

SIUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2005

www.siuslaw.org
watershed@siuslaw.org

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

• Community • Economy • Environment

Message from the Coordinator

On Landslides and Floods

In August, local stream ecologist Charley Dewberry took me up in the air in his single-engine Cessna for good look at the Siuslaw Watershed from the top down. Departing from Eugene, we flew south to the Lorane Valley to capture the Siuslaw headwaters and follow the water downstream to Mapleton. We buzzed over the estuary, catching what glimpses of it we could through stringers of stubborn late morning fog, before heading northeastward up Lake Creek, finally dipping wings good-bye over Triangle Lake to touch back down in Eugene.

Surprisingly, the landscape looks strikingly similar from up in the air as it does from the ground. Timbered hillsides break open to familiar agricultural valley bottoms, streams following the suspected routes. Often I find this is not the case, as subtle changes on the ground appear more dramatic from the air, or the relative location of points – the topology – comes into vivid context from above. Perhaps in the case of the Siuslaw, I have spent so many hours looking at maps and walking along streams that I knew it better than I thought it did. However, certain features did strike me, and the fact that they did in this case makes them even more notable.

Landslides pockmark ridges throughout the watershed. I noted several locations where the textbook-perfect bowls of a rotational slump had contributed to the landscape as much as had

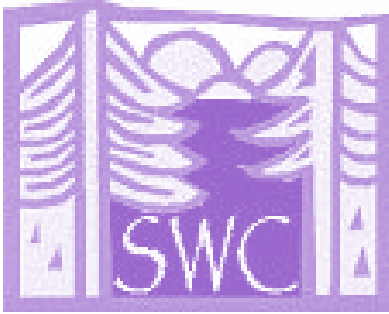
the V-shaped stream-formed valleys. And although I had been acutely aware of the landslide actively creeping toward the council office in Mapleton, it was not until I was in the air that I realized the sandbar in the river opposite the office is clearly the toe of that slide. This fine-grained deposit is just downstream from where the boulder-strewn toe of the century-old Slide Gulch deposit kicks the river to a narrow ribbon of its former width. In short, don't expect to find me at the office during a heavy rainstorm.

The landslide hazard of the local geology is a well-known phenomenon. In fact, Charley Dewberry is currently leading a research endeavor to map landslide-prone areas throughout the basin as a tool for planning restoration. Research has revealed that the large trees typical of Coast Range forests are a key ingredient for stabilizing

Continued on Page 2...



Mapleton, as seen through Todd's camera as he flies over the town



**Siuslaw Watershed
Council**

Tel: 541-268-3044

Fax 268-3045

Staff

Coordinator: *Todd Miller*

coordinator@siuslaw.org

Administrative Assistant::

Liz Vollmer-Buhl

watershed@siuslaw.org

Monitoring Coordinator:

Liz Vollmer-Buhl

monitoring@siuslaw.org

2005 Executive Committee

Chair: Paula Crowder

Vice Chair: Steve Elliot

Secretary: William Fleenor

Treasurer: Nancy Nichols

Representatives:

Barbara Beers

Howard Crombie

Dave Eisler

Jim Grano

Noland Huntington

Message from the Coordinator ...continued from page 1

dramatic slides. While it may seem counter-intuitive that large trees are what one would actually want on landslide-prone land, the mechanics of a debris torrent indicate why large tree growth is valuable. During a slide event, which is almost certain to be concurrent with heavy rainfall, the debris flow will potentially move downslope and downstream rapidly, smothering lengthy reaches of stream. However, with enough large trees in the matrix, the big trunks jam up in the narrow stream bottoms, retaining much of the slide material behind a porous dam that allows the material to slowly redistribute downstream, rather than smother entire reaches.

What this means for restoration planning is that through focus of efforts to place large wood debris and to promote long-term growth of old trees at those areas most prone to slides, we provide the most effective safeguards for property and habitat. It has the appeal of a very winning prospectus for benefits to both personal and wildlife protection.

Similarly, flood control through wetland conservation promises an analogous benefit. From the air I viewed the estuary winding through the broad valley of the lower river, with its side inlets and sloughs marking this signature landscape. In the wake of the disastrous effects of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans, I cannot help but reflect on the value of the estuarine wetlands for both human safety and habitat as well. Despite the arguments over whether the levees would have held if certain engineering measures had been taken, the folly of protecting the city eternally in isolation from the natural system of wetlands that comprise lower Louisiana had been well known for decades. When touring New Orleans with friends in 1999, I was asked how the system of levees worked. My response: "Someday it won't".

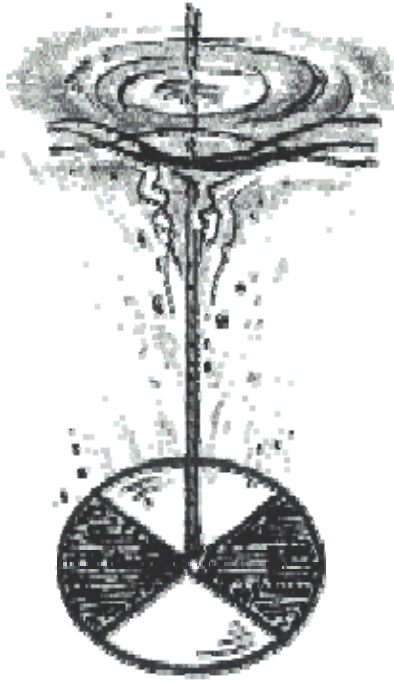
Likewise hydrologists are well aware of the mitigating potential of wetlands for flood events on river systems. They act like reservoirs to absorb floodwater and pulses of sediment, thereby protecting downstream reaches from more devastating effects. We are also keenly aware of the habitat importance of wetlands for virtually all species that live in the estuary. Two major endeavors being undertaken in the Siuslaw are helping to prioritize the best wetland conservation sites and develop projects to restore and protect wetlands along the lower estuary.

It is rewarding to see the value of the careful considerations in the restoration planning being undertaken in the Siuslaw Watershed. Targeted approaches to restoration efforts in the landslide prone uplands and in the intertidal lowlands will help derive high returns (for property and habitat) on investment. The result is a winning solution that promises immense habitat benefits while offering potential safeguards for life and property. That is a landscape worth viewing from any vantage point.

Todd Miller

Note from the Chair: Todd scheduled this flight on his day off and there was no charge to the Council for the ride. Thank you Charley!

Water Quality Monitoring Program Increases Community Involvement



We have exciting news coming out of the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program (VWQMP)...In August, we added a site in Lorane! We're training a Walton area volunteer this month to start monitoring at a site on the Chickahominy. And this school year Tri-angle Lake students will begin monitoring a site on upper Lake Creek. Let's not forget the dedication of our longtime volunteers, who have been monitoring sites in the estuary and on Lake Creek for years. And Mapleton students and area residents have been processing the samples in the labs. In the next months we will be evaluating the VWQMP's data and other data to determine the parameters for which to monitor.

We will also be applying for funding to continue the program past 2006. For the past year, the program has been funded through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Western Lane Community Foundation with tie-in support from an education grant to the Siuslaw Institute from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. If you have questions about the monitoring program, the data, or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Liz Vollmer-Buhl, Monitoring Coordinator/Field Tech, at monitoring@siuslaw.org or 541-268-3044. Thanks again to our great volunteers!

Transitions...Seasons and Project Managers

As we head towards autumn, we think about preparing our homes, gardens, and properties for cooler weather. An advantage of native trees and plants is that they need little to no preparation for seasonal transitions. Some gardeners force dormancy on their exotic shrubs, trees, and plants in the autumn through their watering and fertilizing habits; but established native plants do not need to be forced into dormancy. Native plants pick up on signals in their environment to prepare for seasonal changes.

Despite their affinity for our local weather, efforts still can be made to help young native plants through the seasonal transitions. Next month, it would be good to check your new plants for disease, remove and destroy any diseased leaves (do not use diseased leaves in mulch or compost). Mulching with healthy leaves in October around young native trees and shrubs can be helpful. Weed removal at anytime of the year assists young native plants to win the fight for survival.

Our native riparian plant give-a-way program is going through a transition of its own. Nancy Nichols, who has dedicated years to establishing and growing the program, is stepping into a new role. She will continue to oversee the Deadwood distribution and she will advise the new project manager. Liz Vollmer-Buhl, will now be the project manager for the program. We thank Nancy for her wonderful work as the project manager over the years, the program has truly blossomed under her care.

Landowners—if you are new to the area or the program, and are interested in receiving native plants for your riparian areas, please contact Liz at watershed@siuslaw.org or at 541-268-3044. Prior participants are already on our mailing list, but everyone is welcome to call or email with questions.



SWC Project Proposal Round Up:

The Siuslaw Watershed Council is working on the following proposals for October deadlines. Project budgets are under development and will be available when all proposals have been finalized.

Project Name: Elk Creek Culvert Replacement **Funding Source:** Siuslaw Stewardship Fund (USFS Coastal Initiative) **Primary Partner(s):** Lane County **Project Scope:** replace Thompson Creek road culvert at Elk Creek with pre-designed arch pipe. This is Site 3 of the 2004 Culvert Prioritization series.

Project Name: Rapid Bio Assessment **Funding Source:** OWEB Monitoring Grant **Primary Partner(s):** Charley Dewberry (Ecotrust) **Project Scope:** continue spawning stream snorkel surveys throughout Siuslaw watershed. Currently snorkeling is occurring under EPA/Ecotrust grant.

Project Name: Siuslaw Watershed Education and Summer Camp **Funding Source:** OWEB Education Grant **Primary Partner(s):** Siuslaw, Mapleton, and Triangle Lake Schools **Project Scope:** fund SWC schools education projects, including ongoing school programs, expanded schools programs, and 4th and 5th annual Summer Camp programs.

Project Name: Upper Wildcat Stream Enhancement **Funding Source:** OWEB Restoration Grant **Primary Partner(s):** Roseburg Forest Products, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife **Project Scope:** ODFW project design on Roseburg Land - includes 2 culvert sites of the 2004 Prioritizations. One culvert site will be replaced, one site will be removed entirely rather than replaced, and an additional culvert will be removed. Project also includes large wood placement to enhance stream function and habitat.

Project Name: Upper Wildcat Tributary Culvert Replacement **Funding Source:** NOAA Fisheries **Primary Partner(s):** Roseburg Forest Products **Project Scope:** this project will add an additional culvert from the 2004 Priority List into the ODFW project proposal above. The culvert will be replaced with a pre-designed arch pipe. The benefit of this culvert replacement has been greatly enhanced by the proposed ODFW scope of work but is deemed separate from the goals of the other project.

Project Name: Knowles Creek Fish Trap Monitoring **Funding Source:** OWEB Monitoring Grant **Primary Partner(s):** US Forest Service **Project Scope:** dedicate fish trap manager to operate and perform fish counts to pick up on program formally funded via USFS. The program provides valuable information on fish status and has been an excellent educational resource for the local schools watershed education programs.

Project Name: Water Quality Monitoring **Funding Source:** OWEB Monitoring Grant & DEQ 319 Funds **Primary Partner(s):** Volunteers **Project Scope:** continue water quality volunteer monitoring program and coordinator position and expand program to upper watershed (including all major sub-watersheds) and restoration site monitoring; Lake Creek temperature TMDL study.

Project Name: Siuslaw Watershed Volunteer Data Collection Program **Funding Source:** OWEB Monitoring Grant **Primary Partner(s):** Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Volunteers, Siuslaw River Basin Restoration Partnership. **Project Scope:** acquire field equipment, implement data management program, and train volunteers to use GPS/PDA devices to collect valuable data on fish passage barriers, noxious weed populations, tree planting, and restoration sites throughout the watershed. The data will be used for better project planning, monitoring, assessment, and reporting toward fulfilling council goals and obligations to funders.

Project Name: Riparian Restoration 07 **Funding Source:** Siuslaw Stewardship Fund **Primary Partner(s):** Volunteer landowners **Project Scope:** continuation of the 7th season of the successful native plant distribution and riparian planting project. Funds project manager, trees, planting aids, and 3 years of project monitoring and reporting.

New AmeriCorps Member to Start in October!

An applicant has accepted the Council's 2005-2006 position as Outreach Coordinator. The agreement is tentative pending paperwork formalities, but we anticipate a full introduction of this new staff member in the October newsletter. This year's position will focus on education and outreach program development in the upper watershed communities (Triangle Lake and Lorane areas) and will continue fulfilling outreach goals throughout the watershed. AmeriCorps member placements are made possible through the Northwest Service Academy and Educational Service District 113.

BLM to Present Plan Revision Process to SWC at September General Council Meeting

The Bureau of Land Management will soon be revising the six Western Oregon Resource Management Plans tied to the Northwest Forest Plan. The revised plans (to be completed in 2008) will address public lands and resources managed by the Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Medford, and Coos Bay Districts and the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District. The planning area includes approximately 2,550,000 acres of public lands. About 2,100,000 of those lands are land revested from the Oregon and California Railroad and are managed under the O&C Lands Act of 1937.

The planning process began on September 7, 2005 with formal issue scoping. The public scoping period will conclude on October 21, 2005. The plan revision process is expected to be completed in 2008.

Information about the plan is available on the BLM's website: www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/state_info/planning/or/wopr. In addition, information can be obtained from the project office in Portland, Oregon. If you would like to be placed on an electronic or postal mailing list for future updates, contact the office listed below:

Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions Office
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208
orwopr@or.blm.gov
Alan Hoffmeister, Public Involvement Coordinator -
503-808-6629

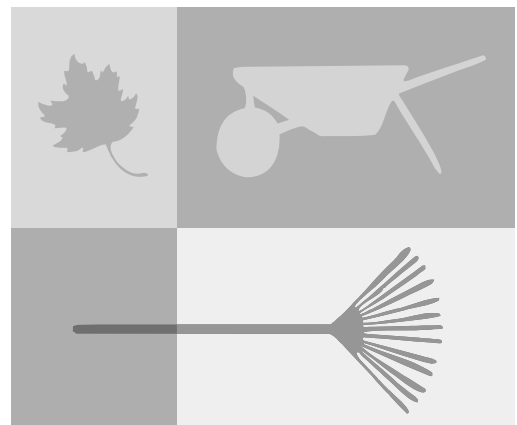
Doug Huntington from the Eugene office of the BLM will be giving the presentation. Information in this article is from the BLM's website.

Lights, Camera, Action Plan!

During the October General Council Meeting we will be conducting a break-out session to work on the Council's Action Plan. It is imperative that we have all Leadership Board Representatives' input for this important document.

We will carry out the session similar to the way that we did the Strategic Plan break-out session last year. Four groups representing the strategic areas, Environment, Economic Development, Outreach and Education, and Council Structure, will brainstorm action items for the goals and objectives of the strategic areas.

We are asking that all Leadership Board Representatives attend this important meeting in October. If a Representative cannot make it to the meeting, we ask that they review the Strategic Plan on the website and email action items to coordinator@siuslaw.org. If a member cannot make the meeting and would like to be included in the process, please contact a Leadership Board Representative and ask them to bring your ideas to the meeting.



**Siuslaw Watershed Council
General Meeting Agenda
September 28, 2005
Mapleton Grange Hall
6:30 p.m.**

- 6:00-6:30** **Open for set-up**
- 6:30– 6:35** **Welcome and Introductions**
- 6:35-7:35** **Presentation:** *Doug Huntington, Bureau of Land Management: Process for revising Western Oregon Resource Management Plans tiered to the Northwest Forest Plan.*
- 7:35-7:50** **Break and Refreshments**
- 7:55-8:05** **Coordinator Report
Executive Committee Report
Tech Team 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**

Monthly Raffle

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

Schedule of Events

September 28—Siuslaw Watershed Council General Meeting: 6:30 pm, Mapleton Grange, E. Mapleton Road.

October 3—Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting: 7:30 pm, Conference Room, Florence Business Center, 1525 12th Street, Florence

October 6—SWC Technical Team Meeting: 9:30 am, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

October 12— SWC Exec. Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm., Upper Compound, Mapleton.

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

Treasurer's Report

Nancy Nichols, Council Treasurer

August 2005

Beginning Cash	\$54,305.13*		
		AUGUST	YEAR TO DATE
INCOME			
Dues	\$30.00		\$940.00
Federal Grants	\$575.86		\$5,101.61
State Grants	\$2,890.84		\$44,951.01
Private Grants			\$2,383.33
Interest	\$124.11		\$1,023.09
Donations & Misc.	\$10.00		\$1,615.00
Administrative Funds	\$6,578.86		\$14,516.75
Reimbursements			
Other	\$1,247.00		\$1,247.00**
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,301.95		\$71,777.79
EXPENSES			
Grant Expenses		\$18,567.76	\$110,591.59
Other		\$1,536.94	\$9,567.55
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$20,104.70	\$120,159.14
Ending Cash	\$38,502.38		

*adjusts for interest and bank fees

** Salmon Run and payment for copy machine use

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

September 2005

DEQ Water Quality Report Available for Review and Comment

Oregon's Draft 2004 Integrated Report on Water Quality Status and 303(d) List is available on-line at: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/303dlist/WQ2004IntgrRpt.ht>. Written comments are due by October 24, 2005, Monday, 5:00 PM. Public hearings and informational meetings will be held in Salem on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 starting at 6:30 PM and Bend on Monday, October 17, 2005 starting at 3:00 PM. Contact Karla Urbanowicz for further information: (800) 452-4011. Written comments may be sent to Ms. Urbanowicz via mail, fax, and e-mail. Send comments to: Karla Urbanowicz, 811 SW 6th Avenue, Portland, OR 97204; Fax: (503) 229-5408; E-mail: urbanowicz.karla@deq.state.or.us

DEQ will review and respond to comments during the comment period. Following this review, DEQ will finalize the report. The list of Category 5 water bodies and a prioritized schedule for TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Load) will be submitted to EPA for review and approval.

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.



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What's Happening In Your Watershed?