



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

Summer 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

What's in Your Dirt?

Understanding Soil Fertility and Decoding Soil Test Results.

Umpqua SWCD and the Douglas County OSU Extension Service welcome you to our soil fertility workshop at the Elkton Community Education Center Amphitheater on Saturday, July 18th from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. located at 15850 Oregon State Highway 38 West in Elkton.

Registration required by July 16th by going to <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/events/whats-your-dirt> or by contacting Logan Bennett at (541) 236-3015 or at logan.bennett@oregonstate.edu.

Visit us at Tree School Umpqua 2026 on August 21st

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE
DOUGLAS COUNTY
FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES PRESENTS

Tree School Umpqua 2026

Friday, August 21, 2026
8:30am to 4:45pm
@ Umpqua Community College
Registration opens July 6, 2026 - beaves/tsu

TREE SCHOOL UMPQUA

Tree School Umpqua is a one-day mini college for family forestland owners, foresters, landowners/managers, loggers, arborists, teachers, wildlife enthusiasts, and those interested in learning more about our region's forests and natural resources.

Expand your knowledge and leave with a renewed enthusiasm for your land!

Sponsored by:

- Oregon Forest Resources Institute
- Oregon Women in Timber
- Association of Consulting Foresters

SCAN TO REGISTER:
beaves/tsu



Umpqua Community College
LaVerne Murphy Student Center & Jackson Hall
1140 Umpqua College Rd.
Roseburg, OR 97470



OSU EXTENSION SERVICE | Douglas County Small Farms Program

WHAT'S IN YOUR DIRT?

UNDERSTANDING SOIL FERTILITY AND DECODING SOIL TEST RESULTS

Healthy soil is the foundation of a productive farm or garden—but soil test results can sometimes feel like reading a foreign language. In this class, we'll break down the basics of soil fertility, soil building, and how to understand what your soil test is really telling you.

Participants will learn how to interpret common soil test results, identify nutrient needs, understand pH and organic matter, and choose practical amendments for long-term soil health. We'll also discuss soil-building strategies such as compost, cover crops, mulches, and organic matter management.

Whether you grow vegetables, flowers, fruit, pasture, or simply want healthier garden soil, this class will help you make more informed decisions from the ground up.

Scan to register
beaves/dirt



OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by July 10, 2026 - 541-236-3015, logan.bennett@oregonstate.edu

FREE
registration required

**July 18, 2026
10 AM - 11:30 AM**

LOCATION
Elkton Community Education
Center Amphitheater
15850 OR-38 W
Elkton, OR 97436

REGISTRATION
Required by July 16, 2026
beaves/dirt



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.

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.

The District is currently recruiting for Zone 2 and Zone 3 positions to be appointed to the Umpqua SWCD Board of Directors. It's also time for elections! The difference? An appointed position starts immediately once appointed by the SWCD Board of Directors and after being sworn in and taking the Oath of Office. The position would last until the next general election at which time one could choose to run for election for the position. With elections, the position would be filled by the candidate who filed for candidacy through the elections process and was then elected through the election ballot process to either a two- or four-year position and would assume director responsibilities at the January 2027 Umpqua SWCD meeting after being sworn in and taking the Oath of Office. Filing for a candidate for election to the SWCD begins July 16th and all documents must be filed with the Oregon Department of Agriculture no later than August 25th. Incumbent forms are due by August 18th. Forms can be found both at the District website at <https://www.umpquasoilandwater.com/elections> and by going to ODA at <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/natural-resources/swcd/pages/default.aspx>

Zone Director qualifications:

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

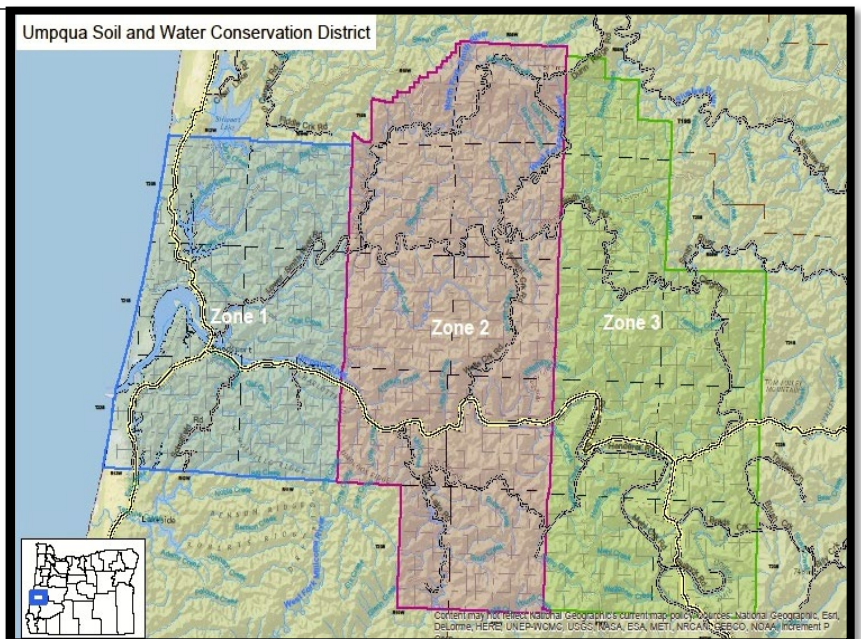
Reside within the zone being represented within the District.

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>



NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR DISTRICT DIRECTORS OF THE UMPQUA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that on November 3, 2026 an election will be held for the purpose of electing board director(s) to the following positions for the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District:

Positions:

Zone 2: 2 years

Zone 3: 4 years

At-Large 1: 4 years

Zone boundaries, eligibility requirements, and copies of the required election forms may be obtained at the SWCD Office located at PO Box 415, Reedsport, OR 97467 or by calling (541) 662-1341.

Election forms and information may also be found at: <https://oda.direct/SWCD-elections>.

Each candidate must file a "Declaration of Candidacy" and a "Petition for Nomination Signature Sheet" with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Program Area, SWCD Election Clerk. The filing deadline is 5:00 p.m. on August 25, 2026. The last day to file for an elected incumbent district candidate seeking re-election to the same office is 5:00 p.m. August 18, 2026

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Oregon Soil & Water Conservation Commission Meeting August 18 – 19th at the Port of Umpqua Annex

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission provides assistance and direction to Oregon's 45 conservation districts and advises and develops policy with the department in the administration of its duties. To assist with this advisory role, the chair of the commission, by statute, is also a member of the State Board of Agriculture. The commission has a major role in overseeing the SWCD support grant.

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.

August 13th, September 10th, October 18th

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

Elk Creek Watershed Coalition Meetings

Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Drain Civic Center located at 205 West A Avenue, Drain, Oregon 97435. Virtual option available.

<https://www.umpquasoilandwater.com/elk-creek-watershed-coalition>

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.

Interested in past editions? Find them on our website at <https://www.umpquasoilandwater.com/news-notice>

Blooms & Butterflies Celebration 2026

We had a great day at the Elkton Community Education Center on June 20th. This is always a wonderful event with a fun and calm atmosphere. Thanks to all of you who stopped by our table and visited with us!



SAVE THE OREGON DUNES

VOLUNTEER SEASON!

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

2026

FEB 28	Saving the Dunes! Oregon Day Use Area Come volunteer with us as we get back into action!	All Days 10-Noon Except Sept 26 1pm-3pm
MAR 28	Invasive Broom Removal – North Jetty Help remove invasive Scotch broom in Florence!	
APR 25	North Bend – Trans Pacific Parkway Celebrate Earth Day week with a Scotch broom pull!	
MAY 30	Dynamite Fun – Exploding Whale Park Help remove invasive Scotch broom in Florence!	
JUN 27	Dellenback Dunes Area Make the trip to join our volunteers!	
JULY 25	Power of Florence – Heceta Dunes Join our community volunteers in the sun!	
AUG 29	3 Mile Prairie – Nature Reserve Help preserve one of our favorite spots!	
SEPT 26	Oregon Dunes Day Use Area Refresh and return to the beginning!	
OCT 10	Bull Run OHV Staging Area on Horsfall Rd Riding to restore the Dunes for All!	

Full Schedule and Cancellation Notices online at [SaveOregonDunes.org](https://www.SaveOregonDunes.org)

Coos Forest Protective Association:

<https://www.coosfpa.net/> 541-267-3161

Douglas Forest Protective Association:

<https://www.dfpa.net/> 541-672-6507

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 Fall 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 Fall? Do you know your soils pH?

Contact the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Office today to schedule your soil test in preparation for Fall 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.

Contact us today!

(541) 662-1341 or

rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com

www.umpquasoilandwater.com