

SIOUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

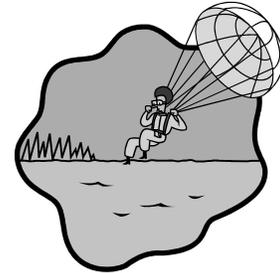
November 2007

www.siuslaw.org
watershed@siuslaw.org

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

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

Message from the Coordinator...



Last month I represented the Siuslaw Basin Partnership at a teleconference held in Pullman, Washington. Washington State University Extension organized this gathering of three recipient watersheds of EPA's competitive Targeted Watershed Initiative Grants. I was extremely honored to represent Oregon and the Siuslaw partners among the other Pacific Northwest grant recipients. A twenty-five minute documentary about the Siuslaw preceded open discussion and highlighted how the Karnowsky Creek restoration project solidified the partnership of the Siuslaw Watershed Council, the Siuslaw National Forest, the Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Siuslaw Institute. Questions asked of us revealed the addition of Ecotrust and the McKenzie River Trust as indelible partners in the Siuslaw.

Reflecting on the years that have passed since the inception of the Karnowsky restoration project and the initial drafting of the Targeted Watershed Grant proposal work plan, I mused that both predate my involvement with the Siuslaw Watershed Council. Regardless, I was readily welcomed into the extended coterie of Siuslaw colleagues when I became council coordinator. Similarly, I have seen many of those colleagues move on to different endeavors and regions over the past four years, while continuously welcoming new faces and talents into our programs and partnerships. Despite the ebb and flow of personnel, the essence and function of the Siuslaw Basin Partnership endures, grows, and excels.

Like the many colleagues who have moved on in the past, it is now my time to leave the Siuslaw Watershed and the Partnership. My last day with the Siuslaw Watershed Council was November 7. I have accepted a great job opportunity working with the City of Springfield on water management, water quality issues, and restoration projects. The position keeps me closer to my young family with fewer

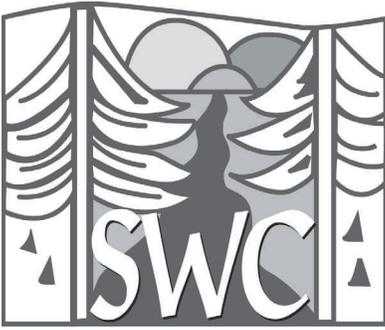
evening meetings yet still allows me to work with the community and local partnerships on enhancing our waterways.

I certainly have the past four years of experiences and learning opportunities working with the Siuslaw Basin Partnership and the Siuslaw community to thank for enhancing my professional skills to ready me for a job such as the one I am embarking on. Moreover, I will miss all of the great colleagues who have become friends from the coast to the valley, and I will miss working in the beautiful and special Siuslaw watershed and coastal lakes area. For those of you who attended the Coastal Lakes Watersheds Forum at Woahink Lake last month, I still could not be more thankful than to have my last council meeting be held at such a beautiful location. Indeed, the forum was a special way to wrap up my four-year run as coordinator, with guest presentations on a variety of lakes topics given by extremely committed professionals and a capacity audience of regular council members and newcomers alike.

I leave with full confidence in the Council, its board and staff, and the Partnership to continue with the great projects and programs we have worked on this past year and those planned for the next year. Our Projects Manager Liz Vollmer-Buhl is officially acting in capacity as Interim Coordinator until a permanent decision on a new coordinator is made. Liz will be hosting the general council meeting on November 28. The meeting is our annual end-of-year potluck celebration. Displays of the past year's projects and programs will be available for viewing, and the documentary prepared for the Targeted Watershed conference will be shown.

I will miss seeing you all!

Best regards,
Todd



**Siuslaw Watershed
Council**

Tel: 541-268-3044

Fax 268-3045

Staff

**Interim Coordinator/
Projects Manager:**

Liz Vollmer-Buhl

coordinator@siuslaw.org

monitoring@siuslaw.org

nativeplants@siuslaw.org

Administrative Assistant:

Ginger Fincher

watershed@siuslaw.org

Executive Committee

Chair: Steve Elliot

Vice Chair: Dave Eisler

Secretary: Wesley Voth

Treasurer: Nancy Nichols

Representatives:

Barbara Beers

Paul Chapman (resigned)

Jim Grano

Noland Huntington

Annual Watershed Review and Membership Drive

Attached to this newsletter you will find a convenient new membership and donation envelope. Please take this opportunity to make your year-end tax-deductible membership dues payment and donations now! We are wrapping up another excellent year of expanding programs, partnerships, and projects. Highlights of the past year are presented below. Please join us at the annual end-of-year potluck on November 28 to view displays on many of these programs and view the Siuslaw documentary produced through the Siuslaw Watershed Restoration Initiative project.

Community Watershed Forums

Expanding on the past successes of multi-presentation forums we held on particular watershed topics, in 2007 the SWC embarked on an ambitious plan to host quarterly forums in lieu of our usual general meeting format for that month. We kicked it off early this year with the Herbicides in a Watershed Context forum, which was so big it was split over the months of March and April. Besides being an excellent program to present background information on the use, toxicology, and aquatic concerns about herbicides, the forum series represented breaking ground in watershed collaboration. We had the input and support of timber industry partners working closely with watershed-protection advocates to help put together a presentation that would identify common ground among the watershed community partners.

This summer, we held a focal forum in Blachly on Meadow Knapweed. The Horton Meadow Knapweed Working Group, a partnership of government agencies and nonprofit groups, presented a series of information on this invasive plant, land management problems it poses, and potential ways to eradicate it and restore infested areas.

Most recently, we hosted the Coastal Lakes Watersheds Forum at Woahink Lake. Ten presenters, including SWC staff, researchers, and agency personnel, elaborated on a variety of topics important to the concept of coastal lakes watershed restoration and management. We learned about water quality and algae blooms, invasive aquatic plants, fisheries, conservation priorities, and restoration planning. The forum was our first major effort to provide outreach and community relationship building in our expanded coverage area of the coastal lakes north and south of Florence.

Siuslaw Watershed Restoration Initiative

We worked with our expanding Siuslaw Basin Partnership, including Eco-trust and the McKenzie River Trust, to complete the third year of progress on the ambitious watershed-scale monitoring, conservation, and restoration project. The project has been extended through 2008 to allow us to see through potential, promising leads on estuary conservation, stewardship forestry and

local biofuels generation and development, culvert replacement, ecologic and water quality assessments, and riparian restoration efforts. New, updated maps of the Siuslaw for restoration planning, project mapping, and estuary recreation, conservation, and restoration planning are in development under the project partnership of Ecotrust and SWC. The highlight of the year was participation in a regional teleconference on EPA Targeted Watershed Grants in the Pacific Northwest last month. A viewing of the documentary produced for the conference will be shown at the council meeting on November 28.



Siuslaw Estuary Recreational Water Trail

The SWC became a more prominent partner in establishing the first formal routes of the long-planned Siuslaw Water Trail. In June, SWC assumed oversight of the project for the Port of Siuslaw, which had secured funding through Oregon State Parks to implement the trail. Maps and information about the trail are now on-line at www.siuslawwatertrail.com. The site will be updated with more information as the project phase comes to a close. Currently, trail designer Jordan Sector has signage, trail markers, and site improvement designed and ready for production. This first phase of the trail consists of three paddle tour loops originating from the Florence boat dock: 1) Surf the Jetty, 2) North Fork, and 3) Cox Island.

Priority Culvert Replacements

Although we saw several of our priority culvert projects postponed until 2008, ultimately the delays helped us improve on project implementation and planning. We secured several new lines of funding in 2007: Walker Creek culverts replacement funding from BLM and technical design funding from USFS, and Knapp Creek culverts replacement additional project funds from USFS. Lane County was also secured as a construction partner in the Elk Creek culvert replacement project. As we wrap up project planning in 2007, we are soliciting the hiring of a culvert engineer and project manager funded through all of the projects to finalize culvert and restoration design and project oversight of six priority culvert replacements.

Knowles Creek Life Cycle Monitoring

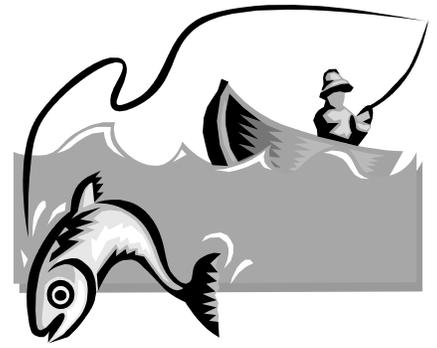
SWC partnered with USFS and local fisheries habitat contractors to secure funding from OWEB to operate the Knowles Creek smolt trap this past year. The project ensured an important 13th year of fish population data collection was continued on Knowles Creek, and assured the continued involvement of local middle and high school students in the hands-on experience of smolt identification and counting.

Walker Creek Large Wood Placement

Jason Kirchner, ODFW habitat restoration biologist, designed and implemented this project this past summer with help from Roseburg Resources. The project emplaced 10 large wood structures along Walker Creek in Walton from the site of the upper priority culvert replacement to the confluence with Wildcat Creek. The project addresses loss of over wintering rearing habitat for Coho salmon and other fish. The project adds additional stream restoration value to the upcoming culvert replacements. OWEB's Small Grant program provided funding.

Mill Creek Stream Enhancement

This project in the north coastal lakes enhanced fish habitat through a culvert removal and large wood placement on private land. The project was developed and implemented by ODFW restoration biologist Jason Kirchner and funded through OWEB's Small Grant program.



Siuslaw Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

During 2007, the Siuslaw Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program (VWQMP) continued a strong presence in our streams thanks to our many dedicated volunteers and OWEB. Our participants include adult volunteers from Florence, Blachly, Walton, and Deadwood, and Mapleton High School and Middle School students. Voluntary restoration projects have focused on areas of concern identified by the VWQMP. In March, two youth volunteers and one adult volunteer traveled to Salem to speak to members of the legislature about the importance of monitoring programs. Throughout the year, volunteers have collected and processed water quality samples from major tributaries and the main stem of the Siuslaw. Siuslaw VWQMP data is available on our Web site – just click on the link to “Monitoring”.

Native Riparian Plant Distribution 2007

Over 125 riparian landowners received almost 13,000 free plants through the seventh annual, Siuslaw Stewardship Group funded, Siuslaw Native Plant Distribution (NPD). An estimated 55 acres of native trees, shrubs, and plants were planted near streams, lakes, and wetlands in the Siuslaw Basin and Coastal Lakes area this winter through the program. Increasing the amount of native riparian vegetation can help to lower stream temperatures and decrease erosion, as well as enhance habitat benefits. The continuing monitoring program helps to maintain and increase successful plantings in the future.

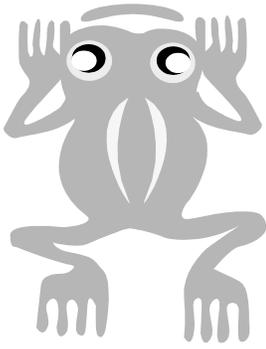
Hire-the-Fishers

Four local fishers displaced by the 2006 salmon season closure were hired to do watershed restoration work through the SWC's “Hire-the-Fishers” grant funded by OWEB. The fishers have prepared planting sites, planted trees, cleared invasives, and completed numerous other tasks on restoration projects throughout the basin and Coastal Lakes. Work continues through 2008 on the SWC's Mapleton Ranger District's Hire-the-Fishers grant.

Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camps and Workshops

This summer a record 32 area middle and high school students participated in two exciting day-camp programs. 2007 marked the fifth consecutive year SWC has provided this offering to community youth. Despite expanding the program to accommodate extra campers, we still had to turn away participants, we hope to expand the program in 2008. This summer's Intro Campers explored fishing, macro invertebrates, logging, mountain biking, and invasive plant pulling, among other fun educational activities. Advanced Campers delved into stream snorkeling, organic farming, and a paddle tour on the Siuslaw Water Trail. Funds from OWEB, Western Lane Community Foundation, and private donations helped make the Intro and Advanced Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camps possible.

This year we also offered expanded workshop programs with our three Saturday watershed workshop series. Participants of all ages came out to learn about noxious weeds and habitat restoration in Lorane, stream restoration planning and community noxious weed control planning in Blachly/Horton, and restored site touring opportunities at Karnowsky Creek on the estuary.



Bullfrog Bookmark

All summer workshop participants also received informational bookmarks designed by the Siuslaw Middle School Stream Team. Funding awarded via OWEB's biennial Mini Grants, which most recently funded the watershed road sign in 2006, paid for the production of the bullfrog bookmarks.

Siuslaw TMDL Development

SWC has continued to work with the DEQ and Lincoln SWCD on TMDL development for the Mid-Coast, focusing on the Siuslaw. SWC staff and WQM volunteers have collected water samples for dissolved oxygen and fecal coliform TMDL development. The SWC has contracted with Demeter Design, research professionals from the North Coast, to design and implement the Sediment TMDL development for the North Fork, Taylor Creek, and a tributary of the Yaquina. In collaboration with Demeter, DEQ, and Mid-Coast partners, we spearheaded the adoption of whole-watershed sampling and modeling to produce a more accurate depiction of the source and deposition of sediment. This approach will provide the SWC and restoration partners with better information to plan meaningful restoration projects in targeted areas of the watershed. We will continue working on TMDL development for the Mid-Coast through 2009.

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is accepting applications for the Coordinator position.

For more information on this position please visit our website at www.siuslaw.org



Raffle

Save your money...

for the big raffle drawing at the November General Council Meeting.

We will have great prize packages.

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

The raffle raises funds for SWC General Fund.

Prize packages to include....

massage, meals

and much more!

Tickets will be available at the SWC Annual End of the Year Potluck Celebration.

How We can Increase Planting Success



www.nonprofitpages.com

Read this article before placing your plant request this year

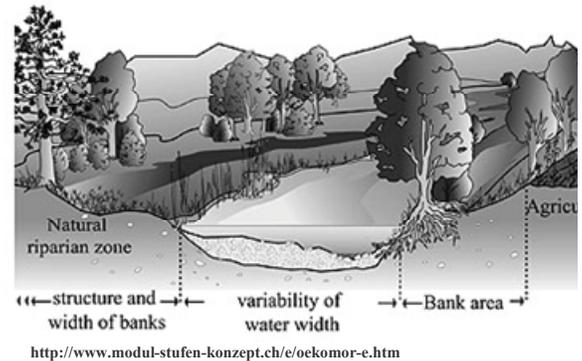
Many Native Plant Distribution (NPD) participants are familiar with the associated monitoring or Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QAQC) program. The QAQC is required by our funders, the USFS Siuslaw Stewardship Group. Both our funders and the SWC gain insight into the program through the monitoring 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:

Liz Vollmer-Buhl, nativeplants@siuslaw.org,
541-268-3044.

Calendar of Events

Upcoming SWC Meetings

*** Please Note Date & Time Changes ***

Many regularly scheduled upcoming meetings have changed dates, times, and venues in November.



Wednesday, November 28: SWC Annual End of the Year Potluck Celebration. 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Mapleton Grange Hall. East Mapleton Road, Mapleton.

Monday, December 3: Siuslaw SWCD Annual meeting. 6:00 PM, Driftwood Shores. Contact SWCD for information. 541-997-1272.

Thursday, December 6: SWC Tech Team meeting. 9:30 – 11:30 AM, Siuslaw Watershed Council, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.

Thursday, December 6: Siuslaw Stewardship Meeting. 1:00 – 3:00 PM, Mapleton (location to be announced).

Wednesday, December 12: SWC Executive Board meeting. 5:30 PM, Siuslaw Watershed Council newly remodeled office, Upper US Forest Service Compound, Mapleton.



November Water Quality Notes

- Volunteers, thanks for your efforts in October!
- Upcoming Monitoring Days:

Tuesday, November 27, 2007 (Note date! Fourth Tuesday, not regular third.)

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

- Check-out new water quality monitoring data at www.siuslaw.org.
- Contact Liz Vollmer-Buhl, monitoring@siuslaw.org, 541-268-3044, for water quality monitoring questions.



Please join us for a

Potluck

and General Council Meeting

November 28

6 PM set-up/ starts at 6:30 PM

At the Mapleton Grange Hall

East Mapleton Rd, Mapleton



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

S IUSLAW
WATERSHED COUNCIL

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

www.siuslaw.org

watershed@siuslaw.org

What's Happening In Your Watershed?