

SIUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

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• Community • Economy • Environment

Message from the Coordinator

Yesterday, July 20, I attended a tour of two exemplars of restoration achievement in the Siuslaw basin with the Interagency Advisory Committee for the Northwest Forest Plan. We visited the Green Thin, a stewardship timber sale based on forest thinning to promote age class and species variety, and Karnowsky Creek, a large scale stream restoration project. Among the speakers and attendees, including Siuslaw National Forest and many state and federal agency representatives, was a local contingent of folks from the watershed council, stewardship group, and conservation district.

The main purpose of the trip was to exhibit the partnerships and collaboration that it not only took to achieve these models of watershed stewardship but that were created in their implementation as well. Volunteers, school groups, local contractors, regional businesses, local and federal agencies, and more all come together in the envisioning, implementation, and outcome of that timber sale and creek restoration. It was a proud moment on the tour.

But as Dave Eisler (Siuslaw Watershed Council) and Johnny Sundstrom (Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District) pointedly relayed to the audience at the close of tour, these projects are not the end of a job well done, but the beginning of a new way of thinking that goes into not only policy but our relationship with the en-

tire community. Successes like Green Thin and Karnowsky Creek will not be achieved by merely throwing money into tidy on-the-ground restoration work, but by investing in the human capital, research, and assessments that spawn the creation of such successes and ensure their continuity. There is much to be proud of in the Siuslaw watershed, and looking around, much to be done. Yesterday's tour was an opportunity to share that it takes not only local commitment to revitalize community resources, but an acceptance at the national level of the ideals that make it happen.

Todd Miller

It's SWOT You Think

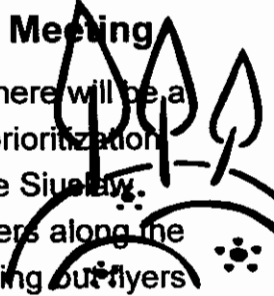
As a part of strategic planning, the Leadership Board Representatives were recently asked to make a list of SWOTs for the Council. SWOTs are Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. These lists were due on Monday, July 19th. We have not yet heard from all of the representatives; so if you are a Representative and have suggestions for the SWOTs, please get them in as soon as possible. The Council will review the SWOT list compiled by the Representatives and will have the opportunity to make additions to the

Volunteers Needed!

Do you want to talk with Lane County residents and potential new Siuslaw council members at the Lane County Fair? We are sharing a booth to display what the Siuslaw Watershed Council is and what we do, and we need help during the 4-hour shifts to keep good company and take questions. Bonus: the rest of the day at the fair is on your own time with free admission. The fair runs Tuesday, August 17 through Sunday, August 22 at the fairgrounds in Eugene. Contact Todd Miller at (541) 268-3044 or coordinator@siuslaw.org.

Tidal Wetland Prioritization Public Input Meeting

On Monday, August 2, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm there will be a landowner public meeting regarding a tidal wetland prioritization project in the Siuslaw. The meeting will be held at the Siuslaw Public Library in Florence. We hope that all landowners along the Siuslaw Estuary will attend. The Council will be sending out flyers to people who live that area, but everyone is welcome to attend. Please help us spread the word!



Education and Outreach Position Available

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is currently recruiting an AmeriCorps placement for October 2004 to August 2005 to act as an Education and Outreach Specialist. Details are available on the SWC web site (www.siuslaw.org). Preferred qualifications are recent bachelor's degree in natural resource management and education. Compensation is a modest living stipend and an educational award.

General Council Meeting Highlights...Strategic Planning

During the June General Council Meeting, Keavy Cook presented an overview of the process of developing a strategic plan and why it is necessary for non-profit organizations. One point that she expressed was that a strategic plan is to a non profit what a business plan is to a corporation. She also pointed out how an organization with a formal strategic plan can direct action efficiently toward the group's vision.

After the overview of the planning process, the group reviewed the committee's work of developing goals and objectives. During the extended break, members held discussions at the four strategy area* stations and wrote comments, suggestions and additions to the draft ideas. The new ideas were later incorporated into the draft plan at the last strategic planning committee meeting.

At the July meeting, Todd Miller will present a flow chart of the strategic planning process and the action planning process. We are using this flow chart as a map to direct the procedure of developing these two important plans.

* The four strategic areas for the Council's plan are: community, economy, environment and council support.

Council Projects Updates & More...

Tidal Wetland Prioritization is now underway! Data collection has started but the most important element is the public input meeting to be held on August 2 in Florence. Estuary landowners are encouraged to attend and bring their neighbors. See the event announcement in this newsletter. Laura Brophy of GreenPoint Consulting is the lead contractor. The project is funded by DEQ.

Helicopter Contracting to place large wood in segments of the North Fork Siuslaw River watershed for habitat enhancement will start in August and logs will start being airlifted in September or October. The US Forest Service and four private landowners are participating in this OWEB funded project.

Karnowsky Creek Vegetation Management is continuing thanks to renewed funding received from the National Forest Foundation. Project Manager Steve Elliot has been busy maintaining the new plants and is preparing to plant hundreds more. Previously funded channel work (earth moving) and related tasks will be ongoing.

Fish Passage Enhancement is looking good with the engineering contractor, Aquador, completing many of the culvert re-designs this month. This OWEB/Wyden funded culvert prioritization project is wrapping up and moving into the construction proposal phase (to fund work starting in 2005). We also expect to be funded by ODF to incorporate timber land culvert data into our GIS database for mutual party evaluation. We are reaching the GIS project milestone to move into this next phase of work.

Estuary Habitat Enhancement work was completed in June at two project locations, Mapleton and Port of Siuslaw. In Mapleton, two locations were treated along the bank of the Siuslaw adjacent to Riverview Avenue for invasive Japanese knotweed and planting of native riparian vegetation. Signs will be installed soon to inform the public about the purpose of this OWEB funded work.

Riparian Restoration has been enhanced this summer with tree release work performed as requested on properties which participated in the OWEB funded native plant giveaways.

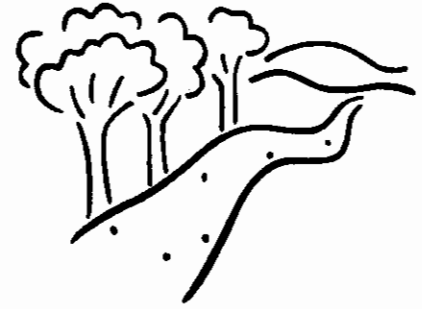
North Coast Web Portal: not technically a council project, the coordinator has been working with the OWEB-OSU staff on the creation of an internet based information sharing site with the North Coast watersheds. Expected to debut in January, the prototype will be used to evaluate the features developed for adoption statewide. The Siuslaw fish passage enhancement prioritization strategy, steps, partnership, and design is being explored as a case study for the portal.

Recently Funded:

The Siuslaw Stewardship Fund announced funding for two council projects: **Eames Creek** habitat enhancement led by Jason Kirchner of ODFW, and **Riparian Restoration III**, familiarly known as the Native Plant Give-Away, led by Nancy Nichols.

The **Siuslaw Watershed Initiative** proposed by Ecotrust was awarded \$1.5 million by the EPA for work in the Siuslaw watershed. The initiative will pour sorely needed funds into some of the major projects in the basin to help leverage more funding to complete some of the bold endeavors. Projects to be funded include upper basin natural dynamics restoration, sediment reduction through market-based incentives, riparian habitat and process restoration (including fish passage), estuary protection, and monitoring program development. We are eagerly looking forward to these projects.

**Siuslaw Watershed Council
 General Meeting Agenda
 July 28, 2004
 Mapleton Grange Hall
 6:30 p.m.**



6:30-6:40 Welcome and Introductions

6:40-7:20 Presentation: *Invasive Species in the Siuslaw Estuary, Vanessa Howard, Research Assistant, Portland State University*

7:20-7:35 Break and Refreshments

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* **Monthly Raffle** *

7:35-8:05 Reports and Updates
Strategic Plan Update
Volunteer Monitoring Program Update
Coordinator's Report

* 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. *

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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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

Treasurer's Report

Nancy Nichols, Council Treasurer

JUNE 2004

	JUNE	YEAR TO DATE
Beginning Cash	\$12,499.35	
INCOME		
Dues	\$20.00	\$870.00
Federal Grants	\$9,018.83	\$13,713.99
State Grants	\$27,600.00	\$60,637.94
Private Grants		\$1,086.15
Interest	\$22.65	\$135.87
Donations & Misc.	\$80.00	\$531.00
Administrative Funds	\$780.00	\$1,928.56
Reimbursements		\$567.63
Other	\$33.32	\$33.32
TOTAL INCOME	\$37,554.80	\$78,436.31
EXPENSES		
Grant Expenses	\$19,533.83	\$76,054.77
Other	\$10.00	\$1,600.34
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$19,543.83	\$77,655.11
Ending Cash	\$30,510.32*	

\$14,965.59—general, \$15,544.73—grants

Schedule of Events

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

August 2- Tidal Wetland Prioritization Public Input Meeting: 6:30-8:30 pm, Siuslaw Public Library, 9th Street in Florence.

August 5- SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

August 11- SWC Executive Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm., Upper Compound, Mapleton.

August 25- Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:30 pm, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Road.

To be Announced: Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

IT'S A DRY YEAR

As of this writing the Siuslaw River is running 26% below its average flow. Unless we get some surprise summer rain, riparian plantings will face above average stress. Plants that are one or two years old are at most risk. Landowners can help their trees and shrubs survive by removing competing grass and brush and watering plants. If you are using surface water, try to water trees individually in the evening or very early morning rather than the heat of the day. Individual attention reduces waste and gets water only to the target plants. Cool weather watering reduces evaporation losses. Both tactics help leave more water in our streams for the fish.

If you haven't checked out the Siuslaw River Gauge on the web, take a look. There is lots of historical information so you can easily tell if we are having a drier or wetter than normal month. Go to <http://or.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt>. Click on the Siuslaw River on the map for our local information.

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.