

SIUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

JANUARY 2005

www.siuslaw.org

watershed@siuslaw.org

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

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

Message from the Coordinator

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Riverprize Celebration on the 28th. This is a wonderful opportunity to share with the Siuslaw community what this award is all about and how everyone plays an important role in the success of Siuslaw Watershed stewardship.

The watershed council is but one member in the partnership that was awarded the prize, and represents but one facet of the approach to stepping up to landscape management challenges. While the prize recognizes a successful and innovative partnership toward the visualization and implementation of restoration in three key creek basins that enhanced the recovery of threatened salmon populations, it is important to note that all three elements [a) salmon recovery, b) specific restorations, and c) the four-member partnership] are but snapshots or mere samplings of the people, partnerships, strategies, goals, projects, and outcomes that comprise the ingredients of the Siuslaw story.

Over the past year as coordinator I have captured a wide variety of the voices, opinions, and interests that run from parochial to catholic within the Siuslaw community. Via the watershed council as a community interest group, I have been able to steer some of the more singular but devoted interests through appropriate channels and cast out a wider net to bring together some of the more universal interests. The key thing here is that while there is sometimes disagreement over what the council's focus should be or what types of projects we should be working on, more often than not members are willing to relax their personal agendas to fully harness the capacity of partnerships to achieve our goals. That is essential to the Siuslaw's successes.

For some, that means recognizing that working with agricultural landowners in valley bottoms is im-

WE WON!

Come and Celebrate winning the
International Thiess Riverprize.

Friday, January 28

7-10 p.m.

Florence Events Center

715 Quince Street, Florence

Light hors d'oeuvres

Cake and ice cream

Kids activities

John Quay Heritage Players

Brief presentations

Displays

Local music by:

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower
Umpqua, and Siuslaw Drum Group

Old-Time Fiddlers

River Rascals

KUSH

Congratulations Siuslaw!



**Siuslaw Watershed
Council**

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Staff

Coordinator: Todd Miller

coordinator@siuslaw.org

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Robin Combest

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AmeriCorp Volunteer:

Shiloh Sundstrom

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Monitoring Coordinator:

Liz Vollmer-Buhl

2004 Executive Committee

Chair: Paula Crowder

Vice Chair: Steve Elliot

Secretary: Dave Eisler

(&Past Chair)

Treasurer: Nancy Nichols

Representatives:

Bill Cirino

Howard Crombie

Jim Grano

Noland Huntington

Al Pearn

Message from the Coordinator continued from page 1

portant, despite the fact that 95% of the watershed is in forestry. For others, it means accepting that working closely with federal agencies is essential, because the feds manage over 50% of the landscape. To others, it is to acknowledge that working with the network of private owners is necessary because they do not have the same staff and abilities as the agencies to fulfill watershed projects. And so on.

Likewise, the range of council endeavors linked to watershed recovery and stewardship do not always fall within all members' specific interests. The council recognizes the values in community and economic health, public awareness and education, and both in-stream and upland habitat and water-quality to a thriving, healthy watershed. Stream ecologists and foresters offer different focus points than do recreation enthusiasts, artists, or educators. Often these interests overlap. Often the council initiates projects that fall completely in one interest or another. The key to council success is recognizing the merit in pursuits that may not be completely embraced by all members, yet ensuring that our activities do not run counter to one another.

Finally, I wish to address again the salmon issue because it is frequently the key measure to which the Siuslaw watershed is held. Coho salmon have been an effective poster child worthy of our devotion. There is a clear wisdom in focusing on salmon recovery as the ultimate goal to watershed stewardship, but also an inherent danger. On one hand, tailoring watershed restoration around a single species (or let's even say salmonids) puts us at risk of operating with blinders on. We may be missing out on important water quality issues or factors that impact other aquatic species. On the other hand, recognizing the simple ecological wisdom that everything is connected to everything else, the salmon may serve as an effective barometer to "how are we doing?" Watershed councils have formed to address a wide range of community environmental health issues. In Oregon, they have been embraced to help fulfill the mandate of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. I do not dispute that salmon recovery is our most critical issue – and I say "tallyho!" in pursuit of salmon restoration. But we also must not hold the premise that recovering populations (still a long time coming) signal that our capabilities and responsibilities have been fully tapped.

This brings me back to one of my original statements: the council is but one thread in the fabric of the Siuslaw success story. We aim to be as fully involved in watershed stewardship as possible, but we are not the only agent acting. Whether or not your contribution to watershed health came as a watershed council participant, member, or partner, you are part of what has made the Siuslaw a successful model worthy of international recognition. So come on down to Florence on the 28th and celebrate!

Todd Miller

2005 Siuslaw Watershed Council

Leadership Board Nominees

Area Representatives:

North Fork Siuslaw: Noland Huntington

Upper Siuslaw: Steve Elliot

Lower Siuslaw: David Rankin

Indian Creek:

Barbara Beers/Dick Beers

Wildcat: David Eisler/

Steve Kriegh/Linda Redmon

Deadwood: Nancy Nichols/Bill Cirino

Lake Creek: Tony Humphreys

Wolf Creek: _____

At Large:

Interest Group Representatives:

Academic/Scientific:

Paul Burns/Tom Steinberg

Commercial Fishing: _____

Federal Land Management:

Karen Geary, BLM/Johan Hogervorst., USFS

Blank Line represents present vacancy

City of Florence: (appointed)

Dianne Burch

Lane Co. Government: (appointed)

Resource Recreation: _____

Public Education:

Jim Grano/Cricket Crowder

Small Woodlot:

Vernon VanCurler

Tribes CTCLUS:

Howard Crombie/ JR Herbst

SWCD: Ray Kinney/Johnny Sundstrom

Agriculture/Ranching: Bill Cirino

Industrial Timber:

Paul Chapman, Campbell Group

Environmental:

Bill Fleenor

Port of Siuslaw: (appointed) Ken Miller

State Government: John Spangler, ODF&W

Ecosystem Workforce:

Lori Robertson

The following people have thrown their hat in the ring for the Executive Committee...

Paula "Cricket" Crowder, Steve Elliot, Dave Eisler, Nancy Nichols, Bill Cirino, Howard Crombie, Jim Grano, Noland Huntington, Bill Fleenor and Barbara Beers.

Power to the People: *Tree trimming under utility rights-of-way*

Blachly-Lane Electric Co-op is currently trimming tree limbs from beneath and around its network of power lines. Blachly-Lane approached the Siuslaw Watershed Council last November to be a good neighbor and discuss any potential dissatisfaction the community may have about this necessary process. The electric co-op serves virtually all of the Lake Creek basin and the Nelson Mountain vicinity; their feeder line runs through Mapleton from the BPA distribution lines. After meeting with Blachly-Lane, we found the following information may be useful for council members.

Blachly-Lane trims only tree limbs if possible, leaving trees growing and intact. If a hazardous or weak tree that threatens power lines or personnel needs to be completely removed, they will consult with adjoining landowners first. Most, if not all, trees trimmed are within their right-of-way.

Blachly-Lane strives to correctly trim trees for tree health and visual appeal. However, most of the trees trimmed are maples and alders which respond to trimming by sending up a dense gallery of suckers and shoots – many of us don't find that visually appealing, and it requires frequent trimming (every 3 to 5 years) to keep in check. The upshot is that native trees remain in place, stemming an onslaught of invasive weeds that could potentially fill ground vacated by tree removal. Blachly-Lane stressed to us that they are not the crews who occasionally "mangle" roadside trees via indiscriminate brushing.

The electric co-op has also gained understanding and respect for wetland vegetation, native plants, and riparian environments. If you see utility trimming that appears to be impacting important watershed habitat, please let us know. Considerable potential exists to create native habitat corridors along utility rights-of-way using shrub species that will not threaten power lines. It may be appropriate to implement council planting projects in areas where line trimming and watershed restoration are in discord.

Finally, if participating in a native tree planting or restoration project (either on your own or through the council or another group), please do not plant tall species beneath or near your power lines. Many native shrubs will fill that niche wonderfully and add to the diversity of your vegetation, enhancing habitat value.

Anyone interested in pursuing projects (large scale or small) with Blachly-Lane and the Siuslaw Watershed Council are encouraged to contact Todd Miller, Council Coordinator. We could always use help in pursuing the many avenues of enhanced watershed health.

Volunteer Opportunity...*Riverprize* Celebration

There are several opportunities to help out at the *Riverprize* Celebration such as helping with kid's activities, guest reception, stage crew, set-up and breakdown. If you would like to lend a hand call Shiloh or Robin at the Council office, 541-268-3044. Thank you!



GRASS vs. TREES

Most people think it is easy to convert a pasture to a forest. All you need to do is throw some trees in the ground and stand back. Unfortunately, in the coast range we contend with grasses that routinely grow to over six feet tall and outcompete little trees for water. Trees are both shaded by tall grass falling over them and stressed due to lack of water in the soil. Normally it takes three to four years before the tree roots are deeper than the grass roots. During that time, the landowner needs to keep the grass cleared so the little trees "see the sun." Later, when the trees are taller than the grass around them, they can fend for themselves.

When planting in an area that is currently grassy, it is important to remove grass from around each tree. The larger the area, the better. A five foot diameter is not too much. If you will be planting trees in a grassy area this winter, clear the planting spots ahead. Start now as grass clearing is often a much bigger job than planting the trees.

Volunteer Opportunity...Tree Distribution Day

If you would like to help with the distribution of trees and shrubs on Saturday, February 12, please call Nancy Nichols, 541-485-6471 or 541-964-3020 (weekends), or the Council office 268-3044. There may also be a need for some organizational work on Friday, February 11. Time schedules and location preferences can be arranged when you call.

Schedule of Events

January 26—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:30 pm, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Road.

January 28—Community Riverprize Celebration: 7-10 p.m., Florence Events Center, 715 Quince Street, Florence.

February 3—SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

February 3—Siuslaw Stewardship Group Meeting 1-3 pm (TENTATIVE...watch for emails regarding possible date change).

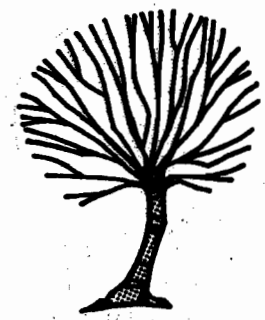
February 9— SWC Executive Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm., Upper Compound, Mapleton.

February 12—SWC Tree Distribution Day: Remember to pick up your trees at your scheduled time and place

February 23—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:30 pm, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Road.



**Siuslaw Watershed Council
General Meeting Agenda
January 26, 2005
Mapleton Grange Hall
6:30 p.m.**



- 6:00-6:30** Open for set-up
- 6:30- 6:35** Welcome and Introductions
- 6:35-7:15** Final Nominations and 2005 Elections
- 7:15-7:30** Break and Refreshments
- 7:30-7:50** Discussion Items
Raffle
Riverprize Celebration
- 7:50-8:05** Coordinator Report
- 8:05-8:20** Open Mic (3-5 speakers, 3-5 minutes each)
- 8:20-8:30** Announcements and Raffle Drawing
- 8:30** Adjourn

Upcoming Presentations

February—Tentative

A representative from "Habitats"...homes, landscaping and ecological planning organization, will showcase projects that they have done with landowners.

March

Celia Barry of Lane County Parks and Recreation will give an update of the Lane County Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan (last updated in 1980).



Monthly Raffle



To help raise funds for the Council, we are holding a raffle of donated items at each General Council meeting. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The winner will get to choose from available items.

We have some new items in the box donated by Terra Tech. We also have a handmade bat house and wood duck box made and donated by Dave Rankin. We will have a brief discussion about the raffle at the January meeting.



Treasurer's Report

Nancy Nichols, Council Treasurer

Nov/Dec 2004

Beginning Cash	\$91,570.29	
	Nov/Dec	YEAR TO DATE
INCOME		
Dues	\$70.00	\$1,010.00
Federal Grants		\$19,471.84
State Grants	\$10,994.30	\$256,282.35
Private Grants		\$221,637.00
Interest	\$245.64	\$407.20
Donations & Misc.	\$144.00	\$4,351.00
Administrative Funds	\$120.00	\$5,165.80
Reimbursements	\$2,000.00	\$2,567.63
Other		\$33.32
TOTAL INCOME	\$13,573.94	\$511,435.78
EXPENSES		
Grant Expenses	\$16,764.95	\$447,544.93
Other	\$655.52	\$5,898.21
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$17,420.47	\$453,443.14
 Ending Cash	 \$87,723.76	

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is a non-profit, 501c3, organization.
All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
WHO RESPONDED TO THE
MEMBERSHIP DRNG !!
:)

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

January 2005

2005 Elections

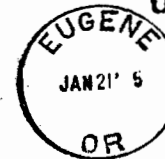
Elections are coming upon us rather quickly! If you were previously on the Leadership Board and your name was not transferred to the nomination list, it indicates that we didn't hear from you; there is still time to get renominated, please contact the Council office, watershed@siuslaw.org. 541-268-3044. If you would like to be placed on the ballot or nominate someone for a position, you may do so by leaving a message at the Council office. We will be accepting nominations at the January 26 meeting. Elections will follow.

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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