

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coos Watershed Association Receives Large Grant to Continue Model Watershed Program

On Monday May 11, 2009, the Directors of the Laird Norton Family Foundation voted to approve a grant for \$75,000 to the Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) to begin implementation of their Model Watershed Program (MWP). The MWP is a 10-year program designed to “apply rigorous project standards and support only long-term and science-based restoration initiatives.” According to Nick MacPhee, Managing Director of the Foundation, “The Coos Watershed Association was at the top of our list because of its commitment to long-term monitoring and evaluation”.

From an initial pool of 70 applicants, the Coos Watershed Association was selected partially due to the productive partnerships they have and continue to pursue with landowners and managers throughout the watershed. “We have demonstrated that successful restoration programs can involve partnerships with industrial timber companies, state land managers in the Elliott State Forest, Coos County, cattle ranchers, small woodlot owners, rural residential “hobby farmers” and the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve.”

Approximately half of the funds will be used to sub-contract with the StatNat (Statistics in Natural Resources) group at Oregon State University to help create effective study designs. A large portion of the grant will be used to collect and analyze data in the Bottom Creek and Coos Bay Lowlands focus areas of the Model Watershed Program study. Additionally, \$5,000 of the grant will be used to support a University of Vermont student to prepare a report on environmental indicators for the Coos watershed as part of her Master’s thesis.

About the Coos Watershed Association – The Coos Watershed Association is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 1994 as a way for people with a wide range of interests to get together and discuss the “big picture” of the conditions of the Coos watershed. The Association implements restoration, monitoring, and outreach projects throughout the Coos watershed with the goal of restoring and maintaining healthy, functioning stream systems. The Association also helps individual landowners decide how to manage and restore the watershed’s natural systems.

Contact:

Marley Bice
Coos Watershed Association
541-888-5922
541-888-6111 (fax)
mbice@cooswatershed.org
<http://www.cooswatershed.org>

#####