

# Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District

## Community Profile

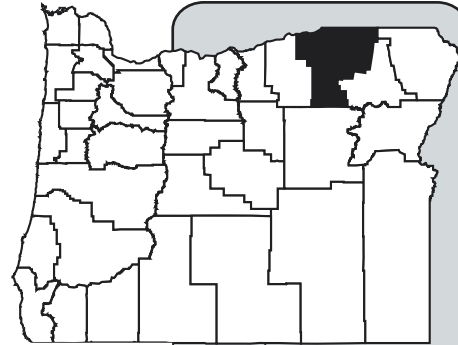
**Population** 70,548 (Umatilla County)

**Location** Pendleton

## Position Description

**Sponsor** Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District

**Supervisor** Bev Kopperud,  
District Manager



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**Assignment** The RARE position in Umatilla County focuses on community outreach. Although supervised by the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the position also requires collaboration with the Critical Ground Water Taskforce (Taskforce). The RARE participant will address the issues of water contamination and low groundwater levels in the Umatilla basin, and allow both the SWCD and the Taskforce to present a consistent and accurate message to citizens living within affected areas. Responsibilities will include implementing an education and outreach plan through the organization of various workshops and events to inform the public about the ground and surface water problem that exists, its implications, and what they can do to lessen the effects and correct the problem. This project will also include various surveys to monitor the progress of the education and outreach program. Publications will be an important aspect of this education and outreach plan, including the publication of a monthly e-newsletter, a quarterly report, an annual report, and brochures. In addition to these three focuses, there will be room for creativity in generating other tasks to enhance the education and outreach plan.

**Required Skills** The RARE participant should have strong communication skills, both verbal and written, and should be comfortable working with diverse stakeholders. S/he should be comfortable presenting in front of groups and enjoy working with the public. The participant should have a background in, or interest in, working with natural resource management issues and should have strong organizational skills.

## RARE Participant



Tera Woods

Tera Woods, born in California, graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelor of science in psychology. Shortly after graduating, Tera moved to Argentina for an eighteen-month period to provide community teaching and service to the residents of the Buenos Aires Province. Upon returning from Argentina, Tera took a position with Donio Inc., a New Jersey based produce warehouse and worked in sales accounting and became involved with international import/export operations. From her involvement with the Latino community, Tera developed a love of the Latino culture and of the Spanish language. This love propelled her to pursue post baccalaureate studies in Spanish during the summer of 2006, before joining the RARE program. Upon completing the program, Tera hopes to pursue graduate work and a career in economic development and planning, as it relates to developing countries and rural communities.