project funded piping an open canal in the East Fork Irrigation District. Funds were also available for improving forest health, planting pollinator habitat, and removing smudge pots across Hood River County. With just under \$1M in funds, 24 contracts were signed with local landowners.

### *Last year...*

- 465 acres of smudge pots removed
- 14,707 feet of irrigation pipeline installed
- 160 acres of micro irrigation system installed
- 41 acres of irrigation water management applied
- 25.6 acres of cover crop planted
- 25.6 acres of forest improved

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding is still available for many of these programs! Funding programs are anticipated to return in FY22 so stay tuned for further announcements. For more information on these and other programs, contact District Conservationist Carly Heron at 541-352-1037 ([carly.heron@usda.gov](mailto:carly.heron@usda.gov)) or visit [www.or.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov).

### **OWEB Small Grants**

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Small Grant Program provides \$100,000 in Oregon Lottery funds to the Hood River team every two years. These funds are distributed in grant amounts up to \$15,000. Last year \$41,210 in small grant funds were used to upgrade 21 acres of orchard to more efficient irrigation systems and improve a heavy use livestock area to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff into streams. Grant funds were matched by \$29,049 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. It is assisted by local and state stakeholders and natural resource agency personnel.

Eligible projects include irrigation system upgrades, streamside livestock fencing, manure storage facilities, riparian plantings, and other on-the-ground projects. Contact the SWCD for more information.

### **Pesticide Stewardship Partnership**

This year marked the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of working with landowners to monitor and reduce pesticide levels in local waterways through the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP). Data from samples collected in 2020 showed the smallest number of pesticides or degradates detected since the project began in 2000. The PSP program in Hood River highlights the benefits and successes of good pesticide practices by landowners. Anyone interested in pesticide reduction work in the Hood River is welcome to join a meeting. Contact the SWCD for more information!

### **Groundwater**

The SWCD is set to continue groundwater monitoring efforts for another five years through a partnership with Hood River County and the Oregon Water Resources Department. Groundwater levels in the Hood River Valley remain stable with small seasonal fluctuations. Long term data will be used for future modelling work to assess trends related to climate change and future groundwater development. Contact us to learn more!



### **WEEDS**

**GARLIC MUSTARD** The SWCD completed its 11th year of garlic mustard treatment and surveys this spring. This is the first year in the eleven-year history that no garlic mustard plants were allowed to flower and set seed! Additional funds from the US Forest Service were secured this year to keep working towards eradication.

**WEED OF THE MONTH** The SWCD and partners continued the Weed of the Month outreach campaign for the 6<sup>th</sup> year. Posters of a different weed each month were hung around town, articles appeared in local newspapers, and public service announcements aired on the radio. For more weed management and identification information, give us a call or visit the Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area's website at: [columbiagorgecwma.org](http://columbiagorgecwma.org).

**OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** We responded to questions and delivered technical assistance to many Hood River County residents regarding weeds. We also presented to local groups such as the Master Gardeners. We will keep assisting you and will work to find funding solutions for our growing invasives problems!



# Hood River Soil & Water CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3007 Experiment Station Rd.  
Hood River, OR 97031

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## Inside...

New Pesticide Education Grant, Ag Water Quality.....	1
Operations, Financial Report, Technical Assistance Round-Up.....	2
Hood River Watershed Group Update.....	<i>insert</i>
NRCS, Small Grants, Weeds, Groundwater, Pesticide Stewardship Partnership.....	3
Plant Sale .....	4

# Native Plant Sale

## Now with Online Ordering!



Need ideas of what to plant this spring? Give us a call, we are happy to help you select species suitable for your site!

**Order Now!**

Order yours online—we are now accepting credit cards!



- Doug Fir
- Grand Fir
- Noble Fir
- Western Red Cedar
- Ponderosa Pine
- Western Hemlock
- Giant Sequoia
- Western Larch
- White Pine
- Vine Maple

- Quaking Aspen
- Big Leaf Maple
- Beaked Hazelnut
- Oregon White Oak
- Showy Milkweed
- Common Camas
- Tall Oregon Grape
- Redstem Ceanothus
- Woods Rose
- Snowberry

- Douglas Spirea
- Twinberry
- Mock Orange
- Snowbrush
- Oceanspray
- Salal
- Sword Fern
- Osoberry
- Red Osier Dogwood

- Serviceberry
- Red Flowering Currant
- Pacific Ninebark
- Golden Currant
- Thimbleberry
- Kinnikinnick

Check out [www.hoodriverswcd.org](http://www.hoodriverswcd.org)  
To place your order and get more info!

Orders will be available for pick up  
April 1 & 2, 2022