

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Long-Range Business Plan

2015-2020



Conserve and protect soil and water resources for people, wildlife
and the environment.

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Monthly Meetings

Board Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at the District Office, at 6:00 PM. The public is invited.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
GEOGRAPHY AND AGRICULTURE.....	5
STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE	6
Enabling and Governing Legislation.....	6
History.....	7
Leadership.....	7
Associate Directors	8
MISSION, VALUES, AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES.....	8
Mission.....	8
Vision.....	8
Guiding Principles	8
Guiding Values	9
Equity and Diversity	9
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	10
Local Level.....	11
Regional Level.....	12
State Level.....	12
National Level	13
Revenue to the County Economy	13
GOALS	14
DISTRICT PROGRAMS.....	15
CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS AND ISSUES	18
DISTRICT CAPACITY	23
APPENDIXES	27
Appendix A: General Powers of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors.....	27
Appendix B: Statutes and Administrative Rules.....	29
Appendix C: Acronyms used in this Business Plan	30
Appendix D: Budget.....	31
Appendix E: Annual Work Plans.....	31
Appendix F: Priority Animal Species of our Foodshed, Watershed and Woodshed.....	32
Appendix G: Anticipating and Adapting to Climate Change.....	32

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Business Plan (2015-2020) details the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (the “District”) services, activities, resources, staffing, and finances currently available and planned to carry out the District’s mission. The Business Plan also contains general information about the District and Multnomah County and guides the development of the District’s annual work plans and budget.

The District serves residents within its boundaries (the portion of Multnomah County west of the Willamette River, all of Sauvie Island, and the Bonny Slope area of the Tualatin Mountains in Washington County) with information and assistance on conservation planning, invasive weeds, native plants, livestock management, grant funding, wildlife, healthy woods, habitat restoration, school gardens, stormwater management and other conservation projects. How will the District look if our staff, board, and volunteers do their work well?

- More urban and rural landowners will know about invasive plant species and be diligent about controlling them on their property.
- Horses, cows, goats and llamas will enjoy lush pastures without polluting our streams and rivers.
- Our streams, rivers and watersheds will be healthier, supporting the return of endangered salmon species.
- Birds and bees will thrive with ample food and shelter and will co-exist with people on farms and in suburban backyards.
- Rare habitats, such as oak savannas, ash swales and sedge meadows, will be appreciated and restored.
- Private landowners will be thoughtful and knowledgeable stewards of their forests and small wood lots.
- District residents will enthusiastically tackle conservation initiatives like rain gardens, bioswales, hedgerows, and other native planting projects.
- District residents will enjoy more locally-grown food, farmed with methods that contribute to the long-term health of the land.

Public Participation

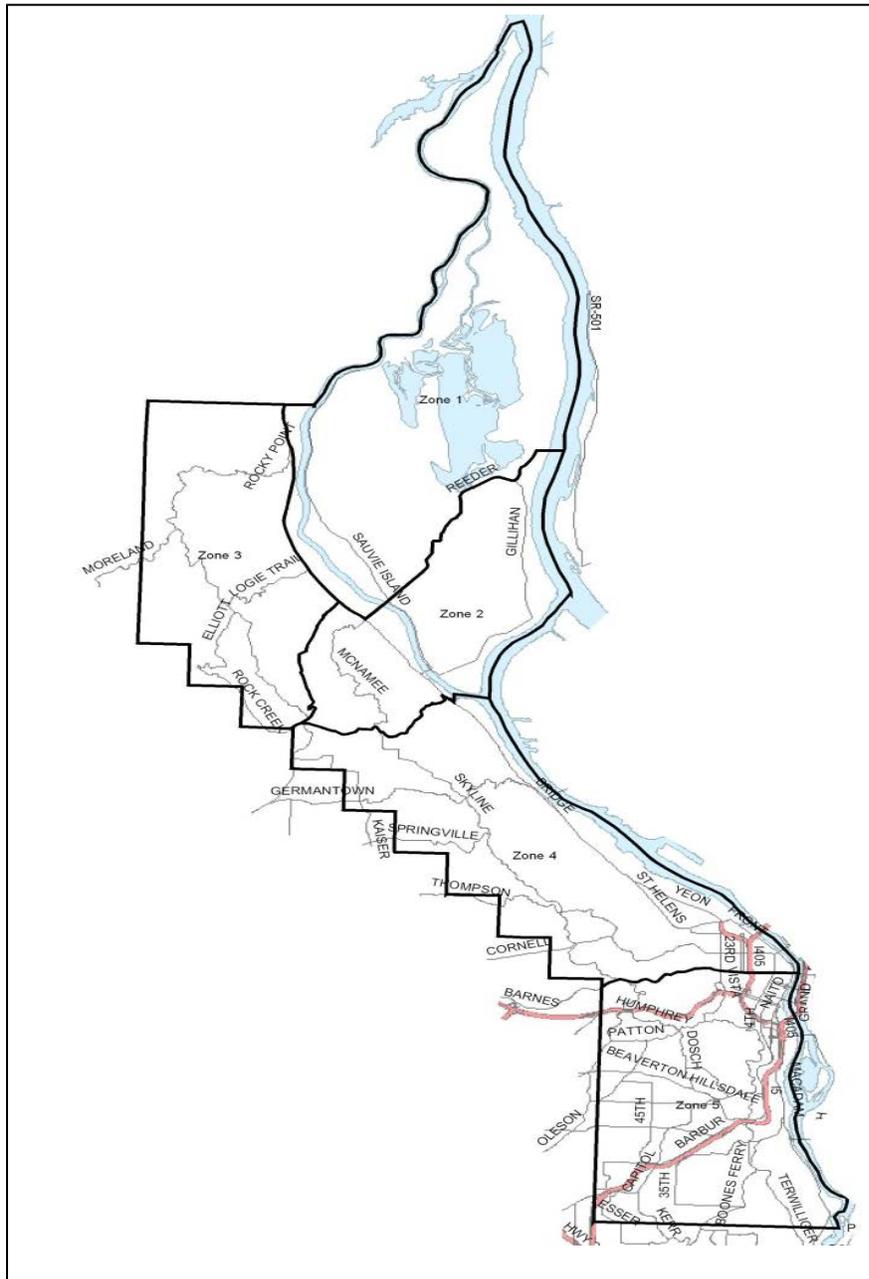
This Plan was prepared with input from staff, board members, community members and partners. As part of the process we identified visions for the future, current and potential clients, geographic attributes, landowner needs, partner agencies and non-profit organizations, and strategies to achieve our goals and objectives while ensuring socially equitable access to our services by all citizens.

Audience

This Plan is intended for District’s residents, Multnomah County officials, funding sources, legislators, and partner agencies. It will be a useful document for District landowners, partners, stakeholders, and others who seek to understand the District’s work. It will also be a living document to guide District staff and board in their day-to-day operations and to help ensure that policies, programs, services and decisions are beneficial to the District.

GEOGRAPHY AND AGRICULTURE

The District's service area includes the portion of Multnomah County west of the Willamette River and all of Sauvie Island. It is divided into five zones and represents a highly diverse area of urban and rural dwellings, forest and farm land, and owners of small and large properties.



- Zone 1:** The East limit is the middle of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. South limit is the middle of the Multnomah Channel. West limit is south of the Gillihan/Reeder Road intersection-property lines on East side of Reeder Road. North of Gillihan/Reeder Road intersection-property lines on west side of Reeder Road (Includes Columbia County tip).
- Zone 2:** North limit is Multnomah/Columbia county line. West limit is middle of Multnomah Channel. East & South is Zone 1.
- Zone 3:** North and West limit is Multnomah County line. East limit is center of the Multnomah Channel. South limit is property lines on south side of Cornelius Pass Road.
- Zone 4:** North limit is Zone 3. East limit is center of Multnomah Channel & Willamette River. South limit is line of county sections 22-24 and 19 to the middle of Willamette River. West limit is Multnomah County line.
- Zone 5:** North limit is Zone 4. East limit is center of Willamette River. South & West limits are Multnomah County line.

Topography

Our service area contains approximately 86,260 acres, of which 17,097 are non-industrial private forestland and 3,691 are industrial forestland. Public forestland includes 1,035 acres of Federal land, 2,181 acres owned by Metro, 89 acres owned by the State of Oregon and 21 acres owned by Multnomah County. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 466 square miles (1,206 km²), of which 435 square miles (1,127 km²) are land and 79 km² (30 sq. mi or 6.53%) are water.

Land Use

Our District is a diverse landscape of urban and rural uses. The urban area includes downtown Portland, made up of businesses properties, private apartments and condominiums, small and large public parks, a large university system, public transit including light rail and street cars, tourist attractions and outdoor gathering places. Outside of downtown Portland, the urban area is comprised of residential neighborhoods with diverse housing options interspersed by substantial natural areas.

The rural area includes small and large agricultural operations, from small, organic farms to hobby farms, including stables, livestock operations, kennels, private land, public natural areas, organic and non-organic food production, and creeks and streams.

About 20 percent of the county is classified as commercial forestland; of this, about 30 percent is publicly owned.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Enabling and Governing Legislation

The Soil Conservation Service was authorized by Federal Legislation in 1937. The District is one of 45 conservation districts in Oregon, which are defined in Oregon law as political subdivisions of state government. The District is not a state agency. Rather it is classified as a municipal corporation, a form of local government, which is required to follow many of the same laws that govern state agencies and special districts. It is specifically governed by ORS 568.210 to 568.890 and ORS 568.900 to 568.933. See Appendix A for the specific powers and authorities granted to districts. Appendix B lists other statutes and administrative rules to which the District is subject.

The Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) that established and govern Oregon's SWCDs (except the federal tribal Tiicham Conservation District) were significantly revised by the 2009 Legislative Assembly under House Bill 2082. The origin of the House Bill was a collaborative effort among the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, member Conservation Districts, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture. It was designed to address the evolving challenges and opportunities presented to today's SWCDs that were not envisioned when the statute originated, and to eliminate antiquated provisions in the previous editions.

In addition to the general purpose of SWCDs under ORS 568.225 in the previous editions, the following was added: **“promote collaborative conservation efforts to protect and enhance healthy watershed functions, assist in the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency resources.”**

History

The District was established in 1944 to direct agricultural producers to technical assistance resources, such as our partners the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). In recent years, NRCS and the District have successfully partnered to plan and implement conservation practices on private lands in the basin.

The District was organized as the Sauvie Island Soil Conservation District. The District expanded to its current size in April 1975 and changed to its existing name. District voters approved a tax base in November 2006, ensuring a stable revenue source for programs delivered to west side citizens beginning in fiscal year 2007-2008.

Leadership

Directors

A board of seven directors governs the District. Directors are elected by voters in the District’s service area at the November General Election, held during even-numbered years. Director positions are elected in staggered terms to provide continuity on the board and maintain consistent operations. The District Board may appoint a person to fill a board vacancy between elections for the duration of that position’s term. Five of the seven positions are classified as zone positions and must meet the zone requirements and terms of office as specified in ORS 568.560 as follows: “Zone directors must own or manage 10 or more acres of land in the district, be involved in the active management of that property, reside within the boundaries of the district, and be a registered voter.”

An individual may serve as a zone director in lieu of land ownership or management requirements if the individual resides within the zone that is represented, has served at least one year as a District Director or Associate Director and has a conservation plan approved by the District Board. The other two positions are at-large. To qualify for an at-large position, a person must reside in the District’s service area and be a registered voter. No land ownership or management requirements are needed for an at-large position, which is also governed by ORS 568.560.

An individual director has power only when acting as a part of the District Board. Individual board members may be delegated authority or power to act on behalf of the Board in specific, limited tasks. This authority or power is granted through board action (resolution, motion, policy, etc.) and must be recorded in the meeting minutes.

The District Board works cooperatively as a unit to plan and oversee implementing District programs. As a representative of the District Board, opinions expressed publicly by individual board members should be consistent with established board policy, not the individual’s personal agenda or opinions.

ORS 568.560 requires all SWCDs to select a Chair and Secretary from among its directors. The District may elect other officers as desired.

The **Chair** is granted the responsibility to represent the District with other districts, agencies, associations, partners, organizations, legislators, and property owners consistent with the policies, plans, and interests of the District. The Chair will also conduct regular and special meetings of the Board.

The **Vice-Chair** is given authority to act as the Chair in case of the absence or unavailability of the Chair.

The **Secretary** is the custodian of all the District records, minutes, contracts, and other official documents.

The **Treasurer** reviews the District's monthly receipts and expenditures and presents the financial statements and associated updates to the Directors at District board meetings.

Committees can be an effective way for the District to plan and implement the District's functions as well as bring in points of view from our District that might otherwise be underrepresented by our elected board of directors. This helps ensure our policies, programs, services and decisions result in socially equitable outcomes for all citizens of our District. Committees can be comprised of board members, associate directors, District advisors, representatives of cooperating agencies and associations, or interested citizens. Committees can be ad hoc or standing. Currently the District has a standing Personnel committee and has on occasion formed ad hoc committees (e.g. Nominating committee). Ad hoc committees are charged with specific tasks over a specific time period and are then disbanded after the assigned task and/or timeframe is completed.

Associate Directors

Associate Directors are non-voting members of the District Board. They are appointed by the Directors to serve as advisors and representatives. Associate directorship offers a way to educate potential directors, broaden community input to the District, and expand District programs.

MISSION, VALUES, AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Mission

Conserve and protect soil and water resources for people, wildlife, and the environment.

Vision

The District is committed to working with its constituents to meet the demand for natural resource education and technical assistance to urban and rural residents, farmers, business owners, public schools and the general public and to increase the economic viability and environmental health of the rural and urban regions.

Guiding Principles

1. We provide assistance to the public and respond to requests in a timely and courteous way. If we cannot provide direct assistance we strive to find other resources that meet landowners' needs.
2. We form strategic partnerships to maximize our work and minimize duplication with other agencies.
3. We focus our efforts on underserved populations and geographic areas.
4. To maximize our limited resources and impact, our urban focus is on leveraging landowner partnerships to spread participation through targeted watershed areas.
5. As an organization, we conserve natural resources (e.g. Reduce, Reuse & Recycle, Energy Conservation, etc.).
6. We address conservation problems methodically; we identify and analyze resource concerns before we determine solutions, as called for by sound conservation science and planning principles.
7. We complete project planning and assess viability according to our Goals & Strategies before seeking funding.
8. We urge voluntary commitments to conservation; we are not a regulatory body and do not enforce compliance. We maintain political neutrality and respect the privacy of all landowners.
9. We work as members of a flexible, respectful and responsive team.
10. We maintain a vibrant, culturally agile and cooperative board that helps outreach to and engage fellow landowners/partners.
11. We value and reward staff for hard work and innovation and provide staff/board development and training to maintain skills and science-based knowledge to better serve our constituents, maximize our credibility, and increase the success of on-the-ground conservation.
12. We incorporate equity and inclusion awareness and practice into our work process and programs.
13. We act with integrity and operate with transparency.

Guiding Values

1. Clean water is vital to people and wildlife.
2. Good soil is a life-sustaining, non-replaceable resource.
3. Healthy ecosystems are essential to humans and native wildlife.
4. Humans have a responsibility to, and self-interest in, being good stewards of the natural world.
5. A steady supply of locally-produced food is important to the quality of life, sustainability and economy of our District.
6. Well-managed agricultural and forest operations can co-exist with wildlife.
7. Informed and engaged board, staff and landowners are key to the success of our mission.
8. Our community conserves natural resources most effectively when all stakeholders are engaged and welcomed.
9. The strength and vibrancy of our District rests on its diversity.

District Non-Discrimination Policy

The District prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, gender, marital status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information and political beliefs. The District is an equal opportunity employer.

Racial Equity Policy

In 2015, staff and board members completed a Racial Equity Assessment through a program organized by the Intertwine. By initially focusing on racial equity, we can address Portland's most glaring inequities while developing policies and practices that result in more accessible programs and services for all. Upon completion of the training, the District developed a defined Racial Equity Policy with strategies to implement it.

Why the District Needs a Racial Equity Policy:

1. Environmental health impacts all and engaging and welcoming all stakeholders is crucial to ensuring this success.
2. The District's staff and board have a low level of racial diversity.
3. Having diverse perspectives engaged in organizational decisions would increase our District's overall strength and relevance.
4. District programs fail to engage many racially diverse audiences (no demographics data is currently collected to support this, but this has been determined by a staff survey).
5. The District lacks partner and grant requirements to demonstrate or encourage equity.
6. The District will be better able to identify and address community priorities if it partners with underserved communities of color, and works with them to ensure messages and programs are meaningful and accessible to them.
7. Demographic data (Curry-Stevens, A., Cross-Hemmer, A., & Coalition of Communities of Color (2010). *Communities of Color in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile*. Portland, OR: Portland State University) predicts that in several decades Caucasians will not be the majority in NW Oregon. Organizations that do not make the effort to better include and serve people of color will be unable to successfully engage more than half of their future constituents.

Our Racial Equity Policy includes the following:

1. A vision statement that highlights the aim to welcome, engage and provide open access to people of color in all facets of our organization.
2. District Non-Discrimination Policy (see above)
3. Intended outcomes
4. A plan for resource allocation
5. The role partnerships will play in addressing equity
6. Offer concrete next steps and accountability mechanisms
7. Action items in staff members work plans that address equity through District programming

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The District works with agencies and individuals as partners in efforts to achieve our vision. Various memorandums of agreement and/or understanding, working agreements, intergovernmental agreements and informal arrangements, formalize the partnerships. The agreements outline the responsibilities of

each partner and identify the types of assistance, resources, and support each will provide to accomplish common conservation goals.

The District believes that our existing partners, which currently include non-profits, government organizations, private companies, landowners and volunteers, and yet-to-be determined partners are crucial to us reaching our equity goals. Our work will only be successful if we are able to truly partner with the community, engage with respect, authentically listen – and have the commitment to share decision making, control and resources. We must further examine and prioritize working with partners that share our equity goals to further maximize impacts with underserved communities.

Local Level

Landowners, Producers, General Public

The general public uses the District as its primary point of contact for not only District programs but those of the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service. Landowners and agricultural producers can avail themselves of technical assistance with natural resource concerns and assistance in securing grant or loan funding for an array of natural resource conservation projects.

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

The District assists the general public with conservation planning, technical and financial assistance, Federal farm bill program opportunities, and answers to conservation-related questions.

The District provides residents of its service area with information on and assistance with conservation planning, invasive weeds, native plants, pasture and livestock, soil health, soil erosion, funding assistance, wildlife, healthy woods, habitat restoration, stormwater management, water-quality protection, school gardens and other conservation-related projects.

OSU Extension Service

The District maintains a working relationship with the Multnomah County office of Oregon State University Extension Service. The District welcomed the Oregon State University Extension Master Gardeners into our office in 2009, giving the hotline and 600 Master Gardener volunteers a presence in the county it had been lacking after falling victim to county budget cuts.

County Government

The District works with a diverse group of key partners in local government agencies: City of Portland (Parks, BES, and Planning & Sustainability), Metro, Multnomah County, Clackamas County and Washington County.

Other Local Partnerships

The District partners with many other local groups that help us achieve our mission: Linnton Neighborhood Association, Skyline Ridge Neighbors, Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, Backyard Habitat Certification Program, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, West Willamette Restoration Partnership, Forest Park Conservancy, SW Watershed Resources Center and Depave. The District also works with the Sturgeon Lake Work Group including the Bonneville Power Administration, Ducks Unlimited, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Dept. of State Lands and scores of groups to fund the Save Sturgeon Lake restoration project. Specific groups on Sauvie Island (SI) that we work with regularly include: SI Community Association, SI Drainage Improvement Company and SI Grange. The District works closely with neighboring SWCDs, including Tualatin, Columbia, Clackamas and East Multnomah.

Regional Level

The District works with the following partners across most or all of the geographic areas in which we focus our efforts:

Four County Cooperative Weed Management Area, Department of Environmental Quality, Metro, Intertwine Alliance, Multnomah County, Northwest Weed Management Partnership, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Invasive Species Council, Oregon State University Extension Services, SOLVE, and others.

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

The District maintains a Cooperative Working Agreement with the NRCS to provide assistance with conservation planning and the implementation of conservation practices in its service area. From time to time, the District also enters into Contribution Agreements with NRCS to produce complete conservation plans. The NRCS provides technical assistance to the District and directly to county landowners and producers. The District is served through NRCS offices in the Portland Metro area.

Local Advisory Committee

Local Advisory Committees (LAC) are made up of landowners, agricultural producers, and an environmental representative whose charge is to develop an Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan. District staff participate in three local advisory committees: North Coast LAC, Lower Willamette LAC, and Tualatin LAC.

Additionally, staff and board members have been involved in Citizen Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees that are working on issues of importance to citizens in our service area (issues such as the Sauvie Island Multnomah Channel land use / transportation policy review and Portland Harbor Superfund studies and implementation).

State Level

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

The Oregon Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division provides administrative oversight and partial administrative and technical support funding.

OWEB, DEQ, and other State Agencies

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and Department of State Lands (responsible for navigable waters, submerged and submersible land plus leases for marinas, and moorages) provide funding.

Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

The OACD provides technical and administrative support to the District and is the main conservation district advocacy organization with the Oregon State administration and legislature.

National Level

USDA NRCS

The national NRCS office provides funding of work agreements with the District.

Revenue to the County Economy

Landowners and community partners who work with the District on restoration and conservation projects are making a wise investment. Growing evidence indicates that land conservation and restoration projects produce significant economic benefits and result in increased property values. Communities with healthy lands and clean water are perceived as nicer places to live, attracting businesses and people, including non-resident visitors who put new dollars into local economies. Healthy soil captures precipitation, reduces stormwater management costs and, by protecting underground water sources, can reduce the cost of drinking water up to tenfold. In addition, District-funded projects and partnerships provide business to local private companies, spur new companies to form and increase employment opportunities for local non-profits.

The District has funded research studies with local experts and consultants regarding hydrology of the Sauvie Island drainage canals, ditches and remnant Gilbert River. The District also serves as local sponsor and founding partner with the US Army Corps of Engineers for a \$7 million restoration project to save Sturgeon Lake on Sauvie Island.

Our contracts with local restoration providers fund work for hundreds of employees (part-time) and nearby suppliers of tree starts, understory native plants and related materials.

GOALS

The District's goals are to:

- 1: Improve water quality in our watersheds
- 2: Minimize erosion and build healthy soils
- 3: Enhance habitats, biodiversity and ecosystem function
- 4: Enhance the productivity and sustainability of working lands
- 5: Cultivate land stewards of all ages
- 6: Ensure that the District is a vibrant agency

These broad strategic goals help focus our efforts to ensure that we are working toward the same end. Each program described in District Programs below helps achieve one or more of the above broad goals. Additionally, staff develop work plans on an annual basis which are a comprehensive list of the strategies, objectives and metrics by which we strive to achieve our goals and measure progress. See the current year's annual work plans and our metrics table showing how we annually measure our progress against our goals in Appendix E.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

The District strives to obtain equity on all programs. We seek to understand the conservation needs and desires of diverse communities within our District. Just as ecosystems are more resilient when they are diverse, the strength and viability of our District rests on its diversity. We invest in relationships and seek to support and add value to the work of a wide range of organizations and communities when our priorities align. We support and include different approaches to and ways of addressing the issues our communities face, and respect the wisdom and values of the people who live here.

Board and management are committed to and work towards ensuring that organizational infrastructure, leadership, and staff represent regional demographics. We incorporate equity and inclusion awareness and practices in all work processes and programs. We work with and learn from partner organizations that have developed tools and practices for cultural awareness and inclusion and adapt them to District work. We continue to learn and improve our processes over time. We have developed a system-wide approach to integrate equity, diversity and inclusion.

All of our District’s programs are designed to help us achieve our broad strategic goals. The following table summarizes which programs support each goal. The bolded uppercase “X” shows the main focus of the program, and the non-bolded lowercase “x” indicates supplemental goals addressed.

Programs	Goals					
	Water Quality	Healthy Soil	Habitat & Ecosystem	Working Lands	Land Stewards	Vibrant Agency
Conservation Planning	x	x	x	x	x	x
Healthy Streams	X	x	x		x	x
Neighborhood Demonstration Projects	x	x	x		X	x
EDRR (Early Detection and Rapid Response)	x	x	X	x	x	x
Partner Funding Program	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sturgeon Lake	x		X			x
Outreach & Education Programs	x	x	x	x	X	x
Stormwater Programs	X	x	x	x	x	x
Priority Habitat Restoration	x	x	X	x	x	x

Working Lands (agriculture and forestry)	x	x	x	X	x	x
Soil Health	x	X	x	x	x	x

1. Conservation Planning

Conservation professionals work with landowners to develop individual plans that identify practices and management behavior to best protect soil and water quality, enhance plant and animal health, and financially benefit landowners. The conservation planning process looks at a number of tools landowners can use to meet their goals, whether they have forest, farm, or riparian properties.

2. Healthy Streams

Funding and technical assistance is provided to landowners for streamside restoration to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Current target watersheds in our rural areas, which are eligible for increased cost share, include McCarthy, Abbey, Rock and Crabapple creeks in the West Hills and waterways on Sauvie Island. Fencing to protect and exclude livestock from riparian areas may be included in *Healthy Streams* projects.

3. Neighborhood Demonstration Projects

The District assists engaged landowners and community groups, including schools and communities of faith, focused on demonstrating ways to conserve natural resources and/or improve their community's ability to access and learn about growing local food. These on-the-ground conservation projects also serve as education and outreach tools to the larger community through signage, tours and public access/visibility. Some of these projects, like the *Meadowscaping* program, are testing new techniques to conserve natural resources, so that we might learn from and showcase such practices.

4. EDRR (Early Detection, Rapid Response) Invasive Species Program

The *EDRR Invasive Species Program* focuses on prevention and spread of high-priority invasive species that are not yet well established in our region. The District works closely with landowners and partnering agencies to strategically manage target species on a local and regional scale. In addition, this program seeks to raise awareness of priority invasive plants through direct outreach and *Weed Watcher* workshops.

5. Partner Organization Funding

The *Financial Incentives for Sustainable Habitats* (FISH) program advances the mission of the District by leveraging funds through conservation-related work carried out by partner organizations and cooperating landowners. This program provides cost-share funds (up to \$10,000/project) to support conservation projects, conservation education, and community events that promote natural resource conservation. The District's Partner Funding programs provide strategic financial support to maximize our resources and minimize duplication with other organizations that efficiently and effectively perform

work that supports our goals. Generally, Partner Funding supports pre-existing programs within partnership organizations while the District's FISH Grant program supports new projects.

6. Sturgeon Lake

Dedicated funding has been allocated for the restoration of this 3,200 ac. wildlife refuge, owned and managed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. This lake is a critical habitat for endangered salmon, sturgeon and lamprey and is an integral part of the Pacific flyway for pacific coast migratory waterfowl. It is one of the premier natural and biologically significant aquatic and wildlife habitats in the state. Sturgeon Lake is identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy as a "conservation opportunity area" and restoring flushing flows to the lake for salmon habitat restoration is specifically named as a state strategy. The District, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Partners are seeking to reopen the Dairy Creek channel, including installing a bridge to allow it to pass under Reeder Road. This project will be completed by 2020.

7. Outreach & Education Programs

The District provides media and consumer outreach and education, including workshops and trainings, on a wide range of conservation issues related to invasive weeds, native plants, stormwater management, farm and forestry practices, wildlife and restoration. We also provide financial and technical support to a variety of school and non-profit organizations engaged in educating students of all ages in conservation, clean watersheds, soil composition, and organic gardening.

8. Stormwater Programs

The urban sections of our District have many water and soil health challenges due to development, infrastructure and other urban pressures. In response to these pressures and their impacts to natural resources, the District offers direct landowner technical assistance and educational workshops and materials to help landowners better manage stormwater on their land.

9. Priority Habitat Restoration

Throughout our District staff help provide technical assistance to landowners to help restore priority habitats, which include oak woodland/savanna, upland forest and riparian zones. Conservation planning and cost share assistance are only provided in target areas which may be determined by watershed, geographic boundaries, number of contiguous landowners engaged and/or proximity to larger "anchor" habitats. In addition, there are some unique projects embedded in this area that aim to engage and educate landowners in aspects of restoring their land while providing some direct on-the-ground and/or technical assistance; the *Canopy Weed Program*, for example, provides treatment of invasive vines (ivy and clematis) that threaten a wide host of habitat types in target geographical areas.

10. Working Lands (agriculture and forestry)

The District seeks to ensure working lands stay in production while also enhancing conservation goals on each site and surrounding landscape. The District works with farmers to buffer waterways, provide pollinator and beneficial insect habitat, and manage nutrient inputs. The District also assists livestock and horse owners with mud, manure and pasture management to limit the movement of nutrients and bacteria into waterways and control weeds. On forest properties the District helps landowners improve forest health, reduce wildfire risk, enhance wildlife habitat,

and plan thinning operations to improve tree vigor and reduce sedimentation to streams from roads and trails.

11. Soil Health

The District helps crop producers improve soil health to increase production and/or reduce fertilizer and pesticide inputs. In the urban realm, the District provides landowner guidance and workshops on restoring disturbed soils. The District works with landowners on the four principles of soil health: 1) minimize disturbance, 2) diversity above ground equals diversity below ground, 3) provide a living root year round, and 4) maintain cover over bare soil year round. The District provides incentives for farmers to try cover crops and works with OSU extension to provide recommendations. The District also works with the NRCS to enroll farmers in Farm Bill programs which further encourage the adoption of these practices.

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS AND ISSUES

The District has outlined three conservation opportunity areas: the Rural West Hills, Multnomah Channel and Sauvie Island, and the Urban area. Listed below are some of the associated issues of concern and potential conservation opportunities within these areas.

1. RURAL WEST HILLS (includes a section of the Tualatin Mountains): Abbey, Crabapple, McCarthy, and Rock Creeks

Abbey/Rock Creeks

Issues:

- Early detection, Rapid response (EDRR) invasive plant species
- Forests impaired by blackberry, ivy, holly, and other invasive species
- Inadequate native riparian vegetation
- Oak woodlands with weed problems and conifer encroachment
- Water Quality, particularly temperature (The Tualatin River is WQ-limited for temperature; District data suggest temperature and sediment are issues in McCarthy & Crabapple)
- Horse stables and concentrated livestock areas may impair water quality via nutrients and bacteria
- Overgrazed areas contribute to soil compaction and erosion as well as weed encroachment
- Livestock access to streams
- Lack of species diversity in forest stands
- Highly Erodible Lands (HEL)

Opportunities:

- Riparian restoration
- Oak habitat, wetland, and pond enhancements
- Mud and manure control, pasture management
- Fencing to exclude livestock from streams
- Invasive species control

- Forest stand management/restoration

Crabapple Creek

Issues:

- Forests impaired by blackberry, ivy, holly, and other invasive weeds, including EDRR species
- Denuded streams at Wildwood golf course and higher in the watershed
- Lack of species diversity in forest stands
- Out of all the watersheds in the District, this one has the most acreage managed with forest clear-cuts
- Warm summertime stream temperatures

Opportunities:

- Green golf course certification and Wildwood golf course riparian enhancement
- Forest stand management/restoration

McCarthy Creek

Issues:

- Overstocked forest stands where forest health is depleted, as well as clear-cut areas not adequately reforested
- Inadequate or downward trending native riparian vegetation along this salmon-bearing stream, particularly on the mainstem middle and lower reach, impacts soil erosion, water quality, fish and other wildlife habitat, and wildlife corridors.
- EDRR species present
- Erosion and water quality, i.e. sediment and temperature, impairment from aforementioned land-use conditions and effects on fish habitat and roadways
- Forests impaired by blackberry, ivy, holly, and other invasive species (including knotweed along streams)
- Upland habitat connectivity may be limited; wildlife need a corridor from Forest Park to rest of the Coast Range
- Excess sediment in McCarthy Creek; high summertime stream temperatures

Opportunities:

- Riparian and other wetland habitat restoration
- Control of EDRR species & other priority invasive species including canopy weeds
- Upland habitat enhancement
- Conservation enhancements for water quality & erosion control on forest / private roads
- Invasive species control
- Forest stand management/restoration

2. MULTNOMAH CHANNEL AND SAUVIE ISLAND

Multnomah Channel

Issues:

- Insufficient side channels and connected wetlands for salmonid refugia
- Invasive species, particularly reed canary grass invading ~30 acres at Wapato Access area, and elsewhere; scattered yellow flag iris, possible indigo bush (mostly along the Columbia)

- Hydrology altered by Columbia River dams (diminished spring freshets, loss of wetland connectivity)
- Loss of large tree canopy and adequate riparian forest buffers along the waterway, in part due to removal at moorages / floating home communities
- South facing slopes in the watershed with Oregon white oak in need of protection
- Industrial land uses contaminated with toxins (Portland Harbor Superfund) along the main stem of the Willamette River
- EDRR species & other more common invasive species
- Impaired water quality and habitat from specific houseboat and moorage practices

Opportunities:

- Restoration of forested wetland in low lying areas and streams along Multnomah Channel in partnership with Metro and NRCS
- Aquatic EDRR invasive plant control with ODA
- Education and outreach, including development of BMPs for living on the water, and potential pilot projects at moorages, such as shoreline habitat enhancement and water quality swales

Sauvie Island

Issues:

- Sturgeon Lake, the largest lake on the island, is filling with silt due to hydrologic issues
- Reed canary grass and other invasive species dominate wetlands and some ponds
- Significant lack of riparian vegetation along the Gilbert River and other canals contributes to bank sloughing, soil erosion, reduced uptake of excess nutrients, and lost diversity of pollinator and other wildlife habitat and corridors.
- Reed canary grass and other invasive species dominate wetlands and some ponds
- Sheet erosion on farm fields without vegetation cover
- Livestock access to moist soils contributes to soil compaction, weed spread and mud issues
- Degraded oak woodlands, including invasive plant encroachment
- Unproductive or under-used open areas or habitats, often overtaken by invasive weeds
- Overuse of nitrogen-based fertilizers by farmers is creating water quality concerns
- Soil health/quality
- Horse stables and concentrated livestock areas may impair water quality via nutrients and bacteria
- Loss of historic grassland habitat and prairie habitat
- Diminished wetland habitat; there has been a 45% reduction in open bodies of water on Sauvie Island since 1944. (Bennet, Joelle. "Dairy Creek Planning Workshop January 2012." HDR, Inc. Portland, Oregon. 01 12 12.)
- Loss of historic oak savanna
- EDRR species

Opportunities:

- Riparian planting projects along the Gilbert River, other waterways and canals and ponds
- Marginal farmland and wetland restoration
- Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project

- Landowner education re: regionally specific habitats, such as oak woodlands and savanna, and wildlife, including pollinators
- Oak and grasslands/prairie restoration projects, including those in conjunction with ODFW and Oregon State Parks
- Plant pollinator hedgerows
- Landscape mapping of restoration opportunity areas in conjunction with Sauvie Island Habitat Partnership
- Sauvie Island Pond Project: private pond habitat enhancement for amphibians and turtles
- Sauvie Island Soil Health Program
- Mud and manure control, pasture management
- Invasive plant management, including EDRR species

3. URBAN: Tualatin River Headwaters, Forest Park Watersheds, Tryon Creek and West Willamette Watersheds

Tualatin River Headwaters (includes Fanno and Cedar Mill Creeks)

Issues:

- The primary land use in this watershed is single-family residential housing, with very limited parks and open space.
- The watershed contains steep slopes and mainly sandy clay loam soil.
- Streets, parking lots, and buildings contribute to large impervious surface areas.
- Narrow riparian corridors commonly consist of native species like western red cedar, Douglas fir, vine maple, and sword fern, as well as invasive species like English ivy and Armenian blackberry.
- Native fish populations are limited, however, steelhead and cutthroat trout are present in upper Fanno Creek. Steep slopes and poorly draining soils are prevalent
- Numerous water quality impairments exist in this watershed including temperature and sedimentation.
- EDRR species
- Unimproved Right of Ways/Streets have sedimentation/drainage/filtration stormwater runoff issues

Forest Park Watersheds (includes Balch & Linnton's Willamette Watersheds)

Issues:

- Substantial ivy, clematis and other invasive species bordering Forest Park, a crucial urban “anchor” habitat type
- Soil erosion along steep hillsides
- EDRR species
- Balch Creek water quality—High *E. coli* counts as well as other impairments including sedimentation
- Impaired wildlife corridor connections from Willamette River to Tualatin Mountains on US Highway 30
- Industrial land uses along the main stem of the Willamette River including the Portland Harbor Superfund
- Overstocked forest stands where forest health is depleted with potential fire risk

Tryon Creek and West Willamette Watersheds

Issues:

- Degraded natural areas—choked with common and EDRR invasive species (blackberry, ivy, clematis, etc.)
- Water runoff/quality (bacteria, oxygen, copper, lead, and temperature are the primary water quality parameters of concern)
- Relatively high proportion of impervious surface relative to total area
- Development in the floodplain and alterations in channel banks have destroyed or degraded floodplain and off-channel habitats.
- Unimproved Right of Ways/Streets have sedimentation/drainage/filtration stormwater runoff issues
- Wildlife corridor barriers (including fish passage of salmonid species)

Urban Opportunities:

- Priority habitat restoration
- Stormwater management improvement projects
- Wildlife enhancement and access projects
- Conservation education for landscape contractors & landowners
- Urban Watershed Mentors; a volunteer leadership conservation plan and implementation training and engagement program
- Demonstration gardens
- Pollinator improvement projects – Including *Meadowscaping* and citizen scientist monitoring
- Targeted invasive treatments: Canopy Weed Programs & EDRR
- Soil restoration trials
- Engage diverse audiences through equity policy identified initiatives

DISTRICT CAPACITY

Staff

The current staff consists of six full time employees and four part time employees. Additional seasonal employees (interns) are hired to assist with restoration and other conservation related projects as needed during the spring and summer. The District also relies on outside contractors to fulfill some of its conservation work objectives.

District Manager – 1 FTE

This position supports the District's conservation mission by working directly with our elected board, and with a wide variety of organizations and individuals, such as local, regional, state and federal government agencies, non-profits, citizens, community groups, elected officials, and private businesses, to move forward the goals and initiatives of the District. In particular, this position is instrumental in all fundraising goals and overall program management related to the multi-year Sturgeon Lake /Dairy Creek Restoration project. This position oversees all staff in support of District programs.

Controller and Budget Officer – .8 FTE

This position is responsible for ensuring that the organization is fully compliant with Local Budget Law, Oregon Public Contracting Law, and all other laws and regulations pertaining to public funds. This position is also responsible for a comprehensive system of fiscal and budgetary controls and reporting functions. In addition to financial oversight and budgeting responsibilities, this position oversees office management and human resources.

Office Manager – 1 FTE

This position is responsible for Board of Director meeting preparations, providing administrative support to District Manager and office staff, and facilitating all tasks related to office operations, vendor issues, office equipment, supplies, and personnel-related needs.

Senior Conservationist – .9 FTE

This position provides program management, technical staff coordination, and conservation planning and technical assistance to landowners primarily in the portion of the District's service area that is outside the City of Portland (including all of Sauvie Island). This position manages the District's *Healthy Streams* program and assists, primarily rural, land managers with special habitat, farm planning and education projects, and provides mentoring to the technical staff team.

Forest Conservationist – 1 FTE

This position provides conservation planning and technical assistance to woodland owners throughout the District and oversees all forestry management programs. Responsibilities include: conservation plan creation, native and invasive plant identification, field work & data collection including forest stand measurements and analysis, GIS/GPS mapping, community outreach, development of local forestry initiatives, report & article writing, project management, grant management, and program budget management.

Rural Conservationist – 1 FTE

This position provides conservation planning and technical assistance to landowners primarily in the portion of the District's service area that is outside the City of Portland (including all of Sauvie Island) and runs the farm & livestock conservation, soil health, water quality monitoring, Sturgeon Lake restoration and Internship programs. Other responsibilities include: conservation plan creation, field

work & data collection, GIS/GPS mapping, community outreach, report & article writing, project management, grant management, project and partner coordination and funding.

Urban Conservationist – 1 FTE

This position provides conservation planning and technical assistance to landowners in the District's service area within the City of Portland and runs the urban conservation programs (including Urban Watershed Mentors training, stormwater management, canopy weed, demo gardens, habitat restoration and conservation-related presentations to community groups). Responsibilities include: conservation plan creation, native and invasive plant identification, field work & data collection, GIS/GPS mapping, community outreach, report & article writing, project management, grant management, project and partner coordination and funding.

Invasive Species Program Coordinator – 1 FTE

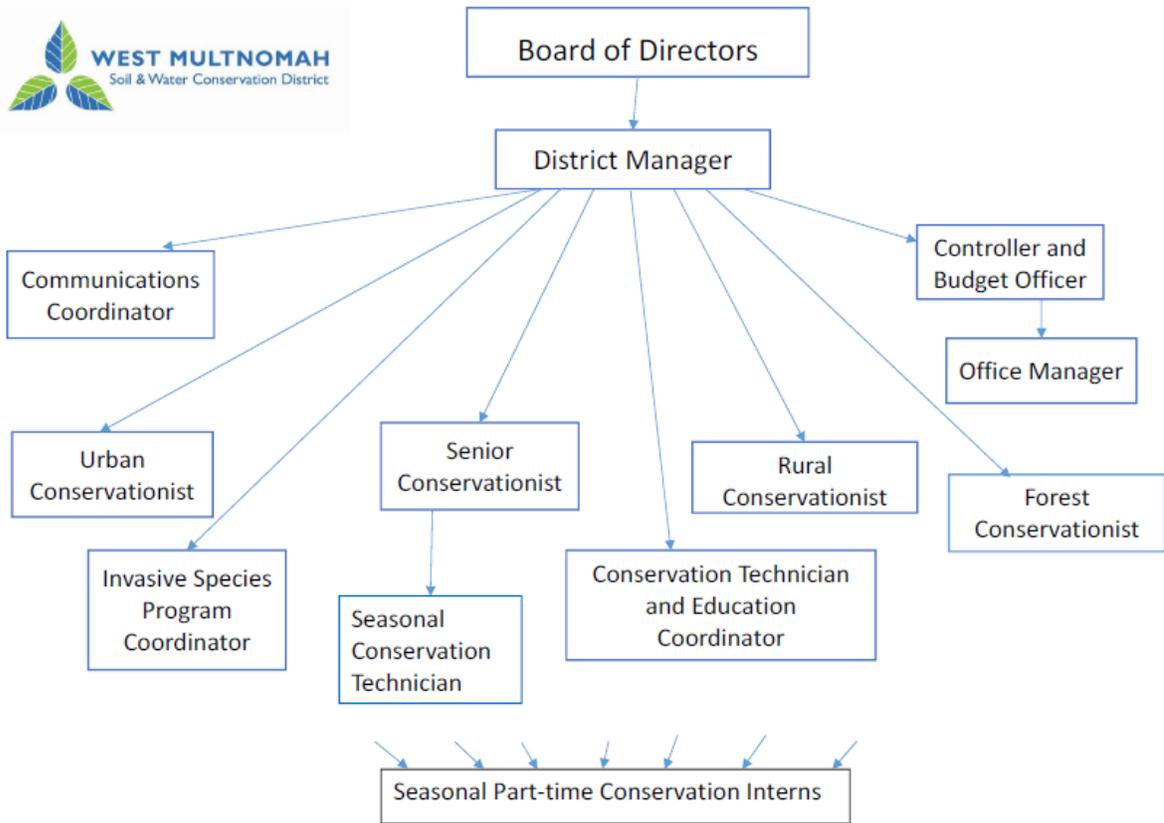
This position provides invasive species management plan creation, data tracking and program budget management, and coordination of the District's early detection-rapid response (EDRR) invasive plant program. Other responsibilities include managing the ODA OSWB grant, the Weed Watchers program, GIS/GPS mapping, community outreach, report & article writing, project management, and other invasive species-related programs and projects. Provides conservation planning and technical assistance to landowners, and participates in the local Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) and other related interagency organizations and community groups.

Conservation Technician/Education Coordinator – 1 FTE

This position provides assistance to conservationist/technical staff with field work, outreach efforts and data collection and management. This position also coordinates the Conservation District's K-12 and garden program and manages outreach efforts related to the website and social media.

Communications Coordinator – .6 FTE

This position provides internal and external communications services for the District. This includes creating District marketing, branding and educational materials, including publications, newsletters, and Annual Reports and other materials such as signage to promote the District and its programs. Additionally, this position manages all publicity and media relations for the District, assists staff to determine how to reach constituents, message and deliver program information, manages signature annual workshops and events, and assists District Manager in fundraising and communications related to the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project. This position also manages the District website and social media content.



Board of Directors

The Board of Directors consists of seven members elected countywide by voters. The Board works on a volunteer basis to set policy, plan goals, and enact a yearly budget for the District. Individual directors initiate and manage specific resource conservation projects through their involvement in watershed councils and non-profit organizations.

Volunteers

Volunteers include our associate directors and budget committee members. Additionally, community members help us with outreach efforts.

Partnerships

The District relies on partnerships with other local agencies and non-profit institutions to further its natural resource conservation goals. These partners are listed above in the Roles and Responsibilities section.

Facilities and Equipment

Staff is housed in the District's office, located in NW Portland, in the historic Montgomery Park office building at 2701 NW Vaughn Street, Suite 450; the District offices have been at this location since 2004. In 2009, the District signed an agreement with OSU Extension to house the Multnomah County Master Gardeners Hotline and volunteers at the District office.

Staff workstations are equipped with computers and phones. Staff share a copier and printer. Additional equipment includes a server and disk storage. The district owns three vehicles: a 2009 Ford Escape Hybrid (SUV Hybrid), a 1998 Ford Explorer (SUV), and a 2003 GMC Sonoma (Truck).

Funding

The District receives its funding primarily from property taxes and grants.

In 2006, voters in the District's service area approved a tax base beginning in fiscal year 2007-2008. This measure established a permanent rate limited at \$0.0750 (7.5¢) per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Specific natural resource conservation projects are funded through grants from:

- Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Oregon State Weed Board
- Metro (Nature in Neighborhoods Grant)

The current fiscal year's budget is included in Appendix D.

APPENDIXES

Appendix A: General Powers of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors

ORS 568.550(1). The board of directors of a soil and water conservation district has the following powers: [*Letters correspond to actual statute format.*]

- a. To secure surveys and investigations and do research relating to:
 - The character of soil erosion
 - The character of floodwater and sediment damage
 - All phases of the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water
 - The preventive measures, control measures and improvements needed
- b. To conduct demonstrational projects on lands within the district upon obtaining the consent of the owner and occupier of such lands.
- c. To carry out preventive and control measures on lands within the district upon obtaining the consent of the owner and occupier of such lands.
- d. To enter into written agreements (*see specifics in 568.330[(d)][A]&[(B)]*)
- e. To obtain options upon and to acquire by purchase, exchange, lease, gift, grant, bequest or devise any property, real or personal or rights therein, (*see specifics in 568.330[e]*)
- f. To borrow money and to mortgage personal property of the district as security (*see specifics in ORS 568.330[(f)]*)
- g. To issue general obligation bonds of the district as provided in ORS 568.803
- h. To make available, on such terms as the directors shall prescribe, to landowners or occupiers within the district, agricultural and engineering machinery and equipment, fertilizer, seeds and seedlings and other material or equipment.
- i. To construct, operate and maintain such structures as may be necessary or convenient for performance of any of the operations authorized in ORS 568.210 to 568.880 and 568.900 to ORS 568.933.
- j. To develop comprehensive plans and specifications for the conservation of soil resources and for the continued control of soil erosion within the district, and to publish such plans, specifications and information and bring them to the attention of owners and occupiers of the lands within the district.
- k. To take over, by purchase, lease or otherwise, and to administer, any soil conservation, erosion control or erosion prevention project, or combination thereof, located within district boundaries undertaken by the United States or any of its agencies, or by this state or any of its agencies.
- l. To manage, as agent of the United States or any of its agencies, or of this state or any of its agencies, any soil conservation, erosion control or erosion prevention project, or combination thereof, within district boundaries.
- m. To act as agent for the United States or any of its agencies, in connection with the acquisition, construction, operation or administration of any soil conservation, erosion control or erosion control project, or combination thereof, within district boundaries.
- n. To accept donations, gifts and contributions in money, services, materials, or otherwise from the United States or any of its agencies, or from this state or any of its agencies, and to use or expend such moneys, services, materials or other contributions in carrying on its operations.
- o. To sue and be sued in the name of the district, to have a seal, which shall be judicially noticed, to have perpetual succession unless terminated as provided by law, to make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers, and to make, and from time to time amend or repeal, rules not consistent with ORS 568.210 to 568.808 and 568.900 to 568.933 to carry into effect its purposes and powers.

- p. To purchase liability or indemnity insurance, in such amounts and containing such terms and conditions as the board believes necessary for the protection of directors, officers and employees of the district against claims incurred in the performance of their duties.
- q. To place liens on real and personal property.
- r. To enter into written agreements with, coordinate activities with and provide assistance to landowners, managers and residents within the districts and federal, state and local governments, relating to natural resource issues, including but not limited to issues of:
 - Agriculture and forestry
 - Economic development based upon natural resources
 - Watershed management and ecosystem health
 - Invasive species
 - Alternate and renewable energy
 - Air Quality
 - Animal waste and nutrient management
 - Carbon sequestration
 - Access to market-based services and certification
 - Fuel reduction and wildfire planning and management
 - Preservation of agricultural, forestry and other lands
- s. To conduct outreach and conservation education activities.
- t. To provide financial assistance, including but not limited to loans and grants to implement activities and projects authorized under ORS 271.715 to 271.795, 569.210 to 568.808 or 568.900 to 568.933.
- u. To hold patents, trademarks and copyrights.
- v. To hold conservation easements under ORS 271.715 to 271.795.

ORS 568.550(2). As a condition to the extending of any benefits under ORS 568.210 to 568.808 or 568.900 to 568.933 to lands or the performance of work upon lands, the directors may require contributions in money, services, materials or otherwise to any operations conferring such benefits, and may require landowners or occupiers to enter into and perform such agreements or covenants as to the permanent use of such lands as will tend to prevent or control erosion thereon.

ORS 568.550(3). In order to avoid duplication of activities under subsection (1)(a) of this section, the department may call upon other state and federal agencies for assistance and cooperation in their fields in accordance with memoranda of understanding to be signed by all cooperating agencies.

ORS 568.550(4). A district may not adopt land use regulations under ORS chapter 197, 215 or 227. A district has the standing of an affected landowner to participate in the public process involving administrative rules, regulations, goals, guidelines, plans or other public body actions that may affect one or more properties within the district.

Appendix B: Statutes and Administrative Rules

The District is specifically governed by Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 568.210 through 568.890. In addition, the Clatsop SWCD is subject, but not limited to, the conditions of several statutes and administrative rules as follows:

- ORS 568.900 through 568.933 (Agricultural Water Quality Management)
- ORS 561.395 (Soil and Water Conservation Commission)
- ORS 561.400 (Natural Resources Division)
- ORS 44.320 (Oath of Office)
- Oregon Constitution, Article XV, Section 3 (Oath of Office)
- ORS 190.003 through 190.110 (Intergovernmental Cooperation)
- ORS 192.001 (Public Records Policy)
- ORS 192.005 through 192.190 (Custody and Maintenance Records)
- ORS 192.310 (Records and Reports)
- ORS 192.410 (Inspection of Public Records)
- ORS 192.610 through 192.710 (Public Meetings)
- ORS 198.010 through 198.955 (Special Districts)
- ORS 198.330 through 198.365 (Dissolution of Inactive Districts)
- ORS 198.410 through 198.440 (Recall)
- ORS 240.379 through 240.394 (Employment of Persons with Severe Disabilities)
- Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Equal Opportunity Employment/Sexual Harassment/Discrimination) (Federal)
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Hiring Persons with Disabilities) (Federal)
- ORS 244.010 through 244.4000 (Conflict of Interest)
- ORS 247.035 (Residency)
- ORS 294.305 through 294.565 (Local Budget) (required of districts with a tax levy)
- ORS 297.005 through 297.712 (Contracting)
- ORS 297.405 through 297.485 (Municipal Audits)
- ORS 542.750 (watershed Protection and Flood Prevention)
- ORS 659.010 through 659.990 (Employment Practices)
- ORS 659.405 (State Policy/Employment of Disabled Persons)
- OAR 839-07-550 through 839-07-656 (Sexual Harassment Prevention)

Appendix C: Acronyms used in this Business Plan

AWQMP	Agriculture Water Quality Management Program
BMP	Best Management Practices
CWMA	Cooperative Weed Management Area
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality (Oregon)
DSL	Department of State Lands (Oregon)
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
ESA	Endangered Species Act (Federal)
EWP	Emergency Watershed Protection Program
FTE	Full Time Equivalent Employee (2080 hours/year)
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HEL	Highly Erodible Land
LAC	Local Advisory Committee
LMA	Local Management Agency (Oregon SB1010)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NACD	National Association of Conservation Districts
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NMFS	National Marine and Fisheries Service
NWMP	Northwest Weed Management Partnership
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly SCS)
OACD	Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
OAR	Oregon Administrative Rule
OCEAN	Oregon Conservation Employees Association Network
ODA	Oregon Department of Agriculture
OFRI	Oregon Forest Resources Institute
ORS	Oregon Revised Statute
OSU	Oregon State University
OSWB	Oregon State Weed Board (ODA)
OWEB	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
SCS	Soil Conservation Service (currently NRCS)
SDAO	Special Districts Association of Oregon
SB1010	Agricultural Water Quality Management Act of 1993 (OR)
SWCC	Soil and Water Conservation Commission
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
WRP	Wetland Reserve Program

Appendix D: Budget

General and Special Funds	Adopted Budget FY 2019-20
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	1,038,817
Federal, State and All Other Grants, Gifts, Allocations and Donations	289,406
Inter-fund Transfers	100,500
All Other Resources Except Property Taxes	70,613
Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	1,597,000
Total Resources	3,096,336

Personnel Services	1,250,250
Materials and Services	851,545
Capital Outlay	23,628
Inter-fund Transfers	100,500
Contingencies	50,000
Reserved for Future Expenditures	25,000
Unappropriated Ending Balance	820,413
Total Requirements	3,096,336

Appendix F: Priority Animal Species of our Foodshed, Watershed and Woodshed

The District endeavors to restore habitats that benefit federal and state listed species, including state “sensitive” species, and other declining species, as determined by Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and other national or regional wildlife authorities, such as Audubon Society, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, etc. The following is a list of just some of the species we hope to benefit from our restoration work.

- Acorn woodpecker
- Band-tailed pigeon
- Bat (various species)
- Bald Eagle
- Chinook, coho, steelhead, and other salmonids
- Coastal cutthroat trout
- Columbia White-tailed Deer
- Common nighthawk
- Common yellowthroat
- Douglas squirrel
- Dusky Canada goose
- Lamprey species
- Lewis’s woodpecker
- Mink
- Northern oriole
- Oregon vesper sparrow
- Osprey
- Pileated woodpecker
- Purple martin
- Red-legged frog
- Sandhill crane
- Slender-billed nuthatch
- Short-eared owl
- Spotted sandpiper
- Streaked horned lark
- Varied thrush
- Western blue bird
- Western bumblebee
- Western gray squirrel
- Western meadowlark
- Western painted turtle
- Western pond turtle (various species)
- Western toad
- White sturgeon
- Willow flycatcher
- Yellow-billed cuckoo
- Yellow-breasted chat

Appendix G: Anticipating and Adapting to Climate Change

The District considers climate change in its conservation planning, long-range plans and other activities. As described in the Oregon Climate Assessment Report (<http://occri.net/ocar>) and other scientific sources, habitats and wildlife populations are sensitive to climatic conditions, namely precipitation and temperature. Observed 20th century and future anticipated impacts include increased temperatures; stream flows that are higher in winter, lower in summer, and peak earlier in spring; the timing of bird migration, plant bud break, and insect life cycles; and vulnerability to other stressors such as more aggressive or new invasive species and pathogens.

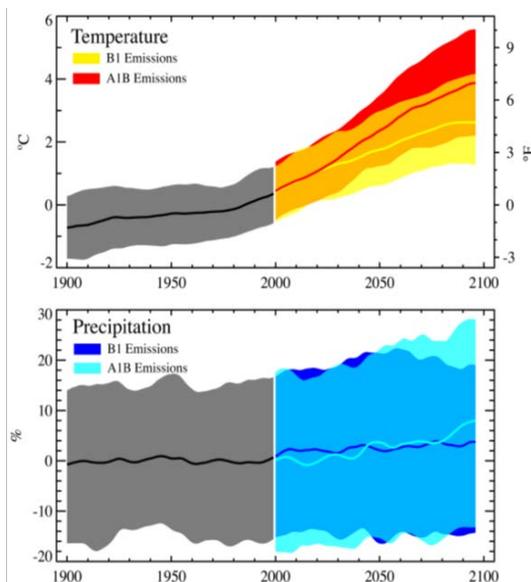
The region’s changing climate highlights the importance of the District's efforts to create healthy and resilient ecosystems, including enhanced upland and riparian forest, floodplains, wet meadow, marsh and other wetland and aquatic habitats. These improved ecosystems provide flood relief and habitat for salmon and other wildlife. Certain ecosystems, such as Oregon white oak habitat, may fare better than

others and, therefore, get increasing attention from the District. The potential for increased forest fire risk in the Pacific Northwest will increase the importance of creating healthy forests in the District. Increasingly high flows and arid summers call for greater attention to erosion control on slopes and in farm fields. The inclusion of a diversity of species in our habitat restoration projects, including those adapted to a warmer climate, will improve our chances of success.

The District will work with agricultural producers to become more resilient to climate change and its effects on crop production, water usage, rotations, species selection, soil management, and pest control. The District will also work with woodland owners to manage healthy and diverse forests that store carbon to slow climate change as well as build resiliency to the deleterious effects of warmer temperatures, altered hydrologic regimes, and increased insect, pathogen and invasive species pressure.

The District will track knowledge of regional and local climate-related trends to assess the need for adaptation of the District’s conservation programming and projects. Relevant research findings include the Willamette Valley vulnerability assessment, anticipated updates to the Oregon Conservation Strategy – for the Willamette Valley – by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy’s upcoming revision to the Willamette Valley Conservation Opportunities Map, and the (Portland Metro area) Intertwine regional assessment of biodiversity and wildlife corridor analysis.

Figure 1. Historic and projected temperature change (top panel) and percent precipitation change (bottom panel) in the Pacific Northwest from 20th and 21st century global climate model simulations.



The black curve for each panel is the weighted average of all models during the 20th century. The colored curves are the weighted average of all models in that emissions scenario (“low” or B1, and “medium” or A1B) for the 21 century. The colored areas indicate the range (5th to 95th percentile) for each year in the 21st century. All changes are relative to 1970-1999 averages.

Credit: Mote and Salathé, 2009 and 2010:

*Mote, P.W., Salathé E.P. 2010. Future climate in the Pacific Northwest. *Climatic Change* 102(1-2): 29-50, doi: 10.1007/s10584-010-9848-z*

*Mote, P.W. Salathé, E.P. 2009. Future Climate in the Pacific Northwest. Chapter 1 in: *The Washington Climate Change Impacts Assessment*. [Littell, J., M. M. Elsner, L. W. Binder, A. Snover (eds)]. *Climate Impacts Group, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.**