

# Siuslaw WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

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

• Community • Economy • Environment

## HERE'S WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE!

2011 contained some bumpy spots as a result of the continued economic downturn in Oregon, but in the end, thanks to Siuslaw Watershed Council members, project partners, and staff it was a productive and successful year. You contributed time, hard work, expertise, and funds to make the accomplishments listed here possible. The groundwork has been laid for a solid 2012 and we look forward to your continued involvement in the SWC as we work for a healthy watershed, community, and economy.

Thank you,

Liz Vollmer-Buhl

Council Coordinator/  
Executive Director

## MONITORING

Economic Benefits: Monitoring projects provide jobs, work for local and regional contractors (including managing the crew and performing advanced harmful algal bloom (HABs) lab work), purchases with local hardware stores, gas stations, and other businesses, and numerous indirect benefits. Local tourism benefits when surfers from the Valley know that local beaches are being monitored and local water providers will ultimately be better able to predict harmful algal blooms that may impact their customers and local communities.

### Knowles Creek Smolt Trap

USFS and SWC staff, volunteers (STEP and others), and Siuslaw and Mapleton students ran the smolt trap,

collecting the twentieth year of data. A WWRI grant, USFS, and other funds covered operations and data analysis. Annual presentations in April and September kept Siuslaw area residents informed on the current numbers.

### Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program (VWQMP)

Volunteers and staff sampled 14 sites for 9 parameters throughout the watershed as part of the OWEB, Western Lane Community Foundation, and DEQ-funded VWQMP. Volunteers from Dunes City collect samples at sites in the Coastal Lakes. A strong partnership with the Siuslaw Chapter of the Oregon Surfrider Foundation enables year-round Enterococcus monitoring on area beaches. Collaborations with the Mapleton School District and the Siuslaw Institute involve students as samplers and trained lab volunteers.

### Lakes Harmful Algal Bloom (HABs) Drinking Water Study

PSU, DEQ, South Coast Water District, USFS, volunteers from Dunes City, and SWC staff continue to partner on this Oregon Business Development/DHS-funded project. Training has been provided to local volunteers and a Community Toolbox and database are being developed to help understand why, predict when, and deal with HABs.

### Spawning Surveys

SWC staff worked with USFS staff to perform spawning surveys on Knowles Creek as a portion of the post-

restoration implementation monitoring of the ARRA-funded Knowles Creek Helicopter LWD Placement project.

## EDUCATION

Economic Benefits: Education and outreach projects also create jobs within our communities. Local businesses benefit from equipment rentals, the purchase of fuel for busses, food and other camp supplies. Educational activities during the summer and after school often allow parents to continue to work during this time.

### Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camps

Campers who attended the summer 2011 Camps explored new locations in our watershed and learned about familiar places from a new perspective. They met and learned from watershed landowners and



### Swamp Creek

Installation of the bridge that replaces a culvert at Swamp Creek



## SIUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL

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### STAFF

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Office and Program Specialist  
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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*



### SWC Summer Watershed Exploration Camp 2011 Campers study invertebrates found in Karnowsky Creek

stewards, restoration professionals and experts in scientific fields. Campers learned about how large woody debris structures help provide salmonid habitat, identified macroinvertebrates, identified and removed invasive plants and much more. We are already busy planning for the Camps in the summer of 2012. Look for the dates to be posted soon on the SWC website!

### LEAF

SWC partners with LEAF, the Mapleton After School Program, to provide students with six weeks per year of watershed sciences education. This fall students participated in a project that transformed a patch of English Ivy-covered ground into a native plant garden. The partnership will continue with another three-week session this spring.

### Partner Programs and Community Presentations

SWC staff instructed on water quality, estuary importance and biology and more during field trips implemented by partner programs. SWC staff had informational tables at the Florence Green Fair, the Siuslaw Estuary Partnership Open House and the Lorane Spring Fling.

### General Meetings

Informative and interesting presentations about native plants, fish populations, developing restoration projects, state WQ programs, and more were part of SWC General Meetings held in Mapleton, Blachly,

Lorane, and Walton. General Meetings are open to the public and a great way to stay informed about the watershed and the Council.

### Forums

The SWC hosted two forums this year: The Ocean Issues Forum: Changing Climate, Changing Ocean and the Coastal Lakes Exploration Forum. The forums provide an opportunity for watershed residents and other members of the public to learn about pertinent and sometimes controversial issues that impact our watershed. National, regional, and local experts presented research and policy updates and participated in panel discussions with audience questions.

### RESTORATION

Economic Benefits: Restoration projects are at the core of the Restoration Economy. Implementation of restoration projects result in work for heavy equipment operators, construction contractors, dump truck drivers, loggers, log truck drivers, crew members, and for the businesses that supply the industry. A University of Oregon study determined that for every \$1-million put into restoration projects in the state, 15-24 jobs are created. Here in the Siuslaw, there has been a long-term effort to build the restoration economy and that dedication continues.

## **Cleveland Creek Culvert Replacement Design**

An OWEB Technical Assistance Grant, match from the International Port of Coos Bay, ODFW, and USFS enabled the SWC to work with HDR, Inc. for the development of designs for an open bottom structure to replace the fish-passage barrier railroad culvert on Cleveland Creek. This will eventually result in 1.5 miles of habitat opening for all species. Local partners provided additional technical support and review for the project.

## **Swamp Creek Restoration Project**

A steel bridge now crosses Swamp Creek in the Lake Creek Sub-Basin, where once an undersized culvert blocked aquatic species passage to over 2 miles of habitat and altered natural stream processes. The BLM-

to replace the undersized, perched, problem culvert, providing access for all species to almost a mile of aquatic habitat. BLM and ODFW staff provided assistance with the project.

## **Condon Creek Restoration Project**

In addition to the previous year's accomplishments addressing aquatic species passage and sediment reduction, this year 5 more culverts were replaced and additional improvements were made to the road to reduce sediment input. Further riparian planting and protective fencing for the seedlings (to keep out elk, deer, and beaver) will be implemented in 2012. The SWC has many partners in this OWEB-funded project, including USFS, ODFW, LSWCD, SSWCD, and the pro-active and involved private landowner.

over 200 acres of tidal wetlands. The North Fork Marsh Management Plan was completed. Funders included OWEB, EPA (through the Siuslaw Estuary Partnership), ODFW R&E, WWRI, and the Doris Duke Foundation.

## **Riparian Restoration (Native Plant Distribution (NPD))**

Over 400 landowners have participated in the award winning Siuslaw Riparian Restoration projects over the course of the project, with over 100 participating in 2011. 2011 saw over 11,000 seedlings planted into the riparian corridors in our watershed. Many more landowners continue to maintain their seedlings from past years' distributions. The next Native Plant Distribution Day will be Saturday, February 11, 2012 (see Page 8 for more information). A grant from the Coast Range Stewardship Fund, individual donations, and in-kind support from Roseburg Forest Products, ODF, BLM, USFS, SSWCD, and many volunteers makes this project possible.

## **Restoration Crew**

The Siuslaw Restoration Field Crew (aka the Fisher Crew) maintained over 152 acres of riparian plantings on private and public land this year. They also assisted with other restoration and monitoring projects. 2011 funding for the Crew came from a USFS Title II (Secure Rural Schools) grant, portions of numerous other grants from OWEB, BLM, USFS, WWRI, and individual donations. Preliminary work, coordination, maintenance, and monitoring work was implemented on several other projects including Hawley Creek, Lower Deadwood Aquatic Restoration, and Fivemile-Bell Stage I. We continue to develop new projects. In 2012, we'll be implementing several of the projects listed here, Waite Ranch, and more.



## **Waite Ranch**

Restoration planning will proceed in 2012

RAC (Secure Rural Schools) funded the multi-phased project that enabled the SWC to hire local and coastal contractors for design, management, and construction. Project partners included ODFW, ODF, Weyerhaeuser, and private landowners.

## **Whittaker Creek Tributary Culvert Replacement**

BLM-RAC funding also made this restoration project possible. The SWC contracted with local and coastal companies for the design and construction of a 6-foot culvert

## **Estuary Restoration and Protection**

For the Waite Ranch Tidal Wetland Restoration Project partners including McKenzie River Trust, the SWC, other partners and subcontractors, including Green Point Consulting/OSU/Institute for Applied Ecology, Habitat Contracting, and ESA-PWA, collected and analyzed data, developed preliminary assessments and design options, monitored numerous parameters, and worked on other tasks leading to the on-the-ground restoration work which will restore

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

As we reflect back on 2011, we are proud of the many significant accomplishments that we have achieved together. On behalf of the executive committee, we are forever grateful for the hard work and dedication of our great staff, as well as the active participation by our many members and partner organizations. Although we faced some challenges with changes to funding this past year, which can be expected in these difficult economic times, it has provided us an opportunity to diversify our funding streams in efforts to build capacity moving forward. Looking ahead into 2012 we are excited about the many projects that we are embarking on with our partners, such as the Waite Ranch Tidal Restoration Project.

As you solidify your New Year's resolutions, ask not what your watershed council can do for you, but rather what can you do to enhance the health of your watershed. Whether it's attending more of our always enlightening monthly meetings, participating in volunteer water quality monitoring, or taking part in our award-winning Native Plant Distribution Program to restore and enhance your riparian area, we hope that you will engage with your watershed council on a deeper level. Here's to a happy, healthy and productive 2012!

Gus Gates

SWC Executive Committee Chair

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, January 25

#### **SWC General Meeting**

6:30-8:30 PM, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Rd, Mapleton

Thursday, February 2

#### **SWC Technical Team Meeting**

9:30-1:30 AM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper U.S. Forest Service Compound, Mapleton

Thursday, February 2

#### **Siuslaw Stewardship Group Meeting**

1:00-3:00 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper U.S. Forest Service Compound, Mapleton

Monday, February 6

#### **Siuslaw SWCD Board Meeting**

6:30 PM, Contact SWCD for information (541-997-1272)

Wednesday, February 8

#### **SWC Executive Committee Meeting**

5:30 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper U.S. Forest Service Compound, Mapleton

Wednesday, February 29

#### **SWC General Meeting**

6:30-8:30 PM, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Rd, Mapleton

Thursday, March 1

#### **SWC Technical Team Meeting**

9:30-11:30 AM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper U.S. Forest Service Compound, Mapleton

Thursday, March 1

#### **Siuslaw Stewardship Group Meeting**

1:00-3:00 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper U.S. Forest Service Compound, Mapleton

Monday, March 5

#### **Siuslaw SWCD Board Meeting**

6:30 PM, Contact SWCD for information (541-997-1272)

Wednesday, March 8

#### **SWC Executive Committee Meeting**

5:30 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper U.S. Forest Service Compound, Mapleton

*For more information please check our website at*

**[www.siuslaw.org](http://www.siuslaw.org)**

### JANUARY GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

6:00 PM: Doors open

6:30-6:40 PM: Welcome and Introductions

6:40-6:55 PM: Leadership Board Elections and Executive Committee Nominations

6:55-7:30 PM: North Fork Siuslaw Landscape Planning, Siuslaw National Forest (SNF) Staff

7:30-7:40 PM: Refreshments Break (North Fork Plan Display and SNF Staff available for Q&A)

7:40-7:50 PM: Executive Committee Elections

7:50-8:05 PM: Reports (Executive Committee Chair and Coordinator/ Tech Team)

8:05-8:15 PM: North Fork follow-up from Display and Q&A

8:15-8:25 PM: Open Mic

8:25-8:30 PM: Announcements (including Executive Committee)

8:30 PM: Adjourn

## 2012 ELECTIONS

Thank you to everyone who served on the Leadership Board and Executive Committee in 2011. Your service has benefited community members and the watershed. Elections for 2012 will take place at the January 25, General Council Meeting. All current (2012) SWC members will be eligible to vote. Please review the list of positions below, with the existing list of nominees for 2012. This is not the final list of nominees; additional nominations will be accepted through the start of the January General Council Meeting. If you would like to run for a Leadership Board Representative position or would like to nominate someone for a position, please contact Liz at [coordinator@siuslaw.org](mailto:coordinator@siuslaw.org), or 541-268-3044. If you have questions about the roles and responsibilities of Leadership Board Representatives, please contact Liz. Executive Committee elections will occur after the Leadership Board Elections during the January 25 meeting.

## LEADERSHIP BOARD

In order to vote for or serve on the Leadership Board you must be a paid member of the SWC. You will find a membership form on Page 7. If you have questions about your 2012 membership status, please contact Ginger at the SWC office. Thank you to everyone who has already paid their 2012 membership dues!

## LEADERSHIP BOARD POSITIONS

No.	Position	Nominations for 2012
	Area Representatives	
1	North Fork Siuslaw	Noland Huntington
2	Lower Siuslaw	Mark Tilton
3	Middle Siuslaw	Steve Elliot, Wesley Voth (Alt)
4	Upper Siuslaw (Including Wolf Creek)	Gary Lutman
5	Indian Creek	Barb Beers
6	Wildcat Creek	Dave Eisler
7	Deadwood Creek	Nancy Nichols, Bill Cirino (Alt)
8	Lake Creek	Gary Hale, Ben and Leecee Elkins (Alt)
9	North Coastal Lakes and Siuslaw Bay	Gus Gates
10	South Coastal Lakes	Steve Hager
11	At Large	Cindy Chambers, Geore Uriona (Alt)
	Interest Group Representatives, Elected	
12	Academic/Scientific	Tom Steinberg
13	Commercial Fishing	Al Pazar
14	Federal Land Management	Paul Burns
15	Public Education	Jim Grano, Paula "Cricket" Crowder (Alt)
16	Small Woodlot	Dave Rankin
17	SWCD	Ray Kinney
18	Agriculture/Ranching	Johnny Sundstrom, Billy Burruss (Alt)
19	Industrial Timber	Dave Cramsey, Rick Shepherd (Alt)
20	Environmental	Jan Wroncy, Eron King (Alt)
21	State Government	Shared: David Waltz (DEQ), Link Smith (ODF)
22	Ecosystem Workforce	Jeff Jones (Habitat Contracting)
23	Resource Recreation	
	Interest Group Representatives, Appointed	
24	Tribes CTCLUSI	Jesse Beers
25	Port of Siuslaw (Appointed)	Sally Owens
26	Lane County Government (Appointed)	Jay Bozievich
27	City of Florence (Appointed)	Wendy Farley

## SWC MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all of the people who became SWC members in 2011 and those who have already renewed their membership for 2012. The list below recognizes 2011 members and we would also like to extend that recognition to those of our members that prefer not to be publicly acknowledged. As members, your support helped make the projects and programs that the SWC implemented in 2011 a success, thereby improving the social, economic, and environmental health of our watershed. If you have not already done so, please consider extending your support in 2012.

Thank you members!

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### 2011 MEMBERSHIP LIST

Richard Anderson and Mary Lee	Gus Gates	Claudia McKnight
Jean and Steve Andrus	William Gates and Kathryn Torrence	Todd Miller
Associated Services Corporation	Corrine and Richard Gehlke	Don Modrall
John Bartlett	Sue Gilday (Insurance Agency Inc.)	Mary Moffat and David Webb
Barbara Beers	Nigel Gough and Judy Nichols	Michael Roe Construction Inc.
Thane Beers	Bill and Cindy Grable	Michael Myers
Jim and Nancy Bellingham	Barbara and Jim Grano	Susie Navetta
Becky and Larry Benson	Larry Greenman	Barbara Norregaard
Tonia Blum and Hal Palmer	Jodi and Mel Gurtov	John O'Connor
Joe Brewer	Stephen Hager	George and Maggie Oldershaw
Karen Brodtkin	Jan Wroncy and Gary Hale	Alice Orsini
John Burns	Donald Hayes	Sky Pannel
Billy and Kaki Burruss	Al and Mary Herring	David and Dianne Rankin
Mizu Burruss	Lauren Hess and Lucas Stang	Lori Robertson
Ryan and Linda Chamberlain	Shirley and Tony Humphreys	Rosboro
Cindy Chambers	Noland Huntington	Roseburg Resources Company
Bill Cirino	Yardenna Hurvitz	Julie Schaffner
City of Florence	Ben Hustace	Mike Weinstein and Donna Scurlock
Cynthia and Mark Chandler	Jan Jaroncyk	Rick Shepherd
Janet and Dennis Childers	Karen and Ken Jensen	Ruth and Stephen Shields
Dick and Karen Childs	Jeff Jones (Habitat Contracting LLC)	Port of Siuslaw
Marshall Cohen	Beth and Tom Kartrude	Jonathan and Molly Stafford
Coast Road Construction	Greg Kennedy and Nancy Reed	Sergey Stepanovich
Linda Corcoran	Leonora Kent and Michael Zachai	Johnny Sundstrom
Christine Coulter	Eron King and Justin Workman	Sharon and Tim Sweet
Barbara Dare	Dennis King	Alice and George Uriona
Robert Davis	Ray Kinney	Liz and Brian Vollmer-Buhl
Charley Dewberry	Juanita Kirkham	Clifford and Nancy Walker
Abigail DeYoung	Steve Kriegh and Linda Redmon	Cecelia and Ron Whitburn
Dave Eisler	Donald Landstrom and Zachary Ruhl	Chuck Willer
Alice and Ben Elkins	Porter Leighton	Dave and Susan Williams
Ralph Farnsworth	Joanne and Larry Little	Steve Williams
Les Fetter	Clarence and Nancy Lysdale	King Estate Winery
Barb and Mike Francis	Brad Marks	John and Maria Yager
Bob Friedman	Seth Mead	

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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.

# SIUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP FORM

## 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:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wherever it can be used the most | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality Monitoring       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Siuslaw Water Trail              | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Camp                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Plant Distribution      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach Events and Road Signs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dirk-Edmunds Fund                | <input type="checkbox"/> 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!**



**Swamp Creek Before**  
Culvert on Swamp Creek before removal in 2011



**Swamp Creek After**  
Bridge on Swamp Creek after culvert removal in 2011

## NATIVE PLANT DISTRIBUTION NEWS

The 2012 Native Plant Distribution is just around the corner! February 11th will be the distribution day. Don't miss this opportunity to start or continue restoring your lake, streams or river banks. If you have already signed up, then you will receive a reminder about when and where to pick up plants.

Native trees and shrubs provide shade, nutrients, and habitat to aquatic species. Healthy native riparian vegetation can help stabilize banks and decrease sediment input. Here is a list of plants that are still available: **Western red cedar, Douglas fir, Sitka spruce (distributed to coastal landowners only), Red alder, Big leaf maple, Black cottonwood,**

**Douglas spiraea (one of the SWC Coordinator's personal favorites), Oregon ash, Indian plum, Snowberry, and willow stakes.**

Please e-mail Ginger at [nativeplants@siuslaw.org](mailto:nativeplants@siuslaw.org) or call the SWC office to place your request. You may also view a list of what plants are available on the SWC website. Staff will try and keep the website as current as possible. We still need preparation and distribution volunteers for all locations. Please let Ginger know if you would like to volunteer on February 10 and/or 11, 2012.

There are still plants available and time to place a request for FREE Native Riparian Plants. Contact the SWC office ASAP!



Wikipedia

### Oregon Ash

Range of Oregon ash with an example of Oregon ash leaves

The Siuslaw Native Plant Distribution is made possible by a grant from the Coast Range Stewardship Fund (USFS) and business and individual donations.

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**WATERSHED COUNCIL**

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What's Happening in Your Watershed?