



# Annual Report

Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District 2005-2006

## Website Launched

The Hood River SWCD is proud to announce the launch of our new website: [www.hoodriverswcd.org](http://www.hoodriverswcd.org).

The site was designed to provide an easily accessible source of regional conservation news, resources, contact information and tools to better serve the growing Hood River Valley community. The site is home to information for the Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District and the Hood River Watershed Group.

Aside from the standard website features (contact information, staff pictures, meeting schedules and quick links) we've tried to incorporate some unique elements as well. With help from Watershed Coordinator Steve Stampfli and resident fisherman Greg Short, we've designed a "Wildlife Watch" page where anyone can post descriptions and pictures of the wildlife they've spotted in the Hood River watershed. The postings go into a bulletin board-type "Wildlife Log" where others can read and enjoy shared experiences.



As we continue to build the site, we hope to add features that will help us streamline our services. One such component is that we are providing downloadable order forms for our plant sale and fact sheets on plant descriptions, suitability for various sites and wildlife usage.

We are always looking for suggestions and feedback, so check out the site and let us know what you think! Please send our webmaster an e-mail at [hrrswcd@gorge.net](mailto:hrrswcd@gorge.net).

## OWEB Small Grants Still Available: Restoration Projects Sought

The third iteration of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Small Grant Program began in July 2005. During the past year, the Hood River Small Grant team met three times and approved six project proposals for a total allocation of \$48,590 in OWEB funds. The OWEB funds are being matched by \$27,587 in local contributions.

Three projects were completed last year. Two landowners installed high efficiency irrigation systems on 17.4 acres. These systems also included soil moisture sensors and flow meters, where needed. One of the landowners also removed several orchard trees along Lenz Creek and planted 170 native shrubs to enhance the streamside buffer. The third project was installation of a bridge over Neal Creek to replace a ford. That landowner has also planted native trees to improve the existing streamside buffer.

Landowners were assisted by SWCD staff in project development and application, as well as fiscal tracking and reporting on project results. SWCD staff also completed two-year monitoring reports on seven Small Grant projects and compiled the final report on the 2003-05 Hood River Small Grant program.

Funding for the 2005-07 Small Grant program is still available. The goal of the grant program is to implement small on-the-ground restoration projects using tried-and-true methods. The maximum amount for a single grant is \$10,000 and there is a 25% match requirement. The Hood River team has \$34,425 to award before June 30, 2007.

The Hood River team consists of representatives from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, the Hood River SWCD and the Hood River Watershed Group. Technical advisors assist the team to evaluate and select projects. Advisors include representatives from ODFW, ODF, DEQ, ODA, WRD, NRCS, USFS, HRC, EFID, MFID, FID and OSU Extension.

Eligible project types include:

- Improvements to instream habitat
- Removal of irrigation or push-up dams
- Upgrades of culverts or bridges
- Livestock fencing along streams



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## SWCD Facts & Figures

The Hood River SWCD is governed by a locally elected, volunteer Board of Directors. It is a legal subdivision of state government and receives funds to administer its programs from the ODA, OWEB, NRCS, CTWS and others.

The Board of Directors meets monthly on the first Thursday in the meeting room at the Extension building, 2990 Experiment Station Rd., Hood River, OR 97031. Meetings from November to March start at 3 PM; April-July meetings start at 4 PM, and August-October meetings start at 7 PM.

Meetings are open to the public. For information or agendas, contact the office.

### Directors

Brian Nakamura, Chair  
 Chuck Gehling, Vice-Chair  
 Larry Martin, Secretary/Treasurer  
 Pete Peterson  
 Erick Von Lubken

### Staff

Anne Saxby, Manager  
 541-386-6719 [saxharp@gorge.net](mailto:saxharp@gorge.net)  
 Jordan Kim, Conservation Technician  
 541-386-4588 [hrowscd@gorge.net](mailto:hrowscd@gorge.net)  
 Steve Stampfli, Watershed Coordinator  
 541-386-6063 [hoodriver@gorge.net](mailto:hoodriver@gorge.net)  
 Kate Merrick, Watershed Assistant  
 541-386-6063 [hrwg@gorge.net](mailto:hrwg@gorge.net)  
 Carly Heron, NRCS District Conservationist  
 541-386-2815 [carly.heron@or.usda.gov](mailto:carly.heron@or.usda.gov)

The office is located at 3007 Experiment Station Rd., Hood River. Office hours are weekdays, generally from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Financial Report

### Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006

<u>Beginning Fund Balance:</u>	\$	<u>88,428</u>
<u>REVENUES:</u>		
Intergovernmental::		
ODA grants		46,346
OWEB grants		88,501
Contracts:		
NRCS support		10,000
Irrigation District support		18,000
Coordinator contract-CTWS		27,000
Earnings on Investments		253
Other:		
Tree Sale		<u>5,218</u>
<u>TOTAL REVENUES:</u>	\$	<u>195,318</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>		
Administration:		
Personnel Services		41,106
Materials and Services		6,071
Conservation Technician:		
Personnel Services		33,632
Materials and Services		7,188
Hood River Watershed Program:		
Personnel Services		44,931
Materials and Services		18,280
Projects:		
Materials and Services		48,357
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</u>	\$	<u>199,565</u>
<u>Ending Fund Balance:</u>	\$	<u>84,181</u>



## NRCS Pumps Over \$1 Million into Local Ag Economy

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) continued to dominate NRCS staff time in 2005-06. District Conservationist Carly Heron reported that over \$1 million was paid to participating Hood River valley growers in 2006. The 105 Hood River CSP contract holders were given the opportunity to make modifications to their contracts by adding or removing stewardship practices. Farming operations in the Middle Columbia-Hood watershed were offered the opportunity to participate in CSP in 2005; to qualify, farmers had to document their conservation practices such as irrigation improvements to reduce water usage, soil moisture monitoring to determine irrigation timing, and integrated pest management. Successful applicants received 5-10 year stewardship contracts.

In addition to administering CSP, Hood River NRCS staff received 19 applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Four growers received EQIP contracts totaling \$125,445 in 2006. One Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) application was approved in 2006 for \$16,500. It will be used to improve fish passage at an irrigation diversion.

## Board Members Serve Community

Brian Nakamura serves as both the Chair of the SWCD and EFID. In addition, he is currently an orchard representative on the stakeholder group for the Lower Columbia River salmonid recovery planning process. This group is meeting monthly over 1 ½ years to oversee development of a recovery plan for salmon and steelhead in the Lower Columbia. The end result will be a plan that governs NOAA Fisheries and ODFW work.

In addition to his service on the SWCD board, Erick VonLubken is a board member of Dee Irrigation District and a principal in the Aldritch Ditch Company. Dee ID is currently upgrading their policies and procedures to enable the district to receive grants for irrigation system upgrades. Aldritch Ditch Co. has been upgrading their diversion on Tony Creek this past year. Installation of a new horizontal fish screen and bypass reach will be completed in the summer of 2006. Aldritch Ditch Co. serves landowners in the Dee Flat area.

Pete Peterson is a board member of the Westside Fire Department as well as a volunteer firefighter. He has been involved over the past couple of years in the development of the Community Wildlife Protection Plan for Hood River County. Pete serves as the SWCD representative to the Wy'east RC&D and is vice-chair of that group, as well as a SWCD board member.



Chuck Gehling is the Chair of the Hood River Watershed Group, as well as Vice-chair of the SWCD Board. He is also chairing the Powerdale Lands Stakeholder Group as they meet to select a stewardship entity for the 400 acres of PacifiCorp land on the lower Hood River.

Larry Martin is the Secretary/Treasurer of the SWCD board, Chairman of the Hood River Grower-Shippers Assoc. and a board member of the Hood River Valley Residents Committee. Larry is one of the growers participating in the Area-Wide project to investigate alternatives to use of organophosphate pesticides to control codling moth in pear and apple orchards.

## New Technician Makes Her Mark

Jordan Kim is the newest member of the District staff. Jordan started work March 1, 2006, replacing Rick Hollatz as Conservation Technician. Rick remains in the area, but moved on to new career opportunities as an engineering technician with Skamania County.

Jordan had previously worked for the Johnson Creek Watershed Council in southeast Portland as the Community Outreach Coordinator. In addition to an advanced degree in Environmental Management with a focus on invasive species, Jordan brings to the job extensive computing and writing skills. She has created the district's website and is writing a monthly article for the Hood River News on conservation topics.

Jordan and her husband Won live in Parkdale. They have renovated their chicken coop and have seven new chickens in addition to their large garden. Jordan enjoys hiking, biking, fly fishing and doing recycled paper collage. She shows her art at First Fridays and at other local galleries and events.



## AmeriCorps Intern Shines

Kate Merrick has admirably served as a NWSA AmeriCorps intern and Watershed Assistant to the HRWG since January 2006. She has helped conduct water quality monitoring in Neal Creek, set up the new project database and is leading the effort to install stream crossing and watershed boundary signs in the basin. She has also assisted the US Forest Service with fisheries data collection and stream surveys. Kate also worked with the Tribes on fish acclimation during the spring and on the West Fork Hood River large woody debris project this summer.

Kate hails from upstate New York and graduated with a degree in biology from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. She had previously worked on a peregrine falcon monitoring project in Dinosaur National Monument, Dinosaur, Colorado, in addition to completing a fisheries internship in Puerto Rico and ecological research in California.

In her spare time, Kate enjoys birding and hiking. She will continue to work as the Watershed Assistant until her one-year AmeriCorps term ends in December of 2006. After that she hopes to find another natural resources job in the Columbia Gorge area, and then plans to attend graduate school beginning in the fall of 2007.

*Small Grants...continued from page 1*

- Off-stream livestock watering facilities
- Streamside plantings
- Manure storage and management
- Irrigation system improvements that result in decreased water usage **and** increased instream flow, increased groundwater level, or improved water quality
- Pesticide/chemical management
- Road/trail erosion management
- Noxious weed removal in conjunction with a restoration project

One change made to the program from previous years was a requirement that the local Watermaster sign off on all water quality/irrigation efficiency projects. The goal is to insure that these projects will measurably reduce the amount of water diverted at the point of diversion.

Team priorities in the Hood River zone are:

High priority:

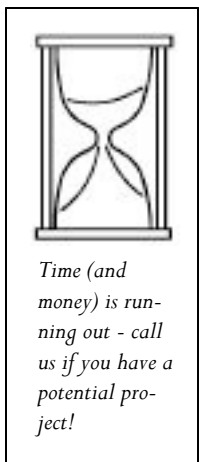
- Instream process and function
- Fish passage
- Riparian process and function
- Water quality /irrigation efficiency
- Upland process and function

Medium priority:

- Wetland process and function
- Road impact reduction

Low priority:

- Urban impact reduction



Applications are accepted during two week “windows” every other month and reviewed shortly thereafter. Applicants are encouraged to attend review meetings to present their project proposals. The team will accept and evaluate applications and award funds until June 30, 2007 or until all funds are allocated. Successful applicants have 24 months to complete projects. Landowners with potential projects should contact the SWCD or another team member for assistance with project development and application.

Funding for these grants is made available by OWEB through Ballot Measure 66, approved by voters in 1998. Measure 66 specified that 15 percent of lottery proceeds be used for watershed enhancement and maintenance of state parks. OWEB uses this funding to support voluntary efforts to improve water quality, water quantity and the recovery of listed fish. For more information on OWEB or any of its programs, visit [www.oweb.state.or.us](http://www.oweb.state.or.us).



## Water Quality Protection: A District Priority

The Hood River SWCD continues to promote Best Management Practices for manure and livestock management, pesticide usage and other agricultural activities, as part of its responsibilities as Local Management Agency for the Hood River Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan. The SWCD can help landowners construct manure storage buildings, build riparian fences, and develop streamside vegetative buffers. These practices are designed to prevent agricultural pollutants from entering local streams and ditches.

In addition to promoting Best Management Practices, the SWCD is tasked with informing landowners about the Area Rules. They are:

- Agricultural landowners are required to maintain sufficient vegetation on area streams to control water pollution by moderating solar heating, minimizing streambank erosion, and filtering sediments and nutrients from surface runoff.
- Agricultural landowners must prevent animal waste from entering rivers or streams of the state.



Violations of the Area Rules should be reported to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The ODA Water Quality Specialist for our area is Ellen Hammond. Her phone number is (541) 617-0017 and address is 2146 NE 4<sup>th</sup> St., Bend, OR 97701. Degradation of area waterways by non-agricultural landowners is the responsibility of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. DEQ can be reached at (541) 388-6146.

It behooves all residents of the state to minimize their impacts to water quality. Remember, we all live downstream!

## Think Spring. Order Your Native Plants Now!

Are you starting to winterize your garden beds while dreaming about what you'll be putting in them next spring? Well, you can get a jump start on your spring 2007 plantings by ordering native seedlings from the Hood River SWCD now!

The District is hosting its annual plant sale for seedlings to be planted in spring of 2007. These bare-root seedlings are 1-2 years old and will be delivered to the SWCD in early March. Tree and shrub orders can be placed now by mail, e-mail or phone. The orders will be filled in the order in which they were received, so get your requests in early to ensure availability. Orders will be accepted until January 31, 2007. **Purchases will be available for pick up on Friday and Saturday, March 16-17, 2007.**



Check out the Hood River SWCD's website at [www.hoodriverswcd.org](http://www.hoodriverswcd.org) for more information on plant descriptions, suitability for various sites and wildlife usage. You can also download an order form on-line.

During the 2006 native plant sale, nearly 4,000 trees and shrubs were purchased by over 120 landowners. Over 300 trees and shrubs were donated to restore stream banks, prevent erosion and create wildlife habitat in the area. The 2007 sale is promising to surpass this year in size. Use the order form on the next page of this newsletter to make sure you get your order in early!

### Master Gardeners Tackle Noxious Weeds

The entrance to the Mid-Columbia Extension and Agricultural Research Center (MCAREC) is being transformed by a project of the OSU Master Gardeners. A native plant garden will replace the overgrown arborvitae and English ivy that greeted visitors and staff at MCAREC.

The project leader is District Manager (and Master Gardener) Anne Saxby. To remove the ivy and arborvitae, she enlisted 17 fellow Master Gardeners, as well as OSU Horticulture Agent Steve Castagnoli and retired USFS engineer Jim Deaton. The group spent over 100 hours removing the noxious weeds and arborvitae.

The garden will be planted this fall with a variety of native trees, shrubs and perennials, some donated by the SWCD. The goal of the garden is to demonstrate the positive attributes of native plants: attractive, hardy, low-maintenance, and beneficial to both the homeowner and native wildlife. Funding for it came from an OWEB small grant.

The native plant garden is one component of The Learning Garden, which surrounds the Extension office. Other areas of The Learning Garden are the herb garden, the compost demonstration garden, the ecolawn, and the verge garden. A bioswale demonstration site is also being established as part of the OWEB small grant. Composting workshops and other educational events are held periodically at The Learning Garden. The public is encouraged to stop by the OSU Extension office and tour the various gardens.



### Rewards for Good Neighbors

Want to be part of the solution, rather than the problem? If you own pear and/or apple trees in Hood River County, be sure to manage their diseases and pests – particularly codling moth.

Codling moth is the worm in the apple – and a major pest in pears and apples. Growers in our region are trying to reduce their use of organophosphate (OP) pesticides by using “softer” programs such as mating disruption. A potential downside to these “soft” pest management programs is that they leave orchards vulnerable to attack from pests on unmanaged and unsprayed fruit trees.

You might not mind the wormy apples in your tree, but those codling moths can migrate to neighboring orchards where they can infest fruit, forcing orchardists to spray additional, more toxic chemicals in order to produce a commercial crop.

The OSU Extension office in Hood River has a spray schedule for those landowners who want to maintain their own fruit trees.

Better yet, the Hood River Grower-Shipper Association is offering an incentive to be a good neighbor and part of the solution. If you remove all of your pear and apple trees, they will give you a coupon to a local nursery so you can buy a different tree. If you remove one tree, the coupon is for \$25. For two or more trees, the coupon is \$50. For more information on this Backyard Fruit Tree program, call HRGSA at 387-4769.



Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District

Conservation Tree & Shrub Sale 2006/2007



**ORDER FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 How would you like to be reminded of the pick up date?  Phone  E-mail (\*Must provide e-mail above)  Both

Conifer Trees - \$1.00 ea.	QTY
Douglas-fir	
Grand fir	
Noble fir	
Western red cedar	
Ponderosa pine	
Western white pine	
Giant Sequoia	
<b>Total Ordered:</b>	

Trees and shrubs will be shipped to the Hood River SWCD office in early March, 2007.

**Orders can be picked up:**

Friday & Saturday, March 16-17th, 2007 unless other arrangements are made. Call Jordan Kim at Hood River SWCD (541-386-4588) for further information.

These are bareroot seedlings. Be prepared to plant them soon after pickup!

Deciduous Trees - \$2.00 ea.	QTY
Vine maple	
Water Birch	
Oregon ash	
Indian Plum	
Quaking aspen	
<b>Total Ordered:</b>	

All orders are subject to plant availability, customers will be notified if shortages occur. **Please order by December 1st** to ensure availability.

Shrubs - \$2.00 ea.	QTY
Douglas spirea	
Mock orange	
Nootka rose	
Ocean Spray	
Blue elderberry	
Red osier dogwood	
Serviceberry	
Red flowering currant	
Pacific ninebark	
<b>Total Ordered:</b>	

TOTAL ORDER		
Conifer Trees	_____ x \$1.00	\$ _____
Deciduous Trees	_____ x \$2.00	\$ _____
Shrubs	_____ x \$2.00	\$ _____
<b>Total Cost of Order:</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>
<p><b>Paid by:</b>      Check      Cash</p> <p>(Make checks payable to Hood River SWCD)</p>		

Submit Order and Payment to:  
**Hood River SWCD**  
 3007 Experiment Station Road  
 Hood River, OR 97031

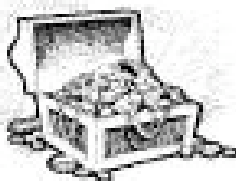
## Looking Ahead to 2006-07

Looking ahead to 2006-07, the Hood River SWCD will be working on:

- Horse Keeping Workshop, Oct. 28, 2006 (see story on page 10).
- Building Soils for Better Fruits and Vines workshop, Nov. 9, 2006 at The Dalles Discovery Center.
- Biennial Review of Ag Water Quality Plan & Rules, Dec. 12, 2006.
- Completion of the OSU Master Gardener native plant garden and bioswale.
- Native Plant sale – March 16 & 17, 2007.
- Allocation of remaining OWEB small grant funds by June 30, 2007.
- Completion of Trout Creek manure storage building project by October 2006.
- Completion of Japanese knotweed eradication project by May 2007.
- Work begun to upgrade and re-route the Seven Streams trail in the Post Canyon area.
- Assorted Hood River Watershed Group projects and activities.

## Show Me the Money

Oftentimes, people and agencies want to do the right thing, but money is an issue. Installing a livestock fence along a creek, planting native trees and shrubs, and replacing open irrigation ditches with pipe all take money to complete. While no program will cover all of the cost and finding funding for these projects take time, there are a number of programs available to landowners who want to make conservation improvements.



In December 2005, District Manager Anne Saxby compiled a summary of state and federal landowner assistance programs for use by agencies and individuals. The goal is to direct applicants to the most appropriate funding program(s) so bureaucratic run-around is minimized. There are programs to help, but knowing the focus and requirements of each program allows an applicant to target the more likely sources of financial assistance.

To view and/or download the summary, check the District website under “resources” at [www.hoodriverswcd.org](http://www.hoodriverswcd.org). A hard copy can be picked up at the office.

## With a Little Help from Our Friends...

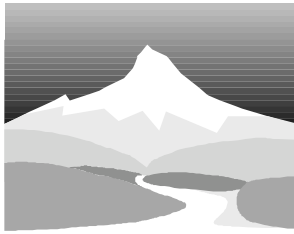
We couldn't get by without A LOT of help from our friends. They include:

Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research & Extension Center (MCAREC)  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
 Farmers Irrigation District (FID)  
 East Fork Irrigation District (EFID)  
 Middle Fork Irrigation District (MFID)  
 Hood River County (HRC)  
 Hood River Grower-Shippers Association (HRGSA)  
 Inter-Fluve, Inc.  
 Hanel Development, Inc.  
 OSU Master Gardeners  
 Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation (CTWS)  
 Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
 Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)  
 Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA)  
 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)  
 Oregon State Police (OSP)  
 Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF)  
 US Forest Service (USFS)  
 US Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)  
 USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA)  
 Northwest Service Academy (AmeriCorps)  
 Hood River Valley Parks & Recreation District  
 Longview Fibre Company  
 Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)  
 Northwest Power & Conservation Council (NWPPCC)  
 Wasco County SWCD  
 Wy'east Resource Conservation & Development Area Council (RC&D)  
 Individual landowners and watershed group members


Volunteers assisted the SWCD and Watershed Group by participating in planning efforts, rescuing fish from irrigation canals, and bundling orders for the plant sale.



Special thanks to all of the Master Gardeners who helped with the English ivy and arborvitae removal as well as the annual native plant sale.



## Education & Outreach

- ✓ Field trip in September 2005 to observe flows behind Newton-Clark glacier.
  - ✓ Work was begun on a signage project to delineate important stream crossings and watershed boundaries.
  - ✓ Work was begun on drought-tolerant residential turf grass demonstration project.
  - ✓ Two toxic spill response kits were donated by Underwood Conservation District and are housed at the City of Hood River Fire Station for use in small emergencies.
- 
- ✓ Outdoor water savings tips brochure was updated and reprinted during the summer of 2005 drought. Over 670 copies were distributed through the city, county, irrigation supplies and water districts. An adjunct flyer was distributed to 2200 water district subscribers via newsletters.
  - ✓ Streamcare brochure updated and re-printed.

# HR Watershed Group Update

## *Watershed Restoration Activities - July 2005 to June 2006*

Watershed Group members worked on a number of projects this year, with assistance from the Coordinator and/or Watershed Assistant. They include:

- Completed Phase 2 of the EFID Central Canal/Inverted Siphon project. One-half mile of 60" pipe was laid in the Central Canal right-of-way for \$1.17 million.
- Installed a temporary upgrade on the MFID Coe Branch diversion to prevent bull trout mortality.
- MFID installed 3,000 feet of pipeline to replace Volmer Ditch; project will be completed in fall of 2007 with installation of additional 4,500 feet on national forest land.
- Reconvened the PacifiCorp Powerdale lands stakeholder group in spring 2006 to begin process of selecting a stewardship entity to take ownership of 400 acres along the mainstem Hood River.
- Planted 1,500 feet of roadside ditch on Thomsen Rd with 500 red osier dogwood cuttings to prevent pesticide drift into water.
- The EPA-funded OSU/MCAREC sprayer technology study is ongoing under the direction of Dr. Nagarajan Ramalingam (Ram) and Dr. Paul Jepson. Preliminary results show that pesticide drift from orchard airblast sprayers can be reduced significantly with a variety of techniques - from low-cost plywood "donuts" attached to the rear of airblast sprayers and the use of air-induction nozzles to the replacement of conventional airblast sprayers with new tower sprayers. Labor and chemical savings can make the purchase of tower sprayers economical for commercial growers.
- Conducted a topographical survey of the East Fork in the area of the EFID diversion to examine alternatives to the current diversion.
- Aldritch Ditch diversion upgrade began summer 2005; completion of the project is scheduled for fall of 2006.
- Assisted CTWS with 2006 Hood River Production Program spring chinook and steelhead smolt acclimation. Work included pond set-up, take-down and overnight caretaking.
- Collaborated on OWEB Small Grant projects (see separate story on page 1).

## *Watershed Planning*

- Hood River Watershed Action Plan update began in spring 2006. New projects were solicited and completed projects section was begun. Bulk of work will take place in 2006-07.
- Assisted USFS with Hood River Aquatic Habitat Restoration Strategy. The planning document ranks 6<sup>th</sup> field sub-watersheds in the basin by fish, water quality and watershed conditions.

## *Grantwriting and Fundraising*

- EFID - \$2.2 million in grant and funding requests made for Phase 3 of Central Canal project; of that, \$1.65 million is pending.
- FID - \$46,500 raised for N. Greenpoint Creek diversion upgrade project.
- FID - \$99,000 raised for IrriNet water conservation education project
- USFS - \$27,000 raised for design of Robinhood Creek large wood placement project.
- USFS - \$14,750 raised for N. Fork Mill Creek riparian fence project.
- USFS - \$49,500 pending for removal of four East Fork Hood River road culverts.

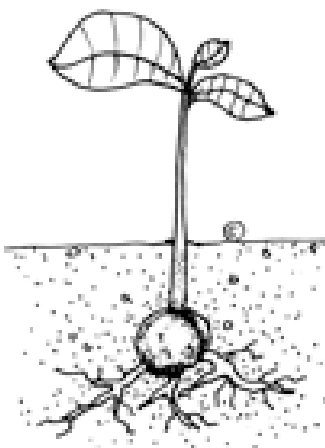


## Monitoring and Assessment

- A six year Neal Creek water monitoring study began in June 2005 and continued during the summer of 2006. Data collected at 18 sites during spring and summer includes temperature, total suspended solids, turbidity, specific conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen and flow.
- Started the Hood River Water Quality Database project to catalog all water quality information collected in basin over time.
- Assisted ODFW & CTWS with juvenile fish salvages in Eastside Lateral Canal, East Fork Irrigation District Main Canal, and Farmers Canal in fall 2005. Numbers from the FID canal have dropped sixfold since 2002 when FID installed a new innovative horizontal fish screen.
- Assisted OSU toxicologists in fall 2005 with sampling of wash water being discharged from fruit packing houses. Work was done as part of re-permitting process.
- Assisted USFS fish biologists to document fish redd numbers and reference reach conditions in the East Fork Hood River.

## Future Projects

- MFID Coe Branch diversion.
- EFID diversion upgrade.
- Robinhood Creek large wood addition project.
- Fundraising and COMPLETION of the Central Canal/Inverted Siphon project.
- FID Lowline Ditch and Tucker Road piping projects
- Selection and ranking of 2008 Title II projects (if funding continues).
- Action Plan update.
- Drought-tolerant lawn demonstration project.
- Secure another OWEB grant to fund coordinator's position.
- HR water quality database project.
- Hood River watershed signage project.
- OWEB small grant projects.
- Outreach to recreational interests.
- Conduct local outreach meetings (Mt. Hood/ Parkdale, Pine Grove, Odell).
- Completion of Aldritch Ditch diversion upgrade, Ditch Creek bridge removal, and Volmer Ditch piping project.



## Watershed Group Coordination

Monthly meetings are held the fourth Tuesday at 7 PM in the Extension office meeting room except for August and December. July's meeting is a salmon BBQ at Tollbridge Park. Meeting features include updates on member activities and guest speakers. Attendance averages 30 people.



**Please join us!**

Watershed Group members do more than attend meetings. In 2005-06, they provided over 240 hours of volunteer assistance for various watershed projects, including fish salvage in EFID and FID conveyance canals.

## Title II Reauthorization Gains Support

Rep. Greg Walden joined other western representatives and senators in co-sponsoring legislation to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-determination Act of 2000. Under Title II of the Act, watershed restoration projects in Hood River County have been funded by \$1.98 million over the past five years. Funding for the Act was given a one-year reprieve in 2006; \$383,000 will be used to fund an additional five projects in 2007. Unless the Act is reauthorized, funding for watershed restoration, as well as county schools and roads, will cease in 2008.

The Hood River County Commissioners continue to show their support of local watershed efforts by allocating \$424,000 for FY 2006 Title II projects. Title II funds come from federal payments to counties with federal lands. While the majority of the federal monies go to roads and schools, a portion has been used since 2002 for watershed restoration, or Title II projects.

FY 2006 projects, amounts awarded and sponsors included:

- ✓ Japanese Knotweed Eradication & Education – \$50,000 – USFS & HRC
- ✓ Central Canal Upgrade phase 2 completion – \$251,000 - EFID
- ✓ Volmer Ditch Replacement – \$100,000 - MFID
- ✓ HR Watershed Restoration Project Inventory – \$23,000 - USFS

The Hood River Watershed Group evaluated and ranked FY 2007 project proposals in April of 2006 and in May the County Board of Commissioners allocated over \$383,000 towards the projects. The following projects are expected to be funded for FY 2007:

- Central Canal upgrade phase 3 - \$251,000 – EFID
- Robinhood Creek Large Wood Addition design - \$27,000 – USFS
- Long Prairie Riparian Fencing - \$14,750 – USFS
- Summer Youth Program - \$10,000 – OYCC/CRGNSA
- Hood River Pre-commercial Thinning - \$78,300+ – USFS

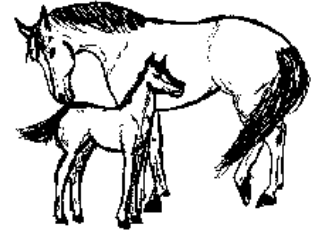
The County recommendations are presented to the Hood/Willamette Resource Advisory Committee for final project awards. District Manager Anne Saxby and local resident Art Carroll serve on the 15-member RAC.

## A Horse Keeping Workshop: *Land Management for Clean Water and Healthy Animals*

Saturday, October 28, 2006

9:00am - noon

Middle Mountain Equestrian Center, 4050 Central Vale Drive, Hood River



Join the Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Agriculture, OSU Extension Service and other local experts as they provide a three hour workshop covering the basics of horse keeping. This workshop will provide guidance for horse keeping practices that promote horse health, build good relations between neighbors and add to a horse property's value all while protecting the land and water quality of the area. We will cover such topics as: facility design and siting, horse waste management, stormwater runoff management, pasture and paddock care, weed control, and much more. Bring all of your horse keeping questions and we'll have plenty of time for discussion both during and after the presentations. If you would like to attend, pre-registration is required. Please call Community Education at 541-386-2055.

If unable to attend the workshop, interested livestock owners can pick up a copy of a horse keeping handbook and related information from the SWCD office. They can also stop by the Arena on Wy'east, located at 3900 Wy'east Road, to review a kiosk of information and see the conservation enhancements implemented on this property. SWCD staff is interested in helping other livestock owners with manure and mud problems. Please call 386-4588 to schedule a site visit to your operation.



*Hood River Soil & Water  
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