

SIU SLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

JUNE 2006

www.siuslaw.org
watershed@siuslaw.org

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

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

Message from the Coordinator...



There is a lot of watershed activity and emerging opportunity in the Siuslaw River basin right now. Just prior to writing this month's message, I returned from a field tour I gave to funding committee representatives for two potential culvert replacements the council proposed this year. Stopping by the post office, I picked up several new memberships that have been arriving in response to our mid-year member drive. Returning to the council office, I backed my truck up to load the new watershed road sign that we are installing at Cougar Pass on Saturday. Walking into the office, I reviewed the project files I am organizing for nearly 50 watershed council projects that have been active this year either through post-project monitoring, ongoing implementation, or planning and proposal. Sitting at my computer, I responded to e-mail messages for several summer programs that are ramping up, including our fourth annual watershed exploration camp, our second year TMDL water quality study, and our LORANE area culvert survey crew.

Reflecting on the past month's council endeavors, we saw a new burst of activity toward the realization of a Siuslaw Water Trail, we located estuary wetland sites for restoration and monitoring, we projected restoration labor needs for a local economic workforce study, we worked closely with timber industry partners to share stewardship forestry opportunities and to present the upcoming landslide and timber management forum, and we planned the summer field season for riparian tree release and vegetation management. In short, we are a busy organization.

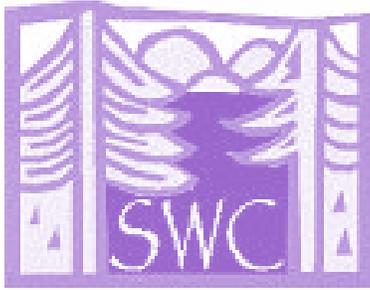
We owe the level of positive efforts going into the Siuslaw landscape to our committed partners, an energetic leadership board, and to the support of the greater community. Those who recently acknowledged their ongoing support to the watershed council through renewed memberships are especially thanked. Many renewing members expressed their support through additional donations. Those donations are valuable and serve as moral boosters for the board and staff that our work is appreciated. Thank you.

To give a better idea of the spectrum of ongoing council projects, I have summarized some of latest activity on programs and proposals in the categories of water quality, culvert and stream enhancements, vegetation, fish and aquatics, assessments, and education. The one project that covers them all is the Siuslaw Watershed Restoration Initiative, the 3-year EPA-funded project awarded to Ecotrust and its partners, including the watershed council. We are currently mid-way through this project which covers a range of water quality monitoring, landslide analysis, upper watershed restoration, aquatic studies, and timber management goals toward whole-basin water quality improvement.

Water Quality...Nutrient Criteria Development: we are wrapping up the first phase of this study that explored the linkages between stream channel characteristics, nutrients, and algal communities. A second phase of work to expand on the results for a usable model of nutrient management in the Siuslaw watershed is currently being developed. **TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Development:** We are entering our second year of locally-driven monitoring planning to assist the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality collect modeling data used to develop TMDLs for the Mid-Coast region. **Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring:** We enter a seventh funded year this fall of our program to get volunteers out on the estuary and, more recently, into upper watershed locations, to collect baseline information on basic water quality characteristics.

Culvert and Stream Restoration...Knapp Creek Culverts Replacement: two culverts will be replaced on Nelson Mountain Road in the upper Chickahominy Watershed next year to improve stream dynamics and access to salmon

Continued on next page



**Siuslaw Watershed
Council**

Tel: 541-268-3044

Fax 268-3045

Staff

Coordinator: *Todd Miller*
coordinator@siuslaw.org

Administrative Assistant:
Liz Vollmer-Buhl

watershed@siuslaw.org

Monitoring Coordinator:
Liz Vollmer-Buhl

monitoring@siuslaw.org

GIS Specialist:
Eric Sproles

gis@siuslaw.org

2006 Executive Committee

Chair: Paula Crowder

Vice Chair: Steve Elliot

Secretary: William Fleenor

Treasurer: Nancy Nichols

Representatives:

Barbara Beers

Dave Eisler

Jim Grano

Noland Huntington

Continued from page 1

rearing habitat. **Pugh Creek Stream Enhancement:** a current Upper Siuslaw tributary project to remove culverts and enhance stream habitat. **Upper Wildcat Stream Enhancement:** a project slated for this summer on private timber land to remove and replace culverts and add large wood stream structures. **Elk Creek Culvert Replacement:** a culvert will be replaced on Thompson Creek Road to improve stream dynamics and salmon access to nearly 3 miles of spawning and rearing habitat in a cool water tributary to Indian Creek. **Walker Creek Culverts and Stream Enhancement:** two complementary projects proposed for 2007 to replace two undersized, perched culverts on a BLM road and add large wood stream structures to enhance downstream habitat. **Siuslaw Road Culverts:** three Alma-area culverts proposed for replacement by Lane County on Siuslaw River Road to improve rearing fish access to high-quality tributaries off the main stem Siuslaw.

Vegetation Enhancement...Riparian Restoration: our beloved free tree distribution program is planned for its 7th consecutive year in 2007. **Karnowsky Creek Vegetation Management:** this project wraps up this month, closing three years of tree planting, weed clearing, and beaver protection as part of the Karnowsky Creek Restoration. **North Jetty Scots Broom and Gorse Removal:** starting this month, this project will manage the removal of invasive broom and gorse to prevent spread and establish native plants at the mouth of the river.

Fish and Aquatic Species...Knowles Creek Life Cycle Monitoring: funding to continue the smolt trap monitoring for the 13th year at Knowles Creek starts this fall. This is an important long-term scientific program that has provided scores of local students the opportunity for hands-on participation. **Rapid Bio-Assessment:** year two of a second 3-year snorkel survey throughout the Siuslaw watershed to assess salmon distribution and abundance starts with dedicated funding this month. **Siuslaw River Mussel Study:** a sub-project of the Watershed Initiative, we are preparing to enter Phase II of research into the role of lead, calcium, and other factors in the decline in our local river mussels.

Assessments...Lorane Culvert Survey: launching our newly adopted geodatabase capacity to upload field data directly into our culvert database, the BLM has provided funding for two interns to collect needed information on culverts on BLM roads throughout the headwaters region in Lorane. **Limiting Factors Analysis:** currently proposed for late 2006, this assessment will use a protocol to assess specific limiting factors on the creek scale to assess restoration needs. Three study areas in the lakes area (Fivemile Creek), estuary (Knowles Creek), and upper watershed (Smith Creek) are targeted.

Outreach and Education... Watershed Road Sign: this month sees a nearly two-year old vision realized as we post a sign at Cougar Pass welcoming motorists to the Siuslaw Watershed. **Bullfrog Bookmark:** another long-term project that will be completed this summer, we will print up informational bookmarks to educate the community on the invasive nature of bullfrogs and provide resources for more information. **Summer Watershed Exploration Camp:** our fourth annual free educational opportunity for local students kicks off in July and this year offers an advanced camp during a second week for older students.

This is a fairly comprehensive but by no means complete list of the many endeavors made possible through the Siuslaw Watershed Council. Thank you for your continued support.

Todd Miller

Remember Your Native Plants

As summer progresses, it is important to keep an eye on your native plantings.
So far, no concern about them drying out;)

The check-list below is a good start for looking after your plants...

- Do you need to release your native plants (cut back or gently pull the weeds/competing plants)?
- Do you need new protective tubes? Or to secure the old ones with the bamboo poles?
- Are any plants growing crooked through the protective tubes? You would want to gently cut the tubes so that they can be free and grow straight.
- Do you need 'beaver cages' to protect your plants from your toothy-little-neighbors?
- Are your plants marked to help you avoid mowing over them?

If you have other questions or would like to request release assistance, email or call Liz Vollmer-Buhl, monitoring@siuslaw.org, SWC office 541-268-2044, and home office 541-683-8340. We also have protective tubes, poles, and beaver cages available, stop by the office or contact Liz to pick-up the supplies.

May 31, 2006 General Meeting Highlights:

Presentation: landscape architect and water trail visionary Jordan Secter presented information on the Siuslaw Water Trail, including a background on water trails in the US, water trails on the Pacific Coast, and the opportunities and directions ahead for creation of the Siuslaw Water Trail. More information and a map of the conceptual water trail is available on our Web site.

Leadership Board: Some recent departures, changes, and new nominees warranted discussion and Leadership Board support for several positions. Recognizing that we are likely to formally adopt the proposed Coastal Lakes and Siuslaw River boundary changes (see For The Board link on our Web site) in July, the following positions are newly filled or vacant as indicated:

Federal Land Management: Ralph Lampman transferred into

Academic/Scientific: Tom Steinberg moved into primary position

Small Woodlot: Dave Rankin transferred into primary; Vernon Van Curler moved into alternate.

Environment: Andy Reasoner of McKenzie River Trust (new board member)

Ecosystem Workforce: Lori Robertson moved into primary (Eric Nusbaum left)

Lower Siuslaw: Dr. Hayden Sears (nominee)

Middle Siuslaw: Steve Elliot will transfer into upon boundary changes

Upper Siuslaw: will be vacant pending new nominee upon boundary changes

North Coastal Lakes & Bay: vacant upon creation by boundary changes

South Coastal Lakes: Johan Hogervorst will transfer into upon boundary changes

Commercial Fishing: remains vacant

County Government (appointed): remains vacant

Bylaws: proposed bylaws changes were reviewed as posted on the Web site (see For the Board link). One typo was noted in Section II: "The geographic covered..." shall read "The geographic area covered..." Section VII. A. 2. *Removal from the Executive Committee* proposed language was discussed for consideration of fairness and remains as proposed.

The SWC invites you to a Special Forum Presentation at our June 28 General Meeting:

Timber Management in the Landscape Context of the Siuslaw Watershed – Geomorphology, Landslides, Timber Harvest, and Watershed Health

6:30 pm, Wednesday, June 28, Mapleton Grange Hall

For those who attended the fantastic large-wood stream restoration forum in February, this special presentation structure will be familiar. We will have one hour of presentations by four invited guest speakers, followed by a question and answer panel to field inquiries from the audience.

Presentation Sequence:

- 1. Geomorphic Context and History of the Siuslaw Basin:** a landscape overview of our watershed by T.C. Hales, Ph. D. candidate in geology from the University of Oregon.
- 2. Oregon Forest Practices and Debris Flows:** public safety downslope from timberlands, by Ole Buch, Stewardship Forester and Jason Hinkle, Geotechnical Specialist from the Oregon Department of Forestry.
- 3. Landscape Influences on Industrial Timber Management:** examples of how private timber companies manage timberland in respect to landslide and watershed issues, by Paul Chapman from The Campbell Group.
- 4. Panel Discussion and Q & A:** All presenters and additional experts will be invited to field questions from the audience and discuss answers – this is where we will put it all together in the big picture for the Siuslaw watershed.

Upcoming Meeting Presentations:

July 26: Timber Supply in Western Oregon, by Phil Adams from Roseburg Resources: a look at the supply and harvest data compiled from various sources and where private industry fits into the picture. This presentation is an excellent follow-up to the June forum on landslide and timber management to frame our expectations for and understanding of forest management in the Siuslaw watershed.

August 30: Student and Volunteer Appreciation Picnic: Tentatively to be held at the Mapleton Gazebo on Riverview Avenue, we will be celebrating our watershed students and volunteers with displays of the activities and accomplishments of the past year. Plus lots of great food, of course!



Request for Volunteers

We're on the lookout for volunteers to file, sort, enter data, label, and more during typical office hours at the SWC office in Mapleton. Call or email Liz Vollmer-Buhl, at 541-268-3044 or watershed@siuslaw.org, if you are interested. Thank you.



Siuslaw Watershed Council Calendar

June 28—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:30 pm, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Road.

July 3—Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting: 7:30 pm, SWCD office, Florence Business Center, 1525 12th Street, Florence (*Use main entrance, please call 997-1272 before coming so that the main door can be opened for you.*)

July 6—SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

July 12—SWC Exec. Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

July 26—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:30 pm, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Road.

Siuslaw Volunteer WQ Monitoring Program

Here are our Sampling Days for the Summer:

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Wednesday, August 16, 2006



Please email Liz Vollmer-Buhl, monitoring@siuslaw.org, with any questions, or call 541-268-3044.

Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camps



July 24-28, 2006: Session 1: Introductory Camp (for those entering grades 6-12)

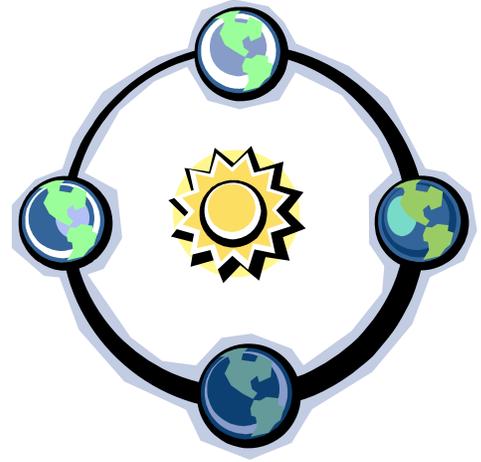
Activities Include: Fish and Insect ID, Tree Core Samples, Fish Print T-shirts, and More!

July 31-August 4, 2006: Session 2: Advanced Camp (for returning participants entering grades 9-12)

Activities Include: Trip to Lorane Headwaters, Geology, Stream Snorkeling, and More!

Explore the Siuslaw Basin and Coastal Lakes! Sign-up for a week or just a couple of days. The day camps are offered at no cost to participants through an education grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). **Registration information is available at www.siuslaw.org and 541-268-3044.**

**Siuslaw Watershed Council
General Meeting Agenda
June 28, 2006
Mapleton Grange Hall
6:30 p.m.**



- 6:00-6:30** Open for set-up
- 6:30– 6:40** Welcome and Introductions
- 6:40-8:10** **Special Forum: *Timber Management in the Landscape Context of the Siuslaw Watershed – Geomorphology, Landslides, Timber Harvest, and Watershed Health*** (see page 4 for complete description)
- 8:10-8:20** Refreshment Break
- 8:20-8:35** Coordinator Report
By-law Revision
Executive Committee Report
Tech Team Report
- 8:35-8:50** Open Mic (3-5 speakers, 3-5 minutes each)
- 8:50-9:00** Announcements and Raffle Drawing
- 9:00** Adjourn

Monthly Raffle

To help raise funds for the Council, we are holding a raffle of donated items at each General Council meeting. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The winner will get to choose from available items.

BYOM

To encourage reduction in waste, we are requesting that folks bring their own coffee mug to the meeting.

June Council Meeting Features Special Forum

At the March General Council meeting over 50 people showed up to hear the special forum on Large Wood Fluvial Structures. There was consensus among those who attended to offer these special forums on important watershed topics occasionally. Everyone seemed to think that it was a good idea even if the meetings would run a little longer; after all it's more efficient to stay 30 extra minutes rather than dedicate a whole other evening to hold a special forum. We hope that we will see you at the June meeting.

May 2006

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Nichols, Council Treasurer*

Beginning Cash	\$35,765.97		
		MAY	YEAR TO DATE
INCOME			
Dues			\$380.00
Federal Grants			\$15,522.36
State Grants			\$42,156.73
Private Grants	\$790.00		\$6,399.61
Interest			\$277.31
Donations & Misc.			\$3,212.00
Administrative Funds			\$2,805.73
Project Management			
Other			\$46.05
TOTAL INCOME	\$790.00		\$70,799.79
EXPENSES			
Grant Expenses		\$3,595.81	\$66,281.23
Other		\$330.91	\$3,684.04
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$3,926.72	\$69,965.27
Ending Cash	\$32,629.25		

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is a non-profit , 501c3, organization .
All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Siuslaw Watershed Council Membership Form

Type of Membership:

Landowner _____ Community Member _____ Industry _____

Government Agency: _____ Tribal: _____

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please choose any of the following:

- Tax-deductible membership enclosed (\$10 regular, \$0 students).
- Additional tax-deductible donation enclosed. Amount \$ _____
- I am interested in volunteer opportunities with the Siuslaw Watershed Council

June 2006

Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camps



July 24-28, 2006: **Session 1: Introductory Camp**

July 31-August 4, 2006: **Session 2: Advanced Camp**

See page 5 for more details

**Registration information is available at
www.siuslaw.org and 541-268-3044.**

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?