

SIUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

December 2008

www.siuslaw.org
watershed@siuslaw.org

P.O. Box 422 • Mapleton, Oregon 97453 • 541-268-3044

• *Community* • *Economy* • *Environment*

Message from the Coordinator...

Good job in 2008! I'd like to thank our members, partners, contractors, and staff for their hard work this year. We have many accomplishments to show for the efforts. Quick examples from our monitoring, restoration, and education efforts include—volunteers and staff continued collecting WQ data throughout the basin for the ninth year, over 20 stream miles were treated through restoration projects, and the camp had 50 participants. The majority of this newsletter is dedicated to summarizing many of the year's numerous projects. Read on to see what you were part of in 2008. On page 7 you will find a membership/donation form. Please renew your membership or join the SWC to help support the continuation of projects such as those discussed in this edition. With your help 2009 will be a great year for the Siuslaw Watershed and Coastal Lakes!

Monitoring and Research Accomplishments

Siuslaw Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program (VWQMP): Volunteers collected high-quality data monthly at nine sites throughout the watershed for temperature, turbidity, clarity, bacteria, dissolved oxygen, salinity and tidal conditions. Students at Mapleton Schools participate in the program by collecting samples at the Mapleton dock and Karnowsky Creek, and by processing the dissolved oxygen samples in their science class. The SWC has also provided technical assistance and support to the Coastal Lakes water quality team and will partner with the Surfrider Foundation in 2009 to process beach samples. You can view current and historical water quality data on an interactive map on the council website www.siuslaw.org/monitoring. The VWQMP is funded by a grant from OWEB.

Limiting Factors Analysis—Smith and Fivemile Basins: An OWEB Technical Assistance grant paid for the analysis of data from in 2007 and earlier. USFS and Ecotrust staff produced a report identifying limiting factors and restoration



recommendations for both priority sub-basins.

Siuslaw Basin TMDL Development: SWC staff and volunteers have continued sampling for the Siuslaw Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development. A TMDL defines the acceptable limit of specific water quality parameters such as bacteria and temperature. SWC staff and volunteers sampled for bacteria at five locations in the estuary four times in 2008, twice during dry times and twice during storm events. Five temperature loggers were placed at locations on the Siuslaw River and Lake Creek to collect continuous data throughout the summer. Contractors produced the North Fork Siuslaw Sediment Report based on data collected in 2007. In 2008, contractors began data collection in the Indian Creek and Big Elk basins for the future development of a sediment TMDL. The TMDL development projects are funded by DEQ 319 grants.

Knowles Creek Lifecycle Monitoring: Partners on this effort include the USFS, SWC, Siuslaw and Mapleton Schools, ODFW, STEP, and the Siuslaw Institute. 2008 saw the lowest number of Coho and Chinook since the survey started in 2002. The Knowles Creek trap was operated until early June. The smolt trap continued to be used as a unique and effective educational tool. Middle school students from Mapleton and Florence continued to assist operators in many different areas of operation and data collection. An OWEB monitoring grant provided funding for this project.

Restoration Accomplishments

Smoot Creek Stream Enhancement: ODFW, Roseburg Forest Products, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council

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Council**

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Chair: Steve Elliot

Vice Chair: Dave Eisler

Secretary: Wesley Voth

Treasurer: Nancy Nichols

Representatives:

Barbara Beers

Cindy Chambers

Jim Grano

Noland Huntington

Jeff Jackson

A Note from the Siuslaw Watershed Council Chair

Greetings to all who live, work and play in the Siuslaw watershed. This has been a good year for the Siuslaw Watershed Council. The previous coordinator for the council, Todd Miller, left us in the fall of 2007. After a search and some interviews, it was clear to us that the projects manager whom Todd had chosen was also the best choice for the new coordinator.

Liz officially began as coordinator in January of 2008. She has continued to grow our relationships with agencies public and private, with service organizations and community groups, and with schools and government entities.

As noted elsewhere, the SWC has completed many projects this year. Some were projects that we had done before, like camp, and some were new to us like riparian area dump removal. Some projects like culvert replacement have immediate benefits for salmonids and some like riparian plant give away are more long term in benefits to fish and other aquatic species.

With your continued interest in, and support of, our progress and projects, we will continue to increase our ability to do larger, perhaps more complex projects that are aimed at helping restore all streams in the Siuslaw Basin to their full biological health.

Sincerely,
Steve Elliot

Long Time Project Partner Starts New Adventure

Ralph Lampman has dedicated an enormous amount of time to restoration and education in the Siuslaw Watershed and Coastal Lakes as a fish biologist for the Siuslaw National Forest—Central Coast Ranger District. Ralph has lead or been involved in many SWC projects including the Lower Deadwood Aquatic Restoration, Knowles Creek Lifecycle Monitoring, Fisher Crew, Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camps, and much more. In January, Ralph will start in the Oregon State University Graduate School Fisheries Science Program. His study will focus on a Pacific lamprey radio telemetry study based in North Umpqua River below and above Winchester Dam to look at fish passage and spawning/overwintering behavior. We will miss Ralph's involvement and wish him well in his new endeavor.

Spirit of Siuslaw Award Winners

The new Spirit of Siuslaw Awards were distributed during the End of the Year Celebration Potluck in November. The awards are given in recognition of those volunteers/landowners who put an exceptional effort into the fulfillment of the SWC Mission. The Spirit of Siuslaw Award criteria is modeled after the Spirit of the Oregon Plan Awards given by OWEB.

2008 Spirit of Siuslaw Winners:

Dave Eisler ~ Nancy Nichols ~ George and Alice Uriona

The SWC recognized Jeff Jones as Contractor of the Year.

Volunteer Search

Do you enjoy yardwork? We need a volunteer to mow the lawn at the USFS Upper Compound where the SWC office is located. If you are interested please contact the SWC office. Thanks!

partnered on this OWEB Small Grant funded project. The ODFW led project placed LWD in 10 structures in 0.6 miles of stream and removed an old dam and barrier culvert opening up 1.7 miles of aquatic habitat.

Elk Creek Culvert Replacement: A fish passage barrier culvert was replaced with an open bottom arch culvert, allowing passage for all aquatic species, on this tributary in the Indian Creek sub-basin. The project opened up 2 miles of coho habitat and helps restore natural stream flow dynamics at the road crossing. OWEB, Siuslaw Stewardship Group, the USFS, and Lane County provided funding for the culvert replacement and associated native riparian plantings.

Holland Creek Culvert Replacement: With BLM-RAC funding project partners Lane County, the BLM, and the SWC collaborated to replace the fish passage barrier culvert on this tributary of the Upper Siuslaw. Over 1 mile of high quality salmon spawning and rearing habitat was opened to all aquatic species with the new open bottom arch structure.

Swamp Creek Restoration: This spring, the SWC, SOLV, BLM, Siuslaw SWCD, and private landowners partnered on the first stage of this multi-step restoration project. An unofficial dump was cleaned up in the riparian area of the creek. This fall, a second step of restoration moved into the planning stages, as partners including the SWC, BLM, Weyerhaeuser, private landowners, and ODFW put together grant applications for culvert removals, LWD placements, riparian fencing, and planting in the basin.

Siuslaw Restoration Materials Acquisition: This program facilitates the locating, transportation, and storage of logs for use in future restoration projects. Many of the logs used are blown down during storms, then donated by ODOT or Lane County to the SWC. OWEB funds are used to transport the logs. Twenty-four of the logs placed during the Lower Deadwood restoration project were moved using Materials Acquisition funds. Two loads of logs and rootwads will be moved this month from Highway 126 for use in a future restoration project.



Lower Deadwood Aquatic Restoration: Over 535 trees, some with rootwads, were placed with a Chinook helicopter on 14 miles of stream. The USFS, ODFW, the Siuslaw Watershed Council, Blachly-Lane Electric Co-op, OWEB, and eleven private landowners collaborated this aquatic restoration project. The whole trees, also known as large woody debris (LWD), will provide refuge for the fish. Over time spawning gravels will be retained by the large wood structures and pools will be formed providing habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms. This fall's project continues a 2001 large wood restoration project on streams in the upper Deadwood watershed area. In 2009, partners will work on

powerline burial. The burial will allow for growth of full size trees in the riparian corridor, where powerlines had previously restricted vegetation.

Native Plant Distribution: The 8th annual Free Native Riparian Plant Distribution disseminated over 15,000 seedlings to 100 landowners in the Siuslaw Watershed and Coastal Lakes area. Funding for the Siuslaw Riparian Restoration Projects (Native Plant Distribution) comes from the Coast Range Stewardship Group. Work has already begun on the 2009 Native Plant Distribution (see page 6 for more information).

Mapleton Restoration Intern Crew (MRIC): Three local youth and a local adult crew leader worked throughout the watershed releasing native riparian plants this summer. Funding for the release work came from a Siuslaw Stewardship Group funded riparian restoration project. The crew manually removed invasive species including Meadow Knapweed in an Early Detection Rapid Response program funded by the BLM.

Fisher Crew: The Fishers worked on over 65 acres of private riparian property in the Siuslaw and Lakes Watersheds. Duties included tree and shrub planting, site preparation, willow collection, release of seedlings, tree protection (beaver



Continued from Page 3

cages), and tube maintenance. The Crew also worked on a BLM project to address Meadow Knapweed infestations near Horton. They learned valuable map reading skills, plant biology, and noxious weed control. The crew released and planted trees on 75 acres of the Siuslaw National Forest Central Coast Ranger District. During 2008 the crew worked on 22 different projects throughout the watershed, in some cases improving solid projects and in others implementing riparian restoration from converting weedy riparian areas to seedling forests.

North Jetty Scotch Broom and Gorse Removal: The project set up two areas within the Park, a 25 acre contractor's area from the road into the interior, and a 7 acre Volunteer area along the river beach and the parking areas. Over a two year period the contractor removed 95% of the Broom and the only gorse plant located. At the same time the project utilized volunteers from the Florence Middle School and the Siuslaw Watershed Council summer camp to remove Scotch Broom in the area heavily utilized by the public and where ongoing years of volunteer efforts will need to be concentrated. The project has removed large tracts of a serious invasive weed and educated the public through youth involvement and the media about our role in protecting our native plant ecologies.

Siuslaw Watershed Restoration Initiative (SWRI): Through funding from the Ecotrust administered EPA grant, the SWC has been able to compile and map data gathered from monitoring a portion of the plants distributed through the Native Plant Distribution since 2005. Monitoring sites are randomly chosen from landowners who receive 50 or more trees from the distribution. The sites are monitored every year for three years for height, width and overall survival rate. This information is stored in the SWC monitoring database, which contains information on 9430 plants at 87 locations. The compilation of the data allows us to improve the effectiveness of our riparian revegetation efforts. The SWC and other project partners have continued to work with landowners to identify sites in the estuary for restoration and/or conservation easements.

Education and Outreach Accomplishments

Mapleton Schools LEAF Program: The SWC is partnering with the Mapleton Schools in their LEAF after school program. SWC staff and local experts will be in the classroom for 6 weeks teaching students from 1st grade through high school about watershed issues such as water quality and salmonid habitat. The LEAF program is funded by a grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program awarded to the Mapleton School District.

Siuslaw Water Trail: SWC staff and volunteers are creating a new brochure and map for the Siuslaw Water Trail. These new materials will be updated with put-in and take-out sites, and points of interest for kayaks and canoes traveling between Florence and Mapleton.

Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camp: The SWC had another successful year of the Watershed Exploration Camps. This summer 50 students from Mapleton and Siuslaw Schools participated in the camps, in three separate sessions, Intro, Intermediate and Advanced. Camp staff worked with a range of natural resource experts to provide the participants with fun and educational activities. Intro camp participants learned the basics of water quality, native versus non-native plants, and also explored the watershed by mountain biking and by kayak on Woahink Lake. The Intermediate camp went more in-depth into watershed health issues, took a tour of a local mill, and on a kayak trip from the Florence Docks to Bender Landing. The Advanced camp culminated with an overnight camping trip on Siltcoos Lake where the students learned about leave no trace camping and had debates on natural resource issues. Each session of camp also included a service project. The Watershed Exploration Camps were funded by a grant from OWEB and donations from the families of the participants and Council members.



General Council Meeting Presentations: 2008 was full of a diverse array of informative presentations at the General Council Meetings. Most meetings were held in the Mapleton Grange, three were held in other population centers in the watershed, including Florence, Blachly, and Lorane. Presentation topics included: ODFW Fisheries Update, the Marine Reserves Forum, BLM Alma Fire Recovery and Monitoring, the Local Food Showcase, Mycology, Duncan Island Ranch's Organic Farm, Meadow Knapweed, the Fish Monitoring Methods Forum, the Volunteer Appreciation

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Picnic, Ecological Effects of Wave Energy, Pasture and Riparian Invasives, Native Plants and Successful Establishment, and the Spirit of Siuslaw Awards.

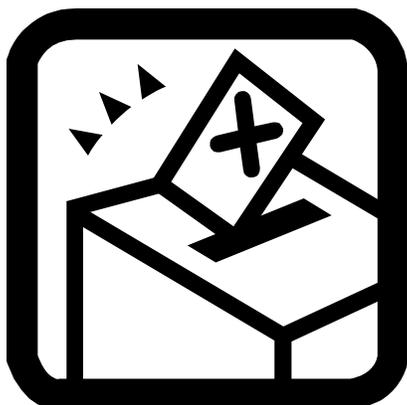
Community Outreach: SWC staff and volunteers worked to spread the word about Council programs and opportunities throughout the watershed and beyond. Early in the year staff provided presentations for representatives from Sakhalin Island, Russia and Australian staff from the International River Foundation. On a local level, Coordinator Office Hours have been held in various locations throughout the watershed. Staff and volunteers represented the SWC at the Lakes Festival in Dunes City, the Florence Area Coordinating Council Volunteer Fair, and other community events. The coordinator gave presentations about SWC programs for Siuslaw Elementary 5th graders, the Florence Rotary Club, and the OWEB Conference.

Thank you to all project managers who contributed updates for the 2008 summary.

Leadership Board 2009

It is nomination time for Leadership Board positions. The Leadership Board includes 27 stakeholder positions, including an At-Large position. Alternates are welcomed for all positions. We have potential spaces for 54 council members. Our 9 Executive Committee members are elected from the Leadership Board and serve as the Board of Directors for the Council. Executive members should have one or more years of experience on the Leadership Board. Nominate yourself or another member who can attend the January meeting or recruit other candidates to fill those slots. Here is a list of the 2008 Representatives. Please let the SWC staff know if you are interested in serving in 2009. Thank you to all of the Representatives for serving on the board in 2008.

Please email or call the SWC office with your nominations.



No.	POSITION	2008 REPRESENTATIVES
Area Representatives		
1	North Fork Siuslaw	Noland Huntington (Alt. J. Kirkham)
2	Lower Siuslaw	Hayden Sears
3	Middle Siuslaw	Steve Elliot (Alt W. Voth)
4	Upper Siuslaw (Incl. Wolf)	VACANT
5	Indian Creek	Barbara Beers
6	Wildcat Creek	Dave Eisler
7	Deadwood Creek	Nancy Nichols
8	Lake Creek	Tony Humphreys
9	No. Coastal Lakes & Siuslaw Bay	Gus Gates
10	South Coastal Lakes	Steve Hager
11	At Large	Cindy Chambers
Interest Group Representatives - Elected		
12	Academic/Scientific	Tom Steinberg
13	Commercial Fishing	Appointed
14	Federal Land Management	Ralph Lampman
15	Public Education	Jim Grano
16	Small Woodlot	David Rankin
17	SWCD	Ray Kinney
18	Agriculture/Ranching	Johnny Sundstrom
19	Industrial Timber	Mark Wall
20	Environmental	Jan Wroncy
21	State Government	John Spangler
22	Ecosystem Workforce	Jeff Jones
23	Resource Recreation	Jeff Jackson
Interest Group Representatives - Appointed		
24	Tribes CTCLUSI	John Schaefer
25	Port of Siuslaw (Appointed)	John Scott
26	Lane Co. Government (Appointed)	Mary Moffat
27	City of Florence (Appointed)	Wendy Farley
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
1	Chair	Steve Elliot
2	Vice Chair	Dave Eisler
3	Secretary	Wesley Voth
4	Treasurer	Nancy Nichols
5	Position 5	Barbara Beers
6	Position 6	Noland Huntington
7	Position 7	Cindy Chambers
8	Position 8	Jim Grano
9	Position 9	Jeff Jackson

How We can Increase Planting Success



www.nonprofitpages.com

Read this article before placing your plant request this year

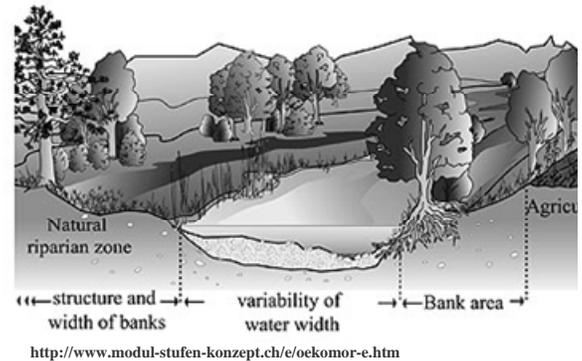
Many Native Plant Distribution (NPD) participants are familiar with the associated monitoring or Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QAQC) program. The QAQC is required by our funders, the USFS Siuslaw Stewardship Group. Both our funders and the SWC gain insight into the program through the monitoring efforts. We learn what works and what does not, allowing for more effective use of SWC, USFS Siuslaw Stewardship Group, and your (landowners) time and resources.

Here are some of our most important lessons:

- **Seedlings need to go into the ground ASAP**—Plants will do best if planted within 48 hours of receiving them. Even heeling in seedlings can be detrimental due to increased handling and root exposure to air.
- **All seedlings need to be marked with a pole**—There are many benefits to clearly marking all seedlings. A frequent cause of seedling mortality is accidental mowing, tall bamboo poles standing above the seedling and encroaching grass or brush helps to identify a seedling. Marking can also prevent unintentional running over by quads, vehicles, and children, and may serve as a reminder to check the health of the plants. This year we will be providing all landowners with poles and/or flagging tape to mark plants.
- **Appropriate plant selection for the site conditions**—Some plants such as Douglas fir need to keep their root systems dry, other plants such as Western red cedar and Sitka willow need

moist to wet soils to succeed. While Western hemlock prefer shade, Douglas fir and Nootka rose need full to partial sun. So what does your riparian planting site look like?—Is it wet with lots of shade or dry? Does it get lots of sun? Are you planting right at the stream's edge or 100 feet back? Check out the plant list and descriptions in the upcoming NPD mailing or at our website (www.siuslaw.org). Match the plant descriptions with your site conditions, then email in your requests.

- **Release, release, release!**—Competing grasses and brush can steal nutrients, water, and sun away from your seedlings. Many plants have died as Reed canary-grass or Himalayan blackberries out compete the new seedlings for resources. Scalping a 3- to 5-foot circle around your seedling hole before planting can provide the seedlings with a head-start on weeds. Cutting grasses and brush away from seedlings in a 3-5 foot swath, especially in the spring and summer helps the native plants to get more nutrients, sun, and water. The NPD will once again be providing limited release services free of charge to participants.



- **Water may be needed for seedlings during the first summer**—While one of the benefits of native plants is that they often require less water than ornamentals, during the first summer some native seedlings need watering. Many seedlings have been lost to dehydration in the peak of the summer. Check your new plants once or twice a week in the summer, and those in full sun more frequently, a little attention and water in the first summer can make a big difference in the success of a plant.

For plant requests or questions:

Ginger Cloutier, nativeplants@siuslaw.org,
541-268-3044.

*This article was featured in the November 2007 SWC Newsletter with the exception of one change.

Calendar of Events

There will be no General Meeting this month. We hope everyone has a safe and happy New Year!



- **Monday, January 5: Siuslaw SWCD Board Meeting.** 6:30 PM, Contact SWCD for information. 541-997-1272.
- **No Tech Team in January.** Items will be discussed by email.
- **Wednesday, January 14: SWC Executive Committee meeting.** 5:30 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- **Wednesday, January 28: SWC General Meeting.** 6:30—8:00 PM, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Rd, Mapleton.
- **Monday, February 2: Siuslaw SWCD Board Meeting.** 6:30 PM, Contact SWCD for information.
- **Thursday, February 5: SWC Tech Team meeting.** 9:30—11:30 AM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- **Wednesday, February 11: SWC Executive Committee meeting.** 5:30 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.
- **Wednesday, February 25: SWC General Meeting.** 6:30—8:00 PM, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Rd, Mapleton.
- **January:** Realtor and Financial Advisor Training: This training will provide realtors and financial advisors with the knowledge to advise their clients on the benefits of restoration projects and conservation easements. Date and location to be determined.
- **February:** Estuary Landowner Training: This training will teach estuary landowners about the ecological and financial benefits of restoration projects and conservation easements. Date and location to be determined.

Please check our website at www.siuslaw.org for dates and locations.

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: _____

Please choose and circle any of the following:

- Tax-deductible membership enclosed (\$25 supporting, \$10 regular, \$0 students).
- Additional tax-deductible donation enclosed. Amount \$ _____
 Direct to: General Fund Endowment Research Program (name): _____
 Water Quality Monitoring Native Plant Distribution
 Siuslaw Water Trail Outreach Events & Road Signs
 Summer Watershed Camp Dirk-Edmunds Gift Fund
- We like to recognize our donors. 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.

Thank you!

Membership Time

December is the time to renew your membership or to join the Siuslaw Watershed Council and support our efforts. Inside this edition of the newsletter you will find a round-up of our accomplishments in 2008 and a look ahead. A membership and donation form is included on page 7, donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please consider continuing your support or joining the SWC.

Thank you for a great 2008!
We look forward to your involvement in 2009!



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.

• Community • Economy • Environment

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WATERSHED COUNCIL

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What's Happening In Your Watershed?