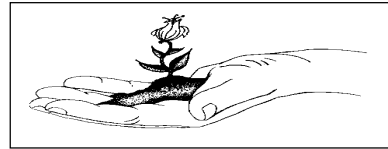

I. History of Conservation Districts in Oregon

The "Dust Bowl" captured the attention of the nation to the need to conserve soil and other natural resources. In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the problems of soil erosion in the nation by shepherding the passage of the Soil Conservation Act, which established the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) within the United States Department of Agriculture. The SCS was charged with developing a program to conserve and enhance the nation's soil and water resources. At first it was assumed the federal government could manage the whole program. However, during the first two years, it became apparent local leadership was needed to coordinate efforts of conservation agencies and tie their programs to local conditions and priorities. The SCS needed the assistance of local farmers, ranchers, and other land managers to put together and operate an effective program. In 1937, President Roosevelt asked all state governors to promote legislation to allow soil conservation districts to form. During that same year the US Congress developed a model conservation district law for consideration by state governments. Thus began a partnership that exists today.



A. 1939 – Present

In 1939, the Oregon Legislature passed enabling legislation to establish conservation districts in Oregon. Conservation districts were charged with directing programs to protect local, renewable natural resources.

The following sequence of events traces the history of the partnership among the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, leading to the structure that exists today.

GRASS ROOTS, a history of conservation districts in Oregon, has been published by the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts and is available from the treasurer of that Association.

1935 The USDA Soil Conservation Service was created in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), by the federal *Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act*.

- 1937 The USDA officials drafted a standard State Soil Conservation Districts law, which President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent to state governors in February 1937. Roosevelt urged the states to pass laws based on this model, stating that "to supplement the federal programs, and safeguard their results, state legislation is needed."
- 1939 The Oregon Legislature passed a Soil Conservation District Law that created a **Soil Conservation Committee**. The Committee was established on August 5, 1939. This Committee began forming conservation districts that year.
- 1939 On September 14, 1939, the Soil Conservation Committee received the first petition to form a **Soil Conservation District** from South Tillamook County. Oregon's first Soil Conservation District became official on **February 10, 1940**.
- 1940 On March 13, 1940, the USDA Soil Conservation Service met with the Soil Conservation Committee for the first time, and the partnership between the Service, the Committee, and conservation districts began. A partnership agreement was developed.
- 1946 The Soil Conservation Committee hired its first Executive Secretary and became a policy-making agency.
- 1948 In November 1948 the Soil Conservation Committee formed the **Oregon Association of Soil Conservation Districts (OASCD)**.
- 1955 The Oregon Legislature changed conservation district law to require that soil conservation district directors be elected instead of appointed.
- 1955 The name of the Oregon Association of Soil Conservation Districts was changed to the **Oregon Association of Conservation Districts**.
- 1963 The Oregon Legislature added "**and Water**" to the name of Soil Conservation Districts and the Soil Conservation Committee.
- 1963 **Resource Conservation and Development** pilot projects were authorized by Congress.
- 1969 The Soil and Water Conservation Committee's name was changed to the **Soil and Water Conservation Commission**.
- 1980 Governor Atiyeh proposed that the Soil and Water Conservation Commission be merged with the **Oregon Department of Agriculture**.

- 1981 On July 1, 1981, the Oregon Legislature merged the Soil and Water Conservation Commission with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The department formed a **Soil and Water Conservation Division**, which became the administrative oversight entity for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Soil and Water Conservation Commission was retained.
- 1989 The Oregon Legislature changed the name of the Soil and Water Conservation Division to the **Natural Resources Division**.
- 1994 The name of the USDA Soil Conservation Service was changed to the **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**.
- 1994 The **USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service** and the **USDA Farmers Home Administration** consolidated to become the **USDA Farm Service Agency**.
- 1994 In November the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts changed its name to the **Oregon Association of Natural Resources Conservation Districts**.
- 1995 In November the Oregon Association of Natural Resources Conservation Districts changed its name back to the **Oregon Association of Conservation Districts**.

Since the first soil and water conservation district was established in 1940, many other conservation districts have formed, and many have consolidated or changed their names over the years. There currently are 45 soil and water conservation districts in Oregon. A directory of district offices and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of district officials is available from the Natural Resources Division of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The directory also includes a map of the districts and their regularly scheduled meeting dates.

B. Certificated Names of Conservation Districts

When a conservation district is formed, it must follow the procedures in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 568.210 to 568.440 to receive a Certificate of Organization and become *certificated* by the Oregon Secretary of State. Once the Secretary of State approves a name for a district, the **certificated name** of the district should be used until such time the district decides to legally change it.

Each district should use its certificated name on legal documents, correspondence, contracts, financial records, publications, etc. to properly and legally identify itself. The current certificated names for Oregon's Soil and Water Conservation Districts are listed on the following page.

Oregon Conservation District Certificated Names

Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District	Josephine Soil and Water Conservation District
Benton Soil and Water Conservation District	Keating Soil and Water Conservation District
Burnt River Soil and Water Conservation District	Klamath Soil and Water Conservation District
Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District	Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District
Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District	Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District
Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District	Linn Soil and Water Conservation District
Coos Soil and Water Conservation District	Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District
Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District	Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
Curry County Soil and Water Conservation District	Monument Soil and Water Conservation District
Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District	Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District
Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District	Polk Soil and Water Conservation District
Eagle Valley Soil and Water Conservation District	Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District
East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District	Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District	Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District
Ft. Rock/Silver Lake Soil and Water Conservation District	Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District
Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District	Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District
Grant Soil and Water Conservation District	Union Soil and Water Conservation District
Harney Soil and Water Conservation District	Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District
Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District	Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District
Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District	Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District	West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District	Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District
	Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District

C. Chronological Listing

Since February 10, 1940, when the first Soil and Water Conservation District was established, many conservation districts have formed, and others consolidated or changed their names. On the following pages is a chronological listing of all of the conservation districts formed in Oregon. The names of the current 45 conservation districts are printed in bold type.

<u>DATE OF FORMATION</u>	<u>SWCD</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
February 10, 1940	South Tillamook SCD <i>consolidated into Tillamook County SWCD January 12, 1965</i>	Tillamook County
November 22, 1940	Necanicum SCD <i>consolidated into Clatsop SWCD in 1966</i>	Clatsop County
March 26, 1941	Warrenton Dunes SCD <i>consolidated into Clatsop SWCD in 1972</i>	Clatsop County
May 8, 1941	Langell Valley SCD <i>consolidated into Klamath SWCD February 5, 1974</i>	Klamath County
October 4, 1941	Heppner SCD <i>consolidated into Morrow SWCD December 20, 1972</i>	Morrow County
May 10, 1941	Keating SWCD	Baker County
September 1, 1942	Monument SWCD	Grant County
November 20, 1942	Southern Wasco SCD <i>consolidated into Wasco County SWCD June 10, 1973</i>	Wasco County
February 15, 1944	Sauvie Island SCD <i>name changed to West Multnomah SWCD in April 1975</i>	Multnomah County
April 26, 1944	Eagle Valley SWCD	Baker County
March 13, 1945	Poe Valley SCD <i>consolidated into Klamath SWCD June 5, 1972</i>	Klamath County
March 28, 1946	West Umatilla SCD <i>consolidated into Umatilla County SWCD March 13, 1974</i>	<i>Umatilla County</i>
April 2, 1946	Union SCD	Union County

<u>DATE OF FORMATION</u>	<u>SWCD</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
August 9, 1946	Gilliam County SWCD	Gilliam County
October 18, 1946	Wallowa SWCD	Wallowa County
December 23, 1946	Clatskanie SCD <i>consolidated into Columbia SWCD August 16, 1966</i>	Columbia County
December 23, 1946	Linn-Lane SCD <i>consolidated into Linn SWCD March 7, 1978</i>	Linn and Lane Counties
December 23, 1946	Siuslaw SWCD	Lane County
April 20, 1947	Scappoose-Rainier SCD <i>consolidated into Columbia SWCD on August 16, 1966</i>	Columbia County
May 12, 1947	Northern Wasco SCD <i>consolidated Wasco County SWCD on June 10, 1973</i>	Wasco County
May 13, 1947	Central Wasco SCD <i>consolidated into Wasco County SWCD June 10, 1973</i>	<i>Wasco County</i>
June 23, 1947	<i>Midstate SCD became Deschutes SWCD</i>	<i>Deschutes County</i>
July 31, 1947	Lakeview SWCD	Lake County
August 26, 1947	Boardman SCD <i>consolidated into Morrow SWCD December 20, 1972</i>	Morrow County
October 22, 1947	Santiam SCD <i>consolidated into Marion SWCD September 10, 1971</i>	Marion County
November 12, 1947	Baker Valley SWCD	Baker County
February 24, 1948	North Tillamook SCD <i>consolidated into Tillamook County SWCD January 12, 1965</i>	Tillamook County
September 12, 1949	Silver Creek SCD <i>consolidated into Marion SWCD September 10, 1971</i>	Marion County
November 30, 1949	Burnt River SWCD	Baker County
December 13, 1949	Illinois Valley SWCD	Josephine County
December 30, 1949	Josephine SWCD	Josephine County
April 21, 1950	Sherman County SWCD	Sherman County
October 24, 1950	East Multnomah SWCD	Multnomah County

<u>DATE OF FORMATION</u>	<u>SWCD</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
January 18, 1951	Sams Valley-Beagle SCD <i>consolidated into Jackson SWCD October 17, 1966</i>	Jackson County
October 24, 1951	Elgin SCD <i>consolidation with Union SWCD on March 24, 1976</i>	Union County
September 30, 1953	Hood River SWCD	Hood River County
June 24, 1953	Mt. Angel SCD <i>consolidated into Marion SWCD September 10, 1971</i>	Marion County
September 16, 1953	Malheur County SCD <i>consolidated into new Malheur County SWCD June 6, 1974</i>	Malheur County
March 19, 1953	South Umatilla SCD <i>consolidated into Umatilla County SWCD March 13, 1974</i>	Umatilla County
March 19, 1953	Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD	Lake County
April 2, 1953	Yamhill SWCD	Yamhill County
April 30, 1953	Curry County SWCD	Curry County
April 30, 1953	Umpqua SWCD	Douglas County
June 9, 1953	Rogue SCD <i>consolidated into Jackson SWCD October 17, 1966</i>	Jackson County
July 1954	East Linn SCD <i>consolidated into Linn SWCD March 7, 1978</i>	Linn County
October 18, 1954	North Douglas SCD <i>consolidated into Douglas SWCD June 9, 1987</i>	Douglas County
August 25, 1955	Lincoln SWCD	Lincoln County
June 20, 1955	Washington County SWCD	Washington County
August 30, 1956	North Lane SCD <i>consolidated into East Lane SWCD May 3, 1988</i>	Lane County
July 30, 1956	Grant SWCD	Grant County
December 28, 1956	Benton SWCD	Benton County

<u>DATE OF FORMATION</u>	<u>SWCD</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
September 30, 1957	Trout Creek SCD <i>became Jefferson County SWCD September 5, 1974</i>	Jefferson County
March 11, 1958	Adrian SCD <i>consolidated into Malheur County SWCD June 6, 1974</i>	Malheur County
June 17, 1958	North Clackamas SCD <i>consolidated into Clackamas County SWCD March 22, 1974</i>	Clackamas County
October 24, 1960	East Umatilla SCD <i>consolidated into Umatilla County SWCD March 13, 1974</i>	Umatilla County
June 8, 1961	South Clackamas SCD <i>consolidated into Clackamas County SWCD March 22, 1974</i>	Clackamas County
June 12, 1962	Coos SWCD	Coos County
1963	"and Water" was added to the name of conservation districts.	
December 10, 1963	Wheeler SWCD	Wheeler County
October 12, 1964	Clatsop SWCD <i>consolidated with Necanicum SCD in 1966, and with Warrenton Dunes SWCD in 1972</i>	Clatsop County
January 12, 1965	Tillamook County SWCD <i>formed by consolidation of South Tillamook SCD and North Tillamook SCD</i>	Tillamook County
April 25, 1966	Polk SWCD	Polk County
August 16, 1966	Columbia SWCD <i>formed by consolidation of Clatskanie SCD and Scappoose-Rainier SCD</i>	Columbia County
October 17, 1966	Jackson SWCD <i>formed by consolidation of Sams Valley-Beagle SCD and the Rogue SCD</i>	Jackson County
April 29, 1970	South Douglas SWCD <i>consolidated into Douglas SWCD June 9, 1987</i>	Douglas County

<u>DATE OF FORMATION</u>	<u>SWCD</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
May 20, 1971	Upper Willamette SWCD <i>consolidated into East Lane SWCD May 3, 1988</i>	Lane County
September 10, 1971	Marion SWCD <i>formed by consolidation of Santiam SCD, Silver Creek SCD, and Mt. Angel SCD</i>	Marion County
March 16, 1972	Clatsop SWCD <i>formed by consolidation of Clatsop SWCD and Warrenton Dune SCD</i>	Clatsop County
May 25, 1972	Crook County SWCD	Crook County
June 5, 1972	Klamath SWCD <i>formed by consolidation of Poe Valley SCD and Langell Valley SCD</i>	Klamath County
June 6, 1972	Harney SWCD	Harney County
December 20, 1972	Morrow SWCD <i>formed by consolidation of Heppner SCD and Boardman SCD</i>	Morrow County
June 10, 1973	Wasco County SWCD <i>formed by consolidation of Southern Wasco SCD, Northern Wasco SCD, and Central Wasco SCD. Name was changed from Wasco SWCD to Wasco County SWCD on November 2, 1973</i>	Wasco County
March 13, 1974	Umatilla County SWCD <i>formed by consolidation of West Umatilla SCD, Southern Umatilla SCD, and East Umatilla SCD</i>	Umatilla County
March 22, 1974	Clackamas County SWCD <i>formed by consolidation of North Clackamas SCD and South Clackamas SCD 1961</i>	Clackamas County
June 6, 1974	Malheur County SWCD <i>consolidated from original Malheur County SCD, and Adrian SCD</i>	Malheur County

<u>DATE OF FORMATION</u>	<u>SWCD</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
September 5, 1974	Jefferson County SWCD <i>formerly Trout Creek SCD</i>	Jefferson County
April 14, 1975	West Multnomah SWCD <i>formerly Sauvie Island SCD</i>	Multnomah County
March 24, 1976	Union SWCD <i>formed by consolidation of the original Union SCD and the Elgin SCD</i>	Union County
March 7, 1978	Linn SWCD <i>formed by consolidation of Linn-Lane SCD and East Linn SCD</i>	Linn County
June 9, 1987	Douglas SWCD <i>formed by consolidation of North Douglas SCD and South Douglas SCD</i>	Douglas County
September 9, 1987	Deschutes SWCD <i>formerly Midstate SCD</i>	Deschutes County
May 3, 1988	East Lane SWCD <i>formed by consolidation of North Lane SCD, Upper Willamette SWCD, and Mid-Lane SCD</i>	Lane County