



Fort Rock/Silver Lake Soil and Water Conservation District

PO Box 120 – Paisley, OR 97636 - Phone (541) 219-0641

2023-2024 Annual Report

Background

The Fort Rock Soil & Water Conservation District has been serving Lake County for over 70 years. The mission of the district is to provide technical assistance to individuals, groups and other agencies to manage and enhance our natural resources, environment and economy with a vision 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.

The purpose of this Annual Report is to highlight the district programs, accomplishments, and financial report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Governance

The Lakeview SWCD is governed by a five-member board of directors who serve without pay. Board members are elected and serve a four-year term. Directors include Chair Scott Duffner, Vice Chair Sonny Forman, Secretary/Treasurer Chaylon Shuffield, Jeremiah Thorsted and Conley Kittredge.

Staff

Justin Ferrell serves as the District Manager. His duties include working with board members on district operations and policies, managing employees, writing grants and project management. He works directly with landowners, government agencies and other partner organizations to enhance natural resources, provide technical assistance to landowners and promote the Ag Water Quality Management program.

The district contracts with Tanya Graham for fiscal administration, Tess Baker for office administration and Fara Brummer for additional grant writing, implementation and monitoring support.

Conservation Programs, Projects and Grant Funding

Board of directors and staff believe that supporting landowners with conservation technical assistance and education is a high priority. The staff supports NRCS with their conservation EQIP programs. These programs are geared to implement projects that protect water quality, improve forestry stands and establish riparian buffers.

Staff provided technical assistance and onsite visits to landowners on water quality/quantity, soil erosion, juniper thinning, sage-grouse habitat and riparian conditions.

The district staff completed monitoring on previous projects and assisted with conservation planning and implementation.

The district is working with Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to promote the use of LEPA/LESA irrigation technologies within the Fort Rock critical groundwater area as a Focus Area. LEPA/LESA is an emerging irrigation technology which allows for lower pressure and flow rates to irrigate crops. This in turn leads to reduce energy and water needs. Staff continues to implement restoration work on the Brattain wildfire scar.

Staff is working with a group of irrigators to assist with monitoring of irrigation water use. This data is being gathered to help find opportunities for efficiency upgrades.

Educational Outreach

Historically the district worked with local schools to administer the NACD Speech Contest. The is no longer held through the NACD, so the board voted to host their own region-specific contest. The speech contest was held in May for seventh and eighth graders at North Lake School. The topic for the speakers was to “ways to improve, maintain and/or conserve soil health”.

Financial Report

Fort Rock-Silver Lake 2023-2024 Financial Report							
	23-Jul	2023-2024	2023-2024	2023-2024	2023-2024	2023-2024	24-Jun
Account	Carryover	2023-2024	Acct Receivable			Acc Payable	Ending Cash
Description	Cash Balance	Revenues	Assets	Transfers	Expenses	Liabilities	Balance
Checking	112,012.44	922,475.59	0.00	0.00	(1,042,098.65)	68,577.66	60,967.04
Money Market	12,167.62	100,246.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	112,414.44
Totals	124,180.06	1,022,722.41	0.00	0.00	(1,042,098.65)	68,577.66	173,381.48