

# **Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District**



## **2025-2026**

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## 2025-2026 Annual Work Plan

*The mission of the Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District "To provide technical assistance to individuals, groups, and other agencies for the purpose of managing and enhancing our natural resources, environment, and economy". The objectives listed below will be used to accomplish the mission of this District.*

### **Objective #1 Maintain Sound and Stable District Operations**

**For the public:** To conduct district business fairly, openly and respectfully in a non-discriminatory manner and within adopted plans, objectives, policies and legal guidelines. The staff will provide technical assistance and information resources to the public and partners, secure adequate, stable funding for district operations, maintain accountability, develop and maintain cooperative partnerships, and build capacity.

**For the district:** The employees and contractors of the district will:

- Maintain consistent and reliable correspondence with employees, board members, partners, and the general public.
- Track district income and expenses according to generally accepted accounting principles.
- Complete payroll and payroll taxes.
- Track and reconcile grant funds, as well as report on these funds, as required by funders.
- Prepare quarterly agendas, minutes, and financial reports for board members to review and attend quarterly meetings.
- Take on additional duties upon direction of the board.
- Prepare and present the Annual Work Plan, Scope of Work, and Budgets to the board for review, revision, and adoption.
- Maintain and update all district policies, as well as present them to the board for adoption.
- Staff will prepare for and conduct the annual financial review or audit in a timely manner and work with auditors providing requested documents.
- Staff and/or board members will strive to attend the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) annual meeting, as well as trainings in natural resource disciplines concerning water quality/quantity and conservation issues.
- Staff will coordinate the annual meeting and any board and staff member trainings that are needed.
- Establish and maintain formal Memorandums of Understanding and Cooperative Agreements to clarify all financial and working relationships with other groups and agencies.

### **Objective #2 Promote Conservation of Natural Resources, Watershed Health and Water Quality/Quantity on Agricultural Lands**

**In General:**



Staff will write and monitor grants for interested landowners that re-establish and protect Lake County resource concerns and watershed health, provide technical assistance to landowners and grant applicants related to agricultural water quality/quantity and soil issues, assist in the permitting application process when needed, provide construction inspection, and follow-up for operation and maintenance in the application process and the grant writing process.

Staff will work with the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council (LCUWC) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to identify producer needs and concerns and assist with tasks related to natural resource conservation and water quality.

Staff will make contact with landowners and provide technical assistance relating to riparian restoration, weed eradication, irrigation efficiency, pasture management, manure management, cover crops, assist with conservation planning implementation, and work with ODA on compliance visits when needed.

The Wildlife Biologist will continue to work with the Sage-Grouse conservation efforts. The biologist will continue to work with landowners, signing them up for the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) program and creating site specific plans that will restore and/or enhancement their habitat.

Staff will provide communication to and advocacy support for landowners and habitats in Lake County that are impacted by proposed or existing legislation and/or media attention.

Staff and contractors will participate in local, regional, and state natural resource boards, collaboratives, and partnerships to represent landowners and their interests.

Staff will attend water, soil, ecological, and conservation trainings.

District Manager will participate as a board member on the OACD board.

### **Specific Projects:**

#### **Active Projects**

Staff will continue work on a variety of projects throughout the district and assist NRCS with inventory on upland watershed projects. The following projects are active in the district:

The modernization of the Honey Creek infrastructure is ongoing, as work on the lower four irrigation diversions continues. This is an OWEB funded grant that involves three family ranches. The purpose of the project is to modernize irrigation structures to incorporate fish passage and screening.

The district continues to work extensively in the Warner Basin with multiple projects. The JJ Diversion project is nearly completed, with fish screens complete and ready to be installed in the fall of 2025. Another project that will establish off-site water and riparian fencing is currently underway.

The district continues to work extensively on CCAA execution while coordinating and partnering with LCCWMA, NRCS, Watershed Council, BLM, DSL, USFWS and others to implement the program. Staff continues to execute our OWEB Sage Grouse FIP Technical Assistance 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 the Sage Grouse FIP TA grant, the District Wildlife Biologist has secured a Restoration OWEB grant to treat 2,331.1 acres of encroaching juniper, aerially spray 806.6 acres of invasive annual grasses, develop 5 springs for off-site water/spring protection and improve grazing practices and operations on ~13,000 acres in the North Warners and Clover Flat areas.

Fish passage is a priority within the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) in the Chewaucan Basin. Funding has been secured for the removal of an old weir and refitting of a partial fish barrier, which will open up fish passage on 18 miles of South Creek in the future.

#### **Completed Projects:**

A large portion of the Upper Chewaucan watershed falls within the Strategic Implementation Area, established in 2019 through a cooperative agreement between Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Lakeview SWCD. Water quality monitoring began in May 2021 and ended in May 2025, providing four years of baseline data post Brattin Fire of 2020.

#### **Objective #3 Provide Conservation Education and Information**

The district will host an annual speech contest for seventh grade students in the district with the topics focused around agricultural and conservation practices.

The district's website will be revised and maintained. The site will better educate the public on what the district does and what it has to offer.

The district will continue to produce and support the production of informational and educational video series regarding agriculture and conservation.

The district will provide support to youth agricultural education programs, like 4-H and FFA, through sponsorships and purchases of livestock at the county fair.

#### **Objective #4 Promote Weed Awareness for Watershed Health**

The district supports the local Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area (LCCWMA) meetings and events with participation.



#### **Objective #5 NRCS Conservation Technical Assistance partnership**

Staff will support NRCS in their EQIP program, assist in conservation planning inventory on upland watershed projects, conservation planning development and implementation, Sage-Grouse Initiative status reviews, HEL determinations and local and basin Work Group meetings.

Staff will partner with the LCUWC, LCCWMA, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), Ducks Unlimited (DU), USFW and BLM on riparian process and function issues, and water quality issues.

#### **Objective #6 Fundraising**

Funding will be raised through writing grants for conservation and watershed health, providing the district with administration, project management, travel, and pre and post-implementation fees.

The district will continue to seek other avenues of funding for administration and technical support from other public and/or private grant funding sources.

The district will promote the rental of the no-till drill, rangeland drill, pivot track filler, and aerator, as an additional service to the community and source of funding.

#### **Objective #8 Staff Trainings**

Staff will attend pertinent trainings related to implementation on agricultural practices, conservation planning, monitoring, office practices, procedures, accounting, QuickBooks, etc.

#### **Board Members:**

Scott Warner – Chair

Clark Maxwell – Vice Chair

Mary Woodworth – Secretary/Treasurer

Phil Shullanberger

Tom Flynn

#### **Staff:**

Justin Ferrell – District Manager

Brandi St. Clair – Wildlife Biologist

Tanya Graham – Contracted Fiscal Admin

Tess Baker – Contracted Office Admin

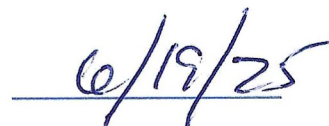
Fara Brummer – Contracted Biologist

Riane Miles – Contracted Field Assistant

The Lakeview Soil and Water conservation District board of directors reviewed the July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 Work Plan and approved the plan at the June 19, 2025 board meeting.



Signature



Date