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Out of the Blues

Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District
Newsletter

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"District Spotlight"

The District remembers Board Director & friend Louie Dick

The man known for championing, "cool, clean water" for the Umatilla Indian Reservation and its people died earlier this month. Louie Dick served on the Umatilla County SWCD Board of Directors for 12 years and was an enrolled member of the CTUIR and a member of the CTUIR water commission and natural resource commission, and a Director on the Tiiachum Conservation District. Louie firmly believed in conservation, especially for water. In 2009, the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts honored Louie for a lifetime of work. Louie Dick is survived by his wife Marie and two sons. He will be sorely missed. Excerpted from the *East Oregonian*

Bev Kopperud retires from the District after 15 years!!

Bev Kopperud is retiring the end of November 2011 from the Umatilla County SWCD. Bev has been the District Manager for 15 years and has been integral to getting the District where it is today. We thank her for her knowledge, mentoring, and all her hard work. It isn't known what is in store for Bev next...we think it will involve a lot of time on horseback! The District wants to wish Bev good luck in her new adventure and ask her not to be a stranger! A retirement party is in the works. If you would like to be included on the invitation list, please call Heidi at 541-276-8131.



Photo depicts Bev showing a landowner how to "witch for water."

Photo shows Bev out in the field in the thick of things.

By Heidi Hartman - Natural Resource Specialist

Sustainable Ag Seminar scheduled for December 14th

Once again the Umatilla County SWCD is partnering with OSU Extension and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to host the 7th annual Sustainable Ag Seminar.

This all day event will be held at the Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton and includes lunch - all for a \$10 registration fee! Registration will be available online at the Umatilla County SWCD website and via phone with Shevon Hatcher at OSU Ext. (278-5403). Pesticide recertification credits (OR & WA) and Certified Crop Advisor Credits will be available.

Sessions on stripe rust, soil microbiology, pesticide drift prevention, direct seed economics, precision ag technology, wireworm control, low precipitation zone farming, wheat insect pests, rotational crops and markets, and CORE training will be offered.

We hope to see you there!

By Corrie Thorne-Hadley - Ag Resource Specialist

Maintenance of Riparian Buffers - *Mowing*

Riparian buffers are effective at reducing non-point source pollution in streams. However, to maintain their effectiveness they must be managed and maintained. Maintenance should begin immediately after the buffer has been planted. It's also important to carefully inspect your buffer annually or after major storms for any damage or problems that may have occurred. Repairs should be completed as soon as possible to maintain proper buffer functions.

Mowing the Native Grass/Forb Zone

Some tips to consider when planning mowing:

- Mowing twice during the season is usually enough.
- Mow just before annual weeds produce seed to keep the seed from maturing.
- Mow high – 8-12 inches or more above the ground to minimize cutting the slow-growing native plants.
- Use a flail chopper or brush-hog to minimize windrows of cut material that can cover and choke out young prairie plants.
- Plan the last mowing to allow re-growth of enough plants to fuel a spring burn.

Please call Corrie at the Umatilla Co. SWCD (541) 276-8131 for an appointment to discuss this opportunity and the program details of this conservation buffer!