

Message from the Coordinator

This past month, our staff, board members, and partners have been working feverishly on project proposals to vie for contracts from funders. October is a particularly busy month for proposals, as deadlines for several funding opportunities come to a close. Part of the strength of a non-profit organization is to diversify its funding. Our 10-year strategy is to spread that diversification across private donors, foundations, grants, and local fundraising.

Our current funding relies primarily on the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), with additional significant project funding coming from Siuslaw Stewardship Contracting (via the US Forest Service Siuslaw National Forest), the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Forest Foundation (NFF), and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). This is not an exhaustive list, but it illustrates well the variety of state, federal, and private foundation funding that supports projects sponsored by the watershed council.

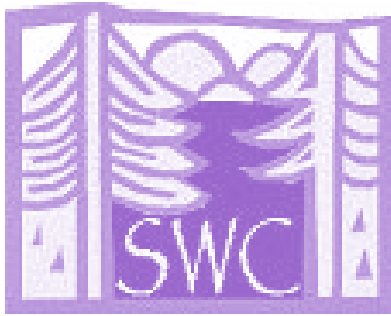
On a basic level, the above list defines well where our funding comes from. As an organization coordinator, I am interested in determining what portion of our funding comes from various sources. That will help with the analysis needed to strategize the 10-year diversification plan.

Perhaps most important in this analysis is the fact that these dollars are not easily obtained or loosely doled out. Restoration, education, and monitoring projects are competitive not only against other regional, state, and national projects, but against one another within the Siuslaw watershed. Each project must exhibit strong merits in planning, rationale, and probability to succeed. Furthermore, funders often restrict their funding to project elements that are of distinct interest (for example, a direct benefit to Coho salmon habitat,

or improvement of particular water quality limitations). The whole-basin purview, integrated planning, and experienced knowledge that local project developers bring to the Siuslaw mean that our projects address a variety of conditions and goals. Often, we will integrate funding from two or more sources on a single project.

A current example of this is our proposed pairing of OWEB and DEQ funding to support our volunteer water quality monitoring program. This program will meet goals of water monitoring that supports goals of the *Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds* (OWEB's objective) and goals of total maximum daily load (TMDL) development for water quality impairments listed on the 303(d) list (DEQ's objective).

So where does the funding come from? Not an easy answer. Let's take the last example – water quality monitoring. If the program is funded through OWEB and DEQ, that sounds like two state sources of funding. So, state tax dollars? Not exactly – the DEQ319 funding (which this is) actually is money that comes from the EPA to help states meet water quality objectives. OWEB funds are more complex. Currently, restoration projects are funded through lottery receipts (not tax dollars). Monitoring projects (like ours) are funded through salmon recovery dollars from NOAA Fisheries (federal) and, I believe (but don't claim to fully understand), a smattering of other sources. Add to this funding stew the fact that our water monitoring coordinator (a part-time staff position) is currently being partially funded by NFWF (a private foundation) and a pass-through grant from EPA via Ecotrust (a non-profit organization). The data objectives and the means to orchestrate the volunteers to collect the data thereby coalesce in one project endeavor with a variable funding matrix.



**Siuslaw Watershed
Council**

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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

The intent of this elaborate explanation is to illustrate the difficulty in answering a seemingly simple question: How are we funded? The simplest and most accurate answer: From diverse sources. I have not even included the goods and services provided as in-kind donations from project partners and volunteers. It would be an entertaining exercise to map out where all the dollars and cents that eventually fund Siuslaw projects originate, but - ultimately pointless. The meaningful relationship to recognize is that the watershed council is a non-profit organization that operates on grants, donations, and contracts for services from a spectrum of funders. Regardless of the origin of those funds, they are earned through an exhibition of competent, coordinated endeavors to enhance the resources of the Siuslaw River basin coupled with a proven record of project outcomes.

As the month comes to a close, we are working to secure funding for stream restoration, school programs, landowner stewardship, and aquatic monitoring through the continued exhibition of well-conceived projects with an integrated vision of results. The final proposals will, hopefully, appeal to the objectives of the funding partners who are interested in the positive changes the projects will bring to the Siuslaw watershed. If we are successful, we will be continuing our traditional but diversifying funding base for the coming year.

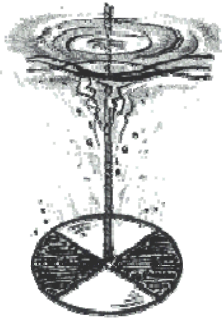
In pursuing the goal of funding diversification for the council, I will be attending a planning session with a consultant to strategize immediate and long-term opportunities to strengthen our funding base. This session will be part of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils conference being held November 2 to 4 in Bend.

Todd Miller

Welcome Catherine!

Our New Americorps Volunteer

Catherine Adler, just started as the new Upper Watershed Outreach Coordinator at SWC. She plans to take over where Shiloh left off expanding outreach and education programs with the community, special interest groups, and schools. The focus for the upcoming year is upon adult education and schools in the Triangle Lake and Lorane areas. Catherine is new to Oregon. A native of Pennsylvania, Catherine attended Middlebury College in Vermont as a Biology and Northern Studies Major. She has a background in aquatic/riparian issues and has performed water quality monitoring, wetland delineation, and riparian site assessment. Most recently, she has been living in East Lansing, Michigan doing volunteer wildlife education at Potter Park Zoo and stewardship work with the Michigan Nature Association.



How's the Water?

Data from the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program is available! If you are interested in viewing the data, please contact Liz Vollmer-Buhl, at monitoring@siuslaw.org or 541-268-3044.

Thank you to our volunteers, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Western Lane Community Foundation, who make the program possible.

Local Chestnuts

\$3.50/pound

541-964-3140

Common Ground: Oregon's Ocean

to screen in Florence!

Friday, October 28, 6-7:30pm

**at the Florence Events Center
Free event**

Green Fire Productions will screen their highly acclaimed documentary, *Common Ground: Oregon's Ocean*, in Florence on October 28 at the Florence Events Center. This groundbreaking film features beautiful footage of the underwater world off Oregon's coast and presents perspectives from marine scientists as well as from fishermen and others who rely on the ocean for their livelihoods. The program provides new and essential information for the discussion about the future of Oregon's marine environment. The 30-minute film will be followed by a discussion with scientists, fishermen, conservationists, ocean resource managers and the audience. *Common Ground* will screen at 6pm with the Q & A discussion to follow.

Also taking place at the Florence Events Center:

Ocean Policy Advisory Council meeting, Friday, October 28, 9-4pm – Public meeting
Heceta Head Coast Conference on Saturday, October 29, 9-5pm

Common Ground follows the pre-conference reception for the Heceta Head Coast Conference — if you'd like to attend this unique conference about Oregon's ocean, contact the Florence Events Center to register for the conference. The *Common Ground* screening is a free event.

Sponsored by Green Fire Productions

Details > <http://www.oceansonline.org>

Karen Anspacher-Meyer
Executive Director, Green Fire Productions
karen@greenfireproductions.org
www.greenfireproductions.org
541-486-4070

SWC Project Proposals Submitted in October

The Siuslaw Watershed Council submitted the following proposals for October deadlines. As of news-letter printing, the project budgets were still under development and will be available in the November newsletter. More information on these proposals is available on our website www.siuslaw.org, see September Newsletter.

Siuslaw Stewardship Fund (USFS Coastal Initiative)

Elk Creek Culvert Replacement

Riparian Restoration 07

OWEB

Rapid Bio Assessment

Siuslaw Watershed Education/Summer Camp

Upper Wildcat Stream Enhancement

Knowles Creek Fish Trap Monitoring

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program *Funding Source: OWEB & DEQ 319 Funds*

Conservation Security Program to be Available in Siuslaw

Conservation stewards in watersheds throughout Oregon will have the opportunity to participate in USDA's new Conservation Security Program (CSP). CSP is a voluntary program that financially rewards private land managers who are actively conserving natural resources. It supports ongoing conservation stewardship of agricultural working lands, i.e., pasture, cropland, and grazed woodland.

Over the next several years, all private land managers in Oregon will have the opportunity to apply for CSP as their watershed is selected for a signup. Watersheds are selected at the national level and reflect a cross-section of land uses, crop regions and landscapes.

Producers with the majority of their land inside the Siuslaw, Yachats, Alsea, and Siletz/Yaquina watershed boundaries will have the opportunity to participate within the next couple of years. Even though it's a couple years away, now is the time to begin preparation. Documentation of conservation activities is required; this includes, for example, records of soil tests and grazing management. The documentation must show that the activities have been in place for at least two years. Records can be as simple as a note on the calendar. *Eligibility for the Conservation Security Program will require at least two years of farm records prior to enrollment. Records should include soil testing. See "What's in Your Soil" on page 5 for information on Soil Testing*

Maximum payments authorized for the program make it attractive. Whether or not it is worthwhile to participate will depend upon several factors, including property size and landowner expectation. This year, the Coquille, Sixes, and Chetco watersheds are some of the selected watersheds. The conditions in those watersheds are more similar to the central coast area than other watersheds participating this year. As contracts on the south coast are selected, more information will become available as to what to expect on the central coast.

Additional information on CSP, including the Federal Register notices, public comments and frequently asked questions, can be found on the website <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov>. Information is also available from the Siuslaw SWCD in Florence; call Lori Robertson for more information, 541-997-1272.

Know Your Soil

As October draws to an end, we are looking ahead to the Riparian Restoration Project (free native plant distribution) this winter. Now is a good time to explore the riparian areas on your land. Understanding the topography (the shape of your land) and the soils on the sites that you expect to plant will help you select the most appropriate plants, which will increase your chances of success. Studying the topography will give you insight into how much direct sunlight a site receives and the soil depth. Soil maps depict the types of soil on your land. Check out www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/soils.html for soil maps. If you do not have internet access, OSU Extension Offices can help you obtain the information. It is always good to walk the land and compare the descriptions from the soil maps with the results from your own digging. While you are out on the riparian areas, check out the drainage—will the roots of plants always be wet, or is the soil well drained. Some plants such as hemlocks and Douglas fir “don’t like their feet wet,” while other plants do. If you haven’t already, consider studying your land with riparian planting in mind. Then you’ll be ready for next month’s column—we’ll have a list of the native plants that will be available this winter.



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 Vollmer-Buhl 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.

What’s in Your Soil?

Soil testing is a great way to learn information about your land; and with up-coming local sign-ups for the Conservation Security Program* (see article on page 4) soil information could mean money in your pocket! The Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District has instructions on the methods for taking a soil sample and a list of laboratories and types of analysis that can be done.

Types of information that can be tested include pH, organic matter, estimated nitrogen release, phosphorus, potassium, minerals, soil texture plus a host of others. Farm soils and forest soils can be tested along with potting soils, manures and leaf tissue samples. Recommendations for fertilizers and other soil amendments, such as lime, can be requested.

Basics of Taking a Soil Sample:

- Each soil sample should represent only one soil type or soil condition and only one crop type. If areas are significantly different, you should look at taking more than one sample. For example: a forest, a well drained pasture and a wet pasture should each have a separate soil sample.
- Take 10 – 20 cores or small garden trowels-full of soil from random spots in the sample area and mix them in a bucket. Each core or scoop should be from surface soils, up to six inches deep. Use clean collecting tools; a bit of fertilizer, other soils, etc. will throw off the results.
- After thoroughly mixing the soil, place two cups worth in a soil sample bag and submit to a soil lab. (Do not use a paper bag.)
- For a list of soil labs or other information contact Lori at 997-1272.

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

6:00-6:30 **Open for set-up**

6:30– 6:35 **Welcome and Introductions**

6:35-7:20 **Action Plan:** Break-out sessions to name actions for Council's goals and objectives from the Strategic Plan.

7:20-7:30 **Break and Refreshments**

7:30-7:45 **Presentation:** *Todd will show a brief slide show of photos taken from his flight over the Siuslaw Watershed.*

7:45-8:05 **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**

BYOM

To encourage reduction in waste, we are requesting that folks bring their own mug to the meeting. To make it fun, we will have a special raffle at the October meeting for those who bring their own mug and a contest for the ugliest mug.

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.

SWC Schedule of Events

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

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

November 3—Siuslaw Stewardship Meeting 1-3 pm, Upper Compound, Mapleton.

November 7—Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting: 7:00 pm, Conference Room, Florence Business Center, 1525 12th Street, Florence

November 9— SWC Exec. Committee Meeting: 5:30 pm., Upper Compound, Mapleton.

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

September 2005

Treasurer's Report *Nancy Nichols, Council Treasurer*

Beginning Cash	\$38,502.38	
	SEPTEMBER	YEAR TO DATE
INCOME		
Dues		\$940.00
Federal Grants	\$16,390.54	\$21,492.15
State Grants	\$8,190.00	\$53,141.01
Private Grants		\$2,383.33
Interest		\$1,023.09
Donations & Misc.		\$1,615.00
Administrative Funds	\$236.00	\$14,752.75
Project Management	\$346.50	\$346.50
Other	\$21.00	\$1,268.00*
TOTAL INCOME	\$25,184.04	\$96,961.83
EXPENSES		
Grant Expenses	\$11,989.87	\$122,581.46
Other	\$2,148.49	\$11,716.04
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$14,138.36	\$134,297.50
 Ending Cash	 \$49,548.81	

* 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

October 2005



Todd's photo of the Lorane Valley

See it as the Birds Do!

At the October General Council Meeting on October 26, 6:30 pm, at the Mapleton Grange, SWC Coordinator, Todd Miller will show slides of pictures taken during his recent flight over the Siuslaw Watershed. Please join us for this exciting opportunity to see our watershed from a different vantage point. Also join us for an important planning session.

All Leadership Board Members are requested to attend.

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?