



# Annual Report

Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District July 2010 – June 2011



## Dam Gives Way to Restoration

PacifiCorp's Powerdale Hydroelectric Project was officially decommissioned in fall of 2010, with the removal of the dam. Final work included stream bank restoration and planting with native vegetation at the site.

In January of 2011, a winter storm increased the river flow dramatically. The Hood River deposited an island of river rock and developed two channels in the restored reach. While some of the newly-planted vegetation was lost, the river's changes reflect its return to a natural, dynamic system.

Also during the year, an agreement was signed by the three entities who will take ownership of the 400 acres of PacifiCorp land. When ownership is transferred in March 2012, Hood River County will own the land around the power house and former dam site, ODFW will own a small parcel on the east side of the old dam site, and the rest of the land will be owned by Columbia Land Trust (CLT). All of the land will have conservation easements attached to protect fish and wildlife habitat, retain existing recreation uses and preserve tribal fishing rights.

In spring 2011, the Hood River Watershed Group also proposed the Lower Hood River, River Mile (RM) 1.0 project as mitigation for the I-5 bridge replacement project over the Columbia River in Portland. The Columbia River Crossing consortium selected the RM 1.0 project over a number of other projects and will fund it as mitigation for impacts to Columbia River fisheries caused by construction of the new I-5 bridge.

The RM 1.0 project will reconnect a 21 acre floodplain and half-mile long side channel to the Hood River by installing culverts under the Mt. Hood Railroad bed that currently separates the floodplain and side channel from the mainstem Hood River. The side channel will provide important rearing and refuge habitat for six fish species in the lower Hood River. Design work is planned for 2011-2012.

Another activity related to the Powerdale Dam removal is transfer of PacifiCorp's water rights to instream usage. The CTWS hosted several meetings in 2011 with stakeholders to consider a proposal to set the amount for the instream right. Oregon Water Resources Department will make the final determination sometime in fall 2011.

Meanwhile, the Powerdale Land Stakeholders group, CLT and Hood River County continued to meet on a quarterly basis to develop a management plan for the Powerdale lands and handle remaining right-of-way and ownership issues. The goal is to complete the work by the March 1, 2012 ownership transfer date.

## Order Native Plants Today!

Every spring the Hood River SWCD hosts a native tree and shrub sale to promote planting native species and give locals an easy and inexpensive way to obtain them.



We offer a variety of native conifers, deciduous trees and shrubs. These bare-root seedlings are 1-2 years old. Tree and shrub orders can be placed now by mail, e-mail or phone. The orders will be filled in the order in which they were received, so get your requests in early to ensure availability. **Purchases will be available for pick up on Friday and Saturday, the 6th and 7th of April, 2012.**

Staff are available to answer your questions. Use the order form on page 11 of this newsletter, on the district's website [www.hoodriverswcd.org](http://www.hoodriverswcd.org) or stop by the office to get your order in today!

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# Hood River SWCD

## Facts & Figures

The Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District (HRSWCD) is governed by a locally elected, volunteer Board of Directors. It is a legal subdivision of state government and receives funds to administer its programs from the ODA, OWEB, NRCS, CTWS and others.

The Board of Directors meets monthly on the first Thursday in the meeting room at the OSU Extension office, 2990 Experiment Station Rd., Hood River, OR 97031. Meetings from November to March start at 3 p.m.; April-July meetings start at 4 p.m., and August-October meetings start at 7 p.m.

Meetings are open to the public. For information or agendas, contact the office at 3007 Experiment Station Rd., Hood River. Office hours are weekdays, generally from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting by calling 541-386-4588.*

### Directors

Brian Nakamura, Chair  
Larry Martin, Vice-Chair  
John Joyer, Secretary/Treasurer  
Cindy Collins  
Rick Ragan

### Associate Directors

Chuck Gehling  
Richard Larson  
Pete Siragusa

### Staff

Anne Saxby, Manager  
541-386-6719 [saxharp@gorge.net](mailto:saxharp@gorge.net)  
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541-386-4588 [hrrswcd@gorge.net](mailto:hrrswcd@gorge.net)  
Steve Stampfli, Watershed Coordinator  
541-386-6063 [hoodriver@gorge.net](mailto:hoodriver@gorge.net)  
Megan Saunders, Watershed Assistant/Technician  
541-386-6063 [hrwg@gorge.net](mailto:hrwg@gorge.net)  
Carly Heron, NRCS District Conservationist  
541-386-2815 [carly.heron@or.usda.gov](mailto:carly.heron@or.usda.gov)

Website: [www.hoodriverswcd.org](http://www.hoodriverswcd.org)

## Financial Report

Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District  
July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

<u>Beginning Fund Balance:</u>	<u>\$114,908</u>
<u>REVENUES:</u>	
Intergovernmental:	
ODA grants	69,300
OWEB grants	145,228
Other grants	1,760
Contracts:	
NRCS support	9,725
Irrigation District support	21,000
Coordinator contract-CTWS	36,000
DEQ Water Quality Study-CTWS	30,000
Earnings on Investments	399
Other:	
Tree Sale	<u>6,678</u>
<u>TOTAL REVENUES:</u>	<u>\$320,090</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>	
Administration:	
Personnel Services	45,536
Materials and Services	5,571
Conservation Technician:	
Personnel Services	43,545
Materials and Services	7,548
Hood River Watershed Program:	
Personnel Services	61,893
Materials and Services	13,364
Projects:	
Materials and Services	<u>141,380</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</u>	<u>\$318,837</u>
<u>Ending Fund Balance:</u>	<u>\$116,161</u>

### Get Hooked on Fishing!

**Steelhead and Spring Chinook Fishing 101**  
Saturday, February 18, 2012 9:00am-4:00pm

Local fishing legend Greg Short offers this one day clinic to improve skills for both beginners and experts. This class will help teach you to fish for some of the most challenging fresh water sport fish in the world!

**Register:** Hood River Community Education at  
541-386-2055 or [www.hrcommunityed.org](http://www.hrcommunityed.org)

## Saunders Stands Out, Signs On

**W**hen the Northwest Service Academy (NWSA) lost their AmeriCorps funding in 2010, the Hood River SWCD Board decided to seek additional community support to hire an employee to replace the AmeriCorps intern position that assists the Hood River Watershed Group Coordinator.

Current AmeriCorps intern and Watershed Assistant Megan Saunders stood out among the candidate pool. Megan, the latest in a long line of interns, had won accolades from Watershed Group members for her diligence and hard work. She completed her internship with the NWSA in November 2010 and began working for the SWCD in January 2011.

As Watershed Assistant/Conservation Technician, Megan organizes the Field Series, facilitates the Indian Creek Stewards meetings and conducts water quality monitoring in a number of locations in the watershed. She also provides support to HRWG members by assisting with fish acclimation, spawning surveys and other field work.

In the new position, Megan also assists the SWCD with flow meter monitoring, noxious weed abatement and grant-writing. "Megan is bright, skilled and thorough," reports Manager Anne Saxby. "She is willing to help with any task and does a good job with all of them."

Megan graduated with a degree in Environmental Studies from Maine's Colby College and hails from the Boston, Massachusetts area. She enjoys hiking, bouldering, and playing ultimate Frisbee in her spare time.

Funding for the position was made possible by additional support from local irrigation districts and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation.



## Saxby Snags State Award

Long-time District Manager Anne Saxby was the recipient of a "Spirit of the Oregon Plan Award" in November 2010. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) award recognizes Oregonians who have led exemplary stewardship efforts on behalf of the state's watersheds. This year, the OWEB regional program managers nominated one person in each region, for a total of seven recipients statewide.

Staff attended the OWEB conference and awards ceremony in Pendleton, Oregon where they celebrated Anne's accomplishments. During the ceremony, OWEB representatives said, "Anne is admired for her decisive and supportive leadership, her devotion to the region, and her ability to see the big picture. She is a treasured advocate and a respected mentor to the staff at the SWCD."

Anne has lived in the valley since 1978 and worked for the SWCD since 1991. Outside of work time, she enjoys hiking, reading and gardening. In addition, Anne is an OSU Extension Master Gardener and serves as a Hood River representative on the Hood/Willamette Resource Advisory Committee. She and her husband Gil Sharp have a small organic orchard on the west side of the lower valley.

## Meters Monitored for Water Savings

The Hood River SWCD is finishing its second year of a flow meter monitoring project to better gauge the water usage and savings associated with irrigation system upgrades. Thanks to a grant from OWEB and the support of EFID, MFID, FID and OWRD, the District is currently monitoring water usage on 35 irrigation systems (218 acres). All of these farms, with the exception of one still using a conventional irrigation system, received OWEB small grant funds to upgrade their systems from handlines and impact sprinklers to micro or drip irrigation.



*The average project saves about 400,000 gallons of water per acre, per year.*

District staff is reading flow meters before and after each irrigation season to quantify water use over the course of a season. In addition,

the SWCD is documenting the growers' irrigation management practices and their impact on the amount of water conserved.

Both the 2010 and 2011 irrigation seasons began late because of unseasonably cool, wet springs and early summers. For this reason, the overall water use is likely slightly lower than average. For the 2010 season, the average water use per acre was 397,533 gallons/acre/year. A meter was not installed on the conventional handline system until spring of 2011, so the only basis for comparison was estimates between handline and impact sprinkler systems. Based on estimates, the average water use of a handline system is 797,520 gallons/acre/year. On average, about 400,000 gallons/acre/year are conserved with a micro or drip system over a conventional system.

Data from the first year suggested that growers with a high level of participation in the management of their irrigation achieved the largest water savings. Although based on just one season's data, this suggests that management plays a significant role in cumulative water savings.

By monitoring for the rest of 2011 and 2012, the SWCD hopes to have concrete numbers to document water conservation achieved through these upgrades. Long-term availability of OWEB funding for irrigation system upgrades is dependent on demonstrating that these upgrades can, and do, translate into less water diverted for irrigation and more water left instream for fish and other aquatic life. Those interested in receiving a copy of the monitoring report should contact the District.

## Numbers Add Up



The availability of a local office for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (co-

located with the

SWCD), staffed by NRCS District Conservationist Carly Heron, has been a boon to local agricultural landowners. The proof is in the numbers:

Seventeen applications were received and nine contracts were funded this year, for a total federal cost-share obligation of \$60,741 for conservation improvements under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

This year, growers implemented:

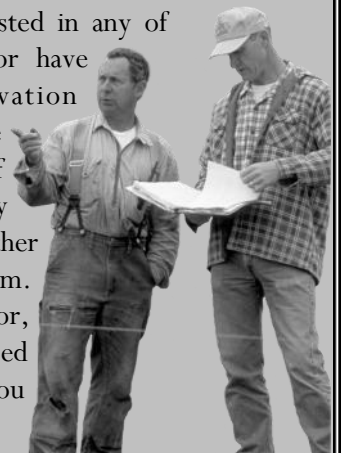
- Air resource management on 54.1 acres
- Irrigation water mgmt. on 177.7 acres
- Pest management on 69.4 acres
- Nutrient management on 73.2 acres

They also installed:

- Micro irrigation systems on 111.2 acres
- High pressure mainlines - over 1 mile
- Conservation cover on 8.5 acres
- Windbreak establishment of 390 feet
- Cover crops on 0.7 acres
- Upland wildlife habitat on 63.2 acres

If you are interested in any of these practices or have other conservation

goals, stop by the office to see if you might qualify for EQIP or another Farm Bill program. You must apply for, and have a signed contract before you begin work.

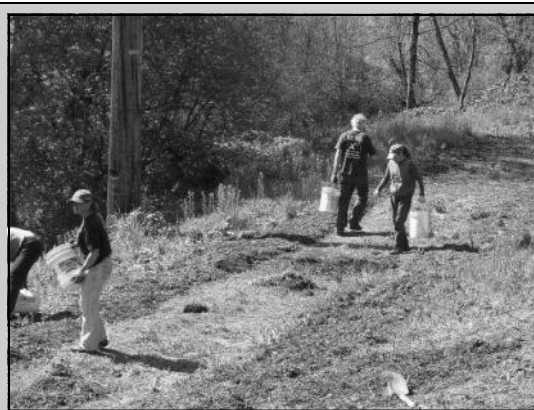


## OWEB Small Grant Funds Fuel Local Conservation

**D**uring the past year, the OWEB Small Grant team for Hood River County only met once, allocating the remaining \$675 of \$100,000 that it receives each biennium for watershed restoration projects in Hood River County.



The \$675 was matched with \$2,361 in local contributions to restore  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre of land along the Indian Creek trail by the Union Street substation, east of 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Hood River. The area was covered with non-native blackberries and knapweed. After the noxious weeds were removed, a contractor was hired to plant 625 native shrubs and trees. Volunteers then spread donated mulch over the area. The goal is to establish native vegetation that will out-compete the blackberries but won't require topping to stay low under the power lines.



*Volunteers spread cedar chips along the native plant rows at the Union Street project during the Earth Day event on April 23, 2011.*

Four irrigation improvement projects were also completed this year. Just over 42 acres of orchard or vineyard were upgraded to low flow or drip irrigation. These systems will use between 40-83% less water than the systems they replaced. OWEB contributed \$36,175 to these projects, matched by \$16,635 in local support.

The Hood River Small Grant team is again accepting applications for on-the-ground restoration projects such as stream-side fencing for livestock, manure storage facilities, fish passage improvements and irrigation system upgrades. The OWEB grant program requires a 25% match, which can be materials or in-kind labor.

The Hood River Small Grant team is made up by representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, the Hood River Watershed Group and the Hood River SWCD. They are assisted by representatives of local and state natural resource agencies.

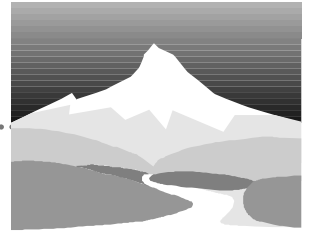
The Oregon lottery funds the OWEB grant programs to support voluntary efforts to improve water quality, water quantity and the recovery of listed fish. For more information on OWEB or any of its programs, visit [www.oweb.state.or.us](http://www.oweb.state.or.us).

**Do you have natural resource concerns but no funds to fix them?**  
*You might be eligible for an OWEB Small Grant!*

Staff from the SWCD can assist potential applicants with project development and grant applications. Information can be obtained by checking the District website, [www.hoodriverswcd.org](http://www.hoodriverswcd.org) or contacting the office at 541-386-4588.



# Hood River Watershed Group Update



## *Watershed Restoration Activities - July 2010 to June 2011*

Hood River Watershed Group (HRWG) members work “to sustain and improve the Hood River Watershed through education, cooperation and stewardship.”

Summarized here are the key accomplishments made to further this mission in the last year.

- In August 2010, a failing bridge on Graham Creek was replaced with a re-purposed bridge donated by FID. The project was designed to improve fish passage and water quality. The landowner, HRWG, FID, ODF, Hanel Development and ODFW partnered on this \$27,410 project.
- USFS completed the Robinhood Creek Watershed Restoration Project. Work included log placement in and along the stream, road stormproofing, riparian forest thinning, culvert removal, and invasive plant eradication. Total cost was \$232,285; partners were HRWG, OWEB, Wasco County Weed Dept., HRSWCD and Wilderness Volunteers.
- USFS and CTWS implemented the Elk and McGee creeks enhancement project. In summer 2010, 250 logs were added in and along 0.5 miles of Elk Creek. Work planned for 2012 includes culvert replacement, more large wood placement and riparian thinning. Project partners include CTWS, USFS, OWEB and Longview Timberlands.
- CGFG, CTWS and HRWG implemented a vegetated spray buffer project in spring 2011. Over 2,000 feet of spray buffer was planted with 1,000 willow and dogwood stakes. The HRWG Coordinator developed the planting plan.
- Fish passage at the Middle Fork Falls was restored by CTWS in August 2010. The falls were created during the debris torrent in 2006. A Spyder backhoe was used to remove a debris plug on one side of the falls. CTWS funded the project, with support from landowners, ODFW and other agencies. Spring Chinook have returned above the falls. Bull trout also benefit from the project.
- OWEB awarded \$314,000 to MFID to fund phase 3 of the Evans Creek/Glacier Ditch piping project. Over two miles of canal will be piped, eliminating the contribution of glacial sediment from Eliot Branch to Evans Creek. Project completion is expected in fall 2011. The HRWG Coordinator helped with grant and project development.
- PacifiCorp dismantled Powerdale Dam. (See story on page 1).
- The Dee Irrigation District applied for OWEB funds to convert their conveyance canal to pipeline. OWEB gave the project a high ranking but deferred funding until spring 2012. Project costs are estimated at \$3 million; partners include OWEB, HRWG and CTWS. The HRWG Coordinator drafted the OWEB application.
- CTWS continued the Hood River Production Program with acclimation of spring Chinook and steelhead smolts. HRWG staff assisted with pond set-up and take-down, fish carcass placement and snorkel and spawning surveys.
- HRWG & SWCD staff assisted CTWS with fish salvage on the EFID canal in fall 2010.

Having a hard time deciphering all of the acronyms? Check out the list of our partners on page 9!

## EDUCATION

- The HRWG Field Series featured a tour of the Gnarl Ridge Fire area, Newton Clark Glacier, the former Powerdale Dam site, the annual “Steelhead Fishing 101” class and a warm water fishing class. Total attendance was 53.
- HRWG and CTWS staff helped elementary students dissect salmon at Parkdale and Pine Grove in fall 2010. HRWG staff also helped run field stations for the CTWS-sponsored Salmon Days.
- A variety of educational events took place along Indian Creek (see story on page 12).
- The HRWG Coordinator and SWCD Manager updated the Hood River County Commissioners in May 2010 on HRWG and SWCD activities.



## PLANNING



- Hood River County secured a \$200,000 Bureau of Reclamation grant to conduct a water resources study. The two-year study will analyze existing water resources, future supply and demand, and options for future water needs.
- MFID received funding through USFS Title II and OWEB for an instream flow study. The study will help identify flow regimes to minimize impacts to aquatic life. The HRWG Coordinator wrote the successful grant proposal.

## MONITORING

- Summer 2011 is the last season of a 6-year monitoring effort on Neal Creek surrounding EFID's Central Canal Pipeline Project. HRWG staff is doing the monitoring and analysis. Pre and post-project data will be compared to evaluate whether the project is meeting the planned objectives. The USDI Bureau of Reclamation is a strong partner.
- MFID is conducting a fish passage study to evaluate passage options at Clear Branch Dam. The study began in fall 2010 and is expected to be completed in 2011.
- HRWG staff assisted MFID and DEQ with temperature and flow monitoring in tributaries to Laurance Lake. This data will help guide MFID management decisions relating to irrigation diversions and Clear Branch Dam operation.
- As part of the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership, DEQ conducted water quality sampling and analysis as they have since 1999. DEQ's 2010 data was shared with the Partnership in February 2011. Results were similar to prior years with only one detection of an organophosphate pesticide above the water quality standard. Pesticides used in agriculture, forestry and right-of-ways were detected. In 2011, USGS joined DEQ in providing pesticide monitoring in the Hood River basin. USGS is conducting continuous water sampling at four sites, testing for 120 chemicals. Funding for the monitoring comes from CTWS, DEQ, and USGS; the SWCD assists with contracting.
- The Hood River Valley Integrated Codling Moth Management Project continued. Since 2007, the project has expanded from Dee Flat to Odell; 24 growers are participating and 1,250 acres of orchard are being managed using area-wide application of codling moth mating disruptors. ODA provided \$64,178 in 2010 but no funding was found for 2011. DEQ will provide \$20,000 in 2012, which will fund cost-sharing and monitoring in Odell on 650 acres.



## WATERSHED GROUP COORDINATION

Join Us!

Monthly meetings are held the fourth Tuesday at 7 PM, usually in the OSU Extension Service meeting room. There are no meetings in August and December. The July meeting is a salmon BBQ at Tollbridge Park. Meetings feature updates on member activities and stakeholder presentations. Attendance averages 27+ people.

**Watershed Group members do more than attend meetings!** In 2010-11, volunteers contributed 351 hours of assistance on watershed projects, including vegetation management, mulching, water monitoring and educational efforts.

## FUTURE PROJECTS (NOT MENTIONED ELSEWHERE)

- Design work is 35% complete for the EFID headgate replacement, with assistance from CTWS. Final design is expected in fall 2011 and construction may start in 2012, depending on funding.
- HRWG and stakeholders have been working with the project owner to determine the feasibility of decommissioning the Odell Creek Hydro project. The goal is to improve fish passage at the facility near the mouth of Odell Creek.



*USFS staffer, Shawna Bautista shows off one of five truck loads of garlic mustard CWMA partners pulled in Hood River County.*

## Regional Weed Partnership Targets New Invaders

The impacts of invasive weeds and the importance of their management are paramount to natural resource conservation. Weeds extend across multiple ownerships and travel over the landscape, and for this reason, collaboration and partnerships are essential for effective management. Several years ago, land managers and concerned citizens throughout the gorge formed the Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) to create and support collaborative weed management among public and private land managers and owners. The Columbia Gorge CWMA promotes weed education/outreach, inventory, prevention, and control activities throughout the gorge.

In the spring of 2011, the Hood River SWCD was awarded a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation on behalf of the Columbia Gorge

CWMA to implement an Early Detection Rapid Response project. The project is designed to expand the capacity of the CWMA to detect and respond to new invasions of noxious weeds and to increase public awareness of invasive species through prevention strategies. To achieve these goals, the project includes four actions:

- The CWMA's 22 partners will collaborate to report existing weed species location data to newly developed state weed tracking systems in both Oregon and Washington.
- Surveys will be conducted at 40 sites throughout the Columbia River Gorge to locate, report and control five target species: false brome, garlic mustard, knotweed, leafy spurge and giant hogweed.
- Four "Weed Watcher" trainings will be held in the gorge.
- Boot brushes and signage will be installed at 25 key trailheads to increase public awareness.

This spring the District and CWMA partners held two Weed Watcher workshops. The District also contracted a botanist to conduct the weed surveys during the growing season. In the coming year, the remainder of the project components will be completed. For more information or to get involved with the project, contact Jordan Kim at the District.



### District Lends a Helping Hand

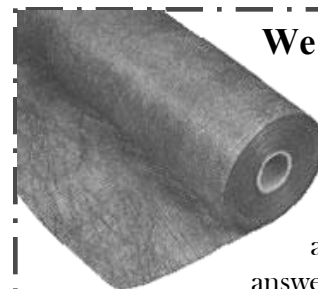
The SWCD delivers conservation services in a variety of ways. Technical assistance is provided over the phone, at the office, and in the field.

The District's e-newsletter was launched in fall 2010 and goes out quarterly to about 900 recipients. It provides updates on upcoming events, funding opportunities and deadlines. The District's website ([www.hoodriverswcd.org](http://www.hoodriverswcd.org)) also provides a wide range of information.

Outreach ranges from this annual report to workshops and newspaper articles. Three workshops were held in 2010-2011 including a *Stormwater Management*, *Weed Watcher*, and *Landscaping With Less*. Staff was invited to give presentations on our flow meter monitoring project, the OWEB small grant program and District services.

Newspaper articles spanned a wide spectrum of topics: district services, flood impacts on the watershed, manure and mud management, water quality monitoring results, and spill response.

The District partners with the HRWG and OSU Master Gardeners to host a display each July at the Hood River County Fair. This year, 839 Rural Living Handbooks or other fact sheets were distributed at the fair, workshops, site visits and from the office.



### We've Got You Covered!

Got weeds? Who doesn't? But herbicides aren't the only answer. Landscape fabric can slow weed spread while saving you time and money.

Farmers seeking quantities of landscape fabric should check with the District before ordering elsewhere. Through the DeWitt Co., the District can obtain various widths and lengths of landscape fabric and related materials at a deep discount. Orders over \$5,000 receive free shipping through this program.

Call District Manager Anne Saxby for more information.

## Stew Crew Aims to Collaborate

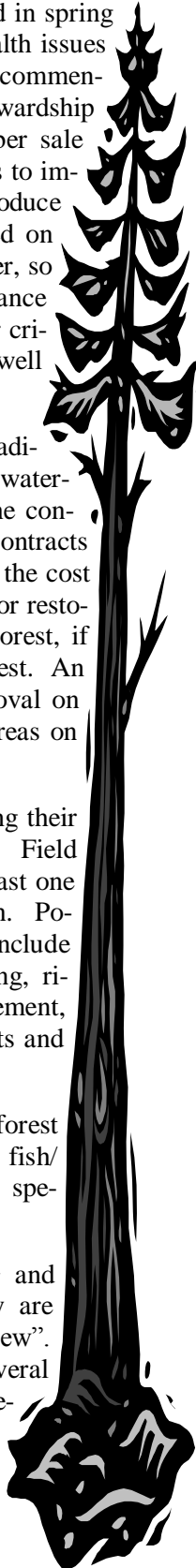
A collaborative stewardship group formed in spring 2011 to learn about National Forest health issues in the Hood River watershed and develop recommendations for stewardship contracting. Stewardship contracting differs from the traditional timber sale contracting in that the purpose of the work is to improve forest and watershed health, not produce revenue. Stewardship contracts are awarded on the best value approach, not the highest bidder, so consideration can be given to past performance and the use of local work force, among other criteria. This can benefit the local economy as well as watershed health.

Stewardship contracts also differ from traditional timber sale contracts in that additional watershed restoration work can be done within the contract, or with the retained receipts from contracts where the value of timber harvested exceeds the cost of the work. Retained receipts can be used for restoration work both on and off the National Forest, if the off-forest work benefits the National Forest. An example of the latter would be culvert removal on private land that opens up fish passage to areas on the National Forest.

The group is meeting monthly and is focusing their initial efforts on the Red Hill planning area. Field trips were taken in May and June, with at least one more planned before the end of field season. Potential treatments for the Red Hill area include huckleberry enhancement, plantation thinning, riparian enhancement, forest health improvement, fuels reduction, wildlife habitat improvements and meadow enhancement.

Key stewardship goals include improving forest health, improving water quality, improving fish/wildlife habitat, re-establishing native plant species and reducing hazardous fuel loads.

Rick Ragan, representing both the HRWG and SWCD, and SWCD Manager Anne Saxby are coordinating the group, dubbed the “stew crew”. Participants include representatives from several environmental organizations and natural resource agencies as well as interested local residents. Anyone interested in joining this effort can contact Anne at [saxharp@gorge.net](mailto:saxharp@gorge.net) to receive information.



## Partners Make It Possible

We couldn't get by without the support of our partners. They include:

- Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research & Extension Center (MCAREC)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation (CTWS)
- East Fork Irrigation District (EFID)
- Middle Fork Irrigation District (MFID)
- Farmers Irrigation District (FID)
- Hood River County (HRC)
- Hood River News
- Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers (CGFG)
- US Forest Service (USFS)
- OSU Extension Service - Central Gorge Master Gardener Association (CGMGA)
- Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)
- Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA)
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)
- Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF)
- Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area partners (CGCWMA)
- Freshwater Trust
- US Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Northwest Service Academy (NWSA)
- Hood River Valley Parks & Rec. District (HRVPRD)
- Columbia Land Trust (CLT)
- Longview Timberlands Inc.
- Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)
- Northwest Power & Conservation Council (NWPCC)
- Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC)
- Hood River County School District (HRCSD)—Community Education
- Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute (CGEI)
- Pacific Power
- Hood River Electric Coop (EREC)
- Underwood Conservation District (UCD)
- Hood River Valley High School (HRVHS)
- Horizon Christian School
- Klahre House School
- Individual landowners and Watershed Group members

**THANK YOU**

Special thanks to Chuck Gehling, Rick Ragan, Greg Short and the Field Series trip leaders for their efforts with the HRWG; Kelsey Griffith for volunteer monitoring assistance, and all of the OSU Extension Master Gardeners who helped with the district's native plant sale. Mary Parrott and Nancy Slagle deserve special recognition as ace Weed Warriors.



## Ag Water Quality Issues Reviewed

As part of its role as the Local Management Agency for the Hood River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area, the Hood River SWCD organized the biennial review of the Area Plan and Rules on November 9, 2010. Fifteen stakeholders, including member of the Local Advisory Committee heard about local educational efforts, agricultural water quality complaints and enforcement activities by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). The LAC was generally pleased with efforts to protect water quality but expressed support for an expedited enforcement process so problems are resolved in a timely manner.

LAC members were concerned about lack of funding for mating disruption and other alternatives to broad-spectrum insecticides. They also encouraged the SWCD to find ways to communicate with hobby farmers and absentee landowners who are not tuned into the usual information networks.

One ongoing water quality complaint was resolved this year when the landowner had the lessee remove cattle from his property in the upper Hood River valley. ODA recommended that the landowner fence the streamside area and a drainage ditch before livestock return.

Another water quality complaint was initiated in early spring when a new landowner removed streamside vegetation along Indian Creek. After an investigation by SWCD, ODA and DSL staff, ODA recommended that the landowner immediately plant native shrubs along the creek, water the newly-planted shrubs, control re-growth of non-native blackberries and get prior approval from DSL and ODFW before doing any further work in Indian Creek or its tributaries.

The Hood River SWCD receives funding from ODA to provide education about best management practices to reduce pollution into waterways. While soil erosion and chemical (fertilizer and pesticide) runoff are the more obvious types of water pollution, solar heating of waterways is the biggest water quality concern in our area.

In Hood River County, there are a number of stream reaches that exceed temperatures needed for healthy native fish and other aquatic life. One significant cause for the high stream temperatures is irrigation water withdrawals. Irrigation water is critical to our agricultural economy, so efforts to reduce stream temperatures are two-fold: promote irrigation efficiency through system improvements and irrigation water management, and increase shade along waterways by planting and maintaining streamside vegetation.

In addition to reducing water temperature, a healthy vegetative buffer along streams reduces the likelihood of pesticide drift or fertilizer runoff into streams and holds streambanks in place, reducing soil erosion. Fencing and water troughs to keep livestock out of streams are important components to maintaining riparian buffers.

Information on these and other best management practices can be found in the Hood River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan and Rules. The Plan is available at the District office and online at the SWCD website ([www.hoodriverswcd.org](http://www.hoodriverswcd.org)).

In addition to promoting best management practices, the SWCD is tasked with informing landowners about the Area Rules. They are:

- ◆ Agricultural landowners are required to maintain sufficient vegetation on area streams to control water pollution by moderating solar heating, minimizing streambank erosion, and filtering sediments and nutrients from surface runoff.
- ◆ Agricultural landowners must prevent animal waste from entering rivers or streams of the state.



### Do you have water quality concerns?

Violations of the Area Rules should be reported to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The regional contact is Ellen Hammond, (541) 617-0017. Degradation of area waterways by non-agricultural activities is the responsibility of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. DEQ has an office in The Dalles at (541) 298-7255.



Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District  
**Conservation Tree & Shrub Sale 2012**



# ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to be reminded of the pick up date?     Phone                       Email (\*Must provide email above)                       Both

Conifer Trees - \$1.25 ea.	QTY
Douglas Fir	
Grand Fir	
Noble Fir	
Western Red Cedar	
Ponderosa Pine	
Giant Sequoia	
Lodgepole Pine	
Total Ordered:	

**Orders will be available for pick up:  
 Friday & Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

Call Jordan Kim at Hood River SWCD (541-386-4588)  
 if you need to make other arrangements.

Deciduous Trees - \$2.50 ea.	QTY
Vine Maple	
Quaking Aspen	
Paper Birch	
Blue Elderberry	
White Alder	
Total Ordered:	

These are bareroot seedlings.  
 Be prepared to plant them soon after pick up!

More information about each species' can be found on the  
 Hood River SWCD website:  
[www.hoodriverswcd.org](http://www.hoodriverswcd.org)

All orders are subject to plant availability. Customers will be notified if  
 shortages occur. Orders are filled in the order they are received.

**Please order early to ensure availability!**

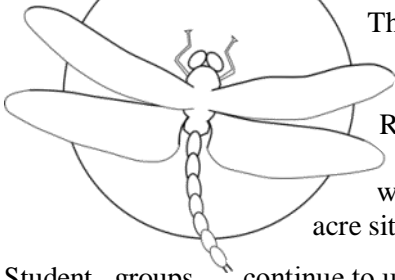
Shrubs - \$2.50 ea.	QTY
Woods Rose	
Snowberry	
Douglas Spirea	
Mock Orange	
Oceanspray	
Indian Plum	
Red Osier Dogwood	
Serviceberry	
Red Flowering Currant	
Pacific Ninebark	
Golden Currant	
Total Ordered:	

TOTAL ORDER			
Conifer Trees	_____	x \$1.25	= _____
Deciduous Trees	_____	x \$2.50	= _____
Shrubs	_____	x \$2.50	= _____
<b>Total Cost of Order:</b> _____			
Paid by:    Check    Cash			
<i>Sorry, we cannot accept credit card payments.</i>			
Please make checks payable to the Hood River SWCD.			

Submit Order and Payment to:  
**Hood River SWCD**  
**3007 Experiment Station Road**  
**Hood River, OR 97031**

How did you hear about our sale?     SWCD Annual Report     Newspaper     Radio     Website     Friend     Other

Indian Creek  
Stewards



# INDIAN CREEK INITIATIVES

The Indian Creek Stewards (ICS) continue their dual program of education and restoration efforts on Indian Creek. Highlights this year included three Earth Day service learning projects, design of Indian Creek educational signs, and the Union Substation Riparian Enhancement Project. The latter was done in cooperation with Pacific Power, Port of Hood River, EFID, FID, MCAREC, local schools, and SOLV volunteers and was funded by Pacific Power, OWEB (see story on page 5) and SOLV. As a result, a 1/2 acre site that was once dominated by invasive knapweed and blackberry is being reclaimed.

Student groups continue to use the creek corridor as an outdoor education “classroom”. Youth from Horizon Christian School, Hood River Valley High School, Klahre House School, and Columbia Gorge Community College are conducting water quality studies, planting and maintaining riparian shrubs and trees, and learning about hydrology and other natural systems. Hood River Middle School students used the outdoor classroom to learn about bats.

This year, the Hood River Watershed Group submitted a successful application to OWEB for a “mini-grant” to purchase a high-powered drill for storm drain marker installations in the Indian Creek watershed and City of Hood River. The markers caution residents about dumping waste into storm drains that lead to streams.

In the coming year, the three large educational signs will be stationed at strategic locations in the stream corridor in cooperation with HRVPRD and the city. Additional storm drain markers will be installed. Teachers and students will also continue their work to learn about, and improve the watershed.

The Stewards meet each month. Contact HRWG Assistant Megan Saunders if you’d like to join the effort.



*Hood River Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
3007 Experiment Station Rd.  
Hood River, OR 97031*

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