The **East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (EMSWCD)**, located in northwestern Oregon, is a non-regulatory government agency that operates east of the Willamette River within Multnomah County. The EMSWCD provides technical, capacity, and financial assistance to landowners, land managers, and other residents to help establish and maintain healthy ecosystems, with a particular focus on soil, water, and natural habitats. This **Annual Brief** highlights the major accomplishments for FY15-16 (July 2015 through June 2016) and the major plans for FY16-17 (July 2016 through June 2017). A detailed annual report for FY15-16 and annual work plan for FY16-17 are available upon request or can be accessed through the EMSWCD website.

### Rural Lands
With goals to improve water quality and native habitat, Rural Lands staff provide technical advice to rural land owners, restore riparian habitats, and control the spread of noxious weeds. The focus for landowner consultations in FY16-17 will continue to be assisting livestock and nursery owners. Habitat restoration along streams, via the “StreamCare Program,” will continue to concentrate on Beaver Creek, Johnson Creek, Big Creek, and Smith Creek, while evaluating opportunities in other watersheds. Noxious weed control has targeted, and will continue to target, English ivy, false brome, garlic mustard, knotweed, old man’s beard, and spurge laurel.

### Urban Lands
The Urban Lands staff lead workshops, provide technical assistance, and undertake demonstration projects and public events, such as native landscaping tours and a native plant sale. FY15-16 saw the launch of a large-scale, transformative demonstration project at Mount Hood Community College (MHCC) to improve water quality, decrease water use, and improve native habitat.
Conservation Legacy
The Conservation Legacy staff implement the Land Legacy Program, Grants Program, and Headwaters Farm Program. The Land Legacy Program helps protect agricultural, natural resource, and access to nature lands. The Grants Program provides funding to external entities. The Headwaters Farm Program primarily serves as a farm incubator, helping new farmers and farm businesses get established through a four-year program.

Finance & Operations
Finance and Operations staff focus on the administrative aspects of the EMSWCD’s work, including board and committee management, budgeting and financial management, contracting, human resources, office management, facilities management, and marketing and media.

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<th>Accomplishments July ’15 – June ’16</th>
<th>Planned Activities July ’16 – June ’17</th>
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| ➢ Completed prioritization of agricultural focal area, and pursued protection of two farms.  
  ➢ Committed to providing over $1.2M in grants to private organizations, public agencies, businesses and individuals for conservation-related projects.  
  ➢ Assisted 14 new farm businesses take root through the Headwaters Incubator Program (HIP). | ➢ Complete 5-year program plans.  
  ➢ Evaluate at least five agricultural properties for protection.  
  ➢ Evaluate at least one natural area and one access to nature area protection opportunity.  
  ➢ Provide grant funding to external entities for conservation projects and events.  
  ➢ Evaluate at least 10 new applicants to become HIP farmers; accept 2-5 new farmers for 2017 growing season. |

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Land Legacy Manager: (Vacant)  
Grants Manager: Suzanne Easton  
Headwaters Manager: Rowan Steele  
Headwaters Assistant: Stuart Moeller

Accomplishments
July ’15 – June ’16
- Completed organizational equity analysis.  
- Researched and implemented new employee health care benefit package.  
- Evaluated retirement options and selected new retirement carrier.  
- Sourced EMSWCD branded gear.  
- Managed previous year’s budget audit and next year’s budget development.

Planned Activities
July ’16 – June ’17
- Develop organizational equity plan.  
- Implement marketing plan.  
- Coordinate and host 12 board and 16 committee meetings.  
- Manage previous year’s budget audit and next year’s budget development.