

SIOUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

JULY 2007

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

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

Message from the Coordinator...

A Week in the Siuslaw

I had the wonderful experience this past month of getting out from one end of the watershed to the other and back again. It is a myth that I am consistently out in the field, walking up the creeks or being out on the river. Those of you who work with me often probably recognize that I spend an unfortunate amount of time at my computer, on the phone, or in meeting rooms. So, getting out to experience the Siuslaw landscape is real treat, and the opportunity to enjoy the watershed from headwaters to ocean in the course of one week was nothing short of thrilling. I was reminded of how diverse and wonderful the natural resources and the people of the Siuslaw Watershed community are.

My foray started with a trip up the coast with Siuslaw SWCD watershed conservationist Gus Gates. Gus and I were headed to Yachats to meet with our colleagues on the Mid-Coast Small Grants Program Team. I always enjoy the trip aside the estuary en route to Florence and the wafts of coastal air that come with it. Gus drove us from Florence, extending my sightseeing along the coastal lakes as a passenger, giving me a rare opportunity to view Lily Lake and the northernmost reaches of our coastal watersheds.

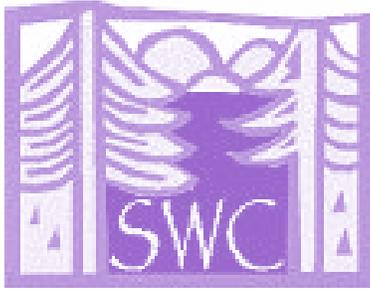
The next day I met with partners at the Eugene BLM offices to discuss the Horton meadow knapweed problem and the Swamp Creek restoration planning effort. I had recently met with BLM fisheries biologist Leo Poole out at Swamp Creek in the upper Lake Creek Watershed. Swamp Creek is the closest upstream tributary to Lake Creek above Triangle Lake and descends a beautiful little valley graced by the landmark Round Barn off Highway 36. Leo and I discussed the stream conditions and hiked along grown-over logging roads, viewing the occasional spring board notches on grand old stumps harboring hemlock seedlings and ferns.



I then departed for Lorane to visit Joe Brewer on the South Fork Siuslaw River off Gowdyville Road. Joe had agreed to be a host landowner for our first summer Saturday watershed workshop on July 14. The Brewer's property is a beautiful mosaic of hayfields, high rolling pastureland, and timber stands that includes a pond off Kelly Creek. Gowdyville Road follows the South Fork Siuslaw River up to the most distant headwaters of the Siuslaw Watershed. Joe is a well-known Lorane area personality and fire chief; the fire station bears his name. Those of you who attend the July 14 workshop will have had the same opportunity to enjoy the Brewers and their property (including a you-pick blueberry patch).

After meeting with Joe I headed north on Territorial Highway to meet with environmental consultant Michael Shippey. Mike lives in Crow in the Long Tom Watershed just north of Lorane. We discussed the King Estate restoration project that Mike is working on, which includes oak woodlands and wet prairie habitat areas in the headwaters on the Upper North Fork Siuslaw on the winery's property. I returned to King Estate just this past week to tour the restoration site, which is a feature of our July 14 watershed workshop tour. Lorane and the Siuslaw headwaters are in the Willamette Valley ecoregion which is distinctly different from the coastal ecoregions elsewhere in the Siuslaw. Nowhere is this as evident as walking the grounds of King Estate among the oak savanna landscape and down in the spring-fed wetlands at the base of the valley slopes. The wetland vegetation is comprised of many of the same plants one can observe in

Continued on page 2...



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Vice Chair: Dave Eisler

Secretary: Wesley Voth

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Message... *continued from page 1*

the West Eugene Wetlands, and, like the oak woodlands, is notably different than wetlands on the west side of the Coast Range.

The day after my Lorane outing, my wife and kids met me out in Mapleton to embark on a weekend campout at Honeyman State Park. I enjoyed the experience in the stunning Oregon Dunes more than I ever have due to the fresh image of Lorane in my mind. Nestled among tall rhododendrons, salal, and pine, I could not help but marvel the trip the Siuslaw River takes from Lorane to Florence. My wife and our two friends got to enjoy the coastal terrain beyond the dunes by participating in a 10-mile trail run on Cape Mountain north of Florence. Meanwhile, I played super-dad to four kids, a one-, three-, five- and six-year old – only two of them mine, but I accepted the sympathetic looks of passersby who may have concluded I was "dad" to all of them. We managed to hike to the top of the first dune out of Honeyman campground. We were awarded with a view across the rolling dunes to the ocean, but any time for further exploration was lost while I excavated in sand for awhile before recovering my son's shoes, which had been buried by one of my other charges.

That afternoon I enjoyed the most spectacular beach weather I have experienced anywhere in the world, including time spent in the Virgin Islands and the French Riviera. We traveled to South Jetty, where I was given a reprieve for my morning child care detail. Leaving everyone else behind, I ran two miles south along the beach until there was not a soul in site in either direction. The air, breeze, water, sun, clouds, and sand were absolutely perfect. I spent about 20 minutes in bliss before I needed to head back, but that 20 minutes near the mouth of the Siuslaw River felt like a one week vacation for revitalizing my spirits.

On Sunday we awoke to a soggy coastal rain. Saturday had been so beautiful that I cared not one bit. We were bound for Deadwood after breakfast anyway, where we had an afternoon appointment to meet Ray and Kathy Robinson for a family ride on their small gauge railroad. Our caravan of two made a stop in Mapleton at the council office to pick up my Honda Civic, which I had left parked there. My friend Shelly was unable to stay with us for the entire train ride do to a late afternoon engagement in Eugene, so I offered her the Civic to head back separately.

Watching Shelly drive ahead of us on Highway 36, my wife and I noticed our rear tire going flat in the vicinity of the curves around The Horn. A can of fix-a-flat revealed a gaping hole in the tire that could not be sealed. Driving the rest of the short distance to Deadwood on the puny spare tire proved it not road worthy to get back to Eugene. Pulling into the Deadwood Store, I saw watershed council member Greg Kennedy vending his beautifully crafted pottery in the parking lot.

"Hi Greg! Any idea where a person might find a spare tire for a Honda Civic around here?" I asked with extreme aspiration but little true hope. It turned out that Greg, who lived less than a quarter-mile away, had a seldom used Civic that he was willing to lend a wheel off of. If anyone in my caravan didn't realize that Deadwood is a truly wonderful place, they are firm believers now. While Greg gave my family and our friends a tour of his beautiful creekside property, showing off the riparian plants he had received through the watershed council, I replaced the undersized spare with Greg's wheel and intact tire.

We continued our tour of Deadwood up West Fork Deadwood Road to the Robinson's, an amazingly laid out piece of property on which Ray has been building his railroad for the past 13 years. The golden spike will be driven this October when he will have completed the entire line. My kids, of course, were

Continued on page 6...

Impacts of Invasive Plants

We often hear that non-native invasive plants are *bad*. Many people are left wondering what are the effects of exotic invasive species. Why should we care about preventing and controlling the spread of exotic invasive species?

The impacts of non-native invasive species are the subjects of an increasing body of research. In a limited number of cases, increased plant diversity and benefits to a limited number of animals and invertebrates due to introduced species presence have been documented. However, the majority of research has indicated negative effects on the economies, plants, and animals of regions colonized by non-native invasive species.

Invasive species bring a high cost to farmers, through damaged or lost crops and the expense of control. Locally, meadow knapweed is hindering hay growers. Due to meadow knapweed's low palatability, meager nutritional content, and invasive nature, it is considered undesirable forage as it matures. Invasive aquatic plants decrease tourism dollars as recreational lakes are choked with weeds, preventing swimming, boating, and fishing. Several invasive insects infect timber stands, decreasing or eliminating their economic value.

A reduction in the species richness of native plants and animals has been associated with colonization by invasive plants. In a study that examined the effects of English ivy, scientists found fewer native woody plants in areas with English ivy present. Researchers in the Willamette Valley observed decreased plant species diversity and richness associated with reed canarygrass.

It is often suggested that native birds and other animals use Himalayan blackberries, English ivy, and other non-native invasives for nesting and forage. However, research has indicated that non-native invasive plant species provide inferior habitat for native animal species. A study comparing native frog responses in areas colonized by Japanese knotweed and areas of native vegetation found that the frogs had decreased foraging success in the Japanese knotweed stands. Reptiles in another study preferred native leaf litter over non-native invasive leaf litter, possibly due to the temperature of the native leaf litter being closer to the optimal temperature of the reptiles.

Non-native invasive species can also alter water and fire cycles, thus increasing the magnitude and frequency of droughts and wildfires. Impacts of non-native invasive species spread beyond the economic and habitat issues. Loss of native species due to competition with non-native invasive species have cultural costs in many communities. Traditional medicinal and food plants can be devastated and social or religious landscapes may be altered by invasive plants.

Learn more about the effects of non-native invasive species, their control, and native habitat restoration at the events discussed in this issue of the SWC Newsletter. Listed below are sources for this article and other helpful resources:

Journal Articles

Fierke, M., Kauffman, J. (2006): "Invasive species influence riparian plant diversity along a successional gradient, Willamette River, Oregon." *Natural Areas Journal*. 26(4). Pp. 376-382.

Maerz, J., Blossey, B., Nuzzo, V. (2004): "Green frogs show reduced foraging success in habitats invaded by Japanese knotweed." *Biodiversity and Conservation*. 14. Pp. 2901-2911.

Perkins, T., Wilson, M. (2005): "The impacts of *Phalaris arundinacea* (reed canarygrass) invasion on wetland plant richness in the Oregon Coast Range, USA depend on beavers." *Biological Conservation*. 124. Pp. 291-295.

Roche, C.T. (2003): "Meadow Knapweed (*Centaurea x pratensis* Thuill.)." Washington State University.

Valentine, L., Roberts, B., Schwarzkof, L. (2007): "Mechanisms driving avoidance of non-native plants by lizards." *Journal of Applied Ecology*. 44(1). Pp. 228-237.

Vidra, R. et al. (2006): "Testing the paradigms of exotic species invasion in urban riparian forests." *Natural Areas Journal*. 26(4). Pp. 339-350.

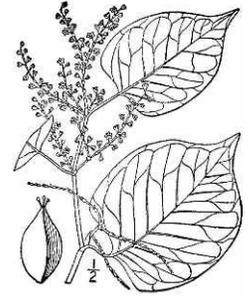
Websites

University of Arizona: Invasive Species. <http://alic.arid.arizona.edu/invasive/index.shtml>

"Invasive Species Impacts to Tribes." http://epa.gov/osp/tribes/announce/NatForum%20Present/3_26.pdf

Oregon Invasive Species Council. <http://www.oregon.gov/OISC/>

Contact Liz Vollmer-Buhl, monitoring@siuslaw.org, with any questions.



Why do we care about Species Richness & Diversity?

- A high variety and abundance of organisms allows a plant and animal community to survive disease, drought, or other challenges. And may lead to quicker recovery after disturbance.
- High level of interdependency amongst native species.

Council News and Updates...

Siuslaw Estuary Water Trail Soon to be a Reality

This month the SWC entered into agreement with the Port of Siuslaw to oversee completion of the first three loops of the pilot phase of the Siuslaw Water Trail. Trail visionary Jordan Sexter has been contracted to complete the maps and signage for the trail and work with volunteer Tom Kartrude on implementing the improvements needed at the access points in Old Town and Bender Landing. The first three loops will extend from Old Town to Bender Landing on the North Fork, out around Cox Island, and down the mouth of the river to the Coast Guard Station. We are busy ensuring that we can complete all of the obligations of the State Parks grant funding the work by September. There are many opportunities to expand on this pilot phase of work with community volunteers soon.

Ways you can participate:

- 1) Host a trail marker on your dock or other appropriate spot on the river between Mapleton and Florence.
- 2) Kayak or canoe the river to complete a River Segment Evaluation Form, recording special points of interest, hazards, GPS locations, paddling times, and other valuable information that will be used for future guide maps and trail features.
- 3) Network with community members and local agencies on potential for integrating new campsites, boat launches, viewing areas, and other assets as well as to spread the word in the paddling community.

Contact us to get involved! We will start with an e-mail alerts and web site updates and may start meeting as a group in September.

SWC Office Move Update

As announced last month the council office is temporarily relocating out of our office space to accommodate remodeling work being conducted by the Forest Service. We will be packing and moving out during July. Our Administrative Assistant, Ginger Fincher, will staff a limited office presence in the bunkhouse adjacent to our current office. Todd and Liz will use the temporary office to touch base during August and September but are most likely to be in the field or working from home. Please bear with us during the remodel. We are scheduled to move back in starting October 1.

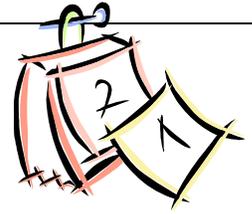
June General Meeting Review

SWC members heard two presentations last month. Paul Adams, OSU professor and Oregon Forest Research Institute member presented on Wildfires and Watersheds, reviewing the conditions that lead from minor to catastrophic in terms of property and forest loss and resulting impacts on watershed health. After break, members heard from the Knowles Creek Life Cycle Monitoring project team on the results of fish counts from running this spring's smolt trap. A variety of indicators and factors were reviewed by trap operators Jeff Jackson and Ralph Lampman. Stream ecologist Charley Dewberry provided input as to what some of the long term indicators are revealing.

Meadow Knapweed Forum to be Held Wednesday, July 25 in Blachly

SWC has joined the Meadow Knapweed Working Group to help multiple partners work with local landowners on achieving solutions to controlling the spread of the invasive noxious weed, meadow knapweed, which has become pervasive in Horton. Please join us on Wednesday evening, July 25, at 6:30 pm, Triangle Lake Grange (tentative location pending availability) to learn about this plant, how it is detrimental to pasture lands and native habitats, and possibilities for landowners and agencies to develop a control solution together. Partners include the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Transportation, Lane County, and Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Siuslaw Watershed Council Calendar



July 23-July 27—Summer Watershed Exploration Camp (Introductory Series): Check website, www.siuslaw.org, for more info or call the Council office, 541-268-3044.

July 25—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting, Meadow Knap weed Forum: 6:30 pm, Triangle Grange.

July 28—Blachly Watershed Workshop—Swamp Creek Stream Restoration and Meadow Knapweed Tour: 8:00 am-noon, *see insert flyer for details.*

August 2—SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Hood Creek Campground.

August 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.)*

August 8—SWC Exec. Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm, *place to be announced.*

August 9 & 10—Summer Watershed Exploration Camp (Advanced Series): Check web site, www.siuslaw.org, for more info or call the Council office, 541-268-3044.

August 11—Mapleton Watershed Workshop—Karnowsky Creek Stream Restoration and Birding Tour: 8:00 am-noon, *see insert flyer for details.*

August 21—Monthly Siuslaw Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Day.

August 29—SWC Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic: 6:30 pm, Meadows and Lake Kathleen Railroad in Deadwood.

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Days



Tuesday, July 17, 2007: SWC Lab still open

Tuesday, August 21, 2007: Lab Drop-off Location TBA

Thank you to Mapleton Schools for the temporary lab space!

Contact Liz Vollmer-Buhl, monitoring@siuslaw.org, 541-268-3044, with any VWQMP questions.

Thank you to all VWQMP volunteers!

The Siuslaw Watershed Council invites you to
an all ages
Family Watershed Education Workshop
Saturday, July 28, 2007
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Part I: Swamp Creek Stream Restoration Planning,
8:00 AM to 10:30 AM

Meet at Swamp Creek Road in Blachly at the Round Barn off Hwy. 36, just east of Triangle Lake. Look for signs to the tour start approximately 4 miles up Swamp Creek Road, past the end of county maintenance sign.

Meet BLM fisheries biologist Leo Poole and SWC coordinator Todd Miller to visit a culvert in need of replacement to restore the stream channel and improve fish passage. Learn about other aspects of stream restoration planning and why they are important, including culvert removal, road decommissioning, livestock fencing, riparian planting, and dump site clean up. Learn about projects landowners can voluntarily undertake on their streams to help enhance watershed health.

Part II: Horton Meadow Knapweed Site Demo
& Invasive Species Issues,
10:45 AM to 12:00 PM

Head over to the Lake Creek Fire Dept. garage on Horton Road near High Pass Road (look for signs from Hwy. 36) to learn about a demonstration site experiment for controlling the noxious pasture plant meadow knapweed. Andrea Thorpe from the Institute for Applied Ecology will lead the tour. Sam Chan from Oregon State University has been invited to discuss invasive species topics (tentative).

Kids and explorers of all ages are welcome. Please dress appropriately for the sun and light hiking.



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an all ages
Family Watershed Education Workshop
Saturday, August 11, 2007
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Karnowsky Creek Stream Restoration &
Birding Tour**

Meet at the Karnowsky Creek restoration site west of Mapleton. Look for signs at Sweet Creek Road in Mapleton off of Highway 126, just east of the Siuslaw River bridge. Travel 4 miles to Bernhardt Creek Road; follow signs along this gravel road past Duncan Island to Karnowsky Creek. The tour will start at the lower end of creek.

Tour leaders will include personnel involved in the conceptualization, design, implementation, planting, maintenance, and monitoring of the Karnowsky Creek restoration project. See what the restored stream looks like after several seasons of flooding and growth. Observe juvenile fish and aquatic insects up close. Learn the history of this scenic little valley and discover why it is a hidden treasure.

Karnowsky Creek is an excellent spot to observe all kinds of wildlife, and is especially good for birding. Learn what types of birds to look for throughout the year at Karnowsky and where to look for them.

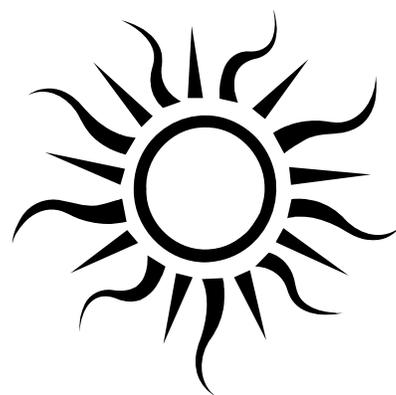
Kids and explorers of all ages are welcome. Please dress appropriately for the sun and moderate hiking.



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Siuslaw Watershed Council
General Meeting Agenda
July 25, 2007
Triangle Grange Hall
6:30 p.m.



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

6:30– 6:40 **Welcome and Introductions**

6:40-7:45 **Presentation:** Meadow Knapweed Forum – various guest presenters will introduce what knapweed is, why it has become a problem, why it is an issue in Horton, what others are doing about it, and what directions the Horton community would like to see the working group move forward on.

7:45-8:00 **Question & Answer Period**

8:00-8:15 **Break**

8:15-8:30 **Swamp Creek Restoration Planning Overview**

8:30-8:45 **Announcements, Meeting Wrap up and Socializing**

8:45 **Meeting Hall Clean-up**

Message... *continued from page 2*

thrilled with the train ride (as was I), and the route revealed the lush vegetation growing along the banks of the creek and around the property. Ray had planted virtually all the riparian trees himself since he first bought the parcel, many of them through the watershed council's annual native plant distribution. Ray invited the watershed council to come up sometime, and I immediately took him up on the offer, scheduling our annual volunteer celebration picnic on August 29 at "Robinson State Park."

After our visit in Deadwood, we returned home to Eugene with a scenic drive past Triangle Lake, celebrating a close to a wonderful week spent exploring the Siuslaw Watershed from one end to other and back again. I am looking forward to spending more time in these areas this summer through scheduled watershed events. Hopefully many of you will have joined us July 14 in Lorane for our first Saturday workshop of the summer. We will be hosting workshops on July 28 in Blachly and Horton and on August 11 at Karnowsky Creek (located west of Mapleton along the estuary). And mark your calendars for the August 29 council meeting and picnic at Ray & Kathy Robinson's in Deadwood. Enjoy the rest of the watershed as much as you can meanwhile.

Regards,
Todd

July Tech Team Review

The SWC Tech Team met on July 12 and discussed the following items. The Team revisited the Tech Team Roles & Responsibilities guidance that was started this past winter. The Team clarified issues regarding agenda items and appropriate items for review and input, bringing information to and from the Leadership Board, and how projects should be introduced and reviewed for proposal. The draft guidance will be presented to the Leadership Board via e-mail for discussion at the next regular general council meeting. The July and August meetings are special event meetings, so we expect the discussion to take place in September.

The Team reviewed a questionnaire to be distributed to attendees at the upcoming Horton Meadow Knapweed Forum on July 25. The Team commented on ways to improve the questions for landowners.

Restoration Priorities planning was discussed, with new information about Siuslaw involvement in the OWEB process (Gus Gates from Siuslaw SWCD will attend a July 25 meeting in Newport as Siuslaw representative), planning maps for restoration, culverts, and the estuary that are being produced, and the aim to have the draft Action Plan assembled by the end of August.

The proposed wave energy park offshore of Reedsport was discussed as an informational item that may have impacts on fisheries.

New Project Developments: The Team heard updates on development of projects for Swamp Creek fish passage and riparian enhancement, Lorane headwaters restoration potential partnership with King Estate winery, and Middle Deadwood Helicopter Wood Placement with the Forest Service, BLM, and private landowners.

Proposal Reviews: The Team reviewed an OWEB Small Grant project on Bailey Creek proposed by ODFW's Jason Kirchner; the team determined that stream structure for gravel retention is needed to enhance the project outcome, but otherwise endorsed the project.

Project managers updated the Team on current project activities.

The Team elected to hold the next meeting on August 2 at the Hood Creek Campground owned operated by the Campbell Group. The SWC office space will not be available in August.

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

July 2007

SWC Features Family Workshops This Summer

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is offering three Family Watershed Education Workshops in July and August. The Council is presenting these workshops with the purpose of providing fun (and free) educational opportunities to share with your family and friends. Please join us for one or all of these workshops and enjoy exploring different parts of your watershed. See the flyers inside for details on two of the upcoming workshops.



Siuslaw Watershed Council Mission Statement

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What's Happening In Your Watershed?