

# Marion Soil and Water Conservation District

## Community Profile

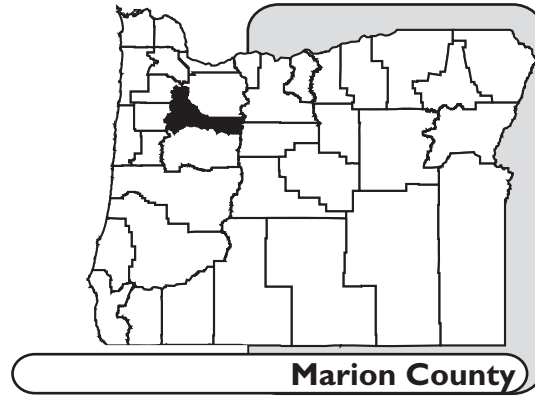
**Population** 317,981

**Location** Salem

## Position Description

**Sponsor** Marion Soil and Water Conservation District

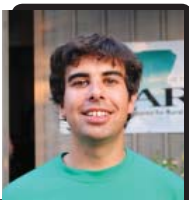
**Supervisor** Jane Keppinger  
District Manager



**Assignment** The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District encompasses the majority of Marion County, located in the northern portion of the Willamette River basin. The mission of the organization is to protect, conserve and improve the quality of soil and water in Marion County through planning, technical assistance and education. The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District staff provides technical assistance to landowners and operators regarding soil and water quality issues on their land. The district has no regulatory authority and is simply a resource for advice and consultation for the public. The staff also provides education and outreach to its members on various natural resource issues and topics.

The RARE participant placed at the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District will be responsible for researching, designing, and publishing the Marion County Rural Living Handbook. The Rural Living Handbook will be a comprehensive guide for residents and landowners to better understand resources available to improve natural resource management. Additionally, the handbook will be used as a resource to highlight best practices of conservation and sustainability efforts and activities. Finally, the RARE participant will be charged with redesigning and expanding the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District website in tandem with the resources presented in the Rural Living Handbook.

## RARE Participant



Patrick Pirtle

**Patrick Pirtle** was raised in Bremerton, Washington. He received a Bachelor of Science in Community, Environment & Planning from the University of Washington. As a student, he worked for the City of Snoqualmie to create the city's Sustainable Strategic Plan. Following graduation, Patrick interned for the City of Snoqualmie in the recycling department. As an intern, he focused on redesigning the solid waste web page and developing community outreach materials. Following Patrick's second year with the RARE Program, he plans on attending graduate school somewhere in the Pacific Northwest.