

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021

Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District

Mission Statement

“To provide leadership, education, motivation and assistance to the citizens of Deschutes County for responsible, efficient stewardship of our soil and water resources.”

Board meetings are open to the public and held on the third Thursday of each month from
9 AM – 12 PM.

The meetings were held virtually via Zoom due to COVID-19.

See the website for locations and dates for meetings.

<https://www.deschuteswcd.org/board-meetings>



DESCHUTES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

In 1939, the Oregon Legislature passed legislation to establish conservation districts in Oregon. Conservation Districts are charged with directing programs to protect local renewable natural resources in their county. The Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District was established on June 23, 1947, under the name “Midstate SCD”, which then was changed to the Deschutes SWCD on September 9, 1987.

Deschutes SWCD is a political subdivisions of state government that is not a state agency, but a municipal corporation that follow the same laws that govern state agencies. The Deschutes SWCD is not a regulatory and enforcement agency nor is it an environmental activist group. We are an organization that collaborates with farmers, ranchers, forest owners, and other partners to sustain and improve our natural resources in Deschutes County through voluntary conservation. The Deschutes SWCD board members serve four-year terms and are elected in general elections every two years.

Deschutes SWCD provides onsite free technical assistance to private landowners and land managers to address natural resource concerns on their property. Resource concerns most common to Deschutes County are water quantity, water quality, forest health, invasive weeds, and fish and wildlife habitat. The Deschutes 2019 – 2024 Long Range Plan identifies natural resource needs in the county and objectives to address them. To obtain a copy of the 2019 – 2024 Long Range Plan, click [HERE](#).

Board of Directors:

William Kuhn, Co-Chair
Jeff Rola, Director
Leslie Clark, Treasurer
Susan Altman, Secretary
Andrew Aasen, Director
Robin Vora, Director
Gen Hubert, Co-Chair

STAFF

Erin Kilcullen: District Manager
Todd Peplin: Lead Planner
Tom Bennett: Conservation Technician

Technical Advisors:

Theresa Debardeleben: Oregon Department of Water Quality - Watershed Specialist
Lars Santana: Natural Resource Conservation Service, District Conservationist

Partners:

Deschutes County
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)
USDA Forest Service (USFS)
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council (UDWC)
Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC)
Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service
Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Project Wildfire
Upper Deschutes River Communities
Deschutes Land Trust (DLT)
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD)
National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD)
Irrigation Districts (Swalley, Central Oregon, Arnold, Three Sisters, and Tumalo)

Funding Sources 2020 – 2021

- ODA Capacity Grant
 - Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout the state receive these funds every biennium.
 - Perform education and outreach to the public regarding the Agricultural Water Quality Standards set by the Oregon statute.
 - Provide technical assistance to private landowners who are interested in implementing restoration projects that relate to water quality.
- Small Grants
 - DSWCD and the UDWC manage the small grant program and receive these funds every biennium.
 - Each Small grant is capped at \$15,000.
 - DSWCD completed one small Grant that addressed water quantity/quality and irrigation efficiency.
- NACD TA
 - Awarded July 2020
 - Provide technical assistance to partners and landowners regarding Irrigation Water Management.
- NRCS TA
 - Completed April 2021
 - Provide technical assistance to NRCS and private landowners regarding forest health improvement projects and the Joint Chiefs Project.
- OWRD Lundy Ditch Irrigation Efficiency Feasibility Study
 - Completed June 2021

- Examine the feasibility of converting a private open lateral to pipe and improve irrigation water efficiency and management for landowners.
- OWRD Tower Ditch Sleeving Feasibility Study
 - Completed November 2020
 - Examine the feasibility of lining a segment of the private lateral pipeline with pipe and improve water efficiency and management for landowners.
- ODA Strategic Implementation Area – Indian Ford Creek
 - Completed July 2020
 - Worked with 4 landowners along Indian Ford Creek to restore their land through manure management, fencing for cattle exclusion, improve water quality and quantity, and riparian plantings.
- NACD Urban and Community Agriculture
 - Awarded March 2021
 - DSWCD partnered with The Environmental Center to develop and present a Soil Health Workshop for local school gardens.
- COVID Cares Act
 - Deschutes SWCD applied for this funding to support the operations of the District during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020 – 2021 Programs and Accomplishments

Irrigation Water Management:

Are You Ready for The Irrigation Season??

Come Join us!
For a FREE Webinar
via ZOOM
April 8th, 5:30PM—8:30PM
 Hosted by:
Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID) and
Deschutes SWCD

Learn about the upcoming water season, maintenance tips to ready your irrigation system, Incentives available to landowners, and Knowledge to improve your irrigation and grazing management skills.

Three Sisters Irrigation District

Thompson Pump & Irrigation Inc. | Trade Ally of Energy Trust of Oregon | WYEAST | CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. | Oregon State University

IWM Workshop

On April 8, 2021, Deschutes SWCD partnered with Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID), Thompson Pump, Energy Trust of Oregon, WyEast RC & D, Central Electric Cooperative, and OSU extension to host an IWM workshop for TSID patrons. This postcard was mailed to all 189 patrons. 11 irrigators attended the workshop.

Pivot Workshop

On May 13, 2021 Deschutes SWCD partnered with OSU extension on a Deschutes County Irrigation Field Day. The District mailed this postcard to 167 landowners who could benefit to upgrade pivots to LEPA/LESA systems. 30 people, including partners and landowners attended the in-person field tour. The water quality section of the webpage was updated, and these workshops were advertised through social media and the website.



Come Join Us!
Deschutes County
Irrigation Field Day
May 13, 2021

- ✓ Learn about the latest technology to improve irrigation water management, productivity and reduce energy cost.
- ✓ See how Low Elevation Sprinkler Application (LESA) and Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) systems can improve your operation.
- ✓ Discover incentives available to reduce energy costs and save water.
- ✓ Meet the new OSU Extension Irrigation and Soil Water Quality Specialists!

Bolton Piping Project – Small Grant

This grant added a new water control structure and added 980 ft of pipe to an open ditch that serviced two private properties. This project was completed in the fall of 2020.



Before: Turnout from COID main canal. Broken headgate promoted sediment build up overflowing irrigation water to neighboring field and threatening well heads.



After: New headgate and concrete weir box structure (background).



After: Close up of concrete box structure with safety lid.



Before: Existing turnout to private landowner property. Wooden boards were used to divert water to property.



After: Concrete diversion Box installed with slide gate to control water to property.



After: Diversion box showing outlet and slide gate (left) to property.



During Construction: Existing ditch was cleaned and set on grade. 10 inch PVC gasketed pipe was installed with 36 inch of soil cover over the pipe. Area was seeded to native seed.



Before: 820 ft of ditch and pond was decommissioned.



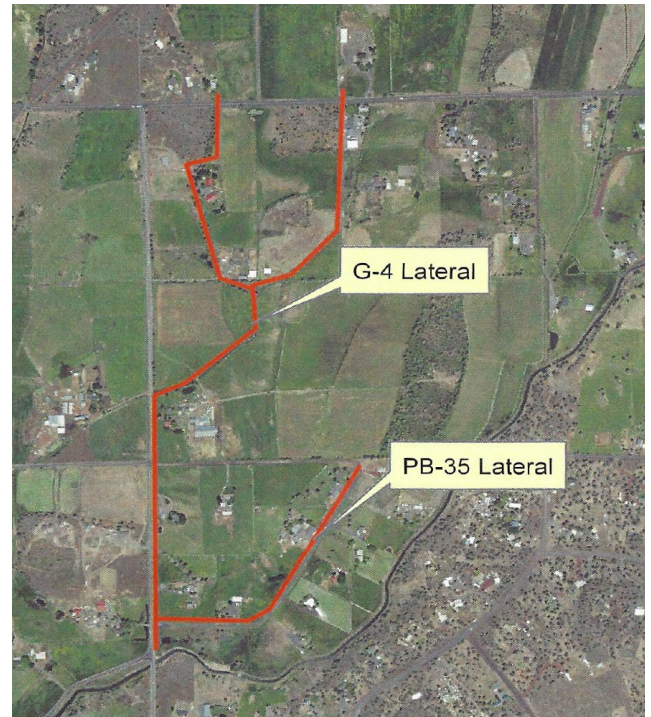
After: New pond and liner was constructed to eliminate flood irrigation.



After: Completed Irrigation pond.

G-4 Lateral

This project is a collaboration with DSWCD, COID, and NRCS. A feasibility study was completed through a grant that DSWCD obtained and during 2020-2021 DSWCD assisted NRCS with 4 landowners on the G-4 lateral. Two of these landowners have completed flood to sprinkler conversion projects on their properties. DSWCD coordinated with NRCS and COID on the implementation of the pipeline and on-farm efficiency improvements.



Feasibility Studies

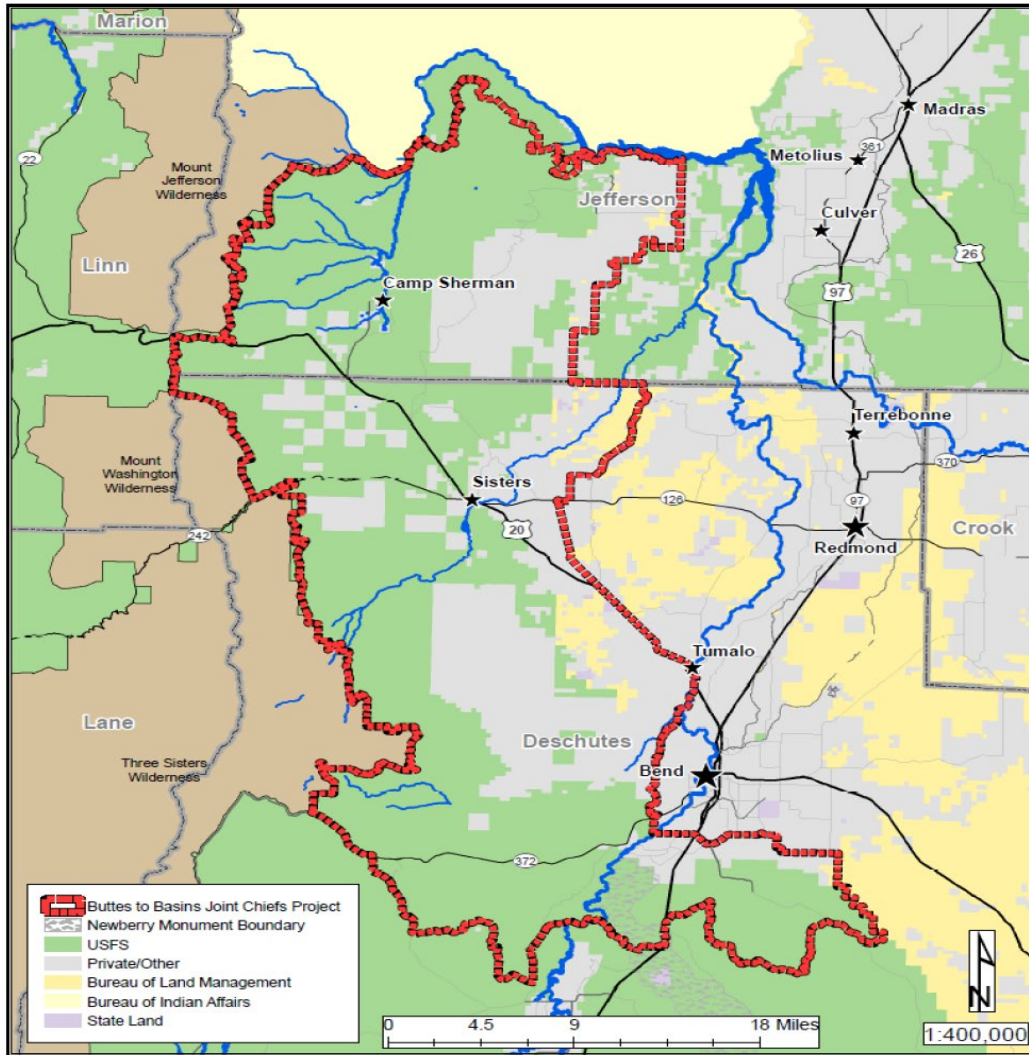
Lundy Ditch – Arnold Irrigation District – 8 landowners

This study was completed in June 2021 and found a 74% loss in the ditch. It was successful in examining alternatives and improvements to an antiquated irrigation delivery system. The process was driven by landowners and their engagement in the planning and design process. This resulted in a final engineering design that can be used to seek funding for implementation.

Tower Ditch – Swalley Irrigation District

This study was completed in November 2020. It was successful in collaborating with partners and contractors to design alternatives for landowners. Additional funding sources need to be sought after to implement the sleeving of the pipeline.

Forest Health



Buttes to Basins Joint Chiefs Project

DSWCD assisted NRCS in an initial outreach effort to large, forested landowners within this project boundary to sign up for financial assistance to perform forest health improvement projects. Staff also provided technical assistance to 4 landowners to determine practices to be completed on their property and assistance in navigating the sign-up process for the NRCS contracts.

Riparian Restoration - Indian Ford Creek

Deschutes SWCD completed the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) grant that worked with 4 landowners along Indian Ford Creek. Work was focused on private land near the confluence of Whychus and Indian Ford Creek. On one property, animal facilities and sheds have been removed along Whychus creek, along with manure piles that threaten contaminating the waterways. Other landowners placed cattle exclusion fencing along the creek, completed hundreds of riparian plantings, two rock dam removals, and weed treatments. This project will improve wildlife habitat, forage for livestock, riparian health, water temperature, water quality and quantity, and prevent further sedimentation to Whychus Creek. Below are before and after pictures of these projects. The District will continue to monitor these projects for the next 5 years.

March 2017



June 29, 2020



March 2017



June 30, 2020



Urban Agriculture

The District received an Urban and Community grant through the NACD. DSWCD partnered with The Environmental Center and Bend Pollinator Pathways on this grant. The grant was awarded in March 2021 and staff has begun to work on the outline of this opportunity.

Technical Assistance for Landowners:

For the fiscal year of 2020-2021 there were 64 landowners that received one on one assistance from the Deschutes SWCD. This resulted in the development of 11 conservation plans that addressed water quality and quantity issues along with management of their properties forage, animals, wildlife needs, and forest health. Technical Assistance and Conservation plans addressed the following NRCS practices:

- 449 – Irrigation Water Management
- 442 – Irrigation Sprinkler System
- 528 – Prescribe Grazing
- 590 – Nutrient management
- 666 – Forest Stand Improvement
- 430 – Irrigation water Conveyance Pipeline
- 587 – Structure for Water Control

Success Stories

The Deschutes SWCD completed two Success stories for NRCS. One story focused on a landowner that benefited through the Joint Chiefs Initiative addressing forest health issues. The Deschutes SWCD provided technical assistance to forest landowners in southern Deschutes county to reduce fuels and increase wildlife habitat. Success story can be accessed at:

<https://nrcs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=18c02144b8094367b5f8d4726f5f098b>

The second landowner was in the Three Sisters Irrigation District. This landowner replaced the antiquated irrigation system and were able to take advantage of pressurized water. This success story can be found at:

<https://nrcs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=0583c724fd3f4e039580d779ccf07a98>

Annual Meeting June 2021

The District held their annual meeting on June 17, 2021. It included a field tour to three projects in the Sisters area. The first two site visits were to landowners that completed work through the SIA. The third site visit was to a landowner that was implementing a pipeline project. This is a project that the District is financially supplementing the cost of a pipeline from Whychus Creek to the landowner's pond. This project coincides with work being completed by TSID and UDWC. The field tour was followed by lunch in Sisters.



Partnerships:

Deschutes SWCD continues to improve relationships with partners through collaboration in coordinating efforts and planning projects through collaborated funding opportunities.

Partnerships continue to strengthen. Meetings have been held via Zoom or in an outdoor setting. Collaboration with Deschutes Land Trust, USFS, Deschutes Watershed Council, and Black Butte Ranch has amplified conservation efforts in Indian Ford Creek resulting in a Bureau of Reclamation grant award. Through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) the Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID) will provide financial support to the DSWCD to conduct IWM assistance to patrons benefiting from piping projects through the RCPP and PL-566. Discussion with Deschutes County Forester and Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) have been positive in developing a grant for the SB 762. A collaborative effort with USFS and NRCS is resulting in the Districts technical assistance for the Joint Chiefs Initiative.

Partnership among the 5 irrigation districts in Deschutes county continue to strengthen. The Deschutes SWCD regularly attends all irrigation district meeting. These partnerships are working to identify on-farm improvements with landowners that coincide with the irrigation districts modernization projects.

This not only provides awareness to the Deschutes SWCD on water quality and quantity issues but also provides an informational bridge to NRCS to find opportunities to strengthen their EQIP program. A collaborative effort with DRC and COID is resulting in possible financial support for the DSWCD to assist in a RCPP grant opportunity. This would entail collaborating with landowners in COID to assist with IWM for PL-566 projects that are occurring.

The District Board is expanding their partnership by finding ways to collaborate with County Commissioners on conservation activities in Deschutes County. The District attends and supports Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative meetings and committee meetings. A partnership with OSU

Extension has been valuable regarding the DSWCD IWM program. The DSWCD relies on OSU for consultation and peer review on technical materials and development of the program. The partnership with NRCS continues to strengthen with DSWCD providing outreach in promoting various Farm Bill programs. DSWCD presented at the NRCS Local Working Group meeting in February. Recently DSWCD is collaborating with NRCS, Deschutes Watershed Council, Deschutes River Conservancy, and Three Sisters Irrigation District on a project in Whychus Creek. This project is a stream restoration project where the DSWCD is involved with assisting the private landowner on irrigation improvements.

Employment:

DSWCD hired a new Conservation Technician, Tom Bennett. Tom started this new position on December 2, 2020. Tom is retired from a career with NRCS where he ended his time out of the Redmond office as the District Conservationist. Tom works part-time to provide technical assistance to landowners, and he works with NRCS, Irrigation Districts, and other partners on Irrigation Water Management. His focus during this fiscal year was to prioritize and rank private laterals and on-farm systems that need efficiency upgrades.

The District hired a Bookkeeper and Erin has been collaborating closely with her to get the Districts books in order and how to financially manage the District moving forward.

2020 – 2021 Financial Report

Reference 2020-2021 Report in lieu of Audit Form

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Deschutes Soil & Water Conservation District

06/01/22

Profit & Loss

Accrual Basis

July 2020 through June 2021

	Jul '20 - Jun 21
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
12000 · NACD Urban Ag	
12001 · Grant Income	24,000.00
Total 12000 · NACD Urban Ag	24,000.00
10000 · OWRD - BOLTON	
10001 · Grant Income	11,617.00
Total 10000 · OWRD - BOLTON	11,617.00
11000 · COVID CARES ACT	
11001 · Grant Income	15,500.00
Total 11000 · COVID CARES ACT	15,500.00
29000 · Other Sources of Income	
29001 · Workshop Income	398.00
Total 29000 · Other Sources of Income	398.00
3000 · ODA - DO	
3001 · Grant Income	18,728.15
Total 3000 · ODA - DO	18,728.15
4000 · ODA - SOW	
4001 · Grant Income	56,539.09
Total 4000 · ODA - SOW	56,539.09
5000 · OWRD - TOWER	
5001 · Grant Income	5,510.43
Total 5000 · OWRD - TOWER	5,510.43
6000 · OWRD - LUNDY	
6001 · OWRD - LUNDY	10,723.67
Total 6000 · OWRD - LUNDY	10,723.67
7000 · OWEB - SIA	
7001 · Grant Income	5,121.70
Total 7000 · OWEB - SIA	5,121.70
8000 · NACD - TA	
8001 · Grant Income	45,617.44
8000 · NACD - TA - Other	0.00
Total 8000 · NACD - TA	45,617.44
9000 · NRCS - TA	
9001 · Grant Income	27,924.19
Total 9000 · NRCS - TA	27,924.19
Total Income	221,679.67
Gross Profit	221,679.67
Expense	
10200 · OWRD - BOLTON Expenses	
10201 · Salary, Wages, & Benefits	214.62
10202 · Contracted Services	905.00
10203 · Materials & Supplies	9,729.82
10204 · Travel	70.15
Total 10200 · OWRD - BOLTON Expens...	10,919.59

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Accrual Basis

Deschutes Soil & Water Conservation District
Profit & Loss
 July 2020 through June 2021

	Jul '20 - Jun 21
11200 · COVID CARES ACT Expense	
11201 · Salary, Wages & Benefits	11,257.17
11202 · Education	189.00
11203 · Internet & Telephone	1,042.58
11204 · Dues & Subscriptions	149.90
11205 · Office	2,610.95
11206 · Rents	250.40
Total 11200 · COVID CARES ACT Expe...	15,500.00
12200 · NACD Urban Ag Expenses	
12201 · Salary, Wages, Benefits	1,420.53
12202 · Contracted Services	465.00
Total 12200 · NACD Urban Ag Expenses	1,885.53
3200 · ODA - DO Expenses	
3201 · Salary, Wages & Benefits	49,954.15
3202 · Contracted Services	5,021.42
3203 · Travel	1,258.08
3204 · Materials & Supplies	1,699.38
3205 · Admin	1,253.18
3200 · ODA - DO Expenses - Other	1,912.79
Total 3200 · ODA - DO Expenses	61,099.00
4200 · ODA - SOW Expenses	
4201 · Salary, Wages & Benefits	10,609.04
4203 · Travel	146.20
Total 4200 · ODA - SOW Expenses	10,755.24
5200 · OWRD-TOWER Expenses	
5201 · Salary, Wages & Benefits	173.78
5202 · Contracted Services	2,945.00
5203 · Travel	49.45
Total 5200 · OWRD-TOWER Expenses	3,168.23
6200 · OWRD - LUNDY Expenses	
6201 · Salary, Wages & Benefits	906.44
6202 · Contracted Services	8,152.50
6203 · Travel	86.68
Total 6200 · OWRD - LUNDY Expenses	9,145.62
62800 · GRANT EXPENSE - ODA	
Travel / Mileage	265.44
Total 62800 · GRANT EXPENSE - ODA	265.44
66000 · PERSONNEL	
Payroll Expense	
Insurance Stipend	3,106.35
Payroll	0.00
Payroll Taxes	0.00
Total Payroll Expense	3,106.35
Total 66000 · PERSONNEL	3,106.35
7200 · OWEB - SIA Expenses	
7201 · Salary, Wages & Benefits	2,206.31
7202 · Contracted Services	685.00
7203 · Travel	31.63
Total 7200 · OWEB - SIA Expenses	2,922.94

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Accrual Basis

Deschutes Soil & Water Conservation District
Profit & Loss
July 2020 through June 2021

	Jul '20 - Jun 21
8200 · NACD - TA Expenses	
8201 · Salaries, Wages & Benefits	28,612.71
8203 · Travel	1,030.96
8204 · Admin	1,175.51
Total 8200 · NACD - TA Expenses	30,819.18
9200 · NRCS - TA Expenses	
9201 · Salary, Wages & Benefits	27,236.95
9202 · Travel	746.55
9204 · Grant/ Admin/ Indirect	2,797.67
9200 · NRCS - TA Expenses - Other	1,465.12
Total 9200 · NRCS - TA Expenses	32,246.29
Total Expense	181,833.41
Net Ordinary Income	39,846.26
Net Income	39,846.26