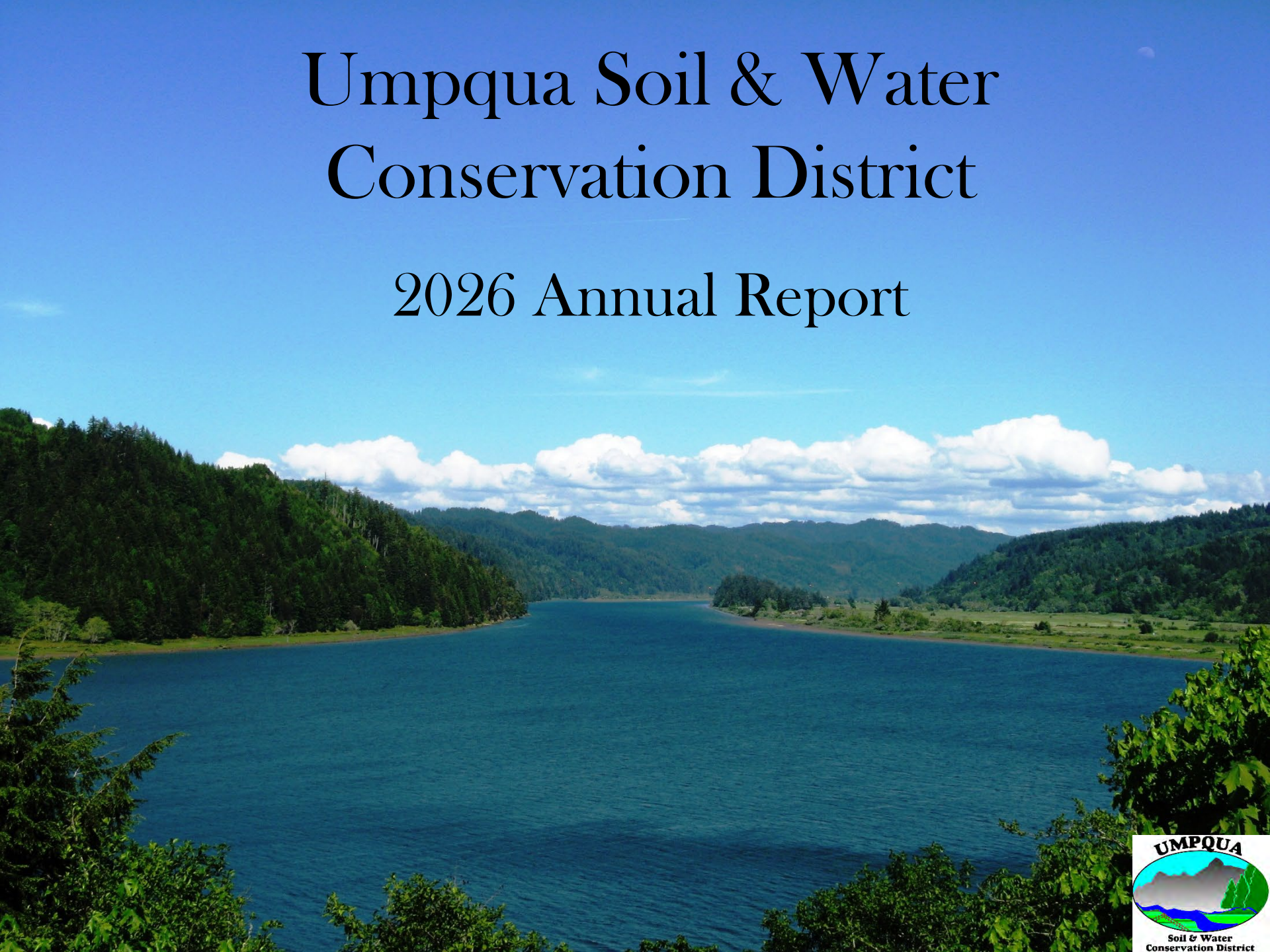
Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District

2026 Annual Report



Your Partner in Conservation Since 1953

•In the early 1930's parallel with the Great Depression came the ecological disaster known as the Dust Bowl. The Dust Bowl began as a long, severe drought in the Great Plains region causing soil to erode and blow away creating huge black dust storms. Eventually, these dust storm reached the entire nation and dust even sifted onto President Franklin D. Roosevelt's desk from the dust clouds. While soil scientist Hugh Hammond Bennett was testifying on Capitol Hill about the erosion problem he threw back the curtains to reveal a sky blackened by dust. Congress unanimously passed the Soil Conservation Act of 1935 declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. Since ¾ of the land in the United States is privately owned Congress concluded active, voluntary support from landowners would guarantee success of conservation work on private land. Landowners then formed the soil conservation districts in each of their states. The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District was established on April 30, 1953.

•Conservation Districts can be described as the local committee that increases public awareness and participation in resource conservation. Conservation Districts represent cooperators since cooperators are land users who can speak for the land, and develop plans for resource conservation bringing together entities to work on local common conservation problems. Districts identify barriers preventing land conservation and bring proposed solutions to governing bodies. Conservation Districts are best described as the marriage of education, science and technology in agriculture and natural resources at the local level.

Dust storm approaching Stratford, Texas
April 1935

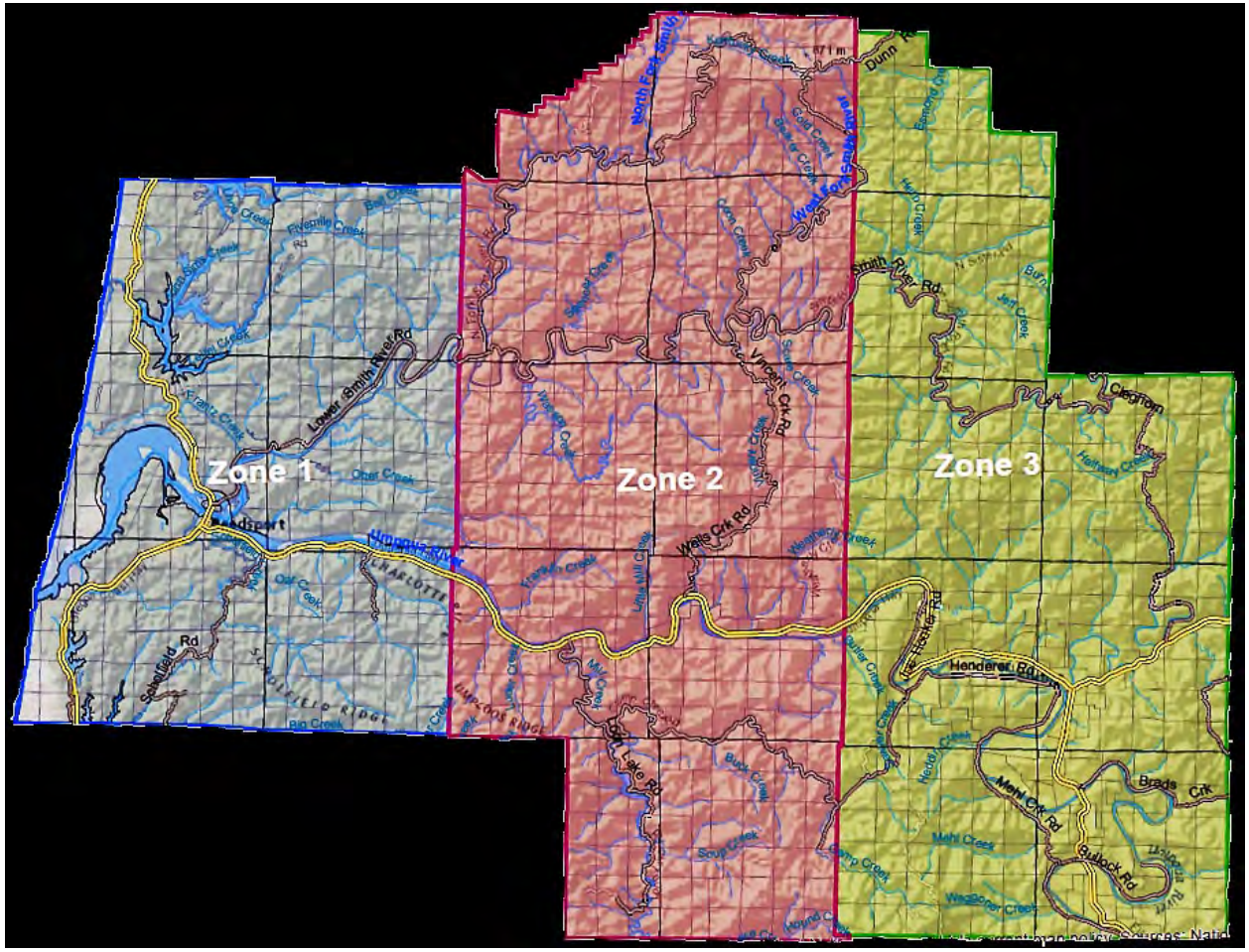


Photo Courtesy of: NOAA George E. Marsh Album

UMPQUA
Soil & Water
Conservation District

Our Location

The Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District boundaries encompass 600,000 acres of northwestern Douglas County in the Lower Umpqua watershed including Winchester Bay, Reedsport, Gardiner, Tahkenitch, Siltcoos, Five-Mile, Smith River, Scottsburg, Ash Valley, Elkton, and Kellogg.



UMPQUA
Soil & Water
Conservation District

Who We Are

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

Directors

- Zone 1 – Thomas Black
- Zone 2 – Vacant
- Zone 3 – Vacant
- At-Large 1 – Kate Baumgartner
- At-Large 2 – Nathan Baumgartner

Staff

- Rhonda Black – District Manager/Certified Conservation Planner

Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend meetings, which are held on the virtual Go-To-Meeting platform and occasionally in-person with a virtual option.



"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"

Our Projects

UMPQUA Soil & Water Conservation District

Glover Estuary Enhancement Partnership Project



Our Projects

Glover Estuary Enhancement Partnership Project

Many estuarine wetlands along the coast have been filled, cleared, diked and drained for agriculture or urban development. Tidal wetlands along the lower Smith River were converted to pastures on 135 acres of the Glover Ranch by building levees, reconfiguring stream channels to ditches and installing tidegates to control the incoming tide.

Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR), Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District (USWCD), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Glover Family are collaborating to complete fish passage, tidal channel work and livestock management needed to improve ecological conditions in the Umpqua Estuary. In the fall of 2023, two failing tidegates were replaced and retrofitted with muted tidegate regulators to increase fish passage. Tidal channels were rebuilt, livestock management fencing and complimentary off-channel water systems are in the process of being built, low water fords were replaced with bridges and tidal channels will be enhanced with native plantings. Muted Tide Regulators are adjusted at each tidegate to provide 30 flooded acres at each high tide during the winter season and 15 acres during high tides occurring in the summer. Approximately 5.38 miles of livestock fence will be built 20’ from the channel, and over 5,300 native plants will be established along the tidal channels.

This project is located in the tidal wetlands of the Umpqua River Estuary, an area important to ESA listed Oregon Coast coho and eulachon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey and a variety of other native fish.

On July 31, 2023 Umpqua SWCD organized and hosted a pre-project tour in collaboration with the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers and the landowner. The tour was held for landowners, Umpqua SWCD staff and Directors, and PUR staff and council members. Another tour will be held once the project is complete.

Our Projects

Glover Estuary Enhancement Project Background
A timeline of how we got to this point:

- 2008 – BLM awards Umpqua SWCD with the Umpqua SWCD Tide Gate Monitoring Cooperative Agreement.
- 2009 – Umpqua SWCD sends tide gate survey letter to landowners requesting feedback.
- 2010 – Umpqua SWCD begins locating and prioritizing tide gates throughout both river systems and tributaries for future maintenance and replacement with fish friendlier options for interested landowners.
- 2010 – Umpqua SWCD assists the Oregon Coastal Management Program with mapping "Tidegates and Dikes of the Umpqua & Smith Rivers" by taking Coastal Fellow Representative to tour river systems.
- 2011 – Umpqua SWCD tide gate inventory is completed. Inventories were done by boat from the rivers. Approximately 59 Smith River & 18 Umpqua River tide gates are located. Tide Gate Reports for both the Umpqua & Smith River are completed. Umpqua SWCD prioritization begins. If additional tide gates are found they will be added to the reports and prioritization.
- 2011 – Umpqua SWCD holds tide gate tour for agencies to view tide gates with a guided tour by boat from the river.
- 2011 – Umpqua Estuary Restoration Partnership (UERP) formed to provide technical assistance from agencies, permitting, and restoration groups to Umpqua SWCD and watershed councils for continued tide gate prioritization. The group's objective is to, "Sustain active productive agricultural lands in balance with lands suitable as estuaries for the benefit of aquatic habitat." Tide gate matrix is started to add additional levels of prioritization including information from "Tidal Wetland Prioritization for the Umpqua River Estuary" by Laura Brophy, which is a wetland assessment, along with ODFW fish passage and spawning habitat information, and beneficial impacts such as rearing potential and seasonal water availability. Cultural resources and benefits are also included.
- 2013 – Umpqua SWCD designates Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Focus Area to focus on tide gates on agriculture lands on portions of Lower Smith River and Otter Slough/Brainard Creek.
- 2014 – Memorandum of Understanding is signed between Umpqua SWCD and Partnership for Umpqua Rivers to work on tide gate projects and related grants and projects as a joint effort.

Our Projects

Glover Estuary Enhancement Project Background
A timeline of how we got to this point:

•2014 – Umpqua SWCD applies for an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Technical Assistance Grant to fund landowner outreach, education, project design and engineering, to continue the prioritization process, and for staff time for Umpqua SWCD and PUR. The OWEB grant "Umpqua Estuary Tidegate Prioritization & Landowner Identification" is awarded to Umpqua SWCD and work continues with partners. Additional prioritization occurs, and meetings with interested landowners begins.

•2015 – UERP tide gate tour hosted by Umpqua SWCD for NRCS engineering staff and partners (NRCS, BLM, USFWS, ODFW, NOAA Fisheries, and PUR).

•2016 – Mr. Glover invites Umpqua SWCD and PUR to visit his ranch to learn more about the tide gate program.

•2018 – PUR applies to OWEB for a Technical Assistant Grant for design, engineering, permitting, and staff time for PUR and SWCD. The OWEB grant "Glover Tidegate Replacement and Channel Re-meander" is awarded to PUR.

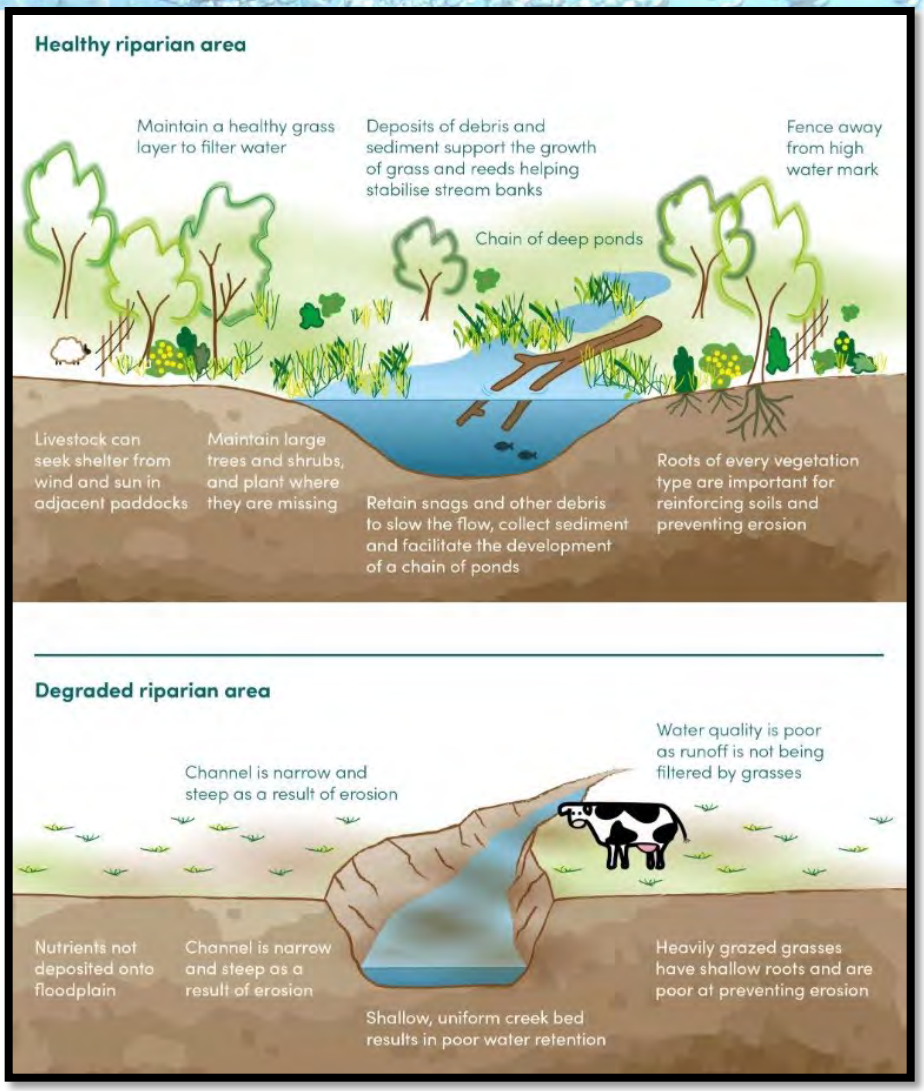
•2018 – South Coast Tide Gate Collaborative Group formed to combine tide gate efforts among cooperating agencies along the entire south coast.

•2019 – PUR applies to OWEB for a Restoration Grant to fund replacement of 2 failing tide gates in order to increase fish passage, upgrade tidal channels where needed, build livestock grazing management fencing and off-channel water systems, replace low water fords with 4 bridges, and enhance channels with native plants. Muted Tide Regulators will be adjusted at each tide gate to provide a designated number of flooded acres at high tide in the winter and a designated number of acres during high tides in the summer. Approximately, 5.38 miles of livestock fence will be built 20' from the channel, and 5,300 native plants planted along channels. The Umpqua River Estuary is important for Oregon Coast coho and eulachon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey. Funds will be used for project management, contracted services including tide gates, fence materials, staff time for PUR/Umpqua SWCD, and PUR administration. The OWEB grant "Glover Estuary Enhancement" is awarded to PUR.

Our Projects

Glover Estuary Enhancement Project Background
A timeline of how we got to this point:

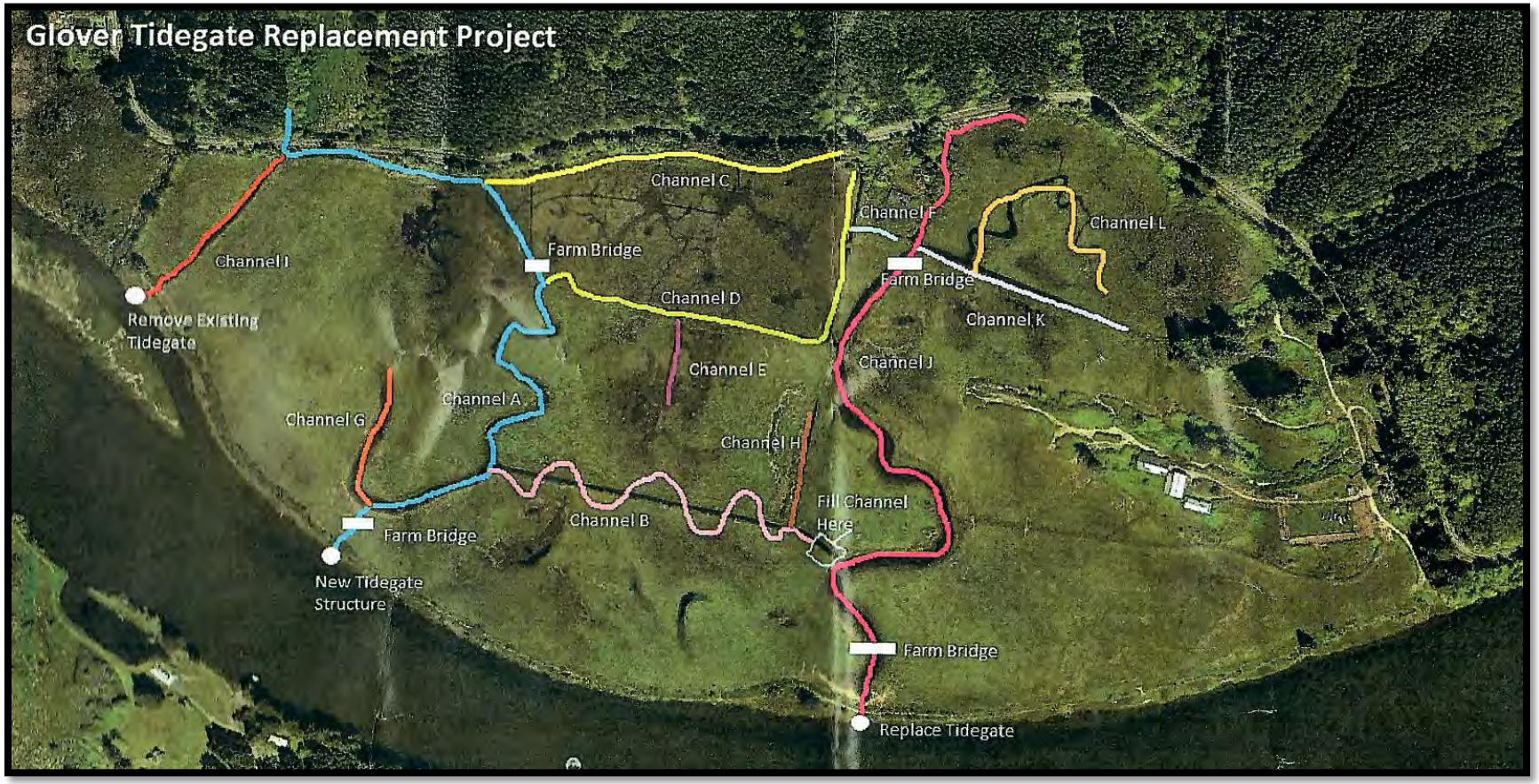
- 2021 – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) creates "Technical Note 29: General Design Guidelines for Tide Gates" based off of data from UERP group, meetings with NRCS engineering staff, and contracted engineering and design personnel. This becomes part of their "Field Office Technical Guide" or FOTG.
- 2023 – PUR completes permit process, construction of tide gates by contractor is completed. Tide gates, culverts, and bridge materials are delivered to staging site. Tide gate implementation pre-project tour scheduled. Work to begin first week of August. Tidegates installed September 2023. Dewatering begins.
- 2024 – Livestock crossing bridges installed and livestock exclusion fencing construction begins September 2024.
- 2025 – Off-stream livestock watering system designed with the assistance from NRCS, Porior Engineering, Umpqua SWCD, Mr. Glover, with consultation from Curry SWCD for additional technical guidance, and will be installed with heavy use areas at each livestock water tank during the summer of 2027.
- 2027 through 2029 – One side of each channel will be planted with native plants to provide streamside shade and habitat for fish and other wildlife, which will create a healthy riparian area as well.



Our Projects

Glover Estuary Enhancement - Informational Map:

The original plan with Mr. Glover's property was a holistic approach for obtaining both an improved ranching system for hay land and pasture forage production while addressing fish passage and juvenile salmonoid wintering habitat. The bonuses would be improved water quality and water quantity along with livestock rotational grazing with less mud in the winter and reduced potential for soil compaction. Native plantings would increase wildlife habitat.



Our Projects

Glover Estuary Enhancement Project – Information:

Of course, there were some steps to follow to get where we needed to be:

- Grants
- Water Management Plan
- Cooperator Agreement
- Conservation Farm Plan
- Designs
- Engineering
- Permits
- Tidegates
- Bridges
- Planting Plan
- Fencing Plan
- Livestock Watering Plan



March 2023 – Tide gates constructed at Nehalem Marine and ready for delivery to the Glover Ranch.

Our Projects

Glover Estuary Enhancement Project – Information:







Items Delivered to staging area at the Glover Ranch:

Top Left: 05/16/2023 – Tidegates & MTRs
Top Right: 05/25/2023 – Culverts for Tidegates
Bottom Left: 06/08/2023 – Concrete Bridge Materials

Our Projects

Glover Estuary Enhancement Project – Pre Project Implementation Tour:



GLOVER ESTUARY ENHANCEMENT

PRE-PROJECT TIDE GATE TOUR

About the Tour:

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District and the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers invite you to our pre-project tide gate tour!

We are ready to begin replacement of 2 tide gate structures at the Glover Estuary Enhancement site on Lower Smith River.

We will be providing an informational talk, followed by a walk out to the project site to view the closest tide gate set for removal and see the new tide gate structures that will be replacing the old tide gate structures.

For more information, or with questions, contact Rhonda Black at Umpqua SWCD at (541) 662-1341 or by email at rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com .

Are you interested in replacing old, undersized, or failing tide gates at your property?

Then join us for this tour!

When: Monday, July 31, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. until noon.

Where: 4859 Lower Smith River Road, Reedsport, OR 97467.

Parking is limited. Consider carpooling.

Signage at Gate Entrance!







Our Projects

Glover Estuary Enhancement Project – Tidegate Installations:



September 2023 – One tide gate & culvert being moved to the installation location.



September 2023 – One of the double tide gates & culverts being moved to the installation location.

Our Projects

Glover Estuary Enhancement Project – Tidegates Installation Post Construction Meeting:



September 2023 – Single tide gate and culvert installation.



October 2023 – Post construction meeting at the single tide gate site.
Clockwise from front:
Umpqua SWCD Director Tom Black, Landowner Cliff Glover, PUR Project Manager Suzanna Nordhoff, PUR Executive Director Kevin Keller, Contractor Leo Kuntz, and Engineer Don Porior.

Our Projects

Glover Estuary Enhancement Project – Tidegates Installation Post Construction Meeting:



September 2023 – Double set of tide gates in process of being installed.



Interior view of MTR System with walkway installed on the left, and tide gate culverts on right.

Our Projects

Glover Estuary Enhancement Project – Tidegates Installation Post Construction Meeting:



Interior view of MTR System with walkway installed on the left, and tide gate culverts installed on right.

Tide gate Contractor, Engineer, Project Manager, and PUR Executive Director standing on dike on top of tide gate.



Reviewing Project.
From left: Umpqua SWCD Director Tom Black, Landowner Cliff Glover, Contractor Leo Kuntz, Engineer Don Porior, PUR Executive Director Kevin Keller, and Project Manager Susanna Nordhoff.

Our Projects

UMPQUA Soil & Water Conservation District

Glover Estuary Enhancement Project – Bridge Installations



Bridges being installed
September 2024



Our Projects

Glover Estuary Enhancement Project – Bridge Installations:



September 2024 – View of one of the installed bridges used for cattle and equipment crossing.

Our Projects

Glover Estuary Enhancement Project – Livestock Exclusion Fencing & Off-Stream Watering Facilities In-Process of being Constructed



In order to protect water quality and maintain livestock and pasture health, livestock exclusion fencing is in the process of being installed to keep livestock contained within in the field and out of the channels and riparian areas. A large off-stream livestock watering system is also being developed to provide fresh water to livestock as livestock will no longer be able to access stream channels.

Photo is of unfenced channel and riparian buffer area susceptible to livestock damage the longer it goes without livestock exclusion fencing.

Tidegate Information

Side Hinge Tide Gates with Muted Tide Gate Regulators:

From Nehalem Marine Manufacturing:

"The goal of the MTR is to maximize both quantity and quality of fish passage, improve interior water quality, restore the juvenile habitat range. Current land use is a huge factor so the design goal in many cases is to allow maximum restoration values that remain compatible with current land use.

- Traditional tide gates featured heavy wooden or metal top hinge doors that even when open pose a formidable barrier to fish passage and no tidal exchange. By design they are DEFAULT CLOSED. They remain firmly closed until substantial differential levels force them open. This means for example, during dry seasons, there may be long periods with no fish passage. A huge improvement came with the MTR because these systems become DEFAULT OPEN. This means the system will normally be in an open condition, providing tidal exchange and fish passage, any time the interior water level permits it. Much of the improvement is obtained by providing an auxiliary source of energy to open the gate even during times of very small or absence flows. This energy is derived from a weighted float tank (modulator) falling. In many cases the MTR will actually force the door open against a small head creating an additional tidal exchange.
- The MTR is revolutionary and exclusive because gate control is dependent on the INTERIOR LEVEL. All attempts at tide gate controllers up to this time were dependent on EXTERIOR LEVELS. Exterior levels are highly dynamic and using them to control tide gates normally ends in restoration levels being compromised. Interior level precise control allows the highest level of restoration allowed by the current interior land use. Of course, the highest level of restoration is always obtained by FULL reconnection but in most cases infrastructure and development will not allow that. At this time the MTR represents the highest level of fish passage and restoration short of reconnection.
- The MTR opens the tidegate through a series of linkages which move as a reaction to the modulator (float tank) rotating downward. Likewise, when the modulator rotates upwards (due to the rising interior water level) these linkages close the tidegate."
- More information can be found at http://www.nehalemmarine.com

Tidegate Information

Side Hinge Tide Gates with Muted Tide Gate Regulators:



Exterior (river side) of single tidegate structure shown with a side opening tidegate & muted tidal regulator (MTR).

Glover Ranch 01/19/2024 during high water event.



Interior (field side) of double tidegate and culvert structure shown with MTR installation on interior.

Glover Ranch 01/19/2024 during high water event.

Our Projects

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grant Program:

From OWEB:

"The Small Grant Program enables landowners across the state to contribute to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds and the Oregon Conservation Strategy by committing "small acts of kindness" on their properties for the benefit of water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife. From planting native plants along stream sides to reducing sedimentation and erosion from upland farms and ranches, citizens everywhere can make a difference."

"The Small Grant Program is an easy-to-engage-in, competitive grant program that awards up to $20,000 for on-the-ground restoration projects principally carried out on private lands across Oregon. This program responds to a need for local decision-making about watershed restoration opportunities on a shorter timeframe than is available under OWEB's regular grant program."

Umpqua SWCD participates in several OWEB Small Grant Teams, and submits grant application to the Umpqua 7 Team in Douglas County. Membership includes both Umpqua and Douglas SWCDs, Watershed Councils, and the Confederated Tribes.

Our Projects

OWEB Small Grant – Providence Creek Runoff Management & Heavy Use Area:

This project is an Agriculture water quality project being implemented to protect the adjacent streams, including Providence Creek and the Umpqua River Estuary by addressing roof runoff and providing for an additional heavy use area to hold livestock during the wet season on the Oregon Coast. While protecting salmon and other wildlife, this project will also reduce mud around the barn and provide a better environment for livestock during the winter, or anytime an area to remove livestock from fields may be needed. The landowner has worked with Umpqua SWCD and OWEB in the past by taking part in the OWEB Small Grant Program to build a livestock exclusion fence. The landowners also put in this heavy use area on their own in 2011 (shown left). This project will increase the size of the current heavy use area, which proved to be undersized for the amount of cattle being maintained over the winter, while also providing for gutters and downspouts on the barn to reduce the amount of runoff near the barn and livestock areas.



Our Projects

OWEB Small Grant – Providence Creek Runoff Management & Heavy Use Area:





The previous gutter configuration was inadequate for the length of the barn (100'x84'), lacked downspouts, which couldn't keep up with the large capacity of water produced by coastal rain events.

Our Projects

OWEB Small Grant – Providence Creek Runoff Management & Heavy Use Area:

Heavy duty gutters and downspouts being installed on livestock barn.
This installation will reduce runoff by sending clean downspout water to an underground pipeline which will be piped to an existing infiltration area.





Our Projects

OWEB Small Grant – Providence Creek Runoff Management & Heavy Use Area:

Using trencher to prepare for drain line installations.





Our Projects

OWEB Small Grant – Providence Creek Runoff Management & Heavy Use Area:



Drain line installation for gutters & downspouts.

Our Projects

OWEB Small Grant – Providence Creek Runoff Management & Heavy Use Area:

Stockpiled gravel for extension of heavy use area and graded area where heavy use area extension will be located. The area is in the process of being graded and slightly sloped.





Our Projects

OWEB Small Grant – Providence Creek Runoff Management & Heavy Use Area:

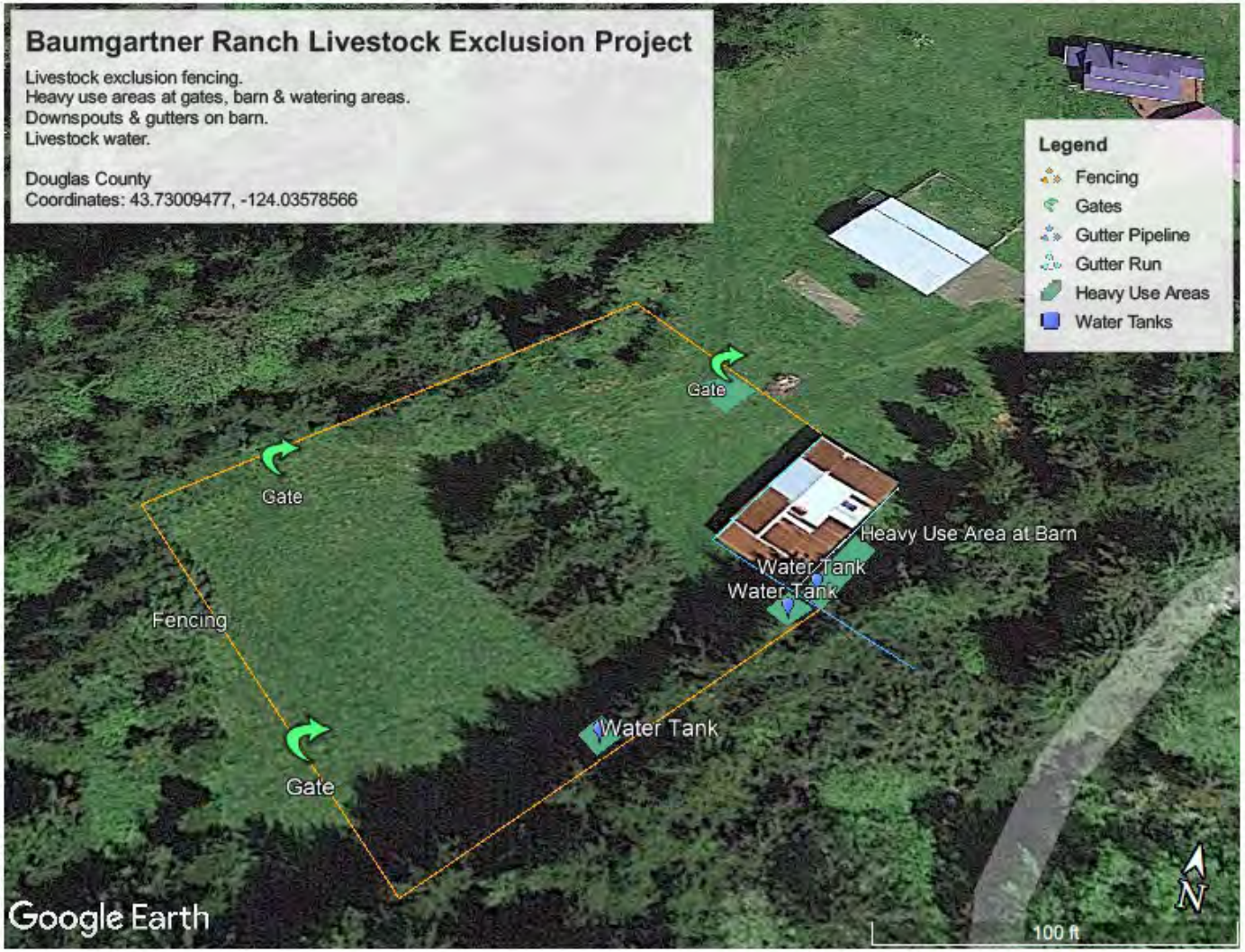
Heavy use area staked for fence posts, geotextile fabric laid down with 6”+ of gravel laid over the fabric, which will be compacted. The landowner plans on fencing the entire heavy use area (old and new) in order hold livestock in area overwinter in order to protect pastures and water quality.





Our Projects In-Process

OWEB Small Grant – Baumgartner Ranch Livestock Exclusion:



Baumgartner Ranch Map

Each small grant starts with an agriculture water quality plan being written for the landowner by Umpqua SWCD's Conservation Planner. This plan provides cost benefit information, mapping, and AgWQ practice information which can be helpful to the landowner.

Our Projects In-Process

OWEB Small Grant – Baumgartner Ranch Livestock Exclusion:



Similar to the Providence Creek Project, the Baumgartner Ranch Livestock Exclusion Project seeks to protect water quality by addressing agriculture water quality issues and implementing best management practices. This project includes installing gutters, downspouts, and a pipeline to send clean downspout water to an underground pipeline which will be piped to an existing infiltration area. In addition, the project includes off stream livestock watering facilities, along with heavy use areas at the barn for holding livestock, at watering facilities and gateways to reduce mud at these heavily used areas by livestock and people. This project also serves to protect portions of the property enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Our Projects In-Process

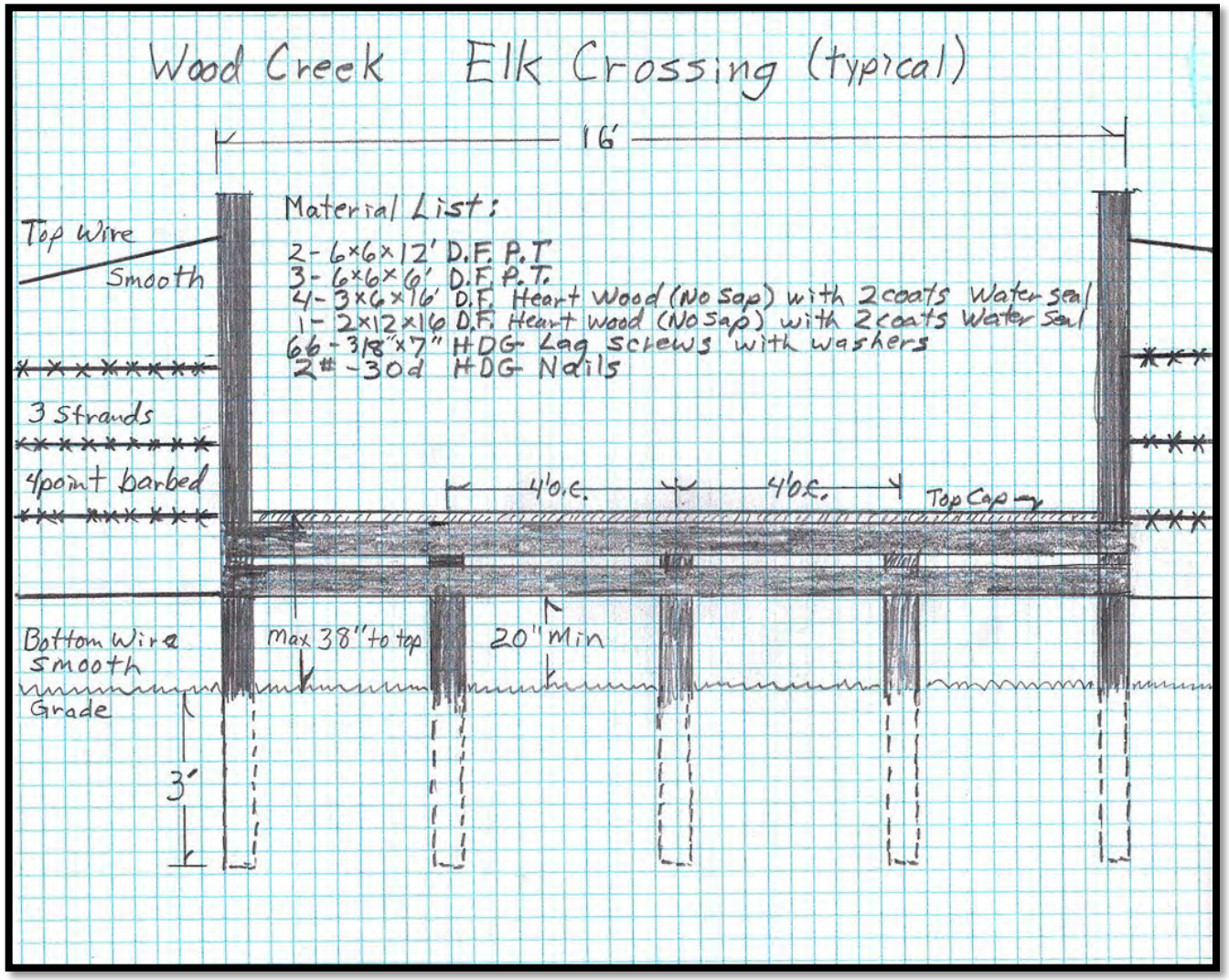
OWEB Small Grant – Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Fencing Project Phase 1:

The Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Project addresses the needs of the producers and their agriculture property while additionally addressing increased elk encroachment. The project also addresses water quality issues in order to protect the nearby Providence Creek and Umpqua River Estuary.

In order to protect water quality and maintain livestock and pasture health, the landowner requested technical assistance for the purchase and installation of livestock exclusion fencing with the addition of an “Elk Jump Crossing” to provide the local elk herd ingress and egress to and from the livestock fields, which will reduce the chance of damage to the livestock fences by the elk while at the same time reducing erosion where this elk trail is into the field as the “Elk Jump Crossing” has livestock heavy use areas included with the “Elk Jump Crossing” site. Heavy use areas will be installed at the gates will also be implemented to reduce mud and increase footing at these high use areas. The pasture currently has an off-stream watering system in place. This project will be started as “Phase 1” and is projected to have at least three phases in order to implement the entire fencing and “Elk Jump Crossings” at the property. This project includes livestock exclusion fencing, heavy use areas at gates, and an Elk Jump Crossing with heavy use areas to provide the local elk population a less damaging way to access the field without damaging themselves or the fences while at the same time keeping livestock contained within in the field and out of the riparian area.

Our Projects In-Process

OWEB Small Grant – Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Fencing Project Phase 1:



The project included one elk jump crossing. The landowners are concerned for the elk and wanted to be sure the elk had plenty of locations to cross the fence. Therefore, the landowners, on their own, added an additional two elk jumps into the project, bringing the elk jumps up to three for the project. The landowner has already witnessed elk using the jumps as well as deer.

Umpqua SWCD, working with Coos SWCD received permission to use the elk jump design created by Mark Villers.

Our Projects In-Process

OWEB Small Grant – Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Fencing Project Phase 1:



Prior to new fencing and elk jump structures being installed.

Temporary electric fencing that the elk continuously tore down. Previously, there was permanent electric fencing, but without the elk jump structures, the elk tore that down as well.



Cattle in field near barn.

Our Projects In-Process

OWEB Small Grant – Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Fencing Project Phase 1:



Stream channels to be protected by livestock exclusion fencing.



Elk in adjacent field. Phase 2 of the project will occur at portions of this location with additional livestock exclusion fencing and elk jump structures.

Our Projects In-Process

OWEB Small Grant – Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Fencing Project Phase 1:



Newly implemented gates and fencing in field.



Gravel ready to be placed at gates and elk jump crossings.

Our Projects In-Process

OWEB Small Grant – Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Fencing Project Phase 1:



Elk Jump Structure in field where elk trail is located.

Fencing portion of the project is complete.

Our Projects In-Process

OWEB Small Grant – Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Fencing Project Phase 1:



Our Projects In-Process

OWEB Small Grant –Elk Creek Riparian Enhancement



Photo shows erosion along Elk Creek near Elkton.

February 2022.
View from the opposite bank of Elk Creek looking at project location. The landowners contacted the District as they wanted to address the erosion using willow wattle structures along with planting native plants and shrubs in the riparian area to reduce soil loss and stabilize the streambank.

Our Projects In-Process

OWEB Small Grant –Elk Creek Riparian Enhancement





Increased erosion along Elk Creek near Elkton. Armenian Blackberries, while still there, are less, due to the effects of erosion.

April 2024

Our Projects In-Process

OWEB Small Grant –Elk Creek Riparian Enhancement



Manual removal of Armenian Blackberries and other invasive plants from site.

August 2024



Our Projects In-Process

OWEB Small Grant –Elk Creek Riparian Enhancement







Constructing Willow Walls & Wattles.
September 2024

Our Tour

OWEB Small Grant Tour of Two Projects

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District – OWEB Small Grant Tour



Join us at the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District – OWEB Small Grant Tour!

Come visit the Baumgartner Ranch on August 15, 2025 at 2:00 PM (Pacific Time) for an insightful tour. Learn about agriculture water quality conservation practices implemented on the ranch with technical assistance provided by Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District and a grant through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grants Program.

Get ready to explore the beautiful landscape and discover how we can all contribute to sustainable agriculture and environmental preservation. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with nature and like-minded individuals!

It gets even better! The Baumgartner Ranch is offering a barbecue and goat cheese tasting following the tour.

We can't wait to see you there!

Do you have mud issues on your farm or ranch during wet weather?

Then join us for this tour!

When:

Friday, August 15, 2025
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Where:

2059 South Smith River Road
Reedsport, Oregon 97467

Registration:

Register by August 14th
At Eventbrite:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/umpqua-soil-water-conservation-district-oweb-small-grant-tour-tickets-1502175831349

Cost:

Free!

More Information:

Rhonda Black
(541) 662-1341
rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com
https://www.umpquasoilandwater.com

UMPQUA
Soil & Water Conservation District

On August 15, 2025 Umpqua SWCD held a tour for interested landowners to showcase the Otter Slough Livestock Exclusion Project. The project includes rainwater runoff management practices, including a livestock exclusion fencing, heavy use area, gutters and downspouts on the barn. SWCD staff and the landowners explained the projects and answered questions.



Our Projects – Community Partnerships

Providence Creek Tidegates:



Providence Creek Tidegate Structures.

Umpqua SWCD approached the Port of Umpqua Commission after local agriculture landowners affected by the Providence Creek Tidegates voiced their concerns about the condition of the tidegates. Umpqua SWCD decided it was time to address the situation. Following one of the presentations the SWCD provided to the Port, the City Manager of Reedsport added onto the information describing how the tidegates are also important to the City of Reedsport for flood control. The SWCD reached out to Ruwaldt Consulting and hired the firm to provide additional support to both the SWCD and the Port. The SWCD and Port signed onto a Memorandum of Understanding in January of 2024 to work mutually to address the Providence Creek Tidegates. The SWCD wrote a grant, which the Port to submitted to Business Oregon, seeking technical assistance funding through the levy program for design, engineering, public outreach, and additional grant writing in order to begin the tidegate replacement process.

UMPQUA
Soil & Water
Conservation District

Our Projects – Community Partnerships

Leeds Island City Park:

Umpqua SWCD approached the landowner of Leeds Island and asked the landowner if the landowner was still interested in selling the property for restoration, and we found that “yes” was the answer. The landowner has been trying to sell the property for several years now. Umpqua SWCD hired Ruwaldt Consulting to facilitate the process.

- The City of Reedsport considered buying the property several years ago.
- Restoration potential is great with Providence Creek tidegate replacement.
- Umpqua SWCD approached the Reedsport City Manager who set up a meeting where Umpqua SWCD presented information about the proposed project to the Parks and Beautification Committee who approved the SWCD’s proposed plans for the property. Next the SWCD presented the information to the Reedsport City Council during a work session, followed by an additional presentation at a later time during a City Council meeting where the SWCD received approval from the Council to move forward with the project.
- Grant funding will be required to acquire the 220 acres of property from the current landowner.
- After acquisition, Umpqua SWCD will design and implement a full restoration of the property, with guidance from the City and Public.
- A dike trail will be cleared along the perimeter.
- Parking lot at the access point.
- Other things as the community desires.
- 65% of Umpqua Estuary wetlands have been lost
- Site is currently grazed

UMPQUA
Soil & Water Conservation District

Our Projects – Community Partnerships

Leeds Island City Park:

- Salmon and other fish, migratory and resident birds, and other wildlife rely heavily on estuary wetlands for survival
- Park will provide an addition recreation area for residents for walking, birdwatching, relaxing, and sightseeing. Possibility of equestrian and bicycle use.
- Umpqua SWCD will write all grants
  - City will be grantor for Parks & Rec grant
- Umpqua SWCD and City will develop a management plan and delegate duties as appropriate
- Timeline:
  - Apply for Technical Assistance Funding (Planning)
  - Apply for Parks & Rec funding (Acquisition)
  - Public Meetings to discuss park design
  - Apply for Restoration funding
  - Restoration construction
  - Grand Opening



Leeds Island pastureland.

UMPQUA Soil & Water Conservation District

Our Projects – Community Partnerships

Leeds Island City Park:



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Soil & Water
Conservation District

Our Projects – Community Partnerships

Leeds Island City Park:



UMPQUA
Soil & Water
Conservation District

Community Partnerships – Instruction

Tsalila Education Days:

Funded through the U.S. Forest Service the District is able to reach out to students by providing hands on training about benthic macro invertebrates and how these little creatures are indicators of water quality and stream health. Working in cooperation with the Umpqua Discovery Center, USFS, and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos-Lower Umpqua-Siuslaw Band of Indians for this annual event each year.



SWCD District Manager/Conservation Planner Rhonda Black provides students with information & instruction prior to students setting off to the “pools” on for scientific benthic macro invertebrate sampling and identification.





3rd Grade Students from Douglas, Coos, Curry, and Lane County schools learning about benthic macro invertebrates at the “Bug Zone” during the Tsalila Festival.

Community Partnerships – Events

Elkton Community Education Center – Blooms & Butterflies Festival



Umpqua SWCD's Informational Booth
at the Blooms & Butterflies Festival in Elkton.
We've attended this event every summer for 16-years.

Our Programs

Umpqua Estuary Restoration Partnership

Culvert Missing Tide Gate



Tide Gate & Culvert in Good Condition

Beginning in 2011 and funded by a BLM RAC grant the District began locating and prioritizing tidegates throughout the District for future maintenance and replacement with fish friendlier options for interested landowners. The inventory is now complete with prioritization continuing through the UERP Partnership – a group consisting of interested agencies who provide technical assistance to the Umpqua SWCD and watershed councils involved with tidegates.

Our Programs

Umpqua Estuary Restoration Partnership – UERP

UERP's Objective Goals:

"Sustain active productive agricultural lands in balance with lands suitable as estuaries for the benefit of aquatic habitat."



UERP Tidegate Tour – Umpqua & Smith Rivers

As the District moved forward locating tidegates the prioritization process it became apparent additional input was needed through local partners. The District helped form the Umpqua Estuary Restoration Partnership and continues as the lead organization.

In April 2014 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed into effect between the District and the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers to work on tidegate projects and related grants projects as a joint effort and a Technical Assistance Grant was submitted to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for outreach, education, to continue the prioritization process, and for engineering.

UERP consists of members with representatives from Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Partnership for Umpqua Rivers, Smith River Watershed Council, Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Siuslaw, and Lower Umpqua Band of Indian Tribes, National Marine Fisheries, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of State Lands, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The team meets to prioritize tidegates for replacement, repair, or removal using a variety of data based factors. The team provides technical assistance, funding options, and oversight for tidegates in the Umpqua Estuary.

Funding & Agriculture Water Quality



Image from the USDA.

Learn more about the AgWQ Program by going to: *https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/NaturalResources/AgWQ/Pages/AgWQPlans.aspx*

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) District Capacity Grant

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District receives funding through a capacity grant similar to those obtained by Watershed Councils.

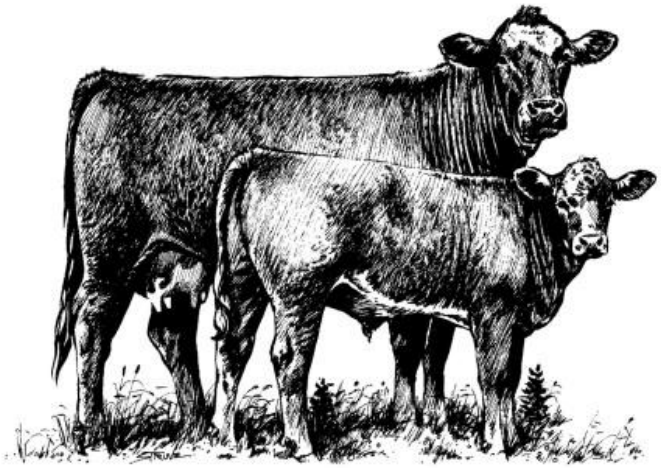
This capacity grant provides funding for the SWCD to work with landowners to conserve natural resources and lend support to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Agriculture Water Quality Management Program (AgWQ).

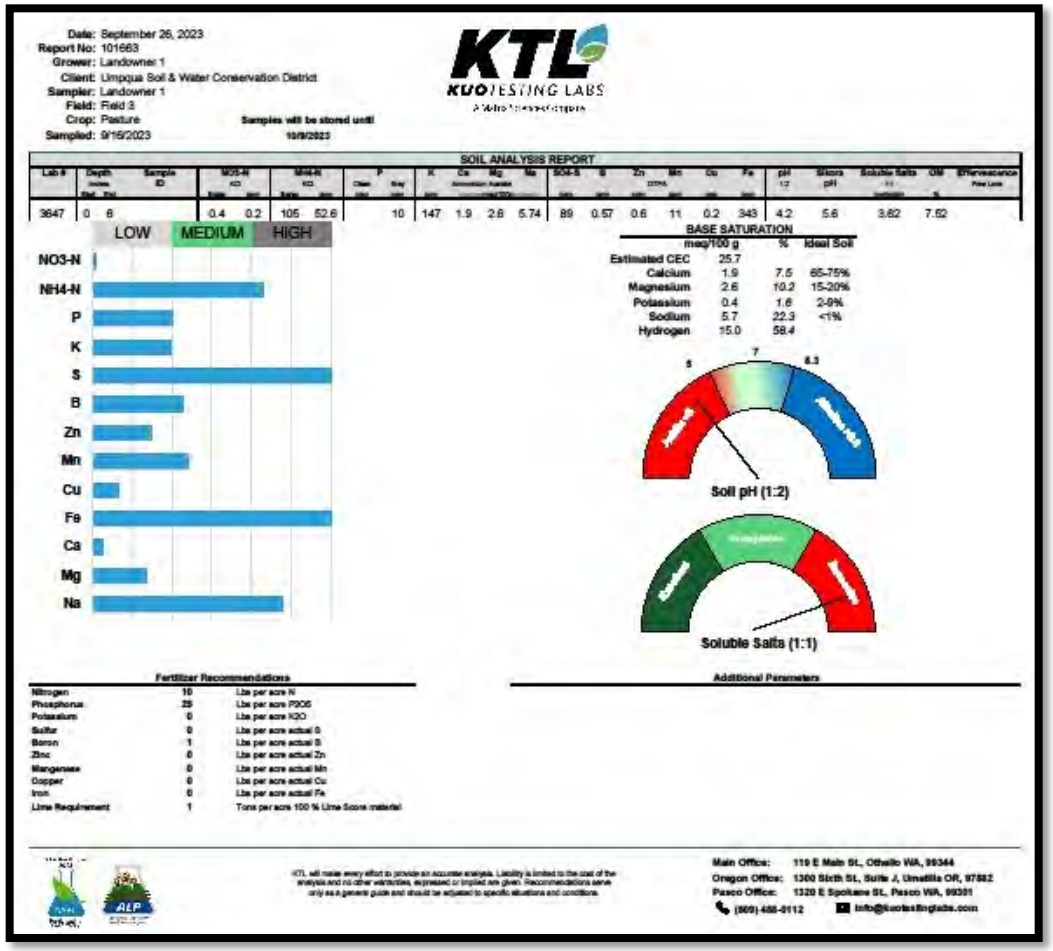
With this grant the SWCD is able to provide technical assistance to land managers/producers within the district for implementing Agriculture Management Practices to improve agriculture water quality in their daily farming/ranching operations, no matter how large or small the operation may be.

UMPQUA Soil & Water Conservation District

Our Programs

Soil Testing is a service the District provides to area residents. By testing soil residents know how much fertilizer and what kind of fertilizer they need to amend their soil with reducing over-fertilization and the risk of having excess fertilizer wash into rivers and streams. Soil testing is funded by ODA.





Date: September 26, 2023
Report No: 101663
Grower: Landowner 1
Client: Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District
Sampler: Landowner 1
Field: Field 3
Crop: Pasture
Sampled: 9/16/2023
Samples will be stored until 10/8/2023

KTL KUO TESTING LABS

SOIL ANALYSIS REPORT

Lab #	Depth	Sample ID	NO3-N	NH4-N	P	K	Ca	Mg	Na	SO4-S	B	Zn	Mn	Cu	Fe	pH	Buffer pH	Soluble Salts	OM	Effervescence
3647	0 6		0.4 0.2	105 52.6	10	147	1.9	2.6	5.74	89	0.57	0.6	11	0.2	343	4.2	5.6	3.62	7.62	

LOW MEDIUM HIGH

NO3-N
NH4-N
P
K
S
B
Zn
Mn
Cu
Fe
Ca
Mg
Na

BASE SATURATION

	meq/100 g	%	Ideal Soil
Estimated CEC	25.7		
Calcium	1.9	7.5	65-75%
Magnesium	2.6	10.2	15-20%
Potassium	0.4	1.6	2-9%
Sodium	5.7	22.3	<1%
Hydrogen	15.0	58.4	

Soil pH (1:2)

Soluble Salts (1:1)

Fertilizer Recommendations

Nitrogen	10	Lbs per acre N
Phosphorus	25	Lbs per acre P2O5
Potassium	0	Lbs per acre K2O
Sulfur	0	Lbs per acre actual S
Boron	1	Lbs per acre actual B
Zinc	0	Lbs per acre actual Zn
Manganese	0	Lbs per acre actual Mn
Copper	0	Lbs per acre actual Cu
Iron	0	Lbs per acre actual Fe
Lime Requirement	1	Tons per acre 100 % Lime Score material

Additional Parameters

KTL will make every effort to provide an accurate analysis. Liability is limited to the cost of the analysis and no other warranties, expressed or implied are given. Recommendations serve only as a general guide and should be adjusted to specific situations and conditions.

Main Office: 119 E Main St., Othello WA, 99344
Oregon Office: 1300 Sixth St., Suite J, Umatilla OR, 97882
Pasco Office: 1320 E Spokane St., Pasco WA, 99301
(509) 488-5112 info@kuotestinglabs.com

Our Programs

Partnerships with Oregon State University

Soil Health Workshops





Funded through the Oregon Department of Agriculture the District was able to provide information directly to landowners in partnership with Oregon State University Extension Service Douglas County and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Our Programs

Partnerships with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Local Work Group Meeting

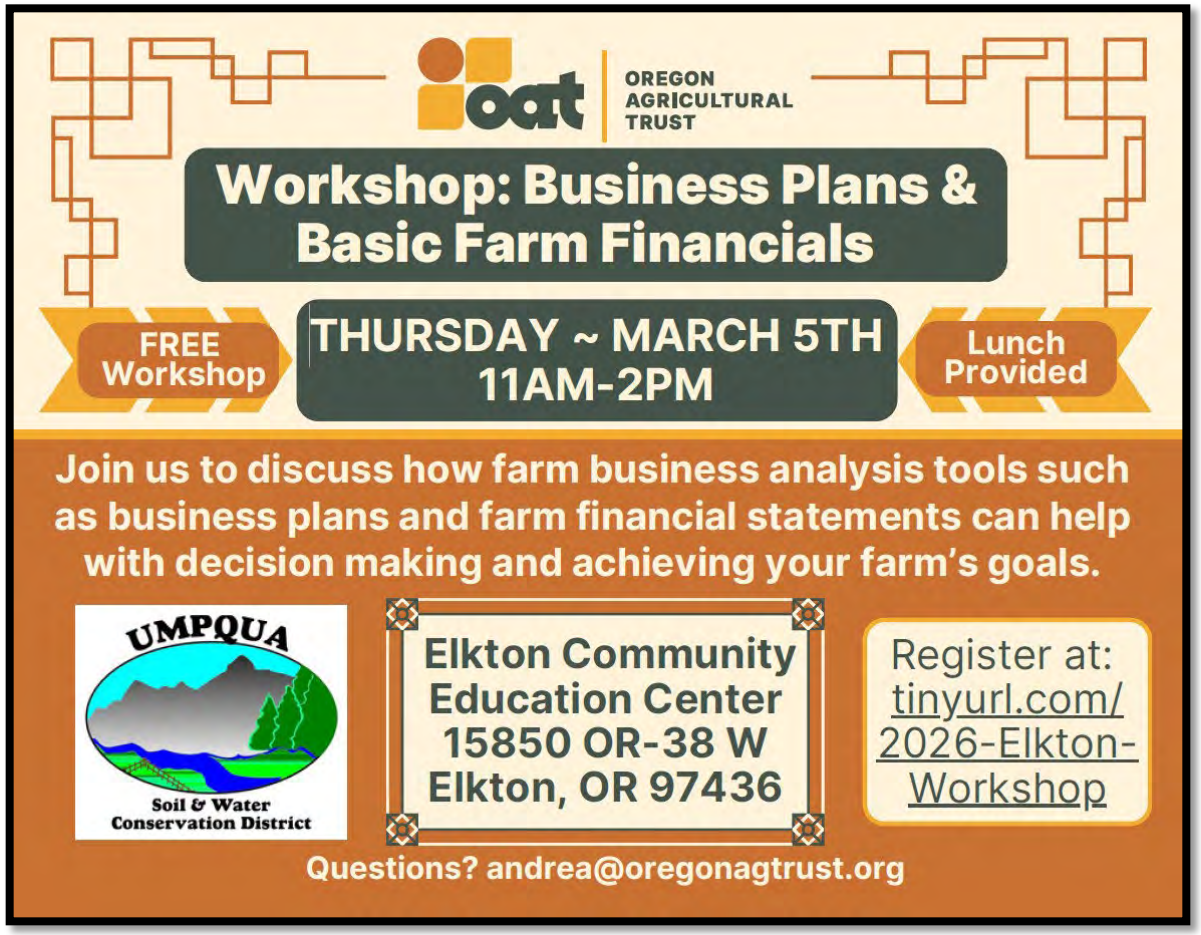


Funded through the Oregon Department of Agriculture the District was able to provide information about NRCS directly to landowners and gain input from producers as to what they would like to see from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service at the Local Work Group Meeting held in Reedsport at the Port of Umpqua Annex on May 13, 2026.

Our Programs

Partnerships with the Oregon Agricultural Trust

Business Plans & Basic Farm Financials



Funded through the Oregon Department of Agriculture the District was able to provide information about agriculture water quality while hosting the Oregon Agricultural Trust workshop for Business Plans and Basic Farm Financials at the Elkton Community Education Center on Marth 5, 2026.

Our Programs

Partnerships with the Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network

Soil Health Network

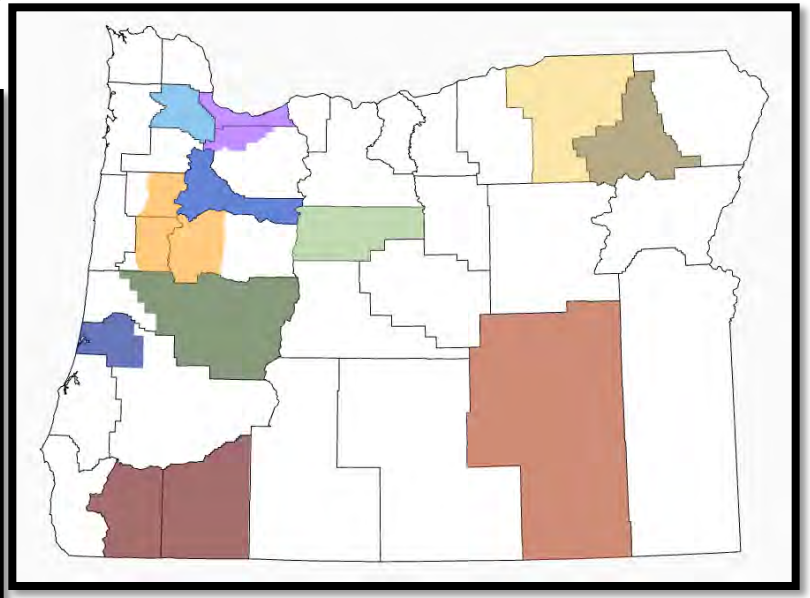
About the Network

OrCAN brings together an inclusive, collaborative statewide Soil Health Network to promote soil health for climate resilience. Partners including Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), OSU Extension, nonprofits, state and federal agencies, and researchers from across Oregon join to align resources and meet farmers' needs on the ground. We focus on meeting the needs of historically marginalized and under-resourced producers, building relationships inclusive of Black, Indigenous, and other Farmers of Color (BIPOC), while supporting small and large scale producers, conventional and organic growers, and more.

The Soil Health Network supports implementation of soil health practices on Oregon's farms and ranches by:

- **Streamlining Resources** with relevant and accessible tools
- **Fostering Connection** by creating opportunities for learning and peer support
- **Building Capacity** for farm service providers to meet producers' needs
- **Strengthening Alignment** and enhancing collaboration

1,260+	429	399
People engaged in OrCAN's network	*Farm service providers*	*Agricultural Producers*



Funded through the Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network, Umpqua SWCD is the Regional Lead for the South-Central Oregon Coast Regional Hub Lead

Offering technical assistance, soil testing/interpretation, workshops, resources, and referrals.

Our Presentations

- OSU Douglas County Extension Livestock Forages program “Best Fields First”. Provided information about the different kinds of funding available to producers and information about the kinds of projects funding is available for
- Umpqua Basin DEQ TMDL Quarterly Meeting – Proved information about the OWEB Small Grants Umpqua SWCD is working on.
- Glover Estuary Enhancement Project Southwest Oregon Chapter of Professional Engineers – Provided information about the project to engineers, some of whom had worked on the project. Presented the information with one of the engineers who worked on the project. Umpqua SWCD provided project benefits information for agriculture, wildlife, and restoration, while the engineer who was employed as a project manager for the project provided the engineering details of the project.
- Port of Umpqua – Presentation on tidegates and other projects.
- Umpqua Basin Agricultural Water Quality – Presentation for the 2023-2025 biennium to the Local Advisory Committee.
- NRCS Local Work Group Meeting – Presentation for the LWG attendees.
- Hydro Breakfast – Presentation about the SWCD including projects and tidegates.

Our Programs

Weed Wrench Loan Program

Originally funded through the BLM RAC the District continues to promote the Weed Wrench Loan Program to District residents. The Weed Wrench is a “woody plant puller” which works by using leverage to remove plants such as scotch broom by the root which is effective and easy to use. The cost is a $25 refundable fee for 2-weeks use.



UMPQUA
Soil & Water
Conservation District

Newsletters & Newspaper Articles

The District's uses Facebook to provide information to the community.

The District utilizes its quarterly newsletter to reach out to the community by providing information to the public about the District along with information about:

- Events
- Meetings
- AgWQ Practices
- NRCS Information
- Grant Opportunities
- Community Information

UMPQUA

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 415, Reedsport, Oregon 97467 (541) 662-1341

Email: rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/UmpquaSoilandWaterConservationDistrict

Quarterly Newsletters – July 2025 through June 2026



UMPQUA
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
P.O. Box 415, Reedsport, Oregon 97467, (541) 662-1341
Email: rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com
Website: https://umpquasoilandwater.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UmpquaSoilandWaterConservationDistrict
Spring 2026

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

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

We had a great day on Saturday, January 17th at the Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop at the Elkton Community Education Center Heritage Orchard in Elkton Oregon.

We learned how to care and maintain fruit trees by caring for the soil and by maintaining the tree to keep both in quality condition. We covered ways to increase fruit production and how to shape trees for long term success.

We had great instructors at this course including Gregory Flick who is the orchardist at the Heritage Orchard at the ECEC. Gregory is a long-time resident, maintains his own orchard at his home, and is a member of the Agrarian Sharing Network. We had Logan Bennett from Oregon State University Extension Service Small Farms Program and he provided information along with Gregory. Both were a wealth of resources. We also had Rhonda Black who is the District Manager/Conservation Planner from Umpqua SWCD who provided soil health information as part of agriculture water quality and in her role with the Soil Health Network.

Topics included:

When and why to prune in winter, tools and safety, pruning strategies for apples, pears, cherries, and plums, demonstrations, and sign-ups for free soil testing.

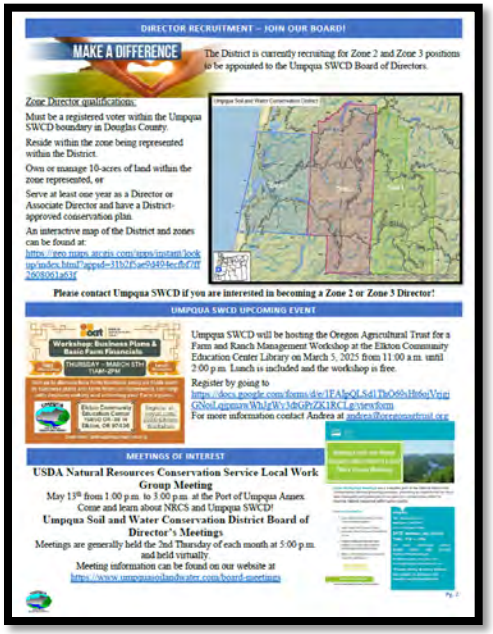
Attendees paying close attention to pruning instructions provided by Gregory Flick at this hands-on workshop.

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 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!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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=31b2f5ae9494ec6bf7ff26085f61651f

Please contact Umpqua SWCD if you are interested in becoming a Zone 2 or Zone 3 Director!

UMPQUA SWCD UPCOMING EVENT

Workshop: Business Plans & Basic Farm Financials

THURSDAY - MARCH 6TH 10AM-4PM

Elkton Community Education Center 34920 OR-38 in Elkton, OR 97436

Umpqua SWCD will be hosting the Oregon Agricultural Trust for a 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. Lunch is included and the workshop is free.

Register by going to
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdiThO6bHt6uiVtrjiGNioLqmmuWhJgWv3dGPvZX1RCLg/viewform
For more information contact Andrea at andrea@oregonagtrust.org

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Local Work Group Meeting

May 13th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Port of Umpqua Annex.
Come and learn about NRCS and Umpqua SWCD!

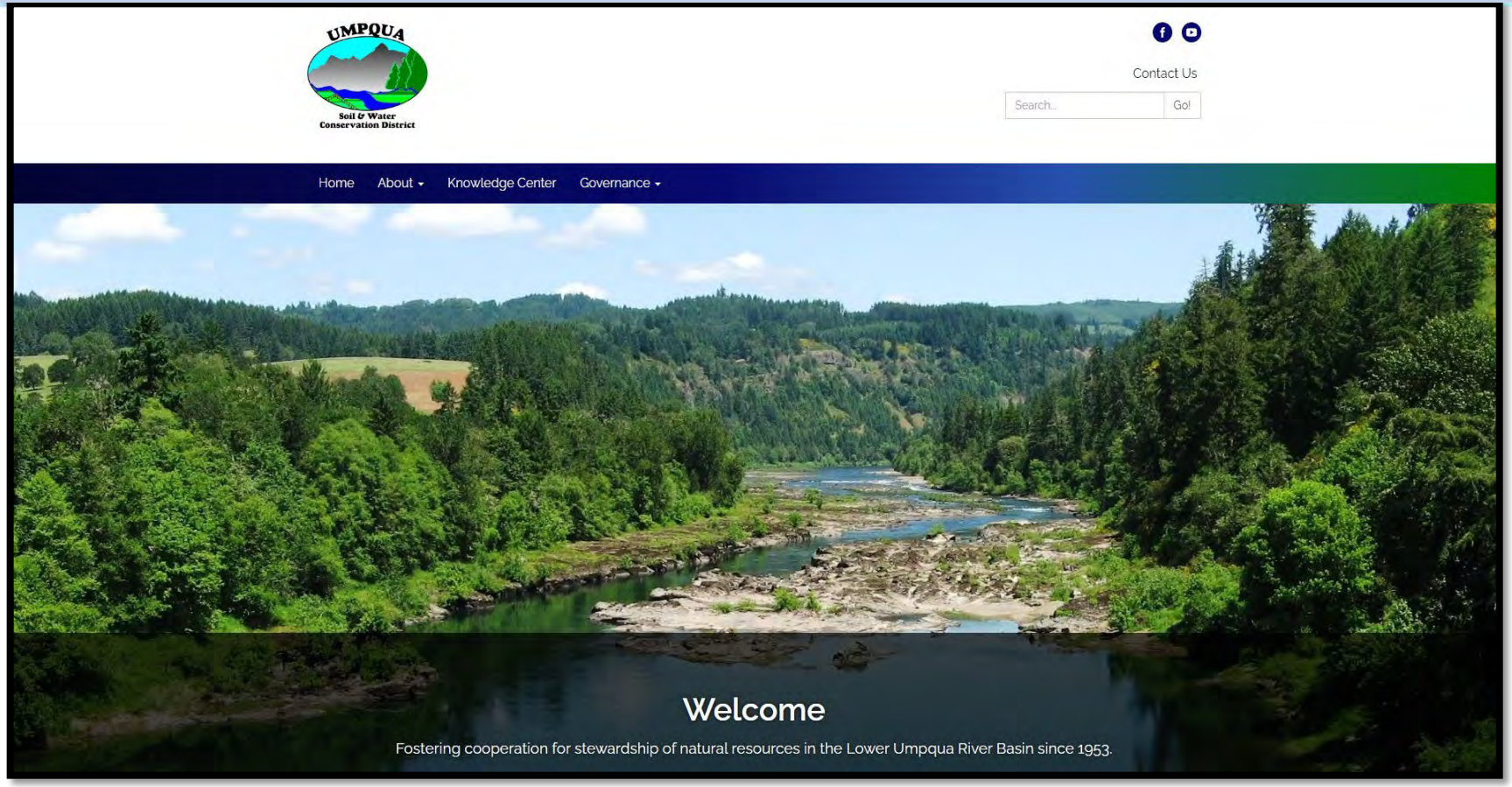
Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Director's Meetings

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

Website

https://www.umpquasoilandwater.com/

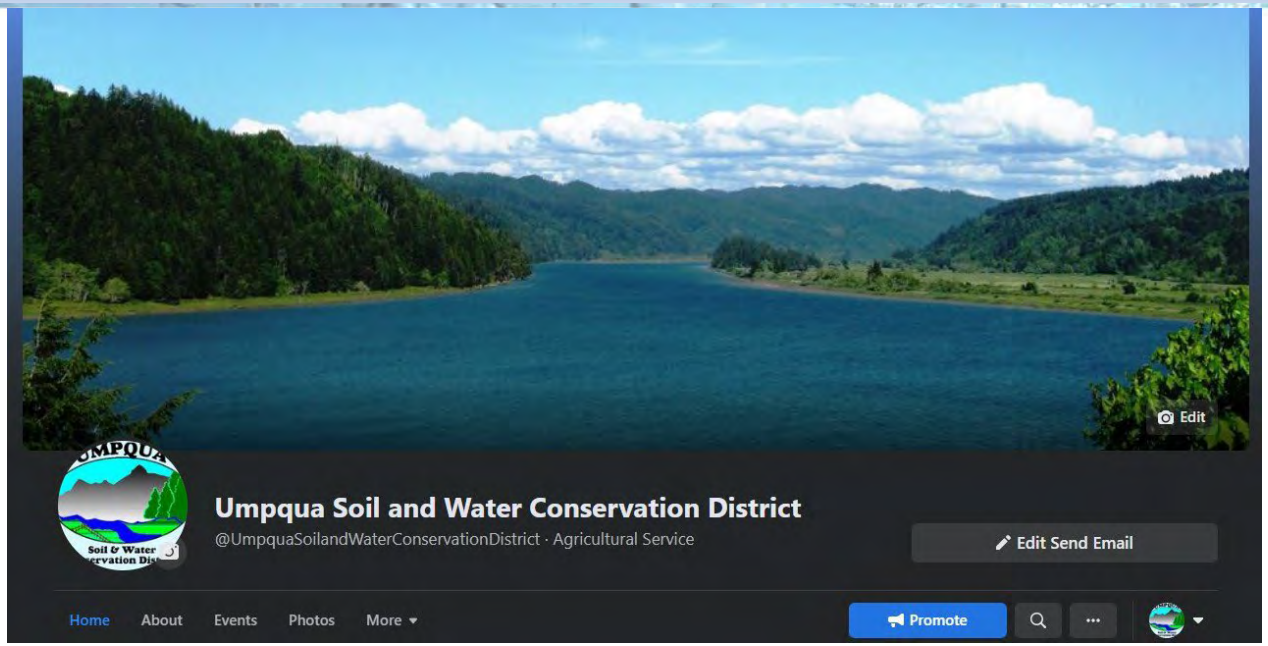


The District's new website provides information to the community and will continue to grow with more information over time.

Newsletters, Events, Meetings, AgWQ Practices, NRCS Information

Social Media

https://www.facebook.com/UmpquaSoilandWaterConservationDistrict/



The District's Facebook Page is used to reach out to the community.

- Events
- Meetings
- AgWQ Practices
- NRCS Information
- Community Information
- Other fun stuff

Our Partners

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District works with the following organizations to help residents with their conservation needs:

Watershed Councils:

- Elk Creek Watershed Council
- Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
- Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Coos Watershed Association

Soil & Water Conservation Districts:

- Douglas SWCD
- Siuslaw SWCD
- Coos SWCD

Stewardship Collaboratives:

- Smith-Umpqua-Dunes Stewardship Collaborative
- Oregon Central Coast Forest Stewardship Collaborative

Weed Management Groups:

- Douglas County Weed Board
- Douglas County Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Gorse Action Group

Partnership Groups:

- Umpqua Oaks Partnership
- Umpqua Native Plant Partnership
- Tsalila Partnership
- Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network

Environmental Groups:

- The Nature Conservancy

Legislative Groups:

- Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
- Special Districts Association of Oregon
- Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association

Cities:

- City of Elkton
- City of Reedsport
  - Umpqua Discover Center

UMPQUA
Soil & Water Conservation District

Our Partners

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District works with the following organizations to help residents with their conservation needs:

Federal Agencies:

- United States Department of Agriculture:
  - Bureau of Land Management
    - Coos Bay District
    - Roseburg District
  - Forest Service
    - Siuslaw National Forest
      - Dunes National Recreation Area
    - Umpqua National Forest
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- United States Department of Commerce:
  - National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration:
    - National Marine Fisheries Service
      - Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
        - » Center for Marine & Environmental Radioactivity

State of Oregon Agencies:

- Department of Agriculture
  - Water Quality Program
  - SWCD
- Department of Education
  - Oregon State University
    - Division of Extension and Engagement
      - Douglas County Extension Service
        - » Forestry & Natural Resources
        - » Livestock Forages
        - » Small Farms
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Department of State Lands
- Watershed Enhancement Board

UMPQUA
Soil & Water Conservation District

Administration

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District

For a copy of the District's Audit report please contact Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District or go to the Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division online at https://sos.oregon.gov/audits/Pages/muniaudits.aspx

OUR VISION STATEMENT

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

UMPQUA
Soil & Water Conservation District

Contact Information

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District

P.O. Box 415

Reedsport, Oregon 97467

Office: (541) 662-1341

Email: rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com

Website:

https://umpquasoilandwater.com/

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/UmpquaSoilandWaterConservationDistrict

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Soil & Water
Conservation District