

Department of Agriculture Organization Charts 1936-1986

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STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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E. L. PETERSON, Director

Agriculture Bldg., SALEM, OREGON



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State of Oregon

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZATION CHART



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DAIRY & CONSUMER SERVICES DIVISION





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1981-83, 1983-85 (proposed) Organizational Chart

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Oregon Department of Agriculture



1985

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HOW OREGON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROGRAMS INTERRELATE WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES--FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the problems of soil erosion in the nation by establishing the Soil Conservation Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Soil Conservation Service was charged with developing a program to conserve and develop the nation's soil and water resources. At first, it was thought the federal government, through the Soil Conservation Service, could handle the whole program, but during the initial two years they learned the task needed local help. The Soil Conservation Service needed farmers' help and cooperation to really put together an effective program. In 1937, President Roosevelt asked all state governors to promote legislation to allow the formation of soil conservation districts. This began a partnership that exists today.

Oregon first passed its Soil Conservation District legislation in 1939, and organized what was then called the Oregon Soil Conservation Committee. This committee, now called the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, was given the responsibility to provide direction and assistance to the individual districts as they formed, and help coordinate their efforts. The first district formed in Oregon was the South Tillamook Soil Conservation District, organized on February 10, 1940. Since that time, many other districts formed and grew, consolidated with other districts, redefined their boundaries and finally stretched out to cover nearly the entire state. Today, there are 47 districts in Oregon. Multnomah, Josephine, Lake and Grant Counties each have two districts, Lane and Douglas Counties have three districts each, and Baker County has four districts.

As districts organized and grew across the nation, folks recognized a need to coordinate activities between states and share information with each other. The National Association of Conservation Districts was formed in 1946 and now comprises a membership of over 17,000 individual directors representing nearly 3,000 soil and water conservation districts across the country.

In order to provide a unified voice for conservation, on, the home scene, the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts was organized in December of 1948. In 1970, the Oregon Associations Constitution and Bylaws were amended to include water control districts, and the name was changed to Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD).

The latest change in Oregon's conservation network came in 1981 when the Soil and Water Conservation Commission was merged into the State Department of Agriculture. The Commission itself remains intact as an advisory body to the department. The administrative staff no longer comprises a separate state agency. It is now the Soil and Water Conservation Division within the Department of Agriculture.

There are 47 districts (commonly called SWCDs) in Oregon, each of which is governed by either a five or seven-member Board of Directors. Each director is an elected official, overseeing the activities of a legal subdivision of the State of Oregon, with duties and powers and limitations as set forth by state law (ORS 568.210-801). The Soil and Water Conservation Commission is an advisory body consisting of seven district directors appointed by the Director of the Department of Agriculture. Members serve four years, staggered terms, and are limited to two consecutive terms. Advisory members to the Commission include representatives of Oregon State University's Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station, the Soil Conservation Service State Conservationist, and the State Director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, along with the regional representative of the National Association of Conservation Districts. The chairman, by statute, becomes a member of the State Board of Agriculture. The Commission's primary function is to coordinate the programs of the division, SCS, ASCS, OSU, and NACD with those of the district and advise the Department of Agriculture on policy and administration of the state conservation program.

The 47 SWCD districts and 37 water control districts together form the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts. This is a volunteer, non-profit organization, with approximately 575 individual members. It was formed to provide a unified voice for conservation on the state and national levels. The OACD works close with the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, advising them on policy and natural resource concerns. The OACD also provides a forum for discussion of common problems, including erosion and sediment control, water quality, forestry and conservation education. Members work to inform state legislators and members of Congress on these natural resource concerns.

By virtue of a person being elected to a SWCD Board, they are automatically a voting member of OACD, provided that their district has paid its annual dues. As a voting member, they have the opportunity to set state and national policy, which can ultimately influence state and federal funding programs and other legislation dealing with soil and water conservation interests.

The OACD Board is made up of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and the chairperson from each of the OACD's eight areas. The president and vice-president are elected by the Board of Directors!each odd number of years at the annual convention, which is held in November at various locations around the state. The secretary and treasurer are nominated by the president and approved by the Board.

Each OACD area has a chairman, vice-chairman and legislative chairman who are selected by the directors of each of the districts within the area. Areas vary in size from four to eight districts. Area elections are held every two years, staggered on an odd/even basis, depending on the area's designated number.

Besides the Board of Directors and the area groups, there are presently 12 committee chairmen appointed by the president. These committees include District Operation, Education and Publicity, Finance, Forestry, Legislation, Land Resource, Research, Resource Conservation and Development, Water Resources, Pasture and Range, Foundation and Resolution.

The OACD is a grassroots government in action. It is a vehicle through which a person can make their interest and concerns known, and better yet, get something done about them.

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has a structure similar to OACD's in that the country is divided into seven regions, with three elected members from each region comprising the 21-member Board of Directors. The Board acts as the administrative body of NACD carrying out policies set by the National NACD Council. The Council consists of representatives from each of the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

District directors automatically become members of the NACD, as long as their district has paid its annual dues. The NACD convention is held at various loca-tions around the country.

Besides the state and national associations, districts are directly connected with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. They are the work force behind much of the conservation activities in the country. They provide technical assistance to individuals, groups and units of government. Their technical staff of soil and range conservationists, soil scientists, engineers, technicians, agronomists, biologists, foresters and hydrologists are available to every SWCD in the nation and they are able to belp people solve a wide array of soil and water conservation problems.

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) is the only federal agency that receives appropriations from Congress earmarked for assistance to soil and water conservation districts. In addition, they have several other program authorities, including: watershed protection and flood prevention projects, multi-county resources conservation and development projects, technical responsibility for agriculural conservation program cost-sharing programs, national land inventory and monitoring programs, snow surveys and water supply forecasting in the west, and the national cooperative soil survey. All of this technical expertise is at the state's disposal to help districts develop and carry out their district work plan and operation activities.

Districts, with the expertise of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, have available a great deal of information, plus several suggestions of programs and projects that have been implemented in other parts of the country and several areas of the state.

We believe that the Department of Agriculture has much to offer, and could provide outside services not otherwise available except through the Department of Agriculture, which should be useful for solving the state's water shortage

The ORS that establishes the Soil and Water Conservation Division of the Department of Agriculture and the ORS identifying the state Soil and Water Conservation Districts as a state subdivision, with powers to improve soil and water programs through projects authorized by state and federal laws, will help the Committee in preparing your state groundwater report.

George C. Stubbert, Administrator Soil & Water Conservation Division

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