

Umpqua SWCD District Manager's Report

December 10, 2025



- OWEB:
 - 2023-2025 District Operations Capacity Grant –
 - OSU/Umpqua SWCD January 17, 2025 Tree Pruning Workshop flyers printed, distributed, and posted.
 - Updated website with information on soil testing, information where landowners can get water tested. Updated with information about director recruitment.
 - Attended compliance visit in Scottsburg with ODA Water Quality Planner Pietrzak on December 9th.
 - First 6-month reporting for the SOW grant due in January.
 - OWEB Small Grants Program:
 - OWEB Small Grants Status:
 - Otter-Baumgartner Ranch Livestock Exclusion –
 - Monitoring report due July 31, 2027.
 - Elk Creek Riparian OWEB Small Grant –
 - Monitoring report due July 31, 2027.
 - Providence Creek Runoff Management –
 - Monitoring reporting due April 8, 2027.
 - Parent Ranch Livestock Exclusion Phase 1 –
 - Heavy use areas at the gates and elk jumps complete. Final payment made to landowner.
 - Completion reporting due: April 16, 2026.
 - Costa Ranch Runoff Management –
 - Grant approved by OWEB on November 22, 2024 with \$15,000 for gutters, downspouts, drainage line, geotextile fabric, and gravel for the heavy use protection area. In contact with both Mr. Costa and the gravel hauler in an effort to prepare for stockpiling 18 ten-yard loads of gravel for the heavy use area at the barn. Once everything is determined, we can request the 60% OWEB advance to cover the cost of the gravel for this project with implementation to start occurring this summer. Landowner will prepare the site by grading for the heavy use area, trenching and installing the downspout drain lines, installing gutters and downspouts on the barn, and installing the piping for the livestock watering system.
 - Answered questions and provided information via email, text, and telephone.
 - End date: November 1, 2026.
 - Completion reporting due: December 31, 2026.
 - Workshops/Classes –
 - Fruit tree pruning workshop scheduled for Saturday, January 17, 2026 at the Elkton Community Education Center from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
 - Oregon Agricultural Trust Farm & Ranch Management Workshop Series - March 5, 2026 at the Elkton Community Education Center Library from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (SWCD hosting)
 - OWEB TA Grant:
 - Re-submitted grant to OWEB on August 4, 2025 with photos, updated maps, additional letters of support, and by addressing questions from the OWEB Review Team.

- Recommended by OWEB Review Team to “not fund” as of October 2025. We will have to find out what is causing this application to be kicked out of the funding process as answering questions was clearly not good enough.
- BLM:
 - BLM Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination grant, “Umpqua Noxious Weed Control” for both contractor and myself. Matt Ruwaldt Consulting and Umpqua SWCD worked with BLM after project was approved by the BLM RAC for \$24,000 to provide requested updates to the BLM.
 - We have an agreement as of September 26th. Then the government shut down. Our first reporting period ended September 30th and is due December 31st.
- PARTNERSHIPS:
 - Umpqua 7, Coos 4, Mid-Coast 3 OWEB Small Grant Teams –
 - Umpqua 7 –
 - Working with Lee Russell with Elk Creek Watershed Coalition.
 - Provided a letter of support to the Elk Creek Watershed Coalition for the Umpqua Small Grant Team for their OWEB Small Grant Team Leader Support Grant on August 13th.
 - Elk Creek Watershed Coalition was recommended for funding for the Team Leader grant of \$20,000 for the biennium. Umpqua SWCD is supposed to be written in on the contracted services line to write brochures and fact sheets for the outreach, but found out that this wasn’t done. Will be contacting Lee to find out how our funding is hidden in the budget for the work we’re supposed to do. We will need an MOU.
 - Coos 4 –
 - Attended kick-off meeting on November 4th.
 - Signed paperwork November 12th.
 - Mid-Coast 3 –
 - Waiting to hear back from Lincoln SWCD as to when the current team members meeting will be.
 - Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers –
 - PUR meeting – Attended November 18th meeting. Next meeting scheduled for December 16th.
 - Not sure when public tour of Glover site will occur.
 - Tour held on November 20th with SWCD, PUR, ODFW, and Mr. Glover. Umpqua SWCD provided information and background about the project to ODFW and Washington DFW.
 - Glover Lands Estuary Enhancement Project – Landowner working on fencing and watering system installation.
 - Providence Creek Area Updates:
 - Providence Creek Tide Gates –
 - In a holding pattern due to previous Port Commission decision to back out of project.
 - Had meeting with Porior Engineering on December 6th who felt that we could get the fish passage plan done while we’re in limbo on the project. We will need to find funding to complete this portion of the project.
 - Met with Port Manager on December 9th and discussed the fish passage plan. Since the MOU is still in place it was decided to go forward with finding funding to get the plan done so we would have some of the groundwork out of the way as the tide gate replacement project still needs to occur. The Port will provide a letter of support, possibly some in-kind match in the form of

employee time toward the passage plan. Will contact engineer to follow-up with planning.

- Leeds Island Park and Restoration Project –
 - Matt Ruwaldt and I met with the Reedsport Parks and Beautification Committee on September 22nd to discuss the project. The Committee is still very supportive and would like to move forward with the project. Some of the Committee members thought they might be able to make contact with Mark Holiday. Will be following up with Matt upon his return to the Oregon Coast.
- Douglas SWCD – No new news.
- Douglas Weed Management Area – Douglas SWCD working on scheduling a meeting for either the end of January or beginning of February.
- DEQ Umpqua TMDL Implementation – Likely meeting in January.
- Elk Creek Watershed Coalition –
 - Did not attend the December 9th meeting due to workload and travel time, but did provide information to the coalition in regard to questions they had about what special districts are. Requested they provide an online option for those who have considerable travel time in order to attend the meetings and they said they would ask the library if the coalition could use the library equipment and software to provide that service.
- Forest Service –
 - Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative – Next meeting will be held on December 12th.
- Hydro Breakfast Meeting – Missed the December meeting, and planning on attending the January meeting.
- Oregon Agricultural Trust – Assisting OAT with a farm and ranch financial planning management workshop series for agricultural producers on March 5, 2026.
- Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) – No new news.
- Oregon Conservation Education Association Network (OCEAN) – CONNECT scheduled for March 31st through April 2nd in Seaside at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.
- Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association – Next meeting December 16th.
- Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network – Attended the Soil Health Network Regional Hub Soil Health Training series on November 19th, December 3rd, and December 10th. The Soil Health Network has covered the cost of this training.
- Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative – No new news for our area.
- Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission – Umpqua SWCD will host their 2-day meeting in August 2026.
- Smith/Umpqua/Dunes Stewardship Group – No new news.
- Umpqua Oaks Partnership – No new news.
- Umpqua Native Plant Partnership –
 - Planning a meeting with Morgan Fay regarding Glover Project Planting Plan.
- USDA/NRCS – Assisting NRCS District Conservationist Stokes with the local workgroup meeting planned for January 2026 in Reedsport.
- TRAININGS:
- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:
 - Site Visits Completed:
 - Compliance visit with ODA in Scottsburg on December 9th.
 - TA Provided:
 - Oar Creek landowner via telephone on November 20th.
 - Otter Creek landowner via email on December 8th.
 - Site Visits Scheduled:
 - Reedsport – April 1, 2026.

Ongoing TA:

- Elk Creek Riparian Restoration Projects:
 - 5 properties involved with this project, one of which is already being worked on through a small grant. Hoping to work with the City of Elkton on these projects, which will fit into their DEQ TMDL plan. This is a stretch of Elk Creek within the City limits of Elkton where there is little to no shade on the creek, and the riparian has been invaded by Armenian Blackberry and at least two different kinds of ivy, along with Reed Canary Grass.
- Providence Creek – Landowner called about fill and removal, levy repair, fencing, etc. Will follow up when Consultant is available.
- Possible in-stream work, riparian buffer and grant for project at Wild Azalea Vineyards.
 - Working on a list of neighboring landowners so contacts can be made for neighbors on Hanes Creek to include them in grant work. ODFW on-board with project.
- Ruwaldt Consulting – Provided a list of projects that we'll need to continue to work on and projects to begin working on this winter.
- Don Porior Engineering – Visited with engineer via telephone to discuss Glover bridge and Providence Creek Tidegates on December 6th.
- ADMINISTRATION:
 - Financial documents, statements, timesheets, etc. recorded, filed, and loaded into Google Drive for Fiscal Provider.
 - Meeting information provided to Directors, and ODA WQ Specialist & Program Lead.
 - Business Meeting notice provided to media, electronic notice list, website.
 - Long Range Business Plan updates.
 - Took holiday on Thanksgiving Day on November 27th. Took a few days of leave during Thanksgiving week.