

Umatilla Soil and Water Conservation District

Community Profile:

Population 67,100

Location Umatilla County

Position Description:

Sponsor Umatilla Soil and Water Conservation District, *Pendleton, OR*

Supervisor Jim Loiland, Water Quality Coordinator

Assignment

The SWCD operates several extensive programs in both production agriculture and resource restoration. The participant will be involved in these with outreach efforts, monitoring, and other assigned tasks. These projects include: a cost incentive program to implement the Best Management Practices, a 90,000 acre range and stream restoration and renovation project, and many multi-agency cooperative stream, range and other water related projects.

The priority project will be to develop and present a comprehensive groundwater education program to the citizens of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUB). This regional effort will include partners such as the HUES Group (a regional economic and livability group), Blue Mountain Community College, OSU Extension, several large food processors, the local electrical cooperative, consultants and other concerned citizens. The Participant will also facilitate the semi-annual meetings of the citizen steering group. The participant's success in building outreach components will be employed over several years to service the needs of the community. The base level monitoring and initial construction provided by the participant will be built upon for completion of the project.

Required Skills

Self motivation and excellent communication skills; a base in the field of Natural Resource concerns or education; team player; willingness to learn.

RARE Member: *Sara Simrell - 1999-2000, Year 6 Participant*

Sara Simrell received her Bachelor of Science from Oregon State University where she studied Forest Recreation Resources, specializing in Natural Resources and Communication Values. She has worked as a cultural resource and recreation technician and volunteer coordinator with the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest and has volunteered with the Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument in Utah.