

September 2011

www.siuslaw.org

watershed@siuslaw.org

Siuslaw

WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

P.O. Box 422 • Mapleton, Oregon • 541-268-3044

• Community • Economy • Environment

Message from the Coordinator...

Celebrations!

In a sun-dappled field with table cloths fluttering in the wind, long-time and current partners gathered to celebrate collaborations and restoration in the Siuslaw on August 17. There was much to celebrate! We were marking 10 years of the innovative Siuslaw Stewardship Group, the awarding of the Two-Chiefs Award to the larger Stewardship collaborative, and the Annual Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.

The July SWC newsletter listed the many accomplishments of the Siuslaw Stewardship Group over the past 10 years. Stewardship achievements include 50 restoration projects on USFS managed lands and 48 on nearby private lands. Over 3700 acres of forest land have been treated with restoration thinning. Almost \$3 million in timber receipts resulting from that thinning has stayed local, creating contracts and jobs.

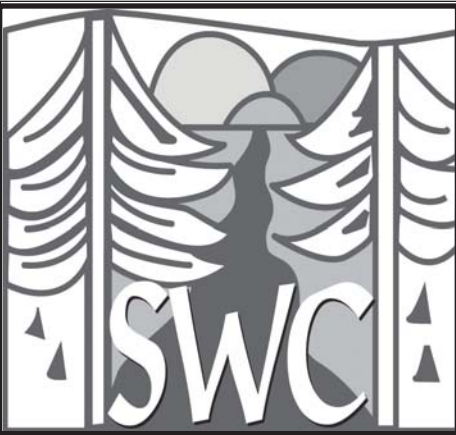
The Two-Chiefs' Partnership Award, given by the Chiefs of the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recognizes innovative partnerships between conservation districts, state forestry agencies, NRCS, USFS and other partners. Only a few partnerships are given the Two-Chiefs' Award nationally each year. Honored with the award was the larger collaborative which included the Siuslaw Stewardship Group (including the SWC and the Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District), the other Stewardship Groups in the Siuslaw National Forest (SNF) and the groups' participants, timber company representatives, SNF staff, Cascade Pacific



RC&D staff and others. Speakers noted the success of efforts to cut across traditional boundaries, both land and social boundaries, to benefit both natural resources and the local economy. Thank you to all of the land-owners who participated in restoration projects made possible through the Stewardship Fund, including the Siuslaw Riparian Restoration Projects (Native Plant Distribution). If you have ever participated in Siuslaw Stewardship Group meetings or a project made possible with Stewardship Funds, you are part of the success which has been honored with the Two-Chiefs' Partnership Award.

Early in the event's program, I had the honor to speak about our Council and celebrate our volunteers' accomplishments. Our volunteers implement and are involved with numerous education/outreach, monitoring, and restoration projects resulting in countless positive impacts on our watershed. Thank you for your volunteer efforts in 2010-2011. If you didn't get a chance to pick-up a volunteer appreciation note pad at the picnic, they will be at subsequent meetings.

Thank you volunteers!



Siuslaw Watershed Council

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2011 Executive Committee

Chair: Gus Gates

Vice-Chair: Dave Eisler

Secretary: Wesley Voth

Treasurer: Nancy Nichols

Former Chair: Steve Elliot

Representatives:

Barbara Beers

Jim Grano

Ray Kinney

George Uriona

National Estuaries Day

Saturday, September 24 is National Estuaries Day, a great day to explore the Siuslaw Estuary via the Siuslaw Water Trail. National Estuaries Day was started in 1988 “to promote the importance of estuaries and the need to protect them” (NOAA). Estuaries are highly productive areas for many aquatic and avian species. Tidal wetlands in estuaries can provide essential fish habitat, filter pollutants, and can decrease the intensity of flooding and storm events. Here in the Siuslaw, there have been efforts by many landowners, organizations, and agencies to protect and restore our estuary. Several sites which are now protected through conservation easements or acquisition are visible while boating in the estuary. Paddling the Siuslaw Water Trail is a good way to see these important properties while still respecting private property or other access restrictions. Visit www.siuslaw.org/water-trail for a copy of the updated Siuslaw Water Trail brochure and www.estuaries.gov for more information on National Estuaries Day.



September and October General Meetings

Join us on Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at the Mapleton Grange to hear the season wrap-up on the Knowles Creek Smolt Trap Monitoring Project. This site represents one of the oldest fish monitoring data sets on the Oregon Coast and generates important data for understanding coho, Chinook, and other aquatic populations. The evening's second presentation will explore lamprey.

In October, we'll head to the Upper Siuslaw for a meeting at the Lorane Grange. At that meeting, in addition to the program, guests from the RiverPrize Twinning Project in Russia will be joining us to learn about watershed councils. We hope that you can join us for one or both meetings.

Thank You,

Liz Vollmer-Buhl

Council Coordinator/Executive Director

Calendar of Events

Please check our website at www.siuslaw.org for more information on Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) meetings.

- Wednesday, September 28: **SWC General Meeting.** 6:30—8:30 PM, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Rd, Mapleton.
- Monday, October 3: **Siuslaw SWCD Board meeting.** 6:30 PM, Contact SWCD (541-997-1272) for information.
- Thursday, October 6: **SWC Technical Team meeting.** 9:30—11:30 AM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper U.S. Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Thursday, October 6: **Siuslaw Stewardship Group meeting.** 1—3 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper U.S. Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Wednesday, October 12: **SWC Executive Committee meeting.** 5:30 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper U.S. Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Wednesday, October 26: **SWC General Meeting.** 6:30—8:30 PM, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Rd, Mapleton.
- Thursday, September November 3: **SWC Technical Team meeting.** 9:30—11:30 AM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper U.S. Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Thursday, November 3: **Siuslaw Stewardship Group meeting.** 1—3 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper U.S. Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- Monday, November 7: **Siuslaw SWCD Board meeting.** 6:30 PM, Contact SWCD (541-997-1272) for information.
- Wednesday, November 9: **SWC Executive Committee meeting.** 5:30 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper U.S. Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.

Other events to consider:

- October 28-29, 2011: **Heceta Head Coastal Conference.** Florence Events Center. For more information, visit www.hecetaheadconference.org.



Find us on Facebook

Check out the Siuslaw Watershed Council's Facebook page for the most up-to-date information and news from our office and the field! Search for Siuslaw Watershed Council and then "Like" the page to get the latest on these updates.

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is transitioning to a new software design program to be used in formatting the newsletter. The transition is a work in progress and you may notice some formatting changes in this and subsequent issues. Thank you for your interest in the news from the SWC!

Siuslaw Watershed Council Membership Form, September 2011

Type of Membership:

Landowner _____ Community Member _____ Industry _____

Government Agency: _____ Tribal: _____

Name: _____ **Today's Date:** _____

Mailing Address:

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

I would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically.

Please check any of the following:

◇ Tax-deductible membership enclosed (\$25 supporting, \$10 regular, \$0 students).

◇ Additional tax-deductible donation enclosed! Amount \$ _____.

◇ Please direct to:

Wherever it can be used the most General Fund Water Quality Monitoring

Siuslaw Water Trail Summer Camp Native Plant Distribution

Research Endowment Outreach Events and Road Signs

Dirk-Edmunds Fund Other Program (list here) _____

◇ Please check here if you do not wish to be acknowledged in our newsletter.

◇ I am interested in volunteer opportunities with the Siuslaw Watershed Council.

◇ If you are interested in planned giving (remembering the SWC in your will) please contact the SWC office for more information.

Thank You!

How can you and the SWC make the most of your next shopping trip? Sign up for e-Scrip!

Earn money for the SWC youth education programs by signing up for eScrip. If you register and designate the SWC as your beneficiary your participating grocery store of choice will donate a percentage of your grocery bill to the SWC **at no cost to you**. Visit www.escrip.com for information or to sign up.

Time and Mileage

Thank you to all of our volunteers; we appreciate the time that you dedicate to the SWC. Please remember to document the time and mileage that you donate to the SWC on the Volunteer Time Logs that are available at the office. Your time and mileage can be used to “match”, or leverage, grant funding. You can turn in your logs at the General Council meetings or to the SWC office. Thank you!

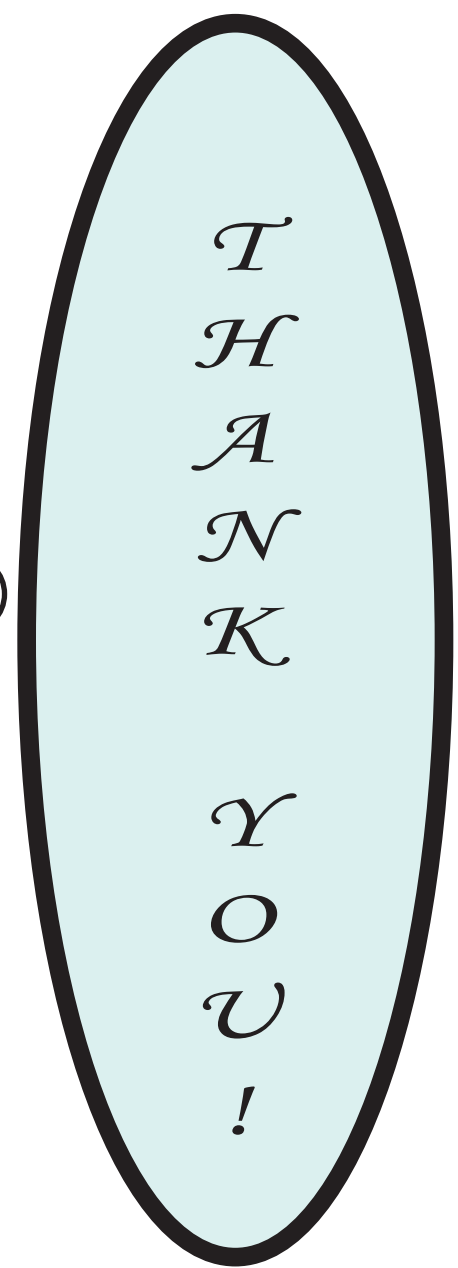


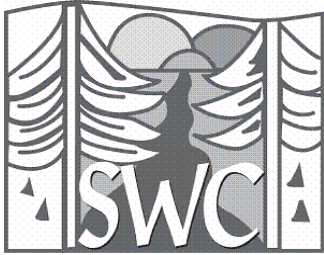
In Memorium

Eddie Huckins, an advocate for water quality and local citizen involvement, passed away at his home in Yachats on September 11, 2011. During his career on the Oregon Coast, Eddie worked for Lincoln SWCD and served on the board of the Mid-Coast Watersheds Council. He worked with the Siuslaw on TMDL Development and other water quality issues. Eddie also served on the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve Community Team until health issues intervened.

Siuslaw Summer Watershed Exploration Camps 2011

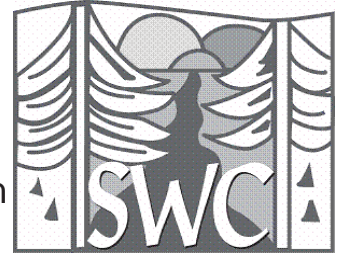
Thank you to all the organizations and individuals that helped to make the Siuslaw Summer Watershed Exploration Camps 2011 a rewarding experience for the campers! The Camps would not be possible without funding, time, and expertise from the following: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board☼Western Lane Community Foundation☼Honeyman State Park☼Florence Area S.T.E.P.☼Port of Siuslaw☼Jim Grano☼Kyle Johnson☼Alex Child☼Liz Vollmer-Buhl☼Ginger Cloutier☼Rose Tristano☼Denny Sydow☼Brian Vollmer-Buhl☼Linda Viera☼Paul Burns☼Cricket Crowder☼Howard Pazdral☼Jeff Jones☼Caleb Mentzer☼Don Saxon☼On Your Feet☼Gus Gates☼Brian Swift☼Brice Gary☼Charley Dewberry☼Val Knox☼Marie Petrie☼Vanessa Buss☼Stecher Buss☼Central Coast Watersports☼Seth Mead☼Jabrila Via☼Wintergreen Farm☼Jesse Beers☼John Spangler☼Andy Stahl☼Bob Golden☼Andy Marohl☼Debra Fleming☼Mapleton School District☼Siuslaw School District☼Campers' Families☼Paul's Bicycle Way of Life☼USFS☼BLM☼Market of Choice☼Individual Donors.



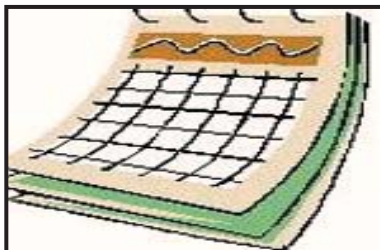
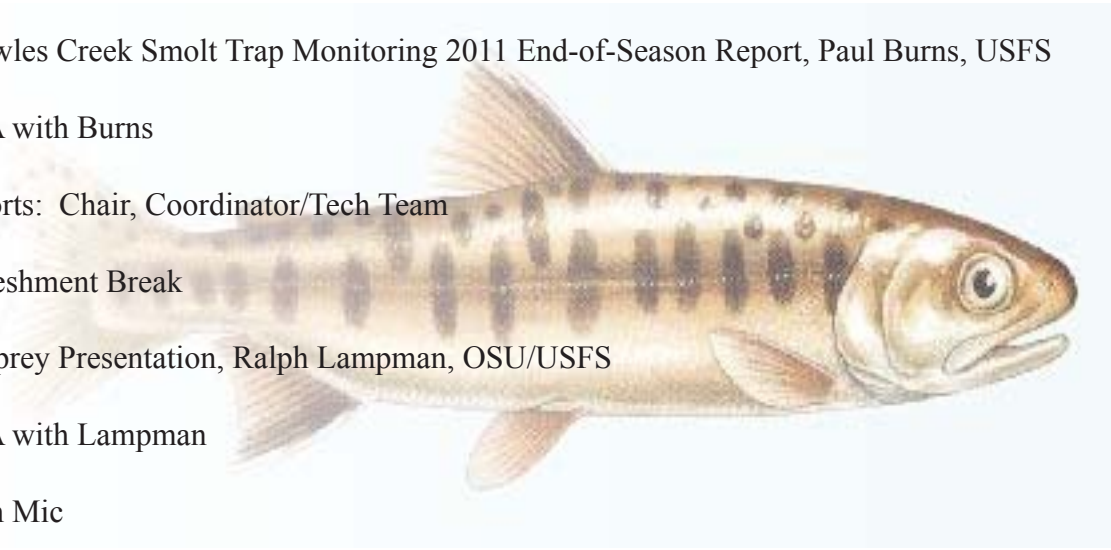


Siuslaw Watershed Council September General Meeting

6:30 PM, Wednesday, September 28, 2011
Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Rd., Mapleton



- 6:00 PM** Doors Open
- 6:30-6:40** Welcome and Introductions
- 6:40-7:10** Knowles Creek Smolt Trap Monitoring 2011 End-of-Season Report, Paul Burns, USFS
- 7:10-7:20** Q&A with Burns
- 7:20-7:35** Reports: Chair, Coordinator/Tech Team
- 7:35-7:45** Refreshment Break
- 7:45-8:15** Lamprey Presentation, Ralph Lampman, OSU/USFS
- 8:15-8:20** Q&A with Lampman
- 8:20-8:25** Open Mic
- 8:25-8:30** Announcements
- 8:30 PM** Adjourn. Safe travels!



Next Month

The October 26th SWC General Meeting will be in Lorane at the Lorane Grange. Make your way to Lorane to participate in the Upper



Siuslaw Watershed Council Mission Statement

The Siuslaw Watershed Council supports sound economic, social and environmental uses of natural and human resources in the Siuslaw River Basin. The Council encourages cooperation among public and private watershed entities to promote awareness and understanding of watershed functions by adopting and implementing a total watershed approach to natural resource management and production.

Looking Ahead: Native Riparian Plant Distribution

The Native Riparian Plant Distribution mailing with the plant list and plant request information will go out in November, but you can start preparing now.

Begin with the fun stuff! Look around your riparian area and compose a wish list. Walk along your stream banks, lake shore, or wetland edges. What native plants are already there and are doing well? You may want to plant more of those. If you have gaps or lots of invasives, those might be good places to put in some Douglas spirea, Pacific ninebark, or willows. Do you have a lot of shrubs? You may want to consider adding some conifers such as Western Red



Philadelphus lewisii, Mock Orange
Photo: Washington Native Plant Society

Cedar, Western Hemlock, or if you are near the coast, Sitka Spruce. The conifer seedlings can grow into large trees shading the stream and become large woody debris in a hundred years.

Now is also a good time to start preparing areas for your winter plantings. The Field Crew is available to help maintain or prepare sites for riparian plantings. Keep in mind that if preparation includes removal of invasives from a large swath of bank, you may need to put down temporary erosion control, such as native grass seed, until you plant during the winter.

Technical assistance may be available to help you plan and prepare. Please contact the SWC with questions: nativeplants@siuslaw.org, 541-268-3044.

We will not be taking plant requests until the November mailing.

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

Learn more about your watershed by becoming involved in the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program. September sampling occurred September 20 and 21, 2011 and October sampling will happen on October 18 and 19, 2011. If you are interested in participating in this program, contact watershed@siuslaw.org.

Thank you, volunteers!



We thank the BLM for their cooperation. In order to continue our partnership, we are required to include: The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Watershed's Most Unwanted

Name: *Geranium lucidum*, Shining Geranium, Shiny Geranium, Cranes Bill, Shining Cranes Bill.

Appearance: Shining geranium is a Eurasian, low-growing plant. It consists of a flower with five pink or purple petals and a sepal that has noticeable cross ribs. Its leaves are shiny (not hairy like its close cousin Herb Robert) and are roundish. The stems stand around 20 inches high and are red.

Reproduction: Shining geranium grows in well shaded woodlands and forest openings; it is also often found on the sides of hills and in the crannies of tree trunks. This plant is reproduced by seed that is forcefully pushed out when the sepal is ripe.

Impacts and Action: Infringes and takes habitat from native plants. If you see Shining Geranium you can pull or dig it out, or cover it with mulch or ground cloth.

More information: If you would like to learn more about Shining Geranium, please visit the following websites:

http://www.wetlands.org/files/191_Shining%20Geranium.pdf

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/shiny-geranium.aspx>

Contributed by Satori Fincher, SWC student volunteer



Geranium Lucidum

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What's Happening in Your Watershed?