



Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

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Learning and Sharing
April 2025

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

Landowner Workshops on topics you care about!



Soil Health (March 11): what participants asked for and we are working on!

- Recommendations on what to plant in fallowed ground
- How to bring a field out of multiple years of fallow
- Recommendations for spring-seeded crops
- Determine the monetary value of cover cropping
- How to keep water in the soil
- Do a field tour with lunch at COAREC; probably in June
- Conduct field trials with willing landowners



Weed Control (March 13): what you can expect in the future!

- More 1-on-1 on-site visits to discuss weeds and their control
- More info on common weeds found in cropping systems
- Biocontrol agents for puncture vine and other noxious weeds
- More info on surfactants
- How to use livestock to help control weeds

April = cancelled; next one is May 20

Jefferson SWCD Board Meeting
Madras Airport

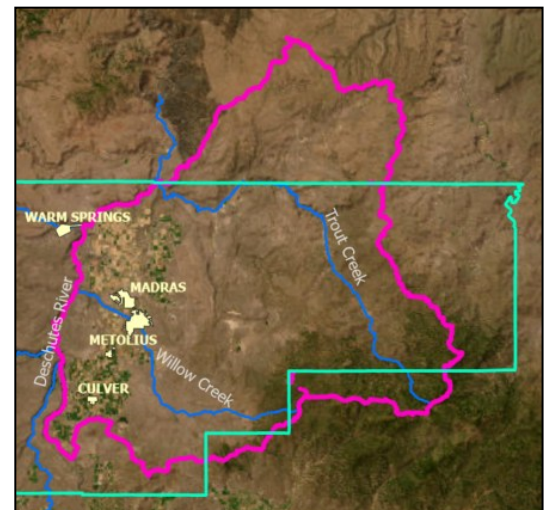
Learn about what the SWCD is doing for you. Contact [Kate Haarberg](mailto:Kate.Haarberg@jeffswcd.org) for an agenda and to RSVP for lunch! Agendas and approved minutes are posted on our [website](http://www.jeffswcd.org) when available.

Deadlines throughout the year, next deadline June 2025

💰: Small Grants

Do you farm or ranch within the pink boundary on the map? If so, you may be eligible for up to \$14,000 for projects that enhance watershed health and habitat for fish and wildlife. You provide 25% match in cash, labor and/or equipment. Recent projects included riparian plantings, juniper removal, upland seeding, and irrigation efficiency. These funds are available relatively quickly with minimal paperwork for you. If interested, contact Ally at coordinator@middledeschuteswc.org.

New eligibility requirements for irrigation runoff and efficiency projects will be completely unrealistic for us after June 30, 2025. If you want help with an irrigation project, contact [Ellen Hammond](mailto:Ellen.Hammond@jeffswcd.org) ASAP!



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May 28, postponed from April 2 near Brothers

Drone demonstration and workshop geared towards natural resource managers

Join ODFW and industry partners for an in-depth workshop on the use of drone technology in natural resource and agricultural management. Discover how advanced unmanned aerial systems (UAS) can enhance seeding efforts, manage invasive species, and improve land stewardship with high-precision techniques—especially in rugged or sensitive environments where traditional methods fall short. This workshop will be led by Mike Davis, PhD, a renowned expert and professor specializing in UAS technology, who will provide valuable insights into the latest innovations and practical applications of drones in the field. During this workshop you will get the opportunity to see Mike and his crew operate his “fleet” of drones and demonstrate multi-spectral analysis, surveying (photogrammetry), thermal, seeding and spraying application and techniques. Discussion of natural resource management and how these methods can be used in your area.



Registration is limited! Contact [Jessica Wilkes](#) for more info.

SWCD Grant Proposals

43 Lateral Farm Conservation Planning

In March, the SWCD submitted a request for \$100,000 to assist farmers in the 43 Lateral with conservation plans to take advantage of pressurized water and with Weed Management Plans. We should find out by July if we will receive the funds.

OAHF Conservation Management Plan

Oregon has a brand new program ([Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program](#)) to develop Conservation Management Plans and pay for practices that contribute to carbon sequestration, including cover cropping, reduced tillage, prescribed burning, windbreaks, streamside vegetation improvements, range plantings, wildlife habitat management, and a bunch of others. The purpose of the OAHF is to increase the economic viability of Oregon’s ag operations, enhance natural resources, and reduce conversion and fragmentation of Oregon’s working land. This program is so new that only one Plan in the state has been submitted and approved. I was approached by an operator for a plan for 900 acres (500 contiguous irrigated acres plus rangeland) that I think is really competitive. If the SWCD is successful with this proposal (due April 1), we will be poised to evaluate additional requests.

Middle Deschutes Pesticide Stewardship Partnership

We are committed to protecting water quality and supporting agricultural sustainability through collaborative, science-based pesticide monitoring and management. By working with producers, industry, state agencies, and local stakeholders, we aim to reduce or eliminate pesticides in surface waters while maintaining effective pest control. We rely on water quality monitoring to identify concerns and show measurable improvements. Through education, innovation, and adaptive management, we promote responsible pesticide use that safeguards both environmental and community health.

The SWCD is submitting a funding request for continued pesticide monitoring in local agricultural drains to identify areas of concern and show reductions in pesticide concentrations over time. We are also requesting funding for 1-on-1 site visits and technical assistance to landowners, starting in the Campbell Creek and Rattlesnake Drains, because that is where we are seeing high concentrations. Some of the Linuron concentrations are quite high, so we hope to also fine-tune some of our monitoring to better understand how it is getting into our drains. Stay tuned.



NUID is hiring an Assistant General Manager!

Gary Calhoun is retiring. Yikes! For job description, etc.: <https://www.owrc.org/resources/job-opportunities/>