

Joint effort will bring riverbanks back to life

By **BRETT TALLMAN**
For the Capital Press

CARLTON, Ore. — Until last fall, both banks of the North Yamhill River west of Carlton were a thicket of blackberries and reed canary grass. But thanks to an agreement between three area landowners and the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District, a 2.3-mile-long riparian buffer will be planted there this spring.

"It took some convincing," Josh Togstad, a Riparian Specialist with YSWCD, said. "The landowners are losing some production. The buffer will be at least 50 feet from the top of the riverbank and up to 225 feet, depending on the meander of the river."

The project is funded by a \$177,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Agriculture. It's part of a million-dollar set aside to help private landowners meet DEQ wa-

ter-quality standards in what the ODA calls Strategic Implementation Areas.

All told, 33 acres belonging to the Sitton family, of Carlton, Kathy Magar, of Gaston, and a third landowner will be planted with 60,000 native plants and shrubs such as Oregon ash, red osier dogwood and big-leaf maple.

"We've done projects like this before," Togstad said, "but the average is probably five acres. It's the first project of this size in our area."

Intact riparian buffers, Togstad said, are the last line of defense for clean water. They cool streams, stabilize banks, and filter runoff.

"A (100-foot buffer) filters something like 90 percent of phosphorus and 90 percent of nitrogen out of runoff," Togstad said.

YSWCD will also plant perennial grasses on bare soil between shrubs and trees. Grasses not only prevent

weeds from seeding in, but also filter sediment from surface runoff.

"After about five years, trees will be big enough that they won't be killed by mice or smothered by weeds," he said. "After 15 years, they'll be tall enough to provide shade."

Though shade is good for the river, it is often a source of concern for farmers.

"There was some worry it would throw shade on fields," Togstad said, "so we're tapering the buffer, with the tallest trees right along the stream."

"The other concern was clogged tile lines," he said. "Most of that land is tiled for drainage, so we'll leave some open sections for tile lines, probably 10 to 15 feet wide."

Once the buffer is planted this spring, YSWCD will maintain it for five years.

"After that," Togstad said, "the established buffer won't need much more than mowing and spot spraying."



Moving forward. Giving back.

Our mission is to support agriculture with reliable, consistent credit. As a cooperative, our members benefit through patronage dividends and our support of rural communities.

A century of helping Northwest producers has positioned us well to embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead. And we'll continue moving forward and giving back for another 100 years.

800.743.2125 | northwestfcs.com

Equal Housing Lender
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Here to Help You Grow™

W17-4/#14

LONG BROS.
BUILDING SUPPLY
Since 1974

195 Birds Eye Ave. Woodburn
P: 503-981-4041 F: 503-982-7821

LongBrosBldg.com
sales@longbrosbldg.com



Your Local Pipe Source



PVC Pipe • ABS Pipe • CPVC Pipe • Pex Pipe • Sewer & Drain
Corrugated Pipe • Wirsbo Pipe • Fernco • Sharkbite • Galv. Water Pipe
Black Iron Pipe • DWV • Poly Pipe Fittings • Glue • Tools • Repair Parts

Family Owned & Operated since 1974!

W17-2/#7