National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Conservation Partners Program
Soil Health

Producer Led Groundwater Recovery
Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District
Proposed project area
ODFW Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs)
LUBGWMA
Project activities:

1. Soil health **education and training** (virtual conferences, webinars, trainings, NRCS resources, etc.)
2. Advertisement of Farm Bill programs (NRCS schedule pending)
3. Soil health **outreach and education** (website, newsletter, in-person events on hold)
4. Farmer-led education and outreach (early stages of outreach with help from partners) -- **This is where we could use help! (please share website link, spread the word)**
5. Technical assistance to farmers and ranchers (resources on website, site visits on hold due to COVID)
6. Implementation of soil health related conservation practices (upon NRCS enrollments, BMP guidebook in early stages/hoping for producer input regarding common conservation needs)
7. Soil sampling and testing (for enrolled producers)
8. Case studies demonstrating the economic benefit of **cover crops** (in progress)
9. Conservation Implementation Strategy (draft complete, to revisit in spring)
10. Coordination with the Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) existing monitoring of **groundwater quality and quantity** in the LUBGWMA (no groundwater sampling yet in the LUBGWMA since January 2020)
11. Encouraging voluntary conservation actions by landowners that support the **ODFW Oregon Conservation Strategy** (will be specific to each property enrolled in NRCS programs)
Our Mission To Serve You...

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

For a list of scheduled office closure dates and holidays, please see our Calendar of Events. Thank you!

Umatilla SWCD Board Meetings
3rd Tuesday of every month
6pm USDA Service Center
1 SW Nye Ave Conference Room
Umatilla County SWCD Board Meetings are open to the public.

Pendleton Office Location:
1 SW Nye Ave, Suite 130
Pendleton, OR 97801
(Next to Social Security Administration Bldg)
Phone: (541) 278-8049 ext. 138
Office Hours: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm
Welcome to our Soil Health page!
Healthy soil can provide food security, address climate change concerns, protect human health, and reduce environmental impacts to our air and water. Healthy soil is the foundation of a diversity of ecosystem services provided by our planet (the benefits we obtain from ecosystems).

If you are an agricultural producer, working with natural processes to improve soil health in your operation will (among other benefits) help you financially. A holistic approach to agriculture requires improving soil health to create resiliency and longevity for your land. You will benefit from less inputs, less soil lost, fewer pests, parasites, and disease, recycled nutrients, higher nutrient availability, moisture retention, drought resistance, flood mitigation, and the living underground systems that improve overall soil function.

Follow the links below to learn more:
- Soil Health Resources
- Intro to Soil Health
- Producer Networks
- Field Day
- Soil Health Demos
- Soil Health Events

Sign up below for emails, updates, and newsletters!
Umatilla County SWCD
Soil & Water Conservation District - Protecting Natural Resources

Our Mission To Serve You...

Our Mission To Serve You...

- Protect, develop, and sustain natural resources for the social, economic, and environmental benefit of Umatilla County.

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Soil Health Resources

Organizations and Associations
- Soil Health Initiative
- Soil Health Partnership
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- Soil Health Institute

The Four Principles of Soil Health
1. Minimize Disturbance
2. Maximize Soil Cover
3. Maximize Biodiversity
4. Maximize Presence of Living Roots

Soil Health and Climate Change
- IPCC - Global Warming
- CRCCL - Climate Change

Soil Health and Human Health
- The influence of soils on human health
- Soil quality in and outdoor environments

Local Food Systems
- Locally Grown
- Small Farms

Home Gardens
- Home landscaping projects - urban design
- Sustainable gardening - urban design

Sustainability and Regenerative Farming
- Regenerative Agriculture
- Local Food System

Sign up below for emails, updates, and newsletters!
Intro to Soil Health Videos (1-6)

Part 1: Soil Health Overview

We know that NOT changing our agricultural practices will only worsen our conditions.

Sign up below for emails, updates, and newsletters!
Producers stories
Read about soil health success stories in your area:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/solutions/soil-champs/poetry/
Watch producers share their success stories implementing conservation practices with the NRCS Conservation at Work Video Series:
https://www.farmers.gov/conserve/conservation-at-work
Read an organic farmer’s account of the benefits from investing in soil:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/way/portal/nrcs/detail/national/nrm/Tea/Tea43789
Watch videos from the Soil Health Theater, where you can see and hear from some of America’s top soil health experts and innovative soil health farmers:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/way/portal/nrcs/detail/national/nrm/Tea/Tea43789
Success Stories from Oregon – NRCS:

Additional resources for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, veterans, beginning, and small farmers
Historically Underserved Farmers & Ranchers:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/way/portal/nrcs/main/national/people/ctrcraphic/0/01
New and Small Farms – Oregon Department of Agriculture:
USDA Resources for producers:
New Farmers: https://newfarmers.usda.gov/new-farmers
Women in Ag: https://newfarmers.usda.gov/women-in-ag
Young Farmers: https://newfarmers.usda.gov/young-farmers
Veterans: https://newfarmers.usda.gov/veterans
Have you considered getting involved with local Farm to School and School Garden programs?
Oregon Farm to School and School Gardens:
https://www.oregon.gov/oda/agriculture/food/family/childnutrition/2021/Pages/Oregon-armtschoolandschoolGardenprogram.aspx
Selling to Schools: Tips for Oregon Farmers:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/18jZqPSrBoHeFwF9u0KQaZyszKv9r4/zmYj4F

Send us your stories via email! Tell us about your successes and challenges with soil health practices in writing, with pictures, or video!
Email Rachel Nash at rachel.burnett@county.umo.com

Sign up below for emails, updates, and newsletters!
Field Day

Here are a few stories from experts in agriculture and soil health. Watch to learn more and improve your practices and to get to know your soil.

- "To go or not to go on a field trip? and other lessons from the field." by UNCG
  
  [Link](https://www.ncsu.edu/wms/extension/soilwater/fieldday/)

- "A tale of two soils:" by Oregon State University
  
  [Link](https://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/plantsandsoils/a-tale-of-two-soils/)

- "Soil Health: A farmer's perspective." by The Nature Conservancy
  
  [Link](https://www.natureconservancy.org/content/en/products/soil-health)

Get to know your soil:

- NCSU Unified Textile Test: Determine soil texture class with this flow chart.
  
  [Link](https://www.nmsu.edu/extension/soilwater/soiltest/)

- NCSU Soil Test: Choose from several or less technical definitions of soil and from the basics of soil science.
  
  [Link](https://www.ncsu.edu/wms/extension/soilwater/soiltest/)

- NCSU Soil Survey: Access soil data and create maps by selecting your geographic area of interest online.
  
  [Link](https://soils.sare.agron.msu.edu/Index.aspx)

- Last Potential Knowledge System (LPKN): A mobile phone application, complete with towers and learning modules, to help you identify soil and basic issues, manage practices that lead to healthier, productive land, and track your progress.
  
  [Link](https://lpkn.msu.edu/)

Where to get soil tested:

- NCSU Soil Testing Laboratory

- NCSU Soil Water Testing Laboratory

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Soil Health Events

Find links to upcoming soil health conferences, webinars, trainings, etc. below!

**October**
Pacific and Mountain West Nutrient Cycling, Soil Health and Food Safety Conference [Free, Virtual]
October 17-19, 2020
Who should participate: University Extension, Agronomists, Consultants, Agriculture Professionals, Crop Advisors, Conservation Districts, County Extension, Farmers, Growers and Producers, NRCS, Environmental and Tribal Organizations, Municipal Water and Irrigation Districts, Regulatory and Policy Staff, Research and Academic Personnel and more!
https://extension.une.edu/amwrench/

**November**
Pacific Northwest Inland Pasture Calendar Webinar Series [Free, Virtual]
November 3-9, 2020
Who should participate: This is a “Train the Trainer” Virtual Workshop for Extension Service, NRCS, FSA, Conservation Districts, Fish and Game, Dept of Agriculture, and crop and livestock consultants in Eastern Oregon, Eastern Washington, and Idaho.
https://www.orsotihe.com/pnw-inland-pasture-calendar-training-tickets-

**December**
67th Annual Heetminton, Oregon Farm Fair [See Sponsorship Levels]
(December 26-2007), [Online, Virtual]
December 3-4, 2020
Who should participate: This event is provided mainly for farmers and ranchers, with OCS and pesticide credits available.
https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/heet/farm-fair

Sign up below for emails, updates, and newsletters!
Partners:

NRCS, DEQ, OSU, ODA, CTUIR, Morrow SWCD, Gilliam SWCD, ODFW, EPA, OWRD

Thank you!