



COOS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2017 NEWSLETTER

Coos SWCD issues call to landowners to make use of Grant Funds

Coos SWCD is here to assist agricultural landowners. We can help landowners receive funding for different types of projects such as, fencing to exclude livestock from riparian areas; bank stabilization and planting to restore riparian areas; developing and installing off-channel watering for livestock; irrigation efficiency improvement; culvert or bridge replacement, and more.

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands and other natural areas. OWEB grants are funded from the Oregon State Lottery, federal dollars, and salmon license plate revenue. OWEB offers a variety of grant types and programs.

The Small Grant Program in particular is an easy-to-engage-in, competitive grant program that awards funds of up to \$10,000 for small, on-the-ground and in-stream restoration projects. Oregon is currently

divided up into 26 Small Grant Team (SGT) areas. The Coos/Coquille SGT was allocated \$100,000 for the 2015-2017 biennium.

Currently, the Coos Soil & Water Conservation District (Coos SWCD) has a total of four projects being funded through the OWEB small grant program. Two of those four are currently in the implementation phase, while one is scheduled to begin in beginning of 2017, and the other is scheduled for implementation in summer of 2017. Also, Coos SWCD has submitted two OWEB Regular Cycle restoration grants this year, which is a first in Coos SWCD history. OWEB accepts applications for the Regular Grant Cycle in November and April.

While OWEB is one of the primary sources of grant funding for projects, it is not our sole source. Coos SWCD also receives funding from various other organizations and entities. Currently, we are approved for funding from WSARE for an upcoming 3-day grazing management workshop in May 2017, and the Coquille Indian Tribe also granted funds from the Coquille Tribal Community Fund for our OSU Watershed Restoration Workshop, which was held November of this year.

The Coos SWCD would like to issue a call to all agricultural landowners to make

use of the small grant funds that have been designated to our region. Please call us if you have an idea for implementing conservation or enhancement measures on your land! Keep in mind, projects must have a direct benefit on improving in-stream process and function, fish passage, wetland and riparian process and function, road impact reduction, or water quality, but may also carry agricultural or aesthetic benefits as well.

The review process on small grant applications usually takes less than 60 days, deadlines are continually revolving, and there is no cost to apply. Once a grant is submitted and approved, landowners have two years to complete the project.

If you are interested in learning more on how Coos SWCD can assist you with options to improve water quality or fish and wildlife habitat on your land, please contact the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District office in Coquille at 541-396-6879 for more information, or email us at info@coosswcd.org.

Breakdown of Coos SWCD Funding

Grants for Environmental Education: \$20,237

Grants for Monitoring: \$6,000

Capacity Grant Funds: \$72,671

Guerin Memorial Essay Contest

By: Anne Guerin

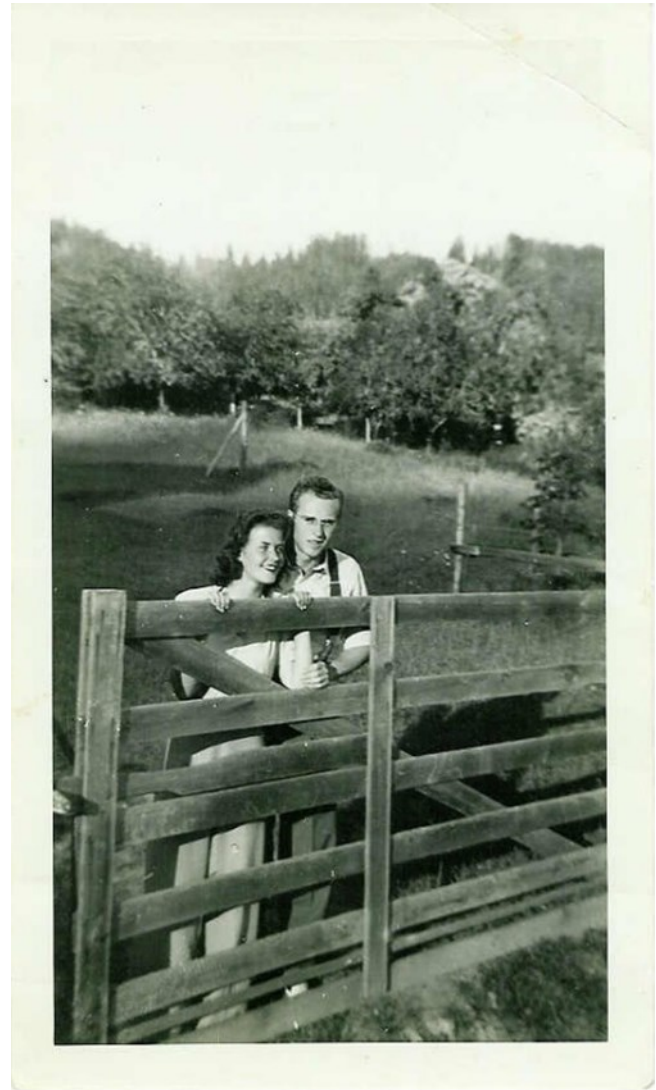
The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District directors have honored the memory of Dorothy Guerin for 34 years by sponsoring the Guerin Memorial Essay Contest, and 11 years ago including her husband Tom, who was a director for many years. Before her early death in 1980, Dorothy worked in the CSWCD office, a position she very much enjoyed. Tom initiated the memorial in 1982, which has been sustained over the years by generous donors both on and off the board of directors.

The essay contest promotes an opportunity to engage young people in Coos County in research and reflection on natural resource issues that are important to the county and the state as a whole. The topics emphasize conservation practices that protect land and water values. The winner receives a plaque to be displayed in his/her school for the remainder of the year, plus \$150. Second place winner receives \$125, while third place winner receives \$100.

A bit of personal history: Tom and Dorothy were good examples of the impact of education and exposure to better practices by their involvement with the CSWCD. With no garbage service on their ranch south of Myrtle Point, tin cans, once emptied of their contents, were tossed down the hill by the garage, some of them eventually tumbling into the creek that ran by our old ranch house. That practice stopped. In an attempt to reduce erosion on the banks of the Middle Fork of the Coquille that ran beside the Bull Pasture, Dad had old car hulks planted. That, too, was no longer done.

Tom saw that new and better practices needed to be implemented. Perhaps some of these young essay entrants will eventually become farmers, ranchers, or loggers, and will also strive to adapt their ways to what is going to better protect the land and water where they live and work.

The contest is open annually to all Coos County students (including home-school students) from grades 7 through 12. Please contact Coos SWCD at 541.396.6879 or info@coosswcd.org for more information.



2015 Guerin Memorial Essay Winners

1st Place Winner of \$150 - Hailey Riley

2nd Place Winner of \$125 - Kyle Bowman

3rd Place Winner of \$100 - Zachary Amavisca

Congratulations to all of our winners!!

COOS SWCD PROJECTS - IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY

This project, located on the South Fork of the Coquille River just downstream from Powers, helped cost-share the installation of a K-line pod irrigation system that increases efficiency and reduces water use.

Efficient irrigation systems and water management in the Coquille Watershed have a significant positive effect on water quality. On this property, installation of the K-line system should increase the efficiency of the landowner's irrigation system from 51% to 70%, according to NRCS worksheet Water Savings Estimator for Irrigation System Planning and Ranking. This should result in an estimated annual water savings 6.8 acre-inches per acre.

K-line systems are custom designed to each particular field, applying precisely the correct amount of water necessary, eliminating wasteful overwatering and deep percolation. They do this by applying the water slowly and gently over a longer period of time, allowing the soil to absorb the maximum amount of moisture without surface runoff.

In the context of the watershed as a whole, the general idea is that the need to use less water for irrigation should result in more water left in-stream. While the difference from one landowner's improvements in efficiency may not provide a measurable impact on the watershed; the cumulative effects of all of the improvements being made, as more and more landowners upgrade to the more efficient irrigation systems, will provide a noticeable impact on flow levels over time.



COOS SWCD PROJECTS - RIPARIAN PROCESS & FUNCTION

This riparian enhancement project is located on the lower Coquille River main stem and involves construction of over 3000 feet of livestock exclusion fencing to protect Offield Creek where it borders agricultural land. Fence was completed this September with assistance from the Northwest Youth Corps. This winter, the landowner, with technical assistance from Coos SWCD and ODFW, will plant the fenced area with willow cuttings taken from on-site and other local sources. Black Cottonwood, Sitka Spruce and Western Red Cedar will also be planted where possible at higher elevation areas along the stream. This site will also be one of the field-tour locations visited during our upcoming 3-day course titled “Grazing Management in Riparian, Wetland, and Other Sensitive Habitat Areas.”



COOS SWCD PROJECTS - RIPARIAN & IN-STREAM HABITAT



Wood Creek Pre-Project: degraded riparian, lots of blackberry, Summer, 2015

Project Implementation:
construction of 'elk-braces' for
wildlife stream crossings, Fall,
2016



Project Implementation:
logs piled and ready for
instream placement, Fall
2015

Education & Outreach and Partnering with local youth



(left) Coos SWCD staff volunteering with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to assist with sampling for juvenile Coho in Winter Lake and Beaver Slough in Spring 2016.



(above, left) Coos SWCD staff assisting Coos Watershed Association with fish salvage at the Millicoma Oxbow Reconnection Project, Summer 2016.



(above, left) Coos SWCD staff partnering up with & educating Northwest Youth Corp in Fall 2016.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2017

Don't miss our upcoming 3 day course, "***Grazing Management in Riparian and Sensitive Habitat Areas***" coming up in May, 2017

Course Objectives: To build an understanding of the tools, concepts, and thought processes relative to livestock grazing in riparian areas so that participants will be able to work with other individuals, groups, and agencies to develop and implement successful grazing management strategies. Participants learn to develop riparian resource objectives and design grazing management strategies that are practical and foster sustainable conditions.

Collaborative planning, focused monitoring, and adaptive management are emphasized, along with success through operator commitment. Given an actual livestock operation situation, participants will be able to provide grazing management alternatives to achieve riparian objectives.

Target Audience: Livestock producers, agency personnel, and others who are involved with planning, managing, or evaluating riparian grazing systems.

For three-days, experts from the National Riparian Service Team and Oregon Riparian Team will lead this **free** training, both in classroom sessions paired with daily field workshops.



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Have an idea for a workshop or a class you would like to see in our area? Please contact our office at 541-396-6879 or email us at info@coosswcd.org to tell us your idea and we will see what is available.

Got Manure? Need Manure? We want to hear from you!

Coos SWCD is in the process of compiling a list of local people who have manure, either for sale or for free, and people in need of manure for fertilizer. If you would like to be a part of this list, please contact our office today to let us know. We will put you in contact with other local people who can help fulfill your manure needs. Please call us at 541-396-6879 or email us at info@coosswcd.org to find out more information.

We can also help you if you have any questions about being in compliance with the Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan & Rules. Often people believe they are doing the right thing, until someone files a complaint



and the landowner gets a visit from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and is told they must relocate their manure pile or alter their management. The Coos SWCD is a non-regulatory organization that exists to help landowners avoid such situations. If you have questions or concerns about something on your agricultural property, please do not hesitate to call us. We can provide information, make recommendations, answer questions, and if necessary we have resources to help you address water quality issues.

**COOS SOIL
AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**
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2017 Newsletter

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