

# Benton Soil and Water Conservation District

## Community Profile

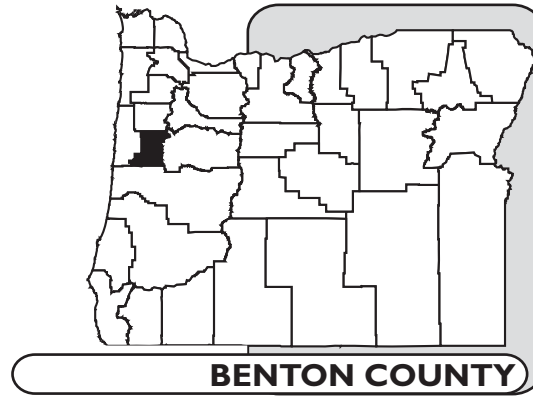
**Population** 85,579

**Location** Corvallis

## Position Description

**Sponsor** Benton Soil and Water Conservation District

**Supervisor** Heath Keirstead  
Education Coordinator



**Assignment** Benton Soil and Water Conservation Districts is a legally defined subdivision of state government, which functions as a local unit. Benton Soil and Water Conservation District provides leadership to Benton County residents through education and technical assistance for conservation and responsible use and management of soil, water and related resources. The results include cleaner water, improved crop land, pastures, forests and restored wildlife habitat.

The RARE participant placed with the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District will work with volunteers from Oregon State University Extension's Teen Weed Spotters Program to raise community awareness regarding various aspects of invasive species removal. In doing so, the participant will seek to bring the Teen Weed Spotters Program to at least one other group of students within the county. Additionally, the participant will determine how to modify neighborhood meetings, volunteer events, and all other existing invasive species efforts to best accommodate rural residents. Lastly, the participant will work with community partners to conduct a needs assessment for Benton County's rural areas to determine how to best serve those communities in the area of K-12 conservation education.

## RARE Participant



Liz Graham

**Liz Graham** received her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Hanover College. As a student, Liz's studies focused on the state of environmental consciousness. After attaining her Bachelors Degree, Liz served in the Peace Corps as an Environmental Community Management Volunteer in Peru. As a Peace Corps Volunteer, she conducted a number of community surveys, co-designed and implemented educational curriculum, initiated a women's group, and collaborated an array of conservation efforts. Since returning from Peru, Liz has worked as a naturalist for Versailles State Park and for the Indianapolis Parks and Recreation Department.