



WEST MULTNOMAH
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

**WEST MULTNOMAH
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Chairman's Report

The District is busy and truly performing at the level we had hoped for when voters were asked to approve our tax base four years ago. It's a pleasure to hear about the diverse number of partners we work with to bring conservation education to landowners. Response to our workshops on land, livestock, forest and invasive weed management is very reassuring. Your tax dollars are hard at work helping us hire and keep talented and inspired staff, and fund important projects, such as the Sturgeon Lake restoration.



Our conservation professionals say far more than I can in this report. With the help of our District Manager Dick Springer and our Communications Coordinator, Carolyn Lindberg, the public is beginning to know what conservation districts are and what they can do. We focused on creating an effective noxious weed education program with the capacity for a complete "on the ground" attack including grant funding, contractors, volunteers and partners. This has inspired landowners and partners to be a vital part of the solution, working with our expert technical staff to find conservation and economic opportunities.

I can't say enough about our talented board members who skillfully have weighed in on important conservation discussions, freeing me to work on our state organization's Annual Convention, which will be held at Sunriver this fall with the theme *Oregon's Conservation Future*.

Brian Lightcap, Board Chairman

District Manager's Report

As WMSWCD completes its third full year with tax base funds, District staff and grants for restoration projects continue to expand with innovative partnerships and well-leveraged incentives for private land owners to protect water quality, soil productivity and natural wildlife habitat. From multiple program fronts on Sauvie Island to extensively coordinated West Hills, Skyline & Forest Park invasive plant removal (with indefatigable volunteers) and renewed on-the-ground action plans for the Balch Creek watershed, our four experienced conservation planners have greatly increased community recognition & participation.

While local and state government agencies cut conservation budgets, WMSWCD provided more grant support for local partners (Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Backyard Habitat Certification Program w/ Audubon, Forest Park Conservancy, community & school gardens) plus more dollars for land owners agreeing to protect streams, riparian areas and forest land habitat including rare oak savannah. When budget cuts again test natural resource managers and non-profit groups - WMSWCD resources will be even more valuable in the coming year.

The District is again indebted to its citizens for financial support and hundreds of volunteers for their tireless efforts - plus a truly dedicated board of directors and staff. Thanks for sharing in our progress!

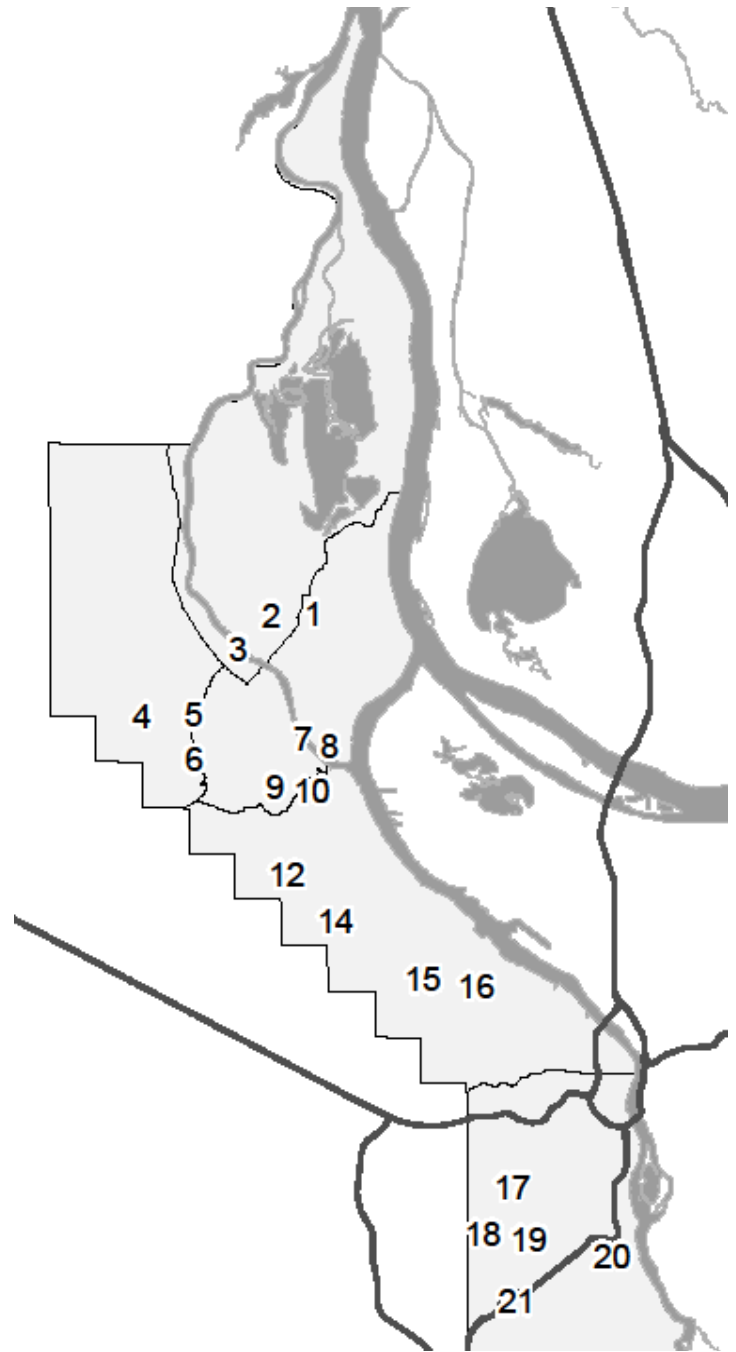
Dick Springer, District Manager

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2009-2010 Projects

1. Sauvie Island Stables Compost Facility-Manure Compost facility for 45 horse boarding operation.
2. Mucken Forest Landscape Restoration-Invasive herb-Robert removal and oak enhancement.
3. NARA NW Native Plant Restoration-Riparian Restoration along McCarthy Creek.
4. Rich Heavy Use Area-For horse/sheep farm in Rock Creek watershed.
5. Field/Williams Forest-Forest stand improvement and invasive species removal on 25 acres.
6. Brady Invasive Removal & Planting-Forest stand improvement and blackberry removal.
7. Kee Ivy Removal/Oak Establishment-English ivy removal with Oregon white oak planting.
8. Multnomah Channel Habitat-Riparian and upland restoration along Miller Creek.
9. Skyline Grange Trail & Hedgerow-Forest restoration with educational trail construction.
10. Sweet Haven Weed Control & Restoration-English ivy and other weed removal with forest establishment.
11. Healy Weed Control and Afforestation-Conifer forest establishment with invasive species removal.
12. Abbey Creek Stables-Manure Compost facility & vegetation buffers/hedgerows for 30 horse-stables.
13. Tualatin Mountain Wetland-Amphibian pond creation with native vegetation.
14. Malinowski Farm Habitat-Livestock heavy use areas, hedgerows, pond and oak habitat enhancement.
15. Forest Heights Stream Enhancement Project 1-Riparian restoration along Cedar Mills Creek.
16. Balch Creek Restoration Demonstration Project-Riparian and upland restoration.
17. Depave Vermont Hills Church-Impervious pavement removal and community garden expansion.
18. Orchard Lane HOA Invasive Species Removal & Restoration-Riparian restoration along Woods Creek in the Fanno Creek Watershed.
19. Garden Home Restoration-Riparian restoration



along Woods Creek in Fanno Creek Watershed.

20. Deer Creek Restoration Demonstration-Riparian restoration along Deer Creek in the Tryon Creek Watershed.

21. Red Rock Creek Restoration-Urban storm-water bioengineering demonstration along Red Rock Creek.

The District Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Financial Report is available at the WMSWCD office. Due to the schedule of the yearly audit, figures were not ready by press time. However, any questions can be answered by contacting District Manager, Dick Springer, at 503/238-4775, ext. 106 or dick@wmswcd.org.

Invasive Weeds

Education/Outreach

This year 160 new volunteer Weed Watchers were trained in Multnomah and Washington County in how to identify and report the county's top 10 worst Early Detection and Rapid Response Species! In addition, 33 residents in the West Hills learned about how to control the most menacing invasive species on their forested lands.

The District also offered a garden-focused workshop attended by 23 SW residents which covered how to control the most troublesome garden weeds. Residents will post educational weed signs at community gardens that we partner with.

Invasive Species Removal Demonstrations

Giant Knotweed was removed from the hillside at Chapman Elementary and replaced with erosion



control fabric and hardy native plants. This project was possible through WMSWCD funds, a Metro Enhancement Grant and the adjacent landowner's participation. We also worked with the Linnton Arco Gas Station to treat knotweed on its property and erect educational signs.

WMSWCD partnered with three landowners in the Miller Creek Watershed to remove ivy and other invasive weeds on 60 acres. The project was funded by an OWEB Small Grant, a FISH Grant and an in-kind/cash match from landowners.



WMSWCD targeted the Wapato Natural Area as a key volunteer involvement site for invasive species removal. The District organized a highly successful volunteer weed pull that removed garlic mustard,

scotch broom, Armenian blackberry and Robert's geranium. WMSWCD also hosted a weed pull in Linnton as part of the Forest Park Conservancy's *Day of Stewardship*.

Early Detection/Rapid Response Program

WMSWCD has joined with the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services and East Mult-

nomah SWCD to maximize control efforts on Multnomah County's top ten worst early invaders. This partnership results in better collaboration and resource sharing.

Garlic Mustard Program

This year approximately 170 acres of Western Multnomah County was surveyed and, when found, treated for garlic mustard. We strategically placed dumpsters so that volunteers and landowners that pull this aggressive invader had a free disposal method. We also organized weed pulls and used contract crews to control the weed. The program was funded by WMSWCD and an ODA Oregon State Weed Board Grant.



Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol

This year we partnered with ODA and USDA Aphis to release 500 Galerucella beetles, an extremely effective biocontrol for purple loosestrife, in Sturgeon Lake on Sauvie Island. Purple loosestrife aggressively crowds out native wetland and stream-bank plants - decreasing waterfowl and songbird populations.

Indigo Bush Survey Results

WMSWCD, with ODF staff, surveyed 7 miles of Sauvie Island along the Columbia as well as a couple of miles of Multnomah Channel for indigo bush infestations. Unfortunately, WMSWCD found the entire 7 miles along the Columbia was infested to some degree. This plant pushes out our native riparian vegetation, which are crucial for native wildlife.

Knotweed Watershed Control Program

WMSWCD completed its second year of control and surveying in the McCarthy Creek Watershed and was happy to see some infestations completely eradicated. WMSWCD partnered with the Native American Rehabilitation Association to restore native habitat to its badly infested section of McCarthy Creek. The Knotweed Control Program has been made possible through WMSWCD support, an

ODA Grant, OWEB Small Grant, NARA NW & community volunteer efforts.



FISH Grants

This fiscal year we awarded \$81,729 to projects that forward the mission of the District and leverage individual efforts and resources.

Tryon Creek-Lewis & Clark: \$9,687

This project expands earlier restoration work in the upper Tryon Creek Watershed. Non-native invasive plants will be removed including garlic mustard, English holly and hawthorn from 4.3 acres of mature forest land, which will then be planted with native vegetation.

Bridlemile Creek Streambank: \$7,500

This grass-roots streambank restoration project, impacting 1.7 acres of Ivey and Bridlemile Creek, was coordinated by a private homeowner who organized 14 of his neighbors! Invasive plants will be removed and replaced with native material.

Southwest Watersheds Outreach: \$4,326

The grant is an extension of a previous project to create a series of public awareness videos on watershed conservation in SW Portland. This round funds the series' video introduction the distribution of 1,000 DVDs to southwest Portland schools, communities of faith, property owners and others. The tools will be available online.

Red Rock Creek Restoration: \$1,650

A private landowner adjacent to the Sylvania Natural Area Park (SNAP) will use this grant to develop a bioengineered solution to prevent a stormwater drainage problem at the headwaters of Fanno Creek. This landowner will work in conjunction with SNAP and other community partners to foster further public awareness of stormwater issues, invasive weeds and volunteerism.

Deer Creek Restoration: \$7,258

Tryon Creek Watershed Council (TCWC) will improve critical upland and riparian habitat on three private properties along Deer Creek, an important tributary to Tryon Creek. TCWC will also educate other landowners to encourage their participation. Thirty landowners adjacent to the project will be contacted and will receive educational materials.

DEPAVE Vermont Hills Church Garden: \$4,453

This project will allow DEPAVE to expand a community garden at Vermont Hills Church, removing

7,200 sq. ft. of asphalt from an unused parking lot next to the 10,000 square foot garden. This project will raise awareness about stormwater issues and impervious surfaces.

Sauvie Island Stables: \$10,000

Due to recent well water tests that show high levels of nitrogen on Sauvie Island, WMSWCD and OSU Extension are concerned about water quality. This FISH grant will fund the construction of a manure compost facility at Sauvie Island Stables. The facility will provide a confined area to store and compost animal waste, which is high in nitrogen.

Rich Heavy Use Area: \$10,000

This project addresses onsite manure management through the installation of a heavy use area for the horses to overwinter in. This project will decrease manure runoff into Rock Creek, which already listed for E. coli, dissolved oxygen (DO) and temperature, and improve pasture health.



Abbey Creek Stables: \$10,000

This project is designed to protect the water quality of Abbey Creek and improve wildlife habitat. Manure management practices will be improved to address the horse boarding facility's potential contamination of Abbey Creek. FISH funding will finance a manure shed installation and the creation of a native plant vegetated filter (*See more under Farms & Livestock*).

Malinowski Heavy Use Areas: \$10,000

Two sacrifice areas on Malinowski's Farm become muddy quagmires during the wet season. It poses health hazards for the livestock and water quality concerns. Conservation practices will be put in place, including the creation of multiple "heavy use areas," a native plant hedgerow, gutter and downspout improvements, and replacement of water troughs.

(FISH Grants continued...)

Field/Williams Forest Health: \$5,470

This project increases diversity and resilience of old forests through thinning, invasive plant removal, and native plantings on 31 acres in the West Hills. The improvements will also benefit flora and fauna throughout the West Hills.

Kee Ivy Removal/Oak Establishment: \$885

This project is the first step in a larger restoration effort on the property, which is next to other native plant restoration projects in the Miller and Ennis Creek Watersheds. Invasive English ivy will be removed and oak seedlings planted in an area with a pre-existing stand of Oregon White Oak, a rare/declining habitat in Oregon.



Garden Home Restoration: \$500

A private landowner will remove invasive plants and replace with native plants along a riparian zone of Woods Creek, a tributary to Fanno Creek, in SW Portland. This project is adjacent to other restoration efforts to restore riparian zones and hydrologically connect to nearby April Hills Park.

Urban Programs

Education

One of the urban goals of WMSWCD is to increase native flora and fauna health by providing technical assistance and grants to install native plants and improve habitat. The District partnered with East Multnomah SWCD to offer an naturoscaping workshop. The District also held a Bird Nest Workshop and gave all attendees a handmade nest box for their gardens.

Native Plant Demonstration Gardens

This year the District started an initiative to install native plant gardens in public areas where educational signage may be posted. One of the first sites was a section of our office's landscaping at Montgomery Park. Fifteen hardy volunteers installed the first section with 85 native plants on Earth

Day. A section of the Chapman Elementary hillside was also converted into a native plant garden with 240 plants. These projects are supported by WMSWCD, a Metro Central Enhancement Grant and private landowners.



Riparian Restoration

The Balch Creek Restoration Demonstration project has surveyed and treated invasive plants in 8 acres of forested land and replaced them with 350 native vegetation. Bridlemile Creek Restoration involves a group of 14 dedicated landowners along Bridlemile and Ivey Creek, which drain into the Tualatin River.

The District has also partnered with the City of Portland and Tryon Creek Watershed Council to implement the Boones Ferry Crossing project, restoring crucial ESA listed salmon habitat in 7.4 acres of the Tryon Creek Watershed.



Partner Initiatives

The District partners with many organizations to achieve conservation on-the-ground and to provide natural resource education to urban residents. The District and partners finished the Balch Creek Partner's Declaration of Cooperation this year, coordinating efforts to protect and enhance the Balch Creek Watershed. The District provides funds to Audubon Society of Portland and Columbia Land Trust for its Backyard Habitat Certification Program. The Tryon Creek Watershed Council has been a key partner this past year in organizing its first Watershed Wide Event removing invasives, planting native vegetation and raising awareness. West Willamette Restoration Partners had a successful year of ivy removal in the West Hills; as of June it cleared 13,934 trees of ivy, treated 286 acres and removed 97 acres of ivy.



Farms & Livestock

It has been a busy year in the farms and livestock world. We have funded 7 projects and produced 5 conservation plans that cover over 140 acres!

Rock Creek Road Horse Farm

This summer we helped the owner of a 5 acre horse farm on Rock Creek Road apply for and receive a FISH grant to install a “heavy use area.” The project is meant to reduce runoff of nutrients and bacteria into Rock Creek as well as reduce mud and manure issues on the property. Installation should be complete this fall. In addition, we are working with the landowners to improve their pastures through “renovation” (or reseeding) and form a management plan for two acres of mixed coniferous and hardwood forest they leave for wildlife.

Abbey Creek Stables

WMSWCD helped the owner of Abbey Creek Stables in the rural West Hills to plan and fund projects to protect the water quality of Abbey Creek and improve wildlife habitat on the 33 acre property. Conservation staff secured approximately \$15,000 in Natural Resource Conservation Service cost-share funds for engineering design and review of a brand-new covered 1,700 cubic foot manure storage facility, the cost of materials and construction, and manure management. Staff guided the landowner in developing conservation practices that minimize potential contamination of Abbey Creek from manure generated by the horses at the facility. In addition, staff applied for and secured \$10,000 of



District FISH grant funding to pay for enhancements, including native vegetation filter strips in the horse paddocks, and re-routing surface water run-off. These conservation practices will be showcased to visiting horse owners from throughout the region in the future.

Malinowski Farm

WMSWCD technical staff facilitated the design and funding of 3 new concrete “heavy use areas” for livestock on Malinowski’s organic farm in rural West Multnomah County. Previously, sacrifice areas at two barns were mud pools during the wet season, posing health problems for the livestock and nutrient runoff issues during heavy rainfall. District staff also helped the landowner develop other conservation practices, including native hedgerows, oak habit restoration, invasive species control, and pond habitat enhancement. Two-thousand native trees and shrubs were planted around two ponds and in hedgerows, which will help filter bacteria from manure and help pollination at this 57 acre organic farm. An invasive nutria was removed and sensitive red-legged frogs laid their eggs in the ponds.

Lost Lagoon Sheep Farm

Conservation staff helped the landowner with a conservation plan to improve 13 acres of sheep pasture and install cross fencing to better manage grazing at Lost Lagoon Farm on Sauvie Island.

Sauvie Island Stables

Staff worked with Sauvie Island Stables to address manure from 45 horses. Large manure piles threaten water quality if allowed to leach into the groundwater. The stables received a FISH grant in the spring and it’s working on matching funds to complete the design. Sauvie Island Stables already installed “heavy use areas” in 6 paddocks to reduce mud and compaction. Sauvie Island Stables will be the site of our 2010 Horse and Livestock Field Day, October 16, 2010.

Forestry

The District has expanded efforts to serve the forest landowner community by hiring a new staff member who started in February. Michael Ahr brings a strong background in working with family forest landowners in the Willamette Valley and Washington State. The District is now able to provide site visits to forest landowners, work on stewardship plans, help with forest health improvement projects, and others that remove invasive weeds or improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Forest Health Improvement & Weed Removal The district visited with more than 20 forest landowners this fiscal year, and most wanted to discuss



invasive weeds or underproductive forest stands. Often times the two issues go hand in hand. Whether a landowner is looking for economic return from the forest, quality wildlife habitat, or pleasing aesthetics - a produc-

tive, fast growing forest is usually a great way to achieve these things. An abundance of unwanted vegetation, especially invasive weeds, will greatly slow this process. The District secured funding to help landowners accomplish some of these objectives:

- 17.6 acres of forest land will be freed of invasive weeds
- 9.8 acres will be thinned of dense vegetation. This will help free conifers from dense vegetation allowing them to grow larger more quickly
- 35 acres will be planted with native conifers and flowering shrubs

Several restoration projects are in the works for next fiscal year and we're always interested in working on more projects. We help with oak restoration, wildfire risk reduction, wildlife habitat and other areas of interest.

Stewardship Planning

The District has completed Forest Stewardship Plans with two landowners in the district and offers this service to others. Stewardship plans assess the land's resources with basic inventories of trees, streams, wetland, forest roads, slopes, and

other issues that may affect future management actions. Also included is a 10-year timeline which helps map future actions. Landowners enjoy the process of working on these plans as they help with long-term planning. Getting your thoughts down on paper is always a great idea.

Outreach

Last September, the District, OSU Extension, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, and other partners hosted a For-

est Neighbors event in the Rock Creek watershed that attracted over 60 attendees.

They learned about invasive weeds, wildlife habitat, wildfire risk reduction, reforestation, carbon markets and more. The Forest Neighbors day was notable for its approach to educating forest owners. Specialist from around the state hosted small discussion groups aimed at creating more interaction between teachers and students and attendees were encouraged to sit in on any of them. The event was held on a private forested property in the West Hills so the learning experience was enhanced by being as close to the resource as possible.



District staff spent a lot of time this year attending meetings with the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregon Woodland Cooperative, OSU Extension, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, and others to let landowners

know that we have increased our capacity to work on forested properties. We have several workshops planned for the upcoming fiscal year including OSU Extension's

"Ties to the Land" which is a great program on handing the family property down to the next generation. Also look for workshops on forest health and stewardship planning in the coming year as well as several field tour opportunities.



Rural Programs

Healthy Streams

Conservation staff began work with 4 landowners to design restoration projects on priority streams in the District using our new *Healthy Streams* program.

Invasive weeds have been removed and 3,200 native plants installed on a 7.4 acre project along Abbey Creek.

The District committed \$10,000 of *Healthy Streams* money to this project, staff secured another \$10,000 from OWEB, and the landowner provided another \$15,000. This riparian and oak habitat restoration project was monitored and maintained to control weeds. The *Healthy Streams* program was recently expanded to include McCarthy Creek



Planning began for 2 more projects along the Gilbert River on Sauvie Island with planting scheduled for early 2011. District staff worked with the Sauvie Island Drainage Improvement Company to plant more shrubs and trees along canals and ditches to help filter surface water runoff, manage sedimentation, and create shade and habitat.

Water Quality Monitoring

In order to better understand the condition of our watersheds as well as provide guidance for our programs, we have increased efforts to monitor water quality in the District. We charted baseline data for benthic macroinvertebrates on Abbey, Crabapple, McCarthy, and Miller Creeks started to take “grab samples” from the Gilbert River. We are also working with Multnomah County to assume its “Westside Water Quality Monitoring Program” which faces the budget axe.

While we have not received data back on this year’s (2010) macroinvertebrate sampling, last year’s data points to degradation of most of our streams. Miller was ranked as the least degraded while Abbey was the most. Sediment seems to be the leading cause in all our streams with temperature being a secondary problem. However, we’re in a 2-3 year process of establishing baseline data and only after the data is fully analyzed will we have a complete picture of watershed health.

This year, WMSWCD began sampling for nitrogen, phosphorus, orthophosphates and e. Coli at the inlet and outlet of the Gilbert River. Sampling is scheduled once a month from May through November. The data appears inconclusive, possibly due to water stagnation so more intensive sampling is planned once the pumps are turned back on and water begins moving in the system again.

While Multnomah County expects to cut its Westside Water Quality Monitoring Program, we are fortunate that after three years of data collection we have a great picture of the state of Abbey, Bronson, Upper Rock Creek, and to some extent McCarthy. All are in relatively good shape based on samples for temperature, pH, DO, and e. Coli. However Abbey has shown spikes in bacteria and McCarthy exceeded the DEQ limit for temperature for 45 days in 2009. We likely won’t continue sampling for all the same parameters but WMSWCD will continue temperature monitoring next year.

Riparian Restoration

Working with *Clean Water Services*, WMSWCD staff oversaw the installation of 3,250 plants along Rock Creek and caged other trees and shrubs that busy beaver are dining on. Annual monitoring of this 13.2 acre riparian restoration project on Abbey and Rock Creeks was completed in fall 2009.

Habitat Projects at Rural Schools

Conservation staff assisted a team of dedicated parents at Skyline Elementary School to remove undesirable non-native species such as English ivy and juniper and to design, install and fund wildlife habitat gardens and interpretive signage. Staff and the Skyline team secured \$10,000 from OWEB and \$10,000 from the District’s FISH grant program to pay for conservation practices and education on the school’s grounds. Metro added funds for improved stairway access and railings. The native gardens include not only educational signage, but also paths that invite the students and the community to enjoy and learn about local wildlife and plants.



Sauvie Island

Sturgeon Lake

During this fiscal year we received word the US Army Corps of Engineers will fund a feasibility study for the restoration of Sturgeon Lake. While the Corps is still in negotiations with a private contractor, it has officially allocated enough money for full funding. As Project Sponsor, WMSWCD is responsible for 25% match on the study.

The project will likely focus on removal of debris in the Dairy Creek channel while preventing additional debris to flow from the Columbia River. The culverts which pass Dairy Creek under Reeder Road



will also be analyzed to see if they are restricting flow into the lake and trapping sediment. The Sturgeon Lake Restoration Planning Group will be asked to provide a wide range of alternatives to be analyzed. The study will likely last into early 2012.

Sauvie Island Grange

This summer, with the help of an intern from PSU, we began planning a pollinator hedgerow demonstration project at the Grange. The planting will parallel the driveway to the grange and feature 12 different native trees and shrubs as well as a mixture of flowering forbs. The project is designed to incorporate the needs of the grange by providing access to overflow parking areas. Installation should occur this fall, however the bareroot stock won't fill out for another growing season or two.

In addition, our Forest Conservationist began working with the Grange manager on ways to clear a nearby forested area of invasive ivy. The Grange may harvest some of the timber for safety reasons, however it is also interested in increasing diversity and protecting native oaks.

Ivy mapping

This year the Staff began mapping English ivy on the Island and offering assistance to landowners with ivy infestations. The district also reached out to Sauvie Island Grange and School in an effort to keep ivy from invading the Island the way it has

infested Forest Park and neighboring properties. Staff also began mapping District projects and plants and ecosystems of interest. This included mapping Oregon white oak on Sauvie Island with the intent of doing landscape level conservation planning in the future.

Conservation Planning

Staff visited and provided technical assistance to Rocky Point Marina to help the landowner identify invasive species, learn control methods, and select appropriate native plants to enhance 16 acres of habitat on the property. WMSWCD also provided technical assistance to other private landowners on invasives, native plantings, and habitat restoration.

Staff conservationists also began planning a pollinator habitat project on over 8 acres of east Sauvie Island. The project will favor native, flowering plants with a design that will utilize thorny species as living fences. The project is set to be finished in fall, 2010.

Wapato Access Area

WMSWCD continued its collaboration with Oregon State Parks at the Wapato Natural Area. And in partnership with the Audubon Society of Portland, Hands-on-Portland and SOLV, the District led another community weed pull in April 2010. Over 30 volunteers battled blackberry, ivy, holly, Scotch broom, garlic mustard, Herb Robert and Shiny geranium. WMSWCD has posted an invasive weed brochure dispenser and other signs were installed by State Parks and Audubon so you can find your way on the trail and learn about bird and plant communities along your route.



Outreach & Communications

WMSWCD's Director and staff were busy this fiscal year visiting with and speaking at neighborhood, civic, grange and community meetings. We informed residents about the District, what we do and how we can help them with their land, whether it be with garden landscaping or farm management.

We communicated with our residents through mailings, in the local media and held a variety of workshops this year on interesting topics, such as how to garden on a dime and where to find money for conservation projects. We partnered with agencies such as Forest Park Conservancy to hold a weed pull in the Linnton neighborhood, and with Hands-on Portland, Oregon State Parks and Audubon Society of Portland to pull weeds at Wapato Natural Area on Sauvie Island. We also tabled at popular community events like Multnomah Days, Earth Day, the Earth Care Summit, the Dixie Mountain Strawberry Festival, and area schools celebrations.



We worked with our wonderful volunteers to distribute our invasive weed brochures to area supermarkets, bookstores, libraries, coffee houses and other places where the community gathers. Our District brochure was revamped and upgraded into a beautiful representative of our mission, goals and programs. It will be a great selling vehicle for us. All of these activities go a long way in educating residents about the District. Please call us if you'd like copies of any of our brochures or visit our web site at www.wmswcd.org.



In late April, WMSWCD signed a "Declaration of Cooperation" along with a wide network of food and gardening organizations to revive and expand Portland's Community Garden system. The District

committed \$10,000 to the effort and staff participated in a series of meetings, convened by the Oregon Solutions staff on behalf of City Commissioner Nick Fish to look at the potential to expand community gardening and food growing opportunities in Portland. As a result, the City is compiling a map of community gardens and food growing needs and resources. Also, a waiting list for community garden plots that numbered over 1,000 was cut by 50% and a new program was started to build a Regional Food Network.



Education

In 2009-10 WMSWCD committed some of its resources toward the cultivation of the next generation of land stewards through the installation and use of school and native plant gardens. These outdoor classrooms provide a space where children are taught about organic gardening methods, connectivity to nature, diverse ecosystems, agricultural heritage, the negative impact of chemical pesticides/fertilizers on watersheds, and the benefits of creating pollinator and wildlife habitats.

Chapman Elementary is our first school partnership. WMSWCD staff wrote garden lessons to connect the inside and outside work of the kindergarten and third grade classes. Lessons were compiled for art, literature, science, reading, and math, and followed the school's curriculum. Third grade classes took fall and spring field trips (courtesy of WMSWCD) to Sauvie Island Center where they received more in depth lessons on local and organic food systems on a farm scale. In an effort to further integrate the garden in the classroom as well as increase the amount of time Chapman students access the vegetable garden, WMSWCD volunteered with students and organized Multnomah County Master Gardener volunteers to work with multiple classes every other week. WMSWCD is expanding its school garden program throughout West Multnomah County in 2010-11.

WMSWCD also began the installation of native plant demonstration gardens: one along the hillside of Chapman Elementary School where community members gather to watch the swifts, and one at the District office at Montgomery Park. WMSWCD removed a large patch of highly invasive Giant Knotweed near Chapman school and replanted it with natives. The District is working with the school to create educational signs at the site. On Earth Day, WMSWCD and a number of volunteers installed a native plant demonstration garden at Montgomery Park. This garden

will be open to the public and will be used as a teaching tool for a variety of workshops. The District encourages the community and school students to take a tour of both of these gardens to learn about native plants and their roles in the ecosystem.



District Staff

Dick Springer	District Manager
Carolyn Lindberg	Communications Coordinator
Erica Stokes	Executive Assistant
Kammy Kern-Korot	Senior Conservationist
Scott Gall	Rural Conservationist
Mary Logalbo	Urban Conservationist
Steve Fedje	NRCS District Conservationist
Dave Bowman	Contract Technician/EMSWCD

District Directors

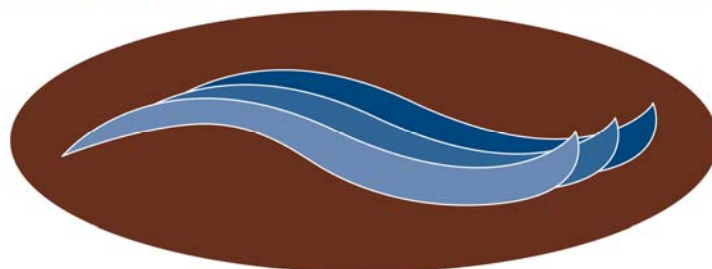
Brian Lightcap	Chair, Director, Zone 4
Jane Hartline	Vice-Chair, Director, Zone 2
George Sowder	Secretary, Director, Zone 3
Terry Preeg Riggsby	Treasurer, Director, Zone 5
Kim Peterson	Director, Zone 1
David Patte	At-Large Director
Marshall Miller	At-Large Director
Bob Wiley, Sr.	Associate Director

Our Mission: To conserve and protect soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment.

Our Territory: Our District encompasses Multnomah County, west of the Willamette River, including all of Sauvie Island.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) prohibit discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

WEST MULTNOMAH



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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