
CONNECT 2010 SESSIONS

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

SWCD PUBLIC CONTRACTING – THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

Panel: Marty Suter, Harney SWCD; Shilah Olson, Wasco County SWCD; Lissa Adams, East Multnomah SWCD; Jackie Hastings, Polk SWCD

Learn some of the legal issues regarding creating, implementing, and completing contracts from last year's scholarship recipients. Join a lively discussion about contracts, thresholds, rules for procurement, and bidding methods. Hear about new opportunities for scholarships to attend the 10-week course this fall. And after this session, keep your eye on the flip chart schedule in the Networking Room for more opportunities to continue this important discussion.

UNDERSTANDING ORPIN

Nancy Ahlbin, Coordinator, Oregon Cooperative Procurement Program

Come see how the ORPIN system can benefit your district's purchasing, posting RFPs, accessing state contracts, etc. If your district already uses ORPIN, this is a chance to get your specific questions answered during a live demonstration of the system.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CONSERVATION

Taylor Elwood, Social Media Consultant, Imagine Your Reality

Social media for conservation explains how you can integrate social media into your volunteer campaigns and efforts to raise local awareness about conservation. You'll learn what social media is, and why it's important to use it for outreach in your community.

BIO-CONTROLS AND ODFW RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Laura Tesler, R&E Program Manager, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grass carp can be an effective tool to manage aquatic weeds; however, they are a controlled species in Oregon and require a special permit from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. This permit has some stringent requirements that you should be aware of if you do recommend that landowners look into grass carp. This presentation will give you the basics to decide whether or not to recommend this tool to landowners you work with.

The Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program is a grant program that supports projects that enhance Oregon's sport fisheries statewide. As private lands often contain the most productive habitat for fish, the R&E program can be another tool in the funding toolbox to complete projects or provide match funding on private lands.

SOIL QUALITY PROJECT

Teresa Matteson, Education and Outreach Director, Benton SWCD

Learn how Benton SWCD's Soil Quality Project offers assessments to guide farmers' management decisions.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

***Connie Richmeier, NCDEA President, Finney County Conservation District, Garden City, KS
Carolyn Kelly, NCDEA Pacific Region Rep, Skagit Conservation District, Mt Vernon, WA***

Learn about the mission and vision of the national conservation district employee association. Hear how you can benefit from an active national and state association from colleagues who are involved on the national level.

CONNECT 2010 SESSIONS

OREGON CONSERVATION EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION NETWORK

Attend the annual meeting of your state association. Learn about by-law changes and participate in the election of officers and regional representatives. Be involved in planning for the future of the organization, and learn why you should become a member if you aren't already.

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

GRANT WRITING

Lara Utman, The Oregon Community Foundation

Most important for any grant seeker is the planning that precedes submission of a grant request. It is far more important that applicants have solid, strategic planning behind the proposal than an elegantly prepared application that masks vague goals and no real plan for assessing impact. Funders care far less about presentation than substance.

UNDERSTANDING THE FEDERAL AND STATE PERMITTING PROCESS AND UPDATES ON RULES FOR INSTREAM AND STREAM BANK PROJECTS.

Eric D. Metz, PWS, Southern Region Manager, Removal-Fill Program, Oregon Department of State Lands and Charles Hanner, Regulatory Project Manager, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

Learn about the changes made in the Oregon Removal-Fill statute and rules that took effect in 2010. Learn about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, its jurisdiction and the regulatory process.

HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

Ron Downs, General Counsel, Special Districts Association of Oregon

This difficult topic should be required reading for all employers and all employees. Sexual harassment and hostile work environment are terms we have heard used – but do you know their legal definitions? And what is an employer's liability? Come find the answers to these questions and hear updates of recent case law. This is your chance to hear important discussions that might keep your district out of court.

PESTICIDES AND WATER QUALITY

Kevin Masterson, DEQ Agency Toxics Coordinator; Sheila Marcoe, ODA Water Quality Specialist

Surface water monitoring results for some pesticides in Oregon have raised concerns about the possible risks these chemicals pose to human health and aquatic life. This session will provide information on what state and local agencies are doing to assess the presence of pesticides in surface waters and potential impacts, as well as implement protective measures to ensure that the beneficial uses of Oregon's waters are being protected and how you can become involved.

THE RIGHT AUDIENCE FOR YOUR STORY

Bruce Pokarney, Director of Communications, Oregon Department of Agriculture

Learn what topics are best for different forms of outreach. Gain experience from a seasoned outreach professional on how to tell your story well without taking all of your time!

PANEL DISCUSSION: PROTECTING WILDLIFE, FARMLAND AND CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Description coming soon!

CONNECT 2010 SESSIONS

MEDIA RELATIONSHIPS

Bruce Pokarney, Director of Communications, Oregon Department of Agriculture

Good working relationships with your local news reporters and publishers are a must! Learn to create and foster those relationships to improve your media coverage.

SURVIVING THE JOB

Brian Wheeler, Founder and President, Northwest School of Survival; corporate and military trainer

Survival techniques for working in the backcountry. Learn land navigation basics including GPS - Yes! Bring your GPS unit with you! Learn techniques for remote travel, what to include in a survival kit for your car, and what to carry on your back. Class will start indoors but come prepared to go outside too.

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURE

Traci Price, Education Director, The Freshwater Trust

Photo point monitoring can be a useful and inexpensive tool for qualitatively documenting events and changes at a restoration site over time. This type of monitoring allows for comparisons among photographs of a restoration project to determine whether changes have occurred over time. Well-documented photo points can also be used to support conclusions reached through other, more rigorous monitoring techniques (taken directly from the OWEB Guide to Photo Point Monitoring).

INTRODUCTION TO GRASSES

Kathy Pendergrass, Plant Material Specialist for the Natural Resource Conservation

Learn basic grass anatomy in a lecture format then use microscopes to look at grass characteristics. Work through a key to identify a variety of fresh material grasses. This workshop was very popular last year so come early to secure your seat.

CRAZY BUSY DAYS AND WORKLOAD CHAOS: TIMESAVING TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

Lynda C. Bader

Are you too busy? Do you have a project that's so big you don't know where to start? Do you have a 'To Do List' that never gets done? Are you overwhelmed by paper? One of the major causes of stress and productivity problems is poor time management. During this interactive session we will discuss how to deal with procrastination, interruptions, paperwork, and other "people-focused" time management challenges. Each participant will develop a personalized Time Management Action Plan.

UNDERSTANDING STREAM PROCESSES TO IMPROVE PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS

Derek Godwin, OSU Extension Service, Marion County and Oregon Sea Grant

Many people seek to actively improve fish habitat and water quality, stabilize streams to minimize erosion, or modify land practices adjacent to streams for a variety of reasons. Understanding stream processes, floods, and floodplains are invaluable in planning successful projects. Topics to be covered include stream channel classifications, how and why streams meander and erode stream banks, floodplain functions, impacts of land management on rivers, floods, and floodplains, and considerations for conducting stream restoration and enhancement projects.

WRITING A PRESS RELEASE

Ron Oberg, retired writer, editor for several publications including the Clackamas Review, Mother Earth News, and the Oregonian; Ralph McKenchie, reporter from Eagle Point, OR

Learn from the experts! Tips on how to write an effective media release that will get printed. Discuss how to follow up with the media and develop a professional working relationship.

HANDLING THE MEDIA DURING A DISASTER

Joe Krumm, Director, Community & Govt. Relations, North Clackamas Schools

CONNECT 2010 SESSIONS

Floods? Earthquakes? Toxic spills? Contaminated waterways? Theft? What if it happened in your district? When the public looks to your district for answers, how will you respond in an emergency? Learn tips and gain practical experience on how to effectively communicate with the media during a disaster.

COACHING FOR EMPLOYEE RETENTION

Melissa Humes, HR Consultant, Tompkins HR Group, Inc.

In light of economic challenges, employers are looking at ways to keep their valued employees satisfied. However, different work patterns, perspectives, experiences, work and life priorities and motivations can lead to “disconnects” between people. Coaching and mentoring techniques can reestablish those connections. What are the ingredients that make for an effective coach and coaching experience? Who benefits most from the coaching experience and what is the return on investment? This discussion offers resources and tools to more effectively coach through performance problems.

ESTABLISHING TREES IN RIPARIAN AREAS

Glenn R. Ahrens, OSU Extension Forester, Clatsop & Tillamook County

This class will cover basic steps involved with successful riparian tree planting. Establishing trees in riparian areas poses significant challenges due to the complex and changing nature of the zone of transition between water and land. The goal of this class is to improve your chances of success in riparian plantings based on key steps and successful techniques learned from riparian plantings across western Oregon. Key steps to be covered include site assessment and design, plant materials, site preparation, planting practices, maintenance, and monitoring.

THE PLANT WALK

Kathy Pendergrass, Plant Material Specialist for the Natural Resource Conservation

Walk the Canby Grove campus to see a variety of plant species, learn key characteristics that identify the plants, plant family characteristics, natural history information, etc.

FEATURED PRESENTATION: BIOMASS TO ENERGY – A CONCEPT IN TIMES OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CHANGE

Dr. Frank Mitloehner, Associate Professor and Cooperative Extension Specialist – Air Quality, Department of Animal Science, University of California, Davis

Frank Mitloehner, PhD, serves as director for the Agricultural Air Quality Center at UC Davis and is an Associate Professor and Air Quality Cooperative Extension Specialist in the Department of Animal Science. His current research activities are in the area of air emission estimates from dairies and other agricultural sources and emission mitigation (focus on greenhouse gases, volatile organic compounds, ammonia, and particulate matter). His extension efforts are largely related to teaching various stakeholders (from regulatory staff to farmers) air quality related information and assisting them in air quality compliance issues.

FIRESEIDE CHAT WITH DR. MITLOEHNER

Bring your questions, find a place on the couch, and spend the evening in informal conversation with Dr. Mitloehner. Last year, the best seats were taken early for this session, so don't be late.

CONNECT 2010 SESSIONS

Thursday, May 6, 2010

SAVI: AVOIDING COMMON CONVERSATION PITFALLS

Candace Stoughton, Low Impact Development Specialist, East Multnomah SWCD and volunteer mediator, Resolutions Northwest

Have you ever had a conversation with a landowner or a meeting with the board that went badly and you wished you had some tools to “turn things around”? In this workshop, we’ll focus on several strategies that can help avoid common “conversation pitfalls” & maximize the clarity of your message.

OREGON NRCS' STRATEGIC APPROACH TO CONSERVATION: BUILDING ALLIANCES AND STRATEGICALLY INVESTING TO EFFECTIVELY SOLVE NATURAL RESOURCE PROBLEMS IN OREGON.

Leo Preston, NRCS Lower Willamette Basin Team Leader, and Mike Merrill, Oregon NRCS Watershed Planner

The goal of this Strategic Approach to Conservation is to enhance our ability to solve high priority natural resource concerns in a focused and strategic manner. By clearly identifying where we are going, what we need to do to get there and when we have reached are goal, we can more effectively leverage and strategically deliver our conservation assistance. Oregon NRCS, with our partners, will be working to establish long-range strategies in our field offices to prioritize, focus and strategically make changes on the land.

EXPANDING POSSIBILITIES: A POWERFUL PROCESS TO DEMONSTRATE THE IMPACT OF CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Mary Halbleib, Program Coordinator and Evaluator, Integrated Plant Protection Center, OSU

Evaluation designed and conducted at the end of a project can often leave information gaps that do not fully allow you to document the benefits of your work. Come learn how an outcome-based process will enable you to clearly report the value of conservation activities. This planning process supports evaluation that can accurately capture multiple project benefits.

BANK STABILIZATION TECHNIQUES – THE DOES AND THE DON'TS

Janine M. Castro, PhD, RG, Geomorphologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Description coming soon!