

Siuslaw WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

AUGUST 2006

www.siuslaw.org
watershed@siuslaw.org

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

• Community • Economy • Environment

Message from the Coordinator...



Over a dozen students participated in our fourth annual summer watershed exploration camp this summer. See page 4 for a wrap up of the watershed camp. We initially planned to honor the students and celebrate the end of camp with them at barbeque camp out at the end of the program. Due to limitations and logistics of a camp out, we will instead celebrate the student camp participants at our August general meeting with all of you. Please join us on August 30 at the Watershed Council office in Mapleton for a barbeque picnic and open house during our annual celebration of students and volunteers. See page 6 for celebration details.

Volunteers are an essential element of our organization. Leadership Board members, Executive Committee members, and Technical Team advisors help run the council. We are especially thankful for the landowners who voluntarily participate in stream enhancement projects to help improve the Siuslaw Watershed. Less commonly acknowledged volunteerism comes to the council through partnership and participation. Timber companies, federal agency personnel, and private landowners volunteer their time and access to their lands for tours, research, and educational opportunities. Landowners, agency staff, researchers, and other natural resource experts volunteer their time toward educating council participants and the general public about watershed issues. Every individual who gets involved in this way strengthens the importance, understanding, and outcomes of what we do for the Siuslaw Watershed system.

Students who participate in our programs directly with the schools or through summer camp gain valuable early experiences in learning about their ecosystems, streams, fisheries, timberlands, land management, landscape processes, public policy, civics, and their own deep sense of place about their backyard in the Siuslaw watershed. Thank you volunteers, thank you educators, and

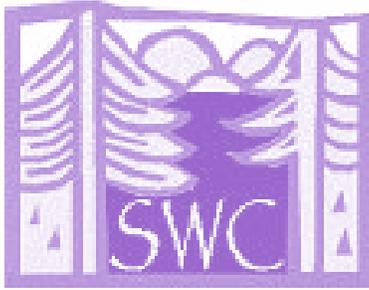
thank you students for your engaged enthusiasm. We are looking forward to celebrating the past year's students and volunteers at the upcoming barbeque and open house.

Welcome Coastal Lakes to official participation in the Siuslaw Watershed Council...

In July the Leadership Board approved the adoption of the coastal lakes areas north and south of the mouth of the Siuslaw River into our official boundaries. The lakes drainages, with the exception of the Munsel Lake and Creek system, shed waters through streams that flow directly to the ocean, rather than the Siuslaw River, and therefore are not technically part of the Siuslaw watershed. However, the series of dunal lakes from Lily Lake just south of Heceta Head to Tahkenitch Lake just north of the Umpqua River share much in common with the mouth of the river.

The river flows through, interacts with, and is redirected by the dunes which impound the system of lakes. Although the dunes are a unique feature to the Siuslaw system, the riparian habitat and water quality concerns are similar throughout the coastal watersheds. The lakes and river are inextricably linked through the dunal aquifer as in interconnected system of drainages in the sand, whether it is a lake outlet or a river mouth. Together with the upper river watershed they comprise a Siuslaw coastal drainage system.

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**Siuslaw Watershed
Council**

Tel: 541-268-3044

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Staff

Coordinator: *Todd Miller*

coordinator@siuslaw.org

Administrative Assistant::

Liz Vollmer-Buhl

watershed@siuslaw.org

Monitoring Coordinator:

Liz Vollmer-Buhl

monitoring@siuslaw.org

GIS Specialist:

Eric Sproles

gis@siuslaw.org

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

Project Proposal News

2007 is shaping up as a year of major culvert replacement projects. Two culvert projects slated for 2006 were delayed until next year. The Elk Creek culvert at Thompson Creek Road culvert experienced some technical delays to proper planning. The Knapp Creek culverts at Nelson Mountain Road project was set back for county funding issues. Meanwhile, Lane County and the Siuslaw Watershed Council were recently approved for funding via the Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Committee to replace the Holland Creek culvert on Siuslaw River Road near Alma. The council will leverage that secured funding to help replace the nearby Conger Creek culverts. The council also received tentative funding from the Resource Advisory Committee to replace the Walker Creek Road culverts in Walton. We are currently exploring a stream enhancement project opportunity which would include the replacement of the Swamp Creek Road culvert at the BLM controlled section of road. All of these culverts are among the 19 priority culverts identified by the Technical Team in 2004. Two of these 19 culverts were addressed in a project recently completed in the Upper Wildcat watershed. The project was led by Jason Kirchner of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and involved land-owner Roseburg Resources to complete. Jason also is wrapping up a stream enhancement project on Pugh Creek this month.

Two proposal opportunities that may directly engage coastal lakes areas in assessment and mapping are the Two Basins Limiting Factors Analysis, which if funded will provide assessment of the Smith Creek and Little Siuslaw drainage in the upper watershed and the Fivemile Creek drainage in the south lakes. Our partner in fish passage and culvert mapping, Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, has proposed a Hire-the-Fishers program opportunity for culvert inventories in the Mid-Coast Basin. This project would provide a complete inventory of culverts in a few select Siuslaw sub-watersheds. The south lakes area may be a targeted area if the project is funded.

The Council has partnered with the Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District to submit a Hire-the-Fishers proposal for a year-long effort in riparian release and tree establishment. This project would hire a crew of displaced fishers to enhance fish habitat in the watershed by brushing around riparian tree plantings, protecting trees against damage, and replacing trees that have died.

We are looking forward to a busy 2007 with this list of potential projects.

Interested in Becoming an Office Volunteer?

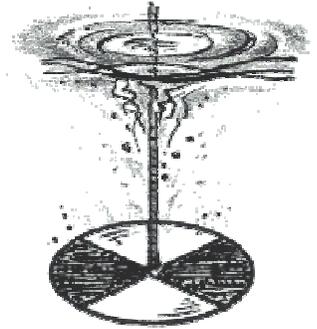
The Siuslaw Watershed Council has many opportunities for organization project assistance and office maintenance. Please contact us to register your skills and interest in helping with photo cataloging, supply inventory, equipment management, and other office tasks. Currently we are seeking some dedicated individuals to see a few short-term tasks through to completion. These individuals will work under the direction of Administrative Assistant, Liz Vollmer-Buhl, or Coordinator, Todd Miller.

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program Updates

Our Siuslaw Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program received a compliment this month, I have been requested to speak about our program and its accomplishments at the OWEB Biennial Conference in October. One of the major strengths of our program, that other groups appreciate, is the volunteer involvement. Trained adult and youth volunteers from Florence, Triangle Lake, Blachly, and Mapleton collect and process samples. Other members of the community learn from the volunteers, as they share about the VWQMP and watershed health. Good job volunteers!

We are in the process of updating our WQ database, which should allow us to more easily track and graph data. Stay tuned for further info!

Do you have a few hours 'here or there' that you could volunteer to the VWQMP? In some months we need additional help in the lab either preparing for the sampling day or processing samples, entering data, putting together new kits, etc. Please let me know if you are interested or contact me with any questions: Liz Vollmer-Buhl, Monitoring Coordinator, monitoring@siuslaw.org, 541-268-3044.



Native Plants: Bits and Pieces

This month we have a veritable patchwork quilt of information about native plants, enjoy!

- ⊗ Check to make sure that your young native trees are growing straight. Sometimes the leaders will grow out the sides of the protective tubes or beaver fencing, this can damage the tree as it matures. Carefully pull the leader or cut the tube or fencing to free the leader and gently redirect it upright.
- ⊗ Keep an eye on the natives that you planted this winter, they may need watering in the dry days of late August/early September.
- ⊗ Mulching can help young plants retain moisture.
- ⊗ In the long run growing native plants is generally cheaper than landscaping with non-natives, according to a study by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Using free native plants from the Siuslaw Native Plant Distribution can lower costs even further.
- ⊗ Many native plants are producing edible fruit right now, including the Oregon Grape. Historically the root was of more medicinal and dietary value than the fruit. An overdose of the root can be fatal. Make sure that you confirm the identity of any plant before you consume it and know what parts and how much can be safely consumed.
- ⊗ See our website, www.siuslaw.org, for updates about the Siuslaw Native Plant Distribution.

THANK YOU to all landowners who are allowing us to access Lake Creek and its tributaries this summer and fall as we collect temperature data to create the Heatsource model for Lake Creek.

Siuslaw Watershed Council Calendar

August 30—Siuslaw Watershed Council Student and Volunteer Appreciation Picnic: 6:30 pm, Siuslaw Watershed Council office, Upper Compound on HWY 36, Mapleton.

September 7—SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

September 11—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.*)

September 13—SWC Exec. Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

September 20—Monthly Siuslaw Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Day.

September 20— Stewardship Forestry for Non-Industrial Private Land Workshop: 6:30-8:30 pm, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Road (Call Johnny Sundstrom, 541-964-5901, after Sept. 10 for more information).

September 27—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:30 pm, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Road.

...Coordinator's Message *Continued from page 1*

The Siuslaw Watershed Council has partnered in watershed enhancement projects in the lakes area for many years. The formal adoption of the coastal lakes into our council boundary provides several new benefits. Coastal lakes landowners are now represented by two new positions on the Leadership Board: North Coastal Lakes and South Coastal Lakes. Coastal lakes watershed issues will be given more opportunities for consideration when assessing enhancement and project opportunities.

We are seeking Leadership Board representation of the North Coastal Lakes (including the Sutton, Mercer, and Munsel areas) and South Coastal Lakes (including the Woahink, Siltcoos, and Tahkenitch areas). Johan Hogervorst, the Dunes City resident who is representing the South Coastal Lakes position in its first month of inception, is relocating in September out of the area. We also have a vacancy in the newly revised Upper Siuslaw representative area. If you represent the Lorane, Wolf Creek, or Alma areas upriver from Esmond Creek, please notify us of your interest.

Todd Miller

Volunteers...

Have you been filling out your time & mileage logs?

Siuslaw Watershed Council

Student and Volunteer Picnic



Wednesday, August 30

6:30 pm

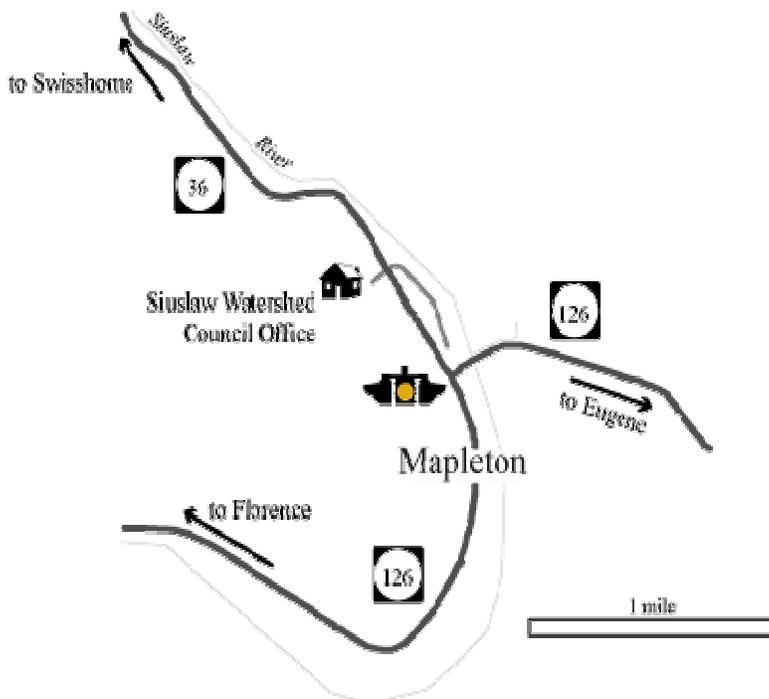


Siuslaw Watershed Council office

Upper Compound, HWY 36 in Mapleton

- ★ There will be displays of accomplishments, prizes for volunteers and great food!
- ★ We will provide hamburgers, hotdogs and veggie burgers with fixings, sodas and coffee and cake!
- ★ Bring your favorite picnic dish, friends and family, and lawn chairs or blankets.

Directions to the Siuslaw Watershed Council Office



From the bridge over the Siuslaw River in Mapleton, approach the blinking yellow light and turn right. Go about 1/2 mile (the Council office driveway is directly across from the turn to Riverview Avenue). Turn left, go up the hill and over the railroad tracks. From the road you'll see a sign that says Siuslaw Watershed Council on the office building.

Directions and map are also available on our website, www.siuslaw.org.

July 2006

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Nichols, Council Treasurer*

Beginning Cash	\$24,001.83		
		JULY	YEAR TO DATE
INCOME			
Dues			\$650.00
Federal Grants			\$15,522.36
State Grants	\$16,500.00		\$58,656.73
Private Grants	\$93.50		\$6,718.11
Interest	\$121.08		\$527.47
Donations & Misc.			\$3,422.00
Administrative Funds			\$2,805.73
Project Management			
Other			\$80.14
TOTAL INCOME	\$16,714.58		\$88,427.54
EXPENSES			
Grant Expenses		\$20,808.57	\$95,189.26
Other		\$353.15	\$5,494.68
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$21,161.72	\$100,683.94
Ending Cash	\$19,554.69		

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: _____

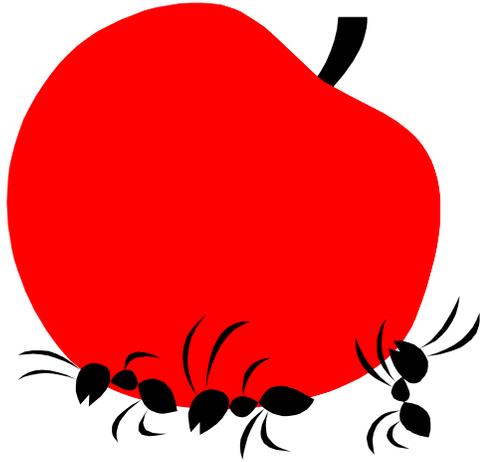
Address: _____

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 2006



We hope to see you at the...
SWC Volunteer Picnic

August 30, 6:30 pm
(In lieu of our monthly meeting)

at the SWC office

(see page 6 for details)

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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WATERSHED COUNCIL

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What's Happening In Your Watershed?