



UMPQUA

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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.

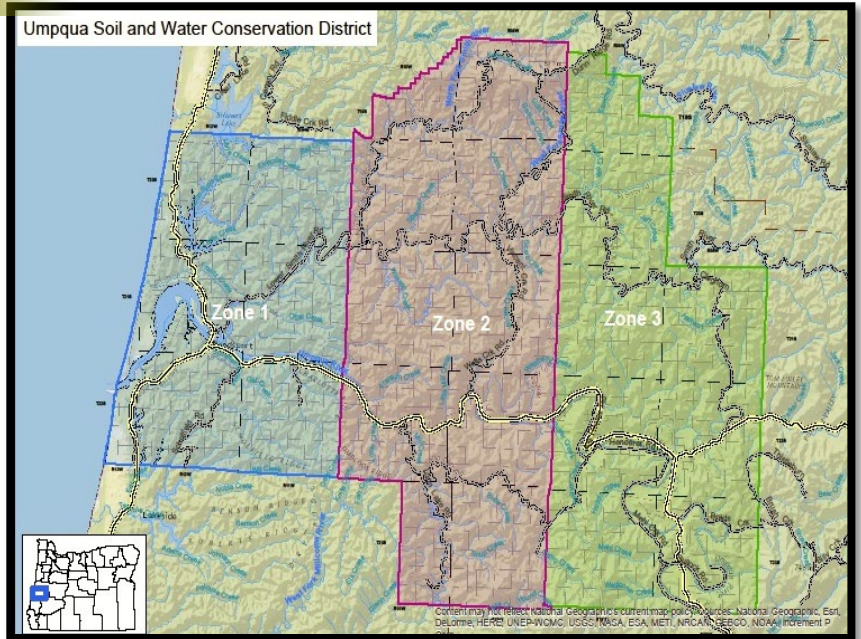
Reside within the zone being represented within the District.

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=31b2f5ae9d494ecfbf7ff2608061a63f>



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

FREE Workshop | THURSDAY ~ MARCH 5TH 11AM-2PM | Lunch Provided

Join us to discuss how farm business analysis tools such as business plans and farm financial statements can help with decision making and achieving your farm's goals.

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

Register at:
tinyurl.com/2026-Elkton-Workshop

Questions? andrea@oregonagtrust.org

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/1FAIpQLSd1ThO69sHt6ojVrjgiGNoiLqjpmawWhJgWv3dtGPrZK1RCLg/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>

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Local Work Group Meeting

Local Workgroup Meetings are a valuable part of the Natural Resources Conservation Service planning process, providing an opportunity for local land managers and producers to be part of a collaborative effort to improve natural resources within your county.

You are invited to:

- ✓ Learn about Soil and Water District projects and programs.
- ✓ Learn about NRCS projects and programs which may prove beneficial to you.
- ✓ Connect with partners and new audiences to seek opportunities to leverage partnership funds.
- ✓ Share community natural resources concerns and issues.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

WHERE:

1841 Winchester Ave
Reedsport, OR 97467
Port of Umpqua Annex

DATE: Wednesday, May 13th 2026

TIME: 1PM — 3PM

For more information contact:
Bradley Stokes (458) 314-2183
bradley.stokes@usda.gov
Or Rhonda Black (541) 662-1341
rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com

*Please Notify Bradley Stokes two weeks in advance for needed accommodations



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

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



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

Small Grants Program

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

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

Project Examples:

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

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

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

Farm Conservation Planning

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact us today!

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