

2009-11 Oregon Plan Biennial Report - Soil and Water Conservation Districts

A critical component of salmon recovery is private landowner maintenance and improvement of agricultural and rural non-forested lands for water quality and salmonid habitat. Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) are local entities that provide the local link to landowners to implement components of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds that enhance water quality and salmonid survival. The SWCDs complement the work of Watershed Councils by reaching a different cliental then that being reached by watershed councils. This project finances SWCDs to provide the local outreach and technical assistance to local landowners to: 1) promote the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds; 2) improve landowner involvement in conservation activities that enhance water quality and habitat for salmon; 3) develop assessments and implement strategies to achieve the goals of the Oregon Plan.

Funds were distributed to 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts who are the agency's local entities for conducting outreach and providing technical assistance to landowners interested in doing projects. During the last fiscal year this project has helped implement 467 projects on 54,556 acres to improve water quality. The types of projects include: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program project implementation, water developments, brush management, direct seeding, cover crops to control soil erosion, fencing to improve grazing management, riparian fencing, filter strips to control erosion, stream habitat improvements and management, fish passage, irrigation water management, weed management, grazing management, nutrient management, etc.

Benefits achieved include increased landowner knowledge of the relationship between land management, water quality, and salmonid survival, as well as implementation of conservation management actions on private lands enhancing watershed condition and salmonid survival.

The following table entitled SWCD Report Summary lists the work accomplished during the period July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010, by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

| FY 2009-2010 SWCD Activity Summary July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010 | |
|--|--------|
| Landowners Contacted | 39,560 |
| Landowners Assisted | 8,668 |
| Total Landowners | 47,699 |
| Outreach / Education Activities | |
| Workshops | 119 |
| Workshop Attendees | 3,032 |
| Presentations | 531 |
| Presentation Attendees | 10,023 |
| Demonstrations | 140 |
| Demonstration Attendees | 3,306 |
| Tours | 234 |
| Tour Attendees | 1,843 |
| Displays | 121 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Display Visitors | 38,998 |
| # Classes for Students | 296 |
| # Schools Participating in Classes | 307 |
| Students in Classes | 15,157 |
| # Documents Developed | 60 |
| Fact Sheets Distributed | 28,117 |
| Total Newsletters Distributed | 59,734 |
| News Articles | 177 |
| WQ Projects | |
| # Completed projects to improve WQ | 467 |
| # Watersheds Affected by WQ Projects | 216 |
| # Acres Affected by WQ Projects | 54,556 |
| Locating/securing outside funds | 637 |
| # of Sites Monitored | 292 |
| On-site evaluation of Conditions | 3,204 |
| Conservation Planning | |
| # WQ/CAFO plans | 327 |
| # Acres in WQ/CAFO plans | 26,952 |
| # Farm/Ranch plans | 117 |
| # Acres in Farm/Ranch plans | 20,609 |
| # Certified plans | 31 |
| # Acres in Certified plans | 6,852 |
| # CREP plans | 70 |
| # Acres in CREP plans | 12,789 |
| TOTAL # ALL PLANS | 545 |
| TOTAL ACRES IN ALL PLANS | 55,692 |

Note: Activity summary table includes activities funded under OWEB agreements #210-900, #210-915, and #209-920.