

Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

Community Profile

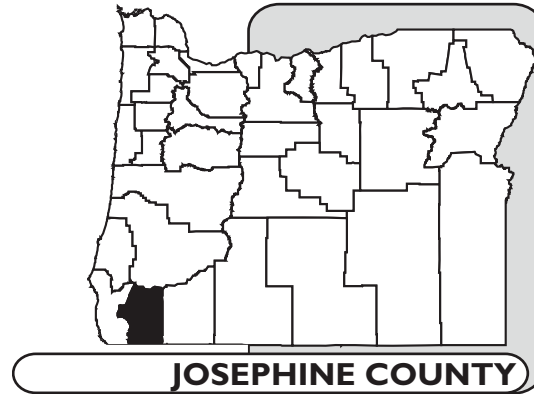
Population 1,685

Location Cave Junction

Position Description

Sponsor Illinois Valley SWCD

Supervisor Kevin O'Brien,
District Manager



Assignment: The main focus of this placement will be to conduct off-site outreach and education activities.

The RARE participant will review the existing program and policies, make presentations to groups, work with others to create a brochure, and help create a District information center.

The second project will be to create a website for the District. They will create website goals towards public outreach and education, contact website developers, develop action plan, and implement plan to result in a functioning website.

The third main focus of this placement is to work in the Thompson Creek Timberland Tract and implement the existing site-specific assessment plan. The participant will be responsible for organizing community work days, creating additional planning documents, identifying grants, and conducting a site inventory.

In addition to these three main projects the RARE participant will assist with stream restoration projects as needed.

RARE Participant



Casey Gatz

Casey is originally from Illinois and graduated from Know College in Gaithersburg, IL in 2004 with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies. Since graduating Casey has worked on wetland restoration at the Chicago Manufacturing Campus and in Schaumburg, IL, focusing on controlling invasive and non-native species through stewardship. Casey also worked as an admissions counselor and recruiter for Knox College.

Casey works with the Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District in Cave Junction, Oregon, where he is working on the creation of a district website.

Casey is also responsible for developing a volunteer program targeting natural resource activities within the Valley, including outreach efforts to community groups and schools.

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Casey's final project is implementing the Thompson Creek Timberland Tract Plan. The District manages a 171 acre parcel of timberland that was donated to it over 50 years ago. The primary use of the tract is for education and any proceeds generated by the tract are used for scholarships to local students who want to pursue higher education in agriculture or natural resources. Casey works within the Plan guidelines to meet numerous objectives such as: contact with various interest groups and neighbors; development and implementation of contracts for harvest of various wood products, mushrooms, and nontraditional woodland products; and development and implementation of interpretive sites and recreational opportunities for the public.

Casey works closely with staff to implement the Deer Creek and Sucker Creek Projects, and including helping to set up a program to monitor site conditions before during and after work (such as establishment of photo points), project/contractor quality assurance, securing permits, gathering data for reports and other project related work.