



Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District
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Groundwork

March / April 2023 Volume 46 Number 2

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Splinters from the Board

February: The board met February 6th. John Anderson, Wheatland Insurance provided a renewal update and discussed coverage of the office building and the 15mile MUS Project. Four new budget committee members were appointed as well as an alternate committee member. The Annual Meeting Resolution was passed and the SWCD Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the regular April board meeting. Cost Share reimbursement rates were increased 10% for the upcoming fiscal years program and increased the maximum award amount for Haul Roads. Board members also approved a cost of living increase. Partner and project updates were also shared.

March: The board met March 1st. Shawn and Jenn provided a brief summary from the well attended SDAO conference that was held at the end of February. Project updates from the 15mile MUS project, Mosier Million #2, and White River fires were shared. The board held an executive session to consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection per ORS192.660(2)(f). Following executive session the board and facilities committee discussed updating and installing outdoor lighting and the construction of a shop. Partners in attendance reported any upcoming workshops and program deadlines. One major announcement was the 2023 Bull Tour being cancelled.

PROJECT Updates

Mosier Groundwater

The Mosier Deep Well #2 Project is complete! This was the final well of the Deep Well Project that removed two of the largest irrigators from the compromised aquifers in the Mosier Critical Groundwater Area, within the Columbia River Basalts. The second deep well was drilled to a whopping depth of 1,488 feet.



The second round for the Mosier Million well project has kicked off with a bid opening on March 22. These RFP's will help us select our driller pool. Stay tuned for project updates.

Community Event: Wildfire Preparedness, Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration in Wasco County

This community meeting will share information about current and planned hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire risk reduction projects in Wasco County. Representatives from federal, state, and local agencies will share updates and seek community input.

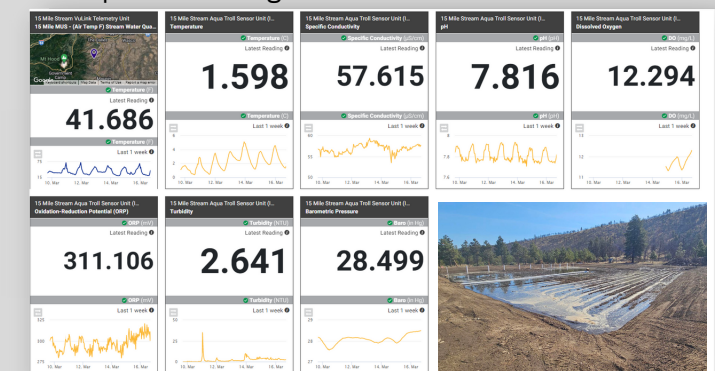
Location: Wamic Grange
Saturday, April 29th, 2023.
Doors open at 11:30am
Lunch: 12:00-1:30pm
Community Event: 1:30-3:30pm

Watershed Council Updates

- The Dalles met on March 8th and discussed a new sampling plan structure for their Mill Creek E.coli monitoring project.
- Projects funded by the Bakeoven Upland Enhancement grant are underway. The council will likely reconvene in the Spring for project monitoring and to discuss work progress.
- White River does not have a meeting date selected at this time. Josh Thompson is in the final steps to closing out the 2020 White River Fire grant and working with landowners affected by the Miller Road Fire.
- Mosier Million Deep Well #2 is completed and Mosier Million #2 is just kicking off. Check the project updates section on the back page for more information. The Mosier Watershed Council meeting will be in April.
- Fifteenmile met on March 18th. The council received their annual SNOTEL update on current snowpack conditions, as well as last seasons PSP monitoring results.
- The Coordinating Board will meet on April 5th. Watershed Professionals Network (WPN) is planning to attend to provide a progress report on the Watershed Assessments project.

15MILE MUS PROJECT

Real time water quality data for Fifteenmile Creek has been logged for the last several weeks by a new In-Situ Multiparameter Sonde unit installed upstream of the diversion for the Managed Underground Storage facility. The data logged by the device is vital in determining the baseline water quality within Fifteenmile Creek before reaching the basin. The same parameters will also be measured at the outflow of the basin, allowing us to determine the impact of the filtration process undergone as water passes through the infiltration basin.



Service Center News

The SWCD will be hosting the ODA SWCC Meeting on May 10-11. The Soil and Water Conservation Commission provides assistance and direction to Oregon's 45 conservation districts and advises and develops policy with ODA in the administration of its duties.

Please visit the Wasco SWCD website for full meeting minutes and announcements. www.wascoswcd.org

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Listen for SWCD & Partner updates on the KODL Coffee Break the first Monday of each month at 10:07 AM on 1440 AM Radio, 100.7 FM or streaming online at kodl.com

The next SWCD Board meeting will be held April 5th, 2023.

The SWCD board will present the annual report and audit in conjunction with the April 5th regular board meeting and will plan a celebration later in the year, stay tuned for details.

If you would like to receive this newsletter digitally please email wasco@wascoswcd.org



Oregon State University
Extension Service



THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST Native Plant Primer

225 Plants for an Earth-Friendly Garden



Attract Pollinators Support Wildlife Reduce Maintenance

KRISTIN CURRIN & ANDREW MERRITT

Wildflower Talk

We pause our regularly scheduled native plant article for an announcement:

"Wildflower Talk" author, Kristin Currin, and Andrew Merritt from Humble Roots Nursery in Mosier recently released a book with publisher Timber Press called **The Pacific Northwest Native Plant Primer: 225 Plants for an Earth-Friendly Garden!** This guide for gardeners both east and west of the Cascades features information about gardening with native plants, supporting backyard biodiversity, and cultivating native plants that sustain native pollinators and wildlife. Despite the title, it discusses more than 225 species of PNW native plants, many of which occur in our area and have been featured in "Wildflower Talk" articles. The book is widely available through many outlets, including local book stores and online book sellers.

For more information check out the following link.

<https://www.workman.com/products/the-pacific-northwest-native-plant-primer/paperback>

Farm Service Agency

CRP general signup started on February 27 and will run through April 7, 2023. Continuous CRP is available to producers to enroll in throughout the year. FSA will be announcing the dates for the Grassland CRP signup in the coming weeks.

Signups began January 23 for the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two.

FSA is accepting Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) applications now through through June 2, 2023.

For more information on any of the above programs and to learn more about eligibility requirements or how to apply contact the FSA office.

NRCS

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) application deadline is March 31st, 2023. Please contact Emily Huth or Jonathan Ludovico for more information at 541-298-8559.

Wy'East RC&D

As a part of their E-Farms program Wy'East now has a Rivian R1T Electric Truck on the ground in Wasco County. Wy'East is currently testing it: verifying charging capabilities, range, and towing capacity before getting it out in the field for local producers to test soon. The Rivian is also helping to best understand how EV charging works in our region. They are working with Forth (one of their nonprofit partners) to develop a Wasco EV Charging Plan. This plan will help the region be first in line to secure federal and state funding for EV infrastructure. Wy'East will be attending the Central Oregon Ag Show March 24-25th at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in Redmond.



OSU Extension

OSU online and on demand classe to help you better prepare your farm and ranch for wildfires this summer:

- Agricultural Wildfire Behavior and Suppression course covers wildfire suppression tactics and safety specifically for producers in eastern Oregon <https://beav.es/ibX>
- Wildfire Preparedness in Agriculture course focuses on defensible space and considerations for reducing ignitions on your property.

Crop Tours

Sherman County Crop Tour – Tentatively planned for Tuesday, June 6th, 9 am, starting at the Extension Office in Moro, OR.

Wasco County Crop Tour – Thursday, June 8th, 8:30 am starting at the Dufur Cemetery Wheat Trials.

Sherman Experiment Station Field Day – Wednesday, June 14th, 7:30 am, Moro, OR.

(ob)noxious weeds

Meadow Hawkweed (*Hieracium caespitosum*)

Meadow hawkweed is one of a large group of perennial hawkweeds that came to the United States from Europe. With the production of highly mobile seeds, stoloniferous roots and allelopathic compounds, this species is truly an aggressive invader. Containment efforts are underway across the state to reduce further colonization of this plant.

Source-oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/Weeds/MeadowHawkweedProfile

There is a small population of Meadow Hawkweed in the Mt Hood National forest in Wasco County. The plant has the potential to invade private forest lands along the forest boundary. Meadow hawkweed can be mistaken for Dandelion and Cat's ear. If you locate any hawkweed (orange or yellow) contact the Wasco SWCD.



Article by Scott Susi

H. A. Miller Demonstration Nursery

If you have recently been driving Hwy 197 between Dufur and The Dalles you may have been noticing lots of activity at the Boyd Triangle. Former NRCS District Conservationist, Dusty Eddy, along with longtime friend Darrell France (native Dufurite, former mayor of Dufur, and current unofficial mayor of Boyd) have been spending countless hours working at the H.A. Miller Demonstration Nursery. The property was donated back in the early 80's to the SWCD, to become a plant materials demonstration nursery. The 3.5 acres were seeded with perennial grasses and locally adapted plant species to provide examples of wind breaks and wildlife habitat. The area has been used to demonstrate several different irrigation systems as well. Back in 2018 fire ripped through the area, and burnt much of the Boyd Triangle. Now, Darrell and Dusty, have made it their mission to rehabilitate the triangle and get it back to its original state.

Many of the burnt dead trees have been cut down, and stacked for fire wood, they have been burning slash piles, raking up mustard and cheatgrass, along with picking up all of the trash that has accumulated. Although, it wasn't all lost to the fire, most of the poplars and shrubs have survived as well as many volunteer pine seedlings that are coming back.

**Thank you Dusty & Darrell
for your hard work!**

