



Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District

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2024-2025 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 2024-2025 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 Woodworth, 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, water quality monitoring, range health monitoring, project development, grant writing, and 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 been working through design alternatives with landowners to rebuild the remaining four irrigation diversions on Honey Creek; this effort will include fish passage and screening.

Our District Wildlife Biologist has continued 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.

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.

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 open up fish passage on 18 miles of South Creek in the future.

Educational Outreach

The district hosted a speech contest for seventh graders in the region. It was held on April 9 at the Lakeview High School Library and included finalists from both Paisley and Lakeview. The topic was to “wildlife and working lands ecosystem benefits.” First place was awarded to Jack Simms, second place to Cole Holderman, and third place to Sam Gallagher.

Educational outreach also took place through the advent of a bale grazing webinar, which will be followed by an in-person educational tour in the fall of 2025. This outreach is part of the commitment of the district to innovative agricultural practices that benefit both the producer and water quality.

Financial Report

Lakeview 2024-2025 Financial Report							
	24-Jul	2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025	2024-2025	25-Jun
Account	Carryover		Acct Receivable			Acct Payable	Ending Cash
Description	Cash Balance	Revenues	Assets	Transfers	Expenses	Liabilities	Balance
Checking	112,501.64	593,372.43	(68,746.21)	998,182.85	(1,572,997.37)	32,016.49	94,329.83
Money Market	319,523.68	1,263.56	0.00	(46,073.68)	0.00	0.00	274,818.32
Grants	57,103.79	905,005.38	0.00	(952,109.17)	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Totals	489,129.11	1,499,641.37	(68,746.21)	0.00	(1,572,997.37)	32,016.49	379,148.15