



Fiscal Year 2005-2006

# District Accomplishments

by Tim Stieber, District Manager

District staff had another busy year working with landowners and our conservation partners to address natural resource concerns throughout the county. Staff worked with over 1,400 people directly this past year and reached several thousand more indirectly through education and outreach efforts. Thanks to our landowners, partnering agencies, and volunteers for making a difference this year.



<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/springfield/redtail.jpg>

## USDA Programs

Staff assisted USDA to implement Farm Bill conservation programs. Over 175 landowners received technical and cost-share assistance during the year covering over 10,000 acres. Farm Bill Programs are primarily targeted toward working lands such as farms with soil and water conservation the highest priority. Yamhill County is ranked third economically in the state for agricultural production and keeping agriculture productive, profitable, and sensitive to the environment is in everyone's best interest.

Staff worked with local farmers to increase the use of no-till planting in grass seed since there is great potential for soil erosion during the first production year in that crop. Several animal waste management structures were funded and are currently being designed. Nutrient management



[http://images.enature.com/trees/trees\\_m/TS0075\\_1m.jpg](http://images.enature.com/trees/trees_m/TS0075_1m.jpg)

plans are being prepared and implemented for over 2000 acres of crop production to ensure optimum utilization of fertilizer. Several irrigation systems were cost shared to

allow more effective application of irrigation water and better use of short water supplies. Riparian buffers are being designed and installed with over 25 landowners

covering over 1600 acres of land along county streams.

## Grant Funded Projects

The district completed six grant funded projects this past year. Three fish passable culverts were installed on Snake Creek which opened up over 1.5 miles of habitat for cutthroat trout. Wildlife snags and fish alcoves were created on Hess Creek and a four acre riparian planting was completed along a tributary to Salt Creek. Two grants focused on noxious weed control. False Brome control was continued near Lafayette and weeds were mapped on 17 properties owned by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.



<http://www.tmurphywild.com/GreetingCards/cutthroat-troutCard.jpg>

## New This Year

Staff initiated a project to install raptor poles on 4000 acres of grass seed at a density of one pole per 10 acres. This has shown to lower vole populations that in turn reduces the need to use rodenticides. Progress was made on two oak savannah restoration sites through thinning of oak stands and leaving 10 to 15 large oak trees per acre. Plans were developed to restore several native prairie remnant sites in the county. This project will be to enhance habitat for the Kinkaid's Lupine and Fenders Blue Butterfly which is an endangered species. The district will be working with the Yamhill County Road Department to apply erosion control materials to re-vegetate roadside ditches throughout the county. It is hoped that this effort will reduce erosion along roadside ditches and also filter runoff from the roads themselves.

## Educational Activities

The district continues to develop its Miller Woods property as an education site for the community. A strategic plan was completed and grant funds obtained to make needed improvements at the property. Staff partnered with OSU Extension and the Yamhill Basin Council to put on four workshops during the year. Twenty-four articles were published in local newspapers, three newsletters were sent to 2500 landowners, and over 8400 unique visitors logged onto the district web site.

# 2004-2005 Financial Report

All district funds ended the 2005-2006 fiscal year with positive ending fund balances except the Yamhill Basin Council (Table 1). The Basin Council Fund ended the year at -\$5,476. The Council will recover over \$10,000 from OWEB grant requests shortly for work completed this past quarter. The beginning fund balance on July 1, 2005 was \$389,656 and ending fund balance on June 30, 2005 was \$364,149. Primary income sources during the year included carryover and reserve accounts, grant income, tax base revenue, and sale of materials (Table 2).

Wages and benefits for six full time and part time positions accounted for 55% of district expenditures. Project supplies and contract services associated with field projects with landowners were also significant expenses (Table 3). Total expenditures for the year totaled \$548,505 for the year which represented a 13% increase in expenditures from the previous fiscal year.

Total annual district income increased to \$938,162 due to aggressive grant writing and management. Tax base income accounted for 19% of total revenues this past year. Primary grant funds are obtained from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Table 1—Balance for all funds

Fund	Beg Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Balance
General	175,629.00	212,925.01	204,291.28	184,262.73
Technical Assistance	29,984.50	118,388.54	96,224.72	52,148.32
Weed Projects	11,409.18	22,260.72	29,729.47	3,940.43
Misc. Projects/SB1010	5,795.92	9,178.51	5,459.55	9,514.88
Wildlife Projects	24,456.77	6,569.82	27,986.87	3,039.72
Watershed Council	1,434.95	82,362.82	89,273.99	(5,476.22)
Roadside Projects	102.85	-	88.95	13.90
Education Projects	21,024.42	44,784.17	23,463.14	42,345.45
Tree Enterprise	33,997.79	71,542.68	71,457.65	34,082.82
Equipment Fund	19,000.00	5,000.00	-	24,000.00
Building Reserve	28,944.25	1,000.00	-	29,944.25
Conservation Easement	12,369.93	-	529.86	11,840.07
	364,149.56	574,012.27	548,505.48	389,656.35

Table 3—Breakdown of expenses for fiscal year 05/06

Expense Category	Amount	% of Expenses
Personnel	299,091	54.5%
Project Supplies	86,427	15.8%
Contract Services	55,952	10.2%
Project administration	34,950	6.4%
Transfers	22,380	4.1%
Rent	8,449	1.5%
Meeting, events, workshops	6,440	1.2%
Travel	6,425	1.2%
Newsletter & Report Production	5,334	1.0%
Organizational Dues	4,805	0.9%
Information and Education	4,412	0.8%
Capitol Expense	4,088	0.7%
Insurance & Fidelity Bond	2,530	0.5%
Vehicle Expenses	3,173	0.6%
Awards and Recognition	1,518	0.3%
Office Supplies & Miscellaneous	1,578	0.3%
Telephone	952	0.2%
Total	548,505.48	100%

Table 2—Income breakdown for FY 05/06

Income Sources	Amount	%
Carryover & Reserve Funds	364,149.59	38.8%
Grant Income	213,452.83	22.8%
Tax Base Revenue	177,518.09	18.9%
Sale of Materials	84,632.81	9.0%
Transfers	34,949.55	3.7%
Interest	22,546.50	2.4%
Local Government & Groups	22,469.57	2.4%
Workshop & Event Income	9,811.44	1.0%
Misc. Income	4,306.80	0.5%
State & Federal	3,225.68	0.3%
Subtotal for FY 05/06	1,099.00	0.1%
Total	574,012.27	100%



Yamhill

Soil and Water Conservation District

**GOAL 1. PROVIDE CONSERVATION PLANNING, TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LANDOWNERS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE OREGON PLAN FOR SALMON AND WATERSHEDS (52% OF STAFF TIME).**

**Utilize existing agency programs** (USDA, ODFW, etc.) to implement conservation practices and complete projects.

**Provide non-program conservation technical assistance and services.**

**Seek the resources** needed to provide conservation planning and project implementation.

**Fulfill role** as Noxious Weed Inspectors for Yamhill County.

**Influence land use** in the county through land use reviews and establishment of easements.

**GOAL 2. PROVIDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND INFORMATION TO CITIZENS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES (15% OF STAFF TIME).**

**Inform** the general public through displays at public events, newspaper articles, newsletters, radio, the internet, and local channel TV.

**Develop Miller Woods** as an educational venue for Yamhill county.

**Educate** school aged citizens through the Woodland Tour and other events.

**Contact** elected officials regarding conservation issues through one-on-one meetings, tours, and by working to meet their needs.

**Teach** landowners through workshops and by providing educational materials.

**Provide outreach** to community groups throughout the district via presentations and direct mailing.

**Maintain** a library of conservation related technical information for staff and public use.

**GOAL 3. OPERATE THE DISTRICT WITH SOUND FISCAL AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT PROCESSES AND RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT INTO PROGRAMS (14% OF STAFF TIME).**

**Establish district direction** through development and implementation of annual and long-range work plans.

**Receive public input** into district activities and conduct meetings according to public meeting law.

**Prepare annual budget**, maintain sound accounting practices, and implement an annual financial audit.

**Ensure the employment** of professional level staff by maintaining personnel management practices and measures.

**Provide facilities and equipment** needed by staff to implement the long-range and annual work plan.

**GOAL 4. CONDUCT WATERSHED WIDE PLANNING ACTIVITIES AND CONDUCT ON-THE-GROUND PROJECTS TO IMPROVE WATERSHED HEALTH (7% OF STAFF TIME).**

**Administer** the Yamhill Basin Council and acquire funding sources for operations and projects.

**Conduct water quality monitoring** activities in the watershed.

**Initiate projects** with watershed implications (i.e., stream clean-ups, riparian plantings, drain stenciling, etc.).

Maintain an active **roadside water quality** improvement program.

**Implement the Agricultural Water Quality Plan** in the Yamhill Basin Watershed.

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# RUDDENKLAUS NAMED YAMHILL SWCD 2006 COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR

Bruce and Helle Ruddenklau were selected to receive the 2006 Conservation Landowner Award from Yamhill SWCD for their widespread adoption of conservation practices on the 800+ acres they farm in Yamhill and Polk counties. Most notable is the Ruddenklau's adoption of no-till planting of grass seed to reduce costs and soil erosion. They have also planted grass seed fields for at least seven other farmers in the area and formed a small growers group for farmers that are actively pursuing making no-till farming a success.



Bruce is a New Zealander who came to the U.S. about 15 years ago to farm and Helle's family came to the U.S. from Denmark in the 1970's. Helle has an agricultural degree from Oregon State University.



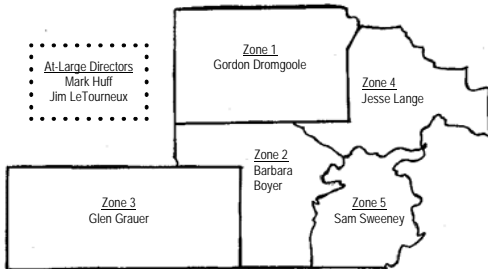
The Ruddenklau's are using innovative, adaptive management methods for tillage, fertility, irrigation, pest management, and soil fertility. They are willing to question and

challenge any conventional assumption to find out how to improve efficiency and sustainability of their operation. Bruce and Helle readily admit that they do not have all the answers but are dedicated toward continuous improvement.



## YAMHILL SWCD DIRECTORY

- Sam Sweeney, *Chairman* ..... Zone 5
- Jim LeTourneau, *Vice-Chairman* ..... At-Large
- Mark Huff, *Secretary/Treasurer* ..... At-Large
- Barbara Boyer ..... Zone 2
- Gordon Dromgoole, *Director* ..... Zone 1
- Glen Grauer, *Director* ..... Zone 3
- Jesse Lange, *Director* ..... Zone 4



### ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- Alton Cronk                      Lucien Gunderman
- Dave Cruickshank            Henry Wyman

### DIRECTORS EMERITUS

- Stan Christensen              Patricia Farrell

### YAMHILL SWCD STAFF

- Tim Stieber, *District Manager*
- Dean O'Reilly, *Conservationist Technician*
- Michael Crabtree, *Resource Conservationist*
- Amie Loop-Frison, *Riparian Specialist*
- Dalena Gagatko, *Office Administrator*

### YAMHILL BASIN COUNCIL STAFF

- Jamie Sheahan, *Watershed Coordinator*
- Denise Schmit, *Water Quality Monitoring Technician*

### NRCS STAFF

- Ken Hale, *District Resource Conservationist*
- Leo Preston, *Basin Team Leader*
- Kim Hudhall, *Soil Conservationist*
- Rachel Russell, *Program Assistant*

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