

SIUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

www.siuslaw.org

watershed@siuslaw.org

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

• Community • Economy • Environment

Message from the Coordinator



A few months ago, a reporter called me to question how the function of the watershed council would change if the coho salmon were delisted as an endangered species. My reply: "very little." The reporter based his series of questions on the premise that the council exists solely in response to the Endangered Species Act, that our entire reason for being is to react to legal mandates to protect coho. Furthermore, he posited that if the coho were delisted, the council would dissolve. I assured the reporter that regardless of the legal status of coho, the mission of the council will continue. We exist to foster the responsible stewardship of all of the watershed's resources. We are not called the Siuslaw Coho Council.

I recalled this conversation upon hearing of the recent federal decision to count hatchery salmon and wild salmon together when determining population numbers. Regardless of what effect that administrative choice may have in the legal status of the coho, it does nothing to change the physical landscape in the Siuslaw basin. Nor does it affect the commitment of the Council membership to pursue stewardship of the local waterways and landscape. Certainly I do not mean to belittle the driving force of coho restoration in watershed projects. However, the values behind maintaining healthy ecosystems, productive natural resources, and clean water existed before the Endangered Species Act was penned into law and long before the coho salmon were listed as endangered.

The experiences gained and the lessons learned over the past decade of watershed stewardship are not easily dissolved. Despite monumental gains made in aquatic habitat conditions, the Council currently faces countless other issues and still more waiting to be addressed. What about lead and other toxics in the water? Does water quality present any health risks? Are our drinking supplies safe and protected? How resilient is our community to drought? Why are crayfish declining? Is it possible to become a world-class fishing destination again? Then there is the integration of watershed consciousness in our education programs, our economic endeavors, and our recreation choices.

One of the assets of the watershed council is its non-regulatory, voluntary, collaboration based nature. We will continue to focus on the matters important to the local watershed community. We are proud of the Siuslaw River and the landscape it drains. We shall continue to strive for good stewardship of its resources. And while we are at it, let us bring back the coho salmon population.

Todd Miller



Strategic Planning...What is it and Why is it necessary?

Strategic Planning is the process by which the guiding members of an organization or community envision its future and develop necessary strategies to achieve that future.

Various members of the Siuslaw Watershed Council have been working on the Council's Strategic Plan since February of 2003. Originally it was brought to the Executive Committee's attention that a strategic plan was needed not only to set a path for achieving goals and visions, but also to have a document available that the Council could share with granting foundations and others to show that the Council is following a formal plan. Furthermore, the Strategic Plan guides the Action Plan, a closely related component that details the activities that the Council will pursue to realize its vision. Funding potential for Council support is greatly increased once a formal Action Plan and Strategic Plan are in place.

After a formal training workshop for strategic planning, the committee began to follow a design for strategic planning and got to work. (You may recall updates on the process in past newsletters.) The Committee has completed the initial work of brainstorming goals, objectives, action steps, and measurable indicators for the Council's primary strategic areas...community, economy, environment and council support.

The Executive Committee recently hired Keavy Cook to write a formal plan using notes produced during the Committee's leg work. At the June General Council Meeting, an outline of these notes and an overview of the process will be presented to the Council. We hope to have fresh eyes looking at the plan to give comments on aspects of the plan that may have been overlooked.

It is projected that by the end of the summer 2004, we will have a completed formal plan that will help to guide the Council into the future.

The Strategic Planning meetings are open to all Council members. The next meeting will be announced after the June presentation. Council members are encouraged to participate in this process.

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is a community supported 501c3 non-profit group and there are many ways that YOU can help and participate as a volunteer.

Volunteers are needed to help at our office in Mapleton with general office activities, with set-up and take-down at our regular meetings, and with special event activities. Contact the Council office for volunteer opportunities, 541-268-3044.





FREE Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Event

Do you have oil-based paint, weed killers, household cleaners, or other hazardous materials in your garage or cabinets that you plan not to use? If so then round'em up and bring them to Florence's FREE Household Hazardous Waste Disposal event. Mark your calendars for Friday June 18th 12pm - 5pm and Saturday June 19th 8 am - 2pm, when Lane County's Special Waste Team will be accepting household hazardous waste from all Western Lane County and Western Douglas County residents at the Florence Recycling Station at 2820 Rhododendron Drive next to the Humane Society.

Hazardous wastes like fluorescent light bulbs, mercury thermometers, cleaners, paint thinners, camera, hearing aid, cell phone and power tool batteries, fertilizers, auto fluids and many more items contain metals and chemicals that can end up in our drinking water, rivers and lakes if buried, flushed down the drain or poured onto the ground or into storm drains. Many common household products contribute to air pollution in the home as well. Look on labels for words like **"warning"**, **"danger"**, **"poison"**, or **"caution"**. Those items do not belong in Lane County's land fill or in the Siuslaw watershed. Bring them to this free event for disposal.

These Items are not hazardous:

- paint cans that are empty or the paint is dry (dispose in garbage)
- empty aerosol cans (remove nozzle & recycle curbside or at the transfer station)
- household alkaline batteries newer than 1997 (dispose in garbage)
- latex paint (add kitty litter, stir, dispose in garbage when hardened)

These items are not accepted at local events or at the Florence Transfer Station:

- explosives
- radioactive materials
- asbestos

Businesses wanting to participate need to pre-register with Lane County Waste Management Division at 682-4120. Most businesses can save money by using this program, rather than hiring a contractor on their own.

For more information contact Wendy Farley at the City of Florence, Community Development Department, 997-8237 or wendy.farley@ci.florence.or.us.

**This month's guest speaker: Michael Mattick, Watermaster District 2
Streamflow Monitoring and Water Use Regulation in the Siuslaw Basin**

Mr. Mattick will address:

- Where are streamflows monitored: Instream water rights; what are they; where are they; how are they monitored?
- How does regulation take place? Who gets regulated?
- Using Ground Water and Springs: Court law on spring use; Water Well and Monitoring Well Construction Standards, water quality; Ground water uses exempt from permitting requirements.
- Water right point of diversion and place of use transfers, permanent and temporary;
- Instream transfers and leases.
- Water Resources Department Web page for water right and well log information.

Watermaster contact and resource information for future reference:

WATERMASTER DISTRICT 2 OFFICE is at the CENTRAL LANE JUSTICE COURT
(The doors are open from 8:30 am until 4 pm, but please call before coming to confirm watermaster availability.)

Michael Mattick, Watermaster District 2, 220 N 5th St, Springfield, OR 97477

Phone: (541) 682-3620

Fax: (541) 746-1861

E-mail address: michael.j.mattick@wrd.state.or.us

Water Resources Department Web Page: www.wrd.state.or.us

Siuslaw Summer Watershed Exploration Camp

For the second year, the Siuslaw Watershed Council will be offering a free, watershed exploration camp for 6-12th graders. Campers will learn about and explore different habitats from the ocean to the forest and will interact with natural resource professionals.

If you know of a student who would be interested in the Monday through Friday, all-day camp, please have them call the Council, 541-268-3044, for an application and more information.

The dates for the camp are July 19-23 (Introductory Camp) and July 26-30 (Advanced Camp—Director's approval required). Times will be 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m..

Attention Siuslaw Estuary Landowners:

Tidal wetland inventory is on its way! Starting in June, the Siuslaw Watershed Council will be conducting a tidal wetland survey to help the community prioritize wetland sites for conservation or restoration with the help of willing landowners. Your input is needed. Social, economic, and ecologic factors will contribute to the prioritization process. Identifying these ecologically crucial areas for conservation opportunities is a process occurring up and down the coast. Other communities have already started contributing input with their watershed councils or the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which has offered to assist with the effort. The Siuslaw Watershed Council will be contracting Laura Brophy of Green Point Consulting to lead this effort being funded through a DEQ 319 grant. An estuary landowner meeting will be announced soon to help the community steer the process from the early stages.

Attention Indian Creek Residents...

Now available: Indian Creek – A Working Watershed Approach. This document, produced by a team of Council interns working over the summer of 2003, encapsulates a history of the people and places in the Indian Creek watershed and introduces concepts for watershed stewardship that fit within those natural and human frameworks. The document is available on CD-ROM for free to Indian Creek residents. Print copies can be made by special request. Contact Todd Miller at 268-3044 to request a copy.

North Coast Basin Prototype Web Portal

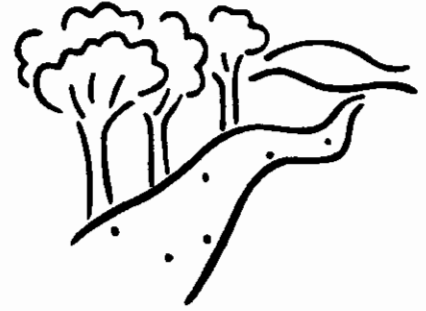
The coordinator attended a workshop held by an Oregon State University project team working with OWEB to test the utility of a web-based data sharing portal with watershed council and agency input. The portal will present the cumulative information supplied by the entities gathering data in the area of the North Coast coho salmon population. The model will be designed to help a user answer four questions. At this early stage of development, those questions can be modified to meet user requirements. The four questions are presented below. If you have a recommendation for modifying a question to better meet your potential needs, please let Todd Miller know at coordinator@siuslaw.org. Please submit your suggestion by June 14.

Questions:

- 1) What are the regional trends and current status of salmonids (coho, chum, steelhead, Chinook)?
- 2) What are the regional trends and current status of land use and stream habitats (for each species)?
- 3) Where are the human caused barriers to fish passage and which have the greatest amount of habitat (by species) that currently is inaccessible because of barriers?
- 4) What reaches of stream have the greatest intrinsic potential for production of salmonids (by species)?



**Siuslaw Watershed Council
General Meeting Agenda
May 26, 2004
Mapleton Grange Hall
6:30 p.m.**



6:30-6:40 Welcome and Introductions

**6:40-7:30 Presentation: *Michael Mattick, Watermaster District 2*
*Streamflow Monitoring and Water Use Regulation in the Siuslaw Basin***

7:30-7:45 Break for refreshments and socializing

7:45-8:05 Reports and Updates

8:05-8:20 Open Mic (*3-5 speakers, 3-5 minutes each*)

8:20-8:30 Announcements

8:30 Adjourn

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*** Monthly Raffle ***

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

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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

NOTE: There will be a combined Treasurer's Report in the June Newsletter

Schedule of Events

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

June 3- SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

June 7- Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting: 7:30 pm, Port of Siuslaw 1499 Bay Street, Florence.

June 9- SWC Executive Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm., Upper Compound, Mapleton.

June 18 & 19-Free Hazardous Waste Disposal Event. see page 3 for details.

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

Fun Way to Help our Watershed!

Storm Drain Stenciling, **Saturday, June 26:** The City of Florence, the Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council are co-hosting a storm drain stenciling work party. Volunteers are needed to help mark storm drains with notices such as "No Dumping – Flows To Creek" to raise awareness and protect waterways from pollution. Contact Todd Miller (Siuslaw Watershed Council) at 268-3044 or Kate Bodane (City of Florence) at 997-8237 for more information.

Fish For Free

ODFW is holding its annual fish-for-free weekend **June 12 and 13.** Interested in this sport or just want to get out on the Siuslaw? Here's an opportunity to do so without the usual permit. For more information, contact ODFW in Salem, Information & Education: (503) 947-6002.



Community Lends a Hand to the Mapleton Riparian Enhancement Project

The Siuslaw Watershed Council would like to thank students from Mapleton High School and Teacher/Counselor Aaron Klein for planting trees native trees and shrubs along the River in Mapleton. Also thank you to a local home-schooled student who joined the group for the day and to Jeff Jones, Jeff Jackson, Lynn Hood and Cricket Crowder.

The site across from the Mapleton Lions' Club building was planted with a variety of plants grown at the Mapleton Schools' Native Plant Nursery. Species planted include Douglas spirea, wild rose, pacific ninebark, pacific willow, snowberry, elderberry, and a few western red cedars and big leaf maples. We look forward to seeing the plants grow and flower for years to come.

GOT BEAVERS?



Beavers are an important part of our ecosystem. In most situations, the best policy is to allow them to cut brush and small trees to build their dams. However, if you are trying to create a forested riparian buffer in an area that has been pasture, beavers can wipe out your new little forest before it has a chance. Willows will often sprout back from the stumps, but conifers generally don't survive being harvested by beaver.

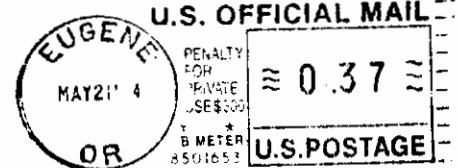
Help is available. The Siuslaw Watershed Council has sturdy hog wire fencing to individually fence critical trees. Drop by the office to pick up some of these easy to assemble kits. If you have a few minutes to volunteer, stop by to help make the kits for others. Everything you need is in the basement of our office just north of Mapleton in the old Forest Service compound. If you'll be making a special trip, call ahead at 268-3044 to make sure someone is there to let you in.

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.

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