



# COOS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2016 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](mailto: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

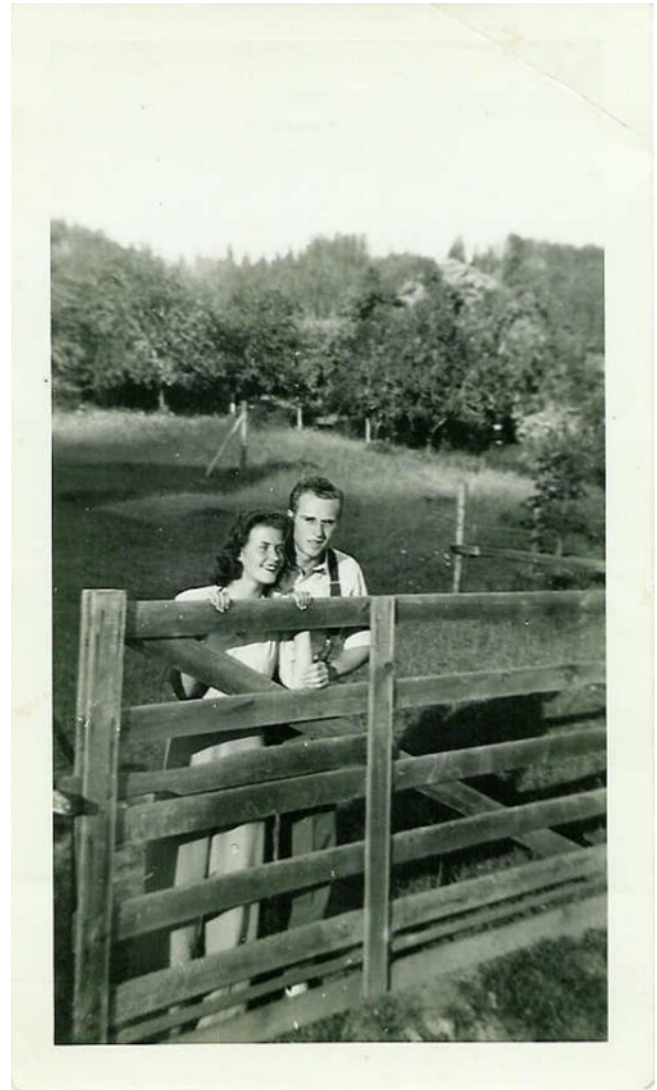
The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District directors have honored the memory of Dorothy Guerin for 34 years by sponsoring the Guerin Memorial Essay Contest, and 11 years ago including her husband Tom, who was a director for many years. Before her early death in 1980, Dorothy worked in the CSWCD office, 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](mailto: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

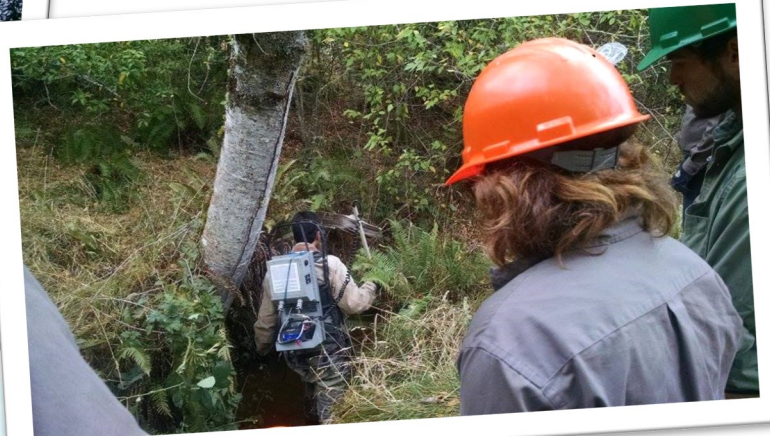
## Education & Outreach and Partnering with local youth



(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.

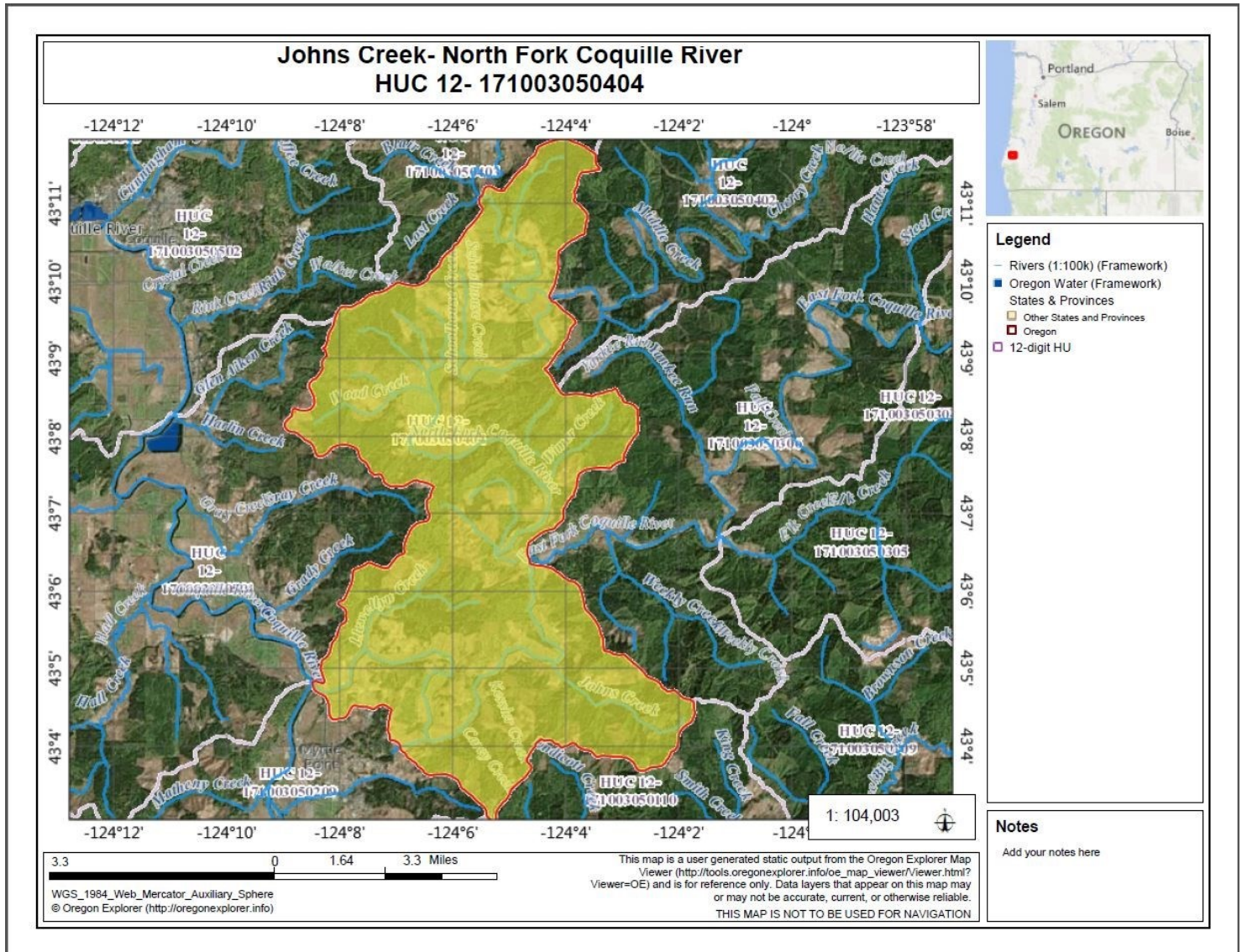


(above, left) Coos SWCD staff partnering up with & educating Northwest Youth Corp in Fall 2016.



# Funds available for the Lower North Fork of the Coquille River

The Coos Soil & Water Conservation District will provide assistance to willing landowners in the Lower North Fork Focus Area in the developing and utilizing their resources to reduce soil erosion, conserve and improve water quality, maximize crop and forage production, improve fisheries habitat, and to support the economy of Coos County, as well as offer funding sources to achieve these goals. If you are located in the surrounding area and would like us to visit your property to discuss what we can do for you, please contact us at 541-396-6879.



The lower North Fork of the Coquille (HUC 171003050404) is approximately 18,947 acres. Approximately 90% are privately owned. 10% are federally or locally owned (mostly BLM, some County). Land use in this watershed is approximately 60% agricultural 28% forest, and about 10% forested mixed use with ag, 0% urban, and perhaps 3% rural residential. The main agricultural uses include second growth forestry, hay, and cattle grazing. There are approximately 482 agricultural tax lots in this area.

“The North Fork Coquille River from river mile 0 (confluence with South Fork Coquille to form the Coquille R) to RM 27.9 is included on the State of Oregon 303(d) list for failing to meet water quality standards for dissolved oxygen. The reach is listed year-round because it does not meet the 8.0 mg/L non-spawning DO criterion. In addition, the reach from RM 0 to RM 18.5 is also included on the 303(d) list for DO for failing to meet the 11.0 mg/L resident trout spawning criteria which applies from January 1 to May 15.”

*( Coquille TMDL: North Fork Coquille River Regression Analysis, Draft July 2010)*

# WANTED

## INVASIVE

### Japanese and Himalayan



Photo by Britt Slattery,

**Knotweed is an ornamental plant native to Asia. Japanese knotweed is characterized by a wide, heart-shaped leaf, and Himalayan knotweed has an elongated leaf. Both types have bamboo-like, green or reddish stems, and bright green leaves 1-12" wide with smooth edges. Knotweed begins its growth in April, and by July it can reach a height of 12 feet! Large spikes of small, white flowers bloom in late summer. In the winter months, although the plant lies dormant and dead, brown stems may remain standing.- When it colonizes in areas such as the Coquille watershed, it out competes and permanently displaces native vegetation. It is extremely aggressive and grows very quickly - up to a foot a week. Native animals and fish cannot use it for food or shelter. Therefore, knotweed destroys terrestrial and aquatic habitat that would otherwise be suitable for wildlife. The food chain could also be disrupted because knotweed takes nitrogen out of the soil without replacing it with leaf litter. Knotweed is most commonly found in the flood plains along rivers and streams. However, it will thrive in any moist soil or river cobble in full or partial light. It is important that you avoid cutting down the knotweed because it can regrow even stronger and small cuttings of the plant can re-sprout elsewhere if not contained.**

**If you have seen this plant on your property, please contact the Coos SWCD**

**541-396-6879**



# OFF-CHANNEL WATERING FOR LIVESTOCK

Source: Fact Sheet No. 9: Providing Stockwater in Fields and Near Streams- Tips for Small Acreages in Oregon. Washington County SWCD, 1999.

Livestock that are allowed free access to drink from creeks, streams, and rivers may be more at risk for potential health problems and decreased productivity. If you own pasture that borders a stream or river, you probably already know the environmental benefits of keeping animals away from sensitive riparian areas and streambeds. But, did you know there are also substantial animal health benefits to restricting livestock access to waterways?

It is commonly known that stream protection practices such as watering troughs, stream crossings, livestock fencing and stream buffers help reduce sediments and livestock nutrients from entering our waterways. Just as importantly, however, these practices can reduce health problems, increase milk production and minimize infectious diseases and physical damage to dairy and beef herds.

A watering trough provides a safe, clean, reliable water supply for animals away from streams. Most farmers report that livestock prefer watering troughs to streams and springs. It has also been shown that livestock gain up to 30 percent more weight on clean water and graze more efficiently when troughs are distributed throughout pastures.

## Animal Average Drinking needs\*

Dairy cow ..... 27 gal/day  
Beef cow ..... 12 gal/day  
Horse ..... 12 gal/day  
Pig ..... 8 gal/day  
Sheep ..... 4 gal/day  
Goat ..... 4 gal/day

\*On hot days, animals may need twice as much water.



## Environmental Benefits:

### ■ **Efficient Pasture Management:**

A selectively placed watering trough can make pasture management easier. Having multiple troughs in a pasture also allows for the opportunity to install cross-fencing and to rotate cattle from field to field (known as rotational or intensive grazing). This practice can enable a landowner to get the most out of his or her pasture without over-grazing.

■ **Reduced Erosion:** Watering troughs help reduce stream bank erosion from messy or muddy areas caused by regular animal traffic. One study found five times the number of trout in streams with non-eroded banks versus those with eroded banks.

■ **Cleaner Water:** Clean water is essential to people, fish, and the environment. When livestock deposit manure near or in water, the components of manure may be harmful. Phosphorus increases algae blooms, ammonia kills fish, and coliform bacteria can sicken or kill people with weakened immune systems.

■ **Riparian Habitat:** The trees, shrubs, and tall grass next to streams provides food and cover for 74 percent and 94 percent of western and eastern Oregon wildlife, respectively. One study found 89 different bird species on un-grazed banks compared to only two bird species (grackles and starlings) on grazed banks. Without stream fencing, livestock may trample grass nests, wade through spawning beds, and muddy the water.

## Animal Health Benefits:

### ■ **Lower Risk of Infection:**

Watering troughs reduce mastitis problems caused when livestock enter muddy streams or spring heads seeking water.

■ **Increase Weight:** A healthy supply of clean water can stimulate appetite and improve milk production in dairy cows.

■ **Avoid Toxins:** Watering troughs reduce the risk of livestock ingesting toxic and potentially fatal algae—such as blue-green algae—that bloom along the edges of streams where animals drink. Also, high levels of nitrates found in many streams are unhealthy for livestock and can threaten the health of unborn calves.

■ **Reduce Risk of Injury:** Muddy areas near streams may also increase foot rot, leg injuries, and stress.

## Financial and Technical Assistance:

There are funds available to assist landowners who are willing to fence off streams and creeks and provide alternative water sources to their livestock. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board offers a small grant program (awards up to \$10,000). Please contact the Coos SWCD if you are interested in learning more.

Phone: 541-396-6879 or email: [info@coosswcd.org](mailto:info@coosswcd.org)

# UPCOMING COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2017

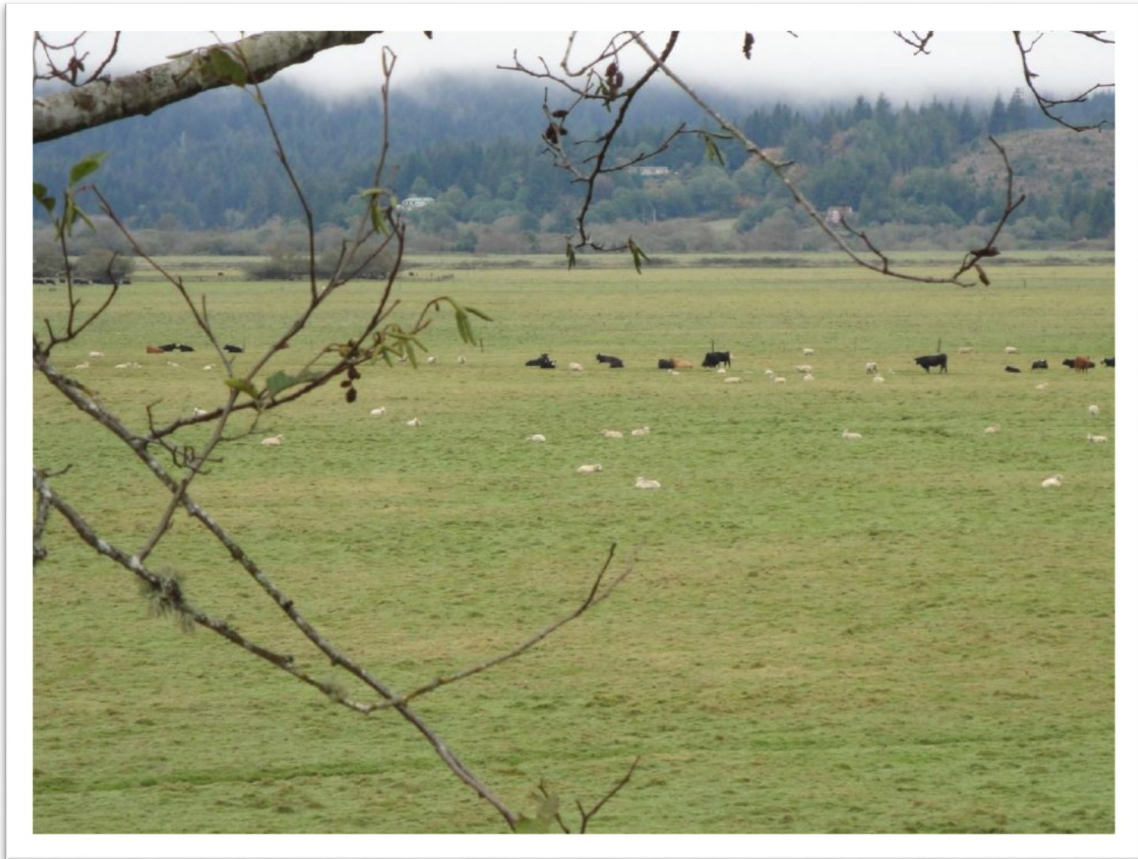
Don't miss our upcoming 3 day course, "***Grazing Management in Riparian and Sensitive Habitat Areas***" coming up in May, 2017

**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.



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@cooswcd.org](mailto:info@cooswcd.org) to tell us your idea and we will see what is available.

## Stop the Spread of Sudden Oak Death

**Sudden Oak Death is the common name** for a disease caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*, a previously unknown and presumably non-native pathogen. At this time, no one knows where the pathogen came from or how it was introduced into Oregon.

***Phytophthora ramorum* has killed** more than 1 million oak and tanoak trees in 15 coastal counties in California and thousands of tanoaks in Curry County, Oregon.

**State and federal inspectors survey** forests and nurseries in Oregon regularly to detect the disease. Infected plants and adjacent host plants are destroyed in an effort to slow disease spread. It also causes branch and shoot dieback and leaf spotting on a large number of woodland and nursery plant species.

**State and federal quarantine regulations are in place** to minimize the risk of new infections and prevent human-assisted spread. Complete texts of these regulations (ORS 603-052-1230 and 7 CFR 301.92) are on the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture websites.

**The pathogen has a wide host range** including tanoak, California black oak, Douglas-fir, grand fir, coast redwood, Pacific madrone, Pacific rhododendron, evergreen huckleberry, and many other tree and shrub

species common in Oregon and Washington forests. Hosts in the nursery trade include varieties of rhododendron, camellia, and *Pieris*. A complete, current host list is at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/pram/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pram/index.shtml)

***P. ramorum* spreads naturally** when clouds and rain move spores within forest canopies—from treetops to stems and shrubs below, or across landscapes from treetop to treetop. Artificial (human-assisted) spread occurs when people transport infected plants or plant parts or infested soil. The pathogen survives in infested plant material, litter, soil, and water.

### ***Help protect Oregon forests and plant nurseries — and the people who depend on them!***

**People can spread *Phytophthora ramorum*** across long distances by moving infected plants either purchased at a nursery or collected in the wild, or by moving infected wood, leaves, stems, or soil.

**If you live, work, recreate, or travel** in the quarantined portion of Curry County, Oregon

- **Become familiar** with the most recent regulations related to Sudden Oak Death (see websites listed under “For more information”).
- **DO NOT** collect and remove host plants or plant parts from the forest.

(see [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/pram/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pram/index.shtml)).

- **DO NOT** collect or remove soil.
- **Stay** on established trails, and respect any trail closures.

**Before leaving infested areas:**

- **Clean and disinfect** equipment (saws, shovels, pruning equipment, etc.) you have used in infested areas.
- **Wash soil off** tires, wheel wells, and the undercarriage of your vehicle.
- **Clean soil off** shoes, mountain bikes, horses’ hooves, and pets’ paws.
- **For best protection**, use a 10-percent bleach solution for cleaning.

**Buy healthy plants** from reputable nurseries.

**If you travel or work** in any of the 15 quarantined counties in coastal California (see map, over), follow these same rules. Don’t bring



***Phytophthora ramorum* into Oregon!**

Area in Curry County, Oregon, under state and federal quarantine regulation for Sudden Oak Death, as of August 2015.

Full brochure of **Stop the Spread of Sudden Oak Death** available at: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/search/content/EC%201608>

# 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](mailto: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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**2016 Newsletter**

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE