

Message from the Coordinator...

Council Hosts Community Herbicide Forums in March and April

On March 28, over a year's worth of discussion, debate, and planning come to fruition as the Siuslaw Watershed Council hosts Part I of our community herbicide forums. These forums are special presentations that will take the place of our regularly scheduled monthly general council meetings in March and April. Please note the special starting time and place: 6:00 pm at Mapleton High School. The school is located at the bottom of the hill near our usual meeting place at the Mapleton Grange Hall on East Mapleton Road.

The Council is hosting these forums in the interest of providing the opportunity to bring the community together to gain a shared set of knowledge on herbicide issues. The Council does not have any agenda it desires to further via these forums other than to meet our responsibilities in being the neutral meeting ground for all stakeholders in the watershed community. The Council may seem a suspicious entity to non-participants: we may appear to side too much with industry, or with government agencies, or with environmental organizations, or with small communities, for example, depending on the lens through which we are scrutinized. What is missed in these characterizations is that the Council is the proactive center for all stakeholders who have an interest in the Siuslaw Watershed. All voices are welcomed, and heard, and shared.

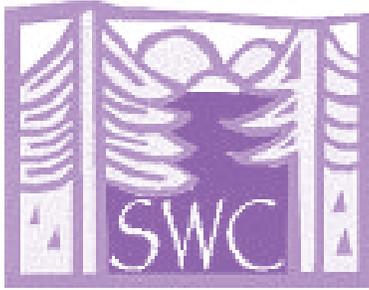
Ultimately we hope to achieve consensus on the issues that face us so that we can move forward with helping to promote the best opportunities for a vital, healthy watershed that we can. The Council long ago adopted a no-herbicide policy directing us to sponsor only those projects that do not include herbicide treatment as part of the project design. This policy was adopted under the consensus that there are abundant, meaningful projects the Council can undertake to achieve our goals and that we do not condemn our basin

partners for using herbicides in their management practices.

In the past year, a different issue on herbicides was raised by a council board member for discussion at our technical team. The question was posed on whether the Council should endorse the State of Oregon to adopt an independent scientific panel to review herbicide application regulations in light of current and complete research on potential impacts to aquatic health. This was not a direct request to change current regulations or to force property managers to alter their practices, but it did bring to question what is appropriate in the watershed council context to be addressing.

On one hand, the Council should be the place to seek collaborative and voluntary projects that participating stakeholders agree are conducive and important to the long-term health of the watershed, not to seek changes to rules governing land use practices. On the other hand, many Council members feel that our hard work on restoring and enhancing stream habitats may be threatened by law-abiding herbicide applicators. In this case, the best opportunity for bettering management practices will come from a request to have the science reviewed from the regulatory end. That seems fair, until we ask ourselves what risk level are we willing to accept for a regulatory threshold? All of our activities have some kind of environmental impact or risk.

Many Council members are willing to accept the premise of our original no-herbicide policy; that is, there are plenty of projects we can be working on that don't involve the herbicide question, so why spend time on an issue that is known to be contentious and to have little hope for a consensus viewpoint from the entire Council? However, even those in that school of



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Council**

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Treasurer: Nancy Nichols

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Barbara Beers

Paul Chapman

Jim Grano

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thought realize the topic is not going to go away. We need to have a public forum to talk openly about herbicides.

We do not seek consensus or a Council stance on herbicides as a result of these forums. Instead, we seek to bring the community together and share the realities, questions, and different perspectives about herbicides in a watershed context. Part of our goal is to provide education and outreach on issues regarding watershed function and restoration. If we can enter into these forums in an engaging, civil, and enlightening manner, then we will have succeeded in a key step toward a community understanding of herbicide use in the Siuslaw Watershed.

An Important Note about the Herbicide Forums

The upcoming herbicide forums are made possible by the hard work of Council staff and Leadership Board members and through generous contributions from watershed community members. All of the presenters are specially invited guests of the Siuslaw Watershed Council and are due our utmost respect. The SWC has sought a strong balance of presentation topics and viewpoints. In many cases, advocates of a particular position on herbicides declined our invitation, deferring to the other presenters from the scientific and regulatory communities to provide the information perceived to be most valuable to the audience. The presence or absence of any particular group or presenter does not indicate omission of nor catering to any particular viewpoint. The coordinator and facilitator worked together to assemble an agenda that would provide the best audience value.

The forums for March and April are broken into two main topics:

- ★ March 28 - Part I: Herbicide Uses, Regulations, and Applications.
- ★ April 25 – Part II: Environmental Fate & Toxicology in Aquatic Ecosystems

Please note that human health issues are not and will not be covered by these forums. The SWC is limiting the scope of these two information-filled evenings to issues regarding the application of herbicides on the watershed landscape and potential concerns and management to control impact on aquatic resources. Many other organizations address human health concerns and the SWC does not feel we could offer a reasonable coverage of that aspect of the issue.

Due to the time constraints of the evening and to ensure that a broad audience has the opportunity to participate and have their questions heard, all questions will be submitted at break periods to the facilitator in written form. We will instruct attendees on how to fill out question cards and submit them at each forum. No verbal comments will be taken from the audience. We ask you to respect this format and acknowledge that the meeting is scheduled to take over three hours to conduct. The agenda schedule and Q&A format offers the best opportunity for us all to get the most out of our evening together.

Please remember that all presenters are special guests of the SWC who accepted our invitation. They will be here as a courtesy to you, the Siuslaw community, and many will have traveled a long way without compensation from us to join us in Mapleton. Let's show them our respect and appreciation.

Todd Miller

Steps to Help Insure the Success of Your Plantings:

Mark ALL Plants: You can use flagging tape, bamboo poles, bamboo poles with flagging tape or rags, or your own idea. If you have a great way to mark your plants, please share your method with us. Marking all plants helps make it easier to clear competing brush away in the summer. Marked plants are less likely to be accidentally mowed over or forgotten. We have free flagging tape and bamboo poles available for Native Plant Distribution participants.

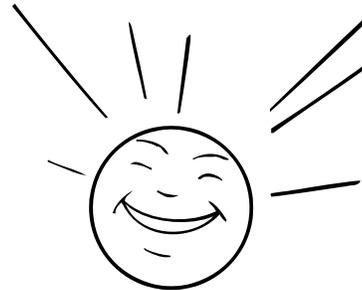
Get Them into the Ground Fast: Plant the trees and plants within a week of receiving them. If you are delayed, healing-them-in in a garden or pots is ok, but it is BEST to get them in the ground. This is especially important for the late season donation seedlings.

Late Season Plantings May Need Special Care: The seedlings that arrive as part of late season donations may need to be handled more gently if they have come out of dormancy (root systems require especially gentle handling). Also as the rain decreases and soils dry, late season plantings may require additional watering.

Keep an Eye out for Predators: We can provide plant tubes and bamboo poles (may protect against deer and elk browsing) and beaver cages (for the trees, not the beaverJ). Regular aluminum foil around the stem, starting at the very base of a seedling can protect against small rodents.



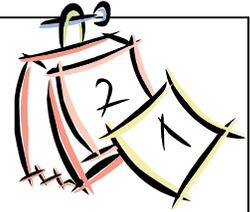
The Siuslaw Stewardship Group funded Siuslaw Native Plant Distribution is continuing to distribute plant protection and plants as they become available. Over 120 riparian landowners have participated thus far. Since the last publication, Weyerhaeuser has donated Grand Firs to the program, for the Lorane area. The BLM and ODF have also donated additional conifers, which have been distributed. We are appreciative of all of the donations. More hardwood shrubs will likely be available later this month. Please email or call, Liz, at nativeplants@siuslaw.org, or 541-268-3044 if you would like to be put on the list to receive additional plants, or to sign-up for the first time.



Three Cheers for the Volunteers!

Siuslaw Water Quality Monitoring Volunteers, Jeanne Ginter, an estuary landowner, and Corena Freel, a Mapleton High School student, spoke on behalf of the Siuslaw Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program at the OWEB meeting on March 14th. Alice Uriona, a Deadwood landowner, and Christina Logan, a Mapleton High School student, wrote letters of support that were read at the OWEB meeting. Cricket transported the volunteers. Due to the volunteers' strong support, the crucial interlocking of all SWC monitoring programs, and the OWEB staffs' hard work, OWEB decided to fund the SWQMP for another year! Good job, EVERYONE! Although we received the funding, it was at a reduced rate, simply due to the lack of funds available. The program is able to continue with the reduced funding, but not expand. The search will continue for additional funding sources.

Siuslaw Watershed Council Calendar



**March 28—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:00 pm,
Mapleton High School Gym, E. Mapleton Road.**

**April 2—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.)*

April 5—SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

April 11—SWC Exec. Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

April 17—Monthly Siuslaw Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Day.

April 20 & 21—Lane County Hazardous Waste Collection Event: Friday, April 20, from 12-5 pm and Saturday, April 21 from 8 am - 2 pm. The collection will be held at the Florence Transfer Site, 2820 N. Rhododendron Drive. Call Wendy Farley, City of Florence, 541-997-3437, for more information.

**April 25—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:00 pm,
Mapleton High School Gym, E. Mapleton Road.**

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 2007

The Siuslaw Watershed Council invites you to
a community forum on
Herbicides in a Watershed Context
Part I: Herbicide Uses, Regulations, and Applications

Wednesday, March 28, 2007
Mapleton High School, East Mapleton Road, Mapleton
from 6:00pm to 9:30pm

Hosted by Todd Miller, coordinator, Siuslaw Watershed Council
& Caroline Estes, professional facilitator

Please be our guest at this special event for our community members. Our invited speakers will present valuable information and answer formally submitted audience questions. We encourage everyone to understand issues involving herbicides and how they inform our decisions related to watershed restoration and stewardship.

This forum will lay the foundation for **Part II: Herbicide Environmental Fate and Toxicology in Aquatic Ecosystems** – seeking solutions to healthy watershed resources, to be held in Mapleton on April 25, 2007.

Tentative Agenda

- 6:00 Doors Open & Refreshments
- 6:15 Introductory Comments & Welcome
- 6:30 Herbicide Use & Regulations Overview
- 7:30 *Refreshment Break – Question Submittals*
- 7:50 Land Management Perspectives
- 8:20 Watershed Regional Application Overview
- 8:30 *Refreshment Break – Question Submittals*
- 8:45 Panelist Q&A facilitated with submitted audience questions
- 9:30 Adjourn

Upcoming Water Quality Monitoring Dates:

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

- ★ Check out the website for monitoring data, www.siuslaw.org
- ★ Thank you to the donors who contributed to the Deadwood WQ Monitoring Site.

We can now establish a site on Deadwood Creek.

- ★ If you have any WQ Monitoring questions, please contact Liz at monitoring@siuslaw.org, or at 541-268-3044.

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?