



Soil & Water
Conservation District

UMPQUA

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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www.umpquasoilandwater.com

Volume 10, Issue 3

Summer 2010

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District First Annual Farm Tour

By Rhonda Black, Conservation Technician/District Manager

The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District held its first annual farm tour in early June 2010. The tour was organized by Director Rod Brandon and provided the Directors, staff and their families an opportunity to observe different farming operations



Big K Guest Ranch Lodge

and practices in the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District.

The first stop on the tour was Tim and Sandie Shepherd's bison operation near Kellogg. Tim and Sandie took us on a walking tour of their property and described how they raise and care for their bison, sell their bison, and how they tend their land.

The second stop on the tour was just up the road on Highway 138 at the Big K Guest Ranch where we were met by the Big K Guest Ranch Manager, Kathie Larsen who is the daughter of ranch owner Alvin Kesterson. Kathie introduced us to Quintin

Magee who handles ranch operations for his grandfather, Alvin Kesterson. Quintin took us on a driving tour of the 2500 acre ranch pointing out to us different management techniques for the sheep and cattle operation, forest and pasture management practices, and what is in store for the future at the Big K Guest Ranch with the final stop on the tour being at the lodge and cabins. The tour of the lodge and cabins was provided by Kathie.

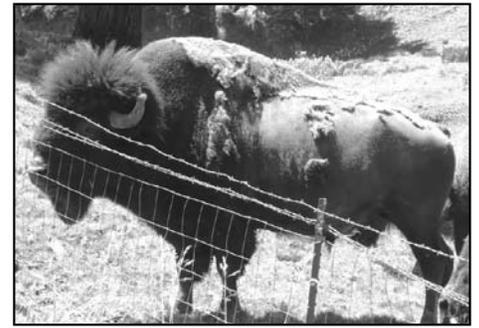
The third stop on the tour was at Bradley Vineyards near Elkton owned by John and Bonnie Bradley. While at the vineyard we were able to view the



Big K Guest Ranch

beautiful vineyard and later enjoy some wine tasting with good descriptions of the different wines provided by Bonnie.

The final stop of the day was the Elkton Community Education Center where we were able to view all of the exhibits and booths at the Blooms & Butterflies Celebration



Bison, near Kellogg, Oregon

followed by a BBQ dinner at the replica of Fort Umpqua on the Umpqua River.

The Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Directors and Staff would like to thank Tim & Sandie Shepherd, Kathie Larsen & Quintin Magee and everyone at the Big K Guest Ranch, John & Bonnie Bradley, Mike Brandt for saving the day when our bus needed a tire repair in order to get us on the road for the tour, Gillian Seitz for assisting us once again with repairs to the bus at the end of the day, and Connie Phelps who assisted us with additional transportation. Thank you Director Rod Brandon for organizing the tour!

If you would be interested in attending one of our farm tours in the future please contact the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District at (541) 662-1341 or rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com in order

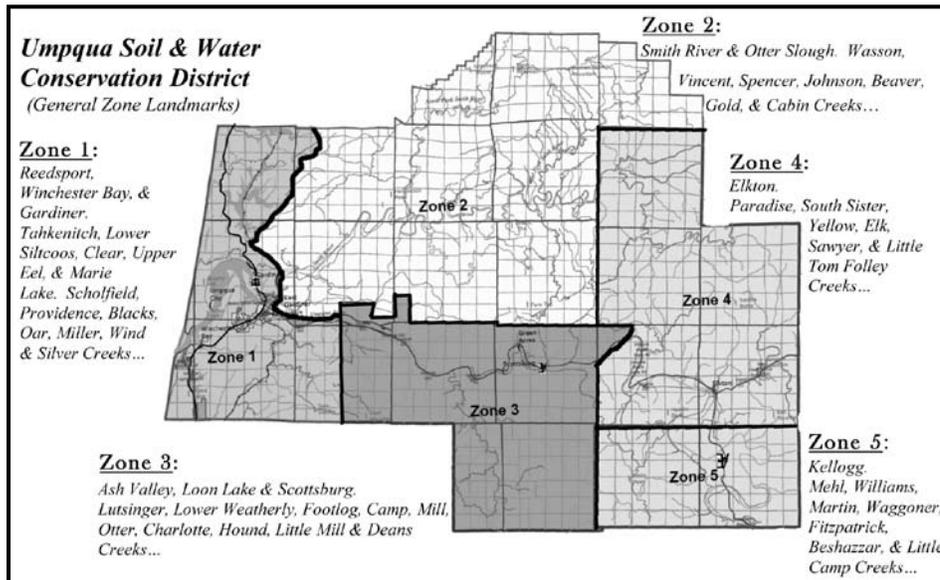


Bradley Vineyards near Elkton, Oregon

for your name to be placed on the farm tour list of attendees and so we can call you when we schedule another tour.



Landowner Tour Attendees: (L to R) Back: MJ Chain, David Chain (NRCS), Rod Brandon (Umpqua SWCD), Matt Ruwaldt (PURS), King Phelps (Umpqua SWCD), Tom Black (Umpqua SWCD), Laura Smith (Umpqua SWCD). Front: Gillian Sietz, Rhonda Black (Umpqua SWCD) and sons Trevor & Theran.



Get Involved, Join Our Team!

By Rhonda Black, Conservation Technician/District Manager

Would you like to be more involved with agriculture? Are you interested in soil and water, fish habitat and stream bank restoration? If so, we need your volunteer services as a Director of the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District is seeking anyone who is interested in filing as a candidate to run for one of four Director positions during the Nov. 2, 2010 General Election. All applicants must be residents of the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District which encompasses northwestern Douglas County taking in the areas of Winchester Bay, Reedsport, Gardiner, Smith River, Tahkenitch Lake, Ash Valley, Scottsburg, Elkton and Kellogg. Candidates must be registered voters. Four of the six positions require the candidates own or manage at least ten acres within the zone they are running for. The other two positions are At-Large positions which means the positions are open to all residents living within the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District boundaries and have no acreage or zone requirements. Directors serve as volunteers and each term lasts for four years. The new term begins January 1, 2011 after the newly elected Directors are officially sworn in as Directors during the January 2011 board meeting.

Candidate Filing Information: The filing period for the Nov. 2, 2010 General Election is July 15-Aug. 24, 2010. Information and application materials will be available after July 1, 2010 by calling the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District office at 541-662-1341, on the District website at <http://www.umpquasoilandwater.com>

or by emailing the District at rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com, or by visiting the District office at 2285 Longwood Drive in Reedsport. Information is also available from the Oregon Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division by calling 503-986-4775. Candidate application materials must be filed with the Oregon Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division no later than five o'clock p.m. on August 24, 2010.

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District board meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time and at 6:00 p.m. during Pacific Standard Time on the main floor of the Reedsport Coffee House & Bistro located at 2285 Longwood Drive in Reedsport. Occasionally, meetings are held in Elkton at the Elkton Community Education Center located on State Highway 38.

Helpful Zone Information:

Zone 1: Position currently held by Tom Black. A candidate running in the Zone 1 position needs to own or manage at least ten acres in Zone 1.

Zone 3: Position currently held by King Phelps. A candidate running in the Zone 3 position needs to own or manage at least ten acres in Zone 3.

Zone 4: Position currently held by Rod Brandon. A candidate running in the Zone 4 position needs to own or manage at least ten acres in Zone 4.

Zone 5: Position currently vacant. A candidate running in the Zone 5 Position needs to own or manage at least ten acres in Zone 5.

At Large 1: Position currently held by Paul Dailey. A candidate running in the At Large 1 position must live in the District.

At Large 2: Position currently held by Bob Sharp. A candidate running in the At Large 2 position must live in the District.

Summer Beekeeping Workshops "Talk About the Bees"

By Rhonda Black, Conservation Technician/District Manager

The first workshop of the summer was held Saturday, June 26th at The Bee Hive in Reedsport. Charles Williams who is a local bee keeper and owner of The Bee Hive presented information on Colony Collapse Disorder, bee diseases, history of the honey bee, honey bee keeping, how to keep bees healthy, information on native bees, Africanized honey bees, the intelligence of the honey bee, pollination, the honey bees role in agriculture and more. Please come join us and Charles for another "Talk About the Bees" this summer. The next workshop will be held in Elkton at the Elkton Community Education Center. If you would like to attend this event please feel free to contact the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District office at (541) 662-1341 or to contact The Bee Hive at (541) 271-2571 and that way we can call you with time and date of the event. Anyone interested in bees is welcome to attend! The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District thanks Charles Williams for the first "Talk About the Bees"!



About the District

The Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1953. The District's boundaries encompass 600,000 acres of northwestern Douglas County and include the communities of Reedsport, Gardiner, Winchester Bay, Smith River, Tahkenitch Lake, Ash Valley, Scottsburg, Elkton and Kellogg.

A seven member Board of Directors elected in the general election serve without pay to administer District activities.

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors

King Phelps – Chair
George Black – Vice Chair
Tom Black – Secretary/Treasurer
Rod Brandon
Paul Dailey
Bob Sharp

Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. during daylight savings time and 6:00 p.m. during standard time. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend meetings, which are generally held at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office, located within the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro, 2285 Longwood Drive in Reedsport.

SWCD Staff

Rhonda Black – Conservation Technician/
District Manager
Laura Smith – Assistant Conservation
Technician

"The mission of the locally led Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide assistance to any individual, group, or agency in applying natural resource conservation practices for the wise use of their natural resources."

Tsalila Field Trips 2010

By Rhonda Black, Conservation Technician/District Manager

The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District participated in the Tsalila Field Trips this spring along with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, and the Siuslaw National Forest. The field trips were scheduled for 6th & 7th grade students of Reedsport School District.

While the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District has participated in Tsalila Field Trips in the past, this year was the first year of having a station for both Conservation Technician Rhonda Black and Assistant Conservation Technician Laura Smith. The

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District station was the benthic macro invertebrate station where Umpqua Soil & Water staff provided information to students about benthic macro invertebrates (insects that live on the bottom of a stream, that are large enough to see without a microscope, and do not have a backbone), how to collect, sort, and identify macro invertebrates, what they eat, what eats them, where they fit into the food chain and their importance to streams and fish.

The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation



District would like to send a special thank you to Michael Northrop of the Siuslaw National Forest. Mike provided assistance the first day of the field trips and helped us “get our feet wet” in the learning process so we could teach others about benthic macro invertebrates. Thank you, Mike!

Tide Gate Monitoring Update

By Laura Smith, Assistant Conservation Technician

Several months ago I wrote an article introducing myself and stating that I would be working on the noxious weed inventory project as well as the tide gate monitoring project. Some of you have received surveys asking for information about your tide gates or noxious weed problems. Today, I am writing an update on the Tide Gate Monitoring project.

Over the course of the last several months I have been working with one of Umpqua SWCD's Directors, Rod Brandon, to locate the tide gates in our area. My goal is to create a database of all of the known tide gates within our district. The reason we are collecting this information is because tide gates pose a significant barrier to fish passage. Simply removing a tide gate that is no longer needed, or replacing it with a “fish friendly” tide gate could open up miles of fish habitat. The goal of Umpqua SWCD, as always, is to work with willing private landowners to implement conservation solutions that benefit agricultural land uses as well as natural resources.

To date, most of my tide gate monitoring has been focused on the Smith River which is where the majority of the tide gates in our district are located.

Summary of Tide Gate Findings (to date):

I have located approximately 35 tide gates along the Smith River, 4 tide gates along the main stem of the Umpqua, and 3 tide gates along Scholfield Creek. I am also aware of several tide gates along Dean's creek, but have not yet mapped them.

Type of Gate: By far, the most common tide gate in our area is the Waterman brand tide gate. These pre-fabricated tide gates are round, made of cast iron, hinged at the top and come in a variety of sizes to fit onto the end of any culvert.

There are also wooden tide gates, side-

hinged tide gates, rubber “duckbill” tide gates, and some people have gotten creative and built their own versions of a tide gate.

The most fish friendly tide gates are the side hinged tide gates because they open wider and stay open longer than the other varieties.

Condition of Gates: Because of the simple design of most tide gates, they function properly with little maintenance. However, the tide gates should be checked periodically to insure they are not filled with twigs or other debris. I have seen many tide gates become inundated by blackberries or jammed full of sticks. Tide gates will not function optimally under these conditions.

Unfortunately, a tide gate that is not working is often even worse for fish passage than a tide gate that is functional. So, it is important to keep the tide gates clear of debris.

Reason for Tide Gate Failure: The main cause of tide gate failure is culvert failure. Eventually metal culverts become rusty and water will leak out of holes from corrosion. Larger tide gates are more susceptible to breaking the culverts as the doors of large tide gates are heavy causing the culvert to bend and break under the stress of bearing such heavy weight as the tide gate opens and closes.

A Common Misconception about tide gates: “Fish friendly” side-hinged tide gates do not drain water as well as top-hinged tide gates. This saying is inaccurate. Actually, side hinged tide gates allow much more water to drain at a slower velocity than top-hinged tide gates do because top-hinged tide gates require greater water pressure to push the heavy door open. Side-hinged tide gates require less water pressure to open the doors, and the doors open wider than the top-hinged variety.



Blooms & Butterflies Celebration
Elkton, Oregon—Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Assistant Conservation Technician Laura Smith at the Umpqua SWCD informational booth.

Smith River Country Fair

Come join us on Sunday, Aug. 22, 10:00a.m. at the Smith River Grange Hall for the Smith River Country Fair for some old fashioned country fun for the entire family! The Smith River Grange members will be serving up their traditional pit barbecue beef dinner. There will be live entertainment, games and races, a giant zucchini contest, the chicken scramble and greased pig scramble, a rifle raffle along with vendors and displays. The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District will have a pool of benthic macro invertebrates and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife will be teaching kids how to cast on the Smith River.

Admission to the Smith River Country Fair is free. The BBQ beef dinner is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids ages 4-10 and free for kids 3 and under when accompanied by a paying adult.

This year the Smith River Country Fair is being put on by the Smith River Grange along with the Smith River Watershed Council, Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers, Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District,

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Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District

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... Smith River Country Fair

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Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw.

For more information about the Smith River Country Fair call Dawn at (541) 271-3222 or Brian at (541) 271-2223. If you would like information regarding renting a display booth at the Fair call Rhonda at (541) 662-1341.

See you at the Smith River Country Fair!

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Important Contact Information

Office Address: 2285 Longwood Drive, Reedsport, OR 97467
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 415, Reedsport, OR 97467
Telephone: (541) 662-1341
Fax: (888) 331-4348
Email: rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com
Website: www.umpquasoilandwater.com

How to Find Us:

If going north on Highway 101 take the first right onto Longwood Drive just as you enter Reedsport. For reference, the Reedsport High School will be across the street. Then turn right into the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro parking lot. Come on inside and visit us at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office.

If going south on Highway 101 drive through the last stoplight in Reedsport. Turn into the last turning lane and turn left onto Longwood Drive. Then turn right into the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro parking lot. Visit us upstairs at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office.

MEETINGS IN THE AREA

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District

Meets every 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM during daylight savings time and 6:00 PM during standard time. Generally held at the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro, 2285 Longwood Drive in Reedsport and occasionally held at the Elkton Community Education Center, 15850 Highway 38 West in Elkton. Contact Rhonda Black for information at (541) 662-1341 or email rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com.

Smith River Watershed Council

Meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Held at the Smith River Grange Hall, milepost #9 on Smith River Road. Contact Brian Swift for information at (541) 271-2223 or email swift@smithriverwatershed.org.

Gardiner/Reedsport/Winchester Bay Salmon Trout Enhancement Program

Meets every Wednesday at 8:00 AM. Held at the Gardiner hatchery at 76919 US Highway 101 North. Contact Dave Harris at (541) 271-4210.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

"To be a respected, valued community organization committed to managing the natural resources base for future generations. To ensure sustainable agricultural and forest production, supporting functioning human, wildlife, fish and forest habitat."

