

SIUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

MARCH 2005

www.siuslaw.org
watershed@siuslaw.org

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

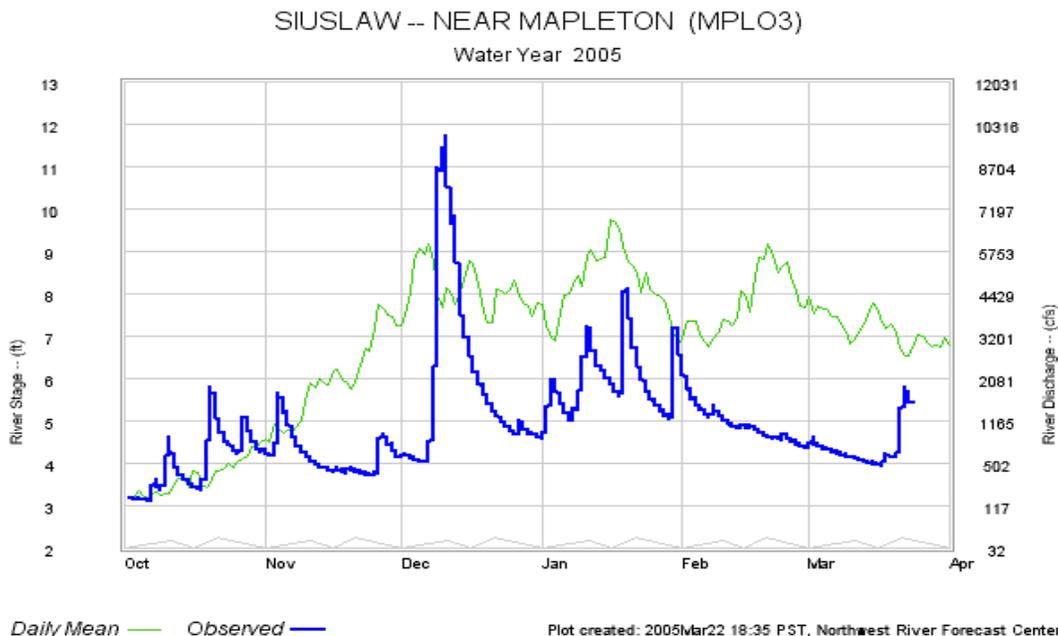
Message from the Coordinator

The rains of mid-March have quenched a particularly parched Siuslaw watershed. The drought conditions in the Pacific Northwest are no longer new news, but what the drought may mean for Oregon and the Siuslaw watershed are becoming hot topics. On Tuesday, March 29, Senator Ron Wyden is hosting a drought conference in Salem to discuss the potential impacts of this low precipitation year on Oregon. The gathering will include a wide variety of stakeholders and water resource managers and planners to assess the situation.

However, the ramifications in the Siuslaw are not clear. We do not rely on snow pack to maintain stream flows, and the local geology does not host extensive aquifers upon which we

depend for water use or stream flow. And interestingly, according to local stream ecologist Charley Dewberry, from a fish-in-the-water perspective, the drought did not exist this week – stream flows were within the typical range for this time of year. The chart below, produced via the USGS Web site, shows the Mapleton river gage for this water year (starting October 2004) and the average river stage for the same time period. The spikes represent the storm events when large pulses of water move through the system. At the right of the chart, the most recent spike (lower line) is approaching average (upper line).

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**Siuslaw Watershed
Council**

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2005 Executive Committee

Chair: Paula Crowder

Vice Chair: Steve Elliot

Secretary: William Fleenor

Treasurer: Nancy Nichols

Representatives:

Barbara Beers

Howard Crombie

Dave Eisler

Jim Grano

Noland Huntington

Message *continued from page 1*

Dewberry and others working at the Knowles Creek smolt trap have reported record numbers of Coho smolt migrating downstream in early March. A bumper year? Not exactly – it appears to have signaled an early exodus of smolt from higher up in the stream system in response to low water. As soon as the recent rains started, the exodus subsided. Does the early seabound migration of smolt have clear impacts on this year's age class? Dewberry is not certain – he thinks that the climate responsible for the dry weather also affects ocean conditions, and therefore the ocean conditions may be suitable for the early migration.

It may be too early to understand water quality issues and summer water supply ramifications, but we are keenly interested in how to prepare for and avoid water quality and quantity problems. The council is currently planning to participate in a study this summer to measure stream temperatures along the main stem of the Siuslaw River. This study, in conjunction with other entities in the entire Mid-Coast Basin (the Siuslaw north to the Yaquina), will be used to collect baseline data to calibrate a model used by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The model, HEATSOURCE, will provide more useful evaluations of where temperatures can be significantly reduced through shading and other management practices. Since the model uses summertime, "worst case" temperature data, the summer of 2005 may indeed prove to be a good "worst case" for the collection of this data.

In the meantime, enjoy the rain.

Todd

Siuslaw River Gauge

You can get daily data on the water height in the Siuslaw by going online. 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. There is also a link to this site on the Council's website www.siuslaw.org; click on "links" and then click on "USGS Mapleton Stream Gauge".

Since the late 1990's when the stream gauge was decommissioned by the USGS (US Geological Society), the upkeep of the gauge has been reliant on local funds. Recently the Western Lane Community Foundation gave a grant of \$500 toward the maintenance cost of the gauge. Other contributions from the Port of Siuslaw and the Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District have also helped to keep the stream gauge up and running.

Council Receives Grant from Western Lane Community Foundation

The Siuslaw Watershed Council recently received a grant from the Western Lane Community Foundation for \$500 for the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program. This money will buy two new kits for volunteers to use to collect and process water quality samples in the Siuslaw. We extend our thanks to the Western Lane Community Foundation for this gift.

Be a Monitoring Volunteer!

If you are interested in volunteering for water quality monitoring, or if you would like more information, please email Liz Vollmer-Buhl at monitoring@siuslaw.org or leave a message at the council office 268-3044.

February Council Meeting Highlights:

Restoration resources for landowners – an overview of commercial firm and public agency capabilities. For this presentation, Jeff Ard of Eugene-based Habitats and Jason Kirchner of Newport-based Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife were invited. Jeff reviewed riparian and native planting issues and strategies that Habitats provides as a landscape ecodesign firm. Jason went over his restoration planning he can do for private landowners, including timber companies. Both entities can design restoration plans with the needs of the landowner in mind and write grants through the watershed council to seek funding assistance. The presentation reinforced restoration design concepts with the leadership board to share with their stakeholder group, and reminded us that an array of private company, non-profit groups, and government agencies are available to landowners depending on their goals.

Tom Kartrude from Port of Siuslaw discussed issues regarding the upcoming dredging study to be undertaken by the US Army Corps of Engineers and Port of Siuslaw that will result in an updated dredging plan and dredge spoils disposal site map. The resulting plan will become part of Lane County's master plan. Sediment sampling and bathymetry mapping (water depth) will be a part of this endeavor.

2005 Siuslaw Watershed Council

Leadership Board Representatives

Area Representatives:

North Fork Siuslaw: Noland Huntington

Upper Siuslaw: Steve Elliot

Lower Siuslaw: David Rankin

Indian Creek: Barbara Beers/Dick Beers

Wildcat: David Eisler/Steve Kriegh & Linda Redmon

Deadwood: Nancy Nichols/Bill Cirino

Lake Creek: Tony Humphreys

Wolf Creek: _____

At Large: Andrew Morohl

Interest Group Representatives:

Academic/Scientific:

Paul Burns/Tom Steinberg

Commercial Fishing: _____

Federal Land Management:

Karen Geary, BLM/Johan Hogervorst, USFS

City of Florence: (appointed) Dianne Burch

Lane Co. Government: (appointed) _____

Resource Recreation: Lynn Hood

Public Education:

Jim Grano/Cricket Crowder

Small Woodlot:

Vernon VanCurler

Tribes CTCLUS:

Howard Crombie/ JR Herbst

SWCD: Ray Kinney/Johnny Sundstrom

Agriculture/Ranching: Bill Cirino

Industrial Timber:

Paul Chapman, Campbell Group

Environmental: William Fleenor

Port of Siuslaw: (appointed) Ken Miller

State Government: John Spangler, ODF&W

Ecosystem Workforce: Lori Robertson

Blank Line represents present vacancy

COASTAL INITIATIVE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Cascade Pacific RC&D (CPRCD) is accepting proposals for Coastal Initiative projects located in the Siuslaw Watershed and Coastal Lakes area. Projects need to support and promote watershed and community health. Up to \$295,000 is available from the Siuslaw Stewardship Fund through the USFS Siuslaw National Forest. Projects can be awarded up to \$75,000, although larger proposals will be reviewed. Time frame for projects is approximately two years, beginning in January 2006. Projects need be completed by September 30, 2008. **Proposals must be in accordance with the process outlined below.** The Coastal Initiative Proposal Form is available on the website: <http://stewardship.siuslaw.org> or by contacting Cascade Pacific RC&D. **Completed proposals must be at the Cascade Pacific RC&D office, by 5:00 PM June 1, 2005.** Electronic proposals will not be accepted.

Project Objectives

- Promote sustainable use and enhancement of natural resources in the Siuslaw River Basin and Coastal Lakes
- Promote natural resource management based on recent data and sound science
- Benefit public lands and resources administered by the Siuslaw National Forest

Potential Projects

The Siuslaw Stewardship Fund can support a wide variety restoration projects. Potential projects include, but are not limited to:

- Riparian planting, fencing, protection, and release of seedlings
- Aquatic structures, in-stream structures to improve aquatic habitat
- Culverts repair or replacement for fish passage or sediment reduction
- Wetland restoration, tidal and fresh water
- Noxious weeds eradication or control
- Road drainage, road decommissioning
- Water quality improvements, toilets (not maintenance)
- Storm water drainage
- Habitat improvement, foraging/meadows improvement
- Thinning, non-commercial stand improvement, non-commercial riparian conversion

Prohibited Projects

In general, the Siuslaw Stewardship Fund is limited to on the ground projects. The following activities cannot be funded: maintenance, planning (e.g. NEPA), analysis/research, monitoring or evaluation, education. If you have questions about whether your project idea fits the guidelines of the fund please inquire.

Eligibility

Projects must restore and enhance natural resources. Projects must be on private, state, county, city, tribal or federal land in the Siuslaw Watershed or Coastal Lakes area. Projects must demonstrate benefit to the lands and resources administered by the Siuslaw National Forest.

Proposals can be from local, state, and federal government and non-profit corporations as well as private individuals, businesses and other organizations. However, all proposals must have a local, state and federal government agency or a nonprofit corporation as their sponsor to receive and manage project funds.

25% Project Match, either in-kind or cash, is required.

Funds cannot be used for purchases of equipment over \$500 or for political activities including lobbying.

April Tech Team Presentation

Gary Arnold, DEQ Eugene, will be giving a presentation at the April 7 Tech Team meeting in Mapleton. Gary will brief everyone on the HEATSOURCE model that will be used to model stream temperature in the Siuslaw and the type of data it requires.

Small Diameter Timber Presentation to be held in Mapleton

There will be a presentation on CROP (Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol). This is a tool and a process for evaluating and stabilizing regional small diameter timber supplies in the near future. Very important for economic development and sustainable management on both public and private land. The presentation will take place on Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 pm at the Mapleton Grange Hall, East Mapleton Road.

You're Invited to a "Pull" Party...

Join us for a fun, social and educational day at the Archie Knowles Camp-ground on Saturday, May 7 (time to be announced). There will be a demonstration on effective ways to control ivy and a work party to help get rid of some of the ivy at the public camp-ground. If that isn't enough to tempt you, there will also be a picnic to reward your efforts. Save the date and look for more information in the April newsletter.

English Ivy, *Hedera helix*, is a highly invasive weed that can climb trees and eventually kill them. For more information on English ivy, check out the No Ivy League's website: www.noivyleague.com



Schedule of Events

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

April 4—Siuslaw SWCD Board Meeting: 7:30 pm, Meeting Room, Florence Business Center, 1525 12th Street, Florence.

April 7—SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

April 7—Siuslaw Stewardship Group Meeting: 1-3 pm, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

April 13— SWC Executive Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm., Upper Compound, Mapleton.

April 13—Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol Presentation: 7:00 pm, Mapleton Grange Hall, E. Mapleton Road (See small timber insert above for more information).

April 27—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:30 pm, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Road.

**Siuslaw Watershed Council
General Meeting Agenda
March 30, 2005
Mapleton Grange Hall
6:30 p.m.**

- 6:00-6:30** **Open for set-up**
- 6:30– 6:35** **Welcome and Introductions**
- 6:35-6:50** **Presentation:** *Siuslaw Coho Update: Paul Burns, USDA Forest Service Fish Biologist*
- 6:50-7:35** **Presentation:** Celia Barry of Lane County Parks and Recreation will give an update of the Lane County Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan
- 7:35-7:50** **Break and Refreshments**
- 7:50-8:05** **Coordinator Report**
- 8:05-8:20** **Open Mic** *(3-5 speakers, 3-5 minutes each)*
- 8:20-8:30** **Announcements and Raffle Drawing**
- 8:30** **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 a suggested donation of \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The winner will get to choose from available items.

March Presentation: Parks and Open Spaces Plan

Lane County Parks Division is updating its Parks & Open Space Master Plan for the first time in 25 years. At the March 30 Siuslaw Watershed Council meeting, Lane County staff will provide a briefing and an opportunity for those in attendance to ask questions and provide comments.

Maps, information, and a questionnaire, are at www.lanecounty.org/parks/masterplan.htm. Comments from the meeting, and those that are submitted in writing by **APRIL 8**, will be considered in developing the first draft of the Plan update. To be notified when the first draft is ready for public comments, or to submit a completed questionnaire or other comments now, send email to celia.barry@co.lane.or.us, or mail to Celia Barry, Lane County Public Works, 3040 N. Delta Hwy., Eugene, OR 97408. Or call 541-682-6935 or if you'd like materials mailed to you or have any questions.

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Nichols, Council Treasurer*

February 2005

Beginning Cash	\$82,602.89	
	FEBRUARY	YEAR TO DATE
INCOME		
Dues	\$140.00	\$630.00
Federal Grants		
State Grants	\$21,636.49	\$21,636.49
Private Grants	\$1,883.33	\$1,883.33
Interest	\$119.89	\$251.14
Donations & Misc.	\$110.00	\$340.00
Administrative Funds	\$12,749.15	\$12,749.15
Reimbursements		
Other		
TOTAL INCOME	\$36,638.86	\$37,490.11
EXPENSES		
Grant Expenses	\$45,109.56	\$51,071.69
Other	\$1,160.00	\$1,170.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$46,269.56	\$52,241.69
 Ending Cash	 \$72,972.19	

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

March 2005

Helping Plants Survive Animals

If you are working to establish a riparian corridor along your creek, lake or river, check to make sure your plants are getting a good start. Native animals eat native plants. With a bit of help your riparian plantings can get large enough to accept a few nibbles.

Young trees without thick bark can be easily killed by mice and voles who girdle small plants. This is particularly bad in grassy areas where they find good cover from predators. If you planted trees in grassy areas, check for signs of small rodents girdling them. If you see any signs of bark nibbling, try removing grass from a wider area around the trees and wrapping aluminum foil around the base of each tree.

If your problem is deer or elk, the plastic mesh tubes help a lot. The Council has some of these available. We also have a tool you can borrow to help get the tubes around established plants. If beaver are the ones eating your trees, the plastic tubes don't help much. For beaver problems, the Council has wire cages to protect the trees most at risk (usually the cedar trees closest to the bank). Call ahead (268-3044) to make sure we have the material you need and that someone will be in the office to give it to you.

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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What's Happening In Your Watershed?