New District Technician

At the end of June the District welcomed Mary Olson as the new District Technician. Mary has a B.S. in Forest Products from the University of Idaho and has lived and worked all over the Northwest primarily for private timber companies. She has a strong background in timber harvesting, riparian area protection and wildlife habitat.

Mary will continue the District’s efforts to focus on agricultural water quality and help find funding opportunities for landowners. She will be working closely with the local watershed councils and other natural resource groups.
What is the Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan and Rules?

The following 2 pages consist of an Oregon Department of Agriculture publication explaining the Area Plan and Rules. These rules apply to all agricultural land in Oregon. ODA enforces these rules. Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District is here to help you follow these rules. We are non-regulatory and able to provide you with technical assist and funding opportunities to ensure compliance with the rules and improve water quality.

Please contact us if you have any questions about the Area Plan and Rules, if you would like technical assistance, or are interested in funding opportunities for water quality improvement on your land.

Thank you to all who stopped in to see us at the Clatsop County Fair!

Please let us know if there is anything you would like to see at the fair next year.
The Oregon Legislature passed the Agricultural Water Quality Management Act in 1993. It requires the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities. As a result, ODA worked with local advisory committees to develop Water Quality Management Area Plans and Rules throughout the state. Area Plans are reviewed and updated by ODA and the local advisory committee every two years. The original North Coast Area Plan and Rules were approved by ODA in 2000.

**THE AREA PLAN**

The Area Plan guides local landowners and their conservation partners on how to prevent pollution. It includes information on agricultural water quality concerns and recommendations for addressing them. The Area Plan does not tell anyone how to farm, ranch, or otherwise use natural resources. Rather, it includes recommended practices from which a landowner can choose. The practices can help meet business and conservation goals, while also preventing water pollution.

Agricultural water quality concerns in the North Coast area are primarily:
- Temperature
- Dissolved oxygen
- Bacteria
- Sedimentation

**THE AREA RULES**

The Agricultural Water Quality Program focuses on voluntary and cooperative efforts by landowners and others to protect water quality. However, the Agricultural Water Quality Management Act also includes enforcement to ensure prevention and control of water pollution from agricultural sources.

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THE AREA RULES
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Area Rules allow landowners flexibility in how they protect water quality. Area Rules describe conditions that landowners must achieve on agricultural lands, rather than practices they must implement.

All agricultural landowners must allow vegetation along:

- Year-round streams to provide shade, stabilize banks, and filter out pollutants from overland flows.
- Seasonal streams to stabilize banks and filter out pollutants from overland flows.

In addition, landowners must not pollute ground or surface water by discharging wastes* into waters of the state or placing any wastes in a location where they are likely to enter waters of the state.**

* Wastes include excess soil, manure, fertilizer, or other substances that can pollute water.

** Waters of the state include ponds, groundwater, canals, ditches, and rivers.

The local advisory committee helped ODA develop Area Rules (Oregon Administrative Rules 603-095-0840) specifically for the North Coast area. These Rules address water quality issues identified in the Area Plan.

Agricultural landowners must:
- Ensure tide gates open and close as designed.
- Ensure pesticides shall be used in accordance with label requirements as required in ORS 634.

DO THE AREA PLAN AND AREA RULES APPLY TO ME?

The Area Plan and Area Rules apply to all agricultural lands. This includes lands in current agricultural use and those lying idle or on which management has been deferred. They also apply to agricultural activities within incorporated city boundaries, urban growth boundaries, and non-federal forest lands.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Landowners should evaluate their agricultural activities and try to determine if they might be:
- Polluting streams, canals, or groundwater.
- Preventing growth of appropriate vegetation along streams.

Then change any problem practices to ensure compliance with the Area Rules and to protect water quality.

WHO CAN HELP?

Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Columbia SWCD, Tillamook SWCD and West Multnomah SWCD are the primary sources of landowner assistance to address water quality concerns. SWCDs are nonregulatory local organizations that can help or direct landowners to additional sources of help.

MORE INFORMATION

Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District: (503) 325-4571
Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District: (503) 397-4555
Tillamook Soil and Water Conservation District: (503) 842-2240
West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District: (503) 238-8775
Oregon Department of Agriculture: Brenda Sanchez, Water Quality Specialist, (503) 986-5141, bsanchez@oda.state.or.us
Agricultural Water Quality Program at ODA: (503) 986-4700, http://bit.do/AgWQPlans

Updated 7/17
Newly Found Noxious Weed in Clatsop County!
Orange Hawkweed

This summer an Astoria resident alerted the Oregon Department of Agriculture to possible orange hawkweed on his property. An ODA weed specialist and new District Technician Mary Olson confirmed the occurrence of orange hawkweed growing near the property owner’s driveway. We ask that you all keep on the lookout for this invasive as this was the first reported occurrence in Clatsop county.

When traveling out of the area, please be aware of the potential for weed seeds to become attached to your vehicle/bicycle.
Clatsop SWCD Board of Directors:

At-Large Director and Chairman: Mike Seppa
Zone 1 Director: vacant
Zone 2 Director and Treasurer: Katherine Kahl
Zone 3 Director and Vice-chair: Ted Warila
Zone 4 Director: Cary Johnson
Zone 5 Director: Wayne Carmichael
At-Large Director: Chris Farrar

District Staff:
District Technician/Project Manager: Mary Olson
District Manager: Misty Ogier
Noxious Weed Specialist: Lee Wunder

Clatsop SWCD is a non-regulatory, local entity with the mission to serve the residents of Clatsop County. We work with landowners to achieve their land management goals and act as a community resource for water quality, agriculture, and forestry consultation, resource utilization and conservation planning services, and project funding programs. It is our aim to orchestrate projects that will enable landowners to utilize their natural resources while improving water quality, conserving soil integrity and promoting animal health. Results of SWCD work include cleaner water, conservation of natural resources, and increased production of crops, pastures, and forests.

The Clatsop SWCD is an equal opportunity employer, providing services to the public without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.