



# Business Plan

2012-2017

23 North Coast Highway  
Newport, OR 97365  
541-265-2631

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

## Executive Summary

The purpose of the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Business Plan (Plan) is to serve as a broad outline to inform and guide its directors, employees, partners and the general public to respond to natural resource concerns, internal and external practices, and other factors that influence our strategies and actions. This Plan outlines our current organizational structure, presents key goals and strategies, identifies key natural resource issues facing Lincoln County and describes the services, programs, and assistance that we provide to customers. This five year plan discusses under-addressed natural resource concerns in our County and describes additional programs, employees and infrastructure that Lincoln SWCD might utilize to address these issues. Finally, this plan is used as the basis for developing annual work plans and directing funding requests.

Lincoln SWCD takes the lead in soil and water conservation through the following natural resource conservation programs: Water Quality, Watershed Restoration, Invasive Species, Aquatic Habitat Inventory, Salmonid Population Monitoring, and Education/Outreach. These programs are based on accredited practices and current science. They rely on voluntary cooperation with urban and rural property owners, public officials, private citizens, businesses, state and federal agencies and private organizations.

Lincoln SWCD believes in the protection, conservation, and improvement of soil, water and natural resources through our employees and directors abilities to plan, assist, and educate. It is our belief that concerns about water quality and quantity, wetlands, soil erosion, functioning ecosystems and weed management be addressed while simultaneously respecting the rights of property owners.

Lincoln SWCD prepared this Plan with input from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD). This Plan has been formatted so it outlines both broad long-range and specific short-term strategic goals to benefit Lincoln SWCD, our cooperators, constituents, and the community we serve.

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# Introduction and Overview

This Business Plan was developed by Lincoln SWCD Board of Directors and staff to guide the programs, activities, and operations of the Lincoln SWCD and provide a document that serves as a “road map”. This Plan also serves as an internal document that directs the Lincoln SWCD annual budget and work plan. It will be reviewed annually for necessary updates to reflect changing circumstances and conditions. This current long-range Business Plan will cover July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2017.

Lincoln SWCD was organized in 1955 under the Oregon Soil and Water District Law Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 568.210-780. All Oregon soil and water conservation districts are classified as special districts under ORS 198.010 through ORS 198.955. This means that the Lincoln SWCD is not a County or State entity, as many may assume. The Lincoln SWCD is administered by seven locally elected volunteer directors representing 5 zones and 2 at-large positions. Lincoln SWCD operations and programs are funded by grants, Oregon Dept of Agriculture assistance, and fundraising. A history of the development of conservation districts in Oregon and throughout the nation is summarized in Appendix B. Lincoln SWCD encourages public attendance at its meetings and participation in its activities and services. Monthly Board meetings are open to the public and are held at 7pm, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at the Lincoln SWCD office. An annual meeting that includes a dinner/potluck and a speaker is held every December.

Currently, Lincoln SWCD programs include: Water Quality, Watershed Restoration, Invasive Species Control, Aquatic Habitat Inventory, Salmonid Population Monitoring and Education and Outreach Activities. Our individually staffed programs offer assistance to private landowners of Lincoln County who wish to voluntarily conserve and/or restore natural resources on their land by providing:

- **Technical expertise** – land management and conservation practices, soil and water information, invasive vegetation control, improvements to wildlife habitat and water quality, and fish habitat and population information.
- **Funding opportunities** – grants, programs, and coordinated efforts with other agencies are available to assist with habitat restoration and other natural resource related projects.

The Lincoln SWCD is an Equal Opportunity Employer, providing services to the public without regard to race, color, national origin, religious preference, gender, age, or disability.

## Leadership and Governance

The Lincoln SWCD is one of 45 conservation districts in Oregon. Conservation districts are defined in Oregon law as political subdivisions of state government. Lincoln SWCD is not a state agency. Rather it is classified as a municipal corporation, a form of local government which is required to follow many of the same laws that govern state agencies and special districts. It is specifically governed by ORS 568.210 to 568.890 and ORS 568.900 to 568.933. See Appendix E for the specific powers and authorities granted to districts. Appendix F lists other statutes and administrative rules to which Lincoln SWCD is subject.

The Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) that established and govern Oregon’s SWCDs (except the federal tribal Tiicham Conservation District) was significantly revised by the 2009 Legislative Assembly under House Bill 2082. The origin of the House Bill was a collaborative effort among the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, member Conservation Districts, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture. It was designed to address the evolving challenges and opportunities presented to today’s SWCDs that were not envisioned when the Statute originated, and to eliminate antiquated provisions in the previous editions.

In addition to the general purpose of SWCDs under ORS 568.225 in the previous editions, the following was added: **“promote collaborative conservation efforts to protect and enhance healthy watershed functions, assist in the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency resources”**.

### Board of Directors

The current elected Board of Directors of Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District are:

• Jim Stafford	Chairman	Zone 1	Since 2002
• Sterling Grant	Vice Chairman	Zone 3	Since 1993
• Wayne DeMoray	Secretary	Zone 4	Since 1987
• Rennie Ferris	Director	Zone 5	Since 1999
• Ryan Gassner	Director	Zone 2	Since 2011
• Wayne Hoffman	Director	At Large	Since 2009
• Mark Saelens	Director	At Large	Since 2011

Currently two associate directors, which are Board appointed non-voting positions, are held by Jay Robinson (since 2009) and Terrie Grant (since 2009). Figure 1 shows the zones within Lincoln County that each Board member represents.

Directors are elected by the electorate of Lincoln County at the November General Election, which is held during even-numbered years. Director positions are elected in staggered terms to provide continuity on the board and maintain consistent operations. The Lincoln SWCD Board may appoint a person to fill a board vacancy between elections for the duration of that position’s term. Five of the seven positions are classified as zone positions and must meet the zone requirements and terms of office as specified in ORS 568.560 as follows:

“Zone directors must own or manage 10 or more acres of land in Lincoln County, be involved in the active management of that property, reside within the boundaries of Lincoln County, and be a registered voter.”

An individual may serve as a zone director in lieu of land ownership or management requirements if the individual resides within the zone that is represented, has served at least one year as a Lincoln SWCD Director or Associate Director and has a conservation plan approved by the Lincoln SWCD Board. The other two positions are at-large positions. To qualify for an at-large position, a person must reside in Lincoln County and be a registered voter. No land ownership or management requirements are needed for an at-large position, which is also governed by ORS 568.560.

**An individual director** has power only when acting as a part of the Lincoln SWCD Board. Individual board members may be delegated authority or power to act on behalf of the Board in specific, limited tasks. This authority or power is granted through board action (resolution, motion, policy, etc.) and must be recorded in the meeting minutes.

The Lincoln SWCD Board works cooperatively as a unit to plan and oversee implementing Lincoln SWCD programs. As a representative of the Lincoln SWCD Board, opinions expressed publicly by individual board members should be consistent with established board policy, not the individual’s personal agenda or opinions.

ORS 568.545 requires all SWCDs to select a Chair and Secretary from among its directors. Lincoln SWCD may elect other officers as desired.

The **Chair** is granted the responsibility to represent Lincoln SWCD with other districts, agencies, associations, partners, organizations, legislators, and property owners consistent with the policies, plans, and interests of Lincoln SWCD. The chair will also conduct regular and special meetings of the Board.

A **Vice-Chair** has been given the authority to act as the Chair in case of the absence or unavailability of the Chair.

The **Secretary** is the custodian of all Lincoln SWCD records, minutes, contracts, and other official documents.

**Committees** are an effective way for Lincoln SWCD to plan and implement Lincoln SWCD functions. They can be comprised of board members, associate directors, Lincoln SWCD advisors, representatives of cooperating agencies and associations, or interested citizens. Currently the Lincoln SWCD does not have any standing committees.

The Lincoln SWCD does have various **ad hoc committees**, which are charged with specific tasks over a specific time period. Ad hoc committees are then disbanded after the assigned task and/or timeframe is completed.



**Figure 1. Lincoln SWCD Director zones.**

**Board of Director's Calendar of Events:**

<b>January</b>	Review/Revise Business Plan
<b>February</b>	Review/Revise Business Plan Continues
<b>March</b>	Adopt Business Plan revisions
<b>April</b>	Produce Draft of Annual Work Plan Begin Annual Budget Process
<b>May</b>	Budget Committee Reviews/Approves Budget
<b>June</b>	Adopt Annual Work Plan Fiscal Year Ends
<b>July</b>	Fiscal Year Begins
<b>September</b>	Produce Annual Report
<b>November</b>	Approve Annual Financial Audit
<b>December</b>	Hold Annual Meeting

# Strategic Direction

## Mission

The mission of the Lincoln SWCD is to improve and conserve the quality of soil, water, and other natural resources on agricultural, forested, private, urban and rural lands in Lincoln County by:

- providing applicable information, education, and outreach.
- providing technical assistance to private landowners to develop and implement conservation plans on their property.
- providing an interface between agencies and landowners.
- collaborating with federal, state, and local government agencies and groups.
- participating in local resource conservation policy development

In carrying out our mission, Lincoln SWCD works, coordinates, and cooperates with: Lincoln County citizens, property owners, operators, public and private conservation organizations, agriculture groups, local industry, public agencies, municipalities and other special districts.

## Vision

Lincoln SWCD is the leader in maintaining and improving soil, water and natural resources in Lincoln County. The District provides technical assistance, education, and outreach to urban and rural citizens. The District delivers a diverse and fiscally stable range of programs that serve all residents of Lincoln County while encouraging a vibrant economy.

## Values

The values Lincoln SWCD strives to meet are:

- give quality customer service
- provide the proper administration of Lincoln SWCD funds
- for excellence and quality in all things
- demonstrate the economic importance of agriculture and natural resources
- obtain the respect, trust, confidence and confidentiality of all property owners/operators private property rights
- encourage the stewardship of soil and water
- utilize the application of science and research
- respect the decisions and knowledge of property owners/operators
- encourage managed use of natural resources

## Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles direct the Lincoln SWCD in how it conducts business, relates to customers, and interacts with the public. The Lincoln SWCD will:

- design and implement projects that are consistent with our mission and vision
- address natural resource concerns with landowners in a timely manner
- provide information, technical assistance, and incentives so landowners will achieve their resource management goals

- work on a voluntary basis with landowners
- be accountable in all decisions made concerning Lincoln SWCD
- be respectful of private property rights and the decisions of landowners
- maintain professional interactions with other agencies and the community
- private landowners will solve their conservation and environment problems voluntarily if given incentives, technical assistance, and education
- private landowners have a right to maximize the economic profitability of their land. They also have a responsibility to use natural resources in a wise and responsible manner
- resource management is best achieved with a voluntary, locally-led, and comprehensive approach
- natural resource conservation efforts can be planned and implemented to sustain long-term healthy, economically viable, productive land uses
- we have independent responsibilities, but we recognize our dependence on others to deliver programs successfully
- we form partnerships dedicated to common principles, goals, and objectives. These partnerships ideally include communications, coordination, joint decision making when possible, mutual support, and shared leadership in collaborative efforts
- we value the relationships with our partners who have common goals, while respecting the differences in mission, cultures, and targets
- we recognize the need for appropriate regulation and value our place as a buffer between regulatory agencies and landowners with the intention of creating opportunities for education and assistance rather than enforcement
- we believe enduring conservation is achieved only by the cooperative efforts of individuals, agencies, and organizations working together
- we believe a locally led, watershed-based approach to resource management on private lands is key to conserving natural resources

### **Priorities**

- establish secure funding to sustain and enhance current programs

### **Areas of Special Concern**

Particular places in Lincoln County with specific problems that may need special attention are:

- Urban/rural interface development
- Impaired urban streams
- Construction sites that lack erosion control measures
- Restoration and mitigation project sites that lack long-term maintenance and monitoring
- Stormwater runoff management
- Lack of education on soil and water conservation
- Erosion control education in rural and urban areas
- Newly transplanted hobby farmers
- Transportation corridors
- Urban and rural landowner use of or lack of knowledge regarding nonnative invasive plants

**Planning Process and Partners**

This business plan is a product of several previous attempts and drafts. The need to complete the Lincoln SWCD business plan resurfaced in fall of 2011 when the Board of Directors started to explore the possibility of acquiring a permanent tax rate. It was decided that, regardless whether Lincoln SWCD puts forth a measure to the voters or not, a business plan would be a beneficial planning tool for the Board and staff, and serve as a valuable communication tool for our constituents.

The natural resource concerns, goals and objectives presented in this business plan is a compilation of staff and Board ideas, concerns and suggestions.

# Lincoln SWCD Goals and Objectives

Lincoln SWCD's *goals* provide a broad, long-term visioning platform to develop Lincoln SWCD *objectives*. Lincoln SWCD *objectives* provide more detailed, current and future-looking statements to guide our annual work plans and staff managed programs.

**Goal 1:** Sustain and enhance current programs that provide technical and financial assistance to property owners, partners, operators and residents

**Objectives:**

- Maintain current level of service of existing programs and adapt them to current needs. Current Programs include:
  - Water Quality Program
  - Watershed Restoration Program
  - Invasive Species Control Program
  - Salmonid Population Monitoring Program
  - Aquatic Habitat Inventory Program
  - Education and Outreach Activities
- Expand current existing program capacity as opportunities become available

**Goal 2:** Expand Lincoln SWCD technical capacity to include new programs and services to property owners, partners, operators and residents

**Objectives:**

- Expand services and programs to include the following areas of need:
  - Urban Natural Resources Program** – This program will focus time and resources towards the urban residents and partners of Lincoln County. Objectives will include:
    - Identify and address urban soil and erosion concerns
    - Provide education outreach to private industry regarding the value of erosion control practices
    - Identify, develop and implement alternative storm-water management and low impact development (LID) <sup>1</sup>projects
    - Provide information and assistance to municipalities and local governments concerning Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)<sup>2</sup>, LID techniques, future planning considering climate change, etc.
    - Educate and implement rain water harvesting and other water conservation activities
    - Promote landscaping with native plants and encourage residential habitat enhancement
    - Sample and analyze urban streams, rivers and beaches for water quality impairments

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<sup>1</sup> LID projects for water quality are aimed at construction of features that increase ground water capture and retention of rain water to reduce the impacts of non permeable surfaces (eg. pavement) on the flow of storm water runoff

<sup>2</sup> TMDLs are the guidelines used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to create standards for safe drinking water – for more information please visit: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

**Landowner Cost-Share Assistance Program** – This program will provide direct financial assistance to Lincoln County landowners who are working with Lincoln SWCD staff to implement best management practices (BMPs), rural/urban projects, and priority invasive weed control on their property. It will be a competitive process and require an approved work plan and assistance agreement between the landowner and Lincoln SWCD.

**Native Nursery Program** - This program will coordinate and support growing school nursery programs to provide conservation based education and career building resources while supplying local restoration programs with genetically appropriate planting materials.

**Education & Outreach Program** – This program will work in tandem with other Lincoln SWCD programs to enhance and expand education and outreach needs including:

- Hosting and organizing trainings, field trips, workshops, classroom lessons, etc.
  - Educational events, materials and lessons
  - Volunteer outreach and coordination
  - Coordinating Lincoln SWCD participation in a native nursery program with regional partners and schools
- Hire additional staff to expand Lincoln SWCD services, programs and assistance
  - Increase infrastructure to handle expanded staff and programs
  - Acquire necessary and stable funding sources to achieve new capacity

**Goal 3:** Increase Lincoln SWCD infrastructure capacity

**Objectives:**

- Upgrade Lincoln SWCD facility to accommodate growth
- Acquire the needed equipment to run programs efficiently and successfully
- Provide Lincoln SWCD vehicles for applicable staff
- Secure additional financial stability through grants, contracts, fundraisers, donations, bequests, endowments, trust funds, gifts, and/or a tax rate

**Goal 4:** Continue to administer Lincoln SWCD operations to be legally accountable and fiscally responsible

**Objectives:**

- Implement the Board-approved Lincoln SWCD planning process
- Produce and maintain the annual work plan
- Develop and approve the Lincoln SWCD annual operating budget
- Complete financial audit per Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 568, Section 297.425
- Review the Business Plan and update as necessary
- Conduct monthly staff, committee, and board meetings
- Provide orientation, development, and training for staff
- Develop needed administrative policies and processes

- Recruit Board members as needed
- Hold an Annual Meeting
- Maintain a working relationship with agricultural organizations, watershed councils, cities, county, state, and federal entities
- Perform personnel, fiscal, and contract management

# Current Services, Infrastructure and Practices

## Services

Lincoln SWCD provides direct assistance, in an office or field setting, to property owners and operators concerning natural resource issues within the scope of our Mission. This service is provided free from connections to Federal or State programs or regulations, although information may be provided on those programs or regulations when applicable. Please see the Lincoln SWCD Programs chapter for details of our services. An overview of our services includes but is not limited to:

- field visits upon request to view and assess livestock operations, stream-bank erosion, field erosion, riparian condition, invasive plant species, stream condition
- Geographic Information System (GIS) computer information including prints of land area from Farm Service Agency (FSA) aerial imagery, tax lot maps, soil maps, and United States Geological Survey quadrangle maps of Lincoln County
- conservation planning assistance to address natural resource concerns
- workshops and presentations on natural resource issues or programs
- regional water quality monitoring for pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, E.coli, temperature, and conductivity
- technical help with approved engineering plans for conservation practices
- assistance in obtaining permits such as US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Department of State Lands (DSL) Removal-Fill permits, county floodplain permits, Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permits, and non-agricultural erosion control permits
- facilitation of the locally-led process, the stakeholder work session, to address and identify critical natural resource issues, critical geographic areas of concern and recommend other state, local or private programs that are available
- assistance in obtaining funding from programs or grants to address natural resource issues (see Appendix C)
- provide information on water quantity and quality in some local streams
- education, current information and recommendations regarding local invasive species
- control services for certain high priority invasive species as funding allows

## Facilities

Lincoln SWCD is housed in a rented facility located at 23 North Coast Highway, Newport, OR 97365. The NRCS field office and the MidCoast Watersheds Council office are located in the same facility. Currently this office provides office space for 6 Lincoln SWCD staff, a shared conference room. Many office utilities such as printers, copiers, phone, technical software and internet are shared expenses with NRCS and MidCoast Watersheds Council.

## Employee Monitoring and Evaluation

All Lincoln SWCD staff receives an employee evaluation after a 6-month trial service period of employment. This trial service period is part of the selection process used to confirm the initial employment decision. Subsequent evaluations follow at least once a year. Employee performance

evaluations provide important communication, feedback, and goal-setting between employees and their supervisor.

As additional personnel are needed, Lincoln SWCD will recruit appropriately educated, competent individuals to fill personnel needs. All new employees will be given orientation training upon employment with Lincoln SWCD. This training will be on the job and be conducted or arranged by the appropriate supervisor.

Lincoln SWCD encourages continued education and training for employees to enhance job performance and assist in potential career advancement within Lincoln SWCD. If necessary, detailed training plans providing for the developmental opportunities will be recorded. Training will also be provided to meet Lincoln SWCD needs to be kept current of new procedures.

### **Finances**

Lincoln SWCD applies for and receives various competitive based grants throughout the year for all of its programs and activities. Lincoln SWCD receives base funding annually from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to partially support one Watershed Specialist position's duties as they pertain to the Water Quality Program.

# Lincoln SWCD Programs

Lincoln SWCD staff managed programs are the foundation and source of all services provided to Lincoln County public, operators and partners. Lincoln SWCD program *goals* are the general conditions that our programs strive to meet regarding a particular *natural resource concern*. The specific *objectives* of program goals provide the basis of annual work plans. Due to the inherent interconnectedness of natural resources, multiple Lincoln SWCD programs address similar natural resource concerns although often using different strategies.

## Water Quality Program

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**Goal:** *Enhance water quality to meet local, state and federal standards by providing water quality baseline information, technical resources and BMP implementation.*

**Program overview:** The Water Quality Program currently conducts a variety of on-the-ground activities to understand, improve and/or protect water quality conditions of Lincoln County's streams and rivers including:

- Monthly water quality monitoring for temperature, bacteria, pH, turbidity, conductivity, and dissolved oxygen in the Yaquina/Big Elk, Beaver Creek (Ona Beach), Alsea and Siletz watersheds
- Implementation of agricultural BMPs such as exclusion fences, riparian restoration, heavy use area protection, etc.

**Future areas of growth** will focus on water quality monitoring efforts that will need to be adaptively managed as informational needs change (for example we may discontinue or add new sites based on the water quality data). We may also expand our capacity to fulfill the requested BMP implementation assistance to agricultural and small woodland landowners.

### Natural Resource Concerns associated with Water Quality:

- Water bodies in Lincoln County that are classified as Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 303(d) water quality limited or those that frequently exceed water quality standards
- Non-point source discharge of pollutants into lakes, ponds, rivers and streams
- Contamination of surface and ground water caused by various practices and sources
- Improper operation of drainage and irrigation ditches
- Inappropriate use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Lack of baseline water quality data
- Water conditions that adversely affect beneficial uses such as human recreation, shellfish and fish populations, and drinking water

### Water Quality Program Objectives:

- Advance riparian habitat protection, enhancement, and establishment

- Develop and carry out strategies to improve DEQ 303(d) listed water bodies for temperature, bacteria, dissolved oxygen, habitat modification, and sediment.
- Develop and carry out strategies to address the Mid Coast Agricultural Water Quality Management (AGWQM) Area Plan and Strategies
- Develop and carry out strategies to minimize pollutants into surface and ground water
- Promote proper management of agricultural chemicals and alternative methods
- Continue to gather, evaluate and utilize baseline water quality data in conjunction with partners
- Develop and carry out water quality education activities for Lincoln SWCD
- Develop conservation and restoration projects for property owners and managers
- Establish new demonstration areas and sites
- Promote current and relevant BMPs
- Assist landowners with grants, permits and implementation logistics
- Assist the NRCS with implementing Farm Bill conservation programs
- Assist with requests for information or services

## Watershed Restoration Program

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**Goals:** *Promote conservation of limited water resources in response to increasing demand and potential effects of climate change on water supply. Support preservation and enhancement of wetlands, instream conditions, and riparian habitat through natural resource partnerships. Address soil health and erosion through establishment of best management practices.*

**Program overview:** The Watershed Restoration Program currently includes activities that benefit fish and wildlife habitat and are usually outside the common agricultural BMPs. Types of project implemented include large wood placement, stream bank stabilization, wetland restoration, and fish passage improvement.

**Future areas of growth:** Watershed Restoration Program needs to increase its staff, expertise and resources to identify, develop and implement watershed restoration activities. Partnerships with agencies need to be further cultivated to provide the necessary information, expertise and in-kind match to larger projects.

### Natural Resource Concerns associated with Watershed Restoration

- Declining groundwater tables and slow groundwater recharge
- Declining amounts of surface water available for beneficial uses
- Decrease in fish and wildlife habitat
- Loss of natural wetlands due to development and poor land management
- Reduced function and benefits of constructed wetlands, common in mitigation<sup>3</sup> projects, such as providing migratory bird habitat and supporting native aquatic species
- Lack of healthy riparian vegetation or buffers

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<sup>3</sup> Mitigation occurs when the removal of a natural feature (eg. wetland) for the purpose of development (eg. buildings, parking lots) is permitted under the requirement that construction of the removed natural feature in a different location is carried out so that the total net area of that natural feature is not reduced (thus mitigated).

- Bare soil during rainy seasons
- Irrigation-induced erosion
- Improper application of soil management practices
- Stream channel incision
- Simplification of stream channels
- Segment loss degradation
- Degradation of watershed processes
- Loss of floodplain connection

#### **Watershed Restoration Program Objectives:**

- Develop and carry out strategies to address water conservation and those affected by declining groundwater tables and slow groundwater recharge.
- Develop projects that benefit sufficient flow and retention to sustain fish and wildlife habitat.
- Increase fish and wildlife habitat
- Support appropriate water catchments for beneficial use.
- Develop and carry out a water quantity outreach and education activities for Lincoln SWCD.
- Assist and recommend wetland conservation and mitigation.
- Inform landowners of effects of wetland creation on surrounding properties.
- Develop and carry out a wetland education and outreach plan.
- Reduce soil erosion and increase soil quality through BMPs.
- Advance riparian protection, enhancement, and establishment.
- Develop and carry out soil erosion and water quality education and outreach activities.

## **Invasive Species Program**

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**Goal:** *Coordinate, educate, monitor and carry out actions to protect Lincoln County's economically and ecologically important resources from the harm caused by invasive weeds. Reduce high priority invasive plant populations and prevent new introductions in Lincoln County using early detection and rapid response and integrated vegetation management principles.*

**Program overview:** The Invasive Species Program currently focuses its efforts on State listed and regionally important invasive weeds that are a threat to Lincoln County natural resources and that are not being addressed by other entities. Since this program is purely grant funded the approach is preventative and focuses on early detection<sup>4</sup> species with limited presence in Lincoln County. Projects are species-specific, comprehensive (County-wide, across all landowner types), and highly coordinated to include inventory, education outreach and partner involvement. Current projects include a long term Asian knotweed control project, a Clematis vitalba control project, spurge laurel project, a false brome control project and community English ivy events.

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<sup>4</sup> Early Detection refers to a coordinated effort with public, volunteers, and partners to find and rapidly control (eradication) recently introduced nonnative species that are known to be invasive or may cause economic or ecological harm. This approach is currently accepted as the most cost effective approach to invasive species control.

**Future areas of growth:** Develop more species based weed control projects (False Brome, Policeman’s helmet) and acquire the resources and partnerships to develop projects and outreach for non-plant invasive species projects. Provide cost share or reduced expense weed control assistance for rural, forest, agricultural and urban landowners who have infestations of Lincoln SWCD determined high priority and technically difficult to control weed species that are historically not a priority for State based weed control grants separate from targeted weed control projects that are grant funded and provide weed control of high priority invasive plants free of charge. Make available specialty tools for rent or borrow (eg. weed wrenches) to landowners or volunteer groups to encourage individual and collaborative landowner weed control. To position Lincoln SWCD as Lincoln County’s Early Detection and Rapid Response Network central database and coordinator. Provide the needed coordination and resources to municipal, County and agency partners to strategically set priorities and address the highest priority weed concerns. Provide the planning and coordination for the revitalization of a County Weed Control District (a Weed Control District allows additional State funding for weed control projects to be accessed).

#### **Natural Resource Concerns associated with Invasive Species**

- Loss of native habitat abundance, structure and function to increasing presence of nonnative species
- Economic impact to agricultural, pasture, forest, fishing, and recreational industries, and private landowners due to loss of productivity, cost of ineffective control and reduced opportunity
- Inadequate coordinated invasive weed control within and between private and many public landowners throughout the County
- Lack of strategic plan to address invasive weeds between partners and agencies and across multiple landowners throughout the County and the Mid Coast basin region.
- Lack of sufficient awareness by rural and urban landowners to prevent spread of invasive plants

#### **Invasive Species Program Objectives:**

- Develop and carry out strategies to control the spread of high priority invasive weeds.
- Prevent the introduction of new invaders through early detection and rapid response techniques
- View intact and functional native plant communities as the ultimate goal of invasive plant eradication and prevention
- Maintain consistent monitoring and inventory of County resources to obtain baseline data
- Promote and develop strategic plans to foster invasive species control between the public and private arena and partner organizations.
- Develop and carry out an invasive species management education and outreach.

## Aquatic Habitat Inventory Program

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**Goal:** *Provide baseline stream habitat information through survey and monitoring.*

**Program overview:** Program staff delineates stream features such as morphology, large wood content, substrate type and size, riparian vegetation, shade and other. Features that help identify the quality of habitat provided by the stream for many species of invertebrates and fish. This inventory is required as a precursor to instream<sup>5</sup> restoration.

**Future areas of growth:** Provide project level survey and monitoring for additional local conservation organizations not currently utilizing Lincoln SWCD resources.

### Natural Resource Concerns of Aquatic Habitat Inventory Program:

- Although it is not a *natural resource concern*, proper knowledge of stream channel characteristics is a required component as a precursor and following instream restoration projects to assess project success
- Inventory identifies and quantifies stream channel degradation due to improper sediment loading, stream gradient, or lack of natural structure that captures materials that provide appropriate channel morphology

### Aquatic Habitat Inventory Program Objectives:

- Pre and post monitoring to track changes in stream morphology and quantify the effects of stream restoration projects over time
- Identifying further opportunities or project locations for improving salmonid habitat
- Provide pre and post project monitoring for Lincoln SWCD technical specialists, agencies and project partners to assess project magnitude and success

## Salmonid Population Monitoring Program

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**Goal:** *To provide local and regional partners up to date population data on high priority management of anadromous fish and lamprey species in the Mid Coast basin region.*

**Program overview:** Program staff currently carry out Salmonid (Coho, Chinook, Chum, Sockeye, Pink Salmon and Steelhead) and Lamprey surveys on a selection of streams delineated by Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) within each major coastal river basin. Surveys occur on foot or by watercraft.

**Future areas of growth:** Increase capacity to provide data on local salmonid populations to State, local and Federal agencies

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<sup>5</sup> Instream is the area within a stream channel where water flows, below the bankfull boundary of a channel.

### **Natural Resource Concerns of Salmonid Population Monitoring Program:**

- Poor or unsustainable populations of Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) populations of economically and ecologically important salmonid and lamprey species
- Negative ecological effects to river and forest nutrient cycles due to declining keystone species
- Negative economic affects to coastal communities dependent upon salmonid populations
- Oregon Coast Coho salmon ESU is currently listed as threatened by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- Oregon Coast Steelhead ESU is currently listed as a Species of Concern by NOAA and NMFS

### **Salmonid Population Monitoring Program Objectives:**

- Gathering current population information via survey on Oregon Coast anadromous fish and lamprey species and providing that data to local and regional partners, landowners and Lincoln SWCD program managers
- Data from this program provides local information that is used as part of the regional efforts to determine population trends and set harvest rates at the local, State, and Federal level
- Identifying opportunities for improving salmonid habitat

## **Education and Outreach Activities**

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**Goal:** *To educate the public about Lincoln SWCD programs and achievements. To engage residents in natural resource learning and hands-on activities to promote community stewardship and awareness.*

**Program overview:** Currently all education and outreach activities are provided by individual program staff to educate the public, about the vital natural resource information available through Lincoln SWCD programs. Although we strive to provide education outreach activities, due to the grant based nature of many programs, staff is very limited in their capacity to provide ample information to the public. With that being said, every program has committed some level of outreach and education on annual basis.

**Future areas of growth:** See Lincoln SWCD Enhanced Capacity Plan

### **Natural Resource Concerns addressed by Education and Outreach Activities**

- Lincoln SWCD services, programs and achievements are not widely known throughout the County
- K-12<sup>th</sup> graders are not engaged in hands-on natural resource learning
- A large part of our constituency is not aware of BMPs and existing natural resource concerns.

### **Education and Outreach Activities Objectives:**

- Identify Lincoln SWCD patrons by area, common needs, and age group (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade and their teachers, 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade and their teachers, adult, agriculture producers, and natural resource partners)

- Design and deliver information materials education programs, workshops, events and presentations tailored to meet the specific needs for students and their teachers, adults, agricultural producers, and natural resource partners
- Maintain and update the Lincoln SWCD website
- Produce and distribute a quarterly newsletter
- Produce and distribute an Annual Report to detail the annual accomplishments of Lincoln SWCD
- Fundraise for large education projects

## Lincoln SWCD Enhanced Capacity Plan

This Lincoln SWCD Enhanced Capacity Plan outlines new programs and direction that would, in the view of Lincoln SWCD staff and the board of directors, better serve Lincoln County citizens and address currently underserved natural resource concerns. It concludes with a description of resources needed to increase the capacity and scope of Lincoln SWCD should the following programs be offered.

### Urban Environmental Quality Program

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**Goal:** *Educate and provide resources to assist urban residents, businesses, municipalities and local governments to reduce non-point pollution to urban groundwater and stormwater system and increase water conservation practices. Assist landowners with urban environmental quality enhancements.*

#### Natural Resource Concerns associated with Urban Water and Environmental Quality:

- Water bodies in Lincoln County urban areas that are classified as DEQ 303(d) water quality limited
- Non-point source discharge of pollutants into stormwater system flow directly into nearby streams, creeks, bays and beaches
- Lack of ground water infiltration and recharge in urban areas
- Increased stormwater system loads and flooding during heavy rain events
- Excessive and improper use of water during dry months leads to low reservoir levels and drought-like conditions which intensifies poor water quality conditions
- Inappropriate use of lawn care fertilizers and pesticides
- Unsafe conditions for human contact and aquatic life in certain urban streams, lakes, beaches and estuaries
- Lack of LID infrastructure to reduce impacts of urban infrastructure to natural resources.
- Need for further outreach regarding sustainable use of resources and residential wildlife habitat enhancement.

#### Urban Water Quality Program Objectives:

- Develop and carry out strategies to decrease DEQ 303(d) pollution criteria for listed water bodies: temperature, bacteria, mercury, other toxics, dissolved- oxygen, habitat modification, and sediment.
- Identify, develop and implement alternative stormwater management and LID projects such as rain gardens and bioswales
- Provide information and assistance to municipalities and local governments concerning TMDLs, LID techniques, future planning needs to consider climate change, etc.)
- Education and awareness programs to prevent stormwater pollution (proper practices and disposal of household and business waste streams)
- Education and awareness programs that address low impact landscaping and water conservation practices
- Develop and carry out strategies to minimize pollutants into surface and ground water

- Sample and analyze urban streams, rivers and beaches for water quality impairments, implement strategies to address affected water sources
- Assist with requests for information or services
- Identify and address urban soil erosion concerns
- Educate and implement rain water harvesting and other water conservation activities
- Education and implement workshops about LID infrastructure, renewable energy, and sustainable urban practices.
- Promote landscaping with native plants and enhancing residential wildlife habitat

## **Landowner Cost-Share Assistance Program**

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**Goal:** *Make restoration and conservation opportunities more accessible to landowners by providing financial assistance to those working with Lincoln SWCD staff to implement restoration and conservation activities on their property including BMPs, rural/urban projects, and invasive weed control.*

### **Natural Resource Concerns addressed with Landowner Cost-Share Assistance:**

- Financial burden of restoration and conservation activities is limiting landowner action and project implementation
- Natural resources are degraded or lost when landowners are unable to address resource threats

### **Landowner Cost-Share Assistance Program Objectives:**

- Lincoln SWCD will provide a competitive process to identify, evaluate, prioritize and financially support restoration and conservation activities on private property
- An approved work plan and assistance agreement between the landowner and Lincoln SWCD will be drafted by Lincoln SWCD staff and approved by Lincoln SWCD Board of Directors

## **Native Nursery Program**

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**Goal:** *Coordinate and support growing school nursery programs to provide conservation based education and career building resources while supplying local restoration programs with genetically appropriate planting materials*

### **Natural Resource Concerns addressed with the Native Nursery Program:**

- The lack of locally sourced native plants to fulfill Lincoln SWCD, County and other regional partners restoration projects
- Using inappropriate genetic plant material for watershed restoration reduces plant survival and overall project success
- Limited hands-on education about native plants, watershed restoration and water quality in current schools

### **Native Nursery Program Objectives:**

- Provide an opportunity for Lincoln County students to identify native plants, collect native seed, learn propagation techniques, grow robust plant material for local restoration projects and work on planting projects
- Produce locally sourced native plant materials for Lincoln SWCD and other program partner restoration projects
- Coordinate and support the growing development of local middle/high school based native plant nursery programs to provide education and career building opportunities for the classroom while providing a sustainable source of educational labor and nursery maintenance
- Develop materials for classroom teachers to integrate conservation concepts, ocean literacy and habitat conservation and restoration
- Provide a sustainable source of genetically sourced and ecologically appropriate native plants for regional restoration projects (i.e. riparian, upland, coastal headlands, estuarine)
- Provide surplus plants to Lincoln County landowners

## **Education and Outreach Program**

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**Goal:** *Work in tandem with other Lincoln SWCD program staff to enhance and expand current education and outreach activities. Develop other tools and partnerships to better educate the public about Lincoln SWCD programs and achievements, and engage residents in natural resource learning and hands-on activities to promote community stewardship and awareness.*

### **Natural Resource Concerns addressed by the Education and Outreach Program:**

- Community engagement and investment in Lincoln SWCD programs and activities
- Demand for a high quality life in Lincoln County by its residents, visitors, business owners, and stakeholders
- Limited opportunities for children, students and adults to participate in natural resource learning and activities in their local watershed

### **Education and Outreach Program Objectives:**

- Host and organize trainings, field trips, workshops, classroom presentations, etc.
- Develop and organize educational events, materials and lessons
- Develop and coordinate a Lincoln SWCD Volunteer Program to provide community learning, participation and Lincoln SWCD support
- Coordinate Lincoln SWCD participation in a native nursery program with regional partners and schools

### Current (FY2012-2013) Lincoln SWCD Personnel

<p>Lincoln SWCD Manager (1 FTE)</p>	<p>Supervises and oversees personnel matters of administrative staff. Obtains professional and administrative training for staff. Directs administrative staff in day-to-day operation of office. Manages monthly budget by paying bills and payroll, filing reports for government, and Board. Manages and maintains personnel records. Monitors and updates policy. Represents Lincoln SWCD at public functions and meetings. Answers the phone, routes messages, greets, and directs customers. Assists with correspondence and mailings for Lincoln SWCD and NRCS employees. Takes minutes, keeps records, and organizes files for Lincoln SWCD employees and Board. Maintains office inventory. <b>(All programs)</b></p>
<p>Office Assistant (0.30 FTE)</p>	<p>Answers the phone, routes messages, greets, and directs customers. Assists with correspondence and mailings for Lincoln SWCD employees. Takes minutes, keeps records, and organizes files for Lincoln SWCD employees and Board. Assists with education and outreach events and activities and other program deliverables. Works with Lincoln SWCD Manager and staff. <b>(Administration, Water Quality Program)</b></p>
<p>Watershed Technical Specialist (1 FTE)</p>	<p>Provides technical assistance to landowners to implement conservation practices. Develop conservation plans. Attend various Watershed Councils meetings. Use computer programs to read and develop topographical maps for projects. Develop and deliver technical presentations. <b>(Watershed Restoration Program, Water Quality Program, Education and Outreach Activities)</b></p>
<p>Invasive Species Specialist (1FTE)</p>	<p>Provides technical assistance to landowners and partners to implement conservation practices relating to native plants or invasive species. Coordinates invasive species control program, including associated revegetation projects. Develops and delivers technical presentations and outreach to landowners and partners. Works with Watershed Technical Specialist. <b>(Invasive Species Control Program, Education and Outreach Activities)</b></p>
<p>Bio-surveyor (2 FTE)</p>	<p>Conducts field data collection for salmon spawning habitat and populations. Carries out aquatic habitat inventories. Completes data entry and analysis, and submits data to project partners. Assists other staff with technical assistance, field work, and outreach. <b>(Salmonid Population and Aquatic Habitat Assessment Programs, Education and Outreach Activities)</b></p>
<p>6 Field Technicians (0.20 FTE)</p>	<p>Seasonal field technicians carryout water quality sampling, plant installations, weed control and maintenance of restoration projects <b>(Watershed Restoration Program, Water Quality Program, Invasive Species Control Program)</b></p>

## Personnel under the Lincoln SWCD Enhanced Capacity Plan

Lincoln SWCD Manager (1 FTE)	Supervises and oversees personnel matters of administrative staff. Obtains professional and administrative training for staff. Directs administrative staff in day-to-day operation of office. Manages monthly budget by paying bills and payroll, filing reports for government, and Board. Manages and maintains personnel records. Monitors and updates policy. Represents Lincoln SWCD at public functions and meetings. Answers the phone, routes messages, greets, and directs customers. Assists with correspondence and mailings for Lincoln SWCD and NRCS employees. Takes minutes, keeps records, and organizes files for Lincoln SWCD employees and Board. Maintains office inventory. <b>(All programs)</b>
Office Assistant (1 FTE)	Answers the phone, routes messages, greets, and directs customers. Assists with correspondence and mailings for Lincoln SWCD employees. Takes minutes, keeps records, and organizes files for Lincoln SWCD employees and Board. Assists with education and outreach events and activities and other program deliverables. Works with Lincoln SWCD Manager and staff. <b>(All Programs)</b>
Watershed Technical Specialist (1 FTE)	Provides technical assistance to landowners to implement conservation practices. Develop conservation plans. Attend various Watershed Councils meetings. Use computer programs to read and develop topographical maps for projects. Develop and deliver technical presentations. <b>(Watershed Restoration, Water Quality Program, Landowner Cost-Share Assistance Program, Education and Outreach Program)</b>
Invasive Species Specialist (1FTE)	Provides technical assistance to landowners and partners to implement conservation practices relating to native plants or invasive species. Coordinates invasive species control program, including associated revegetation projects. Develops and delivers technical presentations and outreach to landowners and partners. Works with Watershed Technical Specialist. <b>(Invasive Species Control, Landowner Coast-Share Assistance Program, Education and Outreach Program)</b>
Urban Technical Specialist (1 FTE)	Provides educational and technical resources to assist urban residents, businesses, municipalities and local governments to reduce non-point and point-source pollution to urban groundwater and stormwater system and increase water conservation practices. <b>(Urban Water Quality Program, Landowner Cost-Share Assistance Program, Education and Outreach Program)</b>
Bio-surveyor (2 FTE)	Conducts field data collection for salmon spawning habitat and populations. Carries out aquatic habitat inventories. Completes data entry and analysis, and submits data to project partners. Assists other staff with technical assistance, field work, and outreach. <b>(Salmonid Population Monitoring Program and Native Fish Habitat Assessment Programs, Education and Outreach Program)</b>
Education Activities Specialist (1 FTE)	Provides conduit between staff technical specialists and the public to promote Lincoln SWCD programmatic education and awareness components. Develops materials to integrate natural resource education at the k-12, college and adult volunteer level. Coordinates Native Nursery Program. <b>(Education and Outreach Program, Landowner Cost-Share Assistance Program, Native Nursery Program)</b>
6 Field Technicians (0.50 FTE)	Seasonal field technicians carryout water quality sampling, plant installations, weed control and maintenance of restoration projects <b>(Watershed Restoration Program, Water Quality Program, Invasive Species Control Program, Urban Water Quality Program)</b>

## **Financing Lincoln SWCD Enhanced Capacity Plan**

Due to the general economic situation of the Country and County, the declining availability and increased competition for conservation based grant funds, and the waning lack of administrative support available through conservation based grants, the necessary resources to achieve Lincoln SWCD capacity increases or even maintain current level of service cannot be acquired through Lincoln SWCD's current predominantly grant funded finance system. The Lincoln SWCD Enhanced Capacity Plan would best be implemented using a foundation of stable funding that is best achieved via a permanent County tax levy. Under a tax supported scenario, Lincoln SWCD Programs would still be required to secure competitive grants to fund projects and support seasonal technicians. Benefits to this scenario include grant applications becoming more competitive without the need to fund project manager hours or administrative and general fund costs thus increasing the chances for securing project level grants and landowner technical support funds therefore potentially increasing the number of resources available to the public. Essentially, more grant based money could be used for on-the-ground implementation of conservation projects and landowner assistance.

### **Facilities Upgrades**

An increase in staff, programs and project capacity will require upgrading office space to handle new full time staff and any associated equipment. At a minimum, an office under the Lincoln SWCD Enhanced Capacity Plan would require space to house 8 full time employees, field equipment for each program, a reception area, an integrated phone network, available IT support, GIS software, an office storage area, and a conference room, all ADA compliant.

Additional infrastructure may include a separate storage facility for large or industrial equipment (trailers, kayaks, planting stock and fencing supplies etc), and the purchase of Lincoln SWCD vehicles (medium duty truck, commuter vehicle for landowner visits).

The Lincoln SWCD Increased Capacity Plan would also include providing benefits, retirement packages and wage adjustments to provide competitive wages for 8 full time employees and increase the capacity of seasonal workers.

## Partnerships and Recent Collaborations

The Lincoln SWCD works closely with and maintains partnerships with many natural resource organizations, agencies and partners in order to carry out our mission and program objectives. Below is a list of current partners, a description of the partnership between Lincoln SWCD as well as one or more recent collaborations between that partner and the Lincoln SWCD.

### **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

Lincoln SWCD works with BLM resource staff on many natural resource issues on private and public land in Lincoln County including invasive plant management and habitat restoration. BLM provides major funding for the Invasive Species Control Program through competitive Title II grants.

#### **Recent Collaborations:**

- Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP) has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between BLM and regional partners, including Lincoln SWCD, to provide needed native plant materials for Lincoln SWCD and partner planting projects.

### **Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. (RC&D)**

Lincoln SWCD works with Cascade Pacific RC&D to inventory problems, obtain funds, and implement natural resource projects. Cascade Pacific RC&D works to involve people from the private sector, corporations, counties, foundations and all levels of government to identify and solve environmental problems.

#### **Recent Collaborations:**

- Program Staff provide input and submit projects with Hebo and Alsea Forest Service District Stewardship Groups

### **Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI)**

Lincoln SWCD partners with CTSI by sharing water quality data, collaborating on natural resource concerns and priorities, and requesting funding assistance through the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund.

#### **Recent Collaborations:**

- Lincoln SWCD's DEQ 319 grant for water quality monitoring in the Siletz Basin provides data to CTSI natural resource managers

### **Farm Service Agency (FSA)**

Lincoln SWCD shares office space with USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Rural Development (RD). FSA's mission is to stabilize farm income, help farmers conserve land and water resources, provide credit to new or disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and help farm operations recover from the effects of natural disaster. FSA provides aerial photos for use in conservation planning work done by Lincoln SWCD and NRCS.

#### **Recent Collaborations:**

- Collaborate on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) applications and projects throughout Lincoln County.

### **Industrial Timber/Small Woodlot Operators**

Industrial Timber Operators own a large percentage of Lincoln County's forest parcels. Lincoln SWCD works with many large and small forestry operators to gain access to the County's vast network of rural watersheds for project development and habitat survey.

#### **Recent Collaborations:**

- Miami Forest Management, Hancock Forest Management, Starker Forest Inc, Forest Capitol Partners, Plum Creek Timber Inc. and many other industrial and small woodlot owners provide access to their properties for Lincoln SWCD fish monitoring surveys, weed control and aquatic habitat survey programs.
- Plum Creek Foundation provided grant funding needed to support the entire printing of Lincoln SWCD's first Rural Living Handbook edition

### **Lincoln County Government**

Lincoln SWCD provides technical consultation, recommendations and assistance as well as collaboration on projects with Lincoln County Public Works and government officials such as County Commissioners. Lincoln SWCD also provides technical assistance to City governments and their associated constituents.

#### **Recent Collaborations:**

- Lincoln SWCD Staff collaborate with County Public Works staff and crew on replacing culverts to improve fish passage
- Lincoln SWCD Invasive Species Program works closely with County Road Departments Vegetation Manager to share information, resources and work on vegetation control projects together around the County

### **Mid Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area (Mid Coast CWMA)**

Lincoln SWCD works with partners of the Mid Coast CWMA to share information, direct strategy and discuss priorities of invasive species management within Lincoln County and the broader Mid Coast area. Partners include Northwest Weed Partnership (Coordinator), Siuslaw National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Lincoln County Public Works and many more.

#### **Recent Collaborations:**

- Lincoln SWCD staff serve on the Mid Coast CWMA and cooperate with local partners within the Mid Coast CWMA to coordinate County weed control priorities

### **National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)**

NACD Districts assists Lincoln SWCD by developing national conservation policies, influencing lawmakers, and building partnerships with other agencies and organizations. The NACD also helps Lincoln SWCD share ideas in order to better serve its local community.

#### **Recent Collaborations:**

- Lincoln SWCD hosted a NACD representative from Washington DC by giving a presentation about Lincoln SWCD's Programs and leading a site tour to several project sites.

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

Lincoln SWCD works with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) NRCS to provide technical assistance to design and implement conservation practices throughout Lincoln County, approval for NRCS local practice plans, administrative services for local field staff and business and

annual work plan development through an MOU. Lincoln SWCD also shares office space with local NRCS staff. See Appendix C for a description of programs available through NRCS.

**Recent Collaborations:**

- Lincoln SWCD Staff and NRCS recently collaborated on riparian planting and BMP projects in Beaver Cr, Siletz and Alsea watersheds
- NRCS provides two computer stations and technical support to Lincoln SWCD

**Northwest Weed Management Partnership (NWMP)**

The Northwest Weed Management Partnership provides coordination of local CWMA groups (Lincoln SWCD cooperates with the Mid Coast CWMA), planning of weed working groups and dissemination of current invasive weed threats, best control practices, grant assistance, and updates regarding agency and legislative rules and practices affecting weed control in Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington.

**Recent Collaborations:**

- Lincoln SWCD staff serve on the NWMP Steering Committee which provides visioning and administrative guidance over the NWMP's Coordinator position
- Lincoln SWCD provides input to regional weed control priorities by use of Steering committee position

**Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD)**

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts assists Lincoln SWCD by serving at the state level and speaking for issues relating to Lincoln SWCD. It cooperates with other public and private organizations, with purposes similar to the Lincoln SWCD, to adopt statewide policies and programs, which will effectively contribute to a quality environment and a productive economy.

**Recent Collaborations:**

- Collaborated during the development of Lincoln SWCD's 2012-2017 business plan
- Provided trainings to staff on various natural resource and legal topics

**Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN)**

The Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network is a voluntary organization that sponsors SWCD employee trainings and workshops to increase professional development, social networking and SWCD capacity.

**Recent Collaborations:**

- Lincoln SWCD staff currently serve on the board of OCEAN directors as representative of the Upper Willamette Area
- OCEAN organizes the annual SWCD staff training (CONNECT) that Lincoln SWCD staff attend

**Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)**

Lincoln SWCD receives overall administrative oversight, partial administrative and technical support funding and small grant funding from the Natural Resources Division of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Lincoln SWCD functions as the Local Management Agency (LMA) for SB1010, specifically the Agricultural Water Quality Management Act, 1993 and Mid-Coast Basin Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan. Lincoln SWCD also functions as the local referral agency for questions and problems related to Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO), a responsibility of ODA.

**Recent Collaborations:**

- Lincoln SWCD submits quarterly reports of work progress, annual reports of overall accomplishments, yearly work plans and financial status reports to ODA.
- Lincoln SWCD assists ODA staff with water quality violations in the county and offers assistance to landowners under violation of the agricultural water quality rules.

### **Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)**

Lincoln SWCD has worked collaboratively with DEQ on the water quality monitoring program. DEQ has assisted Lincoln SWCD with technical advice, training, assistance on grants, and loaning of equipment. They serve as partners with Lincoln SWCD in the EPA Section 319 grant for the Pudding River Pesticide Stewardship Partnership.

#### **Recent Collaborations:**

- Lincoln SWCD Water Quality Program currently provides base line TMDL sampling in multiple watersheds for DEQ
- Lincoln SWCD funds a portion of its Watershed Restoration Program objectives such as BMP implementation to reduce non-point source pollution with DEQ 319 grant funds

### **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)**

ODFW assists Lincoln SWCD with technical assistance in stream restoration, fisheries data, and collaborates in project development and management.

#### **Recent Collaborations:**

- ODFW provided technical support and project support in developing Lincoln SWCD's Spout Creek Watershed Restoration Plan -
- Provided oversight on the large wood placement for the Beaver Creek Restoration Project
- Managing Lincoln SWCD's Siletz Tidal Culvert Replacement project on Hwy 101 with ODOT and partners.

### **Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)**

Lincoln SWCD communicates with ODF on many forestry issues associated with riparian areas on private timber land.

#### **Recent Collaborations:**

- Invasive Species Control Program has carried out Asian knotweed control on ODF land in Lincoln County annual since 2011.
- ODF collaboration on culvert projects and large wood placement in Spout Creek and other private timber properties throughout the county.

### **Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL)**

Lincoln SWCD functions as the local reviewing agency for the Oregon Department of State Lands Removal/Fill Permits for state lands and waterways.

#### **Recent Collaborations:**

- Lincoln SWCD Board reviews removal/fill permits monthly

### **Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service**

Lincoln SWCD works with OSU Extension to further their mutual goals of natural resource conservation, management and education by working closely with private property owners. The OSU Extension assists Lincoln SWCD in delivering efficient conservation programs.

**Recent Collaborations:**

- Invasive Species Program provides annual training for OSU Master Gardeners Program
- Rain garden workshop for county residents was a collaboration with OSU extension service

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)**

The OWEB Board provides technical assistance, technical training and forums for communication among the watershed councils and Lincoln SWCD. OWEB also provides a vital restoration grant program for locally identified restoration projects.

**Recent Collaborations:**

- Lincoln SWCD staff serve on OWEB small grants review team
- Multiple Lincoln SWCD Program proposals have been funded by OWEB
- The majority of Lincoln SWCD's budget is dependent on OWEB funds

**Property Owners/Operators**

Lincoln SWCD assists property owners/operators with conservation planning, technical and/or financial assistance, watershed restoration and BMP implementation, farm bill program opportunities, natural resource concern assessments, and conservation-related questions through various working agreements.

**Recent Collaborations:**

- Property owners and operators are the primary beneficiaries and targets of our programs and partnerships. Lincoln SWCD staff carries out work such as invasive species control, riparian restoration projects, pasture improvement projects, aquatic habitat survey work, and Salmonid spawning ground surveys on hundreds of landowner properties on any given year. Please see Lincoln SWCD's website ([www.lincolnswcd.org](http://www.lincolnswcd.org)) for a representation of just a few of these projects.

**Siuslaw National Forest (Siuslaw NF)**

Lincoln SWCD works with Siuslaw NF resource staff on many natural resource issues on private and public land in Lincoln County including invasive plant management and habitat restoration. Siuslaw NF provides major funding for the Invasive Species Control Program through competitive Title II grants.

**Recent Collaborations:**

- Invasive Species Control Program has carried out invasive weed control on many acres of NF land throughout Lincoln County annually since 2009
- Lincoln SWCD and Siuslaw NF are partners in the Mid Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Lincoln SWCD and Siuslaw NF are partners in the Alsea and Hebo Stewardship Group Areas

**Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC)**

Soil and Water Conservation Commission has a major role to oversee the ODA grant programs that assist Lincoln SWCD. The Commission also provides assistance, direction, and coordination between Lincoln SWCD, the Natural Resources Division, NRCS, FSA, Oregon State University (OSU) Extension, OACD, and OWEB.

**Recent Collaborations:**

- Lincoln SWCD was invited to present recent Lincoln SWCD projects and achievements at the SWCC board meeting

**Watershed Councils**

Information sharing between Watershed Councils and Lincoln SWCD as well as project collaboration continue to form strong partnerships to many County and region wide watershed councils. Lincoln SWCD also provides administrative support, as resources allow, to the watershed councils located within Lincoln SWCD. It may also serve as fiscal management agency for grant administration and collaborates with planning and projects as appropriate and requested. Lincoln SWCD shares office space with the MidCoast Watersheds Council (MCWC).

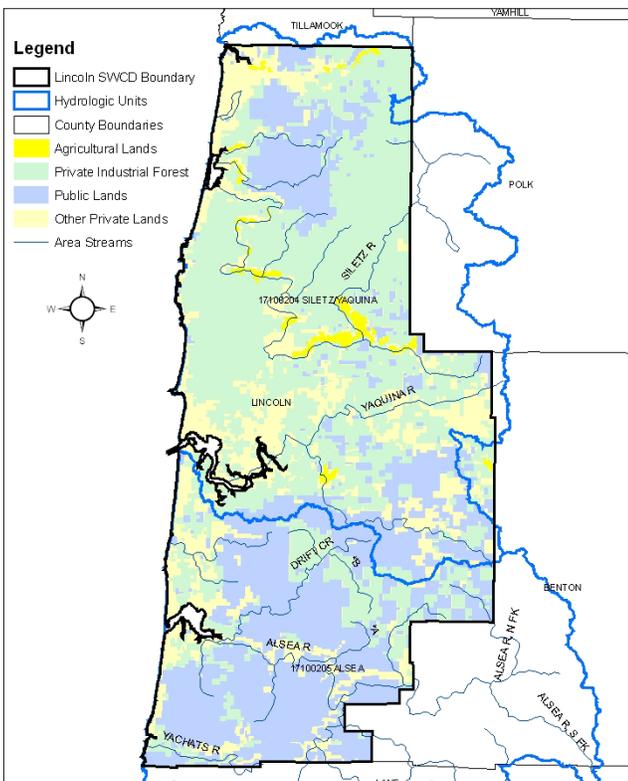
**Recent Collaborations:**

- Lincoln SWCD staff serve on the MCWC board
- MCWC coordinator serves on the Lincoln SWCD board
- Continuous information sharing and project support between Lincoln SWCD Program and MCWC staff.
- Lincoln SWCD's Fish Habitat and Population Monitoring Programs provide data and project monitoring for MCWC projects
- Watershed Restoration Program currently working on riparian vegetation restoration component as part of larger MCWC Upper Yaquina Limiting Factors restoration project

# Lincoln County Profile

## Introduction

With miles of beach and coastline, Lincoln County is one of the most popular visitor destinations on the Oregon Coast. Lincoln County was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1893. There are several points of interest visited year round. Depoe Bay is known as “the whale watching capitol of the world” and as the world’s smallest harbor. Boiler Bay, Devil’s Punch Bowl State Natural Area, Otter Crest Viewpoint and the Whale Watch Center are within 5 miles driving distance. Lincoln City offers more than 2,000 hotel/motel/bed and breakfast rooms and resorts as well as the Chinook Winds Casino. Newport is known as Oregon’s oceanography research center and features numerous interpretive centers, Marine Hatfield Science Center, and the Oregon Coast Aquarium. Newport houses Oregon’s 2<sup>nd</sup> largest fishing fleet and tourist stops and shops along the Yaquina Bay Front provide an interactive glimpse into the local fishing community. Waldport is home to the Historical Society Maritime Museum and gateway to the legendary Alsea River and lies just south of Seal Rock State Park encompassing Elephant Rock. Yachats is known as the “Gem of the Oregon Coast” with a community of artists and writers. Some nearby points of interest include Cape Perpetua Visitors Center and the Heceta Head Lighthouse. Timber production takes place on about 90% of Lincoln



County with the remaining 10% in farming, urban and rural development and recreation. Commercial fishing, lumber and forest products, recreation, tourism, and a large retirement community provide the economic base for much of the county. The population of Lincoln County was approximately 46,000 in 2010.

## Climate

Lincoln County has a temperate, maritime climate characterized by wet winters, relatively dry summers and mild temperatures throughout the year. Average annual temperature is 51 F for the central coastal portion of Lincoln County ranging from 36 F in winter to 71 in the summer along the immediate coast with temperatures ranging below freezing in the winter to 75 F in the eastern, higher elevation portion of the County. Along the lower elevations of the immediate coast, normal annual precipitation is between 65 to 90 inches. Spots high on the west slopes of the coast mountain range may get up to 200 inches. Several days of abundant rainfall can cause bank-full or flood events that often recede very rapidly following conclusion of precipitation. Typical of western Oregon, the highest monthly precipitation values for the coast occur in the winter months of November through January. Snowfall along the coastal vicinity is minimal, usually only one to three inches although some of the higher

of interest visited year round. Depoe Bay is known as “the whale watching capitol of the world” and as the world’s smallest harbor. Boiler Bay, Devil’s Punch Bowl State Natural Area, Otter Crest Viewpoint and the Whale Watch Center are within 5 miles driving distance. Lincoln City offers more than 2,000 hotel/motel/bed and breakfast rooms and resorts as well as the Chinook Winds Casino. Newport is known as Oregon’s oceanography research center and features numerous interpretive centers, Marine Hatfield Science Center, and the Oregon Coast Aquarium. Newport houses Oregon’s 2<sup>nd</sup> largest fishing fleet and tourist stops and shops along the Yaquina Bay Front provide an interactive glimpse into the local fishing community. Waldport is home to the Historical Society Maritime Museum and gateway to the legendary Alsea River and lies just south of Seal Rock State Park encompassing Elephant Rock. Yachats is known as the “Gem of the Oregon Coast” with a community of artists and writers. Some nearby points of interest include Cape Perpetua Visitors Center and the Heceta Head Lighthouse. Timber production takes place on about 90% of Lincoln

elevations receive significant amounts of snowfall. Occasional strong winds strike the Oregon Coast, usually in advance of winter storms. Wind speeds can exceed hurricane force, and can cause significant damage to structures or vegetation.

### **Soils**

The western part of Lincoln County borders the Pacific Ocean and consists of beaches, dunes marine terraces, jutting headlands, and coastal bays and estuaries. The rest of Lincoln County consists of steep, forested mountainous areas drained to the west by many river and tributary basins. Soil scientists have determined that there are about 65 different kinds of soils ranging in texture, natural drainage, and other characteristics. The soils found in the mountainous areas are steep, mostly loamy, and moderately deep to deep over bedrock containing many rock fragments. The steep slopes of the coast range limit uses in these areas mainly to timber production. These soils are mostly formed in sedimentary and volcanic rocks. The soils formed in the alluvial valleys are deep and somewhat poorly drained to well drained and loamy to fine textured. These areas are used mainly for hay and pasture but often include limited development for rural home sites and communities. Wetness and the hazard of flooding create major development limitations for some of these soils. The marine terraces near the coastal area are deep, excessively to poorly drained and sandy to fine textures. The marine terraces can extend up to 2 miles inland in some areas and are used for development of home sites, small coastal communities, campgrounds and other recreational sites. Tidal floodplains occur along the mouths of the major drainage systems such as the Salmon, Siletz, Yaquina, Beaver Creek, Alsea and Yachats basins.

### **Water Quality**

Adjudicated water rights, according to the Oregon Department of Water Resources, total 2,942 acres with about 99% being a surface water source (exposed to the atmosphere, like a lake or river). Based on an average water right of 2.5 acre-feet per acre some 7,355 acre-feet of water are adjudicated to irrigation, annually.

The stream flow data demonstrates that the May-September water yield from major streams is adequate to meet adjudicated irrigation water rights. Coastal streams are susceptible to flooding and high stream flow which typically carries high sediment loads.

Water quality for human, fish and wildlife use is a major resource concern. Many stream miles are listed as water quality limited by the state. Stream temperature, fecal coliform, sediment and dissolved oxygen are listed by the state as major contributors to poor water quality.

Elevated stream temperatures may be due to inadequate riparian shade, stream channel widening, and other anthropogenic or natural causes. Fecal coliform can be indicative of livestock waste, but it also is associated with improperly operating onsite sewage disposal systems such as septic systems. Sedimentation in coastal streams commonly stems from erosion associated with forest roads and streambanks.

### **Watersheds**

A drainage basin, also known as a watershed, is an area of land that captures and drains all precipitation that lands within its boundary ridges through a series of water courses that begin as fine-scale draws, creeks and streams in the high gradient and elevation areas down to a single water course (typically a river) in low gradient and elevation areas that serves as the final output for the entire watershed. A watershed can be defined at many different scales. A useful scale often used by Lincoln SWCD technical

specialists, and one that tends to make intuitive sense, is the river basin scale which focuses on major rivers and their associated smaller tributaries.

Lincoln County has three major river basins (Alsea, Siletz and Yaquina) that each drain more than 250 square miles of land, three medium sized basins (Salmon, Yachats and Beaver Creek) that each drain less than 100 square miles of land, and numerous minor river basins each with under 20 square miles of drainage (Big Creek, Schooner Creek etc). All of these river basins drain directly to the Pacific Ocean, and each have an estuary that is roughly proportional with the extent of land its watershed drains.

## Individual River Basin Statistics

**The Alsea River Basin** originates from the highest point in the Oregon coast range, Marys Peak. The river flows generally WNW in a winding course through southern Benton and Lincoln County. It flows through the Siuslaw National Forest past the towns of Alsea and Tidewater where it enters the Pacific at Alsea Bay at Waldport, Oregon. At high tide the Alsea Bay estuary is approximately 2,146 acres. The mainstream of the Alsea River is 43.5 miles long. Major tributaries of the Alsea River include the North and South Forks, Fall Creek, the Five Rivers system, and Drift Creek. The Alsea river basin is approximately 93% forestland and drains 466 square miles split roughly in half between Benton and Lincoln Counties. Tidal flow along the Alsea River extends 13 river miles inland.

**The Siletz River** headwaters originate in the upper central Oregon Coast Range approximately 7 miles west of Falls City, Polk County. The river is just over 73 miles long and drops 2900 feet along its journey to the Pacific in Lincoln City. The geology of the watershed is composed of a mixture of volcanic and sedimentary rocks. It is highly dissected by streams which feed into the South Fork and North Fork of the Siletz River. The northern two-thirds consist of high slope gradients and high ridges due to the resistant Siletz River volcanic group and other intrusive igneous rocks underlying the high peaks of the Coast Range. The southern third of the watershed generally consists of broad, flat alluvial terrace deposits. This area was the focus of the earliest timber harvesting in the region and 75% is currently managed by private timber holders. The Siletz river basin drains 373 square miles of land and the tidal flow along this river extends 22.5 river miles inland to Cedar Cr, just below Jack Morgan State Park.

**The Yaquina River Basin** begins in the coast range just west of Corvallis in Siuslaw National Forest along the county line between Lincoln and Benton. It flows south where it passes Toledo and finally reaches the Pacific Ocean at Yaquina Bay. The mainstream of the Yaquina River is nearly 59 miles long with considerable freshwater input from Big Elk Creek and the Upper Yaquina River. The estuary of Yaquina Bay has been determined to be a priority conservation area by more than 10 federal, state and local agencies since 1989. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest estuary in Oregon containing 4,200 acres at high tide. There are over 30 species of conservation concern in the watershed basin ranging from salmon and birds to plants. The Coastal Coho Salmon have been the focal species for riparian and wetland habitat restoration throughout the basin. Inland tidal flow reaches about a mile below Simpson Creek. The Yaquina river basin is approximately 87% forestland and drains 253 square miles mostly located in Lincoln County.

**The Salmon River** begins and ends in Lincoln County but also flows briefly through Polk and Tillamook Counties. This river originates in the Coast Range along the Lincoln-Polk line and weaves through

Siuslaw National Forest to enter the Pacific Ocean on the south side Cascade Head, about 4 miles north of Lincoln City. The Salmon River estuary encompasses approximately 438 acres and is designated as a Natural estuary under the Oregon Estuary Classification system. The estuary has become a unique scientific laboratory in wetland recovery studies as most marshland was converted to cattle pasture in the 1960s and dikes were built around the bay. Beginning in 1978 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began breaching the dikes in 9 year intervals which has allowed for unique opportunities of comparisons in wetland recovery over time. The Salmon River basin drains 74 square miles and the main stem is about 24 miles long.

**The Yachats River** begins about 12 miles south east of Yachats, Oregon at an elevation of 1,200 feet in a steeply sloped and thickly forested region about half a mile north of Klickitat Mountain. The river flows north through Yachats Basalts and joins Grass Creek and School Fork. It then turns west where Keller Creek and Stump Creek join the main stem. The sand and stone beach at the river mouth is normally very shallow which allows the tide to change the length of the river by as much as a mile. The Yachats River Basin drains 44 square miles and is 15 miles long.

**The Beaver Creek Basin** includes many streams flowing into the main stem of Beaver Creek. Some of the main tributary streams include Peterson, Lewis, Bowers, Elkhorn, Tracy, Simpson, Graves, Worth and Oliver Creeks. There are 12 streams flowing directly into the Pacific Ocean that are included within the Beaver Creek Basin as well. Approximately 97% of the federally managed lands within the Beaver Creek Watershed are allocated to Late Succession Reserve and are used to protect and enhance conditions of late succession and old growth forest systems. The northern spotted owl and the marbled murrelet have occupied sites within these zones. The late succession forest habitat within this watershed is recovering from 100 years of agriculture, logging and residential development. The eastern part of the watershed is underlain by the Tye Formation: siltstones and sandstones that are more resistant to erosion than the rocks to the west. Thus, ridges are higher, slopes steeper, streams are more confined, and valleys are more incised. The wetlands are underlain by the Nestucca Formation, the Alsea Formation, the Yaquina Formation, and Quaternary terrace deposits. These formations and deposits are made up of erosive sedimentary rocks. In 2011, the Wetlands Conservancy and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department worked to put under protection and management a significant part of the Beaver Creek estuary in order to anchor a significant natural area. The topography in the western part of the watershed is gentle, with wide, flat valleys allowing for wetland development. The Beaver Creek watershed drains a total of 34 square miles.

## Land Use

Lincoln County consists of 627,000 acres of which the majority is considered rural. Below are descriptions of the major land use designations found in Table 1, below.

**Table 1, Lincoln County Land use by type**

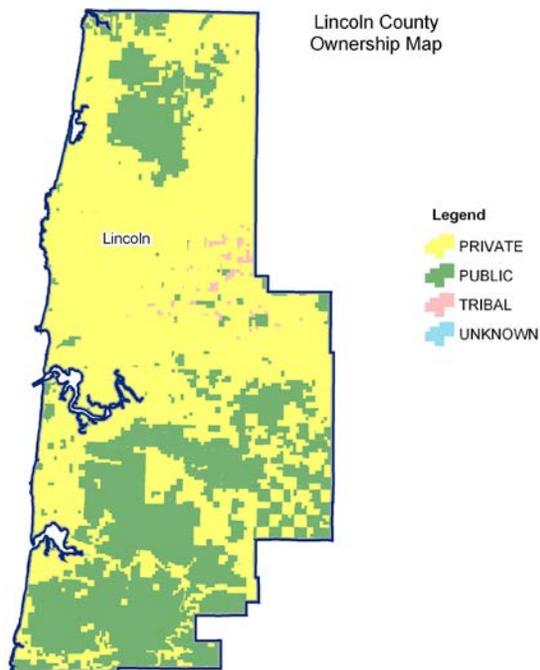
<b>Land Use</b>	<b>Lincoln County (Acres)</b>	<b>Lincoln County (Percentage)</b>
Forestland	565,000	90.1%
Agriculture	39,661	4.3%

Urban Residential	18,272	2.0%
Rural Residential	13,254	1.4%
Other	-	2.2%
<b>Total Land</b>	<b>627,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** Timber Resource Statistics for Oregon. USDA Forest Service, Resource Bulletin PNW-RB-242. November 2004.

## Agricultural

According to USDA Census of Agriculture (2007) there are 371 farms in Lincoln County totaling approximately 4.3% of the land in Lincoln County. Most farms are elongate and narrow along river valleys, adjacent to major rivers and tributaries. The average farm is 84 acres although most farms are smaller than this, often supporting livestock over cropland. According to Lincoln County Economic Development Alliance 93% of the farms in this county are family owned.



There is only one registered beef farm in Lincoln County with a current Confined Animal Feed Operation permit (CAFO) of over 200 cattle. Most farms have a combination of livestock. This combination can include but is not limited to a few cattle, horses, goats, sheep, chickens, and pigs. Because of the proximity of many of these farms to nearby waterways, the water quality of Lincoln County and the monitoring of it is of great importance.

## Forested

The majority percentage (90.1%) of land in Lincoln County is zoned forestland. Private ownership, such as industrial ownership, smaller family owned woodlands and tribal lands make up 63% (355,000 acres) while publicly owned forests make up the remaining 37% (210,000 acres). Privately owned forestlands in Lincoln County are split between over 2,000 different owners. Private industrial forest ownership includes Forest Capital Partners, Hancock Timber Resource Group, Plum Creek Timber, Rosboro Lumber, Starker Forests and Weyerhaeuser. Public forests include the Siuslaw National Forest, various tracts owned by the BLM, and Oregon State owned forest. In 2004, 87.5% of the total timber harvest in Lincoln County came from privately owned forestland and in 2010 the harvest from private lands was still on the rise.

OSU recently conducted a mail in survey of forest owners in the county (Lincoln County Forest Landowner Needs Assessment, 2009). This survey revealed that the average plot of private forest land owned is 157 acres and the average length of ownership is 24 years. According to this survey more than

80% of forestland owners were highly interested in managing water, sources of assistance and legislation.

**Table 2, Lincoln County Forestland Ownership**

Landowner	Lincoln County acres
<b>Public Forestland</b>	<b>210,000 (37%)</b>
<i>National Forest</i>	166,000
<i>Bureau of Land Management</i>	20,000
<i>Oregon State Forest</i>	22,000
<b>Private Forest land</b>	<b>355,000 (63%)</b>
<i>Large Private Forests (typically industrial forest)</i>	266,000
<i>Small Private Forests (typically family forests)</i>	56,000
<i>Tribal</i>	18,000

Source: Timber Resource Statistics for Oregon. USDA Forest Service, Resource Bulletin PNW-RB-242. November 2004.

### Fish and Wildlife Resources

The Siletz, Yaquina and Alsea Rivers support salmon runs of coho, chum and fall chinook as well as sea-run cutthroat trout and winter steelhead. The Siletz River also supports a wild summer steelhead run and is the only coastal river to do so (see Table 4, below). Recent runs of wild fish are a fraction of historic runs with coho listed as a threatened species. Salmon hatchery operations operate within the Salmon and Alsea River Basins.

**Table 3. Federally Listed Threatened Species in Lincoln County**

Threatened Species	Candidate Species
<b>Marine</b> – Steller (northern) sea lion <b>Birds</b> – Marbled murrelet, Western snowy plover, Bald eagle, Brown pelican, Short-tailed Albatross, Northern spotted owl <b>Fish</b> – Coho salmon <b>Invertebrates</b> – Oregon silverspot butterfly	<b>Fish</b> - Steelhead

**Table 4. Presence of salmonid biotypes by major basin/watershed**

Major basin	Coho	Chum	Fall Chinook	Spring Chinook	Winter Steelhead	Summer Steelhead	Sea-Run Cutthroat
Salmon R.	X	X	X		X		X
Siletz R.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Yaquina R.	X	X	X		X		X
Alsea R.	X	X	X	X	X		X
Yachats R.	X	X	X		X		X

Source: T.E. Nickelson et al. 1992. Status of anadromous salmonids in Oregon coastal basins. Portland, OR. ODFW

## Appendix A

### Acronyms and Terms used in this Business Plan

<b>ASCS</b>	Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Services (currently FSA)
<b>AWQMP</b>	Agriculture Water Quality Management Program
<b>BLM</b>	Bureau of Land Management
<b>BMP</b>	Best Management Practices
<b>CAFO</b>	Confined Animal Feeding Operation
<b>CREP</b>	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
<b>CRP</b>	Conservation Reserve Program
<b>CTSI</b>	Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
<b>CWMA</b>	Cooperative Weed Management Area
<b>DEQ</b>	Department of Environmental Quality (Oregon)
<b>DSL</b>	Department of State Lands (Oregon)
<b>EQIP</b>	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
<b>ESA</b>	Endangered Species Act (Federal)
<b>EWP</b>	Emergency Watershed Protection Program
<b>FSA</b>	Farm Service Agency (formerly ASCS)
<b>FTE</b>	Full Time Equivalent Employee (2080 hrs/yr)
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information Systems
<b>HEL</b>	Highly Erodible Land
<b>LAC</b>	Local Advisory Committee
<b>LMA</b>	Local Management Agency (Oregon SB1010)
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>NACD</b>	National Association of Conservation Districts
<b>NOAA</b>	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>NMFS</b>	National Marine and Fisheries Service
<b>NWMP</b>	Northwest Weed Management Partnership
<b>NRCS</b>	Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly SCS)
<b>OACD</b>	Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
<b>OAR</b>	Oregon Administrative Rule
<b>OCEAN</b>	Oregon Conservation Employees Association Network
<b>ODA</b>	Oregon Department of Agriculture
<b>OFRI</b>	Oregon Forest Resources Institute
<b>ORS</b>	Oregon Revised Statute
<b>OSU</b>	Oregon State University
<b>OSWB</b>	Oregon State Weed Board (ODA)
<b>OWEB</b>	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
<b>RC&amp;D</b>	Resource Conservation and Development
<b>RD</b>	Rural Development (formerly Farmers Home Administration)
<b>SCS</b>	Soil Conservation Service (currently NRCS)
<b>SDAO</b>	Special Districts Association of Oregon
<b>SB1010</b>	Agricultural Water Quality Management Act of 1993 (OR)

<b>SWCC</b>	Soil and Water Conservation Commission
<b>SWCD</b>	Soil and Water Conservation District
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>USFS</b>	United States Forest Service
<b>WHIP</b>	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
<b>WRP</b>	Wetland Reserve Program

## Appendix B

### History of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the problems of soil erosion in the nation by establishing the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) within the United States Department of Agriculture, through the Soil Conservation Act. The Soil Conservation Service was charged with developing a program to conserve and enhance the nation's soil and water resources while providing food at a reasonable price. Within the first two years it became apparent that local leadership was needed to help coordinate the efforts of the federal conservation agencies and tie their programs to local erosion conditions and natural resource priorities. In 1937, President Roosevelt drafted the State Soil Conservation Districts law asking all governors to promote legislation that would implement the formation of soil conservation districts, creating a partnership that still exists today.

Oregon passed the Soil Conservation District Law in 1939 and organized what was then called the Soil Conservation Committee. This committee was given the responsibility to provide direction and assistance to individual districts as they formed and help coordinate their efforts. The first district formed in Oregon was the South Tillamook Soil Conservation District, organized officially on February 10, 1940. In March 1940, the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) met with the Soil Conservation Committee and developed a partnership agreement. By 1946, the Soil Conservation Committee hired its first Executive Secretary and became a policy-making agency, and two years later they formed the Oregon Association of Soil Conservation Districts. In 1955 the Oregon Legislature changed the conservation district law to require directors be elected instead of appointed and changed the name of the Oregon Association of Soil Conservation Districts to the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts. By 1963 the Oregon Legislature added "Water" to the name of the Districts and the Committee. The Resource Conservation and Development project was also authorized at this time. On July 1, 1981 the Oregon Legislature merged the Soil and Water Conservation Committee with ODA and formed a Soil and Water Conservation Division, which became the administrative oversight entity for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This name was changed to the Natural Resources Division in 1989. Since the formation of the first District in 1940, many other districts formed, consolidated, and redefined boundaries. Today there are 45 districts in Oregon, with Douglas, Grant, Josephine, Lake, Lane and Multnomah Counties having two districts each and Baker County four.

The districts were organized to work cooperatively with SCS on flood control, water storage, erosion, riverbank stabilization, terracing, weed control, improvement of fertility and field drainage. The solutions included the best management practices of tillage and residue management, grassed waterways, and tile drainage. Agronomic practices such as cover crops, forestry, sub-soiling, and pasture renovation were customary. Soil banks were established during the late 1950s and the 1960s.

Most of the practices were installed through funding and cost-share from the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) and through the technical assistance of SCS. The ASCS was directed by a county committee which worked with the district boards to achieve the desired conservation.

In the 1970's conservation policy began to change. Congress directed the ASCS to no longer fund production practices such as the building of reservoirs and the installation of tile for drainage. Water

quality became an important topic, and districts worked with the dairy and swine industry on Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).

The 1985 Farm Bill linked USDA financial assistance to conservation being applied to the land. New SCS standards were held to erosion control and wetlands could no longer be converted to farm land. SCS personnel had to determine where wetlands were located on farms and if the land was Highly Erodible Land (HEL). If land was HEL, a conservation plan was required. This placed a huge workload on the SCS employees; so in 1991, SCS determined that they would only serve those receiving USDA benefits related to the Food Security Act and the cost-share Agriculture Conservation Program (ACP).

In 1993 the SCS was renamed the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the ASCS was renamed the Farm Service Agency.

The ACP was ended in 1996, and the new Farm Bill included the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), a multiple practice program. A reduction in funds in the new Farm Bill meant a reduction in cost-share practice implementation.

The 1997 Oregon Legislature addressed the issue of salmon listings and the effect of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on the Oregon coast. The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds was created. Directions were given to the different agencies; and the Oregon Department of Agriculture became responsible for the implementation of Senate Bill 1010, which had been passed in 1993. Soil and Water Conservation Districts were asked to be the Local Management Agencies for regional SB 1010 plans.

The Mid-Coast Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan (Area Plan) was developed in response to the Agricultural Water Quality Management Act, passed in 1993 by the Oregon Legislature and codified at ORS 568.900 – 568.933. The Act directed the Oregon Department of Agriculture to work with agriculture to address water quality issues. The intent of the Act and the Oregon Department of Agriculture Water Quality Program are to:

- Satisfy multiple federal and state water quality mandates;
- Encourage voluntary conservation;
- Promote water quality improvement through outreach and education;
- Allow flexibility in meeting local water quality standards;
- Provide enforcement provisions for landowners who refuse to work towards meeting water quality standards; and
- Involve local citizens and organizations in the development of strategies to meet water quality standards.

The Area Plan applies specifically to agricultural activities on all agricultural, rural, and forestlands within the Mid Coast Agricultural Water Quality Management Area (Management Area) that are not owned by the federal government, are part of an Indian Reservation, or are Tribal Trust Lands. This Management Area consists of: (1) all lands drained by the Salmon, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Yachats, Siuslaw, Siltcoos, and Tahkenitch rivers and their tributaries and (2) all streams flowing directly into the Pacific Ocean between the Salmon and Tahkenitch watersheds. It applies to all lands, regardless of size, in current agricultural use and those lying idle or on which management has been deferred. It also applies to agricultural activities within incorporated city boundaries. Activities subject to the

Oregon Forest Practices Act are not included in this plan. The Area Plan provides background information on the Management Area; discusses local water quality concerns; and describes a goal, objectives, and strategies to improve water quality. The plan also references Area Rules that describe conditions land users must meet on all agricultural lands they own, occupy, or manage, and describes procedures for handling complaints and enforcement actions. Finally, the plan describes a process for evaluating plan effectiveness and updating the plan on a regular basis.

The Area Plan does not hold agriculture responsible for cleaning up water quality problems from other sources; its focus is on encouraging landowners to keep water as clean when it leaves their property as when it enters. This plan is also not intended to tell anyone how to farm, ranch, or otherwise utilize their natural resources. However, the Lincoln and Siuslaw SWCDs, U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the ODA, and other partners are available to provide technical, financial, and educational assistance Mid-Coast Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan to landowners in the management Area to meet their conservation goals and local water quality standards. A Local Advisory Committee (LAC) developed this Area Plan with assistance from the Lincoln and Siuslaw SWCDs and the ODA, and with input from members of the community.

## Appendix C

### FSA and NRCS Programs

1. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary conservation program enabling farmers and ranchers to enroll in contracts for 10 to 15 years to remove lands from agricultural production. The applicants must offer acreage along salmon and trout streams that have been cropped two out of the last five years. Although there is no length of ownership requirement, lands that have an existing Conservation Reserve Program contract are not eligible until that contract expires. The goals of the CREP program are to provide riparian buffers on streams, reduce sediment and nutrient pollution from agricultural lands, ensure vegetation establishment for stream stabilization and reduction of water temperature and to help landowners meet water quality requirements.

2. Landowners and operators are encouraged but not required to develop and implement an approved Voluntary Water Quality Farm Plan, which includes but is not limited to:

- maps
- aerial photographs
- soil surveys
- water resources
- acres
- agreements with other agencies
- management practices

3. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that offers annual rental payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost-share assistance to establish approved cover on eligible cropland to improve soil, water, and wildlife resources. To be eligible for CRP, cropland must have been planted to an agricultural commodity 2 of the last 5 years or been pastureland that is enrolled in the Water Bank Program or suitable for use as a riparian buffer. Additionally, cropland must have an Erosion Index of 8 or higher, must be considered a cropped wetland, must be devoted to a number of beneficial environmental practices, must be subject to scour erosion, or must be associated with non-cropped wetlands. Applicants to CRP must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the close of the sign-up period.

4. The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands. The program provides an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal land from agriculture. WRP offers three enrollment options:

- USDA pays for a permanent easement and 100% of the costs of restoring the wetland
- USDA pays 75% of the cost for a 30-year easement and 75% of the restoration costs
- USDA pays 75% of the cost to re-establish degraded or lost wetland habitat but no easement is placed on the property. Applicants must have owned the land for at least 12 month prior to enrolling in WRP. The land must be restorable and suitable for wildlife benefits

5. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. Through EQIP farmers and ranchers may receive financial and technical help to install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. EQIP activities are carried out according to an EQIP plan of operations developed in conjunction with the producer. Total cost-share and incentive payments are limited to \$100,000 per individual regardless of the number of farms or contracts. EQIP also provides opportunities for Conservation Innovation Grants, which are competitive grants awarded to stimulate innovative approaches to environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production.

6. The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations. WHIP provides technical and financial assistance to landowners, operators, conservation district, Federal, State, and Tribal agencies to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property. Participants agree to limit future use of the land for a period of time while the wildlife habitat plan is developed. This plan becomes the basis of the cost-share agreement. There are no limits on the number of acres that can be enrolled or the amount of payment made.

7. The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) helps protect lives and property threatened by natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires. EWP also provides technical and financial assistance to preserve life and property threatened by excessive erosion and flooding. Any measure taken must be environmentally and economically sound and generally benefit more than one property owner. EWP will provide up to 75% of the funds needed to restore the natural function of a watershed. EWP will also purchase easements on floodplain lands that have been impaired within the last 12 months or that have a history of repeated flooding. NRCS then has full authority to restore and enhance the floodplain's functions and values. In exchange, a landowner receives the least of one of the three following values as an easement payment:

- a geographic rate established by the NRCS
- a value based on a market appraisal analysis for agricultural uses of assessment for agricultural land
- the landowner offer

## Appendix D

### Enabling Legislation and Governance of SWCDs

Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Districts are defined by Oregon Revised Statutes as political subdivisions of state government. A district is not a state agency, rather it is classified as a municipal corporation, a form of local government that is required to follow five basic requirements under ORS 568 to remain legal and become eligible for funding from ODA. ORS 568.554 contains two requirements stating that, “Each conservation district shall submit to the ODA its proposed long-range plan and annual work plan for review and comment.” Next ORS 568.580 states that the Board of Directors shall call an annual meeting where they shall present an annual report and audit. Fifteen days before the annual meeting the Board shall post three public notices within the district or publish, on two consecutive weeks in the local paper, the details of the time and place of the annual meeting according to ORS 568.590. Finally, in accordance with ORS 568.610, the Directors shall provide full and accurate records of all proceedings and schedule an annual audit of accounts.

The Oregon Legislature passed the Soil Conservation District Law on August 5, 1939, which created a Soil Conservation Committee. This law authorized the committee to begin forming Soil Conservation Districts, which were changed to Soil and Water Conservation Districts in 1963. The primary statutes relating to the formation and governance of Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Districts are contained in ORS 568.210 through 568.890. A listing of these statutes follows in Appendix E, and a complete text is available in the *Oregon Soil and Water Conservation District Law Book*. The general powers and authorities of conservation districts in Oregon are described in ORS 568.550 and are detailed in Appendix F. Additionally, conservation districts are subject to the provisions of several other statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) as outlined in Appendix G. The full text of statutes is available at <http://www.leg.state.or.us> and the full text of the administrative rules is available at <http://www.sos.state.or.us/archives/rules>.

All Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Districts are classified as special districts under ORS 198.010 through ORS 198.955. As special districts, conservation districts are eligible to become members of the Special Districts Association of Oregon. SDAO provides a variety of resources, consultation, insurance plans, and training opportunities to its members.

In addition to the powers and authorities previously described, ORS 568.730 authorizes districts “to go upon any lands within the district, after notifying the owner or operator, for the purpose of making surveys and to determine whether land-use regulations adopted under ORS 568.630 to 568.690 are being observed. Due precaution shall be taken at all times to prevent injury to growing crops or livestock.” While implementing agricultural water quality management program strategies, ORS 568.915 states “after a reasonable attempt to notify the landowner, the Department of Agriculture or a designee of the department may go upon any lands within the area subject to a water quality management plan for the purpose of determining: 1) those actions that may be required of a landowner under ORS 568.900 to 568.933 and, 2) whether the landowner is carrying out the required actions.”

Senate Bill 1010, passed by the Oregon Legislature in 1993, directs ODA to work with farmers and ranchers to develop area-wide water quality management plans for the state's watersheds. SB1010 is the primary tool that the Oregon agricultural community is using to respond to the federal Clean Water Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, and other natural resource conservation mandates. Conservation districts are essential partners with ODA and private landowners in implementing SB1010's Agricultural Water Quality Management Program. The Lincoln SWCD is the Local Management Agency of SB1010 in the Mid-Coast watershed areas. Conservation districts provide assistance to landowners in evaluating their property and implementing conservation measures. Districts also help landowner's access technical and financial resources through NRCS and other local, state, and federal agencies.

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission is an advisory body to ODA and consists of seven SWCC Directors, appointed by the Director of ODA. These directors are voting members who serve four-year terms and are limited to two consecutive terms. In addition to the voting directors, several agencies and organizations serve as advisors to the commission. The advisors include representatives of NRCS, Farm Service Agency, OSU Extension Service, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and the OACD. The chair of the commission, by statute, also serves on the Oregon Board of Agriculture. The commission's primary function is to coordinate the programs of ODA, NRCS, FSA, OSU Extension Service, OWEB, and OACD with the needs of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to carry out their statutory responsibilities effectively. The commission also serves as an advisor to the director of ODA on natural resource issues.

## Appendix E

### Oregon Revised Statutes That Empower SWCDs

ORS 568.550(1). The board of directors of a soil and water conservation district has the following powers: [*Letters correspond to actual statute format.*]

- a. To secure surveys and investigations and do research relating to:
  - The character of soil erosion
  - The character of floodwater and sediment damage
  - All phases of the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water
  - The preventive measures, control measures and improvements needed
- b. To conduct demonstrational projects on lands within the district upon obtaining the consent of the owner and occupier of such lands.
- c. To carry out preventive and control measures on lands within the district upon obtaining the consent of the owner and occupier of such lands.
- d. To enter into written agreements (*see specifics in 568.330[(d)][A]&[(B)]*)
- e. To obtain options upon and to acquire by purchase, exchange, lease, gift, grant, bequest or devise any property, real or personal or rights therein, (*see specifics in 568.330[e]*)
- f. To borrow money and to mortgage personal property of the district as security (*see specifics in ORS 568.330[f]*)
- g. To issue general obligation bonds of the district as provided in ORS 568.803
- h. To make available, on such terms as the directors shall prescribe, to landowners or occupiers within the district, agricultural and engineering machinery and equipment, fertilizer, seeds and seedlings and other material or equipment.
- i. To construct, operate and maintain such structures as may be necessary or convenient for performance of any of the operations authorized in ORS 568.210 to 568.880 and 568.900 to ORS 568.933.
- j. To develop comprehensive plans and specifications for the conservation of soil resources and for the continued control of soil erosion within the district, and to publish such plans, specifications and information and bring them to the attention of owners and occupiers of the lands within the district.
- k. To take over, by purchase, lease or otherwise, and to administer, any soil conservation, erosion control or erosion prevention project, or combination thereof, located within district boundaries undertaken by the United States or any of its agencies, or by this state or any of its agencies.
- l. To manage, as agent of the United States or any of its agencies, or of this state or any of its agencies, any soil conservation, erosion control or erosion prevention project, or combination thereof, within district boundaries.

- m. To act as agent for the United States or any of its agencies, in connection with the acquisition, construction, operation or administration of any soil conservation, erosion control or erosion control project, or combination thereof, within district boundaries.
- n. To accept donations, gifts and contributions in money, services, materials, or otherwise from the United States or any of its agencies, or from this state or any of its agencies, and to use or expend such moneys, services, materials or other contributions in carrying on its operations.
- o. To sue and be sued in the name of the district, to have a seal, which shall be judicially noticed, to have perpetual succession unless terminated as provided by law, to make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers, and to make, and from time to time amend or repeal, rules not consistent with ORS 568.210 to 568.808 and 568.900 to 568.933 to carry into effect its purposes and powers.
- p. To purchase liability or indemnity insurance, in such amounts and containing such terms and conditions as the board believes necessary for the protection of directors, officers and employees of the district against claims incurred in the performance of their duties.
- q. To place liens on real and personal property.
- r. To enter into written agreements with, coordinate activities with and provide assistance to landowners, managers and residents within the districts and federal, state and local governments, relating to natural resource issues, including but not limited to issues of:
  - Agriculture and forestry
  - Economic development based upon natural resources
  - Watershed management and ecosystem health
  - Invasive species
  - Alternate and renewable energy
  - Air Quality
  - Animal waste and nutrient management
  - Carbon sequestration
  - Access to market-based services and certification
  - Fuel reduction and wildfire planning and management
  - Preservation of agricultural, forestry and other lands
- s. To conduct outreach and conservation education activities.
- t. To provide financial assistance, including but not limited to loans and grants to implement activities and projects authorized under ORS 271.715 to 271.795, 569.210 to 568.808 or 568.900 to 568.933.
- u. To hold patents, trademarks and copyrights.
- v. To hold conservation easements under ORS 271.715 to 271.795.

ORS 568.550(2). As a condition to the extending of any benefits under ORS 568.210 to 568.808 or 568.900 to 568.933 to lands or the performance of work upon lands, the directors may require contributions in money, services, materials or otherwise to any operations conferring

such benefits, and may require landowners or occupiers to enter into and perform such agreements or covenants as to the permanent use of such lands as will tend to prevent or control erosion thereon.

ORS 568.550(3). In order to avoid duplication of activities under subsection (1)(a) of this section, the department may call upon other state and federal agencies for assistance and cooperation in their fields in accordance with memoranda of understanding to be signed by all cooperating agencies.

ORS 568.550(4). A district may not adopt land use regulations under ORS chapter 197, 215 or 227. A district has the standing of an affected landowner to participate in the public process involving administrative rules, regulations, goals, guidelines, plans or other public body actions that may affect one or more properties within the district.

## Appendix F

### Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

<i>STATUTE</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990	Hiring Persons With Disabilities- Federal
OAR 137-30-000 through 137-35-080	Oregon Public Contracting Law
Oregon Constitution Article XV, Section 3	Oath of Office
ORS 44.320	Oath of Office
ORS 174	Public Bodies
ORS 190.003 through 190.110	Intergovernmental Cooperation
ORS 192.001	Public Records, Reports, and Meetings
ORS 198	Special Districts Generally
ORS 244.010 through 244.400	Conflict of Interest
ORS 247.035	Residency
ORS 250	Initiative and Referendum
ORS 255	Special District Elections
ORS 271	Conservation and Highway Scenic Preservation Easements
ORS 280	Taxation for Local Public Improvements
ORS 287	Borrowing and Bonds of Local Governments
ORS 288	Public Borrowing and Bonds Generally
ORS 292.210 through 292.250	Subsistence and Mileage allowances for Travel by State Officers and Employees
ORS 294.305 through 294.565	Local Budget <i>–for district with a tax levy</i>
ORS 297.005 through 297.712	Contracting
ORS 297.210 through 297.230	Auditing Accounts of State and State-Aided Institutions and Agencies Laws
ORS 297.405 through 297.485	Municipal Audits
ORS 310	Property Tax Rates and Amounts Limitations
ORS 468B	Water Quality
ORS 517	Non-aggregate Mineral Surface Mines
ORS 541	Watershed Management and Enhancement
ORS 542.750	Watershed Protection and Flood Protection
ORS 561.395	Soil and Water Conservation Commission
ORS 561.400	Natural Resources Division (ODA)
ORS 568.900 through 568.933	Agricultural Water Quality Management
ORS 659.010 through 659.990	Civil Rights, Unlawful Employment
ORS 659.405	Civil Rights of Disabled Persons
Title VII Civil Rights Act of 1964	Equal Opportunity Employment/Sexual Harassment/Discrimination- Federal