

**2-Year  
Long-Range  
Business Plan  
2021-2023**

**Wheeler Soil and Water  
Conservation District**



Prepared by:  
District Staff

Approved by:  
District Board of Directors

**Wheeler SWCD**  
40535 Highway 19  
Fossil, Oregon 97830  
(P) 541.468.2990  
(F) 541.468.2991  
(E) [administration@wheelerswcd.org](mailto:administration@wheelerswcd.org)  
<http://wheelerswcd.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/WheelerSWCD>

Wheeler SWCD is an equal opportunity employer,  
providing services to the public without regard to race,  
color, national origin, religious preference, gender, age,  
or disability.

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## **Wheeler SWCD Office**

40535 Hwy 19  
Fossil, Oregon 97830  
**Phone** 541.468.2990  
**Fax** 541.468.2991  
**Email** [administration@wheelerswcd.org](mailto:administration@wheelerswcd.org)  
**Website** [www.wheelerswcd.org](http://www.wheelerswcd.org)  
**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/WheelerSWCD>

## **Staff**

**District Manager** Chase Schultz  
**Administrative Assistant** Cassandra Newton  
**Field Technician II / Weed Technician / CREP Technician** Bodie Brown  
**Field Technician I / RCPP Technician** Brooke Moore  
**MJD-BC Watershed Council / Watershed Technician** Debbi Bunch

## **Board of Directors**

**Zone 1** David Hunt, Secretary/Treasurer  
**Zone 2** *Vacant*  
**Zone 3** Jason Davis  
**Zone 4** Kale Haberman  
**Zone 5** Wayne Lindquist, Vice-Chair

**At Large 1** Jeremiah Holmes  
**At Large 2** James (Jim Bob) Collins

## **Director Emeritus**

Ted Molinari

## **Associate Directors**

Amy Derby  
Rob Wade

## **Monthly Meetings**

Board Meetings are held at 6pm on the last Wednesday of the month in the Conference Room of Big Service Corral.

40280 Hwy 19, Fossil, Oregon 97830 - *near Service Creek*

### Exceptions:

- Typically, there is no board meeting during July.
- During the October meeting, Directors will determine if/when the November meeting will be.
- There is no regular meeting in December, as it is replaced with the District Annual Meeting on the 2nd Wednesday. The location of this meeting varies each year.
  - Per ORS, the Annual Report and audit are presented to the public during the Annual Meeting

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This five-year business plan details the Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District (the “District”) services, activities, resources, staffing, and finances currently available and planned to carry out the District’s mission. The Business Plan also contains general information about the District and Wheeler County, and guides the development of the District’s annual work plans and budget.

The District Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges the help of community leaders and cooperating agencies in developing these concerns, objectives, and goals. On behalf of the citizens of Wheeler County, some of whom work the land, but most of whom spend their time removed from the land, the Wheeler SWCD undertakes the challenge of safeguarding the land, water, and related natural resources for the benefit of future generations.

Wheeler SWCD provides a program to address the wise use and management of our natural resources: soil, water, air, plants, and animals. As part of program development, this Long Range Plan describes the concerns, objectives, and goals of the District that will provide for the conservation of our natural resources.

The District strives to educate residents within Wheeler County and assistance with conservation planning, invasive weeds, native plants, livestock management, grant funding, wildlife, healthy woods, habitat restoration, and other conservation projects. How will the District look if our staff, Board, and volunteers do their work well?

- More landowners and managers will know about invasive plant species and be diligent about controlling them on their property.
- Horses, cows, goats, sheep and llamas will enjoy lush pastures without polluting our streams and rivers.
- Our streams, rivers and watersheds will be healthier, supporting the return of endangered species.
- Birds and bees will thrive with ample food and shelter, and will co-exist with people
- Rare habitats will be appreciated and restored.
- Private landowners will be thoughtful and knowledgeable stewards of their forests.
- District residents will enthusiastically tackle conservation initiatives and other native planting projects.
- District residents will enjoy more locally-grown food, farmed with methods that contribute to the long-term health of the land.

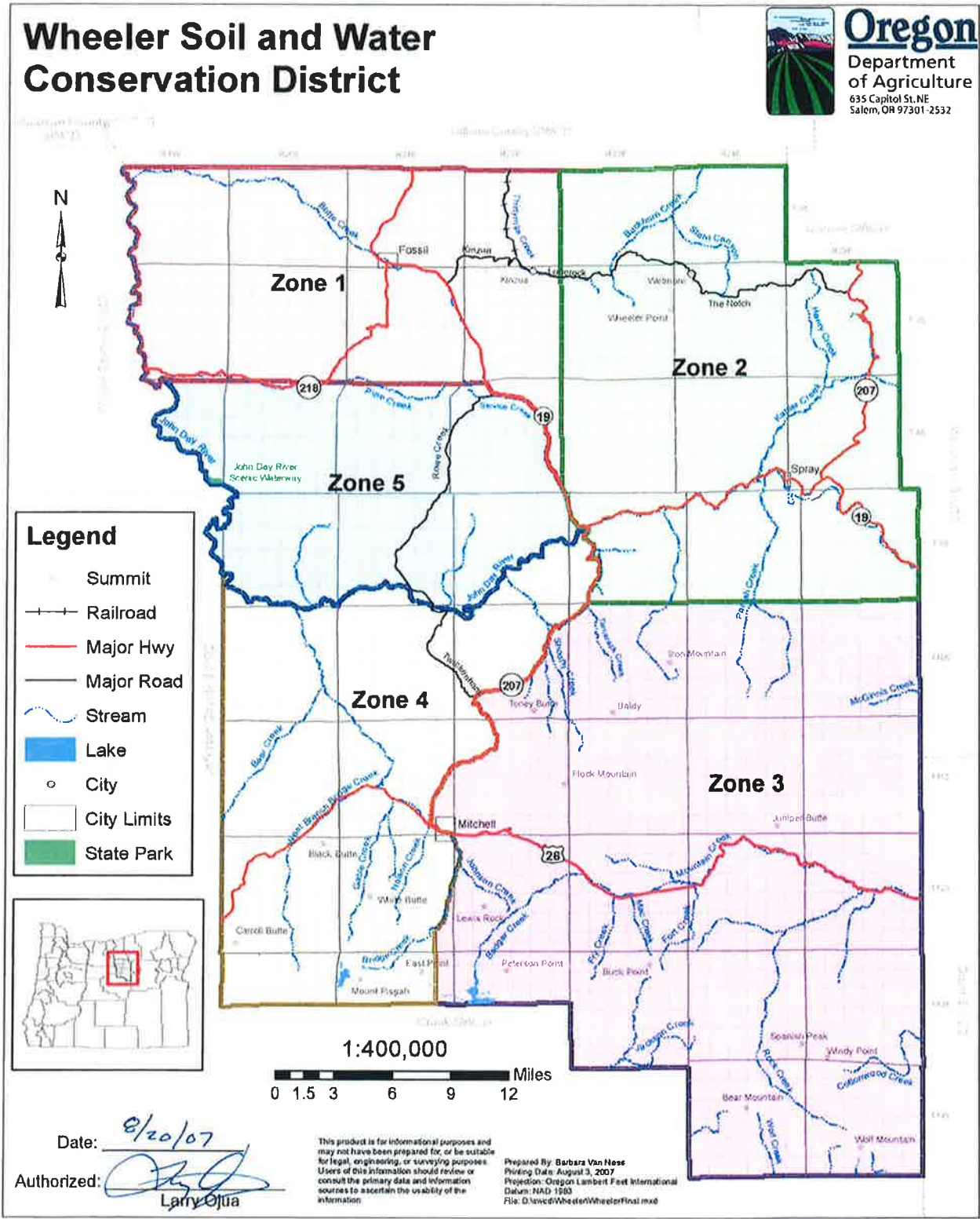
### *Audience*

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The intended audiences of this plan include Wheeler County residents; Wheeler County government and business leaders; potential funders; lawmakers at all levels; and partners in local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as private organizations. This plan provides a clear understanding of how the District’s work affects these audiences. By making these connections, we strive to gain their support, cooperation, and participation in District activities. It will also be a living document to guide District staff and Board of Directors in their daily operations and to help ensure that policies, programs, services, and decisions are beneficial to the District.

# GEOGRAPHY AND AGRICULTURE

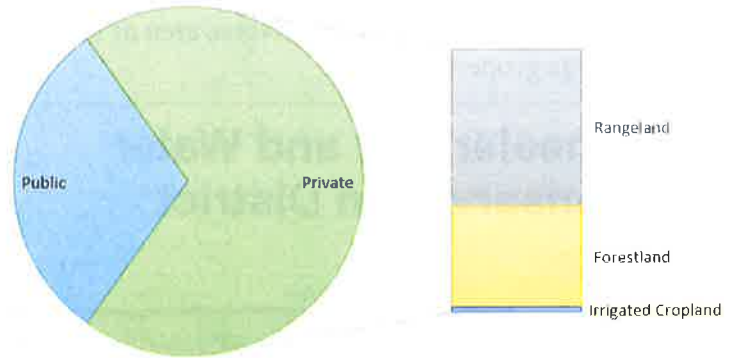
The District's service area includes all of Wheeler County, located in north central Oregon. It is divided into five zones and represents a highly diverse area of rural dwellings, forest, and farm land; and, owners of both small and large properties.



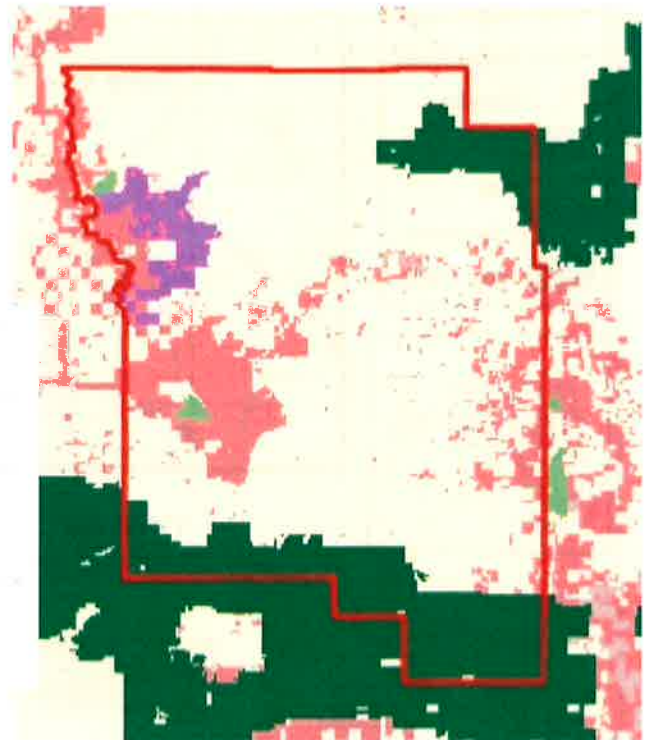
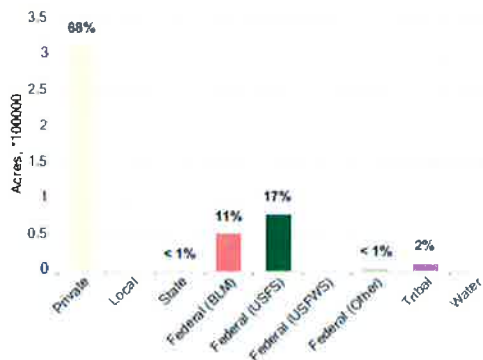
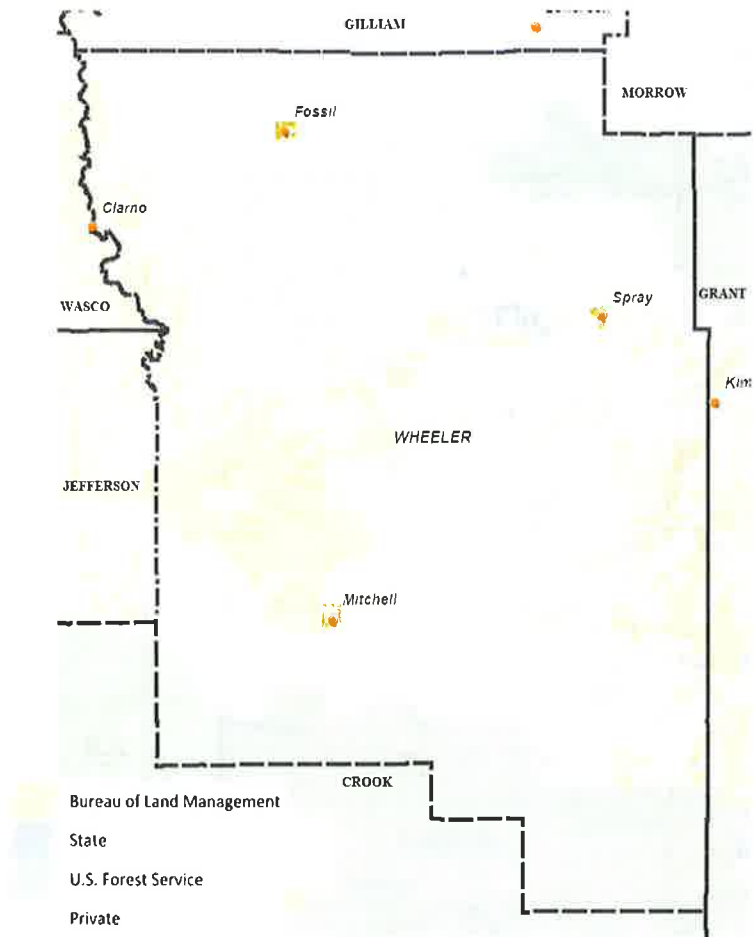
Precise zone boundary lines can be obtained by contacting the Wheeler SWCD office.

# Topography and Land Use

The service area encompasses 1,715 square miles, or 1,097,600 acres, of which 316,384 acres are public and 781,216 acres are private. Of the private acres, 435,911 are rangeland, 280,625 are forestland, and 14,000 are irrigated cropland.



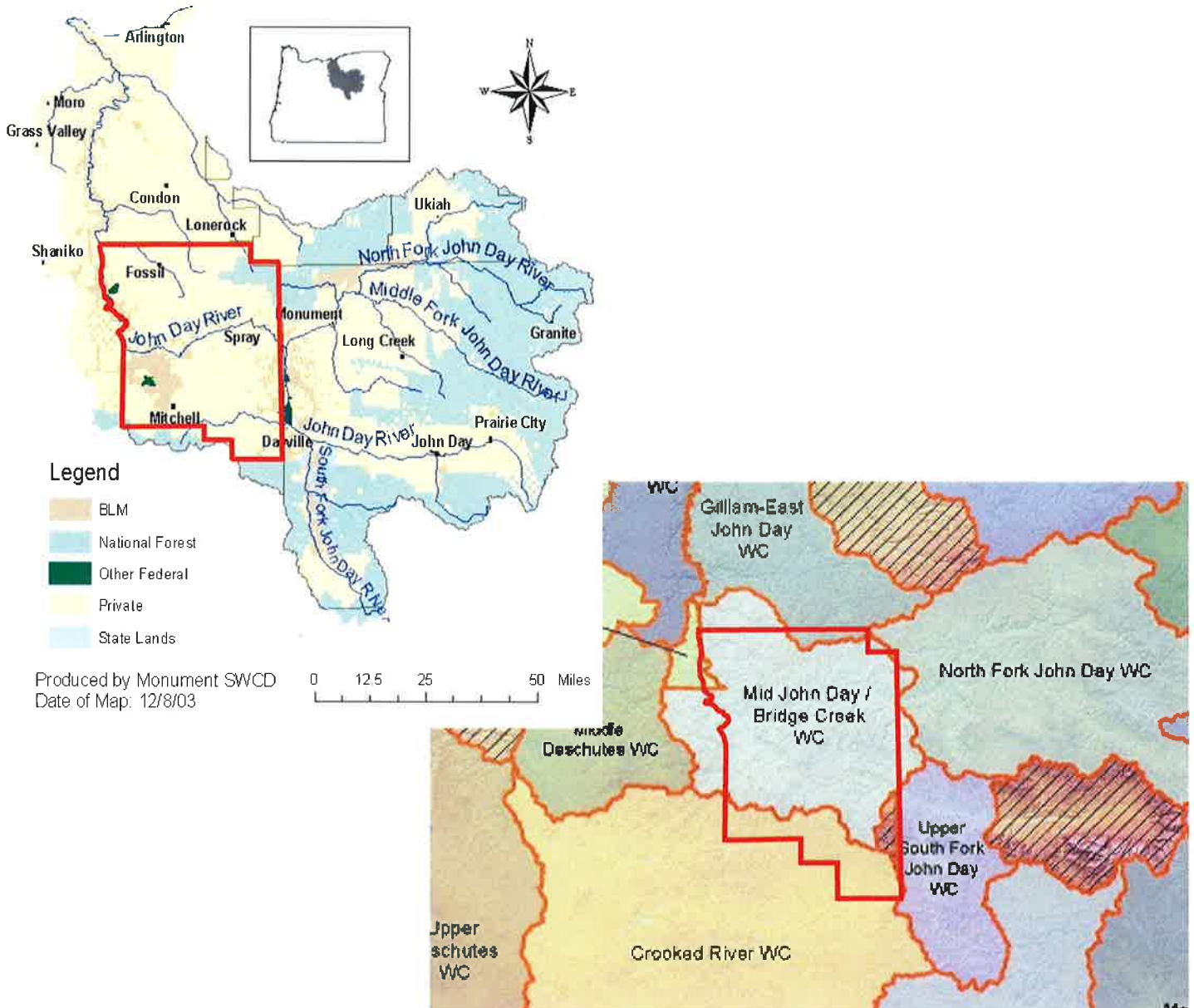
The District exhibits a widely varying terrain from deep river canyons, embedded with prehistoric plant and animal fossils, to high timbered mountains covered in pine and fir trees. Within the boundaries are portions of the Ochoco and Umatilla National Forests, Prineville Bureau of Land Management, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, CTWS Pine Creek Conservation Area as well as the John Day River. Principal industries include agriculture, livestock, and lumber.



# WHEELER SWCD BASIN AND SUBBASIN PROFILE

Wheeler Soil & Water Conservation District is located in the John Day Basin and includes the following subbasins: Lower John Day, Upper John Day, and North Fork John Day.

The John Day River Basin is one of the most scenic and environmentally significant regions in the country. The third longest undammed river in the continental United States, the John Day River flows 280 miles from the Strawberry Mountains to the Columbia River. The John Day provides pristine habitat for wild steelhead, Chinook salmon, Westslope cutthroat trout, and interior Redband trout. The river basin hosts some of the last remaining wild populations of Chinook salmon and summer steelhead populations in the Columbia River Basin.



## **ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE**

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Landowners and community partners who work with the District on restoration and conservation projects are not only helping improve the land and environment of Wheeler County, but also bettering the economy. Growing evidence indicates that land conservation and restoration projects produce significant economic benefits and result in increased property values. Wheeler County is widely known for its ecotourism and recreation opportunities.

Communities with healthy lands and clean water are perceived as nicer places to live, and more attractive to businesses and people, including non-resident visitors who put new dollars into the local economy. Healthy soil captures precipitation, reduces storm water management costs and, by protecting underground water sources, can reduce the cost of drinking water up to tenfold. In addition, District-funded projects and partnerships provide business to local contractors and private companies, spurring new companies to form and increase opportunities for local non-profits.



## STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

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The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) was initiated nationally by the Soil Conservation Act of 1935, in response to the “Dust Bowls” of the 1930’s and the obvious need to conserve natural resources. It soon became apparent that this new federal agency needed local leadership to coordinate efforts in conservation and tie assistance programs to local conditions and priorities. The SCS was authorized by Federal Legislation in 1937. Through the framework of the USDA and the urging of President Roosevelt, Oregon passed the Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Law in 1939 enabling the formation of soil and water conservation districts, the local leaders in conservation. In 1994, the Soil Conservation Service was renamed Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS). Today, there over three thousand conservation districts across the country.

The Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District is one of 45 conservation districts in Oregon, which are defined in Oregon law as political subdivisions of state government. The District is not a state agency; rather it is classified as a municipal corporation, a form of local government, which is required to follow many of the same laws that govern state agencies and special districts. It is specifically governed by ORS 568.210 to 568.890 and ORS 568.900 to 568.933. Appendix A lists other statutes and administrative rules to which the District is subject. See Appendix B for the specific powers and authorities granted to districts.

The Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) that established and govern Oregon’s SWCDs (except the federal tribal Tiicham Conservation District) were significantly revised by the 2009 Legislative Assembly under House Bill 2082. The origin of the House Bill was a collaborative effort among the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, member Conservation Districts, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture. It was designed to address the evolving challenges and opportunities presented to today’s SWCDs that were not envisioned when the statute originated, and to eliminate antiquated provisions in the previous editions.

In addition to the general purpose of SWCDs under ORS 568.225 in the previous editions, the following was added: **“promote collaborative conservation efforts to protect and enhance healthy watershed functions, assist in the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency resources.”**

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Natural Resource Program area provides administrative oversight to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Oregon (ORS) 561.400. ODA coordinates the board member elections, administers grants, and provides technical assistance. They administer the local management area, review the Districts annual work plan and long-range business plan.

In Wheeler County wildlife habitat and native ecosystems are being restored and preserved through private landowners. The District is assisting in restoration by applying for federal funding to be disbursed among private landowners, taking an active role in our local Cooperative Weed Management Area and offering technical assistance to landowners.

The District also offers technical assistance to landowners regarding the Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan (SB1010). Given the role of local implementation of SB1010, the District receives and addresses concerns relating to the Agricultural Water Quality Management Area (AWQMA) plan. The District has no regulatory authority, but can assist landowners in achieving and maintaining compliance. There is one AWQMA within the District, Middle John Day. Details of the plan can be obtained by contacting the Wheeler SWCD office or visiting <https://oda.direct/AgWQPlans>.

### *History*

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The Wheeler Soil & Water Conservation District was formed December 3, 1963, with a Certificate of Organization issued by the Secretary of State on December 10, 1963.

The original boundaries of the District closely followed the boundaries of Wheeler County, with the exception of approximately 33,000 acres in townships 8-11 south, all in range 25 east. Those 33,000 acres were included within the Monument SWCD border. The boundary line was adjusted on February 24, 1974 to the present day boundaries, which includes all of the lands within the legal boundaries of Wheeler County.

The first Board of Supervisors in 1963 were Mitchell Chapman, Lyle Ostrander, Gus Strecker, Clarence Franke, and Virgil Misener. The first Secretary was Ann Culver, who served the District in a variety of roles for over 35 years. The first budget passed was a two-year budget of \$1,018.00, with the largest budget item being “mileage reimbursement” at eight cents a mile. In 1964, Gilliam County SWCD, in an effort to help establish this new district, gave a \$100.00 grant to be used by Wheeler SWCD without restrictions.

For the first 30 years, the Board members themselves approached landowners and recruited their participation in projects. They conducted the tours and public education workshops, and made the County Fair displays. For many years the Board operated with only one part-time employee, the secretary. As the District grew, the tasks became more complicated and time consuming, requiring specialized skills and greater responsibilities. The secretary position transitioned into the District Manager and additional positions were created to maintain the increasing demand for conservation.

From 1963 to today, the District projects and activities have grown to require a Board of seven Directors and five paid employees, with an annual budget of \$2,175,019 dollars in the 2020-21 fiscal year.

In 2015, the District was awarded a \$4.1 million dollar Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant. This grant assisted 13 landowners in the Mountain Creek, Bridge Creek and Cherry Creek watersheds with funding of the below project activities, which will be completed by the end of 2021.

Brush Management	1,161 acres
Range Seeding	78 acres
Stockwater Pipeline	30,445 feet
Irrigation Pipeline	15,056 feet
Spring Development	19
Structure for Water Control	3
Watering Facility	32,400 gallons
Irrigation Water Management	79 acres
Pumping Plant	1

In 2019, Gilliam SWCD was awarded a multi-million dollar RCPP grant and extended Wheeler SWCD the opportunity to participate. The goal of the Lower John Day Canyons Restoration Initiative (LJDCRI) is to protect and enhance over 40 miles of critical Mid-Columbia Steelhead habitat in the Lower John Day Basin. Planned project activities include landscape-scale restoration efforts using exclusion fencing, beaver dam analog structures and riparian plantings to improve native fish habitat. For Wheeler SWCD, the project takes in the Butte Creek watershed, goes north along the John Day River for the other watersheds that flow into the Lower John Day.

In addition, Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District receives millions of grant dollars each year from multiple other funding sources, which include agencies such as OWEB, CTWS, and BPA.

## ***Leadership***

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The Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District takes the lead in soil and water conservation throughout Wheeler County by working with urban and rural property owners, operators, public officials, various state and federal agencies, and private organizations.

## ***Directors***

Directors are elected by the electorate of Wheeler County at the November General Election, which is held during even-numbered years. The Wheeler SWCD Board may appoint a person to fill a board vacancy between elections for the duration of that position's term. Five of the seven positions are classified as zone positions and must meet the zone requirements and terms of office as specified in ORS 568.560, as follows:

“Zone directors must own or manage 10 or more acres of land in the District, be involved in the active management of that property, reside within the boundaries of the District, and be a registered voter.”

An individual may serve as a zone director in lieu of land ownership or management requirements if the individual resides within the zone that is represented, has served at least one year as a Wheeler SWCD Director or Associate Director and has a conservation plan approved by the Wheeler SWCD Board. The other two positions are at-large positions. To qualify for an at-large position, a person must reside in Wheeler County and be a registered voter. No land ownership or management requirements are needed for an at-large position, which is also governed by ORS 568.560.

An individual **Director** has power only when acting as a part of the Wheeler SWCD Board. Individual Board members may be delegated authority or power to act on behalf of the Board in specific, limited tasks. This authority or power is granted through Board action (resolution, motion, policy, etc.) and must be recorded in the meeting minutes.

The Wheeler SWCD Board works cooperatively as a unit to plan and oversee implementing district programs. As a representative of the District Board, opinions expressed publicly by individual Board members should be consistent with established Board policy, not the individual's personal agenda or opinions.

ORS 568.545 requires all districts to select a Chair and Secretary from among its Directors. The District may elect other officers as desired.

The **Chair** is granted the responsibility to represent the District with other districts, agencies, associations, partners, organizations, legislators, and property owners consistent with the policies, plans, and interests of the District. The Chair will also conduct regular and special meetings of the Board.

A **Vice-Chair** has been given the authority to act as the Chair in case of the absence or unavailability of the Chair.

The **Secretary/Treasurer** is the custodian of all District records, minutes, contracts, and other official documents.

**Committees** are an effective way for the District to plan and implement district functions. They can be comprised of Board members, Associate Directors, district advisors, representatives of cooperating agencies and associations, and/or interested citizens.

The Wheeler SWCD can also have various **ad hoc committees**, which are charged with specific tasks over a specific time period. Ad hoc committees are then disbanded after the assigned task and/or timeframe is completed.

The Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District expands its capabilities through the selection and appointment of Associate Directors. **Associate Directors** do not vote on Board decisions but are expected to augment the Board's knowledge and experience level and assist with District programs and activities. They may

also be asked to represent the Board on specific assignments. Associate Directors, once officially appointed by the District Board, are provided with the same Tort liability insurance under the Oregon Tort Claims Act as the elected directors. Associate Directors are expected to attend monthly Board meetings and other special meetings as requested. Associate Directors serve until the Board meeting held in January following a General Election, at which time the Board determines who they wish to appoint or reappoint.

### ***Staff***

The Wheeler SWCD staff currently consists of a District Manager (DM), Administrative Assistant, Field Technician II, and Field Technician I.

**District Manager** (1 FTE): Responsible to conduct the business of the District as guided by the Board of Directors. Provides leadership for and manages the all operations of the District, which includes administration, risk management, personnel management and supervision, overseeing financial management, preparing fiscal budget, grant management, conservation operations, contracting and development, updating and implementation of the District's Annual Plan of Work, Long Range Business Plan, and other required reporting.

**Financial Manager** (.5 FTE): Manages the financial activities of the District. This includes, but is not limited to daily financial activities, tracking project finances, creating financial reports, fund transfers, managing payroll and taxes, assisting with budget preparation, and conducting bank transactions and tasks, such as deposits, reconciliations, and account transfers. Carries out all accounts receivable and payable tasks.

**Administrative Assistant** (1 FTE): Assists the District Manager in planning and management of District operations and activities, facilitates and coordinates activities of District staff, outside agencies and individuals, and promotes strong management practices and cohesiveness of overall District operations in accordance with District policies and Oregon Law relating to public entities.

**Technician II / CREP Planner / Weed Technician** (1 FTE): Promote and seeks participation in USDA programs. Seeks funding for projects. Provide outreach for available programs to private landowners. Provide technical assistance to private landowners. Provide project management. Report accomplishments.

**Technician I** (1 FTE): Provides technical and outreach assistance, solicits landowner conservation program participation, manages project installation, conducts onsite inspections, creates ArcGIS maps/layouts, collects field data, and composes project completion and accomplishment reports.

### ***Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council***

The Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council has one employee – Watershed Technician, which works out of the Wheeler SWCD Office. The position acts on behalf of the Watershed Council, within the authorities delegated by the Council and reports to the Council members. Direct supervision is provided by the District Manager of the Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District, whom acts as the Watershed Council's fiscal agent. The District and Watershed Council have a Memorandum of Understanding, which is reviewed on an annual basis.

**Watershed Technician** (1 FTE): Coordinates with local water quality committees, identifying and developing proposals for potential funding sources, developing plans to address non-point sources of water pollution, works with landowners and agency partners to identify, develop, fund, and implement watershed improvement and conservation projects, provides technical assistance to local landowners, watershed committees and conservation districts, and manages the business of the Watershed Council.

## **PARTNERS OF THE DISTRICT**

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Wheeler SWCD works with agencies and individuals as partners in efforts to achieve our vision. Various memorandums of agreement and/or understanding, working agreements, intergovernmental agreements and informal arrangements, formalize the partnerships. The agreements outline the responsibilities of each partner and identify the types of assistance, resources, and support each will provide to accomplish common conservation goals.

The District believes that our existing partners, which currently include non-profits, government organizations, private companies, landowners and volunteers, and yet-to-be determined partners are crucial to us reaching our equity goals. Our work will only be successful if we are able to truly partner with the community, engage with respect, authentically listen – and have the commitment to share decision making, control and resources. We must further examine and prioritize working with partners that share our equity goals to further maximize impacts with underserved communities.

### ***Local Level***

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#### ***Confederate Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation***

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and the District have an Interagency Coordination Agreement to partner in a mutual interest in watershed restoration and conservation, as well as an interest in ongoing Water Optimization programs within the John Day Basin. The Tribes contribute funding to the District through a professional services subcontract, using money from the Bonneville Power Administration.

#### ***County and Local Government***

The District works with a diverse group of key partners in local government agencies: Wheeler County, City of Fossil, City of Spray, and City of Mitchell.

#### ***Landowners, Producers, and General Public***

The general public uses the District as its primary point of contact for not only District programs but those of the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service. Landowners and agricultural producers can avail themselves of technical assistance with natural resource concerns and assistance in securing grant or loan funding for an array of natural resource conservation projects.

#### ***Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council (MJDBCWC)***

Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council (the "Council") is governed by a five member council. The mission of the Council is to improve water quality and watershed conditions in the Mid-John Day River watershed through education, coordination, consultation, and cooperation among all interests, using the collective wisdom and voluntary action of our community members.

MJDBCWC and Wheeler SWCD have an active Memorandum of Understanding that was revised in 2020 and is reviewed annually. The District acts as an employer and fiscal agent for the Council's capacity grant, as well as any regular grants the Council secures through Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). The Council is responsible for managing the small grant program. The District also provides office space for the Council's Watershed Technician.

### ***Middle John Day River Local Advisory Committee***

Oregon Department of Agriculture works with each of the 45 SWCDs to identify watershed-based Agricultural Water Quality Management Areas across the State. With the help of an ODA Water Quality Specialist, local landowners, agricultural producers, and community leaders, a Local Advisory Committee (LAC) is formed. The LAC identifies local water quality problems and opportunities of improvement. The resulting Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan, AgWQMAP approved by the Board of Agriculture guides the resolution of agricultural water quality issues in the corresponding water quality management area. The Local Advisory Committee meets biennially to review the plan and accomplishments. The committee is managed through Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), but questions can also be directed to Wheeler SWCD.

### ***Oregon State University, Extension Office***

The District maintains a working relationship with the Wheeler County office of Oregon State University Extension Service.

### ***Wheeler County Weed Board (WCWB)***

Established in 1999, the Wheeler County Weed Board is comprised of three District Board Directors and one non-voting representative of the Wheeler County Court. The WCWB district encompasses the same boundaries as the SWCD, pursuant to the provisions of ORS 570.515, renumbered to 569.360 in 2009.

## ***Regional Level***

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### ***Blue Mountain Land Trust (BMLT)***

Formed in 1999, BMLT is a local nonprofit organization working with willing private landowners to help them conserve their land for its natural, scenic, historical and productive values. Their mission is to preserve and protect the natural lands, waters, and working farms and forests in the Blue Mountains. BMLT expanded into Eastern Oregon in late-2017, opening a local office in John Day. This office allowed extension of their service area into Grant, Wheeler, Gilliam, and Sherman counties.

There is currently one conservation easement in the southwest area of the District. A conservation easement is an agreement between a landowner and a land trust that creates voluntary limits on the landowner's use of the land. An easement permanently limits the land's use by the current and all future landowners. However, the landowner retains title to the land, as well as all rights that were not specifically stated in the easement. Every conservation easement is tailored to the landowners' plans for their land, making it a flexible and practical option for people who want to protect the land they love.

### ***Lower John Day Working Group (LJDWG)***

The LJDWG was reformed in 2016 when Oregon Water Resources Department awarded a grant to engage in a collaborative water planning effort to prioritize and address water challenges, and plan for a sustainable water future. Alongside Wheeler SWCD, other members include other Soil and Water Districts, Watershed Councils, conservation groups, such as WaterWatch of Oregon and the Oregon Natural Desert Association; agricultural groups such as the Gilliam County Cattlemen; agencies such as the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and local tribes such as the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The LJDWG has successfully completed three steps of Place-Based Planning; Step 1: Create a Collaborative Process, Step 2: Understand the System & Identify Solutions, and Step 3: Identify Water Demands. The Group

is currently working through Step 4: Identify and Prioritize Solutions, which is scheduled to be completed the end of 2020. The last step, Step 5: Develop Water Resource Plan is set to begin in early 2021. Upon completion, the Place-Based Planning will provide the agencies with collective understanding of the local water conditions, the knowledge and ability to evaluate current and future needs, allowing them to develop a vision for the future. With their combined efforts they will have the tools necessary to create a proper plan for our water future.

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### ***John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP)***

The District is an active partner in the John Day Basin Partnership. JDBP is a diverse group of organizations that have come together to collaboratively develop a basin wide strategic action plan to help bring in more funding to hasten the pace, scale, and impact of watershed restoration in the John Day River Basin of Oregon.

The JDBP was awarded a \$4 million, six year Focused Investment Partnership Grant from OWEB. An additional \$9.7 million is being funded from other sources. This establishes a pool of funding to address projects focused on native fish habitat in three high priority areas. One of those areas include the Butte and Thirtymile watersheds in north Wheeler County.

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## ***State Level***

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### ***Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)***

The Oregon Department of Agriculture remains able to serve the changing needs of Oregon's diverse agricultural and food sectors to maintain and enhance a healthy natural resource base and strong economy in rural and urban communities across the state. The Oregon Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division provides administrative oversight, and partial administrative and technical support funding to the District. ODA also offers trainings to help support the District, Directors, and staff.

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### ***Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)***

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board provides grants to help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies. OWEB also assists grantees with technical assistance, technical training and forums for communication among the watershed councils and the District. OWEB also provides small grants for locally identified restoration projects and offers workshops to landowners within the District.

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### ***Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN)***

The Oregon Conservation Employees Association Network is a voluntary organization, affiliated with the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, which represents the interests of employees of the District to the OACD and National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and sponsors employee training and workshops.

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### ***Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)***

The District has worked collaboratively with DEQ on the water quality monitoring program. DEQ has assisted Wheeler SWCD with technical advice, training, assistance on grants, and loaning of equipment.

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### ***Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)***

ODFW Habitat Restoration and Protection and Conservation Biologists assist the District with technical advice, training, permitting, and assistance on grants.

### ***Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD)***

The Oregon Water Resources Department provides assistance to the District with landowner water rights and water data.

### ***Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)***

The District works with Oregon Department of Forestry to provide landowners with services such as forest health and forest management assistance, preservation of water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife, and regulation of harvest, chemical use and reforestation requirements.

### ***Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL)***

The District works directly with Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) for Removal-Fill and Proprietary waterway authorizations.

### ***Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB)***

The Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) provides funding for projects that restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, watershed functions, and native salmonid populations.

### ***Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD)***

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts provides technical and administrative support to the District and is the main conservation district advocacy organization with the Oregon State administration and legislature. The OACD assists the District by serving at the state level and speaking for issues relating to the District. It cooperates with other public and private organizations, with purposes similar to the District, to adopt statewide policies and programs, which will effectively contribute to a quality environment and a productive economy.

### ***Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC)***

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission has a major role to oversee the ODA grant programs to the District. The Commission also provides assistance, direction, and coordination between the District, the Natural Resources Division, the NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), OSU Extension, OACD, and OWEB.

## ***National Level***

### ***Bureau of Land Management (BLM)***

The District works with BLM resource staff on many natural resource issues on private and public land in Wheeler County including invasive plant management and habitat restoration.

### ***Bonneville Power Association (BPA)***

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) helps fund projects that protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife that have been adversely affected by the development and operation of the Columbia River hydropower system. NOAA Fisheries, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and other federal and state agencies with jurisdiction in this region use the John Day Subbasin Plan, which is one of 62 plans throughout the Columbia Basin that guide implementation of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program.



### ***Farm Service Agency (FSA)***

The FSA's mission is to stabilize farm income, help farmers conserve land and water resources, provide credit to new or disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and help farm operations recover from the effects of disaster. FSA provides aerial photos for use in conservation planning work done by Wheeler SWCD and NRCS.

### ***National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)***

The National Association of Conservation Districts assists the District by developing national conservation policies, influencing lawmakers, and building partnerships with other agencies and organizations. The NACD also helps the District share ideas in order to better serve its local community.

### ***Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)***

The District works with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) NRCS to provide technical assistance to design and implement conservation practices throughout the District, approval for NRCS local practice plans, administrative services for local field staff and business, and annual work plan development through a Memorandum of Agreement. See Appendix F for a description of programs available through NRCS.

The following Conservation Implementation Strategies are available to help Wheeler County agricultural producers address targeted resource concerns identified:

- JDU Basin Forest Resiliency
  - The goal of this project is to improve the health and resiliency of the Non-Industrial Private Forest land of the John Day/Umatilla Basin by assisting landowners with pre-commercial thinning and slash treatment to reduce the risk of fire and pest infestations. Reducing stocking densities and slash loads currently in place will result in long term forest health and ecosystem sustainability.
- Butte Creek Uplands Improvement Project
  - The goal of this project is to assist landowners within the Butte Creek watershed with the restoration/protection/improvement of plant productivity, health and vigor in the rangeland, reducing or eliminating sediment sources in the uplands, treating forestland health and beginning the process to restore the hydrologic function of the flood plains in the watershed.
- Kahler Multi-County Uplands Improvement Project
  - The goal of this strategy is to complement the work being done in the Kahler portion of the Umatilla National Forest. This strategy will work to improve upland facets of a 3 mile buffer around the Forest Service line. Range health and Forest health will be targeted with multiple practices that are intended to facilitate a broader, positive ecological impact.

Every year, NRCS hosts Local Work Group meetings where farmers, landowners, conservation partners and other members of the community discuss the natural resource needs for the county. Based on feedback from those meetings, NRCS updates the county's Long Range Plan and develops new Conservation Implementation Strategies to address those resource concerns.

### ***United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)***

The United States Department of Agriculture is made up of 29 agencies. The District has a works with many of these agencies to promote agriculture production, preserve natural resources through conservation, restored forests, improved watersheds, and healthy private working lands. Agencies within the USDA include NRCS, FSA, and USFS.

### ***United States Department of the Interior (USDI)***

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper. Agencies within the USDI include BLM and USFWS.

### ***United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)***

United States Fish and Wildlife assist the District with programs that provide technical and financial assistance to landowners interested in restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat on their land.

### ***United States Forest Service (USFS)***

Much like the District's work with ODF, it works with United States Forest Service to provide landowners with services such as forest health and forest management assistance, preservation of water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife, and regulation of harvest, chemical use and reforestation requirements.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION

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### Mission Statement

To maximize economic and environmental watershed values for Wheeler County residents by developing, conserving, and protecting water, soil, plant structures, and other natural resources.

### *Vision*

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**The vision of Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District is to be an organization that:**

**Improves the health of the watersheds through holistic measures that enhance water quality and quantity, soil health, and conservation for beneficial uses.**

- Promote implementation of the Mid-John Day Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan
- Promote and implement USDA Programs
- Assist and promote watershed council activity
- Seek funding for projects
- Provide technical assistance to the public
- Set strategic priority work areas
- Implement district projects
- Initiate a major offensive against invasive species
- Form or maintain partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies and tribes
- Promote relevant research and monitoring
- Conduct watershed assessments/action plans/conservation planning

**Provides education and outreach to the public.**

- Produce newsletters and annual reports
- Organize tours and workshops for students, landowners, and land managers
- Participate in community activities
- Partner with local schools to further natural resource educational opportunities
- Develop funding source(s) for public education activities
- Provide AgWQMAP fact sheets and information for distribution

**Manage the business of the district in an efficient and effective manner.**

- Encourage staff and director development by attending workshops, conventions, and training sessions
- Meet state filing requirements for budget, audit, and reports
- Hold monthly board meetings and an annual meeting
- Seek secure funding by exploring creative and productive ways to finance district operations and fund employee positions
- Develop operational policies & procedures

## ***Core Values***

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The values the District strives to meet are:

- A voluntary, collaborative, local, non-regulatory approach to solving problems
- The importance of a healthy environment to the economy of our area
- Open space and other environmental benefits provided by agriculture and forest landowners
- Respect for the property rights, confidentiality, decisions, and experience of all landowners/clients
- Community partnerships and the resources/expertise made available through these collaborative relationships
- Education as a means to promote environmental stewardship
- Helpful, courteous, prompt customer service
- Communication with the public and within the office
- Well-trained staff that is committed to leadership and professionalism
- Conservation as a part of our daily operation
- Fiscal responsibility with public funds
- Innovative solutions to natural resource issues
- Identifying potential long term local risks to our communities

## ***Guiding Principles***

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Principles that guide the District's services, programs, and administrative operations are:

- Private landowners will solve their conservation and environment problems voluntarily if given incentives, technical assistance, and education.
- Private landowners have a right to maximize the economic profitability of their land. They also have a responsibility to use natural resources in a wise and responsible manner.
- Resource management is best achieved with a voluntary, locally-led, and holistic approach dealing with watersheds.
- Natural resource conservation efforts can be planned and implemented to sustain long-term healthy, economically viable, productive land uses.
- We have independent responsibilities, but we recognize our dependence on others to deliver programs successfully.
- We form partnerships dedicated to common principles, goals, and objectives. These partnerships ideally include communications, coordination, joint decision making when possible, mutual support, and shared leadership in collaborative efforts.
- We value the relationships with our partners who have common goals, while respecting the differences in mission, cultures, and targets.
- We recognize the need for appropriate regulation and that the best results will occur when an industry regulates and polices itself.
- We believe enduring conservation is achieved only by the cooperative efforts of individuals, agencies, and organizations working together.
- We believe a locally led, watershed-based approach to resource management on private lands is key to conserving natural resources.

## **RESOURCE CONCERNS**

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### **Natural Resource Concerns**

#### **Water Quality**

- Water temperature exceeds state standards in a number of stream reaches
- Sediment from human activities (roads, irrigation, under-sized culverts, off-road vehicles) has degraded aquatic habitat
- Bacteria source reduction, management and control

#### **Stream flow and hydrology**

- Inadequate summer/fall flows in several tributaries
- Loss of floodplains
- Altered upland hydrologic regime

#### **Fish populations and habitat**

- Native fish populations have declined compared to historic conditions, prompting ESA listings
- Aquatic habitat (pool area, pool frequency, and gravel availability) is below desirable levels, and large, woody debris channel complexity is reduced compared to historic conditions.
- Fish migration barriers (culverts, dams, diversions) and inadequate fish screens negatively impact fish populations

#### **Riparian conditions**

- Inadequate healthy riparian vegetation to protect waterways and moderate solar radiation
- Inadequate large, woody debris recruitment potential to sustain aquatic life
- Reduced habitat and increased flood damage from streams that have been channelized and cut off from historic flood plains

#### **Upland conditions and Other Natural Resource Concerns**

- Invasive species including juniper out-competing native and cultivated plants
- Percentage of forest canopy and rangeland cover is low compared to historical levels exacerbating flooding and impacting streams, groundwater recharge, wildlife, and other resources
- Diseased, overstocked forests as a result of suppression of natural wildfire regimes and/or lack of forest management
- Soil erosion and other pollution
- Reduced quality of native and managed plant communities

### **Operational Resource Concerns**

- Adequate staffing to meet natural resource concerns and office functions while not limiting productivity
- Data gaps – fish passage barriers, updated watershed assessment, acquire geo-data
- Incomplete Soil Survey

### **Fiscal Resource Concerns**

- Conservation investments are not a priority for landowners with other, more pressing financial needs
- Some resource concerns (i.e. noxious weeds or upland habitat) have reduced funding due to fisheries-focused watershed restoration priorities
- Reliance on “soft” sources of state funding makes long-term budgeting and planning difficult and leaves the District vulnerable to state budget shortfalls

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

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**Goal #1: Improve health of the watersheds through holistic measures that enhance water quality and quantity for beneficial uses.**

**Objectives:**

1. Conduct assessments, and formulate action and conservation planning.
2. Form and maintain partnerships with various agencies, tribes, conservation organizations and foundations.
3. Set strategic priority work areas.
4. Implement projects and practices.
5. Monitor projects.

**Goal #2: Improve soil conservation and health to ensure continued resource availability for future generations.**

**Objectives:**

1. Help facilitate the soil survey for our area.
2. Encourage and educate about grazing rotation and management.
3. Work to reduce invasive species.
4. Promote protection of perennial grasses.
5. Encourage seeding of non-productive areas.
6. Educate how fencing can be utilized effectively.
7. Encourage and educate concerning the use of prescribed burns.

**Goal #3: Provide education and outreach to the public.**

**Objectives:**

1. Provide information about various conservation programs that are available.
2. Encourage education through workshops, tours, and featured speakers.
3. Conduct outreach through annual reports, newsletters, press releases, fact sheets and community events.
4. Develop interactive youth programs.
5. Create displays and presentations for a variety of public venues.
6. Seek new ways to engage the public, such as with kiosks.
7. Provide legislative and other agencies with our project work and accomplishments.

**Goal #4: Manage the business of the district in an efficient and effective manner.**

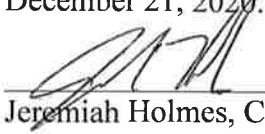
**Objectives:**

1. Seek funding for project implementation, staff positions, public education and necessary equipment.
2. Assist other agencies with beneficial programs or research.
3. Prepare statements of work, budgets and all reports as required.
4. Develop, maintain and use a district website and other technology such as video, as appropriate. Use new mediums to educate and share information.
5. Participate in training sessions, workshops and conventions.
6. Recruit directors and associate directors as needed.
7. Hold board meetings, annual meeting and committee meetings as necessary.
8. Hold staff meetings and safety meetings.
9. Review and update policies, and draft resolutions when needed.
10. Participate with other agencies to complete partnership responsibilities, such as the NRCS work group, and the Middle John Day River Ag WQMAP Biennial Reviews.

## ADOPTION

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This **2020-2023 Long Range Business Plan for Wheeler Soil & Water Conservation District** was **approved** and **adopted** by the Wheeler SWCD Board of Directors at a board meeting held on December 21, 2020.



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Jeremiah Holmes, Chair



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Chase Schultz, District Manager

# Appendix A

## Statutes and Administrative Rules

The district is specifically governed by Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 568.210 through 568.890. In addition, the district is subject, but not limited, to the conditions of several statutes and administrative rules as follows:

- ORS 568.900 through 568.933 (Agricultural Water Quality Management)
- ORS 561.395 (Soil and Water Conservation Commission)
- ORS 561.400 (Natural Resources Division)
- ORS 44.320 (Oath of Office)
- Oregon Constitution, Article XV, Section 3 (Oath of Office)
- ORS 190.003 through 190.110 (Intergovernmental Cooperation)
- ORS 192.001 (Public Records Policy)
- ORS 192.005 through 192.190 (Custody and Maintenance of Records)
- ORS 192.310 (Records and Reports)
- ORS 192.410 (Inspection of Public Records)
- ORS 192.610 through 192.710 (Public Meetings)
- ORS 198.010 through 198.955 (Special Districts)
- ORS 198.330 through 198.365 (Dissolution of Inactive Districts)
- ORS 198.410 through 192.440 (Recall)
- ORS 240.379 through 240.394 (Employment of Persons with Severe Disabilities)
- Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Equal Opportunity Employment/Sexual Harassment/Discrimination -- federal)
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Hiring Persons with Disabilities – federal)
- ORS 244.010 through 244.400 (Conflict of Interest)
- ORS 247.035 (Residency)
- ORS 297.005 through 297.712 (Contracting)
- ORS 297.405 through 297.485 (Municipal Audits)
- ORS 542.750 (Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention)
- ORS 659.010 through 659.990 (Employment Practices)
- ORS 659.405 (State Policy/Employment of Disabled Persons)
- OAR 839-07-550 through 839-07-565 (Sexual Harassment Prevention)



## Appendix B

### **568.550 General powers of board of directors; erosion control covenants; interagency cooperation; land use regulations; department rules.**

- (1) The board of directors of a soil and water conservation district has the following powers:
- (a) To secure surveys and investigations and do research relating to:
    - (A) The character of soil erosion;
    - (B) The character of floodwater and sediment damage;
    - (C) All phases of the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water; and
    - (D) The preventive measures, control measures and improvements needed.
  - (b) To conduct demonstrational projects on lands within the district upon obtaining the consent of the owner and occupier of such lands.
  - (c) To carry out preventive and control measures on lands within the district upon obtaining the consent of the owner and occupier of those lands.
  - (d) To enter into written agreements with and, within the limits of appropriations duly made available to the board by law, to furnish financial or other aid to any governmental or nongovernmental agency or any owner or occupier of lands within the district, for the purpose of:
    - (A) Carrying on within the district soil erosion control and prevention operations, water quality improvement, watershed enhancement and improvement, fish and wildlife habitat management activities and other natural resource management activities; or
    - (B) Carrying out district responsibilities under ORS 541.898, 568.225, 568.550 and 568.900 to 568.933.
  - (e) To obtain options upon and to acquire by purchase, exchange, lease, gift, grant, bequest or devise any property, real or personal or rights or interests therein, to maintain, administer and improve any properties acquired, to receive income from such properties and to expend such income in carrying out the purposes and provisions of ORS 568.210 to 568.808 and 568.900 to 568.933, and to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any of its property or interests therein in furtherance of the purposes and the provisions of ORS 568.210 to 568.808 and 568.900 to 568.933.
  - (f) To borrow money and to mortgage personal property of the district as security for the borrowed money, if the district first gives notice of and holds a public hearing within the district to provide landowners with the opportunity to be heard. The State Department of Agriculture shall adopt rules specifying the manner for giving notice of a hearing under this subsection.
  - (g) To issue general obligation bonds of the district as provided in ORS 568.803.
  - (h) To make available, on such terms as the directors shall prescribe, to landowners or occupiers within the district, agricultural and engineering machinery and equipment, fertilizer, seeds, and seedlings and other material or equipment.
  - (i) To construct, operate and maintain such structures as may be necessary or convenient for performance of any of the operations authorized in ORS 568.210 to 568.808 and 568.900 to 568.933.
  - (j) To develop comprehensive plans and specifications for the conservation of soil resources and for the continued control and prevention of soil erosion within the district, and to publish such plans, specifications and information and bring them to the attention of owners and occupiers of lands within the district.
  - (k) To take over, by purchase, lease or otherwise, and to administer, any soil conservation, erosion control or erosion prevention project, or combination thereof, located within district boundaries undertaken by the United States or any of its agencies, or by this state or any of its agencies.
  - (L) To manage, as agent of the United States or any of its agencies, or of this state or any of its agencies, any soil conservation, erosion control or erosion prevention project, or combination thereof, within district boundaries.
  - (m) To act as agent for the United States or any of its agencies, in connection with the acquisition, construction, operation or administration of any soil conservation, erosion control or erosion prevention project, or combination thereof, within district boundaries.
  - (n) To accept donations, gifts and contributions in money, services, materials, or otherwise, from the United States or any of its agencies, or from this state or any of its agencies, and to use or expend such moneys, services, materials or other contributions in carrying on its operations.
  - (o) To sue and to be sued in the name of the district, to have a seal, which shall be judicially noticed, to have perpetual succession unless terminated as provided by law, to make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary or

convenient to the exercise of its powers, and to make, and from time to time amend or repeal, rules not inconsistent with ORS 568.210 to 568.808 and 568.900 to 568.933 to carry into effect its purposes and powers.

(p) To purchase liability or indemnity insurance, in such amounts and containing such terms and conditions as the board believes necessary for the protection of directors, officers and employees of the district against claims incurred in the performance of official duties. The premiums for such insurance shall be paid out of moneys available for expenditure by the district.

(q) To place liens on real and personal property.

(r) To enter into written agreements with, coordinate activities with and provide assistance to landowners, managers and residents within the district and federal state and local governments, relating to natural resource issues, including but not limited to issues of:

(A) Agriculture and forestry;

(B) Economic development based on natural resources;

(C) Watershed management and ecosystem health;

(D) Invasive species;

(E) Alternative and renewable energy;

(F) Air quality;

(G) Animal waste and nutrient management;

(H) Carbon sequestration;

(I) Access to market-based services and certification;

(J) Fuel reduction and wildfire planning and management; and

(K) Preservation of agricultural, forestry and other lands.

(s) To conduct outreach and conservation education activities.

(t) To provide financial assistance, including but not limited to loans and grants to implement activities and projects authorized under ORS 271.715 to 271.795, 568.210 to 568.808 or 568.900 to 568.933.

(u) To hold patents, trademarks and copyrights.

(v) To hold conservation easements under ORS 271.715 to 271.795.

(2) As a condition to the extending of any benefits under ORS 568.210 to 568.808 or 568.900 to 568.933 to lands, or the performance of work upon lands, the directors may require contributions in money, services, materials or otherwise to any operations conferring such benefits, and may require landowners or occupiers to enter into and perform such agreements or covenants as to the permanent use of such lands as will tend to prevent or control erosion thereon.

(3) In order to avoid duplication of activities under subsection (1)(a) of this section, the department may call upon other state and federal agencies for assistance and cooperation in their fields in accordance with memoranda of understanding to be signed by all cooperating agencies.

(4) A district may not adopt land use regulations under ORS chapter 197, 215 or 227. A district has the standing of an affected property owner to participate in public processes involving administrative rules, regulations, goals, guidelines, plans or other public body actions that may affect one or more properties within the district. [Amended by 1955 c.142 §16; 1957 c.603 §4; 1961 c.640 §3; 1973 c.656 §13; 1981 c.92 §29; 2005 c.22 §386; 2005 c.282 §1; 2009 c.220 §26]

# Appendix C

## Commonly Used Acronyms

<b>#</b> 303d – DEQ list of streams with impaired water quality	FSA – Farm Service Agency (formerly ASCS) FTE – Full Time Equivalent FWP – Farm Wetland Program FY – Fiscal Year	OPLI – Oregon Paleo Lands Institute ORS – Oregon Revised Statutes OSDF – Oregon State Department of Forestry OSU – Oregon State University OSU IWW – OSU Institute for Water and Watersheds OSWB – Oregon State Weed Board OTAC – Oregon Technical Advisory Committee OWEB – Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board OWHCOMP – Oregon Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Mgt. Program OWIC – Oregon Watershed Improvement Commission OWRD – Oregon Water Resources Department
<b>A</b> ACEP – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program ACEP ALE – ACP – Agricultural Conservation Program Ag – Agriculture AgWQMP – Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan ASAP – Automated Standard Application for Payments AWEP – Agriculture Water Enhancement Program	<b>G</b> GIS – Geographic Information Systems (Mapping Software) GWMA – Ground Water Management Area	<b>P</b> PNW – Pacific Northwest
<b>B</b> BCWSA – Bridge Creek Watershed Assessment BLM – Bureau of Land Management BMP – Best Management Practice BOLI – Bureau of Labor and Industries BPA – Bonneville Power Administration	<b>H</b> HEL – Highly Erodible Land	<b>Q/R</b> RAC – Resource Advisory Committee RARE – Resource Assistance for Rural Environments RC & D – Resource Conservation & Development RCA – Resource Conservation Act RCPP – Regional Conservation Partnership Program RFP – Request for Proposal RFQ – Request for Qualifications RRF – Request to Release Funds RRT – Restoration Review Team RWH – Rainwater Harvesting
<b>C</b> CAFO – Confined Animal Feeding Operation CCPI – Cooperative Conservation Reserve Program CCRP – Continuous Conservation Reserve Program CFSA – Consolidated Farm Services Agency CIG – Conservation Innovation Grant CORPS – US Army Corps of Engineers CREP – Conservation Resource Enhancement Program CRMP – Conservation Resource Management Program CRP – Conservation Reserve Program CSP – Conservation Stewardship Program (NRCS cost share program) CTWS – Confederate Tribes of Warm Springs CWA – Clean Water Act CWMA – Cooperative Weed Management Area	<b>I</b> IPM – Integrated Pest Management ISRP – Independent Scientific Review Panel ITB – Invitation to bid	<b>S</b> SAM – System Award Management SB1010 – Oregon State Bill 1010 (passed in 1993) SDAO – Special Districts Association of Oregon SDIS – Special Districts Insurance Services SEP – Supplemental Environmental Project SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office SIP / OWEB – Special Investment Partnership (OWEB) SIP / NRCS – Stewardship Incentive Program (NRCS) SOW – Statement of Work SWCC – Soil and Water Conservation Commission SWCD – Soil and Water Conservation District
<b>D</b> DC – District Conservationist (NRCS) DEQ – Department of Environmental Quality District – Soil and Water Conservation District DLCD – Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development DNR – Department of Natural Resources DSL – Department of State Lands	<b>J</b> JAM – Joint Agency Meeting	<b>T</b> TAC – Technical Advisory Committee TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Load TSP – Technical Service Provider
<b>E</b> ECP – Emergency Conservation Program EDRR – Early Detection and Rapid Response EIS – Environmental Impact Statement EPA – Environmental Protection Agency EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program – (NRCS Cost Share Program) ESA – Endangered Species Act EWP – Emergency Watershed Program	<b>K/L</b> LAC – Local Advisory Committee LID – Low Impact Development LJDWG – Lower John Day Work Group LMA – Local Management Agency LOA – Landowners Agreement LUB – Lower Umatilla Basin	<b>U</b> USDA – United States Department of Agriculture USFS – United States Forest Service USFWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service USGS – United States Geological Survey
<b>F</b> FA – Focus Area FAAP – Focus Area Action Plan FDR – Flood Damage Reduction Program FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency FFA – Future Farmers of America FIP – Forestry Incentive Program FMMI – Financial Management Modernization Initiative FOTG – Field Office Technical Guide FS – Forest Service	<b>M</b> Mid-C Plan – Mid Columbia River Steelhead Recovery Plan MJDWCWC – Mid John Day Bridge Creek Watershed Council MOA – Memorandum of Agreement (often called an MOA) MOU – Memorandum of Understanding (often called an MOU)	<b>V/W</b> WC – Watershed Council WES – Water Environmental Services WFPP – Watershed and Flood Protection Program WHIP – Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program WQ – Water Quality WRD – Water Resources Department WRP – Wetland Reserve Program WSC – Watershed Council WSWCD – Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District WTA – Watershed Technical Assistance
	<b>N</b> NACD – National Association of Conservation Districts NFWF – National Fish & Wildlife Foundation NMFS – National Marine Fisheries Service NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NOAA / ARC – NOAA / American Rivers Conservancy NPS – Non-Point Source (pollution) NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service NRD – Natural Resources Division (ODA) NWF – National Wildlife Federation NWPC – Northwest Power & Conservation Council	<b>X/Y/Z</b>
	<b>O</b> OACD – Oregon Association of Conservation Districts OACHP – OAN – Oregon Association of Nurseries OAR – Oregon Administrative Rules OAT – OCEAN – Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network ODA – Oregon Department of Agriculture ODA NRD – ODA Natural Resources Division ODF – Oregon Department of Forestry ODFW – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife ODOT – Oregon Department of Transportation	

## Appendix D

### Noxious Weeds of Concern in Wheeler SWCD

#### “A” Designated Weed

A weed of known economic importance which occurs in the county in small enough infestations to make eradication or containment possible; or is not known to occur, but its presence in neighboring counties make future occurrence in Wheeler County seem imminent.

**Recommended action:** Infestations are subject to eradication or intensive control when and where found.

#### “B” Designated Weed

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant, but may have limited distribution in the county

**Recommended action:** Limited to intensive control at the county or regional level as determined on a site specific, case-by-case basis. Where implementation of a fully integrated countywide management plan is not feasible, biological control (when available) shall be the primary control method.

#### “T” Designated Weed (T)

A designated group of weed species which is determined by the Oregon State Weed Board. This group consists of weeds from both A and B designated weed lists.

**Recommended action:** These noxious weeds are the focus for prevention and control by the WCWB. Action against these weeds will receive priority.

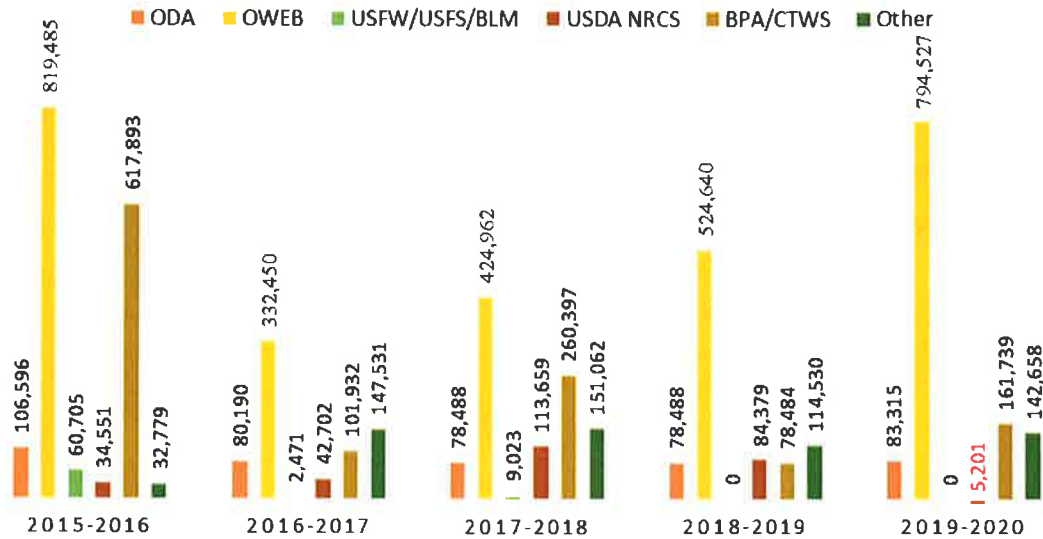
Table I	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Dalmation Toadflax (T)	Linaria dalmatica
Japanese dodder	Cuscuta japonica
Mediterranean Sage (T)	Salvia aethiopis
Musk Thistle	Carduus nutans
Myrtle Spurge	Euphorbia myrsinites
Plumeless Thistle	Carduus acanthoides
Purple Loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria
Purple Starthistle (T)	Centaurea calcitrapa
Rush Skeletonweed	Chodrilla juncea
Russian-olive (Outside Domestication) (T)	Elacagnus angustifolia
Salt Cedar (Outside Domestication) (T)	Tamarix ramosissima
Scotch Broom	Cytisus scoparius
Spike Weed	Hemizonia pungens
Spiny Cocklebur (T)	Xanthium spinosum
Squarrose Knapweed (T)	Centaurea virgata
St. Johnswart	Hypericum perforatum
Tansy Ragwort	Senecio jacobaea
Yellow Toadflax	Linaria vulgaris

Table II	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Tree of Heaven	Ailanthus altissima
Bull thistle	Cirsium vulgare
Bur Buttercup	Ranunculus testiculatus
Canada Thistle (T)	Cirsium arvense
Cheatgrass (T)	Bromus tectorum
Chicory (T)	Cichorium intybus
Coast Fiddleneck	Amsinckia intermedia
Diffuse Knapweed (T)	Centaurea diffusa
Field Bindweed (Morning Glory)	Convolvulus arvensis
Foxtail Barley	Hordeum jubatum
Houndstounge (T)	Cynoglossum officinate
Jointed Goatgrass	Aegilops Cylindrical
Kochia	Kochia scoparia
Leafy Spurge (T)	Euphorbia esula
Medusahead Rye (T)	Taeniatherum caput-medusae
Mullein	Verbascum thapsus
Perennial Pepperweed (T)	Lepidium latifolium
Poison Hemlock	Conium maculatum
Prickly Lettuce (milk thistle)	Silybum marianum
Puncturevine	Tribulus terrestris
Russian Knapweed (T)	Centaurea repens
Russian thistle	Salsola iberica
Scotch Thistle (T)	Onopordum acanthium
Spotted Knapweed (T)	Centaurea maculosa
Sulfur Cinquefoil	Potentilla recta
Teasel	Dipsacus fullonum
Ventenata (T)	Ventenata dubia
White Top (Hoary Cress) (T)	Cardaria draba
Yellow Starthistle (T)	Centaurea solstitialis
Yellow Sweet Clover	Melilotus officinalis

# Appendix E

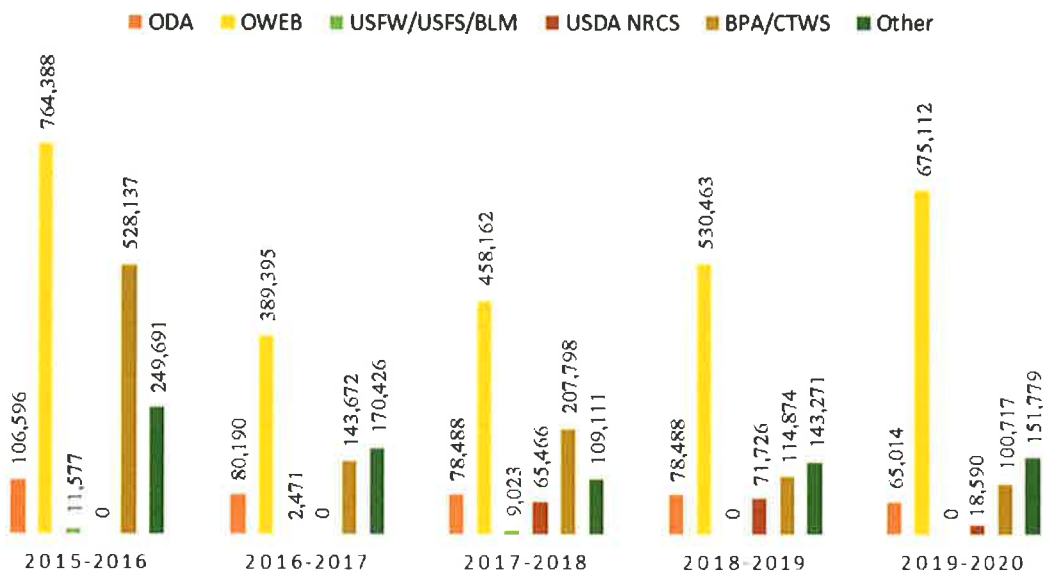
## Financial Data 2015-2029

### REVENUES



Unaudited financial information

### EXPENSES



Unaudited financial information

## Adopted Budget 2020-2021

<b>General and Special Funds</b>		<b>Adopted Budget Fiscal Year 2020-21</b>	
Beginning Fund Balance / Cash on Hand			\$689,872.00
Federal, State, and Other Grants			\$792,658.00
	<b>Total Resources</b>		<b>\$1,482,530.00</b>
Personnel Services			\$297,592.00
Materials and Services			\$199,900.00
Capital Outlay			\$44,000.00
Capital Contingency			\$53,953.00
Unappropriated Ending Balance			\$887,085.00
	<b>Total Requirements</b>		<b>\$1,482,530.00</b>
<b>Wheeler County Weed Board</b>		<b>Adopted Budget Fiscal Year 2020-21</b>	
Beginning Fund Balance / Cash on Hand			\$25,398.00
Chemical Sales			\$10,000.00
Weed Grants			\$133,451.00
	<b>Total Resources</b>		<b>\$158,849.00</b>
Materials and Services			\$96,772.00
Capital Contingency			\$8,117.00
Unappropriated Ending Balance			\$53,960.00
	<b>Total Requirements</b>		<b>\$158,849.00</b>
<b>Project Funds</b>		<b>Adopted Budget Fiscal Year 2020-21</b>	
Project Grants			\$1,142,627.00
Project Expenditures			\$1,142,627.00

# Appendix F

## NRCS Programs

NRCS offers a variety of programs to help farmers, ranchers, family forests, Tribes, and conservation partners perform voluntary conservation on private lands. NRCS programs are funded through the Farm Bill. Here's the programs we currently offer in Oregon:

### Financial Assistance Programs

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** - Our most popular financial assistance program. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance for structural and management conservation practices on working agricultural lands. NRCS Oregon uses a strategic approach to conservation to administer its general EQIP dollars. By using a strategic approach, NRCS works with local communities, partners and landowners to determine county-level resource concerns and priorities, and focuses its EQIP investments in those areas. These priorities are addressed in a local Conservation Implementation Strategy, or CIS. We offer several categories of EQIP funding: general EQIP, which are specific to a CIS area, and statewide EQIP Initiatives such as the Organic Initiative, High Tunnel Initiative, and Sage Grouse Initiative.

### Grant Programs

**Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)** - These grants spur the development and wide-scale adoption of new technologies and approaches to address pressing natural resource concerns in an agricultural setting.

**Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentives Program (VPA-HIP)** - These grants help state and tribal governments increase public access to private lands for wildlife-dependent recreation, such as hunting, fishing, nature watching or hiking.

### Stewardship Programs

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** - The nation's largest voluntary conservation program (by acres) for working lands. CSP encourages farmers, ranchers and woodland owners to take their conservation a step further by adopting additional conservation activities and enhancements, while also sustaining their current level of conservation.

### Partnership Programs

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** - Offers new opportunities for conservation partners and agricultural producers to work together to harness innovation, expand the conservation mission and demonstrate the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

**Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership** - A partnership between the chiefs of two USDA agencies, NRCS and the Forest Service, to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health on at-risk lands across the nation, treating both public and private forestlands.

### Conservation Easements

**Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)** - Protects working agricultural lands for future generations and limits non-agricultural uses and development of the land. Part of the Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP).

**Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)** - Restores, enhances and protects wetland habitats. Part of the Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP).

### Conservation Planning Assistance

**Conservation Planning Assistance** - A guide to assist farmers, ranchers and landowners plan and develop conservation measures.

### Other Conservation Programs

**Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)** - Supports emergency measures, including the purchase of flood plain easements and construction activities to safeguard lives and property due to damages from floods, drought, fire or other natural occurrences.

