

Coos Watershed Association Annual Report 2008



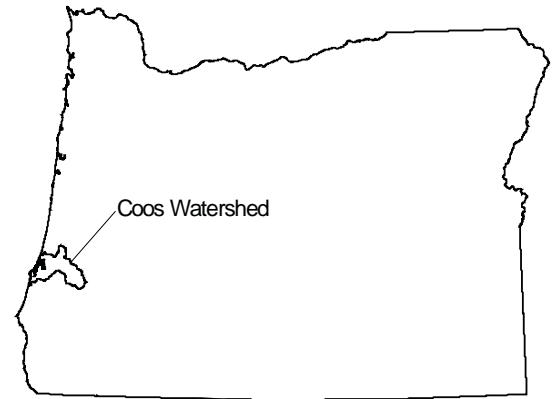
ABOUT THE COOS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

What is the Coos watershed?

A “watershed” is the area of land, from ridge to ridge, that ultimately drains to a particular body of water. The “Coos watershed” is the area of land that drains through Coos Bay, Oregon into the Pacific Ocean. It includes all forks and tributaries of the Coos and Millicoma Rivers, and all of the sloughs and creeks that drain into the Coos estuary.

What is the Coos Watershed Association?

The Coos Watershed Association is a local non-profit organization formed in late 1993. It’s a way for people with a wide range of interests to get together and develop the “big picture” of the conditions in the Coos watershed, and it helps individual landowners to decide how to manage and restore the watershed’s natural systems. The Association’s Board of Directors includes representatives of local ranching and agriculture, small woodland owners, industrial timber operators, commercial fisheries and aquaculture, environmental groups, tribal land managers, and local, state, and federal land managers from the Coos County Forest, Elliott State Forest, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.



How does the Association make decisions?

The Association’s Board of Directors is focused on the watershed’s future. They reach decisions by discussion and consensus - not a majority vote. A decision is final when no Directors object to it.

Coos Watershed Association Statement of Shared Values

The members of the Coos Watershed Association have adopted the following statement as an expression of the shared values which inspired creation of the Association:

WHEREAS we believe it is possible to achieve both environmental integrity and economic stability within the Coos Watershed; and
WHEREAS we believe that the natural products and processes of the watershed are indicators of watershed health, and are important to the economy and vitality of the community; and

WHEREAS we believe that human activities have a legitimate place in the watershed; and

WHEREAS we recognize that our actions can affect the stability of the watershed and related economy; and

WHEREAS we believe deliberate planning and action for watershed health are important and are effectively achieved by the people who live and work within the watershed; and

WHEREAS we believe that a watershed-scale perspective improves our ability to sustain the health of the watershed and related economic activities; and

WHEREAS we believe the coordination of our individual efforts can achieve a synergistic, beneficial effect on the watershed;

THEREFORE we will support environmental integrity and economic stability within the Coos watershed by increasing community capacity to develop, test, promote, and implement management practices in the interests of watershed health.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This last year has been an exciting and challenging one. Exciting because we finalized and began implementing our Model Watershed Program with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF). This 10-year grant will take our watershed restoration to a whole new level of sophistication and effectiveness. With funding from Oregon Trout's StreamBank program, a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to employ displaced salmon fishermen, and support from BEF we were able to implement our model watershed program in the first of our four focus sub-basins, Bottom and Cedar Creeks in the Weyerhaeuser Millicoma Tree Farm.

This year was challenging due to multiple employee transitions during the summer work season. Luckily we were able to complete all of our restoration projects as well as submit a full compliment of grant applications in October due largely to our network of partnerships, excellent contractors on the jobs, and cross-training of Association staff. The Board responded by instituting a new employment categorization scheme that allows for career ladders and that is attractive to mid-career professionals. With this new scheme we were fortunate enough to hire two new Project Managers who joined us in November, 2008 and January, 2009.

We advanced our outreach program during 2008 when Peter Donaldson brought his SalmonPeople program back to Coos Bay for a week in October at the request of the Coquille Indian Tribe. He spent his time with students, both in schools and at the Coquille Tribe, speaking to the Rotary Club, and giving master classes to Southwestern Oregon Community College theatre students. The Board formalized the creation of the *Friends of the Coos Watershed* through amendments to our Bylaws, however progress has been slow due to staff limitations. We were able to obtain an AmeriCorps intern for 2009 whose primary duty will be to get the *Friends* off the ground.

I appreciate the support of the Board, staff and the local community in making 2008 a successful year for the Coos Watershed Association. It is due to this dedication that we have been able to complete the activities reported here.

Cordially,



Executive Director

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RESTORATION PROGRAM

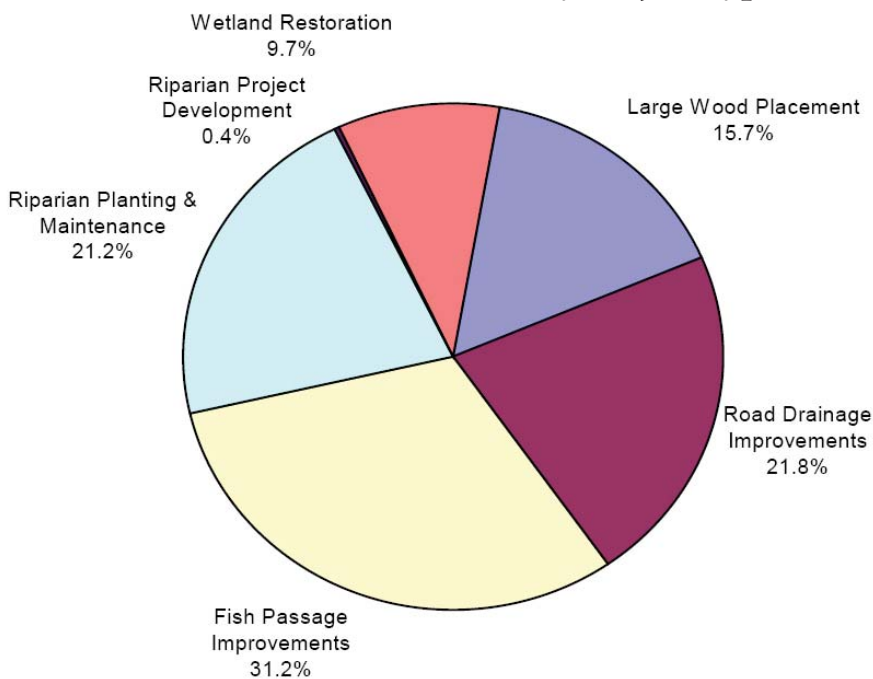
During 2008, the Coos Watershed Association continued to implement restoration projects that enhanced instream habitat through additions of large wood, improved fish passage, maintenance of existing riparian plantings, and establishing new riparian plantings. Project partners in 2008 included the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Coos County Road Department, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Weyerhaeuser Corporation, and private landowners. The Association's Restoration Program expenditures of grant funds totaled \$627,998; and project partners provided \$357,645 in match bringing the total budget for on-the-ground projects to \$985,643. Restoration project funding was provided by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, BLM, ODF, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Oregon Trout, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

In 2008, we applied for \$885,269 in restoration and technical assistance grant funds. We were awarded \$520,435 for projects to be implemented during 2009, of which \$417,817 was awarded by OWEB. Of the total amount applied for, there is still \$210,835 pending approval.

Restoration accomplishments in 2008 included:

- Placement of 174 pieces of large wood over 2.68 stream miles
- 136 cross-drain culvert installations on 20.5 miles of road
- Replacement of 6 stream culverts, improving fish passage to 4.7 stream miles.
- 19.5 acres of new riparian site preparation at 5 locations
- 17.5 acres of new riparian planting/hydro seeding at 5 locations
- 48 acres of riparian maintenance at 9 locations.

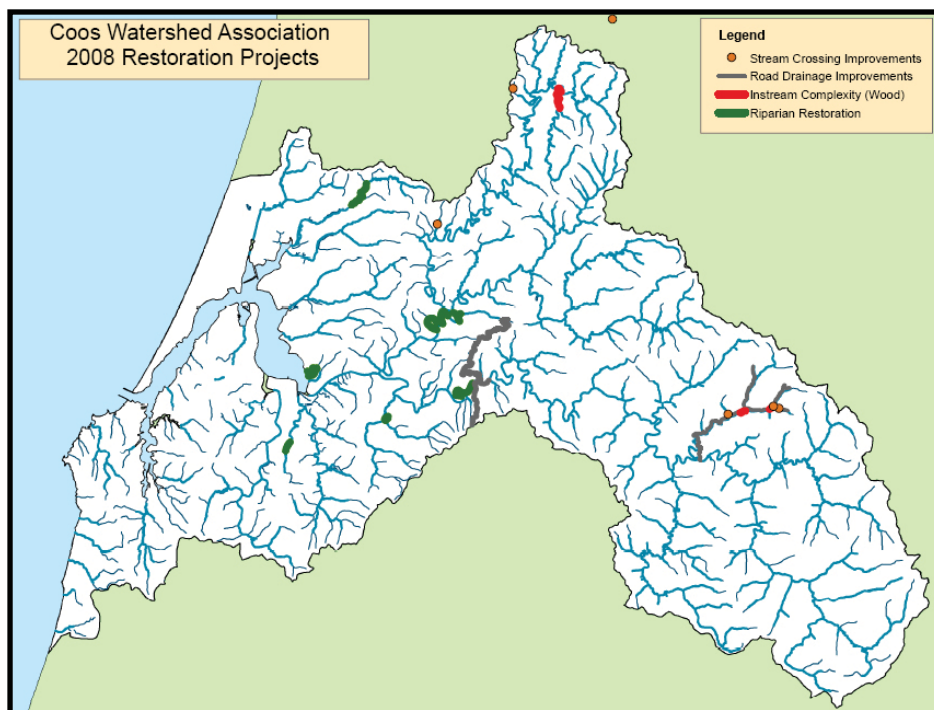
Distribution of Restoration Funds by Project Type



Riparian planting on a property along Millicoma River, Winter 2008



Riparian planting at the Weyco Allegany Log Yards at a confluence of the Millicoma River and the Woodruff Creek, Spring 2008



MONITORING PROGRAM

The CoosWA monitoring program had a productive year in 2008 with new projects such as PIT tagging of juvenile coho and effectiveness monitoring of the restoration program on Bottom Creek. As this part of the Association continues to grow, it will increasingly guide our restoration and other projects to be the best they can be.

Life Cycle Monitoring. The Coos Watershed Association completed the fifth consecutive year of the Life Cycle Monitoring Project in 2008 in Larson and Palouse Creeks, two tide gated streams located on Haynes Inlet in Coos Bay. The primary goal of the Life Cycle Monitoring project is to estimate adult coho salmon spawner abundance and outmigrant coho smolt population size in order to calculate freshwater and marine survival for coho populations in Larson and Palouse Creeks. In association with these monitoring activities, Coos Watershed Association biologists initiated efforts in 2008 to monitor juvenile coho distribution and movement in the tide gated lowland habitats of Palouse Creek.

In addition to monitoring coho salmon population abundance, efforts to examine juvenile coho growth among lowland habitats were initiated in 2008. Coos Watershed Association staff, in association with Oregon State University (OSU), captured and tagged juvenile coho with uniquely identified passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags in Palouse Creek to monitor distribution and movement near the tide gate and lowland stream areas upstream. We are proud to report that a tagged coho jack was recorded returning to Palouse Creek in 2008.



Adam Weybright (center) conducting a juvenile salmon sampling as part of the life cycle monitoring program

Tide Gate Research. In partnership with OIMB scientists and graduate students, six full duplex antennae monitored fish movement around the Palouse top hinge tide gate from April to November 2008. The antennae were placed both upstream and downstream of the tide gate to help determine direction and speed of the migrating fish. Other information about the physical conditions of the stream were also recorded around the Palouse tide gate. A total of 2247 coho, cutthroat, steelhead, and Chinook were tagged in 2008. A total of 264 tagged fish were detected at the Palouse tide gate and their behavior was classified as either “pass downstream,” “visit stream side,” “pass upstream,” or “visit bay side.” Only three individual fish were recorded passing upstream. Behavioral events were also plotted against the angle of the tide gate opening and time of day. There is a positive relationship between the number of behavioral events and the angle of the tide gate opening indicating more fish approach the tide gate when it is open further. However, it is impossible to know if the fish are responding to tidal activity. Further insight will be gained by recording fish passage events in the ungated Winchester Creek system.

Aquatic Habitat Surveys. During the 2008 survey season crews worked in two specific sub-basins on the upper South Fork Coos River; Bottom and Cedar Creeks. These crews were performing aquatic habitat inventory surveys (AHI), which followed the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (ODFW) survey protocol. AHI components included unit type, channel habitat type, substrate type, pool and residual pool depth, riffle sediment, large wood debris, and bank stability. Data that was collected this past summer is now being used in a limiting factors analysis for coho production, and is helping to provide baseline data for planned restoration projects in the Bottom Creek basin. The Cedar Creek sub-basin was surveyed in order to obtain proper baseline data on a reference stream. Our crews were able to survey over 24 miles of mainstem habitat, and 9 miles of valuable tributary habitat. Towards the end of the 2008 survey season our staff conducted the US EPA’s relative bed stability (RBS) survey on a total of 30 sites in the Bottom Creek and Cedar Creek Sub-basins. These RBS surveys have allowed us to better track the stream bed movement and channel morphology changes. Because of the survey work we were able to conduct last season we can now better assess stream geomorphology changes for future restoration work.

During the upcoming 2009 summer restoration season much of the specific limiting factors data will be used to evaluate restoration activities in order to identify their effectiveness in creating and enhancing salmonid habitat. ODFW habitat benchmarks are being used to evaluate the effectiveness of our multi-faceted restoration program in Bottom Creek. The results of this analysis will then be used to identify and prioritize future restoration activities in similar sub-basins.

Hydrological & Meteorological Monitoring. The CoosWA operates four stream gauging stations to USGS standards on the South Fork Coos River, West and East Forks Millicoma Rivers, and Marlow Creek using OWEB funding. In 2007 the BLM provided funding to restart and operate their stream gauge on Tioga Creek in the South Fork Coos system. This station has been operating for a year and a half. We continue to operate three stream gauging stations under contract to the Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board to assist in dam operations (Pony Creek) and water rights determinations (Tenmile and Eel Creeks). We also continued operation of the three multi-parameter weather stations. Our hydrological and meteorological data was most recently used by Jeffery R. Cordell; the Principal Research Scientist at the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington, in a paper on creating predictive models for the occurrence of invasive copepods.

ASSESSMENT & OUTREACH PROGRAM

In 2008, CoosWA's Assessment and Outreach Program successfully completed a large assessment and prioritization endeavor and ventured into a relatively new type of assessment work – functional assessment of tidal wetlands.

Sub-basin Assessments

For the past two years Coos WA has been developing and updating the Catching Slough, Daniel's Creek and Heads of Tide Assessment and Restoration Plan. Major accomplishments and wrap-up of this project in 2008 included:

- Completion of the habitat survey data analysis from the Daniel's Creek sub-basin
- Calculation of the coho habitat limiting factors within each study stream of the entire assessment area
- A site tour of nearby restoration projects
- The third round of coffee klatches for assessment area landowners
- Prioritization of potential restoration actions in the assessment area

This assessment and restoration plan represents a significant amount of knowledge about the 45,149 acre assessment area, and since its initiation in November of 2006, has resulted in the following restoration actions within the assessment area:

- 31 stream crossing culverts replaced
- 1 new stream crossing culvert installed
- 1 artificial fish barrier removed
- 41 ditch relief culverts installed
- 1 culvert replacement planned for 2009
- 4 ditch outs planned for 2009
- 41+ acres of weed control and riparian planting
- 605 feet of bank-stabilizing willow walls

The assessment and restoration planning process, which included landowner outreach, has identified 30 potential restoration projects showing high biological priority, socio-economic acceptance, and high likelihood of landowner commitment. Coos WA intends to pursue development and funding of these potential projects as the organization's capacity allows.

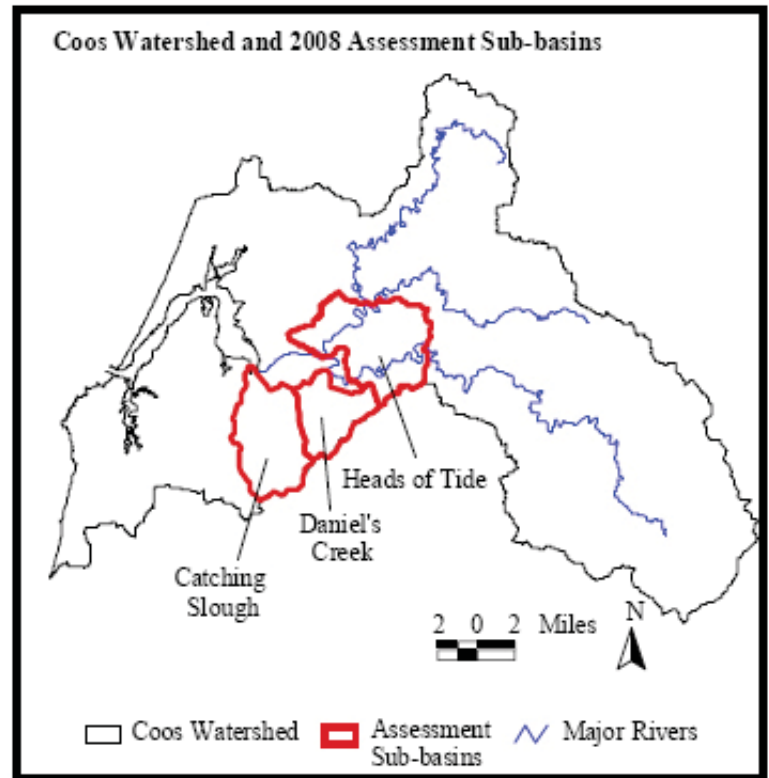
Coffee Klatches

The outreach component of the assessment process consisted of a site tour and the third round of coffee klatches for landowners in the assessment sub-basins. Coffee klatches are 'neighbor-shed' meetings to familiarize landowners with the Association's mission and integrate their concerns into the watershed prioritization process. A restoration projects site tour, a regular part of the coffee klatch series, was held in May of 2008 and attended by 12 assessment area landowners. Sites visited were a new bank-stabilization project on Daniel's Creek, projects on the lower South Fork Coos River including a culvert replacement, and two riparian planting projects with distinctly different 'styles' based on landowner preferences.

The last round of coffee klatches was conducted for landowners in the assessment area. Two meetings were held for the Catching Slough sub-basin due to the high number of landowners, especially along Isthmus Heights. Two meetings were also held for landowners in the combined Daniel's Creek and Heads of Tide areas. Thirty-three individual landowners attended the third round of coffee klatch meetings.

Tidal Wetland Assessment

CoosWA received grant funding to implement an assessment of tidal wetlands in the upper Coos Bay estuary. The assessment project utilizes two distinct assessment methods for evaluating wetlands: the *Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) Assessment Guidebook for Tidal Wetlands of the Oregon Coast Rapid Assessment Method, 2006* (developed by Paul Adamus with support from CoosWA), and Laura Brophy's, *Estuary Assessment: Component XII of the Oregon Watershed Assessment Manual, 2007*. Both Paul and Laura conducted trainings on the use of these methods as part of the grant project. Several CoosWA staff attended the trainings in the late spring of 2008.





Left: Paul Adamus and Bes-sie Joyce during the HGM training, June, 2008.

Right: Catching Slough Coffee Klatch, June 19th 2008 (top). Site tour May 17th, 2008. Daniel's Creek riparian project site (bottom).



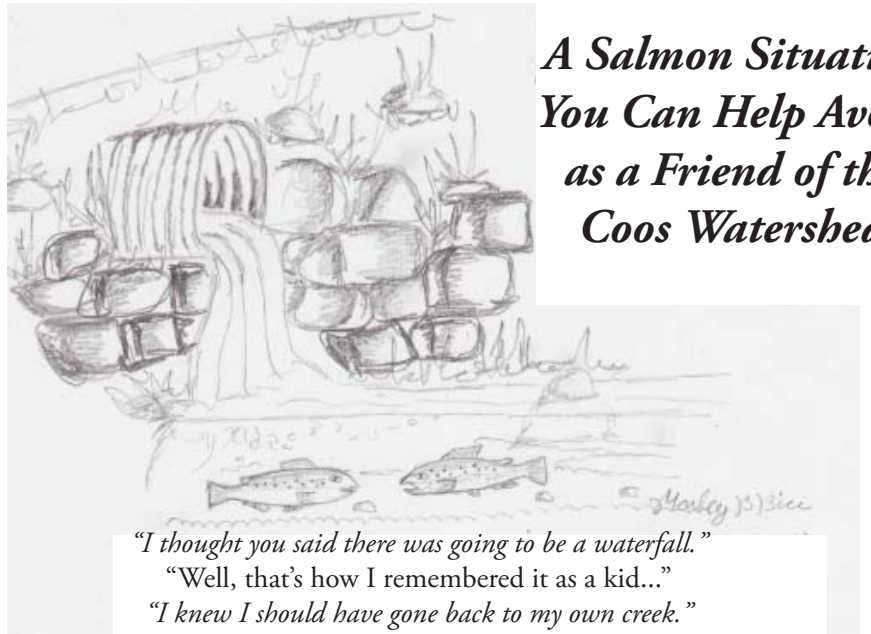
The HGM rapid assessment was conducted during the summer of 2008 at 14 tidal wetland sites to the south and east of Coos Bay. The HGM method is designed to evaluate how well a wetland is functioning within the watershed context and in comparison to other wetlands of the same type on the Oregon coast. This method also provides the opportunity to assign locally-determined values to the suite of wetland functions. The project will continue into 2009 with the Estuary Assessment, which addresses tidal fringe wetlands, and through additional meetings with the project's advisory committee.

FRIENDS OF THE COOS WATERSHED

The *Friends of the Coos Watershed*, a support group established by the Coos Watershed Association in November of 2007, aims to enhance participation in Association activities through providing opportunities for volunteerism, outreach, fund- and friend-raising, and cultivation of future Board members. Initial recruitment for the *Friends* was done through a mailing to all Salmon License Plate holders with zip codes within the watershed, through a mailing to all members of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, and through two presentations of Peter Donaldson's one-man show *SalmonPeople* about salmon and the watershed. These initial efforts produced 26 *Friends*.

In October of 2008, Peter Donaldson returned to the Bay Area for a week to work with the local schools, business associations, the Coquille Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians to raise awareness of watershed and sustainability issues.

However, 2009 shows promise for the development of this group through an AmeriCorps intern position focused on outreach that will run through November 2009, and the return of Donaldson's *SalmonPeople*. The Coquille Tribe, in collaboration with CoosWA and seven other local non-profits, plans to bring Peter Donaldson back to the Coos Bay area in January 2009 for a repeat performance of *SalmonPeople* and to again work with local schools and service groups raising awareness of the issues of interdependence between salmon and people within the Coos watershed.



***A Salmon Situation
You Can Help Avoid
as a Friend of the
Coos Watershed***

"I thought you said there was going to be a waterfall."
 "Well, that's how I remembered it as a kid..."
 "I knew I should have gone back to my own creek."

SALMON SEASON STATE OF EMERGENCY

Through funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), the Association was able to continue to employ 3 displaced fishers as a “Riparian Stewardship Crew” in 2008 to work on riparian restoration and enhancement projects. The Riparian Stewardship Crew cleared over 50 acres of noxious weeds and prepared sites for 2008-2009 riparian planting projects. Accomplishments during 2008 included clearing and planting 5 acres at the Allegany Log yard, 1.2 acres at the Brunschmid wetland and 2 acres on private properties along Daniel’s Creek and Palouse Creek. Riparian restoration provides benefits to the stream system by stabilizing soils, keeping stream temperatures cool in the summer, and providing refuge from predators and habitat for wildlife. Bioengineered bank stabilization projects reduce sediments entering creeks and provide property protection. One such project involved the installation of willow walls on 340 feet of eroding stream bank bordering Daniel’s Creek. Willow walls and erosion control fabric provided an immediate “fix” to eroding banks, rooting the following spring to form a dense vegetated wall by summer. Additionally, 1 acre of stream bank was cleared of noxious weeds and planted with native vegetation to form a diverse riparian buffer.

<i>Restoration Project</i>	<i>Accomplishments</i>
South Fork Coos River Winter Springs Riparian Restoration Fern Hollow Farms Riparian Restoration Saltmarsh Riparian Restoration and Bank Stabilization Wilson Ranch Riparian Restoration	Released 8 acres of riparian plantings from competition with noxious weeds. Released 13 acres of riparian plantings from competition with noxious weeds Constructed 340 feet of willow wall and planted 1 acre of native vegetation. Maintained 12.1 acres of riparian plantings.
Millicoma River Hendrickson Creek Riparian Restoration Packard Creek Riparian Restoration Allegany Log Yard Riparian Restoration	Released ~2 acres of riparian plantings from competition with noxious weeds. Released 2 acres of riparian plantings from competition with noxious weeds. Cleared and planted 5 acres of riparian vegetation.
Catching Slough Catching Slough Bank Stabilization Catching Slough Riparian Planting	Constructed 265 linear feet of willow wall. Planted 2,900 feet of riparian vegetation.
Bay Tributaries & Wetlands ODF Ranch Riparian Restoration Larson Creek bank stabilization (six landowners) Echo Creek Riparian Restoration Haga Riparian Restoration (Palouse Creek) Brunschmid Wetland Fredrickson Wetland	Released 4.4 acres of riparian plantings from competition with noxious weeds. Maintained 1,000+ feet of willow walls and 2.2 acres of native vegetation. Maintained 0.5 acres of riparian plantings. Planted and maintained 1 acre of riparian vegetation. Cleared and planted 1.2 acres of native trees and shrubs. Maintained 4.1 acres of riparian vegetation.



Riparian Stewardship Crew planting at property along Palouse Creek



Fishermen Bob Miller and Jacob Praus working on willow wall project on Daniels Creek, January-February, 2008



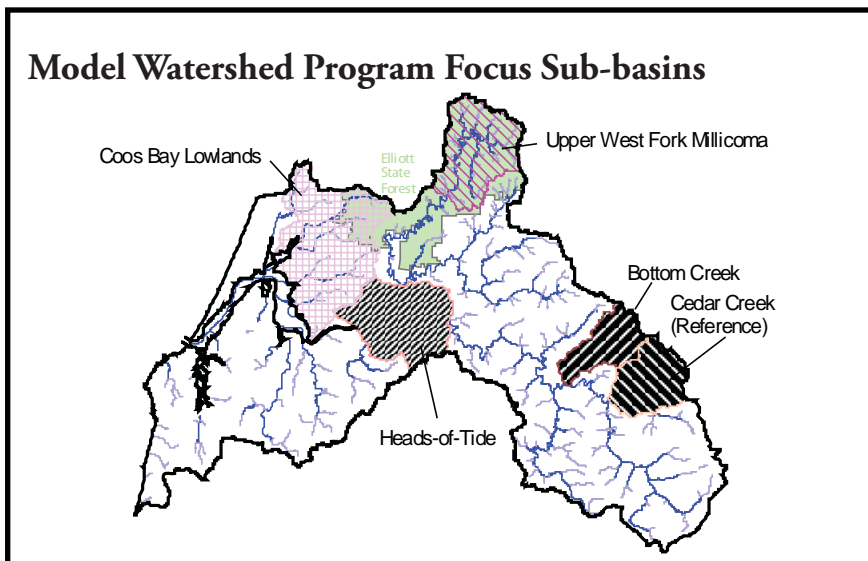
In 2008, the Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) was selected by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to be their sixth model watershed. BEF’s model watershed program is designed to “apply rigorous project standards and support only long-term and science-based restoration initiatives.” CoosWA was chosen for our commitment to the scientific evaluation of our restoration program and because CoosWA’s experiences could serve as a model for other watershed groups. The 10-year plan for this Model Watershed Program (MWP) was approved by the Board of Directors in April, 2008 and involves assessment and monitoring, watershed restoration, and socio-economic goals in four focus sub-basins within the Coos watershed. A ten-year time scale is utilized in this project to allow for evaluation of cumulative progress and the opportunity to make improvements along the way. BEF’s support of this project will include technical assistance, scientific review, and financial support.

The BEF webpage announcing this collaboration (<http://www.b-e-f.org/watersheds/coosbay.shtm>) describes the Coos watershed as an “extremely productive and important habitat for coho salmon.” Many of our efforts over the next ten-years will involve evaluating coho salmon use of streams in the Coos watershed and measures to improve coho salmon spawning and rearing habitats.

Four focus sub-basins were identified to integrate and evaluate restoration efforts on the watershed-scale because they have been the site of concentrated restoration actions over the past 15 years. The four focus sub-basins are: Coos Bay Lowlands, Heads of Tide, Upper West Fork Millicoma River, and Bottom Creek (see map of focus areas below). Restoration projects are designed to restore stream complexity and improve water quality.

- 1) The Coos Bay Lowlands consists mainly of low-gradient streams with tide gates at their mouth and varied land uses. However, these streams are some of the most productive for coho salmon on the Oregon Coast and are therefore an ideal location to evaluate tide gate replacements for fish passage and the effects of riparian planting on stream temperatures and sediment reduction.
- 2) The Heads-of-Tide region consists of upper tidal portions of the Millicoma River and South Fork Coos Rivers. These rivers are the site of important thermal refugia for salmon in the summer and rearing habitat during winter high flows and monitoring has focused on evaluating the use of mainstem and tributary areas for juvenile coho rearing.
- 3) The Upper West Fork Millicoma River lies entirely within the Elliott State Forest which is managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Monitoring in this focus area has focused on evaluating the large wood placements and their effect on stream complexity and creating favorable fish habitats.
- 4) The Bottom Creek focus area lies entirely within the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company Millicoma Tree Farm where monitoring projects in 2001 focused on evaluating the fish passage and boulder weir placements.

CoosWA has set three main goals for this program within three main categories (see table “The Goals” to the right) and with multiple objectives and strategies for obtaining each objective for each goal. The complete Model Watershed Program strategic plan can be found at: <http://www.cooswatershed.org/Publications/CoosWA%20MWP.pdf>.



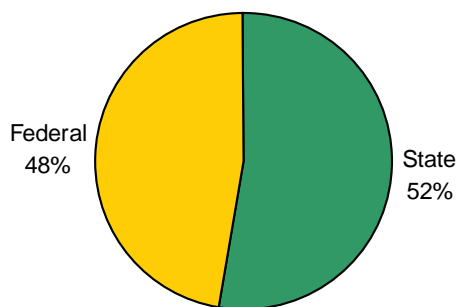
The Goals
<i>Assessment and Monitoring Goal:</i> to gain an understanding of the status and trends of watershed characteristics and the cumulative effects of restoration projects and programs.
<i>Watershed Restoration Goal:</i> to restore sustainable, fishable populations of coho and other native species by improving freshwater and estuarine watershed conditions.
<i>Socio-Economic Goal:</i> to engage the local community to restore the Coos Watershed

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

In 2008, the Coos Watershed Association's accounting system remained very effective and allowed for growth in other financial areas. We were able to focus on improving and developing budgets. During the first quarter of 2008 we put together an administrative budget to help with internal controls and to better track spending patterns. An evaluation at the end of 2008 shows that we have learned a lot and have improved our budgeting skills.

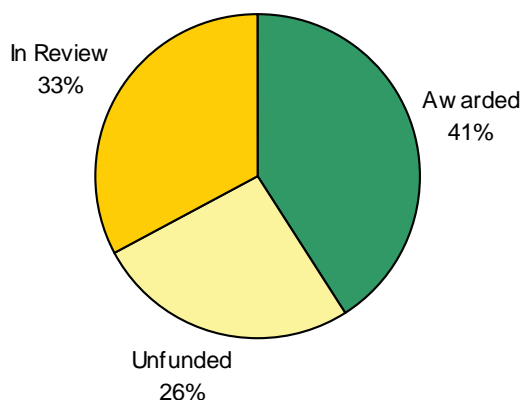
During 2008 we closed out approximately \$348,973 in grants. This amount is down significantly from last year (\$1,081,232), largely due to changes in grant implementation cycles. One of the larger grants closed out was from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for watershed assessments.

Grants Closed in 2008



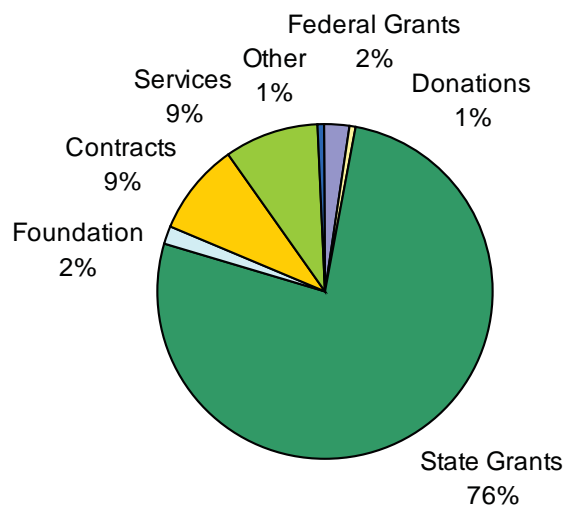
In 2008 we applied for a total of \$1,727,589 in funding. We were awarded \$704,808 and \$567,944 of funding is still being reviewed. We were awarded the Bonneville Environmental Foundation Model Watershed grant that will allow for a 10-year monitoring and evaluation strategy for the Coos Watershed and 10 years of funding to help implement it.

Grants Awarded 2008



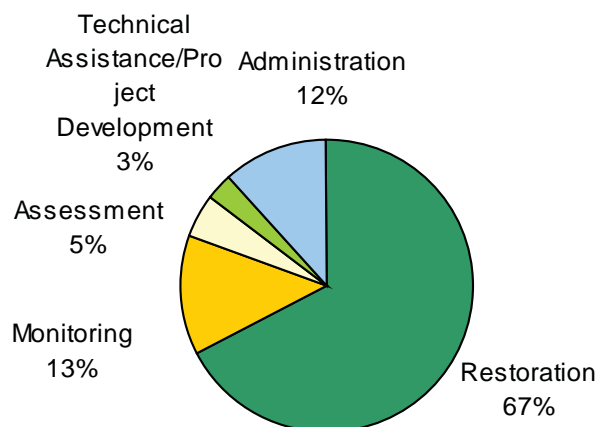
Throughout 2008 our program and support services continued to be paid predominantly from state grants (76%), there was a large decrease in federal grants (2% in 2008, down from 28% in 2007). We are happy to say our foundation support increased during 2008 (2%), as did our income associated with contracts (9%). The remaining funding sources included donations, revenue from our native plant nursery, support services, and Riparian Silviculture Guide sales. We will continue to seek new funding opportunities do diversify our sources of income in 2009.

Sources of Funding in 2008



We spent approximately \$1,055,359 on program and support services during 2008. Similar to previous years, much of this funding was expended on restoration project implementation (67%). Another 13% of expenses in 2008 was associated with monitoring, and 5% with assessment. Project development expenditures did not change from 2007, remaining at 3%. Expenses associated with support services totaled 12%, down from 15% in 2007.

Expenses by Program 2008

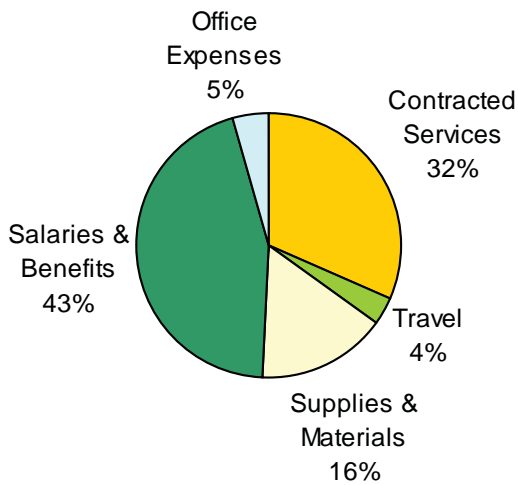


FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Due to capacity shortages for half of 2008 we were not able to continue with the fund development plan as much as was desired. We will have an AmeriCorps volunteer that would focus on outreach and assist with fundraising tasks starting in January 2009.

During 2008 most of our expenses were associated with staff salaries and benefits (43%) down from 47% in 2007, and project contracts (32%) down from 38% in 2007. Project related supplies and materials accounted for 16% of the years expenditures, up from 7% in 2007. Both travel (4%) and operational office expenses (5%) remained the about the same.

Expenses by Type in 2008



Staff Highlight: Mike Lester

In 2008, the Coos Watershed Association celebrated their 15th anniversary and our longest serving staff member celebrated his 13th anniversary. Mike Lester joined the Coos Watershed Association in 1995 as part of our first "hire the fishermen" program. In the early days he was involved in riparian plantings, especially on Willanch Creek. He quickly proved himself to be a good worker and moved up to doing road and landing surveys and evaluating the results. After seven years of survey experience, Mike accepted a full-time staff position as the Sediment Risk Reduction Coordinator in 2004. In 2007, Mike's title was changed to Road Sediment Remediation Specialist and Riparian Stewardship Crew Leader when he started to lead the new Salmon Season Riparian Stewardship Crew. Mike has been involved in almost every restoration project the Association has done since 1995 and was instrumental in developing the database that was used in our *Coastal Oregon Riparian Silviculture Guide*. Thank you for your dedication and hard work, Mike!



Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 97,814
Grants receivable	332,878
Prepaid insurance	4,030
Office and field equipment (less accumulated depreciation \$33,353)	20,772
Total assets	\$455,494

Liabilities and Net Assets	
Accounts payable	\$141,231
Accrued payroll taxes and benefits	11,446
Accrued vacation	16,677
Total liabilities	169,354
Net assets	
Unrestricted	241,116
Temporarily restricted	45,024
Total net assets	286,140
Total liabilities and net assets	\$455,494

Statement of Activities

Revenues	
Allocation to administration	\$ 79,943
Contract services	18,792
Contributions	6,325
Other income	11,599
Interest income	1,259
Total unrestricted revenue	\$ 117,918

Expenses	
Program services	\$ 915,123
Support services	140,233
Total expenses	\$1,055,356

Change in net assets	\$ 53,075
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 233,065
Net assets, end of year	\$ 286,140

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Association's Board of Directors had an active year, particularly in the first half. The Board completed work on a number of efforts begun in 2007, including approving the Restated Articles of Incorporation, Bylaw amendments, and *Resource Development Plan*. One key component of the Bylaw amendments was the establishment of a formal Conflict of Interest policy and the requirement that each Board member annually certify that he or she has complied with the policy. As a response to the continuing problem of employee retention, the Board expanded the pay range for Project Managers and instituted a clear relationship between education, experience, and salary to both retain experienced employees as well as attract mid-career candidates.

The Annual Meeting was held in March at the Black Market Gourmet's facility in Coos Bay. The keynote speaker was Angus Duncan, President of the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Angus talked about the role that he saw for watershed councils in responding to the challenges that we will face from climate change as well as the role that councils play in developing sustainable communities. As discussed elsewhere in this Report, the Board approved the agreement with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to be its sixth Model Watershed Program. Prior to its approval, our proposal and the agreement were reviewed by the Research and Outreach Committee as well as the Executive Committee.

The Board visited the Bottom Creek restoration projects for its annual projects tour. Road engineer Jason Richardson explained how Weyerhaeuser had been able to "recycle" beams from bypasses at an I-5 bridge project to construct a 93-foot span over upper Bottom Creek for about 30% of the materials cost of a new bridge. Suzanne George, the Oregon Trout manager for their StreamBank program joined the Board as it examined two of the four large wood placements intended to catch gravels liberated as a result of culvert removals. She will return in 2009 to see the significant benefits to the stream that resulted after a large rain-on-snow event in December.

The Executive Committee met monthly during the year to review finances and grants management, set Board meeting agendas, and act on immediate needs. This system, established in the *Strategic Framework* in 2005 continues to function well. The Audit Committee met twice, once with the Auditors and once to prepare a report to the Board. The Restoration Projects Committee met in June to review our strategy and projects under development; the Research and Outreach Committee did not meet due to staffing constraints. With full staffing in 2009 these committees will meet more frequently.



Board members Dave Messerle and Mark Nauman talking to Friends of the Coos Watershed at the Annual Meeting, March 2008



2008 Board Tour to Bottom Creek

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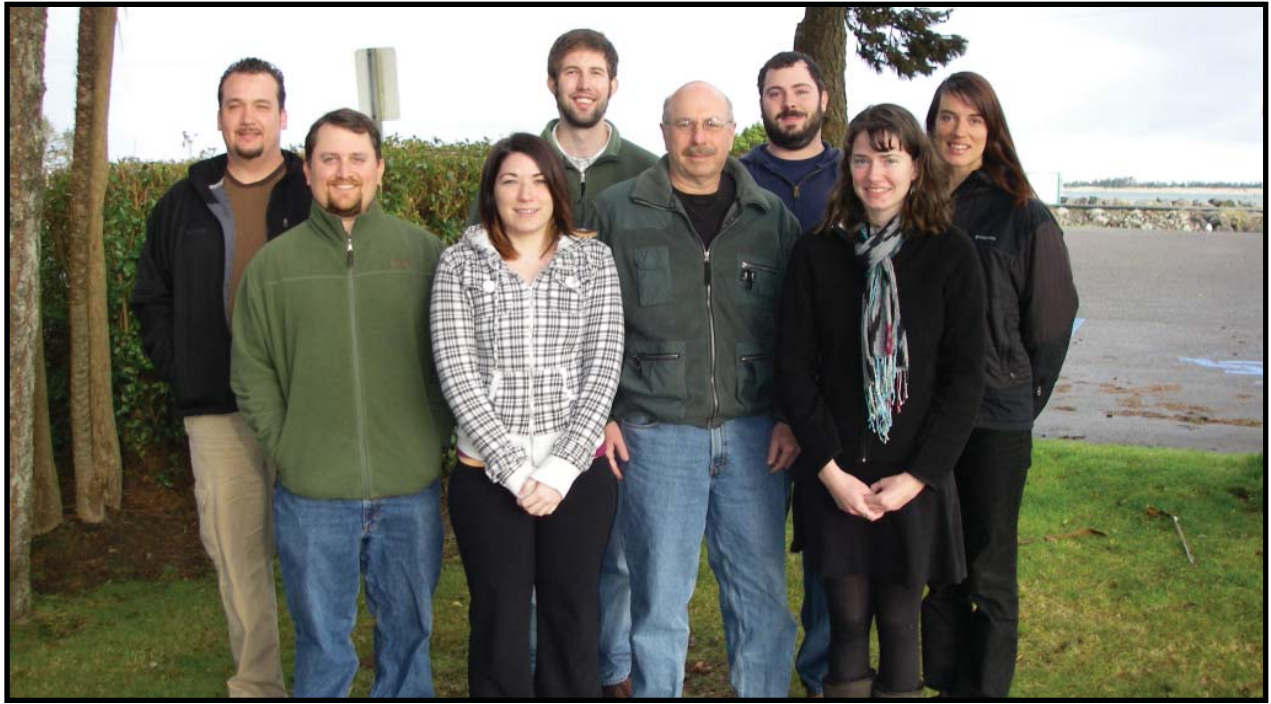
Dennis Turowski

Bureau of Land Management, Federal Land Manager



Keynote speaker Angus Duncan with board member Mike Graybill, Annual Meeting, March 2008

STAFF



Staff members clockwise from top left: Freelin Reasor, Tyler Pedersen, Dan Draper, Bessie Joyce, Marley Bice, Jon Souder, Aimee Peters, Nick Scheidt (not pictured: Michael Lester and Adam Weybright).

Marley Bice

Watershed Outreach Organizer -- AmeriCorps Intern

Daniel Draper

Monitoring Technician

Bessie Joyce

Assessment & Outreach Coordinator

Michael Lester

Road Sediment Specialist & Riparian Stewardship Crew Leader

Tyler Pedersen

Lowlands Restoration Projects Manager

Aimee Peters

Office Manager & Bookkeeper

Freelin Reasor

Monitoring Technician

Nick Scheidt

Monitoring Coordinator & Headlands Restoration Projects Manager

Jon Souder, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Adam Weybright

Monitoring Coordinator

MEET THE NEW STAFF

Marley Bice Marley graduated from the College of William and Mary in 2008 with a B.S. degree in Geology and Environmental Science. She spent six months as a marketing assistant with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals before accepting this AmeriCorps position. She has completed research projects in oceanography, dendroclimatology, and marine geochemistry. Her passions are sustainable development and urban planning. Her hobbies include reading, painting, dogs and traveling.

Tyler Pedersen Tyler graduated from the University of Montana with a B.A. degree in Biology in 2006. Since then, he has served one five-month AmeriCorps term with the Montana Conservation Corps in Helena, Montana, and more recently an 11-month term in Gresham, Oregon. He has also spent time in the Midwest working through the University of Illinois Natural History Survey as a herpetological field technician. His hobbies include reading, writing poetry, drawing, running, hiking, and above all, enjoying Nature.

Nick Scheidt Nick has a B.S. in Natural Resources/Watershed Management from Oregon State University and a M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Idaho. His research interests include in-stream wood budgeting, the effects of wood on stream channel morphology, the effects of forest roads on delivery of fine sediments to streams, and the use of GIS applications to model watershed processes. His hobbies include fishing, hiking, snow skiing, and hunting. His wife, Kenzie, is currently attending school to become a physician's assistant.

We would like to thank former staff who worked during 2008:

Sarah Dyrdaahl

Riparian Restoration Specialist

Joseph Feldhaus

Project Manager

Special Thanks To:

Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Bureau of Land Management
Cape Arago Audubon Society
Coos Bay / North Bend Water Board
Coos County
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, U.S.
Department of Agriculture
Menasha-Campbell Forest Products
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Oregon Department of Agriculture
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Oregon Department of Forestry
Oregon Department of State Lands
Oregon Sea Grant
Oregon State University
Oregon Trout
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
The Wetlands Conservancy
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Weyerhaeuser Timber Company

Barbara Grant, Coos Soil & Water Conservation District
Ben Herr
Coos Bay Timber Operators
Craig Cornu, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
ESRI Inc.
Glenn Harkleroad, Bureau of Land Management
Guillermo Giannico, OSU, Department of Fish & Wildlife
Hostetter Land Surveying
Hough MacAdam & Wartnik, LLC
Jason Richardson, Weyerhaeuser Company
Jennifer Feola, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Ken Carpenter, Coos County Road Department
Kevin Houshour, Houshour Inc.
Laura Brophy, Greenpoint Consulting
Mark Grenbemer, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Mark Villers, Blue Ridge Timber Cutting
Marty Giles, Sharp Point
Messerle & Sons
Milo Crumrine, M&D Environmental Services
Randy Smith, Oregon Department of Forestry
Rex Miller, Agri Tech Design
TechSoup
Microsoft Corporation
The Dyer Partnership Engineers & Planners
Tom Hoesly, Menasha-Campbell Forest Products Corporation

COOS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

If you would like to learn more about the Coos Watershed Association, please contact us. Whether you are a landowner with a potential restoration project or seeking assistance on ways that you can better manage your land, or you would just like to know more about who we are and where we work, we would love to hear from you.

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