

Achieving Union SWCD Values with Restoration Projects

Mission

The Mission of the Union Soil and Water Conservation District is to assist and educate interested landowners in the development, protection, and conservation of natural resources.

Values

- Wise use of natural resources to balance production with conservation.
- Local people making local decisions to achieve conservation.
- Voluntary initiatives over regulatory mandates.
- Efficient and effective use of public resources.
- Projects are partnerships in which everyone contributes, everyone benefits.

Union SWCD Values	Project Component	Project Conservation Elements
Wise use of natural resources to balance production with conservation.	1) Water Management	Restoration of channel and floodplain morphology will reconnect surface and shallow groundwater, resulting in natural storage and release of water. Irrigation water management will increase efficient water use and reduce water withdrawal and diversion. Instream flow is increased and standing water is reduced.
	2) Soil Management	Improve soil conditions by increasing soil organic matter, reducing bare ground, reducing compaction, and increasing infiltration and permeability. Increase retention of sediment transported by the stream after restoration. Manage vegetation, water, and grazing in a manner to support soil improvements.
	3) Riparian Management	Plant native riparian grass, shrub, and tree species and remove noxious weed species and introduced vegetation. Establish a robust native riparian plant community to stabilize soils and streambanks.
	4) Pasture Management	Manage upland vegetation and livestock grazing to protect and improve conditions for healthy upland plant communities. Promote healthy upland vegetation for forage production.

Local people making local decisions to achieve conservation.	1) Restoration Project Planning and Design	Project goals and objectives are developed in partnership with the landowners, District, and local conservation partners. Project designs are developed by this same partnership.
	2) Property Management	The project outcome will be conservation of soil and water throughout the project reach. Future management is expected to be consistent with conservation goals.
Voluntary initiatives over regulatory mandates.	1) Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan (Senate Bill 1010)	The project is a voluntary action to improve floodplain and riparian conditions for meeting water quality standards as assessed by Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). The project goals will help to achieve and maintain stream temperature and sediment standards.
	2) Endangered Species Act	Individual landowners that voluntarily take actions to benefit sensitive or threatened species will decrease the chance of them being listed as endangered. Decision-making will remain at the local level and benefit all water users in the Grande Ronde River Sub-basin.
Efficient and effective use of public resources.	1) Water Use	Water use for irrigation can be reduced at the project site. Significant portions of the floodplains associated with stream channels will store water for late-season release, providing water for vegetation growth on-site and increased instream flow.
	2) Soil Retention	Sediment will be retained and build soils throughout the project reach. Conditions for vigorous and diverse riparian plant communities will be created and will stabilize floodplain soils and stream banks. The channel design will promote balanced sediment transport and allow diverse accumulation of fine sediments in appropriate areas.
	3) Public Funds	Project actions are designed to achieve multiple project goals in the most efficient and effective ways. Funds only available for fish and wildlife mitigation are used to leverage other funds that can be used to achieve additional goals.
Projects are partnerships in which everyone contributes, everyone benefits.	1) Project Partnership	Project goals and actions are led by the landowners and local conservation groups with input from the local community.
	2) Project Benefits	Project actions will contribute to conservation of water and soil and improve fish and wildlife habitat, while reducing the risk of regulatory actions, providing an economic uplift to the community, and reduce flood risk for downstream areas.