



Malheur County Soil & Water Conservation District's Natural Exchange

Of conservation ideas, technology, people, issues and events

Inside this issue:

<i>Who, What & How</i>	2
<i>Local Answer (Cont.)</i>	3
<i>Conservation Calendar</i>	4
<i>Recipe</i>	4
<i>Southeast Oregon RC&D Council</i>	5
<i>SWAPA</i>	6
<i>West Nile Virus, 2007</i>	6
<i>The Male Model!</i>	7
<i>The Quiet Invasion</i>	7
<i>All Roads Led to Fair</i>	8
<i>NRCS Helping People Help the Land</i>	9
<i>New Soil Surveys</i>	9
<i>Conservation Challenge</i>	10
<i>Pipe & Riser Systems</i>	11
<i>Conservation Web Sites</i>	11
<i>2007 Conservation Poster Contest</i>	12

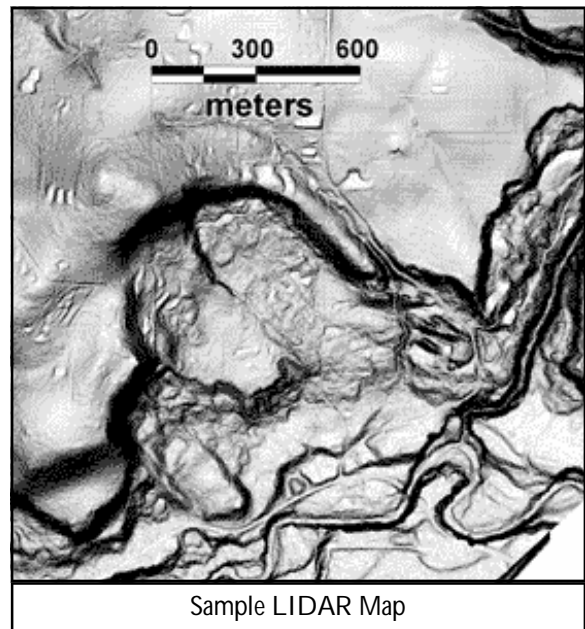
Local Answer to Aging Delivery System

An \$80,000.00 assessment grant was awarded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to develop a long-term plan for the aging irrigation delivery system of the 241,000 irrigated farm acres in northern Malheur County.

The approval of the Malheur County SWCD sponsored grant has marked the beginning of a cooperative partnership between Malheur County irrigation districts and local, state and federal conservation partners. The focus is on changing the irrigation delivery system to conserve water, to be more energy efficient, and to allow area farmers to be more effective with agricultural crop production.

The Question: The process began in February of 2005 when Congressman Walden visited Malheur County. The question was posed to the congressman by the manager of the Owyhee Irrigation District about how to get funding to improve the district's efficiency in order to comply with the Federal Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and State (SB 1010) water regulations.

Congressman Walden replied, saying that to enable him to be most effective in helping with funding, he needed to know the long-range plan for not just one irrigation district, but all of the irrigation districts in the area.



Sample LIDAR Map

The Beginning: The discussion resulted in the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) sending a watershed planning representative to Malheur County. The size and scope of what was needed was reviewed. *(Continued on page 3.)*

Acronym

SWCD = Malheur
County Soil
& Water
Conservation
District

Soil & Water Conservation Districts are made up of locally elected directors. There are five positions representing zones and two at-large positions.

Malheur County SWCD Directors

- * Mike Barlow, Chair
- * Darrell Standage, Vice Chair
- * Judy Wilcox, Treasurer
- * Linda Rowe
- * Debbie Odette
- * Martin Andre
- * Warren Chamberlain

Board meetings are usually held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the USDA Ag Service Center (on airport corner), Ontario, Oregon.

Public attendance at board meetings is encouraged and appreciated.

SWCD Staff

~

Lance Phillips,
District Manager

Sharon Mathews,
Administrative Assistant

Gary Faw
Watershed Technician

Lyndon Yamada,
Engineer/Technician

The SWCD Who, What, and How

The Malheur County SWCD advocates:

- ◆ **Protecting Water Quality & Conserving Water**
- ◆ **Rangeland Health**
- ◆ **Protecting Land from Soil Erosion**
- ◆ **Preventing the Spread of Invasive Weed Species**
- ◆ **Investing in Local Communities**
- ◆ **Improving Wildlife Habitat**
- ◆ **Improving Native Plant Habitat**
- ◆ **Involving and Informing Local Citizens about Conservation**

To get the work done, the district has many committees and many, many partners.

The SWCD has a 13-member **Project Committee** that includes staff, agency members and also many hardworking landowners. This committee reviews the many proposals for grants that come to our office.

With such a diverse group of members, they all see projects from different perspectives which is helpful in determining which ones are really feasible and will serve in accomplishing some of the bulleted items listed above.

The SWCD has a **Work Plan Committee** that writes a long-range plan (5-Year Business Plan) and then an annual plan each year. This enables the district to determine what are the most urgent natural resource issues in our county and to stay on task in addressing them.

The **Information & Education Committee** is the group that involves and informs the county of the SWCD activities, new conservation technology, opportunities and encourages participation in caring for the natural resources of Malheur County. They gather ideas for this newsletter as well as provide educational opportunities to students and adults alike. A conservation speech contest and conservation poster contest were held this year. This committee plans the outreach activities of the SWCD fair booth as well.

The **Meetings/Tours/Awards Committee** plans the various meetings, tours and workshops and presents awards to many deserving fellow conservationists. This is all in an effort to share information that may benefit the stakeholders of this county.

Keeping the district staffed and funded, is the task of the **Personnel/Nominations Committee** and the **Budget Committee**. The overall goal is to help get conservation practices implemented to produce better economics, enhance wildlife habitat and produce a more viable way of life. All of these efforts of dedicated people increases pride in the community!

Debbie Odette being sworn in by Chairman Mike Barlow



In May, Debbie Odette, was appointed to serve as a SWCD director, as Ed Gheen resigned his position to take employment in Harney County.

Ed is enjoying his new work at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and Debbie is already hard at work as a director.

Associate Directors: Barbara Barlow, Herb Futter, Rod Frahm, Carl Hill, Bill Romans, Ed Gheen, Ron Jones, Rock Hartley, Lowell Whitaker, and Andrew Martin

Honorary Associate Directors: Judge Dan Joyce, Commissioner Jim Nakano, Commissioner Louis Wettstein, Representative Tom Butler and Senator Ted Ferrioli

Local Answer to Aging Delivery System *(Continued from front page.)*

The Partnership: The Malheur SWCD Board organized four public meetings that brought together local conservation partners. The local partners were from a wide range of representation including all of the irrigation districts, drainage districts, county commissioners, road departments, weed control and county planners. Federal conservation partners attending and essential in the primary planning effort to develop a clear idea of how the irrigation system needed to change were US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), USDA NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and State of Oregon conservation partners from the Department of Agriculture (ODA), Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), and Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

The Plan: The meeting resulted in a phased plan to:

- I. Develop accurate mapping of all the elements of the irrigation system.
- II. Develop an Action Plan to prioritize areas of concern.
- III. Develop engineering designs for the elements to be improved.
- IV. Seek the funding needed to fund the improvement projects.

The Implementation: Implementation of Phase I mapping has begun with the approval of this grant and the combined efforts of the Owyhee Irrigation District, Warm Springs Irrigation District, Vale Oregon Irrigation District, South Board of Control and the Old Owyhee Ditch Company.

The Technology: The NRCS and USBR partners are procuring Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) data that can provide precise, accurate and high-resolution images of the irrigated area. The more than \$160,000 provided by them is an essential element that when partnered with the irrigation districts funding of a Global Information Systems (GIS) mapping professional will positively impact changes in water and conservation that will be felt for generations in Malheur County.

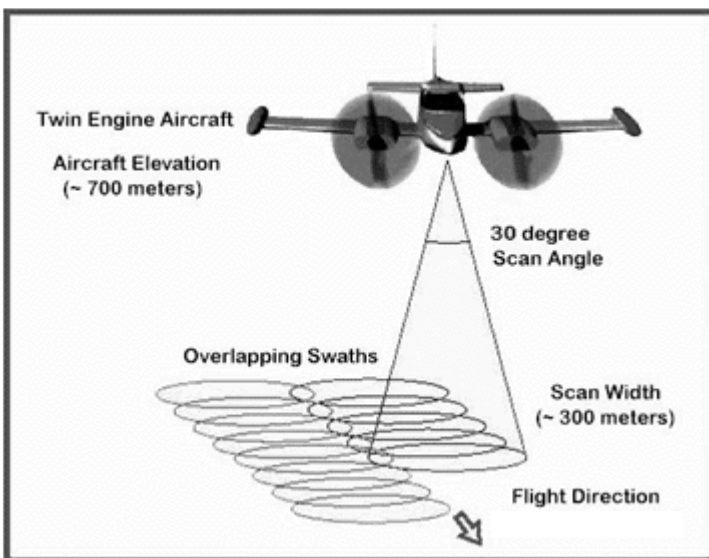
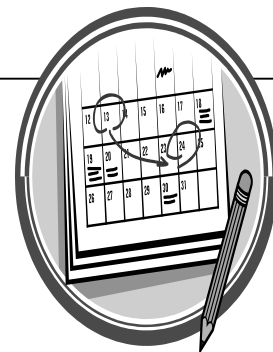


Illustration of How the LIDAR Sensing Instrument Captures Elevation Points

The LIDAR instruments only collect elevation data. To make these data spatially relevant, the positions of the data points must be known. A high-precision global positioning system (GPS) antenna is mounted on the upper aircraft fuselage. As the LIDAR sensor collects data points, the location of the data are simultaneously recorded by the GPS sensor. After the flight, the data are downloaded and processed using specially designed computer software. The end product is accurate, geographically registered longitude, latitude, and elevation (x,y,z) positions for every data point. These "x,y,z" data points allow the generation of a digital elevation model (DEM) of the ground surface.

The Success: With such a committed group of partners and using new technology, the hope for success remains high. This group, the Systems Analysis Partners, are open-minded and determined to make a difference in the aging irrigation delivery system in order to conserve and wisely use the water resource for the environmental and economic benefit of present and future generations of Malheur County.

Conservation Calendar



- SWCD Board Meeting, 2nd Tuesday of the Month (Usually, Ag Service Center, Ontario)
- OWC Council Meetings, 2nd Wednesday of the Month (ISU Extension in Marsing. ID)
- MWC Council Meetings, 3rd Thursday of the Month (OSU Extension in Ontario)
- SE OR RC&D Council will meet in October in Burns. Call for details. 541-889-2588 Ext. 101.
- Continuous CREP sign-up at the USDA Farm Service Agency office
- EQIP sign-up at the USDA NRCS office. Deadline for 2008 applicants is Nov. 1, 2007.
- Weed Board Meetings, 4th Thursday of the Month, 7:30 PM (OSU Extension in Ontario)
- Chamber Ag Breakfast, 2nd Thursday of the Month, 7:00 AM (Malheur Economic Development in Ontario)

Sensible Quote:
 "A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour." -Author Unknown

Cabbage Crunch Salad

For a quick, easy and great tasting salad that men, women and children will enjoy, try this recipe.

NUTS (Can be prepared in advance)

- 4 TBSP. Sesame Seeds
- 1 Cup Slivered Almonds

Toast in a 350 degree oven until golden—*Watch carefully.*

*Courtesy of
Debbie Odette*

DRESSING (Can be prepared the day before serving.)

- 4 TBSP. Granulated Sugar
- 3/4 tsp. Salt
- 1 Cup Salad Oil
- 1 Pkg. Ramen Noodle Chicken Flavoring
- 6 TBSP Red Wine Vinegar
- 1 tsp. Pepper

Mix together until well blended. Refrigerate at least 2 hours.



SALAD (Can be done early the day of serving. Keep refrigerated if done early.)

- 1 Head of Cabbage—shredded fine (like for coleslaw)
- 4 Green Onions to 1 bunch (depending on taste) chopped

Just before serving

Add 2 packages of broken, uncooked, ramen noodles (no flavor packets), sesame seeds, almonds, and dressing to the cabbage and green onions.

Toss and enjoy!



Southeast Oregon Resource & Development Council

The Oregon Association of Oregon Resource and Development Councils (OARCD), held their meeting in Ontario, April 27-28th, hosted by the Southeast Oregon Resourced & Development Council (SE OR RC&D). This council encompasses Harney and Malheur counties.

There were coordinators and council members representing seven councils from across the state. Four of the well established councils shared information and power point presentations on their projects and activities. There are some awesome activities going on across the state. The presentations gave other councils, including the SE OR RC&D, a lot of ideas for projects and how to make them happen.



OARCD Meets in Ontario

RC&D Councils are a program of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to help in conserving natural resources and solving local problems. It is unique because it is based on the following concepts:

- It is a volunteer program governed at the local level that has a federally funded coordinator in approved areas.
- It demonstrates the value of grassroots involvement in making decisions about local areas.
- It achieves a balance between rural economic development and natural resource protection by building sustainable communities.
- It brings USDA agencies together to focus on the same problems and opportunities.
- It leverages limited federal dollars with private funds to accomplish goals.
- It enhances the value of public/private partnerships in making the best use of limited resources.



Jay Chamberlin, Owyhee Irrigation District

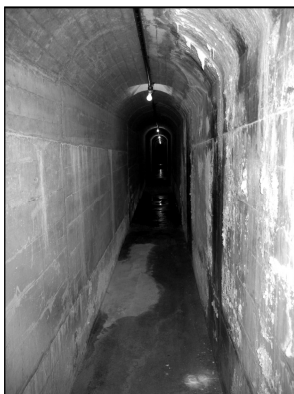
Owyhee Dam Tour After the last session on Saturday, the group took a tour to and through the Owyhee Dam. Jay Chamberlin, past president of the SE OR RC&D Council, served as the tour guide. Since Jay grew up in the area and understands the value of irrigation to this valley as well as now being the manager of the Owyhee Irrigation District, he was able to share information, current and historical, along the route from Ontario through Nyssa and on up to the Owyhee Dam.



On top of the Owyhee Dam

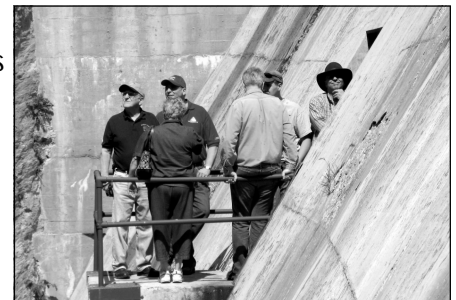
The group thoroughly enjoyed the stop at the museum and the DVD entitled **“Letters from the Dam.”** This dam served as a prototype for the Hoover Dam.

Upon seeing the inside of the structure, the engineering and planning are a marvel. And, to think the dam was completed in 1932, 75 years ago. Jay explained how predicting water storage in the vast three-state desert area is so much more difficult than in forested mountain areas. He explained using NRCS Snowtel site data, doing fly-overs and using experience to try to determine water flowing into the reservoir. Unpredictable storm squalls complicate predictions. This was a unique experience for some of the visitors from Oregon’s west side where managing irrigation water is not a necessity.



Inside Hallway

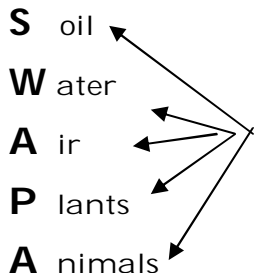
If you are interested in volunteering with a group whose mission it is to proactively conserve, develop and promote responsible stewardship of the natural and economic resources through a network of local partnerships to ensure and complement viable communities in southeast Oregon, contact the SWCD office.



Some of the tour group out on an observation deck.

What is SWAPA?

Have you ever been asked what natural resources are? The word "SWAPA" in the following acrostic makes the definition of natural resources easy to remember:



Natural resources are things necessary for survival.

When you think a little deeper, you may want to add the letter "P" to "SWAPA" and create the word "SWAPAP".

The "P" would stand for people. People are one of the greatest resources this county has. Hard working, educated, dedicated, innovative people that are willing to take care of the rest of the natural resources.

Yes, people are vitally important to natural resources.

"SWAPA" or "SWAPAP"

Let's all do our part to take care of our natural resources in a responsible and sustainable manner.



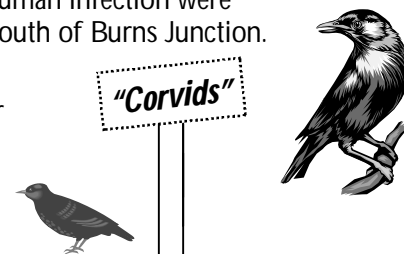
West Nile Virus, 2007

By Walt Van Dyke, District Wildlife Biologist, Malheur County

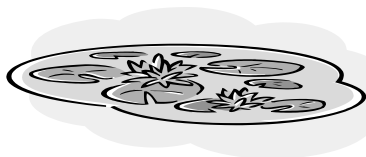


About this time last year, West Nile Virus (WNV) really started to show up, particularly in the east side of Malheur County. It appeared to be most prominent in the vicinity of Jordan Valley where several cases of human infection were documented and there also was a significant localized loss of sage grouse at one location south of Burns Junction.

WNV most significantly affects the family of birds known as "Corvids" (crows, ravens, magpies, starlings, etc) and that is where the first losses were noted last year. The Malheur County Health Department received many calls and were provided with so many specimens that they finally stopped testing for the disease in most birds—there was no doubt that WNV was here and human health and safety became a more important issue.



Other species of birds can also be affected by WNV but mortality rates appear to vary widely. For example, mortality of pheasant and quail to WNV appears to be negligible, while under proper conditions sage grouse can suffer high mortality rates.



The weather conditions that we are currently experiencing appear to be excellent in fostering WNV outbreaks—several days of high temperatures which facilitate mosquito production, especially if there is pooled water which provides for optimum mosquito hatching conditions.

Just because we had WNV last year does not mean that we still are not concerned. We are especially concerned with sage grouse, but are also interested in any significant die-off of any bird species. Representatives from the National Wildlife Health Lab in Madison Wisconsin have made two trips to southern Malheur County so far this summer in an effort to monitor the prevalence of WNV in a number of bird species.



What You Can Do.....

If you find a dead sage grouse or note a significant die-off (5 to 10 birds in one spot at one time) of songbirds or waterfowl please do not hesitate to give us a call (541-889-6975). There also is a concern with avian influenza and we will be monitoring that. **If you find a dead bird, please do not touch it**—roll a plastic bag over your hand, pick it up and bag it and then bag it again, refrigerate it and give us a call—we will figure out what we want to do from there. The important thing is that the lab needs fresh specimens if they are to determine what the cause of death might be.

The Male Model!

Have you ever seen a sage grouse? This one thinks he is a model! Rather than the traditional runway for models, a traditional display ground for a sage grouse is called a lek.

The males gather in the spring, late March or early April, to court the females. After the male shows how great he is, mating occurs and then the female goes off and raises her family by herself!

These remarkable photos (we wish we could print in color) were taken by Devlin Holloway, Harper, Oregon, on the sagebrush plains of the high desert on the Chris and Beverly Davis ranch in Westfall.



The traditional sage grouse territory has been greatly invaded by encroaching juniper trees. After the trees have established themselves, they out-compete the grasses, forbs, and shrubs that the sage grouse require for their very survival.

In partnership with the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, ranchers/landowners, and others, the SWCD is promoting juniper control to push back the invasion and to restore healthier wildlife habitat.

Several of these projects in recent years have proved very successful. The SWCD and their partners are now making a full-fledged effort to replicate these successes.

This past spring, a meeting of the partners and ranchers in northern Malheur County was held to consider the problem and the many options. The SWCD is pursuing funding to help with this worthy endeavor. A large undertaking but very promising. This effort should benefit not only the sage grouse, but also, many other species of wildlife from insects, to song birds, to larger species, antelope, deer, elk and livestock.

“The Quiet Invasion” ***..Managing Juniper In Eastern Oregon.***

This DVD explores the history, science, and management concepts behind the decision by many local landowners, and federal and state agencies to actively manage their lands to confront the juniper issue.

Through interviews with local ranchers, land managers, scientists, and government officials, “The Quiet Invasion” explores why the decision was made to cut down juniper on some sites, and to use prescribed fires and other management techniques when necessary. The main feature is approximately 18 minutes in length. Bonus features include: Tools for Managers (8 min.), The Rancher Perspective (14 minutes), Alternative Uses of Juniper (6 min.), History and Ecology of Western Juniper Lecture (30 min.). The DVD was created for a diverse audience including landowners, managers, decision-makers, the general public, and students.

For additional information, contact: Harney County Watershed Council, 450 N. Buena Vista, Burns, OR 97720, Phone: (541) 573-8199. This video was produced by the Harney Co. Watershed Council, with the assistance of funds from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, in cooperation with the Burns District BLM, The Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center and the Harney County Court. ***Worth checking out!***

All Roads Led to the Malheur County Fair



Malheur County SWCD Fair Booth

The Malheur Co. SWCD had a booth at the fair to tell their message, educate all ages on natural resource issues and encourage the use of best management practices to benefit the land and growers..

The message is that.....

- Over 24.7 million dollars have been generated during the past 10 years by the Malheur Co. SWCD activities at the operation cost of a little over 2 million dollars. These funds have enhanced conservation benefits for watersheds and the agricultural community of Malheur County.

* **Conservation dollars** generated by conservation activities in the past 10 years through the Malheur County SWCD and their partners that has benefited the county in the past 10 years, totals well over 12 million dollars.

* **Economic benefit** to the county would include the cost-share by landowners/operators and double the total project dollars to 24.7 million dollars.

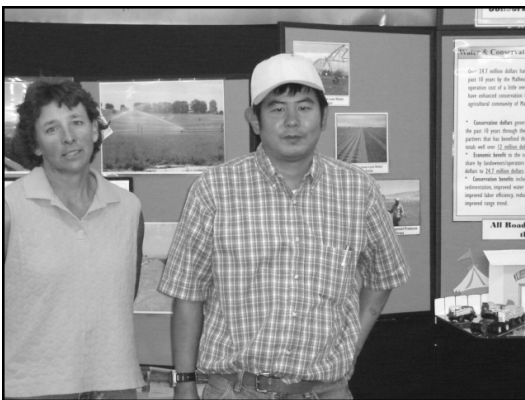
* **Conservation benefits** include reduction in soil loss through sedimentation, improved water quality, enhanced wildlife habit, improved labor efficiency, reduction of noxious weeds, and improved range trend.

Yes, the Malheur County SWCD has had a very good track record for the past 10 years and for many, many years before that.!

Conservation Challenge prizes for the fair were graciously provided by Nyssa Coop Supply, Nyssa Implement, Barbara Barlow, Debbie Odette and the Owyhee Irrigation District. They were deeply appreciated by the Malheur Co. SWCD and the following winners.

Winners of the grades 6-8 category were Rodolfo Bautista, Mark Mohr, Sara Dochter, and Gart Harrin. Winners of the grades 9-12 category were Stephanie Allen, Joshua Falls, Aimee Fritsch, James Hampton, and Greg Girvin. The women's category winners were Jean Hesse, Betsy Bates, Denise Drake and Sharon McIntyre. The men that won were Joshua Hawkins, Bob Webster, Elton Ashly, Jason Dunten and Jeff Roper.

The booth was staffed by SWCD & NRCS staff, directors and volunteers.



SWCD Director, Judy Wilcox and SWCD Engineer, Lyndon Yamada, help at the fair



NRCS Engineer, Cory Greer and NRCS Summer Intern, Andrew Lucero, at the fair booth

Top 10 Reasons Why Farm Trucks Are Never Stolen

#10 They have a range of about 20 miles before they overheat, break down or run out of gas.

#9 Only the owner knows how to operate the door to get in or out.

#8 It is difficult to drive fast with all the fence tools, grease rags, ropes, chains, syringes, buckets, boots and loose papers in the cab.

#7 It takes too long to start and the smoke coming up through the rusted-out floorboard clouds your vision.

#6 The Border Collie on the toolbox looks mean.

#5 They're too easy to spot. The description might go something like this; The driver's side door is red, the passenger side door is green, the right front fender is yellow, etc.

#4 The large round bale in the back makes it hard to see if you're being chased. You could use the mirrors if they weren't cracked and covered with duct tape.

#3 Top speed is only about 45 mph.

#2 Who wants a truck that needs a year's worth of maintenance, u-joints, \$3,000 in body work, tail-lights and a windshield.

#1 It is hard to commit a crime with everyone waving at you!!!

Author Unknown



Helping People

Help the Land

This summer the NRCS office experienced a lot of change. Range Conservationist, Gwen Taylor, was on maternity leave and a new Soil Conservationist, Tony Sunseri, was hired.

Tony Sunseri's early years were spent in western Oregon. He worked two summers with BLM and the last two summers in the NRCS Tangent and Baker City Field Offices.

He is a recent graduate of Oregon State University. He reports, "My focus of study included both Rangelands Sciences and Crop Sciences. I am currently helping producers develop conservation plans and to sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). If you have any questions or would like to apply for the EQIP program, feel free to give me a call at (541) 889-7636 Ext. 119."

Tony is eagerly working and at the same time enjoying getting acquainted with Malheur County's people and practices.



Tony Sunseri

NRCS Staff

Ontario Field Office

Ed Petersen, District Conservationist

Cory Greer, Civil Engineer

Gwen Taylor, Range Conservationist

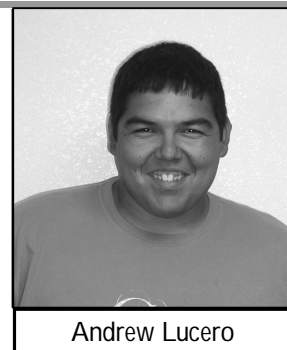
Tony Sunseri
Soil Conservationist

The NRCS had the pleasure of increased summer staffing by college students.

Andrew Lucero was raised in the Nyssa area and is currently attending Boise State University as a senior. He will be graduating with a BS in Criminal Justice Administration next fall.

This summer, he worked primarily with a program called Oregon Irrigation Scheduling Online (OISO). OISO combined with weather data gathered from a weather station can assist with more efficient and responsible irrigation management for landowners/operators.

The purpose of this trial data collection was to compare the difference in readings from weather stations located in different sites in this valley.



Andrew Lucero

Joan Gonzalez, environmental engineering student, spent her summer as a NRCS intern in the Ontario Field Office working on engineering assignments and assisting NRCS Engineer, Cory Greer.

Joan is from Puerto Rico and attends college there. She spent the last two summers in NRCS Field Offices in South Dakota and New Hampshire. She is an intelligent young student who brightened the office with her smiles and sunny can-do attitude.

She enjoyed her stay in Ontario and would love to come back to Oregon.



Joan Gonzalez

NRCS Reports...

The Malheur County Soil Survey is off and running. The South Malheur Soil Survey Team has been working on BLM public lands and some private lands in the Jordan Valley/Arock area since 2006 and is making good progress. The North Malheur Soil Survey Team has started this summer on a limited basis. They are staffing up and will be in full operation next summer. Both surveys will be looking at private lands that have not been in a published soil survey.

Once all of the land in Malheur County has been officially surveyed, landowners/operators will be able to use the soils information for planning purposes and have more eligibility for participating in federal programs.

These survey teams will be seeking permission to access private lands in the county. If you receive a letter asking for access, please respond with a yes or no so we can act accordingly. If you have any questions, please contact the new NRCS Soil Survey office (in the USDA Ag Service Center) or the NRCS office in Ontario at (541)-889-7637 Ext. 103.

For those who have already offered their permission, the Soil Survey Team thanks you.

Conservation Challenge

Search for each word in the following group of letters and **circle** each word you find.



There is a **hidden message** that describes what type of harvest we hope you have experienced this year!

ALFALFA	APPLE	ASPARAGAS
BARLEY	BEANS	CHERRY
CORN	CUCUMBER	EGGPLANT
GOOSEBERRY	LETTUCE	MINT
OATS	ONION	PEAR
PEPPERS	PLUM	POTATO
PRUNE	PUMPKIN	RADISH
RASPBERRY	STRAWBERRY	TOMATO
WHEAT	ZUCHINNI	

S B O U N T I F U L H A R V E S T O N I
 I T A T E W H Q A D S Z G E Q F O N Z N
 E G R K A G G L L L A C M U F T A C S N
 G C P A T M E X F S G R E B M U C U C I
 G O G O W T O O A L A N K Y X R R I M H
 P P X O T B K T L C R A S P B E R R Y C
 L K U U O P E M F Q A N O I N O V H S U
 A Y C M X S O R A P P L E T P T M R V Z
 N E M V P B E T R J S U I Q A E E I J S
 T L Y V B K E B A Y A W W E T P A Y N R
 C R P I O E I A E T M G H H P W X R A T
 O A P R U N E N N R O W S E M O W D Y Q
 R B Y R R E H C A S R T P T M U I L J T
 N T B L Z Y G Y E I A Y I F F S L Y P H
 V D J E Q M E O M O C Y O W H B V P T U

*It's
 Harvest
 Time*



Opportunity

We still have a few **Web Soil Survey** brochures that provide instructions for a simple yet powerful way to analyze soil data in three basic steps using the following web site <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>

The three steps allow the user to Define, View, & Explore with step by step instructions. This Web Soil Survey web site provides agricultural producers, agencies, Technical Service Providers, and others electronic access to relevant soil and related information needed to make land-use and management decisions. If you would like a copy, they are available at the USDA NRCS Ontario Field office that is co-located with the Malheur County SWCD Office.

Pipe and Riser Systems Can Help

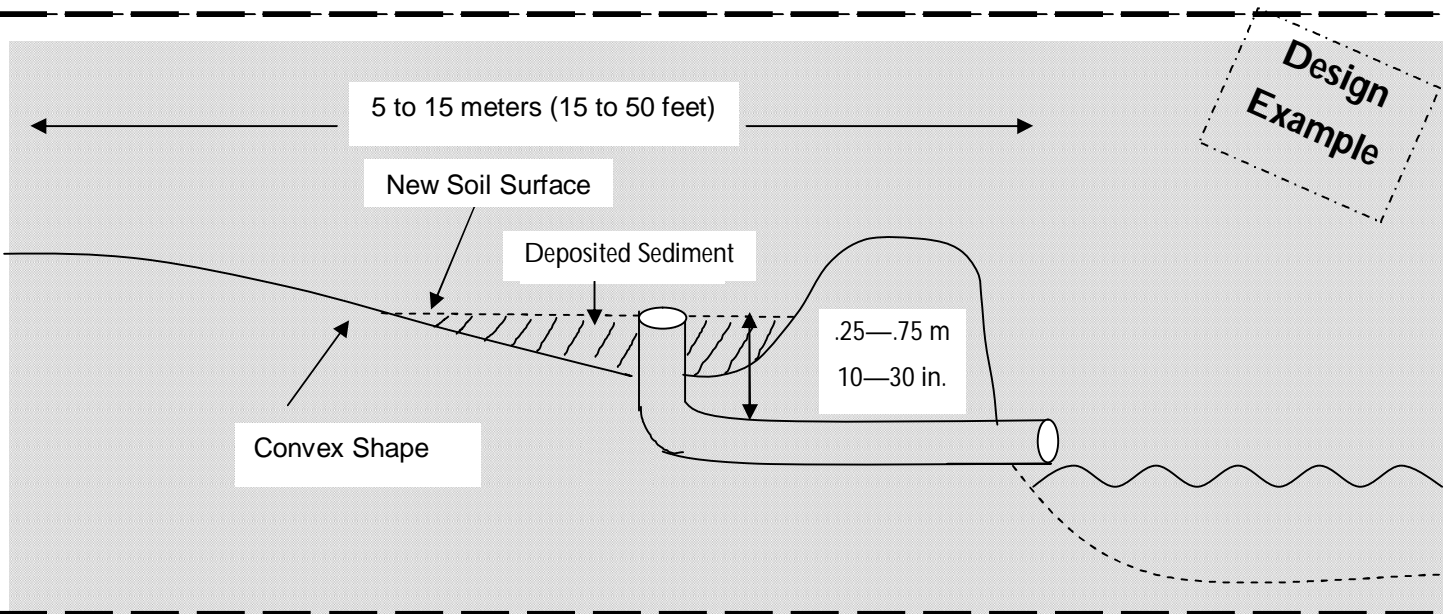
Underground outlets or buried outlets for irrigation water are sometimes called pipe and riser systems. They can greatly assist in reducing the amount of soil and nutrients that leave your fields.

Primary Purpose:

To allow excess irrigation water from surface irrigated cropland to leave the field without causing soil erosion or flooding.

Major Benefits:

- A pipe and riser system can decrease field erosion at the end of the field by 80% to 95%. Sediment loss and nutrient loss from a field can be reduced by 70% to 90%.
- Soil captured by the outlet can be redistributed back onto the field or used elsewhere as fill material.



Necessary Considerations:

- Pipe and riser systems work best on fields with slopes from 1% to 3% and sidefall slopes between 0.5% to 6%.
- Yearly maintenance on the dikes and berms are required.
- An adequate outlet for the pipeline must be available, normally 30 inches or more below the field surface.
- The buried pipeline needs to be on a uniform grade.
- Pipe and riser system installation costs may be returned within 6 to 8 years with improved production on the lower end of the field.



Conservation Web Sites

Year 2007- What is the water situation in the reservoirs?

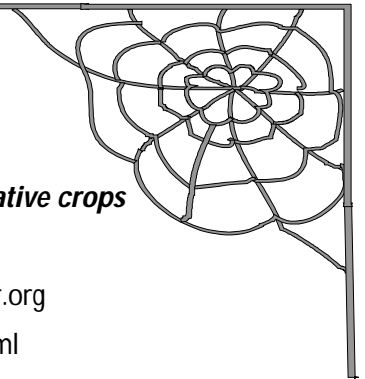
<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/owytea.html>

NRCS Plant Site - <http://plants.usda.gov> *A wealth of information on plants & alternative crops*

Native Plant Site - www.cropinfo.net (Click on Mid-Snake River Watershed Vegetation)

Learn to identify invasive weeds: <http://invasivespecies.gov> or <http://www.weedcenter.org>

Oregon's 100 Most Dangerous Invaders: http://oregon.gov/OISC/most_dangerous.shtml



Natural Exchange

Malheur County SWCD
2925 SW 6th Avenue, Ste.#2
Ontario, OR 97914-4632

Phone: 541-889-2588
Fax: 541-889-4304
Email: Sharon.Mathews@or.nacdnet.net
Email: Lance.Phillips@or.nacdnet.net

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ONTARIO, OR
PERMIT NO. 29

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Sensible Quotes:

"Even if you are on the right track, you'll
get run over if you just sit there."

—Will Rogers

The District continues to seek ways to be of assistance. We welcome your comments, questions, concerns and suggestions. If you have received this newsletter in error or you don't want to be on our mailing list, please call the district office. As always, let us know how we can better serve you.

The Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer, providing services to the public without regard to race, color, national origin, religious preference, marital status, political belief, sex, age or disability.

2007 Conservation Poster Contest

Congratulations! to our silent partners for helping to stimulate students' thought processes about taking care of the world we all live in.

- **School teachers** that encourage students to participate in the poster contest and explain the conservation concepts.
- **Parents** that continue to explain conservation concepts and reinforce those ideas by setting examples.
- **Jack-In-The-Box** for giving certificates to all of the grateful participants!



4th Grade (front row, L. to R.) Ludi Phillips, 2nd place; Hannah Bates, 1st place; and Karena Spieler, 3rd place, all from Vale Elementary



6th Grade (front row, L. to R.) Logan Boyle, 2nd place, Willow Creek School; Whitney Oliva, 1st place, St. Peter's School; and Becca Hawkins, 3rd place, Willow Creek School



5th Grade (front row, L. to R.) Elena Tipton, 3rd place, St. Peter's School; Jessica Fife, 1st place, Willow Creek School; Not present: Drake Montgomery, 2nd place, Willow Creek School

Together we can all look back and say, "We made a difference."

Presenting the awards were Malheur County SWCD District Directors, Mike Barlow and Linda Rowe.

1st Place Winners in each category received a check for \$25.00.

2nd Place Winners won \$15.00.

3rd Place Winners won \$10.00

**Congratulations
Students!**