

Umatilla County Soil & Water Conservation District
Long Range Plan
2010-2015
Approved
(3/11/2010)

Mission Statement:

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

Goal 1 - Foster a sustainable agriculture-based economy

- A. Improve *soil health* through promotion of sustainable management practices and systems that improve soil structure, reduce erosion and increase organic matter.
 - a. Promote Best Management Practices (BMPs)
 - b. Encourage precision agriculture
 - c. Encourage organic farming
 - d. Promote carbon sequestration
 - e. Promote USDA programs
 - f. Maintain/increase soil productivity

- B. Improve *watershed health* through promotion of management practices and systems that protect/develop *habitat* and improve *plant health* in range, forest and crop environments.
 - a. Encourage weed control
 - b. Provide options for CRP conversion
 - c. Promote USDA programs

- C. Protect *air quality* through promotion of management practices and systems that reduce field burning and wind erosion.
 - a. Encourage residue management
 - b. Promote reduced tillage systems
 - c. Encourage precision agriculture

- D. Reduce energy use through promotion of management practices and systems that reduce tillage and improve irrigation efficiency.
 - a. Encourage precision agriculture
 - b. Promote irrigation scheduling and system evaluation/improvements

- E. Promote sustainable management practices on small acreage operations.
 - a. Education through Clean Water Neighborhood

Goal 2 - Foster sustainable use of water resources

- A. Promote programs and projects that protect and conserve surface water resources.

- a. Implement Agricultural Water Quality Management Program
 - i. Conduct Biennial Reviews
 - ii. Assist ODA with compliance
 - iii. Conduct outreach
 - b. Promote Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
 - i. Conduct outreach
 - ii. Perform planning & implementation
 - c. Continue Clean Water Neighborhood
 - i. Conduct workshops
 - d. Encourage irrigation water management
 - i. Promote water conservation
 - ii. Assist irrigation districts
 - e. Participate in water quality monitoring program
 - i. UBWC & Tech Team
- B. Promote practices that protect and improve groundwater resources
- a. Implement Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area action plan
 - i. Participate on Advisory Committee
 - ii. Participate on Irrigated Ag, CAFO, & Education subcommittees
 - iii. Conduct education & outreach
 - iv. Conduct required surveys
 - b. Continue Clean Water Neighborhood
 - c. Encourage irrigation efficiency
 - d. Promote improved nutrient management

Goal 3 - Foster effective SWCD programs to serve the needs of the citizens

- A. Develop and maintain effective outreach and education programs
 - a. CWN
 - b. PURE
 - c. Youth – participate in Watershed Field Days and Outdoor Schools
 - d. Landowners/operators – conduct Workshops, seminars and discussion groups
- B. Provide technical assistance to landowners through development of staff capacity
 - a. Staff training
- C. Secure funding for district operations and landowner assistance
 - a. Grant writing
 - b. USDA programs
 - c. Tax base
 - d. Other sources
 - i. Grant administration & program mgt.
 - ii. County
- D. Develop and maintain mutually beneficial partnerships
 - a. Federal and State Agencies
 - b. Watershed councils
 - c. County govt. and local communities

- d. School system
 - e. OACD, NACD, RC&D
 - f. Irrigation Districts
- E. Recognize contributions to resource conservation and to the SWCD
- a. Cooperator of the year
 - b. OACD awards
- F. Develop and maintain an efficient and effective organizational structure
- a. Staffing
 - b. Board
 - c. Committees
- G. Maintain district fiscal and operational accountability
- a. Annual reports, audits, plans of work
 - b. Policies
 - c. Financial and grant reports
 - d. Public meeting requirements