

## Coffee Klatch Report - (04/07)

**Project name: Lower South Fork Coos River Assessment, Outreach and Education Planning**

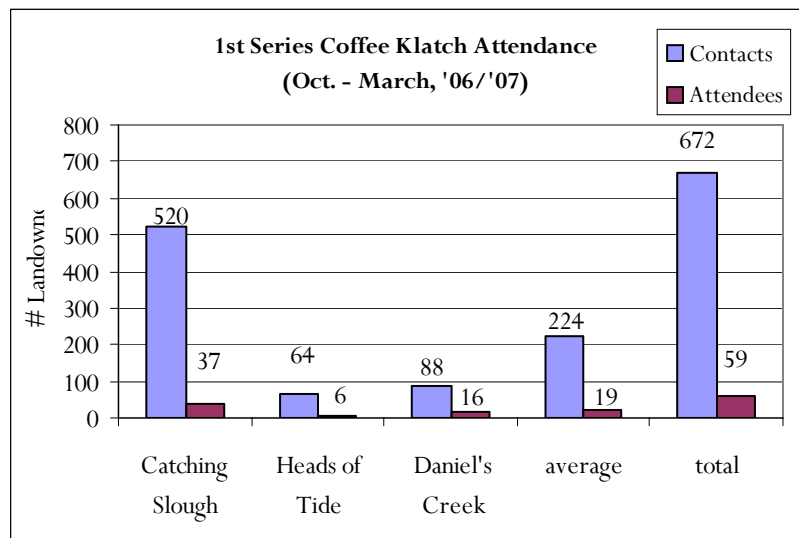
**DEQ NPS Project #: W06707**

**DEQ Agreement #: 111-06**

**Recipient: Coos Watershed Association**

This report describes the first series of Coffee Klatch meetings held with landowners in the project sub-basins - Catching Slough, Daniel's Creek and Heads of Tide. The purpose of the first round (in a series of three) of meetings is to introduce the assessment process and goals to landowners, and to survey their watershed management concerns. These concerns are later used in the assessment document to help characterize the sub-basin, and in the process of prioritizing restoration projects (i.e. socio-economic criteria).

Coffee Klatches were held for each sub-basin, with two for the Catching Slough area due to its large number of landowners (sides of the sub-basin were invited to separate meetings). The Catching Slough meetings were on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, the Heads of Tide area meeting was on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the Daniel's Creek meeting was held March 8<sup>th</sup>. Coffee Klatch invitations were direct-mailed to landowners for each meeting (see sample enclosed). The graph to the right shows the number of



invitations sent, or contacts, in blue and the number of attendees resulting from the mailing. The total number of attendees for the first round of Coffee Klatches was 59, and average attendance was 12% of contacts. However, more than 59 individuals came to the meetings since each invitation letter counts for only one contact, but often a husband and wife would attend together. In this case, 79 individuals attended the Coffee Klatches (sign-in sheets are enclosed). The enclosed map, titled *Coffee Klatch Attendees Landownership*, shows the land represented by Coffee Klatch participants in green. All but a couple of these landowners were new to CoosWA, whereas the land shown in purple is owned by our established partners.

During this first meeting landowners were introduced to the mission of the Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) and the watershed assessment process. Landowners were then asked to provide input regarding their watershed concerns. A sample Coffee Klatch agenda and a concerns survey are enclosed. The three graph figures on page 3 show the results of the concerns surveys for each sub-basin. The categories were developed by CoosWA after reviewing all responses and grouping them into logical issues categories. The data indicate there are different top concerns in each sub-basin. For example, Catching landowners are most concerned about 'drainage structure management' such as tide gates and culverts. Heads of Tide landowners had the most responses under 'regulations and government interference', yet the category of 'invasive species control'

received the most first priority concerns. This particular Coffee Klatch, however, had only a very small number of attendees and the survey may not adequately represent the community. The Daniel's Creek landowners were most broadly concerned about 'habitat and environmental quality', but their top priority concerns were 'development encroaching' and 'sediment and erosion'.



*Coffee Klatch October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006*

Other products included with this report include the outreach effectiveness surveys collected at the end of each meeting, a brochure/fact-sheet titled *Watershed Assessment Overview*, and a data summary packet was created for the Heads of Tide area.



*Executive Director, Jon Souder, with landowners at a Coffee Klatch October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006*

Overall, the Coffee Klatches went well, and several projects have begun to develop already as a result of these events. Many new contacts were made with previously unknown landowners, especially in the Daniel's Creek sub-basin, where CoosWA looks forward to moving its assessment and restoration work beginning this summer.

The second round of Coffee Klatches is planned to be held in late summer or fall of 2007. These will consist of the 'project types' slide show and field site tour.

