

Winter 2025

SIUSLAW

WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

What's Happening in Your Watershed?

Spawning Ground Surveys



SWC staff are working this winter to assist the Bureau of Land Management with monitoring salmon populations spawning in a number of remote reaches of stream throughout the watershed. All of this data will be compiled and used by the Bureau of Land Management to inform actions moving forward, build more complete records of salmon numbers, and identify the habitat they utilize. But just how is this monitoring work accomplished?

Most of the day is spent in the water; while it is ideal to walk on the banks when possible to prevent disturbance of the salmon, the banks are frequently overgrown to the extent that the only clear path forward to survey is the stream itself. A surveyor will have to contend with high water during periods of heavy rain, fast currents, slick rocks, beaver dams, and log jams—both those intentionally placed to create habitat¹, and those naturally occurring. Waders often leak, from pinprick holes caused by thorny brush to tears opened scrambling over logs, and the day's end frequently finds surveyors wringing water from their socks and the legs of their pants.

Salmon are tallied; the reaches surveyed for the BLM by SWC largely contain Coho, which utilize smaller spawning gravels and sites further up the headwaters than the larger Chinook salmon. Excavated nests, or redds, are carefully noted and marked to prevent double counting and ensure their protection during future surveys. Salmon are semelparous – they die after reproducing – so as the season progresses more and more dead salmon are encountered.





STAFF

Mizu Burruss
Project Manager
restoration@siuslaw.org

Britnee Church
Project Manager
britnee@siuslaw.org

Adam Cook
Restoration Technician
adam@siuslaw.org

Caleb Mentzer
Project Manager
projects@siuslaw.org

Tim Moffett
Executive Director
tim@siuslaw.org

Linda Poppenheimer
Financial Manager
financial@siuslaw.org

Elijah Yager
Project Manager
elijah@siuslaw.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Margaret Corvi

Vice President:

Carollee Howes

Secretary:

Wendy Farley-Campbell

Treasurer: Rodger Bennett

Representatives:

Kevin Carroll

Becky Goehring

Jim Grano

Rosemary Pazdral

Amy Tregoning

Noelle Windesheim

NEWSLETTER DESIGNER
Kate Harnedy

These too are tallied, and left where they are as a vital source of nutrients for the ecosystem, self-delivered from the ocean. In one day, SWC covers around 5.2 stream miles on five streams in a 3¾ mile radius.

While the work can be hard, surveyors are rewarded with a view of the watershed less seen – foaming white water cascading around moss-covered boulders, deep clear pools under the shelter of vine maple and salmonberry, birds perched on logs amidst the flow piping shrilly to their neighbors, and of course the salmon, making their way to the high reaches of their natal streams to reproduce and carry on their species.

Large wood placements help slow the flow of water, create diverse habitat, and accrue spawning gravels in which these salmon (the reaches surveyed largely contain Coho) will excavate nests, or 'redds,' where they will then deposit their eggs.

*Contributed by Elijah Yager,
Project Manager*



Monthly Community Events for 2025



The Siuslaw Watershed Council's Community Outreach, Recreation, and Education program is excited to announce a new lineup of monthly community events for 2025.

SWC's community events are free to the public and sign-ups will be posted prior to each event on our website and Facebook page. Please note that the following list may be subject to change.

January

Siuslaw Watershed Council's Annual Community Meeting

February

Native Plant Distribution Volunteer Day

March

Connecting People with the Healing Power of Nature

April

Estuary Trash Cleanup

May

Spring Cycling Trip

June

Invasive Species Pull

July

Restoration Site Tour

August

Sweet Creek Trail Work Volunteer Day

September

Baskets and Berries

October

Fall River Paddle

November

Mushroom Foraging and Cooking Demonstration

December

Swim with the Salmon



Recap on SWC's Mushroom Hunting Events



This year, the Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) hosted not one, but two highly successful mushroom hunting events. There's always some uncertainty when organizing foraging trips, especially with the possibility of coming up empty-handed. In the Pacific Northwest there's a high presence of commercial pickers, adding to the challenge, as you never know if there will be someone picking in your known spot or even a new one that was just scouted days before. However, this year turned out to be exceptional for mushrooms. Chanterelles, along with other species, were flourishing in abundance, even popping up in places we hadn't seen before. Every participant at both events was able to find their fair share of mushrooms, while adhering to the forest's regulations (one-gallon limit without a permit.)

We led groups into the Siuslaw National Forest through the rain, with a total of 27 participants across both events, not including staff. We trekked across uneven terrain and navigated through dense shrubs and towering trees. Despite the rugged environment, everyone was able to experience the fun and reward of foraging for their own food and of course the satisfaction of a successful harvest. We also added a small culinary experience, sautéing the mushrooms in olive oil, butter, onion, and garlic salt. Of course, if you're a fan of wild mushrooms, they're delicious in just about anything!

This season, we were able to forage three different types of mushrooms – here's some information below on what we found:

Hedgehog mushroom (*Hydnum repandum*): Easiest identified by cap color, size, and presence of spines instead of gills. They are generally small mushrooms, rarely getting larger than 6-8" in diameter. Caps are creamy white, tan, light orange, or deep orange. Underneath the cap is a dense covering of thin downward-hanging spines or teeth. Hedge hogs on the west coast are mostly found in conifer forest scattered through the ground growing in leaf litter. During our event we found them near rhododendrons and evergreen huckleberries.

Yellow foot (*Craterellus tubaeformis*): Also known as winter chanterelles, these mushrooms are easily identified by their bright yellow stems, which are hollow and tube-like. They have a funnel or trumpet shape and are mostly yellow with a grayish-brown cap. Yellow foot chanterelles are small, typically only a few inches tall, and are found on the forest floor or decaying wood. They are mycorrhizal, forming symbiotic relationships with specific trees. Two species prefer conifer forests, while one is associated with hardwoods.

Golden chanterelles (*Cantharellus cibarius*): One of the most sought-after mushrooms in Oregon, prized for both their flavor and the fact that they can't be cultivated. Like their relative the yellow foot, they are mycorrhizal fungi, forming a symbiotic relationship with conifers such as Douglas-fir, Sitka spruce, and western hemlock. This makes them heavily dependent on the forest ecosystem for growth. Golden chanterelles are known to appear in the same spots year after year, typically from July to January, depending on weather conditions. They thrive in the cool, moist conditions of the Pacific Northwest, where their symbiotic relationship with trees ensures a steady supply of nutrients. Chanterelles are light yellow to dark golden-yellow-orange. The classic golden chanterelle will have the same color throughout. Chanterelle caps are smooth and have false gills—more like ridges that stretch from the stem of the mushroom forming a triangular base underneath the cap.

The chanterelles we found were nestled in salal, as well as beneath moss and ferns. While this makes the hunt more exciting, it also makes the mushrooms harder to spot. It's important to note that there are false chanterelles, so if you're foraging on your own, please be cautious and ensure you're certain about what you're harvesting before consuming it. A rule I always follow is this: if I don't know a mushroom 110%, I assume it's poisonous until I can confirm otherwise. For more information on harvesting wild mushrooms in the Siuslaw National Forest, please visit their website at: www.fs.usda.gov/main/siuslaw/passes-permits/forestproducts. As always, please be a responsible steward of the land.

Special thanks to our local self-taught guide Fernando. With his assistance, each mushroom hunting event we've hosted has been a success. Thank you!

Contributed by Britnee Church, Project Manager



Native Plant Distribution 2025 Reminder

If you haven't placed your NPD order yet, be sure to do so soon, as some plant stocks are running low or have already run out. Ordering will remain open until January 31st. This year's distribution will take place on Saturday, February 15th, to accommodate the nurseries. If you need assistance with your order or just have questions about the program, feel free to reach out via phone or email at nativeplants@siuslaw.org or 541-268-3044.

In addition to picking up your plants, visit an interactive mapping station hosted by The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. The Tribes want to hear from members of the community about potential sources of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution in the Lower North Fork Siuslaw Watershed. The challenge of identifying sources of NPS pollution is in the name – i.e. that NPS pollution is discharged indirectly in waterways, not from a specific source. NPS pollution generally results from land runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, drainage, seepage or hydrologic modification. More information to come!

*Contributed by Britnee Church,
SWC Project Manager*



Mapleton

10AM—12PM

SWC Office

10868 E Mapleton Rd

Deadwood

10AM—12PM

Deadwood Community
Center

Lorane

10AM—11:30AM

Alesong Brewing &
Blending

Blachly

1PM—2PM

Lake Creek Fire and
Rescue

Siuslaw Watershed Council Mission Statement

SWC 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.



SIUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 25th, 2025
12:00 Noon

Deadwood Community Center
91792 Deadwood Creek Rd
Deadwood, OR 97430

All are welcome to join the Siuslaw Watershed Council's annual meeting as we look back on a year of accomplishments and look forward to 2025!

Potluck Dinner

Please bring a small dish to share, if able

Plant and Seed Exchange

Bring a plant, take a plant
Any type--potted, bare root, native,
house plant, seeds


Project Updates

Learn about recently completed and upcoming habitat restoration projects

Door Prizes

Election of Leadership Body & Board of Directors

Must be a current member to vote; annual membership requires a donation of any amount (typically \$25)





NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MAPLETON, OR 97453
PERMIT NO. 5

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



[siuslawwatershedcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/siuslawwatershedcouncil)



[@siuslaw_watershed](https://www.instagram.com/siuslaw_watershed)

Winter 2025 Newsletter

Page 1-2: Spawning Ground Surveys

Page 6 : Native Plant Distribution Reminder

Page 3: Monthly Community Events

Page 7: SWC Annual Meeting

Page 4-5: Recap on SWC's Mushroom
Hunting Events



Photo from Spawning Ground Surveys, Pages 1-2