



# UMPQUA

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Newsletter – Fall 2025

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District is a non-regulatory agency here to help our community conserve natural resources through educational, financial and technical assistance. Since 1953 Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District has been serving the residents of Northwestern Douglas County by partnering with landowners to empower them to be stewards and experts on their own land.

### UMPQUA SWCD EVENTS

#### Umpqua SWCD Small Grant Tour Summary



We had a great Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grant Tour at the Baumgartner Ranch where the Baumgartner Family and Umpqua SWCD showcased a project where rainwater management practices were implemented to protect water quality on the landowner's dairy goat operation. We led a tour for approximately twenty-five attendees where we showcased the project's various aspects and provided information about the new gutters, downspouts, drain lines, heavy use areas, off-stream livestock watering systems, and livestock exclusion fencing installed at the ranch. We also enjoyed a tasty barbecue lunch provided by the landowners and a tour of the landowner's impressive garden. The tour was held on Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> on the South Side Smith River near Reedsport.



Top & bottom photos show the landowner explaining how he implemented project. Right photo of garden.



Umpqua SWCD would like to thank the Baumgartner Family for implementing their agriculture water quality best managements project funded through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grant Program. We'd also like to thank the Baumgartner Family for hosting this wonderful and informative farm tour!

### Winchester Bay Coastal Crops Workshop

We had a great "Coastal Crops" workshop on September 13<sup>th</sup> at the Winchester Bay Community Center. Douglas County OSU Extension Service Small Farms Program Coordinator Logan Bennett presented a wide range of information about soil preparation, fertilization, growing and maintenance timeframes, and pruning information for growing coastal berries, followed by a short discussion about fruit trees. Umpqua SWCD Conservation Planner Rhonda Black presented information about soil testing, nutrient management, and agriculture water quality. We learned that a lot of people are interested in fruit tree pruning and have questions, which means we're going to follow-up this workshop with a fruit tree pruning workshop in Elkton at the Elkton Community Education Center Heritage Orchard in January or February 2026. Be on the lookout for the flyer and sign-up information on the Umpqua SWCD website and on the OSU Events website.



### Tsalila Education Days 2025

Tsalila Education Days celebrates 28-years of watershed and cultural resources youth education as of this September. Tsalila is a two-week event for third and fourth grade students from various school districts, coastal and inland, held each year at the Umpqua Discovery Center in Reedsport. Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District's station is "The Bug Zone" where we teach 3rd grade students about benthic macroinvertebrates, commonly known as water bugs, along with water quality at this hands-on learning station.

We would like to thank our volunteers who helped us collect the water bugs and assisted us at the Tsalila event this year!



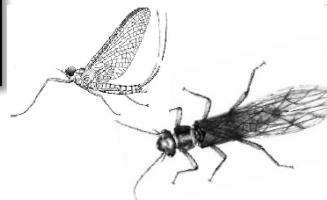
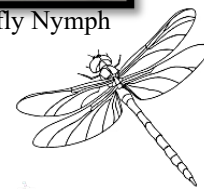
Umpqua SWCD District Manager Rhonda Black presenting information about water bugs: Life cycle, diet, identification, food for other wildlife, and how they are indicators of water quality.



Mayfly & Stonefly Nymphs



Dragonfly Nymph



## OTHER EVENTS



Umpqua SWCD will be hosting the Oregon Agricultural Trust Farm and Ranch Management Workshop at the Elkton Community Education Center Library on March 5, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. More information and registration details will be available soon on the Umpqua SWCD website.

## MEETINGS OF INTEREST

### Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Director's Meetings

November 13<sup>th</sup>, December 11<sup>th</sup>, January 8<sup>th</sup>, February 12<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup>, April 9<sup>th</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup>, June 11<sup>th</sup>

Meetings are generally held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. and held virtually.

Meeting information can be found on our website at <https://www.umpquasoilandwater.com/board-meetings>

### Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. with a presentation of the Annual Report and Report in Lieu of an Audit. Meeting will be held virtually.

### Elk Creek Watershed Coalition Meetings

Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., in-person at the Drain Civic Center, 205 West A Avenue, Drain, Oregon 97435.

## MISSION STATEMENT

“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.”

## NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email? Send us an email with “newsletter” in the subject line to [rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com](mailto:rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com) to let us know! If you are not yet receiving this newsletter and would like to, but don't use email, call (541) 662-1341 and we'll add you to our mailing list.

## DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT-JOIN OUR BOARD!

**The District is currently recruiting for Zone 2 and Zone 3 positions to be appointed to the Umpqua SWCD Board of Directors.**

### Zone Director qualifications:

Must be a registered voter within the Umpqua SWCD boundary in Douglas County.

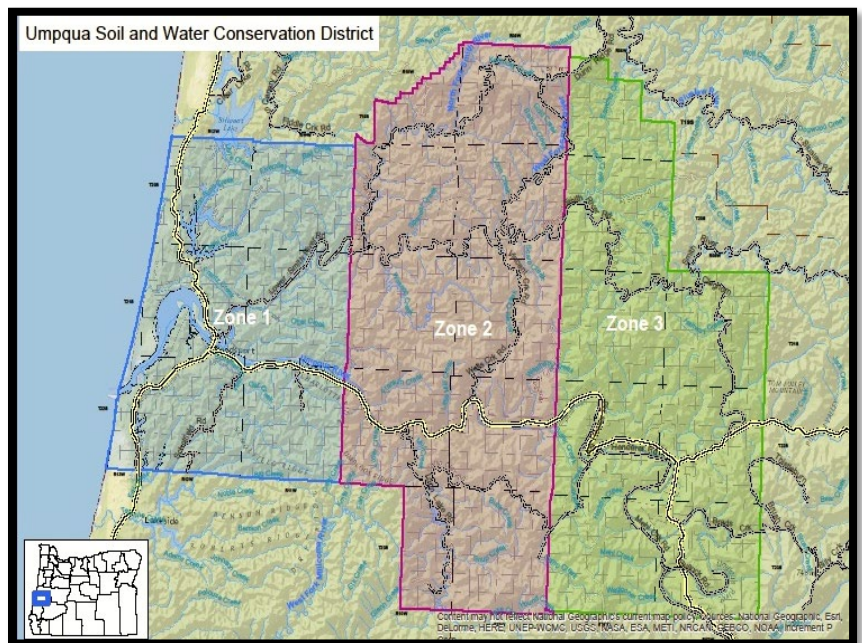
Reside within the zone being represented within the District.

Own or manage 10-acres of land within the zone represented, **or**

Serve at least one year as a Director or Associate Director and have a District-approved conservation plan.

An interactive map of the District and zones can be found at:

<https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=31b2f5ae9d494ecfbf7ff2608061a63f>



Interested in replacing your tide gates that may be undersized or not working as well as you would like?

**Umpqua SWCD can assist you with your tide gate replacement project(s)!**



Join us and our partners for a post tide gate installation tour in the future!

**Small Grants Program**

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grants are available to District residents and producers for a variety of water quality/Ag WQ and habitat improvement projects through our Umpqua 7 Small Grant Team! Now is the time to start thinking about projects to implement in the Spring of 2026.

You know your property better than anyone else. Look around and let us know what you need assistance with. Contact the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Office in order to begin the application process. Grants are available in amounts up to \$20,000.

Project Examples:  
Livestock Exclusion Fencing, Off-Stream Watering Systems, Heavy Use Livestock Areas such as Hardened Livestock Feeding Areas, Improved Livestock Crossings, Manure Storage Facilities, and More!

**Soil Testing: Are You Prepared for Spring? Do you know your soils pH?**

Contact the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Office today to schedule your soil test in preparation for Spring lime applications. Lime can take several months after application to break down and change your soil pH. Lime should never be applied to pastures that are stressed or dormant, so please keep that in mind.

**Farm Conservation Planning**

Farm Conservation Plans are documents developed jointly by Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District and land managers. Farm Conservation Plans include actions that land managers can take to achieve their land use goals while protecting water and other natural resources. The planning process takes into consideration the size of the farm, type of soils, slope of the land, proximity to streams or water bodies, type of livestock or crops, and resources such as machinery, buildings and available finances.

Umpqua SWCD’s Conservation Planner looks at changes that can be made to improve farm productivity and reduce impacts on natural resources. Some examples include stream-side fencing, gutters and downspouts, composting manure, pasture management and renovation, weed management, creating sacrifice areas, cross fencing and pasture rotation of livestock. Our Farm Conservation Planner can offer technical assistance on questions such as what grasses to plant, how to build a fence and when to mow.

Once the land manager has decided which changes they’d like to make on their property, they work with our Conservation Planner to set a tentative implementation schedule. Revisions of the schedule and the plan can be made as the goals and needs of the land manager change.

Farm Conservation Plans can help land managers, who have livestock, to meet the requirements of the Oregon Department of Agriculture Umpqua Basin Agricultural Water Quality Area Plan. This document can be found by going to:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/Documents/Publications/NaturalResources/UmpquaAWQMAreaPlan.pdf>

All aspects of Farm Conservation Planning services provided by Umpqua SWCD are free of charge and without obligation. Umpqua SWCD is a non-regulatory, non-enforcement agency.

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