

Message from the Coordinator...

Our annual efforts in planning restoration, monitoring, and education projects come together at this time of year. Several fall funding opportunities, most notably the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant proposal deadlines this month, keep council staff, projects managers, and partners busy working out the final details on our project endeavors. With the full spectrum of water quality sampling, in-stream restoration projects, watershed monitoring and data evaluation, and schools programs all on the table in past several weeks, it is apparent how interrelated all of our efforts really are.

Our primary efforts lie in understanding the water quality and habitat needs of the watershed to help us plan projects that will have a positive impact on our streams and river system. Monitoring programs, such as estuary and upper watershed water quality sampling, culvert inventory, and fish counts help evaluate the conditions and identify potentially high-value areas as well as limitations. Focused studies that research nutrient roles or issues involving freshwater mussel die-off help us understand ecosystem conditions that are not otherwise apparent to us.

The restoration projects we sponsor help to address those identified water quality and stream habitat conditions and limitations. For salmon and other local fish, high temperatures and lack of abundant rearing and over-wintering habitat in the Siuslaw watershed are the main limitations to high productivity and larger populations. A combination of other water quality and habitat factors add to the fisheries challenges. Our projects involving placement of large wood debris (LWD) in streams, replacing undersized culverts, and planting riparian (stream side) native trees and plants work together to open up access to habitat, reduce erosion, free up movement and capture of gravel in the stream bottom, and provide overbank shade and food sources. Good gravel accumulations and



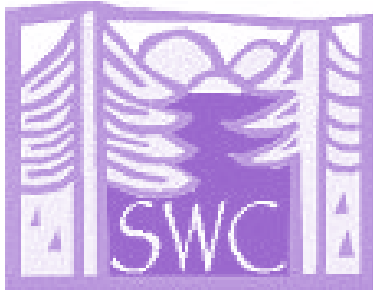
shading will help keep temperatures lower.

Returning to the theme of funding proposals submitted this month, below is a review of each of the current projects:

Alma Tributaries 3 Culverts Replacement (OWEB Restoration funding proposal): Three of our 19 prioritized culvert replacements will be addressed by this project. We propose to replace three culverts crossing Siuslaw River Road near Alma. The culverts will open up fish access to high-quality, cool water habitats anchored in BLM-managed late successional forestland on Holland and Conger Creeks, including a mile-long tributary to Conger. Funding for the Holland culvert replacement has been secured through the BLM Resource Advisory Committee Title II funding allocation via a partnership of Lane County and the Siuslaw Watershed Council. All priority culverts are designed to pass 100-year flow events; high flow events are important to transport of gravel and debris that help restore complex stream channel habitats downstream.

Riparian Restoration '08 (Siuslaw Stewardship): This is our renowned free tree distribution program; this fall's proposal seeks funding for our 2008 event. Funding for 2007 has already been secured and planning is underway. The program now includes quality assurance monitoring to help evaluate what plant species and what locations are working well or not. Funding also includes riparian release crew time to help landowners keep those new trees free to grow to full height.

Continued on page 4



**Siuslaw Watershed
Council**

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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

Council Staff Update

Goodbye Eric Sproles...

Eric spent his last days on council staff this month. Eric joined us watershed geographer in summer 2005 through funding from the Siuslaw Watershed Restoration Initiative (SWRI) project. Eric has been key in updating our GIS geodatabase capabilities and helping to achieve the goals of the SWRI work plan. Eric will continue to consult with us to complete our project needs as he embarks on his new job in Eugene.

Welcome Ginger Fincher!

Ginger joined our staff this month as volunteer office assistant. She is working part-time to complete the many, many projects we have had waiting in the wings for a good volunteer to tackle. Ginger has started on organizing our newspaper scrap book. We finally will be able to find that story about the watershed council that ran in 2002 from the towering stack of old newspapers!

OWEB Conference Reminder:

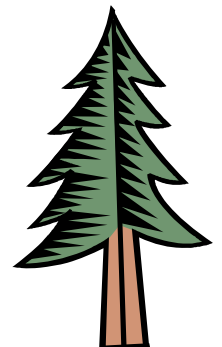
Todd, Liz, and Cricket will be attending the biennial OWEB Conference in Seaside the week of October 23. We will miss you at the general meeting.

The theme of this year's biennial conference is "Communities Working for Healthy Watersheds...Celebrating Oregon Plan Accomplishments & Looking Ahead". The event offers several choices of plenary sessions including Watershed Enhancement Strategies, Sustaining the Oregon Plan, Establishing Restoration Priorities, Demonstrating Outcomes Through Monitoring and Evaluation, and Practical Skills. We hope to come back with lots of ideas and tools to put to use in the Siuslaw Watershed.

Not only will we be learning, but sharing as well...Liz will be giving a presentation on our Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program and Johnny Sundstrom will be on two panels; one on the Coastal Coho Recovery Plan and one on the Future of the Oregon Plan.

Stewardship Forestry Workshop in Lorane

A workshop on managing your property's natural resources with a slide presentation by forester Darin Stringer will be held at the Lorane Grange in Lorane on Tuesday, October 24th from 6:45 to 9:00. Topics include forest management planning, markets for specialty wood products, salmon habitat restoration, control of invasive weeds, and much more. Questions? call Dave Eisler 935-7847.



General Meeting Presentation Review and Preview

Please be sure to join the Leadership Board and council staff every month at our general meeting. As you can see below, we always have great presentations and a good time. Meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Mapleton Grange Hall on East Mapleton Road.

September Recap: Mid-Coast and Siuslaw TMDL Database was the presentation subject. Eddie Huckins of the Lincoln SWCD was joined by DEQ staff Bobbi Lindberg and Gary Arnold to share the goals of data collection and how data will be available via the Web related to the Mid-Coast TMDL Development program.

October: Tales of Freshwater Resources – Jeremy Monroe of Freshwaters Illustrated will share examples of video and slide programs his organization has produced to educate the general public about freshwater resources. Joining Jeremy will be Ray Kinney of the Siuslaw SWCD and SWC to share an exhibit of his freshwater mussel research. Ray will discuss declines in Siuslaw mussel populations and water quality issues potentially impacting the mussels.

November: Annual end of year potluck – including 2007 Leadership Board nominations and Siuslaw Water Trail gathering. This will be our opportunity to spend more time in a social setting celebrating the accomplishments of the past year. Water trail enthusiasts will also be encouraged to attend to see a display on the water trail and gather together to steer a committee to work with water trail partners over the coming year.

December: No meeting – holiday time for everyone!

January: Annual Leadership Board elections. Start recruiting those new board members now!

February: (tentative) Herbicide Forum. Presentations and panelists will discuss herbicide uses in land management throughout the Siuslaw watershed, current knowledge about the fate of herbicides in the environment and their potential impact on stream systems, and directions to look forward to in integrated herbicide-watershed management.

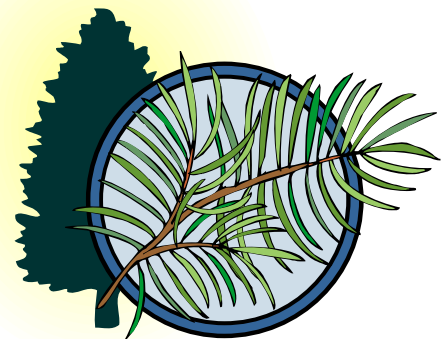
March: (tentative) Lake Systems Ecology and Water Quality – we hope to invite presenters to help us learn more about our many lake systems, including Triangle Lake, Woahink and Siltcoos Lakes, and others.

Sneak Peak at the Native Riparian Plants List

We have another wonderful list of plants that will be available* through the free Native Plant Distribution in February. New plants or requested repeats from earlier years include: Nootka rose, Tapered rush, Deer fern, Ninebark, Red osier dogwood, and Hooker's willow. Requested returns from last year, include: Vine maple, Big leaf maple, Oregon ash, Black twinberry, Mock Orange, Black cottonwood, Western red cedar, Western hemlock, Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, Douglas spiraea, and Red alder.

A mailing will go out in November that will contain plant descriptions and ideal planting conditions. Also, the book [Plants of the Pacific Northwest](#) can help you better understand native plants in order to make the best selection for your land.

Email or call Liz Vollmer-Buhl with any questions at, watershed@siuslaw.org, 541-268-3044. If you are a new landowner or you have not participated in past Native Plant Distributions, email or call Liz to be added to the list. Past participants are already on the mailing list.



*Please note that the list of available plants may unexpectedly change, due to reasons beyond our control.

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program (OWEB Monitoring): Our volunteer-based estuary water quality monitoring program has expanded over the past 8 years to include several upper basin locations, including near Triangle Lake, Walton, and Lorane. The volunteer program maintains a continued data collection effort that we augment with other sampling locations and water quality objectives as other funding sources allow.

Macroinvertebrate and Diatom Study (OWEB Monitoring): This mouthful of a project name will look at aquatic insect and algae communities in two estuary tributaries and is a continuation of the previous EPA-funded nutrient study that wraps up this year. Insects and algae are useful indicators of stream function and health. Coupled with the previous study of nutrients in the water, researchers hope to gain insight into what stream restoration and land management types may offer better benefits to stream habitat.

Siuslaw Summer Camp and Workshop Series (OWEB Education): Again, a continuation of our highly-valued summer education program for middle and high school students. This year we propose expanding the opportunity through three one-day weekend workshops throughout the watershed over the summer. Although focused on watershed education for the students, we will make the workshops something for the whole family to enjoy. Watershed education brings together all of the concepts of land management, monitoring, and restoration and helps make our future land managers good stewards of their watershed. A highlight of the workshop series will be the Karnowsky Creek day, where attendees will get tours of the large scale restoration project and have hands-on learning opportunities.

Two ongoing projects that are currently ramping up are also interrelated to these programs. This month we started the Siuslaw Riparian Restoration and Release Crew project, which was funded by a special grant from OWEB to hire fishers displaced by the salmon crisis. Known to staff as the "fisher crew", this three-person team will be responsible for visiting riparian restoration sites throughout the watershed to provide tree maintenance. The crew will clear competing vegetation, remove noxious weeds, repair and provide animal damage protection to trees, and monitor site needs and plant new trees as necessary. The crew is employed from fall 2006 through fall 2007 under the direction of project manager Jeff Jones. All SWC and Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) planting projects are eligible for the extra help from the fisher crew.

The Siuslaw TMDL (total maximum daily load) Development project completed the Lake Creek temperature monitoring phase of field work this month. We will continue to work with Mid-Coast TMDL partners at the Lincoln SWCD and state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to develop the temperature model of the watershed. The model will help project partners establish temperature thresholds in our streams and outline restoration efforts (primarily shading) to help reach those goals. This winter we also embark on the sediment phase of work. Other water quality limitations addressed through the project will be dissolved oxygen and bacteria.

Council staff also met recently with Dunes City water quality monitoring partners regarding monitoring of Woahink Lake. The SWC may partner and serve as sponsor of a nutrient monitoring study being proposed for DEQ funding that will help with TMDL development for aquatic weed issues in the lake and identify sources of elevated nutrient inputs to the lake. Other partners would be Dunes City and Portland State University.

The SWC also was recently funded to conduct a Limiting Factors Analysis at Fivemile Creek in the coastal lakes and Smith Creek/Little Siuslaw Creek in the upper Siuslaw watershed. The study will result in a better understanding of the issues limiting fish habitat and water quality in those stream systems and identify projects that will address those issues. The knowledge will be applicable to other stream systems in the coastal lakes and upper river system.

Finally, to wrap up our project goals for the year, we recently received partial funding for replacement of culverts on Walker Creek in Walton. We are partnering with the BLM to secure the additional funding needed for replacement in 2007. The BLM RAC will provide the funding if adequate money is left at the end of the current fiscal year. We expect to replace up to eight or ten of our priority culverts in summer 2007. To enhance culvert replacement habitat values, we will also be seeking LWD projects up and downstream of culvert sites as warranted. We expect to seek a third funding for our Materials Acquisition program to stockpile logs for such projects. If funded, Materials Acquisition would be back in operation during the winter of 2007-2008.

In the meantime, be sure to go watch the salmon in their journeys upstream.—**Todd Miller**

Siuslaw Watershed Council Calendar

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

November 1—Coastal Coho Plan Public Town Hall Meeting: 6-8pm, Florence Event Center, 715 Quince Street in Florence. (see www.oregon-plan.org for more info.) Rescheduled from October 4.

November 2—SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

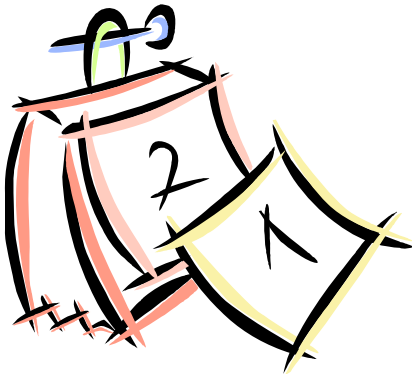
November 6—Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting: 7:30 pm, SWCD office, Florence Business Center, 1525 12th Street, Florence (Use main entrance, please call 997-1272 before coming so that the main door can be opened for you.)

November 8—SWC Exec. Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

November 15—Monthly Siuslaw Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Day.

November 29—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:30 pm, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Road.

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Dates for the Rest of 2006



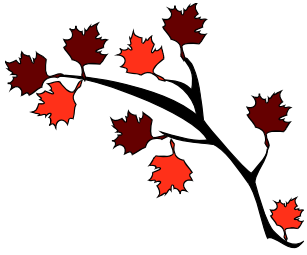
Wednesday, October 18

Wednesday, November 15

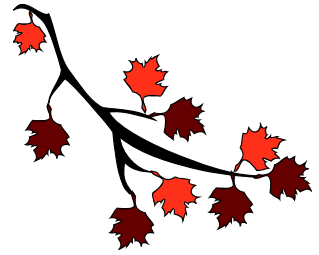
Wednesday, December 20

Volunteers...

Have you been filling out your time & mileage logs?



**Siuslaw Watershed Council
General Meeting Agenda
October 25, 2006
Mapleton Grange Hall
6:30 p.m.**



6:00-6:30 **Open for set-up**

6:30- 6:35 **Welcome and Introductions**

6:35-8:00 **Presentation:** *Tales of Freshwater Resources – Jeremy Monroe of Freshwaters Illustrated will share examples of video and slide programs his organization has produced to educate the general public about freshwater resources. Joining Jeremy will be Ray Kinney of the Siuslaw SWCD and SWC to share an exhibit of his freshwater mussel research. Ray will discuss declines in Siuslaw mussel populations and water quality issues potentially impacting the mussels. There is a Refreshment Break allotted in the time for the presentations.*

8:00-8:10 **Reports**

8:10-8:25 **Open Mic** *(3-5 speakers, 3-5 minutes each)*

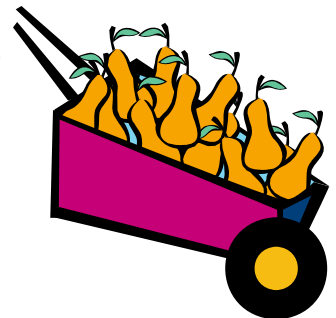
8:25-8:30 **Announcements**

8:30 **Adjourn**

BYOM

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

We will not be holding our monthly meeting raffle for a few months. Save your dollar bills for the November Holiday Potluck/Meeting (November 29), we'll be having a big raffle that night!



September 2006

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Nichols, Council Treasurer*

Beginning Cash	\$20,014.16	corrected	
	SEPTEMBER		YEAR TO DATE
INCOME			
Dues	\$20.00		\$890.00
Federal Grants			\$27,672.28
State Grants	\$108,998.50		\$167,655.23
Private Grants			\$12,713.99
Interest	\$80.40		\$802.77
Donations & Misc.			\$3,543.00
Administrative Funds			\$2,805.73
Project Management			
Other			\$212.94
TOTAL INCOME	\$109,098.90		\$216,295.94
EXPENSES			
Grant Expenses		\$96,365.65	\$203,164.99
Other		\$854.73	\$6,876.27
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$97,220.38	\$210,041.26
 Ending Cash			 \$28,464.94*

*adjusted for \$3,427.74 refund on NFF grant

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

Coastal Coho Plan Public Town Hall Meeting

November 1

6-8pm

Florence Event Center

715 Quince Street in Florence

see www.oregon-plan.org for more info

In the last newsletter we announced this meeting for October 4. At press time this was the case but a few days later it was announced that it had been rescheduled for November 1. Our apologies if this inconvenienced you in any way.

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

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What's Happening In Your Watershed?