

2020-2021 Annual Report



FY July 1st, 2020-June 30th, 2021

District Event and Projects Overview

Introduction

Fiscal year 20-21 provided some small respite from the wildness of 19-20, but it had its share of challenges all the same. Much of the District's time this fiscal year outside of normal operations was spent assisting folks with the flooding challenges through outreach and education, our drone program, and active participation on multiple collaborative initiatives for solutions. While the continued work on solutions to the floods and threat of floods seem to be the new normal for our county, July 1st found us still navigating continuing COVID-19 restrictions that made normal business operation impossible. Offices stayed shut down and employees continued working remotely when possible for the remainder of the fiscal year until the very last few months when we were able to resume normal operations. Despite all of these challenges, the Umatilla SWCD still tackled plenty of projects and continued to provide quality service and work for the residents of Umatilla County.

Outreach and Education

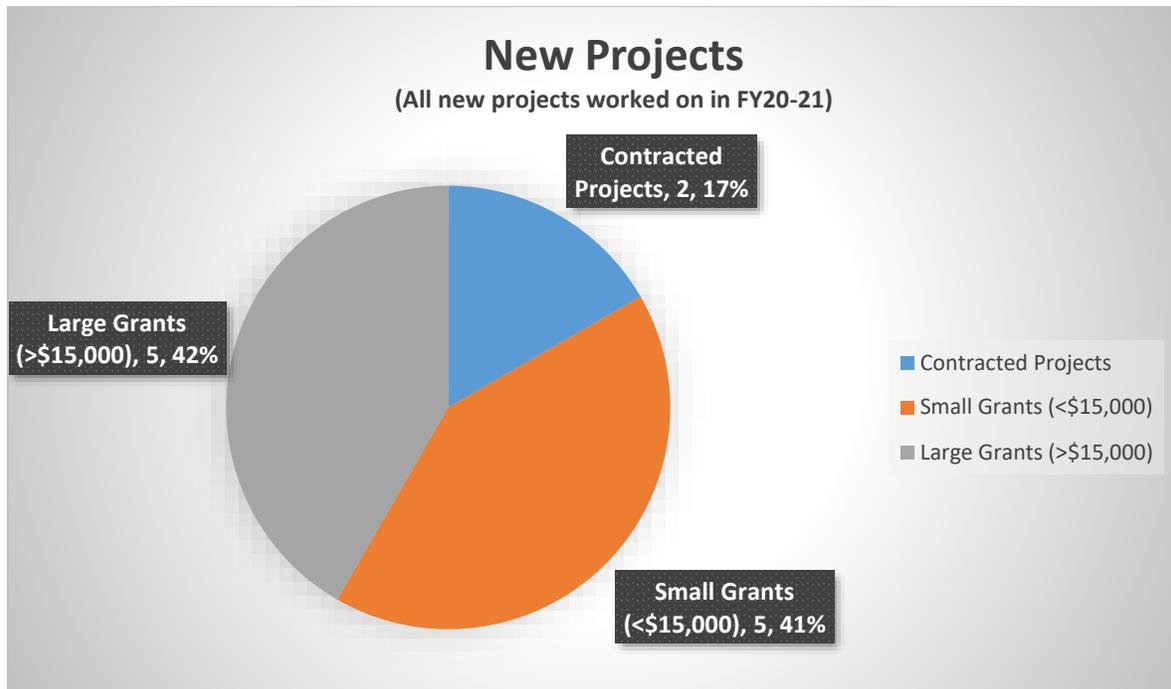
Flooding Outreach Events

The District participated, hosted, and collaborated in multiple outreach and education events to assist landowners in understanding the permitting process for flooding and options related to bank stabilization and restoration. Events ranged from small individual tutorial lessons to presentations to a variety of groups on necessary processes towards solutions. The District is part of both the Middle Umatilla River Coalition (MURC) and the McKay Creek Task Force (MCTF) and regularly acts as a project manager and technical advisor during monthly meetings as the groups work toward lasting solutions.

Soil Health Outreach

As part of the National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Partnership Program (see below), the Soil Health Specialist prepared a six-part video series on Soil Health and published the series to our website and YouTube. Additionally, this grant paid for the revitalization of our soil health outreach pages and created the opportunity for a lot of additional content to be compiled into our Resource page. Additionally, soil health outreach was performed during the twenty plus (20+) site visits for soil sampling that occurred for this grant. A total of 69 soil tests were performed for landowners in the county.

Grant Writing and Project Implementation



Funded and Submitted Large Grants

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Collaboration Grant

(Funded)

The District worked on a grant application with the Umatilla County Weed Department (UCWD) to explore the possibilities of joint resource sharing between the two organizations. The grant would pay for a consultant to do the background work on possibilities and facilitate meetings between the two boards. The grant was submitted funded in July of 2021.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Bank Stabilization Engagement Project

(Not Funded)

This Stakeholder Engagement OWEB Grant was submitted with the intent of helping educate landowners in Umatilla County about the existing bank stabilization permitting requirements and laws, with connections to solutions moving forward. This grant is intended to take place over 2 years with 4 outreach events total. Though the project ranked high, it was just below the funding threshold.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board McKay Creek Habitat Restoration Phase I

(Funded)

A Restoration grant from OWEB, the McKay Creek Habitat Restoration Phase I was submitted to begin the long process of restoring habitat that was swept away in the flooding events of 2019 and 2020 along McKay Creek below the dam. The grant proposes to contract an engineering firm to begin data gathering and project identification along the seven-mile reach that the project encompasses. This is a phased project, with the hope of submitting a Phase II for permitting and design and a Phase III for implementation if successful. Work began in Spring of 2021 and is continuing at a rapid pace, with some 40 site visits occurring thus far.

FEMA HGMP Bank Stabilization for the Middle Umatilla River Coalition

(Submitted)

The District submitted a project to FEMA on behalf of MURC group to try and secure dollars for 100% design and permitting around the Echo priority reach. The District is currently working through the sub-application process.

Umatilla SWCD Operating Capacity 21-23

(Funded)

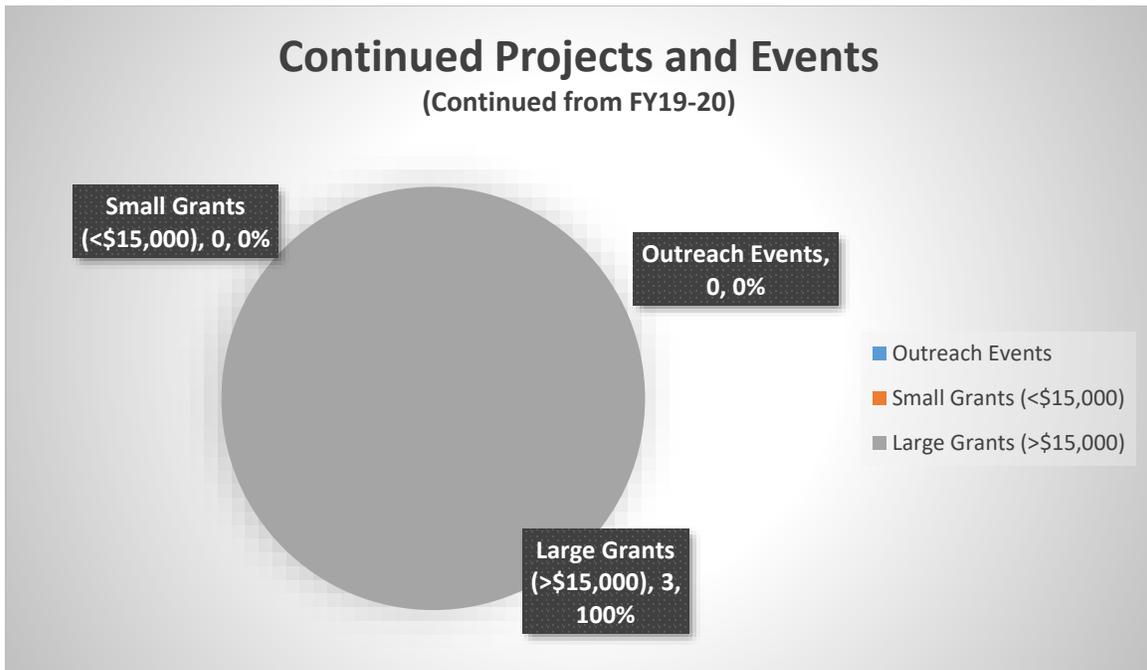
The District would not accomplish anything without the assistance of OWEB and ODA. This grant pays for one full time employee and keeps the District running by helping with operations costs. In exchange, the District spends time and money focusing on advancing ODA's Agricultural Water Quality Plans in the County in both the Umatilla and Walla Walla watersheds.

Small Grants

No funded small grant projects occurred in FY 20-21 due to our region having no dollars. Site visits were performed for five (5) to prep for upcoming cycle that will occur August 2021.

Contracted Projects

The District had the opportunity to become a potential contractor on a few grants submitted by other organizations. If those organizations are awarded those projects, the District will perform work and be paid for that service. Two (2) contracted grants were submitted this fiscal year, both dealing with the flooding issues in the county.



Large Grants

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Conservation Partnership Program

The District continued work to help NRCS with EQIP and CSP enrollment through outreach and education in the critical area that NFWF designated (Umatilla, Morrow, and Gilliam Counties). This grant currently pays for one full time Soil Health Specialist, who is tasked with outreach and coordination with NRCS to meet the objectives of the grant. The grant is built to focus heavily on the LUBGWMA (Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area), and the relationship between good soil health and good groundwater. COVID-19 forced the District to adapt the initial 6 months of the grant's outreach activities to our website. In spring 2021, the Soil Health Specialist performed 20+ soil tests for landowners and prepped them for an NRCS program.

Umatilla Strategic Implementation Area II (SIA)

The SIA is an ODA-led compliance initiative to help check off watersheds and show the good work that agriculture is doing in Oregon. The second SIA in Umatilla, SIA II covers parts of Birch, Stewart, and McKay Creek. The District is currently performing water quality monitoring in the SIA and helping with multiple initiatives directly related to erosion from the floods. This project will continue on as monitoring and project opportunities evolve. Two of the large grants submitted this fiscal year directly benefit the SIA.

Umatilla SWCD Operating Capacity 19-21

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No

Technical Assistance

Drone Program

This fiscal year, the District continued to utilize our drone program to serve the landowners in Umatilla County. Primarily providing flooding documentation flights for landowners, the District also was contracted to provide weed scouting and harvest mapping. We are excited to see how the program will grow in the next fiscal year with multiple project opportunities and interest from both organizations and private landowners alike. Six (6) flights occurred in FY 20-21.

Site Visit Consultation

Through site visits, the District often gets the opportunity to provide consultation to landowners in a variety of fields. Most often, the District provides some streambank permitting information and permit explanations to help landowners make the correct decision for their erosion problem. The District also helps producers by explaining available conservation programs and helping write grazing plans that include fencing and water distribution. The District went on ninety plus (90+) site visits in FY 20-21.

District Financial Report

UMATILLA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Statement of Activities and Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances -- Modified Cash Basis Year Ended June 30, 2021

	General Fund	Adjustments (Note 8)	Statement of Activities
<u>EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES:</u>			
Conservation operations:			
Personal services	\$ 110,234	\$ -	\$ 110,234
Materials and services:			
Grant project costs	15,977	-	15,977
Administrative costs	23,920	-	23,920
Depreciation	-	1,407	1,407
Total expenditures/expenses	150,131	1,407	151,538
<u>PROGRAM REVENUES:</u>			
Operating grants and contributions	166,564	-	166,564
Net program expense	16,433	(1,407)	15,026
<u>GENERAL REVENUES:</u>			
Interest	9	-	9
Miscellaneous	1,456	-	1,456
Total general revenues	1,465	-	1,465
<u>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</u>	17,898	(1,407)	16,491
<u>FUND BALANCE / NET POSITION:</u>			
Beginning of the year	107,903	3,391	111,294
End of the year	\$ 125,801	\$ 1,984	\$ 127,785

See accompanying independent accountants' review report and notes to the financial statement.

District Mission, Values, and Guiding Principles

Mission

To conserve, protect, and develop natural resources for the environmental and economic benefit of Umatilla County.

Vision

The District is committed to working with its constituents to meet the demand for technical assistance and natural resource education to farmers, ranchers, business owners, and the general public to increase the economic viability and environmental health of agriculture and natural resources in Umatilla County.

Guiding Principles

1. We provide assistance to the public and respond to requests in a timely and courteous way. If we cannot provide direct assistance, we strive to find other resources that meet landowners' needs.
2. We form strategic partnerships to maximize our impact and minimize duplication with other agencies.
3. We conserve natural resources so that they may be used and enjoyed responsibly.
4. We identify and analyze resource concerns before we determine solutions, as called for by sound conservation science and planning principles.
5. We urge voluntary commitments to conservation; we are not a regulatory body and do not enforce compliance. We maintain political neutrality and respect the privacy of all landowners.
6. We work as members of a flexible, respectful and responsive team.
7. We value and reward staff for hard work and innovation and provide staff/board development and training to maintain skills and science-based knowledge to better serve our constituents, maximize our credibility, and increase the success of on-the-ground conservation.
8. We incorporate equity and inclusion awareness and practice into our work process and programs.
9. We place value on personal landowner goals and dreams for their own operation.
10. We act with honesty, integrity, and honor in all of our dealings.

Guiding Values

1. Clean water is vital to people and wildlife.
2. Healthy soil is a life-sustaining, essential resource.
3. Healthy, holistic ecosystems are vital for humans and wildlife.
4. Humans have a responsibility to, and self-interest in, the health of the natural world.
5. Conservation and effective agricultural business practices are not at odds.
6. Informed and engaged board, staff and landowners are key to the success of our mission.
7. The strength and effectiveness of our District rests on its' unity.

District Board of Directors and Staff

Directors

Zone 1 – Aaron Madison-2022

Zone 2 – Berk Davis-2022

Zone 3 – Vacant

Zone 4 – Tom Straughan, Secretary/Treasurer-2024

Zone 5 – Colin Hemphill, Chairman-2022

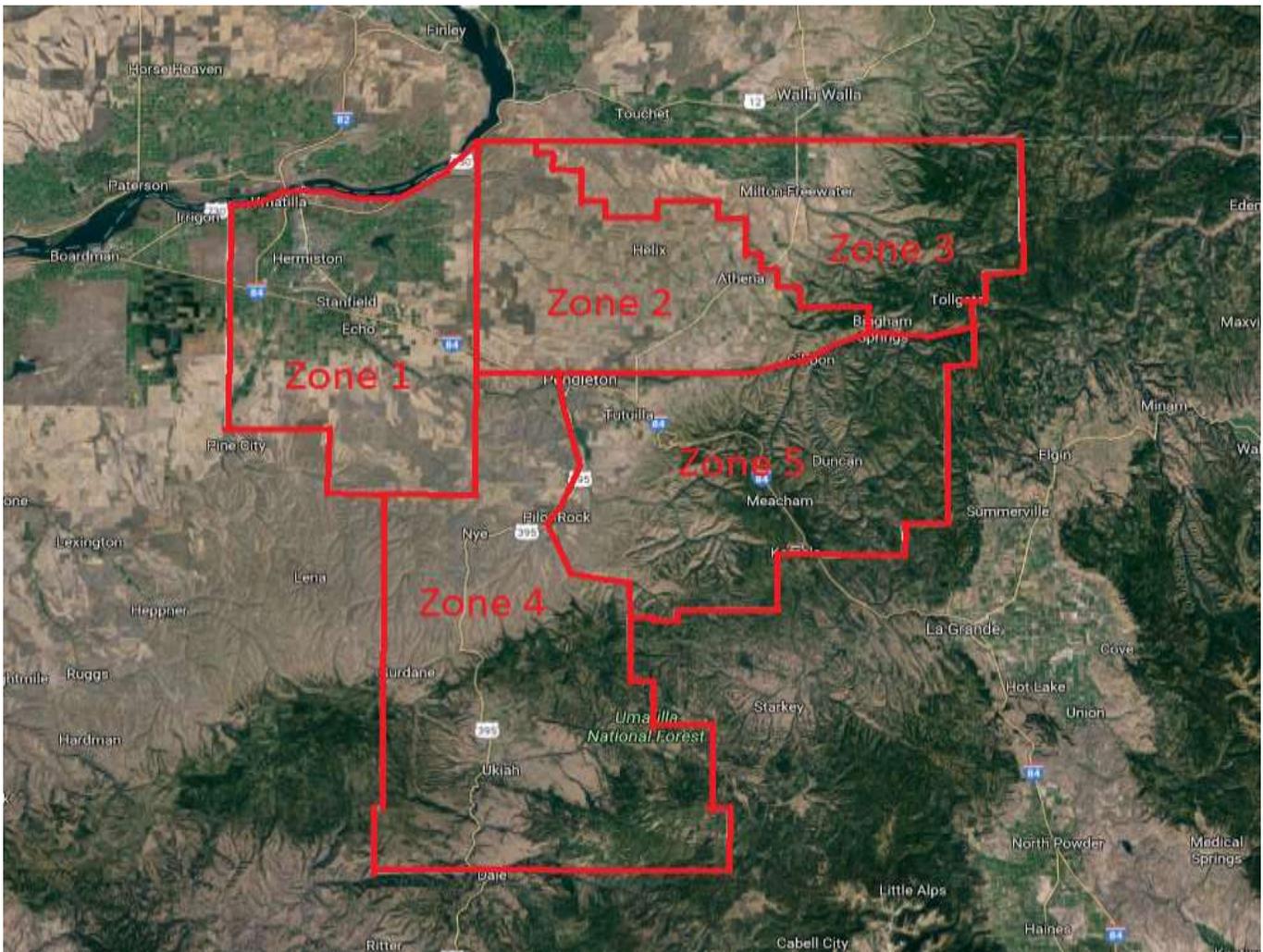
At Large – Andrea Mann-2024

At Large - Tim Spratling, Vice Chairman-2022

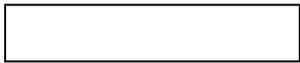
Staff

Kyle Waggoner, District Manager (*July 2016-Current*)

Rachel Chambers, Conservation Specialist (*March 2018-August 2021*)



Map is approximate



Partners

NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service



FSA – Farm Service Agency

ODA – Oregon Department of Agriculture



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture



OWEB – Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

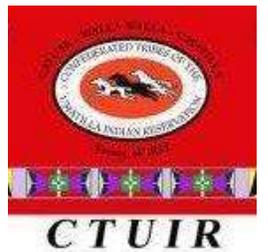
OSU Extension Service – Oregon State University

CTUIR – Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Oregon DEQ – Department of Environmental Quality

ODFW – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

USFS – United States Forest Service



UBWC – Umatilla Basin Watershed Council

WWBWC- Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council

Morrow County SWCD



A special thank you to all of our partners who we worked with in 2020-2021!