

SIUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

AUGUST 2005

www.siuslaw.org
watershed@siuslaw.org

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

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

Message from the Coordinator

I am sometimes asked why the Siuslaw Watershed Council, a volunteer-based organization, has paid staff. The council is overwhelmingly volunteer driven. Organizationally, the Council depends upon its volunteer membership base and leadership board to pursue goals toward economic, environmental, and community health in the Siuslaw Watershed. Volunteers are key participants in educational programs, outreach events, and watershed restoration development. Most importantly, the Council relies on the voluntary participation of landowners, local communities, and land managers in implementing projects that help to address issues limiting watershed health.

This basic framework of voluntary participation, leadership, and implementation has been a guiding principle for complex issues that have regional and national goals and ramifications but require the input of local community knowledge. The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds turned to this model as an approach to counter regulatory measures for salmon recovery. The Bush Administration nationally gives considerable weight to local and voluntary solutions to natural resource management.

In essence, the Siuslaw Watershed Council could not do it without its volunteers. Virtually all watershed councils in the state harness and direct this volunteer energy through a coordinator. The person in this aptly titled position coordinates the information gained through assessments with the desired actions developed by the Leadership Board and ensures appropriate partner contacts are made to help voluntary project participants get the available support necessary within the policies set by the Executive Committee. Once a project is developed, the amount of time and energy required to submit a successful funding proposal, implement the project, and manage the reports, filing, and paperwork required to demonstrate proper management is enough to daunt even the most dedicated volunteers, let alone a paid staff member.

The council maintains a part time staff consisting of the coordinator and an administrative assistant to support the projects and partnerships in the Siuslaw Basin and to run an efficient and organized office. The council operations maintained by the staff ensure that the volunteer efforts afforded by the Siuslaw community are more efficiently coordinated and are therefore more effective. Additional temporary and part-time staff are hired through the funding of individual program or project grants as needed to fulfill the project goals. For example, through specific grants, the council pays a part-time Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator to support and organize the all-volunteer team of water sample collectors.

So the council effectively is a volunteer organization. The paid staff that sometimes appear to be the embodiment of the council are merely a few people out of scores that make the council what it is and determines how much progress is made. One paid project coordinator helps ensure the native plant giveaway project is a success each year, but the hundreds of past participants who received plants and planted them along their streams are where the credit lies. Likewise are everyone who participates in tree planting, stream clean up, and noxious weed control on their property and at work party sites. Volunteer guest instructors make our educational programs a success. Landowners who help develop and implement restoration projects on the property can never be underestimated. And the extremely dedicated individuals who spend so much time serving on the Leadership Board (including the energetic members of the Executive Committee) make the council what it is.

Thank you volunteers!

Todd Miller



**Siuslaw Watershed
Council**

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Staff

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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

Farewell Shiloh Sundstrom

For the past 10 months, Shiloh Sundstrom, a 2004 graduate of Brandeis University and local Deadwood resident, has served as the Council's Education and Outreach Specialist as an AmeriCorps member placement through the Northwest Service Academy. August is Shiloh's last month with us, and we will miss him! Shiloh's commitment and talent really shined over the past month with the culmination of two very exciting summer events for the watershed council: 1) the Summer Watershed Exploration Workshop Series and 2) The Siuslaw Salmon Run and Celebration.

Shiloh was instrumental in both of those events. In last month's newsletter, I mentioned the will and perseverance of Council staff to bring the Workshop Series to area students for the third year in a row despite lack of formal funding for it. Although it was a group effort, it would never have happened without Shiloh's commitment to making all the contacts and arrangements to actually make it a reality. The enthusiastic response from the students in return was extra rewarding.

The Siuslaw Salmon Run and Celebration was an ambitious endeavor initiated by Shiloh as an independent project to fulfill his AmeriCorps requirements. Although the 5-kilometer run and 3-kilometer walk event was hopefully to be coupled with an even larger community celebration, Shiloh was unflagging in his commitment to bring the Salmon Run to Mapleton. Shiloh virtually single-handedly pulled off an officially sanctioned run with music, refreshments, prizes, and a great T-shirt!

The best part is Shiloh accurately estimated the number of run/walk participants to cover the costs of the event. Every Siuslaw Salmon Run T-shirt sold hereafter generates proceeds to cover the costs of next year's Summer Watershed Exploration Workshop Series (familarly known as "summer camp"). What a great way to tie it all together!

These two recent events really portray what Shiloh was tasked with doing over the past 10 months. His job was to expand the Council's outreach and education opportunities and implement programs that could be continued in future years. His success means that the summer camp has a very good chance of coming back in 2006 for a fourth consecutive year, and that the Siuslaw Salmon Run will be held again as part of a fun community event and especially as a fundraiser for our education programs.

Thanks Shiloh! We will miss you but wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Nature Conservancy Work Party on Siuslaw River

There is a work party to cover the last big patch of *Spartina patens* on Cox Island on Sept 10 & 11. Work party times and meeting place will be set near the end of August. To sign up to go, contact Susan Hawes by Aug 29 -- shawes@tnc.org or (503) 802 -8100.

Completing Action Plan is a Current Focus for Council

Working toward completion of the Action plan is a current goal for the Executive Committee. An Action Plan is to non-profit organizations what a business plan is to a for-profit entity; it will state what we plan to do and how to do it.

Members of the Executive Committee met on Sunday, August 21 to continue identifying actions linked to each objective stated in the Council's Strategic Plan. The SWC Strategic Plan, which was completed last September, includes four strategic areas: Environment, Education and Outreach, Economic Development and Council Structure. For each of the **strategic areas** there are multiple **goals**; for each goal there are multiple **objectives**. The Action Plan will continue this process by identifying multiple, multiple **actions**.

Having a Strategic Plan and Action Plan in place will be useful to provide funders, partners and members with a clear description of our vision and our long-term plan of action. It will also be helpful to volunteers. Council members, graduate students, community people and others will be able to look at our action plan and see well thought out steps to achieve our goals and choose tasks help out with or even to initiate!

Leadership Board Requested to Help

The Technical Team has been working on identifying actions for the Environment., which are mostly restoration oriented. To ensure that all stakeholders, interest groups and partners are involved in the process, we are asking Leadership Board members to pick one (or more) of the other strategic areas, Education and Outreach, Economic Development, or Council Structure and join a committee to identify actions within the objectives of these areas.

Preliminary committee work can begin now. Leadership Board members please check out the Strategic Plan on our website: www.siuslaw.org (click on Documents then Strategic Plan). Jot down actions that you feel fulfill each of the objectives within each of the goals in the strategic area(s) that you choose. When this initial work is done, the committees will meet to compile identified actions. Council members, please feel free to join in the process.

Salmon Run a Success

Over 100 people showed up for the Siuslaw Salmon Run and Walk on Saturday, August 13 in sunny Mapleton. 32 runners competed in the 5-kilometer run for the title of first Mapleton Salmon Run winner and a gift box of smoked salmon.

The winner of woman's race was Dustina Coleman, of North Bend, who is a graduate of Mapleton High School. The men's winner was Josh Wagner, also of North Bend and a current member of the cross-country and track teams at Western Oregon University.

In second place for the women was Trena Jayne of Eugene and in third place was Erin Adkins of Florence. In second place for the men was Nic Siewert of Mapleton and in third place was Russel Saubert also of Mapleton.

For the walk, 47 people, many pushing strollers containing babies or toddlers, paced the 3-kilometer route through Mapleton. All participants crossed the finish line, near the Mapleton Dock where they attended the celebration. Many of the kids headed straight to the salmon migration miniature golf course that was set up by the Siuslaw National Forest. One walker, Rich Glauber, of Music in Action, crossed the finish line and picked up his guitar to perform songs that he had written for the event. Results of the race were announced and raffle prizes were drawn as KUSH set up to play. They rocked the gazebo for a couple of hours.

Thank you to everybody who came out to the Siuslaw Salmon Run/Walk/Celebration. We would like to thank all of our volunteers as well as our sponsors and contributors: Siuslaw Valley Bank, Frank's Place, Randy's Riverview Market, Siuslaw Basin Partnership, Siuslaw National Forest and the Siuslaw Institute. A big thank you to Mapleton School District, particularly the staff volunteers, track program and high school. Thank you also to the numerous volunteers and all others who made this event a success!

We must also recognize our AmeriCorps Volunteer, Shiloh Sundstrom who coordinated the entire event. His "race" to the *starting* line included many hurdles which he cleared with grace and poise. He provided a fun family event for many people and we are most appreciative.

Siuslaw Watershed Council
General Meeting Agenda
Volunteer Appreciation Picnic
August 31, 2005
Hood Creek Campground*
6:30 p.m.

You have been going to meetings all year long! You also been volunteering for the Council in various ways (monitoring, planting trees, releasing trees, helping out at events, attending meetings, etc.). So it's time to relax and celebrate YOU and the Siuslaw Watershed Council's achievements. We are taking the August Meeting and moving out-of doors and having a picnic, because it's fun and we all deserve a little summer break. Our "agenda" will include eating, talking, laughing, and appreciating our volunteers. We will also have brief updates and announcements.

We will provide grilled fish, condiments, drinks, chips, cake, and watermelon. The coals will be hot if you would like to bring additional grillables. Bring a side dish and friends and family.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Council, this would be a great time to join us and see "what's happening in your watershed" and learn about opportunities to get involved!

Thank you to the Campbell Group for providing us with the outdoor venue for the event.

*Hood Creek Campground (also known as Campbell Group Camp) is located between Archie Knowles Campground and the tunnel on HWY 126; between mileposts 18 and 19. Look for signs and balloons.

Schedule of Events

August 31—Siuslaw Watershed Council Volunteer Appreciation Picnic and General Meeting 6:30 pm, Hood Creek Campground.

September 1—SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

September 12—Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting: 7:30 pm, Conference Room, Florence Business Center, 1525 12th Street, Florence

September 7— SWC Executive Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm., Upper Compound, Mapleton.

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

Treasurer's Report

Nancy Nichols, Council Treasurer

July 2005

	JULY	YEAR TO DATE
Beginning Cash	\$60,121.13	
INCOME		
Dues		\$910.00
Federal Grants	\$575.86	\$2,210.77
State Grants	\$5,999.00	\$44,951.01
Private Grants		\$2,383.33
Interest		\$767.12
Donations & Misc.	\$4.00	\$1,605.00
Administrative Funds	\$6,578.86	\$14,516.75
Reimbursements		
Other		
TOTAL INCOME	\$9,539.44	\$67,343.98
EXPENSES		
Grant Expenses	\$12,422.69	\$92,023.83
Other	\$94.03	\$8,030.61
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,516.72	\$100,054.44
Ending Cash	\$54,183.27	

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

August 2005

Please join us for the
Volunteer Appreciation Picnic!

Wednesday, August 31, 2005

6:30 pm

Hood Creek Campground

See page 4 for more details and directions.

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?