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*Upper Willamette*

## Resource Conservation & Development

### RC&D AREA NEWSLETTER

-- Volume XIII, No. 1 - October 1983

226 Hickory Avenue N.W.  
Albany, OR 97321

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT...

We are sorry to lose James Ashley as our Vice-President. Unfortunately, the doctor told James to reduce his outside activities. We pray that with less stress his health will improve. The Executive Committee will select a replacement for his position in the very near future.

Our thanks to Tom Kerr for his leadership over the past years. Tom, we look forward to hearing your ideas and seeing your enthusiasm continue.

The Upper Willamette RC&D Sponsors are getting several projects in for consideration. These are then evaluated by the SCS staff and will be presented to the Council for review.

I have been in contact with Bob Packwood in relation to priorities of projects, and his reply included a letter from Joseph Haas, Deputy of Natural Resource projects. I quote: "Our personal objectives will be to control erosion, reduce upstream flood damage, and conserve water." These will be our priority conservation projects, but let's not forget other Associated Measures -- things we can do to improve the quality of life in our communities.

We are sponsoring this issue of the RC&D newsletter and sending it to all the RC&D's in Oregon. I would like to suggest the 4 RC&D's issue a statewide newsletter on a semi-annual basis (October-April) with each Council submitting items. Let us make a decision on this at the OACD in November. See you there.

#### Executive Board:

Mel Rigdon

Bob Wick

Vernon Schrock

President

Vice-president

Secretary

Treasurer

#### UPPER WILLAMETTE RC&D CHANGES

Many changes have occurred with the office and staff of the RC&D Area. Dave Anderson, coordinator, now serves as RC&D coordinator for three RC&D Areas in western Oregon-- Upper Willamette, Mid-Willamette and North Coast. To better serve the three areas, the RC&D staff was moved to the Soil Conservation Service Area Office, 226 Hickory Ave. N. W., Albany, OR 97321 effective September 19.

Jeane Hutcheson, long-time secretary for the Upper Willamette RC&D Area resigned rather than commute from Springfield. Jeane was with the RC&D Program since 1967. She has seen the 10 full-time employees in 1967 sag to the present state of one person for three RC&D Areas. Her expertise and knowledge of the Program will not be lost entirely because she has hinted that after an overdue vacation in October, she may be available for volunteer work such as typing and taking meeting minutes.

#### RC&D TRAINING SESSION!!

On October 25, 26, 27 a RC&D Training Session for Soil Conservation Service employees will be presented in Salem (address later). RC&D Council members, SWCD directors, agency representatives and others are invited to attend.

On the afternoon of October 27 emphasis will be placed on those items of special interest to Council members and SWCD directors. It will begin with a luncheon meeting with Jack Kanalz to discuss and answer any questions on the RC&D Program in Oregon.

#### M E E T I N G

UPPER WILLAMETTE COUNCIL MEETING IS ON OCTOBER 20 at Tangent. It will be from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon at the Soil Conservation office, 33935 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.

## RC&D'S IN OREGON

The RC&D Program began in Oregon in 1965 with the formation of the Upper Willamette RC&D Area. Columbia-Blue Mountain was authorized in 1971, North Coast in 1974 and Mid-Willamette Valley in 1975.

Many people have asked just what has the Program accomplished. Since 1965 when the Upper Willamette RC&D Area was authorized for funding, 29 funded projects and 380 Associated Measures have been completed. To complete these projects \$6.5 million of RC&D funds and \$110 million of other federal, local government and local monies were expended.

The funded projects include a wide variety of beneficial purposes including flood prevention, drainage, installation and improvement of irrigation systems, critical area treatment and public water-based recreation facilities.

The RC&D Areas have sponsored workshops on various related subjects, proposed and supported numerous activities beneficial to community development and published over thirty booklets. Small communities have been provided resource data for their use in land use planning, assistance for soil surveys and soils information.

RC&D progress cannot be measured in dollars alone. The flooding problems relieved, improved irrigation systems, recreational opportunities provided, and increased economic activity form the true basis on which to evaluate program benefits.

### NORTH COAST RC&D AREA

Clatsop and Tillamook counties compose the North Coast RC&D Area. It is sponsored by Clatsop and Tillamook county governments, the Clatsop and Tillamook Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the Tillamook Peoples Utility District, the Clatsop-Tillamook Intergovernmental Council and the Ports of Astoria and Tillamook.

It is located in the extreme northwestern portion of Oregon. There are 2,464 miles of streams and rivers, 8 bays and estuaries and 97 miles of Pacific Ocean shoreline. Ninety percent of the 1,303,040 acres in the RC&D Area is forest land and 50% of the area is publicly owned. The RC&D Project was authorized for program assistance on September 19, 1972.

Geo. Smith of Netarts is the Council chairman. Project planning activity underway centers on an animal waste pollutant control project in Tillamook County and critical area treatment on county roadsides in Clatsop County.

### MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY RC&D AREA

The Mid-Willamette valley RC&D Area consists of the three counties in the heart of the Willamette Valley--Marion, Polk and Yamhill. It was conceived in 1971 and authorized to receive RC&D Program assistance on December 12, 1975. The project covers 1,677,440 acres of which 1,251,930 acres are in private ownership. Fifty-six percent of the area is forest and woodland and 36% is cropland.

Myron Harper of Brooks is chairman of the RC&D Council. Project activity presently is centered around critical area treatment projects in all three counties. Other projects under study include flood prevention projects in Polk and Marion counties.

### COLUMBIA-BLUE MOUNTAIN RC&D AREA

The five counties area of Gilliam, Grant, Morrow, Umatilla and Wheeler counties, located in north-central Oregon, comprise the Columbia-Blue Mountain RC&D Area.

Of its 8,147,200 acres, 1,516,964 is cropland; 2,621,394 acres are in forest which is nearly all grazed. Thirty-three percent of the forest land is privately owned; 3,790,921 acres is rangeland with 64.3% privately owned. Its major land uses include forestry, irrigated and dryland agriculture, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat and recreation.

Woody Starrett, Hermiston, is RC&D Council chairman. Project activity being planned include critical area treatment and improvement to a community irrigation system.

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### RC&D Councils

The various Councils need to keep abreast of the Program, meet regularly and lend support by contacting legislators and others when necessary. RC&D Councils need to prepare and maintain a three-year Plan outlining their goals and objectives. The Plan should include both financially assisted and Associated projects listed by priority and by years at the SWCD (local) level and concurred in by the respective RC&D Council.

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## R E C E N T L Y . . .

June 15 representatives from the three RC&D Areas in western Oregon met with Jack Kanalz, SCS State Conservationist and Bill Evans, Asst. State Conservationist to review the RC&D Program in Oregon. The following summarizes the comments made in the meeting and how the Soil Conservation Service will continue to assist the RC&D Areas and what are the responsibilities of the RC&D Councils:

### Soil Conservation Service

SCS has assigned Dick Verboort, a design engineer on the State Engineering Staff for several years, as project specialist to assist Bill Evans in expediting RC&D project plans after they have been developed by field and Area office staffs. There will be one Coordinator to assist the 3 RC&D Areas in western Oregon. The SCS Area Conservationist in Area 1 and his staff will be responsible for reviewing project plans before they are submitted to the State office.

At the present time, the projects that will be financially assisted are those identified by the Resource Conservation Act (RCA) process as the high three priorities:

- Critical Area Treatment (erosion control)
- Upstream Flood Prevention
- Water Conservation

MONTEITH PARK, a Willamette riverfront park in downtown Albany was completed this fall. RC&D funds assisted the city of Albany to develop a beautiful park with bike paths, picnic facilities, boat moorage and viewing platforms.

Projects being studied for possible RC&D funding include flood prevention in the city of Waldport, dike repair on the North Fork of the Siuslaw River, flood prevention in Harrisburg and Sweet Home and critical area treatment along the Marys River.

### LINN SOILS INFORMATION

The Linn SCS field office has just received 5 booklets -- Interpretations, Interpretations Defined, Farmland/Woodland, Engineering and Series Description and Classification developed from the Linn County Soil Survey manuscript.

This accelerated service was possible because of the RC&D secretarial assistance which was utilized in the Eugene field of-

fice to help Lane County residents with soils information. The Lane County Soil Survey manuscript was the "pilot project" for this new approach on soils information. It was so well received that Jeane was asked by Bill Forrest, District Conservationist, to work with him and Russ Langridge, soil scientist, to provide this kind of information to Linn County.

### WESTERN ASSN. OF RC&D AREAS

The annual convention of the Western Association of RC&D Areas will be in Tucson, Arizona at the Ramada Inn on January 11-13, 1984. Mary Secombe, pres. of the Association, will no doubt have a lively agenda if last year's meeting at Coeur D'Alene is an example.

### RC&D FUNDING OUTLOOK

On June 8, the House of Representatives passed the Agriculture Appropriations Act for 1984 (HR 3223). It restores many of the cuts proposed by the Administration and keeps most programs at F.Y. 83 levels. The House bill is recommending 26 million for RC&D with specific language included in the Bill to prohibit phase out of the Program.

Soil Conservation supporters across the country need to continue to keep their Congressmen informed to improve priorities for soil and water conservation programs. Recently, the president of the National Association of Conservation Districts, "Bud" Mekelburg stated "Priorities for soil and water conservation programs in

the Federal Government have been far too low for many years, while other types of spending - often spending that contributes little or nothing to national productivity - were rising steadily. Federal support for soil and water conservation efforts was holding steady or declining.

### Oregon's Congressional Delegation:

Honorable Mark Hatfield  
United States Senate  
463 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Honorable Robert W. Packwood  
United States Senate  
141 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Honorable Les AuCoin  
United States Representative  
2446 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Honorable Dennis A. Smith  
United States Representative  
1207 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Representative  
330 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Honorable James Weaver  
United States Representative  
1226 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

#### NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

The USDA Soil Conservation Service has made a commitment to refocus and redirect its programs as part of a National Program for Soil and Water Conservation. Emphasis will be placed on reducing excessive soil erosion, which impairs agricultural productivity, conserving water used in agriculture, and reducing flood damages in upstream watersheds.

First priority for use of RC&D resources will be for technical assistance. The allocation of RC&D funds to meet staffing needs - RC&D Coordinators and other support staff - will be given priority consideration.

Financial assistance for RC&D cost-shared projects will be directed primarily to those projects that (a) control erosion and sediment which adversely affect com-

munity facilities, (b) prevent flooding in rural communities, and (c) conserve water where inefficient use endangers future water supplies necessary for community development.

First priority for financial assistance will be for critical area treatment to control erosion and sediment.

The Soil Conservation Service will continue to provide technical assistance to sponsors on recreation projects where warranted by local priorities to meet identified rural development needs. However, after Sept. 30, 1983, SCS will no longer authorize project plans for cost-sharing recreational developments and facilities.

#### WOODLAND COMMITTEE

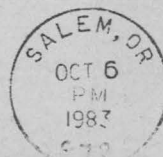
Doug Cruickshank, service forester with the Oregon Department of Forestry, who assisted the RC&D Woodland Committee as the RC&D forester since 1967 is retiring in December. We wish Doug good luck in his retirement and remind him to keep his hooks sharp as he pursues the steelhead.

Bob Brown, service forester at Veneta, has assumed the RC&D forestry position.

We want to thank Bob Hohenhaus, former chairman, and Leverett Curtis, who just resigned, for helping the RC&D Council by serving as chairmen of the Woodland Committee. President Mel Rigdon is looking for a replacement and would appreciate suggestions from the RC&D Sponsors.



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