



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


Newsletter – Summer 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

Join us at the Umpqua SWCD Small Grant Tour!

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District – OWEB Small Grant Tour



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:

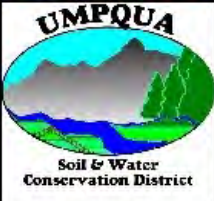
Register by August 14th
At Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/umpqua-soil-water-conservation-district-oweb-small-grant-tour-tickets-1502175831349>

Cost:

Free!

More Information:

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



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!

We're having a tour of one of our Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grant Projects.

This project is located at the Baumgartner Ranch where the landowners and Umpqua SWCD implemented rainwater runoff management practices to protect water quality on the landowner's dairy goat operation.

We're happy to show you the new gutters, downspouts, drain lines, heavy use areas, off-stream livestock watering systems, and livestock exclusion fencing installed at the ranch.

Come and see us for this fun tour followed by a barbecue and goat cheese tasting.

When: Friday, August 15th

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Where: 2059 South Smith River Road, Reedsport

Cost: FREE

Register at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/umpqua-soil-water-conservation-district-oweb-small-grant-tour-tickets-1502175831349>



We're having a Coastal Crops workshop in Winchester Bay!

Join us and Oregon State University for this informative workshop focusing on fruit production and nutrient management on the Oregon Coast.

Bring your questions for OSU Extension Service Small Farms/Master Gardener Program Coordinator Logan Bennett and Umpqua SWCD Conservation Planner Rhonda Black.

When: Saturday, September 13th
 Time: 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 Where: Winchester Bay Community Center
 635 Broadway Avenue
 Winchester Bay

Cost: FREE

Register at:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/events/coastal-crops-fruit-production-nutrient-management>

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE | DOUGLAS COUNTY SMALL FARMS PROGRAM

COASTAL CROPS

FRUIT PRODUCTION AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ON THE OREGON COAST

Discover how to grow healthy, productive fruit trees and shrubs in the unique coastal climate of Oregon.

Hosted by the Douglas County Extension Service and the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District, this workshop offers research-based guidance on selecting suitable fruit varieties, managing coastal soils, and optimizing nutrient inputs for long-term plant health. Learn how to interpret soil tests, apply fertilizers effectively, and support sustainable growth through science-driven nutrient management.

Perfect for home gardeners, small-scale growers, and anyone interested in cultivating fruit with confidence and care.

FREE
September 13th,
11am - 12:30pm

CLASS LOCATION
 Winchester Bay Community Center
 635 Broadway Ave, Winchester Bay, OR 97467

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
 Register by 9/5/25
 @beav.es/xZi

MORE INFORMATION
 Logan Bennett | (541) 236-3015
 logan.bennett@oregonstate.edu

Scan to register
<https://beav.es/xZi>

Oregon State University
 UMPQUA
 Soil & Water Conservation District

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities and materials. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by September 5th to Logan Bennett, 541-236-3015, logan.bennett@oregonstate.edu.

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

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

July 8th, August 14th, September 11th, October 16th, November 13th, December 11th

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>

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.

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.



Public Lands Day Scotch Broom Pull

Join the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative, McKenzie River Trust, and the Siuslaw National Forest and celebrate Public Lands Day by removing invasive Scotch broom at the Oregon Dunes Day Use Area on Saturday, September 27th from 10 AM to Noon.

The Day Use Area is mid-way between Reedsport and Florence. You can go to the beach after the event. It is a two-mile hike round trip. A portion of the hike back is moderately steep. Children and grandchildren are invited; this is a family-friendly event!

Bring closed-toe shoes, work gloves, water, and snacks. Please bring shovels, hand saws, or loppers if you have them. If you don't, ODRC will have tools you can borrow.

From Reedsport, OR take Highway 101 north 11.5 miles. Look for the Oregon Dunes Day Use Area sign. Turn left (west) into the parking area.

Parking: Go past the individual parking spaces next to the side walk, and park in the parking area for larger vehicles. Day use fees are waived for volunteers at this event.



The Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative works to collaboratively support, guide and promote Oregon dunes restoration and the preservation of the open sand habitat that benefits the plants, animals and people who live and play in this special place.

Farm & Ranch Management Workshop Series

Extension Auditorium/ Courthouse Annex
1134 SE Douglas Ave.
Roseburg, OR 97471

9:30am-Noon

Register at:
tinyurl.com/Roseburg-Series

Questions?
andrea@oregonagtrust.org

October 16th: Business Plans & Basic Farm Financials	November 6th: Navigating Farm Succession
December 11th: Farm Direct Marketing	January 8th: Tracking Ag Productivity for Decision-Making

Best Field First: A Forage Planning Series

Thursdays, September 11 & 25 and October 9 & 23, 2025. On-line or in-person meetings. Register at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/events>

This educational program assists forage producers in making decisions on managing pastures and hay ground. Topics include using maps to determine physical soil properties, estimate current and potential production, and to form management units. This information is then used to take soil samples for fertility testing and to make agronomic, economic input decisions. Part of this process includes the option of selecting to focus work on your best field first. This can help producers with multiple fields prioritize funding for inputs and time. At the completion of the program custom reports will be provided which will be useful in future classes and consultations on forage production.

Workshop presented by the Oregon Agricultural Trust (OAT). There will be an additional workshop series offered in 2026 in the Elkton area which will be hosted by Umpqua SWCD.

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.”

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!

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.

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

Did you know lime can be applied in the Fall? It can, and it’s a great time to make the most of lime applications. 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. The benefit of adding lime to your soil in fall is that freeze-thaw cycles, abundant rain, and for our area, sometimes snow, common during the fall and winter months will help break down the lime and start raising the soil’s pH. Lime should never be applied to pastures that are stressed or dormant, so please keep that in mind.

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:

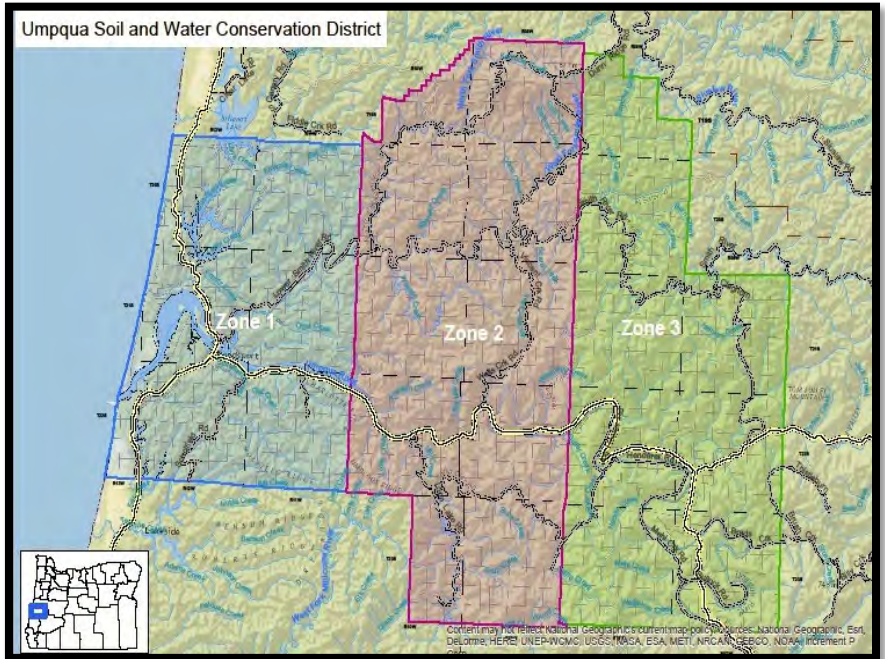
<https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=31b2f5ae9d494ecfbf7ff2608061a63f>

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

Director Responsibilities:

The Board of Directors set the direction of the District through the development and/or oversight of the strategic plan, biennial work plan, and District policies, with input from the District Manager and Staff. The Board and Staff enjoy a great working relationship that ensures natural resource stewardship programs and projects are available to all Douglas County citizens within the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District boundaries.

An individual Board member may only exercise their authority and responsibility of his or her position when the Board is in legal session and only as part of a specific Board action (e.g. resolution, motion, policy, etc.) and must be recorded in the public meetings minutes. Individual Board members may be given limited authority to act on behalf of the Board only when authorized by a specific Board action.



The responsibilities of the Board of Directors include but are not limited to the following tasks:

Approval and tracking of budgets, require and understand sufficient financial reports, oversight, employee performance reviews, approval and monitoring of annual work plan, strategic plan development and approval, represent Interests of Constituents, come to meetings informed and prepared, stay abreast of local conservation issues, promote the District's work to local landowners, local and state agencies, legislators, and other organizations.

In addition to the responsibilities listed above, the Directors, as a Board, have legal powers under ORS 568.550. To find out more go to: https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_568.550

ODA is accepting public comments on proposed amendments to the Umpqua Basin Water Quality Management Area rules until August 29th. A public hearing will be held August 21st. For more information go to: <https://oda.direct/rulemaking>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District:

Email: rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com, Telephone: (541) 662-1341,

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 415, Reedsport, Oregon 97467

Check out our website! Go to <https://umpquasoilandwater.com/> where you can find out meeting information, event flyers and links, newsletters, our YouTube Channel and more!

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UmpquaSoilandWaterConservationDistrict

