



## Siuslaw Watershed Council

Community • Economy • Environment  
www.siuslaw.org

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March 30, 2007

Dear Siuslaw Watershed Council Community Member & Partner:

I am pleased to present the Siuslaw Watershed Council's 2006 Annual Report. The report highlights our many past year accomplishments toward our annual, biennial, and long-term goals and objectives. We are enthused to demonstrate the results of our growing partnerships and community collaborations with local landowners, federal, state, and county government, and other organizations. Our endeavors resulted in stream restoration, vegetation and forestry management, youth education programs, community awareness, and better knowledge and shared understanding of our watershed resources.

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is looking forward to continuing our efforts in 2007 with the groundwork gained and relationships built during 2006.

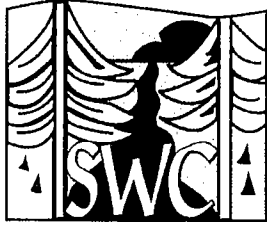
Best regards,

*Todd A. Miller*

Todd A. Miller  
Coordinator

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*The 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 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 2006 Annual Report

Community-Economy-Environment

## Mission Statement

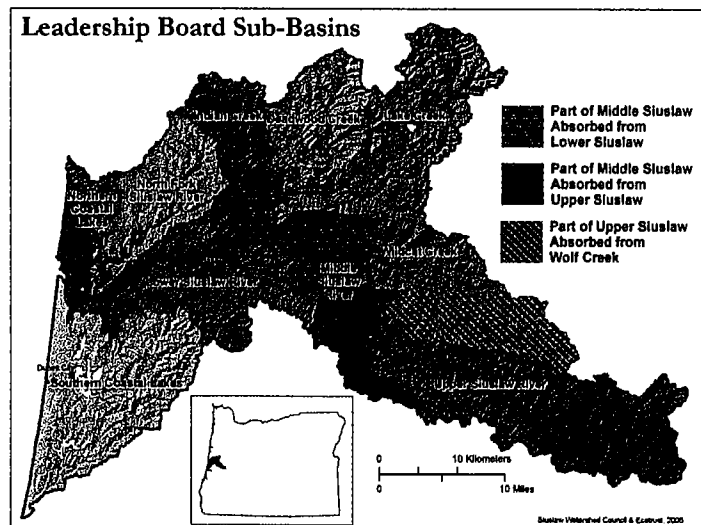
The Siuslaw Watershed Council supports sound economic, social, and environmental uses of natural and human resources in the Siuslaw River Basin. The Council encourages cooperation among public and private entities to promote awareness and understanding of watershed functions by adopting and implementing a total watershed approach to natural resource management and production.

## Siuslaw Watershed Notes of Interest

- The 504,000 acre (773 square mile) Siuslaw River Basin was historically one of the most abundant anadromous fish producers in the Pacific Northwest and was the largest producer south of the Columbia River. The watershed is in western Lane County and southern portions of the river and lakes drainages extend into Douglas County.
- The Siuslaw Watershed comprises over 90% timberlands and over 50% of the basin is in federal land management (Siuslaw National Forest and Bureau of Land Management).
- Coho and chinook salmon, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat trout are among the major fish populations that rely on access to upstream habitats for various life stages. Coho salmon are especially diminished compared to historical numbers.
- The Siuslaw River is headwatered in the Willamette Valley ecoregion in broad, low-gradient valleys, flows through the Coast Range ecoregion in steep, mountainous terrain and eventually widens into over 16 miles of estuary before discharging to the Pacific Ocean through the extensive Oregon Dunes.

## Membership & Participation

The SWC is open to all dues-paying community members and stakeholders in the Siuslaw River Basin and the Coastal Lakes. Membership currently exceeds 100 local residents and entities. All meetings are open to the general public. A 27-stakeholder-position Leadership Board, either elected or appointed per position, advises the functions and programs of the Council. A primary and an alternate representative is encouraged for each position. Currently 35 members sit on the Leadership Board. An Executive Committee of up to 9 Leadership Board members serves as the Council's Board of Directors for organizational decisions and fiscal



management. The Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District provides the Council's fiscal administration.

In 2006 the SWC formally expanded its service area to include the Coastal Lakes north and south of Florence. This expansion is recognized by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and gives our long-standing partners on this part of the coast two new Leadership Board positions.

### **Executive Committee and Staff**

The following SWC board members comprised the 2006 SWC Executive Committee: Paula "Cricket" Crowder, Chair (Education Co-Representative), Steve Elliot, Vice Chair (Middle Siuslaw River Landowner Representative), Nancy Nichols, Treasurer (Deadwood Creek Landowner Representative), Bill Fleenor, Secretary (At Large Representative), Dave Eisler (Wildcat Creek Landowner Representative), Noland Huntington (North Fork Siuslaw River Landowner Representative), Barbara Beers (Indian Creek Landowner Representative), and Jim Grano (Education Representative).

SWC Coordinator and Executive Director Todd Miller oversees council operations and staffing. The following part-time staff contributed to SWC operations in 2006: Liz Vollmer-Buhl (Monitoring Coordinator and Field Technician) provided project management and support services, Eric Sproles (Watershed Geographer) provided GIS management and monitoring data coordination for the Siuslaw Basin Partnership, and Ginger Fincher (Office Aide) provided administrative support. Staff are made possible through combinations of direct project grant funding, administrative project funding, and volunteer program partnerships.

### **Guiding Framework**

The SWC operates within the frameworks provided by several formally reviewed and produced guiding documents. The 2004 *Strategic Plan* outlines the primary goals & objectives for the next 10 years; all actions, activities, and projects undertaken by the SWC meet one or more of the strategic objectives. Current working priorities are identified in our *2005-2007 Biennial Work Plan*. Work Plan elements are developed by technical and outreach advisors to address the *Watershed Assessment*, the *Strategic Plan*, and several prioritization plans for issues such as sub-watershed restoration potential, culverts & tidegates, and estuary wetlands.

## **2006 Accomplishments**

### **Project Accomplishments**

During 2006, the Siuslaw Watershed Council sponsored and completed the following projects, including several endeavors that spanned two or three years.

Upper Wildcat Stream Enhancement: By partnering with ODFW and Roseburg Resources, three problem culverts were addressed, including two high priority culvert replacements; one at Warden Creek and one on Wildcat Creek. The project included large wood placement along several miles of stream. Funded by OWEB.

Pugh Creek Stream Enhancement: Involving the same project partners as the Upper Wildcat project, we sponsored this project in the Upper Siuslaw watershed downstream of Clay Creek. The project included a culvert replacement and large wood placement. Funded by OWEB.

North Jetty Scots Broom and Gorse Removal: This project removed invasive plants in partnership with Oregon State Parks at the North Jetty area. Students helped complete the work and native vegetation was

planted to restore the natural condition and help prevent the further spread of noxious weeds. Funded by USFS.

Materials Acquisition: This program linked hauling resources with large wood downed by storms to stockpile for future stream restoration activities. Last year two major log recoveries were made from Siuslaw National Forest land and the material was stockpiled and emplaced last fall in Knowles Creek. We are pleased to have been able to serve as the crucial linkage from getting hazard trees at one site to a restoration location at another. Funded by OWEB.

Siuslaw Watershed Road Sign: Realizing a long-standing community vision to post a "Now Entering Siuslaw Watershed" sign at the watershed boundary on Highway 126, a volunteer work party erected a sign at Cougar Pass this past June. Roseburg Resources supplied labor, materials, and the land to host the sign. Funded by OWEB.



Siuslaw TMDL Development: We continued our partnership with Mid-Coast water monitoring groups and the Oregon DEQ in establishing sampling plans and conducting monitoring work toward addressing the development of TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) for the Siuslaw River system. Last summer we completed continuous temperature monitoring of Lake Creek and its major tributaries. Funded by DEQ.

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program: We continued to expand our volunteer program from the estuary into the upper watershed. In 2006 we had full-year monitoring of sites in Triangle Lake, Walton, Lorane. This volunteer program was highlighted at the OWEB conference in Seaside last October. Funded by OWEB.

Siuslaw Basin Rapid Bio-Assessment: Local stream ecologist Charley Dewberry led a snorkel crew on the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of juvenile fish surveys throughout the Siuslaw Watershed. The Rapid Bio-Assessment is a 3-year program to study the 3 year classes of coho salmon spawners. This is a follow-up assessment to an earlier 3-year snorkel study. Once complete later this year, we will have comparative data that will give us current juvenile fish populations throughout our salmon streams and show possible trends from the earlier study. Funded by OWEB and EPA.

Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camp: We hosted this cherished annual workshop series for middle and high school aged students for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. In 2006 we added a 2<sup>nd</sup> week of advanced camp programs and explored the watershed from the Lorane headwaters to the coastal dunes. A guided paddle tour of the Siltcoos Water Trail was a closing highlight of the program. Funded by OWEB.



Siuslaw Riparian Restoration: Last February we hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> annual native plant distribution. Thousands of trees and plants were distributed to scores of property owners, resulting in ever more restoration of our watershed's riparian native vegetation. Funded by USFS.

Siuslaw Basin Riparian Restoration & Release Crew: Last fall, the Siuslaw Soil & Water Conservation District and Council teamed up to hire a crew of local fishers displaced by the closure of salmon fishing due

to the Klamath situation. OWEB created a special funding opportunity to keep our local fishers working out-of-doors through the season. The "fisher crew" conducts tree release, plant maintenance, assessment of re-vegetation success and needs, and planting of additional trees. Funded by OWEB.

Lorane Culverts Survey: We provided tools and oversight for two interns to survey culverts on BLM roads throughout the Lorane area. This project gave us the opportunity to test our newly adopted GIS culvert database field data system; trained volunteers or interns can collect culvert data and measurements directly in the field using handheld GPS and PDA devices. Data are directly uploaded into our main database without need for further entry. Over 100 culverts were surveyed. Funded by BLM.

Nutrient Criteria Development: In 2006 we completed an initial phase of nutrient input and algal community studies on two adjacent estuary tributaries (one actively managed for cattle grazing, the other a full-valley stream restoration). The project team presented the study results at a conference in Washington State last spring. The results will serve as the basis for further study on nutrients in our local stream systems. Funded by EPA.

### **Work Plan Accomplishments**

The Siuslaw Watershed Council met various Work Plan objectives in restoration, monitoring, outreach, and education via funded projects and programs and through outreach and partnerships.

### **RESTORATION**

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To enhance amount and function of low-gradient streams and floodplain habitat in higher priority areas, we initiated a targeted outreach program in the priority with the Siuslaw Basin Partnership in the North Fork Siuslaw. Our combined focus, relationship-building, and restoration support will result in a higher number of better-quality projects with local landowners.

In pursuit of completing enhancements of identified, prioritized fish passage issues, we addressed two top-priority culverts and secured full funding for six culvert replacements. We entered a new level of partnership by agreeing to facilitate the replacement of Lane County and BLM culverts.

Working to enhance and expand estuary health and habitat, we sought wetland conservation opportunities in the North Fork and estuary with Green Point Consulting and McKenzie River Trust. We are seeking tide gate replacements in tandem with estuary projects. We started hosting an estuary committee to advise and co-plan estuary opportunities including wetland conservation, floodplain restoration, water trail opportunities, and dredging issues and commercial needs.

SWC continued in-stream, channel, and associated habitat restoration projects, including our productive partnership with ODFW for projects with timber companies. The Siuslaw SWCD remains our key partner for developing projects with agricultural landowners. Mapping of stream resources and restoration projects, including culvert survey information and status, will help us work with landowners to strategize effective projects.

SWC worked with basin partners to develop and address upslope land management priorities. Landslide prone mapping for priority restoration will be forthcoming as part of the Siuslaw Watershed Restoration Initiative project. Roads assessment for watershed impacts in priority 7<sup>th</sup> fields will also be forthcoming from our GIS program. Forestry thinning projects continue to be supported through our participation on the Siuslaw Stewardship Group and through partnerships seeking economically viable opportunities for small woodlot owners and industrial timber alike to conduct more thinning and large wood recruitment projects.

The Council partnered in workshops geared toward forestland owners to learn about multiple-goal forest stewardship opportunities.

We continued to enhance native riparian vegetation and habitat. Multiple restoration projects involve invasive removal and riparian planting. Our tree distribution program gets thousands of trees out to scores of properties each year and continues to expand.

## MONITORING

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Full basin temperature monitoring is complete for the Siuslaw River and Lake Creek via the TMDL studies done over the past two years. We are working with DEQ and Mid-Coast partners to complete the temperature and shade modeling that will help us prioritize riparian vegetation projects.

We maintain our pursuit of nutrient standards for maximum loading and to evaluate nutrient response to land management and stream restoration scenarios. We completed the first step in nutrient studies with the Nutrient Criteria Development project in 2006. We are currently seeking funding to expand study and apply knowledge of results. More study is needed to understand the complexities of nutrient input, landscape role, and aquatic community interaction. Further study and assessment will ultimately lead to enhanced restoration planning and prioritization.

We continue to record and evaluate changes in juvenile fish abundance and distribution relationships. Our premiere projects include the second full-watershed juvenile salmon snorkel survey, entering its third and final year in 2007, and partnership and support of the Knowles Creek fish trap.

To assess abundance and distribution relationships of biota in the estuary, we sought integration of such data in local endeavors such as the Siuslaw Estuary Dredge Plan and potential wetland mitigation projects, working closely with ODOT, Lane County, the Port of Siuslaw, DSL, and others.

Efforts to implement a coordinated invasive weed mapping and control program were centered on adopting a volunteer field program that will allow us to accurately and easily compile data collected over various times and areas. The culvert mapping program will be adapted for this purpose. We are coordinating with local partners (the Mid Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area group, the Siuslaw SWCD, and federal agencies) to launch an initial weed mapping effort that will be the most productive and valuable.

## OUTREACH

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Bottomland outreach (especially high-priority watersheds in high intrinsic value stream reaches) is a theme of much of our new project development, particularly through SWCD projects and native plant distribution participants.

Outlying area outreach is being achieved through integration with project endeavors, such as the TMDL and water-quality monitoring programs, knotweed identification and awareness, and expanded riparian tree distribution in Lorane. These efforts helped build an expanded landowner base in extended areas.

We expanded the water quality program to upper basin sites through a concerted effort to get into our upper basin communities. The TMDL partnership provides direct Council involvement in the design and implementation of monitoring programs and has helped us get more sites, landowners, and volunteers involved throughout the basin.

Our volunteers are getting more recognition and sense of appreciation through our volunteer appreciation picnics and open house events. Our initiative to get a volunteer office staff person materialized this past year through the Florence JOBS program.

We continued to build community participation through the annual native plant distribution program. The program remains a great tool to gauge the level of commitment and build interest in landowners to do further restoration work.

## EDUCATION / COMMUNITY AWARENESS

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We expanded the Summer Camp with a 2<sup>nd</sup> week of advanced programming covering the entire watershed from Lorane headwaters to the Coastal Lakes.

Our monthly presentations have increased in caliber and community interest – our community forums on large wood placement for stream restoration and landslide risks and roles in the watershed landscape drew record numbers of people to our meetings.

We followed up our university and institute outreach effort from 2005 by adopting a new Web site platform in 2006 that will offer more flexibility to provide content and links that match research interests in academia with research needs in the Siuslaw Watershed. Among linked content will be data sets hosted by partners such as the non-profits, tribes, agencies, and institutes we have built relationships with to improve data sharing capacity.

We improved our communications with community leaders through field visits such as the Watershed Initiative tour and various field tours with the Siuslaw Stewardship Group and Karnowsky Creek partners. We mapped out ways to leverage the effectiveness our monthly newsletter to include regular spots for program updates and hosting newsletter and related meeting information on our Web site.

Our premiere collaborative effort, The Siuslaw Basin Partnership, continues to strengthen and grow, especially on work conducted through the Watershed Initiative and via the *RiverPrize* twinning program with Russia. We met more mutual goals than ever in 2006 through strategic partnerships with federal agencies and county government, including collaborative design, planning, and funding efforts for nine high priority culvert replacements on federal and county roads. Increasing private foundation partnerships is the logical next step for us.

The TMDL partnership with Mid-Coast water monitoring groups has been our premier and most successful cross-watershed venture over the past year. We also partnered with the Dunes City water quality group on an application for DEQ funding for nutrient and sediment studies at Siltcoos and Woahink Lakes.

We initiated partnership staff meetings in 2006 with our fiscal administrator, the Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, to develop more complete and efficient records sharing on our grants programs which are growing more diverse and complex than ever. We will be harnessing computer technologies to improve projects record management and sharing, including a transition of project budget information into accounting software that will allow project and accounting staff to manage records in tandem.

We will embark on a 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Web site improvement in 2007 to set up clear navigation for users to access different sets of information. Once set up, it should take little time for staff to make regular updates for project and other information.

Through progress of the SWRI project in 2006, GIS is now part of our overall project management tools. Data sets for culvert and fish survey projects, for example, are being developed for posting via GIS and

ultimately to be available through the Web. Emerging partnerships for data management with the Benton SWCD fish passage program, the Siletz Tribe for water quality data, and Ecotrust for assessment data will prove valuable for the long-term ensured maintenance and availability of data.

### Siuslaw Watershed Council Fiscal Resources

Each year the SWC applies for and receives grants from a variety of competitive sources to implement restoration, assessment, monitoring, and education programs. Portions of these grants fund Council operating expenses associated with administrating the grants and managing project work. Our general operating budget is bolstered through the biennial council support grants awarded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), membership dues, and donations from agencies and supporting members. In-kind and partner resources are an important part of operating aspect, including office space donated by the US Forest Service, printing and mailing services provided by the BLM, and staff efficiencies gained through low-cost programs like AmeriCorps and the Florence JOBS program.

SWC 2006 Fiscal Report – Operating Expenses		
Source	Allocation	Amount
OWEB 2005-2007 Council Support	Operating expenses, including coordinator payroll	\$41,750
Project Grants (approximate)	Administrative & Fiscal project management	\$18,995
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Outreach Activities	\$1,500
Member dues & donations	Membership & Program expenses	\$2,025
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$64,270</b>

The Siuslaw Watershed Council sponsors and administers project and program funding from federal, state, and private foundation sources on time scales ranging from several months to several years. Portions of project funding support administrative and fiscal management costs and staffing associated with the project endeavor. Project expenses include cash grants and contracts, funding from project partners, and in-kind donations of labor and materials from partner organizations, landowners, and volunteers. **In 2006, SWC completed projects with awarded funding of over \$250,000 and secured over \$1,000,000 for projects to be implemented in 2007.**

### 2007 Planned Activities

Priority Culvert Replacements: We have secured funding and partnerships to complete three Lane County roads culvert replacement projects totaling five culvert replacements (three to be completed by non-county contractors) and an additional project involving two BLM culvert replacements and large wood placement to enhance fish passage and habitat.

Monitoring and Assessment: SWC will facilitate a study of specific factors limiting the function of Smith Creek in the upper Siuslaw basin and Fivemile Creek in the Tahkenitch Lake basin. The endeavor will be led by partners from BLM, USFS, ODFW, and Ecotrust. The analysis will result in the identification





of restoration projects to be completed on those creeks and potentially to be planned on similar nearby creeks. The Council involvement in the TMDL development continues to strive to promote the full understanding of the water-quality issues throughout the watershed the development working with Mid-Coast partners and DEQ on dissolved oxygen and bacteria assessments and sedimentation studies. Fourteen years of data collection on fish population trends at Knowles Creek in Mapleton continues through a USFS partnership.

Education Programs: SWC will continue to host instructive workshops and informative presentations including in-depth forums on understanding herbicide issues from a watershed context. SWC will host the 5<sup>th</sup> annual watershed exploration camp workshop series for area youth.

Riparian Restoration Programs: We will host the 7<sup>th</sup> annual free native plant distribution in 2007 for riparian landowners. SWC will expand opportunities for displaced coastal fishers working on fish habitat projects through our riparian restoration crew.

The SWC is looking forward to building upon 2006 successes to implement these new restoration projects and levels of programming in 2007.

# COAST FORK WILLAMETTE

## *Watershed Council*

### Annual Report July 2005-June 2006

**Mission:** The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council serves to improve water quality and watershed conditions in the Coast Fork Willamette river basin through education, coordination, consultation and cooperation among all interests, using the collective wisdom and voluntary action of our community members.

**History:** Now completing our third biennium, the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council was formed in 2000, and received the first Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) state funds in 2001. Seeking to educate the local community and gather data on this tributary, the council founders focused on education work and conducting the Lower Coast Fork Assessment. This work began in 2002 and was completed in June 2005.

**Current Activities:** Council activities consist of regular services and special projects based on local need, priorities, and funding. Regular services include a monthly public meeting, committee meetings (Steering, Technical & Ed/Outreach), and technical assistance to local stakeholders, including: site visits, restoration project planning and grant writing. The Council also acts as a liaison between individuals and natural resource agencies. Broad partnerships maximize limited funds that often result in special projects and strong local relationships.

**Members:** Participants in the council come from a wide range of backgrounds. Local landowners dedicate countless hours utilizing their knowledge of history & place, several state & federal agencies participate with staff time and donated services while industry leaders contribute invaluable technical services and skills. Our council seeks to broadly educate and include the community, providing a diversity of opportunities for involvement.

#### *Steering Committee:*

Allen Martin - Chairman  
Brian Forge - Vice Chairman  
Alison Center - Treasurer  
Don Loeffler - Webmaster  
Dustin Bengtson  
Paul Boehner  
Diana Bus  
Deb Schmidt  
Larry Weaver

#### *Staff:*

Pamela Reber - Coordinator



*Participants in April 2006 Float trip on Row River.*

## Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council 2005-2006 Projects

- **Garden Lake Park Riparian Restoration Project**—*The first council-sponsored restoration project* in the basin, OWEB funding was requested and later approved for treatment of 11 acres for removal of invasive species and replanting of native tree and shrub species. In addition to improving native habitat and water quality of benefit to fish, Western pond turtles, migrating and resident birds and other wildlife, this project will generate education, outreach opportunities and significant community involvement in this first project for our council located in the city of Creswell.
- **Floodplain Restoration Outreach Program: *Open House Series conducted in June 2006.*** The Council joined a partnership with Middle Fork WWC and USACE to conduct landowner education and outreach around floodplain restoration.
- **Public meetings:** The Council sponsors *monthly public events*, including meetings, tours and open houses. Additionally, the Council has improved publicity via an email listserv, media releases, flyers and personal invitations. These actions have succeeded in building membership and retaining meeting attendance. Public access to decision making has also been improved by ratifying decisions at Council level.
- **Landowner Recruitment:** Within the year, there were 8 landowners recruited during public meetings and outreach work that resulted in site visits or consultations with local property owners. Projects were developed on several sites and relationships built with contractors, plant nurseries and a new local youth conservation corps.
- **East Regional Park Western Pond Turtle Partnership:** The Coast Fork Council is involved with USFS-sponsored turtle restoration efforts including education, park planning and turtle monitoring. We co-hosted a City of Cottage Grove Park Master Planning tour and meeting to facilitate discussion about restoration and community involvement in this local effort.

### Funding 2005-2006

OWEB Support Grant	\$17,998	Staff (0.3 FTE) & Operating Expenses
USACE	\$7,500	Floodplain Restoration Partnership
Cascade Pacific RC&D	<u>\$1,175</u>	Willamette Priorities Project
Total	\$26,673	

For more information, please contact:

**Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council**      [www.coastfork.org](http://www.coastfork.org)  
28 S. Sixth St. A  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424 (541) 767-9717 <[coastfork@willamette.net](mailto:coastfork@willamette.net)>



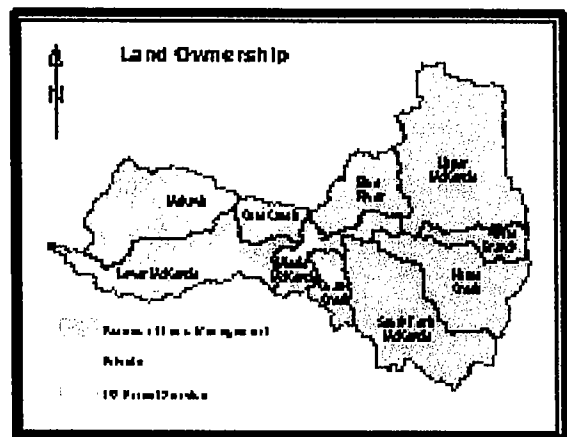
# McKenzie Watershed Council Annual Report

October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006

Formed in 1993 the McKenzie Watershed Council<sup>1</sup> (MWC) serves as a forum for exchanging information, a vehicle for resolving issues in advance of resource degradation, and as an advisory body to various government agencies with management authority within the 1,300-square-mile McKenzie River Watershed. With a mission of fostering better stewardship of McKenzie Watershed resources through voluntary and collaborative partnerships the MWC is one of the oldest community-based watershed stewardship organizations in the Pacific Northwest. The MWC's vision is that the McKenzie River Watershed supports exceptional water quality and habitats in balance with human economic livelihood and quality of life.

## McKenzie Watershed Fast Facts

- The McKenzie Watershed provides drinking water to over 240,000 Lane County residents; the water is recognized as some of the highest quality nationwide.
- The last native run of Upper Willamette spring chinook salmon occurs in the watershed along with listed bull trout and Oregon chub.
- The watershed is home to hundreds of species of wildlife, many have either state or federal status. Some of these species include; western pond turtle, red-legged frog, and bald eagle.
- In the Department of Water Quality's most recent statewide water quality report 6 of the top 10 monitoring sites statewide were located in the McKenzie Watershed (2005).



<sup>1</sup> The Council is comprised of 20 diverse stakeholder groups. Council Partner organizations include: At-Large (2), City of Eugene, City of Springfield, East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District, Eugene Water & Electric Board, Hynix Semiconductor Manufacturing America Inc, Lane County, McKenzie Flyfishers Association, McKenzie River Trust, McKenzie School District, Mohawk Watershed Partnership, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Division of State Lands, Springfield Utility Board, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service – McKenzie River Ranger District, and Weyerhaeuser Company.

## Accomplishments

The MWC operates within the framework of the *McKenzie River Watershed Conservation Strategy* (January 2002). This annual report highlights some of the MWC's accomplishments from October 2005 through September 2006 according to *Conservation Strategy* goals.

### Goal: Protect and Restore Key Fish and Wildlife Habitats

- Riparian restoration was conducted at 8 new private landowner sites and maintenance work was continued at 23 sites in the lower McKenzie Watershed. Riparian restoration includes the removal of invasive weeds and the planting of native trees and shrubs, which eliminates continued degradation of stream banks and promotes shading of the river to lower water temperatures, as well as provide opportunities for long term wood recruitment to the stream system.
  - ❖ In 2006 over 6,000 linear feet of riparian area enhancement was implemented, as well as 30 acres on Green Island which is located at the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers. Approximately 7,500 native, site appropriate trees were planted; 1,400 feet of livestock exclusion/plant protection fencing installed, and approximately 800 feet of bio-engineered erosion control placed.
- The MWC continues to work with landowners and the McKenzie River Trust in the McKenzie-Willamette River Confluence Area to assess habitat, create a vision for future conditions and has begun to implement restoration projects in the area.
- In collaboration with Lane County and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Eugene District the MWC coordinated the replacement of a culvert on Toms Creek that prohibited fish passage in the watershed.



Mohawk-McGowan  
Restoration Site

### Goal: Protect and Restore Water Quality and Quantity

- The MWC Water Quality Committee convened regularly bringing together monitoring practitioners from throughout the watershed. In 2006 the MWC adopted a local ambient *Water Quality Monitoring Management Plan* to support a more proactive approach to watershed monitoring. This report describes the watershed monitoring approach recommended by the MWC Water Quality Committee to better integrate existing monitoring efforts and provide a long-term mechanism to track water quality trends.
- The Thurston High School Water Quality Monitoring Team completed its 10<sup>th</sup> year of monitoring at Cedar Creek. This innovative monitoring program uses classrooms to collect data giving students meaningful community service hour credits, as well as experience in water science.
- The MWC conducted its 14<sup>th</sup> macroinvertebrate collection event throughout the watershed. Reflecting the chemical, physical and biological conditions of a stream, the biological community is a powerful indicator of stream health. In 2006, 38 volunteers participated in the event totaling 144 volunteer hours.

Goal: Promote Partnerships to Support Local Stewardship Actions



Mohawk Volunteers

- The MWC continued its participation in the Lane County-led McKenzie River Maintenance Partnership which pools limited resource dollars to maintain recreational boat landings sites along the McKenzie River.
- The McKenzie-Willamette Confluence Steering Committee developed a *Project Evaluation Report* describing its efforts from 1998-2006; the report includes accomplishments and lessons learned in the Confluence Area.
- The Mohawk Watershed Partnership, a subbasin group of the MWC, saw its 9<sup>th</sup> year of action. The Mohawk Watershed is a priority restoration area for the Council, and the Mohawk community has rallied to address water quality and fish passage problems.

Goal: Promote Community Understanding and Stewardship through Outreach and Education

- The MWC continued to provide water quality education and guidance to local school districts by providing resource professional into local schools, as well as watershed instruction and resources. In 2006 the MWC provided 23 Salmon Picnic presentations to 34 classrooms and 1,493 students.
- The MWC continued its collaborative partnership with Lane County Parks, McKenzie Guides Association and McKenzie Flyfishers Association to conduct the Annual McKenzie River Clean-up. The 2006 event saw over 55 volunteers cleaning up 55 miles of the McKenzie River. Hundreds of pounds of trash, along with some very interesting items were collected by participants.
- In May of 2006 the MWC facilitated two Down-by-the-Riverside events. At one of the events the MWC worked with students from McKenzie High School to conduct trail maintenance and riparian enhancement work at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Leaburg Hatchery. At the second event students from Marcola High School worked with the MWC and the Mohawk Watershed Partnership to remove trash from the stretch of McGowan Creek running through the school's property. More than 30 volunteers participated in both events totaling 100 volunteer hours.
- In collaboration with Lane County Parks the MWC conducted trail maintenance on Crilly Trail, Armitage Park. Over 50 students participated totaling 100 volunteer hours.

Goal: Council Accounts for and Provides Investments in the Watershed

- Of the total 2005-2006 expenditures 77% was spent within Lane County through the use of local contractors and ground crews and the purchasing of restoration materials and other program supplies from local suppliers.

**McKenzie Watershed Council Fiscal Resources**

Each year the Council applies for and receives grants from a variety of competitive sources. In-kind donations are also received; in-kind funds are donations of time, labor and equipment for specific projects and grants. The table below summarizes total new funding streams received in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

<b>McKenzie Watershed Council FY06 Annual Budget</b>		
<b>Source</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Bonneville Power Administration	Operating Expenses and staff compensation	\$127,133
City of Eugene	Operating Expenses and Project Program maintenance	\$10,000
City of Springfield	Operating Expenses	\$5,000
Eugene Water & Electric Board	Operating Expenses, Project Program maintenance and staff compensation	\$24,000
Eugene Water & Electric Board	Mitigation funding for Leaburg-Waltermville Hydroelectric Projects	\$164,192
Eugene Water & Electric Board – Partners In Education	Education and Outreach Program supplies and staff compensation	\$7,800
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Operating Expenses and staff compensation	\$48,986
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Education and Outreach Program supplies and staff compensation	\$21,835
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board – Local Innovation Fund	Coordination of McKenzie-Willamette Confluence Steering Committee	\$8,346
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Simmonds Creek Large Wood Placement Project	\$37,240
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Post-project monitoring	\$6,000
Springfield Utility Board	Minutes recording	\$2,000
Title II Payco	Culvert Replacement Engineering Designs	\$1,369
U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Eugene District	Mohawk McGowan restoration project implementation and staff compensation	\$65,525
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$529,426</b>

Diversified sources of revenue, extensive landowner involvement, and broad public awareness will help ensure the Council is more responsive to the needs of its stakeholders, helping the Council grow and develop while staying rooted in the community by achieving its core mission of fostering better stewardship of the watershed.

### **Future Coordination**

In summary, the McKenzie Watershed is a place with dynamic natural processes supporting exceptional water quality and habitats in balance with human economic livelihood and quality of life. The McKenzie Watershed Council works to ensure sustainable watershed health, functions and uses for future generations through voluntary collaboration among key interest and stakeholders.



For more information on the McKenzie Watershed Council please visit our website at [www.mckenziewc.org](http://www.mckenziewc.org) or contact our office at (541)687-9076.

Big Island,  
McKenzie River