

# **Fort Rock/Silver Lake Soil & Water Conservation District**



**2021-2025 Business Plan**

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## DISTRICT INFORMATION

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### Directory

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#### **Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD**

PO Box 120

Paisley, OR 97636

Phone: 541-219-0641

<https://lakecountyswcd.com>

#### **Board of Directors**

Scott Duffner – Chair

Sonny Forman – Vice Chair

Chaylon Shuffield – Secretary/Treasure

Jeremiah Thorsted – Board Member

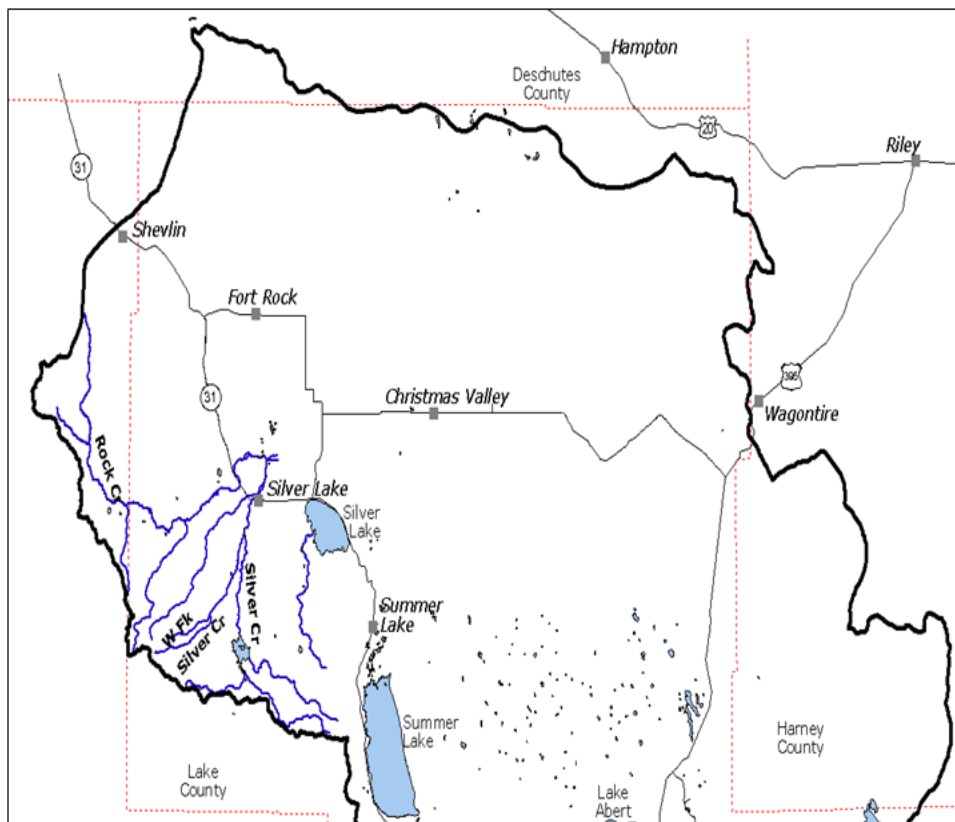
Conley Kittredge – Board Member

#### **Quarterly Meetings**

Board Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of March, June, September, and December in Summer Lake at 11a.m. at the Summer Lake Lodge. The public is invited.

### Territory

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This five-year Business Plan (2021-2025) serves as a guide for operational management for the Fort Rock/Silver Lake Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) services, activities, resources, staffing, new partner recruitment. It also serves as a basis for developing the annual work plan, budgets, and requests for support and funding to carry out its mission. The Business Plan also contains general information about the district and north Lake County.

This Business Plan provides a summary of the district's structure, identifies key natural resource issues and priorities, and provides an overview of the services, programs, and assistance available to customers. It is also used to provide information to county government, state funding agencies and various partners that currently support conservation programs in Lake County.

Direction for these conservation efforts comes through the SWCD, Lake County Local Working Group, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and landowners by identifying priority resource concerns. The major concerns addressed in the previous five-year plan included 1) soil fertility, 2) water retention, 3) erosion reduction, 4) weed control, and 5) improving waste areas.

For the next five years, the SWCD goals are to implement more erosion control, improve sage grouse habitat, improve water quantity and quality through irrigation efficiency, educational outreach, and post-fire restoration, address and improve any ag water quality concerns, develop off-site livestock water sources, improve or replace flood irrigation diversions and assist livestock producers with grazing management plans.

The SWCD encourages public participation in its meetings, activities, and business. The SWCD holds its regular quarterly board meetings, which are open to the public, on the second Wednesday of March, June, September, and December in Summer Lake at the Summer Lake Lodge beginning at 11am. You may contact the SWCD at the address above to be placed on the mailing list.

## MISSION, VALUES, AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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### Mission

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The mission of the Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD is to provide technical assistance to individuals, groups, and other agencies to manage and enhance our natural resources, environment and economy.

### Vision

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The Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD vision is to initiate and/or coordinate with local landowners and other agencies, through educational, technical, and financial assistance, providing for judicial conservation and enhancement of water and soils and encouraging sustainable agricultural practices benefiting healthy rural communities and abundant wildlife.

### Values (and/or Guiding Principles)

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As an entity that represents the local public, the Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD operates under the following standards, moral values, and guiding principles:

- Be accessible to the public for technical assistance and advice in planning conservation projects.

- Complete projects in a timely manner and benefit landowner objectives.
  - Be accountable in all endeavors.
  - Strive for accuracy and fiscal responsibility in all financial activities, recognizing that the majority of SWCD funding is public.
  - Comply with industry best practices.
  - Partner with other agencies and entities for expertise and financial resources.
  - Continue conservation efforts in Lake County as a part of our daily operation.
  - Educate local youth concerning Lake County resources, resource concerns, good stewardship, soil and water conservation and water quality/quantity issues.
  - Develop strong relationships with landowners.
  - Practice prompt, courteous and helpful customer service.
  - Promote staff leadership, training, and professionalism.
  - Employ a voluntary, collaborative, local, and non-regulatory approach to solving problems.
  - Respect property rights, confidentiality, and landowner decision, expertise, and experience.
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## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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The Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD works with agencies and individuals as partners in our efforts to achieve our vision. Various memorandums of agreement and/or understanding, working agreements, intergovernmental agreements, and informal arrangements formalize the partnerships. The agreements outline the responsibilities of each partner and identify the types of assistance, resources, and support each will provide to accomplish common conservation goals.

### *Public Participation*

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This Business Plan was prepared by the Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD board members, staff, Goose and Summer Lakes Area Plan & Rules and the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

### *Audience*

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This Plan is intended for north Lake County residents, Lake County government officials, funding sources, legislators, and partner agencies.

## **GEOGRAPHY AND AGRICULTURE**

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### *Topography*

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Lake County is settled in the heart of south-central region of Oregon, approximately 100 miles from Bend. It is 8,300 square miles or 5,350,352 acres with a population of 8,276. The economy in Lake County is primarily driven by farming, ranching and timber. Approximately 76% of land is managed by government agencies, namely the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Lake County is in a high desert region known as the Oregon Outback, on the northwestern edge of the Great Basin. North Lake County begins ten miles north of Paisley and includes Summer Lake, Silver Lake, Christmas Valley, and Fort Rock.

The county's economy consists largely of agriculture and natural resource management. It is home to several large cattle ranches, hay farms, and timber holdings (both public and private), as well as several frontier towns and early 20th-century homesteads. Although lumber was once a primary economic driver in Lake County, today only one mill remains in Lakeview. In the 1980's and early 1990's, four of the five lumber mills closed, wiping out more than 800 jobs.

## Land Use

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Early agriculture was based on use of meadows in the open valleys for livestock grazing. This continues to be one of the principal agricultural activities in the basin. Early settlers depended upon natural flooding of meadows to produce hay for winter forage.

In addition to the flood irrigation methods implemented by the settlers, today's farmers and ranchers also employ other forms of irrigation, like pivots, wheelines and handlines to make use of groundwater and irrigate crops efficiently.

Protecting property value takes planning. Homeowners and businesses alike need predictability in land use to make sound economic decisions. The Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD works to preserve and protect working resource lands throughout Lake County.

## STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

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### Enabling and Governing Legislation

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The Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD is one of 45 conservation districts in Oregon. Conservation districts are defined in Oregon law as political subdivisions of state government. The Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD is not a state agency. Rather it is classified as a municipal corporation, a form of local government, which is required to follow many of the same laws that govern state agencies and special districts. It is specifically governed by [ORS 568.210 to 568.890](#) and [ORS 568.900 to 568.933](#). See Appendix A for the specific powers and authorities granted to districts. Appendix B lists other statutes and administrative rules to which the Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD is subject.

The Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) that established and govern Oregon's SWCDs (except the federal tribal Tiicham Conservation District) was significantly revised by the 2009 Legislative Assembly under House Bill 2082. The origin of the House Bill was a collaborative effort among the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), member Conservation Districts, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). It was designed to address the evolving challenges and opportunities presented to today's SWCDs that were not envisioned when the Statute originated, and to eliminate antiquated provisions in the previous editions.

In addition to the general purpose of SWCDs under [ORS 568.225](#) in the previous editions, the following was added: "promote collaborative conservation efforts to protect and enhance healthy watershed functions, assist in the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency resources".

## History

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The Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD was established March 1953 to direct agricultural producers to technical assistance resources, such as the NRCS. Since 1953, NRCS and the Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD have partnered to plan and implement conservation practices on private lands in the basin.

The Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD boundaries are Klamath, Deschutes, Harney Counties, and the town of Paisley.

District directors are your neighbors; men and women from your business and professional communities and the farmers and ranchers who understand the ecological relationship of soil, water, plants, and animals.

The SWCD's major focus is the wise use of renewable natural resources through locally led voluntary conservation. Much of the district's work involves coordinating government assistance with local conservation needs and influencing the County's farmers, ranchers, and woodland owners to adopt proven resource management systems and conservation practices.

North Lake County brings to light a unique history of both the earth and its people. A diverse array of forest and desert geological features, recreational opportunities and history, associated with solitude, quietness, and wide-open spaces are found here.

The geology of the area tells its own story of time past where dramatic force created volcanic oddities like "Hole-in-the-Ground", "Crack-in-the Ground", and the "Devil's Garden". Fort Rock was formed by super-heated basalt magma roaring up through ground water as a boiling mud volcano, then cooling. Winter Ridge towers nearly 3,000 feet above Summer Lake, providing spectacular views.

Fossil Lake has fossil remains of ancient horses, camels, flamingos, fish, and birds (federal law prohibits collection of fossils without a permit). Lava flow from four craters lacks surface soil cover and vegetation and the freshness of lava indicating recent volcanic activity. All of these special interest sites weave a story that has intrigued visitors for centuries.

North Lake County has an unusual array of past geological forces, such as the 16,000 acres of sand dunes located about 18 miles NE of Christmas Valley. These dunes provide some of the best ATV riding in Central Oregon. The very unique and isolated 9,000 acre Lost Forest is adjacent to the dunes.

Fort Rock's Homestead Village Museum is a showcase of what life was like for early settlers. Also found here are stories of courageous men and women who fought the harsh natural elements such as drought, unseasonable frost, and pests.

North Lake County is an outstanding place to hunt, fish, camp, hike, and just enjoy the outdoors. Large numbers of mule deer and pronghorn antelope, ducks, and geese make for great hunting, along with bird and game watching. Hiking trails and campgrounds make life a little easier to enjoy than what the early people knew. Visitors today continue to experience the simplicity and sense of belonging that north Lake County provides.

## [Leadership](#)

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### [Directors](#)

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A board of five directors governs the district. Directors are elected by the electorate of Lake County at the November General Election, which is held during even-numbered years. Director positions are elected in staggered terms to provide continuity on the board and maintain consistent operations. The Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD Board may appoint a person to fill a board vacancy between elections for the duration of that position's term. Three of the five positions are classified as zone positions and must meet the zone requirements and terms of office as specified in [ORS 568.560](#) as follows:

*“Zone directors must own or manage 10 or more acres of land in the district, be involved in the active management of that property, reside within the boundaries of the district, and be a registered voter.”*

An individual may serve as a zone director in lieu of land ownership or management requirements if the individual resides within the zone that is represented, has served at least one year as a Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD Director or Associate Director and has a conservation plan approved by the Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD Board. The other two positions are at-large positions. To qualify for an at-large position, a person must reside in Lake County and be a registered voter. No land ownership or management requirements are needed for an at-large position, which is also governed by [ORS 568.560](#).

An individual director has power only when acting as a part of the Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD Board. Individual board members may be delegated authority or power to act on behalf of the Board in specific, limited tasks. This authority or power is granted through board action (resolution, motion, policy, etc.) and must be recorded in the meeting minutes.

The Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD Board works cooperatively as a unit to plan and oversee implementing the Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD programs. As a representative of the Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD Board, opinions expressed publicly by individual board members should be consistent with established board policy, not the individual's personal agenda or opinions.

[ORS 568.560](#) requires all SWCDs to select a Chair and Secretary from among its directors. The Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD may elect other officers as desired.

The Chair is granted the responsibility to represent Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD with other districts, agencies, associations, partners, organizations, legislators, and property owners consistent with the policies, plans, and interests of Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD. The chair will also conduct regular and special meetings of the Board.

A Vice-Chair has been given the authority to act as the Chair in case of the absence or unavailability of the Chair.

The Secretary/Treasurer is the custodian of all Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD records, minutes, contracts, and other official documents.

Committees are an effective way for Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD to plan and implement the SWCD functions. They can be comprised of board members, associate directors, and SWCD advisors, representatives of cooperating agencies and associations, or interested citizens. Currently the Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD does not have any standing committees.



The Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD does not have various ad hoc committees, which may be charged with specific tasks over a specific time period. Ad hoc committees are then disbanded after the assigned task and/or timeframe is completed.

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### *Associate Directors*

Associate Directors are non-voting members of the Board. They are appointed by the Directors to serve as advisors and representatives. Associate directorship offers a way to educate potential directors, broaden community input to the district, and expand district programs.

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### *Local Level*

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#### *Landowners, Producers, General Public*

The General Public utilizes the Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD as its primary point of contact for all district programs as well as those of the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service. Landowners and agricultural producers can avail of technical assistance with natural resource concerns and assistance in securing grant funding for an array of natural resource conservation projects.

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#### *Fort Rock/Silver Lake Soil and Water District*

The district assists the general public with conservation planning, technical and financial assistance, farm bill program opportunities, and answers to conservation-related questions.

The district does not aim toward power. We work to bring about the widespread understanding of the needs of soil and water conservation. In addition, we work to activate the efforts of public and private organizations and agencies into a united front to combat soil and water erosion and to enhance water quality/quantity in north Lake County.

One of the purposes of the SWCD is to instill in the minds of local people that it is their individual responsibility to do the job of soil and water conservation. SWCDs receive assistance from many sources, but with all this help; farmers, ranchers, communities, and other individuals, must exercise a voluntary initiative in applying a conservation program compatible with their own objectives.

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#### *Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area*

The district maintains a working relationship with the Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area (LCCWMA) to address issues of invasive plants and noxious weeds in Lake County.

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#### *Local Advisor Committee*

The Local Advisory Committee is made up of landowners, agricultural producers, and an environmental representative whose charge was to develop an Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan. The plan is used to meet the requirements of Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Management Act while placing the absolute minimum regulatory and economic burden on the landowner. The committee made it clear what part of the process is mandated by state law and the plan is based on voluntary compliance with a high degree of flexibility in how a landowner could approach the process. This voluntary program will achieve area plan goals, while maintaining a viable agriculture community.

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#### *Watershed Councils*

The Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council (LCUWC) is made up of local landowners who want to make improvements in our natural resources and economy. They support efforts in sustaining and enhancing all parts of the system within each watershed. The SWCD works with the LCUWC to provide technical assistance and monitoring on conservation projects.

#### State Level

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##### *Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)*

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The Oregon Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division provides administrative oversight, administrative and technical support funding, and direction of work focus to the SWCD. The SWCD submits quarterly reports of work progress; Annual Reports of accomplishments, Annual Work Plans and Financial Status Reports for review and approval.

##### *Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)*

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The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and other state agencies provide financial resources through grants for habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects.

##### *Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD)*

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The OACD provides technical and administrative support to the SWCDs. It is also the main conservation district advocacy organization with the Oregon State administration and legislature.

#### National Level

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##### *USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*

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The district maintains a Cooperative Working Agreement with the NRCS to provide assistance with conservation planning, and conservation practice implementation activities in north Lake County. The district also from time to time enters into Contribution Agreements with NRCS to produce complete conservation plans. The NRCS provides technical assistance to the district and directly to county landowners and producers.

##### *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*

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The SWCD collaborates with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on wildlife habitat and restoration projects by providing financial resources through grants. The SWCD is now collaborating with the USFWS on the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for sage grouse. The CCAA is a formal agreement between US Fish and Wildlife Service and one or more parties to voluntarily address the conservation needs of proposed or candidate species before they become listed as threatened or endangered. The Service provides assurances that it will not assert additional restrictions or require additional actions above those the property owner voluntarily committed to in the CCAA.

#### Revenue to the County Economy

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Cattle ranching, hay farming, and timber products are the major economic enterprises in Lake County. Irrigated grass hay, pasture, and alfalfa hay dominate the agronomic operations. From the beginning, the Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD has worked with state and federal government agencies

to help landowners restore and enhance wildlife and fish habitats, and tackled water quality and quantity issues by seeking grant funds.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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*Goal #1: Minimize water pollution from agricultural activities and soil erosion and achieve applicable water quality standards, where possible.*

### **Objectives:**

1. Improve Ag Water by improving Soil health and water retention.
2. Soil erosion reduction.
3. Juniper reduction on uplands to improve wildlife habitat, decrease soil erosion and improve perennial plant health. Juniper reduction is an essential part of the sage grouse habitat management on a regional scale through NRCS and a nation-wide initiative.
4. Stay informed and involved with emerging trends involved in soil retention farming and methods.
5. Complete site visits with landowners to discuss Ag water quality issues, riparian restoration, weed eradication, irrigation efficiency, pasture/manure management or cover crops.

*Goal #2: To improve Sage Grouse habitat and contribute to the economic sustainability of landowners and maintain the ranching culture and agricultural way of life in Lake County.*

### **Objectives:**

1. Enroll interested landowners in CCAA, if desired.
2. Work with landowners to promote good land stewardship.
3. Identify threats to sage grouse.
4. Describe specific conservation practices to be practiced that will be implemented on enrolled lands to maintain, rehabilitate, or enhance habitat for sage grouse.
5. Remove or reduce any unfavorable impacts to sage grouse.

*Goal #3: Increase awareness of agriculture's efforts to maintain and improve water quality.*

**Objectives:**

1. Provide educational and technical assistance to landowners.
2. Showcase successful projects in local newspaper and/or conduct tours of project sites.
3. Conduct educational programs to promote public awareness of water quality issues and their solutions.
4. Showcase and promote agricultural technology that increase irrigation efficiency to area farmers and ranchers.

*Goal #4: Focus on education, not regulation, to help assist producers be more efficient their operations.*

**Objectives:**

1. Inform landowners of the Area Plan and Rules.
2. Offer and provide site evaluations and management suggestions.
3. Outreach to schools through the Speech Contest, seed bookmarks and other avenues.
4. Provide financials support to groups like Ag in the Classroom, FFA, 4-H, Summer Agricultural Institute, etc.
5. The SWCD will partner with the Hay growers for their annual field day and meeting, demonstrating new farming ideas.

*Goal #5: Focus on post-fire restoration through erosion control, invasive species management, and native species rehabilitation.*

**Objectives:**

1. Seek funding to restore uplands impacted by wildfire.
2. Provide streambank stabilization and erosion control to improve water quality in burned areas.
3. Partner with landowners for invasive species management and native species rehabilitation in burned areas.
4. Seek opportunities to educate lawmakers and agencies on the severity of wildfire damage in Lake County and the impacts of those fires.

**NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERNS AND OUTCOMES**

A natural resource concern is a condition that does not meet agreed-to or established criteria for a quality, sustainable resource. The resource concerns described below are intended to give a picture of the natural resource problems in north Lake County and why they are important.

*North Lake County resource concerns:*

- Soil
- Water
- Invasive Plants

### Resource Concern #1 Soil Erosion

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**Soil Description:** Soil is a natural resource that is living and life-giving. It's important that we understand the basics and benefits of soil health. Improving the health of our soil is an important conservation responsibility. Erosion can be a problem on disturbed areas, especially cropland where annually tilled crops are produced. The northern part of the County (Summer Lake and Fort Rock sub-basins) is dominated by sandy textured soils subject to wind erosion during early spring and summer. Soil health management is essential in improving the health and function of our soil.

**Strategies:** Working with our producers providing technical and financial assistance and service to ensure they have success in production through Soil Best Management Practices.

**Intended outcomes:** Keeping our soil healthy and productive is vital to preventing soil erosion.

### Resource Concern #2 Water Quality and Quantity

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**Water Description:** Water is a precious resource in this semi-arid region of Oregon, thus water quantity and quality are major concerns. Most precipitation comes in the form of snow during the winter with rainfall in spring and early summer.

Watersheds and their sub-units need prioritization as focus areas to accomplish whole-watershed planning efforts to treat water quantity issues.

Many of the streams in Lake County have only seasonal flows. Quantity and quality of water are concerns on nearly all of these streams and rivers. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has a number of water courses on their 303d list for exceeding water quality standards. Lack of stream-bank vegetation, both herbaceous and woody species, has a detrimental effect on water quality.

Irrigated agriculture in Oregon contributes significantly to the Lake County economy, food supply, jobs, the landscape, and to local communities with a tax base critical to the Lake County budget.

Many agricultural fields serve as a sanctuary for migratory birds. Well-managed agricultural lands support a variety of wildlife, providing food, shelter, and habitat. Irrigation can multiply these benefits, further contributing to soil conservation, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, scenic vistas, watershed protection, flood control, and groundwater recharge.

Priority water-bird areas are essential habitat in spring for migratory waterfowl and wading birds. Concerns have been raised in the past, and must continue to be addressed in the future, when contemplating irrigation system conversions from surface to sprinkler. These priority areas are generally on heavy textured soils that are more conducive to flood irrigation.

Off-Stream Solar livestock watering systems provide a reliable source of water for livestock and wildlife, while also improving rangeland and streamside health.

Water erosion can be a problem on forested soils at higher elevations that receive increased amounts of precipitation, usually caused by melting snow. Stream bank erosion is a concern on most perennial and seasonal streams in the county where spring flow causes severe down cutting of the channel and ice flows scour the banks in the deeper alluvial soils.

**Trends:** Irrigation water is needed for all crop production in Lake County. Sources of irrigation water are groundwater or streams and reservoirs. Surface irrigation water is largely dependent on winter snowpack for direct stream withdrawals or reservoir storage. Irrigation districts include the Summer Lake and Silver Lake Irrigation Districts.

**Strategies:** Increase the use of proper irrigation water management (IWM) and improve stream side vegetation.

**Intended outcomes:** Improve riparian conditions, support fish screening, protect and restore in-stream habitat and habitat access for fish and wildlife.

### Resource Concern #3 Invasive Plants

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#### **Invasive Plant Description:**

Invasive species and noxious weeds are a major concern on private and public lands. The Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area (LCCWMA) encompasses the entire county and scouting continues to identify noxious weed infestations. Partnering with the LCCWMA to control weed infestation has been and is a high priority in planning efforts.

**Trends:** annual grasses and western juniper continue to invade rangelands and decrease forage production and quality.

**Strategies:** Invasive species and noxious weeds are a major concern for private landowners and public land managers. The Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area (LCCWMA) encompasses the entire county and scouting continues to identify noxious weed infestations. Partnering with the LCCWMA for clients will be a high priority in future planning efforts.

Annual grasses and western juniper and the decrease in forage production and quality are of great concern. NRCS has addressed the issue to a minor extent in the past, but continued efforts need to be made to prevent the increased expansion of this species that will make rangeland unproductive. Poor rangeland health and pasture condition affects plant production and vigor. Implementing proper grazing and nutrient management are essential to increase plant productivity.

Biologists and land managers laid a framework to manage bird populations and habitat to warrant not listing the sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act. The SWCD has successfully developed a Sage Grouse Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for Lake County. Landowners who enroll receive assurances that they can continue ranch and land management practices in the event that sage grouse is listed, provided they implement agreed upon conservation measures that will reduce threats and benefit sage grouse.

**Intended outcomes:** Continuation of eradicating annual grasses and western juniper, the expectation is to increase forage production and quality and health and pasture conditions on rangeland with the help of implementing proper grazing and nutrient management.

Giving landowners the opportunity to enroll in the CCAA also reduces threats and benefits sage grouse habitat improvement.

## **DISTRICT CAPACITY, NEEDS, AND STRATEGIES**

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### *Capacity*

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#### *Staff*

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The current staff consists of one full time employees as follows:

The District Manager position is responsible for watershed planning and project management on private, agricultural and forestlands, covering all of Lake County.

The district works with various contractors to provide fiscal and office administration, as well as grant writing and implementation support.

#### *Board of Directors*

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The Board of Directors consists of five members elected countywide by voters. The Board works on a volunteer basis to set policy, plan goals, and enact a yearly budget for the district. Individual directors initiate and manage specific resource conservation projects through their involvement in watershed councils and non-profit organizations.

#### *Volunteers*

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Volunteers occasionally help with specific events for the district but are not a large resource for accomplishing objectives.

#### *Partnerships*

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The district relies on partnerships with other local agencies and non-profit institutions to further its natural resource conservation goals. They include:

- Lake County Umbrella Watershed Councils (LCUWC)
- Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area (LCCWMA)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

#### *Funding*

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The district office receives its funding from the following sources

- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Grant In-direct Cost Funding
- Equipment Rentals

Specific natural resource conservation projects are funded through grants from

- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Ducks Unlimited (DU)
- FRSL District Grant
- Other Grants



## APPENDIX A: General Powers of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors

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[ORS 568.550\(1\)](#). The board of directors of a soil and water conservation district has the following powers: [Letters correspond to actual statute format.]

- a. To secure surveys and investigations and do research relating to:
  - The character of soil erosion
  - The character of floodwater and sediment damage
  - All phases of the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water
  - The preventive measures, control measures and improvements needed
- b. To conduct demonstrational projects on lands within the district upon obtaining the consent of the owner and occupier of such lands.
- c. To carry out preventive and control measures on lands within the district upon obtaining the consent of the owner and occupier of such lands.
- d. To enter into written agreements (see specifics in [568.330\[\(d\)\]\[A\]&\[\(B\)\]](#))
- e. To obtain options upon and to acquire by purchase, exchange, lease, gift, grant, bequest or devise any property, real or personal or rights therein, (see specifics in [568.330\[e\]](#))
- f. To borrow money and to mortgage personal property of the district as security (see specifics in [ORS 568.330\[f\]](#))
- g. To issue general obligation bonds of the district as provided in [ORS 568.803](#)
- h. To make available, on such terms as the directors shall prescribe, to landowners or occupiers within the district, agricultural and engineering machinery and equipment, fertilizer, seeds and seedlings and other material or equipment.
- i. To construct, operate and maintain such structures as may be necessary or convenient for performance of any of the operations authorized in [ORS 568.210](#) to [568.880](#) and [568.900](#) to [ORS 568.933](#).
- j. To develop comprehensive plans and specifications for the conservation of soil resources and for the continued control of soil erosion within the district, and to publish such plans, specifications and information and bring them to the attention of owners and occupiers of the lands within the district.
- k. To take over, by purchase, lease or otherwise, and to administer, any soil conservation, erosion control or erosion prevention project, or combination thereof, located within district boundaries undertaken by the United States or any of its agencies, or by this state or any of its agencies.
- l. To manage, as agent of the United States or any of its agencies, or of this state or any of its agencies, any soil conservation, erosion control or erosion prevention project, or combination thereof, within district boundaries.
- m. To act as agent for the United States or any of its agencies, in connection with the acquisition, construction, operation or administration of any soil conservation, erosion control or erosion control project, or combination thereof, within district boundaries.
- n. To accept donations, gifts and contributions in money, services, materials, or otherwise from the United States or any of its agencies, or from this state or any of its agencies, and to use or expend such moneys, services, materials or other contributions in carrying on its operations.
- o. To sue and be sued in the name of the district, to have a seal, which shall be judicially noticed, to have perpetual succession unless terminated as provided by law, to make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of its

- powers, and to make, and from time to time amend or repeal, rules not consistent with [ORS 568.210 to 568.808](#) and [568.900 to 568.933](#) to carry into effect its purposes and powers.
- p. To purchase liability or indemnity insurance, in such amounts and containing such terms and conditions as the board believes necessary for the protection of directors, officers and employees of the district against claims incurred in the performance of their duties.
  - q. To place liens on real and personal property.
  - r. To enter into written agreements with, coordinate activities with and provide assistance to landowners, managers and residents within the districts and federal, state and local governments, relating to natural resource issues, including but not limited to issues of:  
Agriculture and forestry
    - Economic development based upon natural resources
    - Watershed management and ecosystem health
    - Invasive species
    - Alternate and renewable energy
    - Air Quality
    - Animal waste and nutrient management
    - Carbon sequestration
    - Access to market-based services and certification
    - Fuel reduction and wildfire planning and management
    - Preservation of agricultural, forestry and other lands
  - s. To conduct outreach and conservation education activities.
  - t. To provide financial assistance, including but not limited to loans and grants to implement activities and projects authorized under [ORS 271.715 to 271.795](#), [569.210 to 568.808](#) or [568.900 to 568.933](#).
  - u. To hold patents, trademarks and copyrights.
  - v. To hold conservation easements under [ORS 271.715 to 271.795](#).

[ORS 568.550\(2\)](#). As a condition to the extending of any benefits under [ORS 568.210 to 568.808](#) or [568.900 to 568.933](#) to lands or the performance of work upon lands, the directors may require contributions in money, services, materials or otherwise to any operations conferring such benefits, and may require landowners or occupiers to enter into and perform such agreements or covenants as to the permanent use of such lands as will tend to prevent or control erosion thereon.

[ORS 568.550\(3\)](#). In order to avoid duplication of activities under subsection (1)(a) of this section, the department may call upon other state and federal agencies for assistance and cooperation in their fields in accordance with memoranda of understanding to be signed by all cooperating agencies.

[ORS 568.550\(4\)](#). A district may not adopt land use regulations under [ORS chapter 197, 215 or 227](#). A district has the standing of an affected landowner to participate in the public process involving administrative rules, regulations, goals, guidelines, plans or other public body actions that may affect one or more properties within the district.

## Appendix B: Statutes and Administrative Rules

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The Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD is specifically governed by Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 568.210 through 568.890 as follows:

- ORS 568.900 through 568.933 (Agricultural Water Quality Management)
- ORS 561.395 (Soil and Water Conservation Commission)
- ORS 561.400 (Natural Resources Division)
- ORS 44.320 (Oath of Office)
- Oregon Constitution, Article XV, Section 3 (Oath of Office)
- ORS 190.003 through 190.110 (Intergovernmental Cooperation)
- ORS 192.001 (Public Records Policy)
- ORS 192.005 through 192.190 (Custody and Maintenance Records)
- ORS 192.310 (Records and Reports)
- ORS 192.410 (Inspection of Public Records)
- ORS 192.610 through 192.710 (Public Meetings)
- ORS 198.010 through 198.955 (Special Districts)
- ORS 198.330 through 198.365 (Dissolution of Inactive Districts)
- ORS 198.410 through 198.440 (Recall)
- ORS 240.379 through 240.394 (Employment of Persons with Severe Disabilities)
- Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Equal Opportunity Employment/Sexual Harassment/Discrimination) (Federal)
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Hiring Persons with Disabilities) (Federal)
- ORS 244.010 through 244.4000 (Conflict of Interest)
- ORS 247.035 (Residency)
- ORS 294.305 through 294.565 (Local Budget) (required of districts with a tax levy)
- ORS 297.005 through 297.712 (Contracting)
- ORS 297.405 through 297.485 (Municipal Audits)
- ORS 542.750 (watershed Protection and Flood Prevention)
- ORS 659.010 through 659.990 (Employment Practices)
- ORS 659.405 (State Policy/Employment of Disabled Persons)
- OAR 839-07-550 through 839-07-656 (Sexual Harassment Prevention)

## Appendix C: Acronyms

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<b>AWQMP</b>	Agriculture Water Quality Management Program
<b>BLM</b>	Bureau of Land Management
<b>BMP</b>	Best Management Practices
<b>CWMA</b>	Cooperative Weed Management Area
<b>EQIP</b>	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
<b>LAC</b>	Local Advisory Committee
<b>LMA</b>	Local Management Agency (Oregon SB1010)
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>NACD</b>	National Association of Conservation Districts
<b>NRCS</b>	Natural Resources Conservation Service
<b>OACD</b>	Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
<b>OAR</b>	Oregon Administrative Rule
<b>OCEAN</b>	Oregon Conservation Employees Association Network
<b>ODA</b>	Oregon Department of Agriculture
<b>ORS</b>	Oregon Revised Statute
<b>OWEB</b>	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
<b>SDAO</b>	Special Districts Association of Oregon
<b>SB1010</b>	Agricultural Water Quality Management Act of 1993 (OR)
<b>SWCC</b>	Soil and Water Conservation Commission
<b>SWCD</b>	Soil and Water Conservation District
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture

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