

SIOUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

September 2007

www.siuslaw.org

watershed@siuslaw.org

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

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

Message from the Coordinator...



Summer projects continue to keep us busy this September, but October deadlines loom for next year's activities. Our two primary sources of project funding, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and the US Forest Service's Siuslaw Stewardship Fund, both close to new proposals in late October. Assembling our proposals for review and submittal gives us the opportunity to view our ambitions for next year. I will report on upcoming projects at this month's general meeting (on September 26). I also will discuss some the summer projects coming to a close, such as the Siuslaw Water Trail implementation and the Sedimentation TMDL field study. Our postponed culvert replacement projects remain a top priority for 2008. Although several priority culverts have been addressed, none of the priority culverts on public roads using the design standards adopted in 2004 have been constructed. Partnering on projects of this scale is not new to SWC, but we have been forging new ground and redefining roles, so the project postponements have been a worthwhile learning period. We will be seeking a 2008 Priority Culvert Pre-Implementation and Design grant to respond to design issues and alternatives that have come to light on our six culvert replacements already funded for 2008. We also will resubmit a revised proposal for the Conger Creek Culvert Replacements (in Alma). A previous funding proposal for that project was rescinded early this year upon recognizing design issues and alternatives warranted review prior to construction. We will use existing funding to hire a culvert engineer this fall to finalize designs. If a new source of design funding is awarded, the engineer would follow up on pre-construction needs and start addressing other priority culverts not yet at the funding proposal stage (such as Highway 126 culverts and railroad culverts).

Council Projects Manager Liz Vollmer-Buhl is working on our continuing programs that have been such a success for the council and the community year after year. Liz's programs include the Summer Watershed Workshops (our summer camp program), the Volunteer

Water Quality Monitoring Program (always expanding and improving), and the Siuslaw Riparian Restoration program (our beloved annual native plant distribution in February). For these programs, funding proposals submitted next month are for program continuations starting next summer or next fall.

We also are hoping to bring back the Materials Acquisition program next year. This program allows us to partner with local hauling contractors to identify, retrieve, and stockpile large trees and root wads for future stream restoration work. We do not have funding this winter; the proposal requests funding for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 winter seasons. Most of the opportunities come with winter storms that fell big trees; this next iteration of Materials Acquisition will also look to small clearing jobs for development or other activity that may result in excellent stream restoration wood.

We are sponsoring the Lower Deadwood Large Wood Placement project, which will use helicopters to place whole trees to recreate large jams. The project is being designed and developed by the US Forest Service with the Bureau of Land Management, Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, and Siuslaw Watershed Council as partners. Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative will also be involved in planning for potential underground burial of electric lines. Powerline burial is often sought in restoration planning but is not always feasible. In Deadwood, going underground will free up stream access for the helicopter project and also meet the goal of allowing full riparian vegetation growth without interfering with utility lines.

I hope to see many of you at this month's meeting where you will get the chance to hear more about these projects. Additionally, I am excited to announce that our next forum style meeting will be on October 24. The topic is Coastal Lakes Watershed Management and the forum will be held on the coast (location to be announced). Please see more information inside this newsletter on the forum.

Regards,
Todd



Siuslaw Watershed Council

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Executive Committee

Chair: Steve Elliot

Vice Chair: Dave Eisler

Secretary: Wesley Voth

Treasurer: Nancy Nichols

Representatives:

Barbara Beers

Paul Chapman

Jim Grano

Noland Huntington

Culvert Engineer Needed

The SWC is seeking a culvert and roads engineer to work with council coordinator Todd Miller and road management partners on finalizing culvert replacement designs for 2008 projects. The SWC has secured over \$750,000 for priority culvert replacements next year. All projects have engineering designs developed. However, final engineering review and design considerations are needed to address constructability issues with road management partners, including Lane County, US Forest Service, and BLM.

A contract engineer is needed to work with other engineers and project planners from various partners to ensure all design issues are met. This work will include developing design revisions, design options, and developing cost estimates for all stream, culvert, and road work to evaluate any further budgetary needs for the upcoming 2008 work.

Interested engineers or firms should contact Todd Miller at coordinator@siuslaw.org to request an opportunity to bid on the proposed scope of work. Resumes and Statements of Qualification are invited to be sent via e-mail with subject of "Culvert Engineering" or to Culvert Engineering, Siuslaw Watershed Council, PO Box 422, Mapleton, OR 97453.

A detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) will be sent to engineering and design firms this month, with work expected to commence in October and November.

Invasive Aquatic Plant and Animal Species Class

The Chemeketa Community College class introduces recognition of the characteristics, pathways, impacts, prevention and management of important invasive aquatic/riparian plants and animals in the Northwestern United States. Visits field sites to discuss aquatic invasive species. Five hours pesticide recertification for any Oregon Pesticide Applicator or Consultant. Sam Chan, instructor. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 27. Building 61, Room. 102. \$81, includes lunch and transportation for field trip.

To view other courses offered this term, please visit the program website:

www.chemeketa.edu/programs/naturalXAGR9803Z (CRN 35730)

To register, please call 503-399-5139.

Upcoming SWC Project Proposals

October is proposal time for two of our most important project funders, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and the Siuslaw Stewardship Fund. SWC Coordinator Todd Miller will present an overview of these projects at the September 26 meeting.

Project Proposals currently being written for October submittals:

Continuing Programs:

Siuslaw Summer Workshops (summer camp)

Siuslaw Riparian Restoration (native plant distribution)

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

Materials Acquisition

Re-submittals (projects formerly proposed but not funded):

Conger Creek Culverts Replacement

New Projects:

Lower Deadwood Helicopter Log Placement

Tentative Projects:

Walker Creek Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring

Siuslaw Basin Priority Culvert Replacement Design Revisions



Start Planning for the 2008 Native Plant Distribution

The SWC Native Plant Distribution will be marking its eighth year this winter. Each year the number of riparian landowners who have added trees and plants to their stream and lakeside property has increased. As the years go by and the plants grow, salmon, amphibians, insects, and other stream/streamside dwelling species will reap the benefits. Native riparian plantings can also increase property value for landowners.

In November we will begin taking requests for the free riparian trees and plants which will be distributed in February 2008. A mailing will go out in November containing the list of plants that we plan to have available. Start scoping out your land now for new or additional planting sites. Look at what native plants are already growing along the river, creek, or lake on your property. Knowing what is already successful can give you a hint of what more to add. For example, some plants such as Western Red Cedar, willow, or Black Cottonwood can tolerate wetter soils than Douglas Fir. If you have already planted many conifers in your riparian zone, consider adding ferns and other shade tolerant understory plants. The book Plants of the Pacific Northwest provides detailed plant descriptions of common native plants, which can help you to make the best selection for your land.

For landowners or residents who are new to the watershed or unfamiliar with the program, please contact Liz Vollmer-Buhl for more information at nativeplants@siuslaw.org or 541-268-3044. Past participants are also welcome to contact Liz with any questions.

Did You Know...

Siuslaw Watershed Council hires displaced salmon fishers for stream restoration projects. Starting in October of last year, SWC has hired four salmon fishers who were affected by the salmon emergency fishing closure to conduct stream restoration work in the Siuslaw watershed and coastal lakes area. Our crew is currently down to three part time people, and we are seeking new crew members.

To be eligible, the fisher must be registered with the Oregon Salmon Commission as a qualifying fisher or family member. Qualification is not determined by SWC. Once a fisher is on the qualified list, the individual may apply to work on our Riparian Restoration & Release Crew ("Fisher Crew") through Cardinal Services, a leased employee service firm with an office in Florence.

The SWC currently manages two grants funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to employ a fisher crew to conduct stream restoration work. One grant targets riparian planting projects throughout the watershed that were sponsored by either the SWC or the Siuslaw Soil & Water Conservation District. The other grant was obtained specifically to conduct work on Mapleton Ranger District riparian restoration projects managed by the US Forest Service.

Fishers work under the daily direction of Jeff Jones for the Siuslaw Watershed Council and Ralph Lampman for the US Forest Service. The crew participates in site condition assessment, tree planting release and protection, and new tree planting. Crew members are compensated at \$15 per hour and are reimbursed at the current federal rate for mileage.

Interested fishers can contact the Siuslaw Watershed Council, Cardinal Services, and the Oregon Salmon Commission for more information.





Did you have fun at Camp?

Did your child have a good experience at Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camp?

Let us know...

We are in the process of writing grant proposals to fund next year's camp. Your letters of support help strengthen our request. Please consider sending a letter of support for the Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camps to Liz Vollmer-Buhl at the SWC. Address the letter to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Both camp

sessions and the Saturday workshops were funded by OWEB.

And if you learned a lot during the paddle trip at SWEC-Advanced Camp, please consider writing a Thank You letter addressed to Western Lane Community Foundation (WLCF). WLCF funded the Siuslaw Watertrail paddle trip for the campers and camp staff. Liz will forward your Thank You onto the foundation.

Thank you also to parents and the other private donors whose contributions helped to fund both camp sessions.

RAFFLE

Save your money...

for the big raffle drawing at the November General Council Meeting. We will have great prize packages. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The raffle raises funds for the SWC General Fund.

Stay tuned for info about the great prize packages!

Tickets will be available at the September, October, and November SWC General Meetings.



Horton Meadow Knapweed Outreach and Status

The Council met at the Triangle Grange hall on Wednesday, July 25, to offer an opportunity to gather local community members with the working group that has assembled to address issues over the control of the invasive pasture plant meadow knapweed. Although our target audience, Horton landowners, were not in attendance at the Wednesday night meeting, the forum proved to be an informative session for other Lake Creek area landowners and the general council membership to learn about this noxious weed and the threats that it poses to land management goals.

Working group members from the Eugene BLM, ODOT, ODA, Lane County, the Institute for Applied Ecology, and the US Army Corps of Engineers attended and spoke about the ecology, spread, and control of meadow knapweed. This meeting was the first step toward integrating local landowner concerns and input into potential visions for creating a workable control plan. The primary goal of any knapweed control in Horton is to prevent it from spreading further outside the area. However, local knapweed eradication projects may emerge and could align with watershed restoration goals.

On Saturday, July 28, the council followed up the Wednesday evening forum with the second Saturday watershed workshop event of the summer. The crowd initially gathered at Swamp Creek Road to tour the culverts and stream reach currently being planned for a restoration project. BLM fisheries biologist Leo Poole and SWC coordinator Todd Miller led the tour.

The second half of the morning was spent in Horton at a meadow knapweed control demonstration site and discuss invasive species. BLM representatives Teresa Coble and Nancy Sawtelle led the attendees on a discussion of the meadow knapweed issue. Several local landowners attended and provided valuable input for the working group to start strategizing potential efforts to work with the community on knapweed control projects. The BLM and SWC plan to be at the Blachly Fair on September 8 and 9 to provide further information.

OSU invasive species expert Sam Chan attended the July 28 sessions and provided valuable insight and points to consider on recognizing, preventing, and controlling invasive species to ensure successful project outcomes. SWC native plant distribution and water quality monitoring coordinator Liz Vollmer-Buhl emphasized opportunities for landowners to get involved with council programs that integrate with restoration projects.

Siuslaw Watershed Council Calendar

September 22-23—Tsalila, the Umpqua River Festival, Reedsport.
See www.tsalila.com

September 26—SWC General Council Meeting: 6:30 pm, Mapleton Grange Hall, East Mapleton Road.

October 4—SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Mapleton library.

October 1—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.*)

October 10—SWC Exec. Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm location to be announced.

October 16—Monthly Siuslaw Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Day.

October 24—SWC General Council Meeting: Coastal Lakes Watershed Forum: 6:30 pm, Dunes City or Florence (*location pending*)



An Event to Consider

October 5—Salmonpeople—A deeply spiritual tale about caring for creation: 7:30, Florence Events Center, 541-997-1994

Monthly Meeting Roundup

The Siuslaw Watershed Council's monthly meetings and presentations have been making their way outside of our usual venue at the Mapleton Grange hall. Below is a review of our August meeting and what is coming up for the rest of the year. Please note special meeting places, dates, and times.

August 29, 6:00 PM – Ray & Kathy Robinson's property, Deadwood: Annual SWC Volunteer and Student Appreciation Picnic. Volunteers, project partners, camp participants, and staff enjoyed a potluck picnic and train rides at the Robinson's Meadows & Lake Kathleen Railroad and Robinson State Park. The hard-work, time, and dedication of those who make the SWC efforts a reality was recognized through words, gifts, a raffle, and fun.

September 26, 6:30 PM – Mapleton Grange hall, Mapleton: BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions and Council Updates. We return to our usual meeting place on East Mapleton Road for the September meeting date. BLM Siuslaw Area Field Manager Bill Hatton will present. See the article on the BLM plan release in this newsletter for more information. Council coordinator Todd Miller will also update the Leadership Board on summer projects and activities and plans for the fall.

October 24, 6:30 PM – Dunes City (tentative): Coastal Lakes Forum. Note the special meeting date on the 4th Wednesday, not last Wednesday of the month. The SWC will host a series of presentations of interest about coastal lakes fisheries, water quality, and restoration, including an overview of the Fivemile-Belle restoration project on a tributary to Tahkenitch Lake.

November 28, 6:30 PM – Mapleton Grange hall, Mapleton (tentative): Annual council end of year celebration potluck. Fundraising raffle drawing.

December – no meeting.

BLM Proposes New Management Approach for Western Oregon

On August 9, The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released for public review and comment a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for future management of 2.5 million acres of public lands in Western Oregon. The majority of these lands fall under the direction of the Oregon & California (O&C) Lands Act of 1937 that requires the BLM to manage these western Oregon lands for permanent forest production while providing economic benefit to local communities and ensuring watershed health.

The BLM O&C lands account for most of the federal land management in the eastern half of the Siuslaw watershed and comprise the “checkerboard” ownership pattern observed in the square mile tracts on maps. Over 50% of the land in the Siuslaw watershed is federally managed. The BLM’s Siuslaw Area Field Manager, Bill Hatton, will visit Mapleton on September 26 to give a presentation on the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) at the Siuslaw Watershed Council’s monthly meeting.

The release of the draft EIS document starts a 90-day public comment period. Comments and suggestions from the public along with ideas from cooperating agencies will be used by the BLM to craft proposed resource management plans that will be analyzed in a Final Environmental Impact Statement next year. Copies of the document can be reviewed in many libraries and BLM offices in western Oregon. A limited number of paper documents and electronic documents on Compact Disk are available from the BLM as well. The complete document and background information is also available on the web at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr>. Comments must be received or postmarked before November 10, 2007. Comments can be submitted electronically from the web site or mailed to:

Western Oregon Plan Revisions
P.O. BOX 2965
Portland, OR 97208

BLM to Review Western Oregon Management Plan Proposal with Siuslaw Watershed Council

At our next meeting on Wednesday, September 24, 2007, 6:30 PM at the Mapleton Grange hall on East Mapleton Road, BLM Siuslaw Area Field Manager Bill Hatton will present the Western Oregon Plan Revisions to the SWC community. There will be ample time for audience questions to help inform ourselves on how potential alternatives of the WOPR may change BLM management in the Siuslaw watershed. SWC currently plans and prioritizes watershed restoration on current management regimes for late successional reserve forestland and long-term habitat recovery on BLM lands. The SWC’s actions are also directly and indirectly affected by funding available to the federal agencies, Lane County, and the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). Changes in BLM management may result in changes to available local funding. From a watershed restoration standpoint, our main interest will be to understand what changes we may see to lands and funds available for restoration.

SWC Plans Coastal Lakes Forum for October 24, 6:00 – 9:00 PM Location to be determined in the Florence to Dunes City area

SWC is planning a special multi-presentation forum on issues related to watershed issues for the Siuslaw area coastal lakes. SWC formally covers and plans projects in the lakes area ranging from Heceta Head to the Umpqua River. The purpose of the forum is to present and discuss inter-related lakes topics such as water quality, fisheries habitat, and stream restorations, and to learn from the lakes community what watershed restoration issues are most important to them. SWC and partner organizations will achieve better success with projects that are planned in tandem with the interests, participation, and support of local landowners and community members.

Note the special meeting date on the 4th Wednesday (October 24), not last Wednesday (October 31) of the month. There will not be another general council meeting in October aside from the coastal lakes forum. Please plan accordingly.

Topics planned to be covered through with local partners and specially invited speakers include:

- coastal lakes natural history
- state habitat conservation strategies and salmon fisheries
- noxious aquatic weeds
- water quality
- coastal lakes watersheds restoration priorities
- an overview of the Fivemile-Belle restoration project (a tributary to Tahkenitch Lake)

Please look for the October newsletter and consult the SWC Web site to confirm the forum location. We hope to see you there!



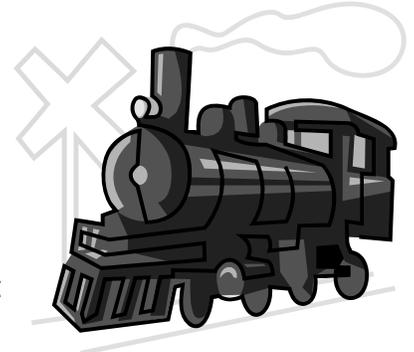
Great August 2007 Volunteer Appreciation Picnic!

Over three dozen volunteers, camp participants, and project partners were celebrated at the Annual SWC Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on Wednesday, August 29, 2007 at Ray and Kathy Robinson's Meadows and Lake Kathleen Railroad and picnic grounds. The Robinsons very kindly donated the use of their property for the picnic. The SWC appreciates their donation. Everyone enjoyed the train rides. Thanks to everyone who attended and brought food and good conversation to share.

Thank you to the following businesses who donated prizes or food for the picnic:

- Splash, Florence
- Burrito Los Amigos, Florence
- Terra Tech, Eugene
- Paul's Bicycle Way of Life, Eugene
- Cytomax (www.cytosport.com)
- Dahlia's Secret Garden, Florence
- Mother May I, Florence
- Randy's Riverview Market, Mapleton

Please let these local businesses know that we appreciate their support of the SWC and our volunteers!



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:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Telephone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Please choose any of the following:

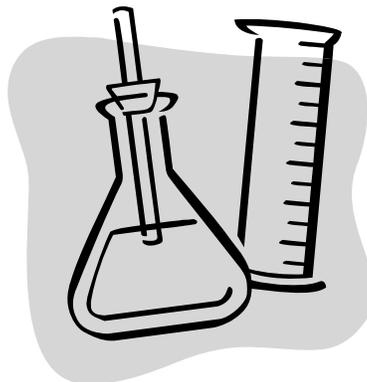
- Tax-deductible membership enclosed (\$10 regular, \$0 students).
- Additional tax-deductible donation enclosed. Amount \$ _____

Direct to: General Fund Endowment Research Program (name): _____

- I am interested in volunteer opportunities with the Siuslaw Watershed Council

Thank you!

September 2007



Water Quality News



- Thanks to all the WQ volunteers who attended the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. We are grateful for all the time that you have donated throughout the years.
- Mapleton School District is kindly providing temporary lab space for the SWC WQ Laboratory during the remodel of the SWC office/USFS building.
- Volunteers—The times for sample drop off may

change due to the beginning of the school year. Check your reminder postcard for details. **Sample drop-off site will still be the SWC office/USFS Compound.**

- The new Data in the Spotlight on the website (www.siuslaw.org) is the *E. coli* data from the site on Lake Creek near Greenleaf.
- Contact Liz Vollmer-Buhl at monitoring@siuslaw.org or 541-268-3044 with any questions.

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

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What's Happening In Your Watershed?