



Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District

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2025-2026 Annual Report

Background

The Lakeview Soil & Water Conservation District has been serving Lake County for over 75 years. Our mission is to provide technical assistance to individual landowners, groups, and other agencies for the purpose of managing and enhancing our natural resources, environment, and economy, with a vision to conserve and develop Lake County's soil, water and related resources for the economic and environmental benefit of the people.

The purpose of this Annual Report is to highlight the district programs, accomplishments, and financial report for the 2025-2026 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 Warner, Vice Chair Clark Maxwell, Secretary/Treasurer Mary Schadler, Phil Shullanberger, and Tom Flynn.

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.

Brandi St. Clair serves as the District Wildlife Biologist. She provides technical and programmatic assistance for the district. Her main duties include implementing Site-Specific Plans developed for the Lake County Greater Sage-Grouse Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances program (CCAA), water quality monitoring, rangeland health monitoring, project development, grant writing, project management, collaborating and partnering with landowners, government agencies and various partner organizations, as well as manage other tasks related to technical field work.

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

Conservation Programs, Projects and Grant Funding

The Board of Directors and staff believe that supporting landowners with conservation technical assistance and education is a high priority. The staff dedicates significant time towards various conservation projects, as well as advocacy for landowners and natural resource interests in the area.

Projects included replacing the “JJ” irrigation diversion on Honey Creek which incorporated fish passage. Fish passage will be the second phase. Staff has finalized the design with landowners to rebuild the remaining four irrigation diversions on Honey Creek; this effort will include fish passage and screening. Implementation of the remaining diversions is scheduled to take place in late 2026.

Our District Wildlife Biologist has continued to work extensively on CCAA execution while coordinating and partnering with Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area (LCCWMA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council (LCUWC), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of State Lands (DSL), United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), and others to implement the program. Staff continues to execute an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Sage Grouse Focused Investment Project (FIP) Technical Assistance (TA) grant to support staff in implementing, monitoring, and reporting the conservation actions and achievements within the CCAA program. This project also includes identifying and developing projects within the district such as juniper removal, invasive annual grass treatments, spring developments/off-site water, mesic area improvements, improved grazing management practices, and fencing to improve sage grouse habitat, rangeland conditions and water quality and availability to the watershed.

As a result of implementing our Sage Grouse FIP TA grant and the Sage Grouse CCAA program, the District Wildlife Biologist has secured multiple OWEB Restoration grants under the FIP to treat 5,455 acres of encroaching juniper, implement herbicide treatment on 2,475.5 acres of invasive annual grasses, develop 5 springs for off-site water/spring protection, construct 5.7 miles of cross fencing, 4.1 miles of fence marking to reduce risk of sage grouse mortality, and improve grazing practices and operations on ~27,700 acres in the North Warners and Clover Flat areas.

The previously funded Upper Chewaucan Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) work provided the basis for developing the South Creek priority area for restoration as well as the MOU between partner agencies for a United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) funded planning and design effort in the Upper Chewaucan watershed.

Since the start of the South Creek priority area focus, five springs have been developed providing off channel water, one mile of creek has been electric fenced, thirty low tech, process based restoration structures (beaver dam analogs and post assisted log structures) have been implemented in channel, and thinning of congested forest land on 250 acres has occurred. In total, 45 acres of riparian area is being restored.

Fish passage is also a priority within the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA). Funding has been secured for the removal of an old weir and refitting of a partial fish barrier, which will restore fish habitat on 18 miles of South Creek in the future. Both the weir removal and the culvert replacement will occur in the summer of 2026. All permits have been secured, and contractors have been assigned to the two projects.

Educational Outreach

The district hosted a speech contest for seventh graders in the region. It was held on April 16 at the Lakeview High School Library and included finalists from Paisley, Union, and Lakeview. The topic was “ways to incorporate technology in Lake County agriculture and habitat conservation projects.” First place was awarded to Nora Simms (Lakeview), second place to Cade Muller (Lakeview), and third place to Clayton Crawford (Union).

Financial Report

Lakeview 2025-2026 Financial Report

	25-Jul	2025-2026	2025-2026	2025-2026	2025-2026	2025-2026	26-Jun
Account	Carryover		Acct Receivable			Acct Payable	Ending Cash
Description	Cash Balance	Revenues	Assets	Transfers	Expenses	Liabilities	Balance
Checking	94,329.83	1,147,305.88	122,182.53	506,881.94	(1,724,052.11)	22,298.77	168,946.84
Money Market	274,818.32	1,134.42	0.00	(28,608.04)	0.00	0.00	247,344.70
Grants	10,000.00	814,280.76	0.00	(578,273.90)	0.00	0.00	246,006.86
CD Purchase	0.00	1,338.07	(101,338.07)	100,000	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	379,148.15	1,964,059.13	20,844.46	0.00	(1,724,052.11)	22,298.77	662,298.40