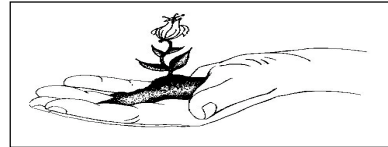


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# I. History of Conservation Districts in Oregon

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The "Dust Bowl" brought to the nation's attention 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 formation of soil conservation districts. During that same year, 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, the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, leading to the structure that exists today.

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 USDA officials drafted a standard State Soil Conservation Districts law which President 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 Congress authorized **Resource Conservation and Development** pilot projects.
- 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.
- 1981 Legislation was adopted authorizing soil and water conservation districts to secure a permanent tax rate with voter approval. ORS 568.806.
- 1986 Yamhill SWCD received voter approval to secure a permanent tax rate.
- 1989 The Oregon Legislature changed the name of the Soil and Water Conservation Division to the **Natural Resources Division**.
- 1993 The Legislature passed the **Agricultural Water Quality Management Act** and designated soil and water conservation districts as local management agencies for the implementation of agricultural water quality management area plans. ORS 568.900 – 568.933.
- 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**.
- 2000 Marion SWCD received voter approval to secure a permanent tax rate.
- 2002 Polk SWCD received voter approval to secure a permanent tax rate.
- 2003 Legislation was adopted authorizing districts to hold conservation easements. ORS 271.715 – 271.795.

- 2004 Benton, East Multnomah and Wasco County SWCDs received voter approval to secure a permanent tax rate.
- 2005 Legislation was adopted authorizing districts to issue general obligation bonds with voter approval. ORS 565.550, 568.803.
- 2006 West Multnomah, Sherman County, Jackson, and Clackamas SWCDs received voter approval to secure a permanent tax rate.

## **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 the district decides to legally change it.

Each district should use its certificated name on legal documents, contracts, correspondence, 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	Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District	Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District
Grant Soil and Water Conservation District	Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District
Harney Soil and Water Conservation District	Union Soil and Water Conservation District
Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District	Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District
Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District	Wasco 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 have consolidated or changed their names. On the following pages is a chronological listing of all of the conservation districts formed in Oregon, developed from records stored at ODA and at the Oregon State Archives. The names of the current 45 conservation districts are printed in **bold type**.

<b>DATE OF FORMATION</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
February 10, 1940	South Tillamook SCD	Tillamook
November 22, 1940	Necanicum SCD	Clatsop
March 26, 1941	Warrenton Dunes SCD	Clatsop
May 8, 1941	Langell Valley SCD	Klamath
October 4, 1941	Heppner SCD	Morrow
May 10, 1941	Keating SCD	Baker
September 1, 1942	Monument SCD	Grant
November 20, 1942	Southern Wasco SCD	Wasco
February 15, 1944	Sauvie Island SCD	Multnomah
April 26, 1944	Eagle Valley SCD	Baker
March 13, 1945	Poe Valley SCD	Klamath
March 28, 1946	West Umatilla SCD	Umatilla
April 2, 1946	Union SCD	Union
August 9, 1946	Gilliam County SCD	Gilliam
October 18, 1946	Wallowa SCD	Wallowa
December 23, 1946	Clatskanie SCD	Columbia
December 23, 1946	Linn-Lane SCD	Linn and Lane
December 23, 1946	Siuslaw SCD	Lane
April 20, 1947	Scappoose-Rainier SCD	Columbia
May 12, 1947	Northern Wasco SCD	Wasco
May 13, 1947	Central Wasco SCD	Wasco
June 23, 1947	Midstate SCD	Deschutes
July 31, 1947	Lakeview SCD	Lake
August 26, 1947	Boardman SCD	Morrow
October 22, 1947	Santiam SCD	Marion
November 12, 1947	Baker Valley SCD	Baker
February 24, 1948	North Tillamook SCD	Tillamook
July 6, 1949	Klamath SCD	Klamath
September 12, 1949	Silver Creek SCD	Marion
November 30, 1949	Burnt River SCD	Baker
December 13, 1949	Illinois Valley SCD	Josephine
December 30, 1949	Josephine SCD	Josephine
April 21, 1950	Sherman County SCD	Sherman

<b>DATE OF FORMATION</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
October 24, 1950	East Multnomah SCD	Multnomah
January 18, 1951	Sams Valley-Beagle SCD	Jackson
October 24, 1951	Elgin SCD	Union
September 30, 1953	Hood River SCD	Hood River
June 24, 1953	Mt. Angel SCD	Marion
September 16, 1953	Malheur County SCD	Malheur
March 19, 1953	South Umatilla SCD	Umatilla
March 19, 1953	Fort Rock/Silver Lake SCD	Lake
April 2, 1953	Yamhill SCD	Yamhill
April 30, 1953	Curry County SCD	Curry
April 30, 1953	Umpqua SCD	Douglas
June 9, 1953	Rogue SCD	Jackson
July 1954	East Linn SCD	Linn
October 18, 1954	North Douglas SCD	Douglas
August 25, 1955	Lincoln SCD	Lincoln
June 20, 1955	Washington County SCD	Washington
August 30, 1956	North Lane SCD	Lane
July 30, 1956	Grant SCD	Grant
December 28, 1956	Benton SCD	Benton
September 30, 1957	Trout Creek SCD	Jefferson
March 11, 1958	Adrian SCD	Malheur
June 17, 1958	North Clackamas SCD	Clackamas
June 23, 1960	Sams Valley-Beagle SCD changed name to Jackson SCD	Jackson
October 24, 1960	East Umatilla SCD	Umatilla
June 8, 1961	South Clackamas SCD	Clackamas
June 12, 1962	Coos SCD	Coos

**1963** "and Water" was added to the name of conservation districts making the following certificated names:

<b>Baker Valley SWCD</b>	<b>Illinois Valley SWCD</b>
<b>Benton SWCD</b>	<b>Josephine SWCD</b>
<b>Burnt River SWCD</b>	<b>Keating SWCD</b>
<b>Coos SWCD</b>	<b>Lakeview SWCD</b>
<b>Curry County SWCD</b>	<b>Lincoln SWCD</b>
<b>Eagle Valley SWCD</b>	<b>Monument SWCD</b>
<b>East Multnomah SWCD</b>	<b>Sherman County SWCD</b>
<b>Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD</b>	<b>Siuslaw SWCD</b>
<b>Gilliam County SWCD</b>	<b>Umpqua SWCD</b>
<b>Grant SWCD</b>	<b>Wallowa SWCD</b>
<b>Hood River SWCD</b>	<b>Yamhill SWCD</b>

<b>DATE OF FORMATION</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
October 12, 1964	<b>Clatsop SWCD</b>	Clatsop
January 12, 1965	<b>Tillamook County SWCD</b> formed by consolidation of South Tillamook SCD and North Tillamook SCD	Tillamook
March 21, 1966	Clatsop SWCD consolidated with Necanicum SCD	Clatsop
April 25, 1966	<b>Polk SWCD</b>	Polk
August 16, 1966	<b>Columbia SWCD</b> formed by consolidation of Clatskanie SCD and Scappoose-Rainier SCD	Columbia
October 17, 1966	<b>Jackson SWCD</b> consolidated with Rogue SCD	Jackson
April 29, 1970	South Douglas SWCD	Douglas
May 20, 1971	Upper Willamette SWCD	Lane
September 10, 1971	<b>Marion SWCD</b> formed by consolidation of Santiam SCD, Silver Creek SCD, and Mt. Angel SCD	Marion
March 16, 1972	<b>Clatsop SWCD</b> consolidated with Warrenton Dune SCD	Clatsop
May 25, 1972	<b>Crook County SWCD</b>	Crook
June 6, 1972	<b>Harney SWCD</b>	Harney
June 25, 1972	Klamath SWCD consolidated with Poe Valley SCD	Klamath
December 20, 1972	<b>Morrow SWCD</b> formed by consolidation of Heppner SCD and Boardman SCD	Morrow
June 10, 1973	<b>Wasco SWCD</b> formed by consolidation of Southern Wasco SCD, Northern Wasco SCD, and Central Wasco SCD	Wasco
November 2, 1973	<b>Wasco County SWCD</b> formerly Wasco SWCD	Wasco
February 5, 1974	<b>Klamath SWCD</b> consolidated with Langell Valley SCD	Klamath
March 13, 1974	<b>Umatilla County SWCD</b> formed by consolidation of West Umatilla SCD, Southern Umatilla SCD, and East Umatilla SCD	Umatilla

<b>DATE OF FORMATION</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
March 22, 1974	<b>Clackamas County SWCD</b> formed by consolidation of North Clackamas SCD and South Clackamas SCD	Clackamas
June 6, 1974	<b>Malheur County SWCD</b> consolidated with Adrian SCD	Malheur
September 5, 1974	<b>Jefferson County SWCD</b> formerly Trout Creek SCD	Jefferson
April 14, 1975	<b>West Multnomah SWCD</b> formerly Sauvie Island SCD	Multnomah
March 24, 1976	<b>Union SWCD</b> consolidated with the Elgin SCD	Union
March 7, 1978	<b>Linn SWCD</b> formed by consolidation of Linn-Lane SCD and East Linn SCD	Linn
June 9, 1987	<b>Douglas SWCD</b> formed by consolidation of North Douglas SCD and South Douglas SCD	Douglas
September 9, 1987	<b>Deschutes SWCD</b> formerly Midstate SCD	Deschutes
May 3, 1988	<b>East Lane SWCD</b> formed by consolidation of North Lane SCD, Upper Willamette SWCD, and Mid-Lane SCD	Lane
December 11, 2002	<b>Tualatin SWCD</b> formerly Washington County SWCD	Washington

## **D. Tribal Districts**

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation formed the Tiicham Conservation District in 2003. This district was formed under tribal law, as were approximately 20 other tribal conservation districts nationwide. Tiicham Conservation District (TCD) is governed by the Board of Trustees (BOT), the tribal governing body, and has its own set of by-laws. A majority of the members must be enrolled tribal members. The TCD and Umatilla SWCD boundaries overlap; the TCD's boundaries are the tribes' ceded lands, encompassing over 6 million acres in Oregon and Washington. The NRCS and the Intertribal Agriculture Council support the TCD in its activities. The TCD can be contacted at 46493 Mission Rd., Box 7, Pendleton, OR, 97801.