



Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

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Learning and Sharing
October 2025

Let me know if you want to be ADDED or TAKEN OFF this email list! Ellen Hammond, ellen.hammond@jeffswcd.org.

October 2-3

Resilient Pasture and Forage Symposium Salem Convention Center

The premier grazing and pasture event in the Western US! The event starts October 2nd with hands-on farm tours and an evening networking reception. October 3rd will be packed with Keynotes and breakout sessions, a producer panel and poster presentations, and inspiring stories and practical tools. Doug Avery, author of *The Resilient Farmer*, will be the keynote speaker. Co-hosted by the Oregon Forage & Grassland Council and OSU Extension. Get all the details and register now at: www.oregonforage.org/symposium.

October 28, noon

Jefferson SWCD Board Meeting Madras Airport

Learn what the SWCD is doing for you. Contact [Kate Haarberg](mailto:kate.haarberg@jeffswcd.org) for an agenda and to RSVP for lunch! Agendas and approved minutes are posted on our [website](http://www.jeffswcd.org) as soon as available.

December 13, 9am-2pm

Free Pesticide Collection Event Deschutes County Expo Center, 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond

For more information or to register: www.oregon.gov/oda/pesticides/water/Pages/pesticide-stewardship.aspx

Wildfire Recovery

Cram Fire? Flat Fire? Alder Creek Fire? The SWCD has seed to revegetate fire lines. We will seek funding for additional seed for late November seeding and are purchasing a spin seeder(s) for ATV/side-by-side/pickup to loan out. Call (541) 771-8258 or [email](mailto:ellen@jeffswcd.org) Ellen ASAP to tell us your needs. For fencing and forage losses, please contact the USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) at 541-923-4358 x2.

Also, the SWCD is working with NRCS to identify priority projects and locations for fire recovery. This will help guide our recovery support efforts, especially for seeding and control of invasive annual grasses.

Lateral 43 Farm Modernization Planning

In partnership with COAREC and NUID, we will provide irrigation water management plans and inventory your needs to maximize use of pressurized delivery water. Remember, this is Technical Assistance funding, not implementation funding. We will use the results to seek funding for implementation. If you live in the Lateral 43 delivery area, be prepared for Ellen to contact you to determine how you want to participate!



More on next page!

Status of Funding for Specific Projects

HB 5006 “Christmas Tree Bill” – Juniper Removal for Watershed Health – We will receive \$715,000 for juniper removal in areas where treatment will provide the greatest benefit to water resources and ecological health. This will be done at times and with methods that will reduce the risk of re-propagation after removal. We are finalizing the application and ranking process and will provide full details in a separate announcement in early October.



****NEW PROPOSAL** Culver Community Solar Array:** the SWCD is partnering with Limitless Solutions, a local firm specializing in innovative solar projects, on a proposal to build a Community Solar Array on non-irrigated land near Culver. If funded, this project will provide discounted electricity to ~600 households served by Pacific Power, with the highest priority being the Culver area. Additional benefits include a study conducted by OSU on creating habitat for pollinators. And this will be the first phase of developing ways to integrate solar and agriculture in Jefferson County.

We will find out in January if this \$6 million project is approved.

Soil Health Grants

Restore Grants provide funding to implement farm practices that build healthy soil and sequester carbon.

Farmers and Ranchers are eligible to receive up to \$25,000 for cover cropping, compost, and other regenerative practices. Applications close at midnight PST on October 8th, with award decisions to be sent by mid-November.

Read the [grant guidelines](#) to determine eligibility. The project requires a Technical Service provider; the SWCD can serve in that role. Learn more and apply at: <https://www.zerofoodprint.org/apply>.

Oregon Water Resources Department Tour

Over 50 people attended the tour on September 11 for the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and their commission. One hour was not enough (!), but we did our best to explain the challenges and work being done to deal with water scarcity. The tour helped the Commission and OWRD staff better understand the situation in NUID and apparently helped the Commission approve funding for the pilot water bank program that was submitted by the Deschutes Resource Conservancy. Many thanks to Ken Stout (COSI), Rob Galyen (S&L Farms), Byan Boyle (North Plains Seeds Co), Scotty Samsel (retired farmer), and Josh Bailey (NUID) for answering questions.



Middle Deschutes Watershed Council

The Council recently met with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to review the Upper Willow Creek Habitat Enhancement grant proposal. It was submitted to OWEB last fall but not funded due to other higher-priority proposals. We’re optimistic about securing funding this cycle! This project focuses on planning and designing the restoration of over two miles of Upper Willow Creek, giving redband trout and beaver a habitat boost. It also aims to reconnect the creek with its floodplain to help water flow more naturally. Potential methods include beaver dam analogs, large wood placement, culvert upgrades, and riparian plantings. We’ll also bring in some experts to help us design the best approach.