

## UMATILLA COUNTY SWCD

Director of the Year  
Louie Dick



Louie Dick is a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), he came to the SWCD in 1999 as a Director At Large with a long history and heritage of working to preserve the land and water and a unique perspective on conservation that comes from his Native American heritage, Louie's credo is "cold, clean, pure, healthy water".

## UMATILLA COUNTY SWCD

Teacher of the Year  
Aaron Duff



Aaron is a 5th Generation Wheat and Cattle Rancher in Adams Oregon where he teaches McLoughlin High School Agriculture Science and Technology Program. Aaron looks at Agriculture education as the opportunity to help create productive members of society. He is a member of Young Cattleman's Association, Member of Collegiate FFA,

Member of Dairy Club, Member of the Ag Executive Council - AG Day Chairman. Aaron was nominated for this award because of his attitude and dedication to promoting Agriculture through education

## UMATILLA COUNTY SWCD

Employee of the Year  
Jaime Clarke



Jaime is a 4th generation Umatilla County resident, raised in Pendleton, she graduated in the spring of 2004 from the University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, with Bachelors of Science in Environmental Science, along with Minors in Geology and Leadership. Immediately following

graduation she was hired by the Umatilla County SWCD where Jaime provides technical assistance to residents of the county.

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# Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District



## Annual Report 2005-2006

"Our mission is to conserve, protect, and develop; soil, water, and other natural resources for the economic and environmental benefit of the residents of Umatilla County"

UMATILLA COUNTY SWCD  
SERVING UMATILLA COUNTY CONSERVATION  
NEEDS FOR 60 YEARS

## SWCD HISTORY

We are a special purpose district similar in many ways to a fire control or drainage district. The major objective of the Umatilla County SWCD is to provide for the conservation of natural resources within it's boundaries-namely, to find solutions for land and water use problems.

In 1935, The Soil Conservation Act, was enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to address the problems of soil erosion. The establishment of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) within the United States Department of Agriculture, was charged with developing a program to conserve and enhance the nation's soil and water resources.

In 1939, The Oregon Legislature passed enabling legislation to establish conservation districts. The Umatilla County Soil & Water Conservation District was formed in 1974 by consolidation of West Umatilla SCD, Southern Umatilla SCD, and East Umatilla SCD.

## STAFF



District Manger  
Bev Kopperud



Watershed Technical Specialist  
Jaime Clarke



WQ Data Analyst  
Brook Geffen

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Phil Walchli- Chairman Zone 1



Berk Davis- Vice Chairman Zone 2



Tom Straughan- Treasurer Zone 4



Cheri Cosper- Director Zone 3



Chuck Hemphill-Director Zone



Robert Rosselle-Director At Large



Louie Dick-Director At Large

## IN APPRECIATION

The Board of Directors would like to thank the following organizations, agencies, and individuals for their help in carrying out a successful program year.

Umatilla County Commissioners, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Oregon Department of Forestry, OSU/ Umatilla County Extension Service, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Tiicham Conservation District, Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, OSU-Columbia Basin Agriculture Research Service, Umatilla National Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Umatilla/Morrow Educational Service District, Sunridge Middle School-Outdoor School Program, Natural Resource Discussion Group, Umatilla County Critical Groundwater Task Force, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Farm Credit Service, Oregon Water Resources Department, Umatilla County Weed Control Department, Umatilla County Planning Department, Columbia Blue Mountain RC&D, Umatilla County Landowners, and others

**The Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting** and Precision Agriculture in Umatilla County Seminar held on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at the Pendleton Convention Center ,was attended by 83 local landowners and agencies, they were served lunch with Phil Walchli- SWCD Chairman conducting the Annual Meeting activities. Mary Corp-OSU Extension, Jaime Clarke -SWCD and Bev Kopperud-SWCD provided guidance.

The Seminar introduced a new incentive program and provided in-depth information about precision agriculture, including variable rate fertilizer application, required soil testing, mapping, and specific equipment. Breakout sessions focused on four topics; Site-Specific Soil Testing by Dr. Don Wysocki,-OSU, Precision Ag Mapping Application by Dr. Michael Flowers-OSU and Dr. Dan Long-ARS, GPS by Travis Hillman-Ag-Teq Inc, CSP Nutrient Management Tools by Loren Unruh-NRCS . Exhibitors were: Ag-Teq., North West 94 Sales Inc., Northwest Precision Ag., Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pioneer Humane Society, Pioneer West, Inc., RDO Equipment Co., Spike Wheel, and Spray Center Electronics Inc

UMATILLA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FINANCIAL REPORT DISTRICT FUNDS

Combined Statement of Revenues & Expenditures

Year End June 30, 2006

Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2005 \$ 55,846.00

REVENUES:

Grants/Projects	251,795.00
Umatilla County	10,000.00
Interest Income	2,090.00
Miscellaneous	6,837.

Total Revenue \$326,568.00

EXPENDITURES:

Office Operation	21,922.00
Salaries & Benefits	136,483.00
Project Implementation	107,099.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$265,504.00</u>

Fund Balance June 30, 2006 \$ 61,064.00

The Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

The Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District is an Equal Opportunity employer.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS IN 2005-2006

Meetings, outreach, and projects from around the county and beyond have consumed the time of the SWCD Board of Directors and staff. When the SWCD Board of Directors are not seeding or harvesting crops and tending livestock for their own agricultural businesses they are attending meetings and events representing the SWCD at:

- Columbia-Blue Mountain RC & D
- Umatilla County Critical Groundwater Taskforce Monthly Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) Committee Meetings
- Oregon Water Coalition Annual Meeting
- Umatilla River Subbasin Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan and Rules Biennial Review (AgWQMAP)
- Natural Resources Discussion Group
- Umatilla County Cereal Seminar
- Oregon Association of Special Districts Convention
- Umatilla/Willow Subbasin Planning and Bonneville Power Administration for funding prioritization
- Umatilla Basin Watershed Council Meetings
- Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council Meetings
- Tiicham Conservation District Meetings
- Umatilla County Weed Board Meetings
- Oregon Association of Conservation Districts Convention
- Umatilla/John Day Basin Local Working group
- Umatilla Resource Advisory Committee
- Small Grant Team
- Water Quality Technical Committee
- Weed and Crop Tours
- Special Districts Training Sessions

**Agriculture Water Quality Management Area Plans and Rules** (AgWQMAP) for the Umatilla River Subbasin, the North Fork John Day River Subbasin and the Walla Walla River Subbasin are locally driven by committees of area landowners and are authorized through Senate Bill 1010, with Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) responsible for developing and implementing the plans and rules. The local Soil and Water Conservation District assist ODA with education projects such as; creating and distributing brochures, writing news articles and holding public Biannual reviews.



Tom Straughan-ODA and Jaime Clarke-SWCD instructing a class on water quality

**Outdoor Education** for 5<sup>th</sup> Graders in Umatilla County via the Watershed Field Days which was a huge success. The science and natural resources outdoor school was hosted by the Natural Resource Systems Consortium, a group of public agency experts and educators. The purpose of the event was to reinforce science benchmarks and to introduce students to natural resources. This year's emphasis was water conservation. The Umatilla County SWCD presented "Water Quality: where does our water come from, what is the quality of our water, why is water quality important, and what can we do to enhance water quality." During the four day event in Umatilla approximately 600 5th graders attended.



**Sheep vs. Weeds:** Biological Control Agents to Combat Noxious Weeds. An integrated pest management (IMP) project to use sheep as biological control agents in Umatilla County was awarded to Gillespie Grazing Company by the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) in March of 2005. Umatilla County has a cropland weed control problem due in-part to the conversion from traditional tillage systems to no till or low till systems. This shift in agricultural practices has significantly altered the weed spectrum, which is becoming increasingly difficult to control. Currently, Gillespie Grazing Company is feeding approximately 800 (Rambouillet) ewes on recently harvested "no till" direct seed dryland wheat fields north of Pendleton. The ewes and lambs are grazing crop residue.

Looking back and seeing the future

The Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 1980 Annual Report discusses the highlights of reduced tillage, including the same six advantages we list today. The means by which conservation tillage is performed today has altered; however, the reasons for economic and environmental benefits are timeless.

Conserving our soils is very important in Umatilla County where agriculture is vital to our economy and solving the nationally identified water quality problems. The Umatilla County SWCD is emphasizing "Conservation Tillage" which is a minimum tillage operations combined with appropriate chemicals to preserve weed free stubble mulch. Conservation tillage has the following advantages:

- Conserves moisture
- Reduces wind and water erosion
- Saves fuel
- Saves labor
- Reduces soil compaction
- Decreases water runoff



The District received continual funding from 1996-2005 through grants to provide area farmers an incentive of \$10.00 per acre, for up to 200 acres per growing season. During this time the District paid farmers to direct seed 40,921 acres .

**Other projects funded during 2005-2006:** Through grants from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), the District will fund; Precision Ag in the Lower Umatilla Basin at \$47,605.00, Umatilla Co Forest Restoration & Fuels Reduction for \$89,840.00, Woody Grazing Management at \$65,412.00, Creatively Controlling Cropland Weeds at \$103,280.00. OWEB also funded one education grant for Community-Based Water Solutions at \$35,090.00. Through the Small Grant Team, we received two restoration grants, Bruce Young Upland Enhancement for \$6,220.00 and Battle Mountain Pasture Project at \$7,490.00