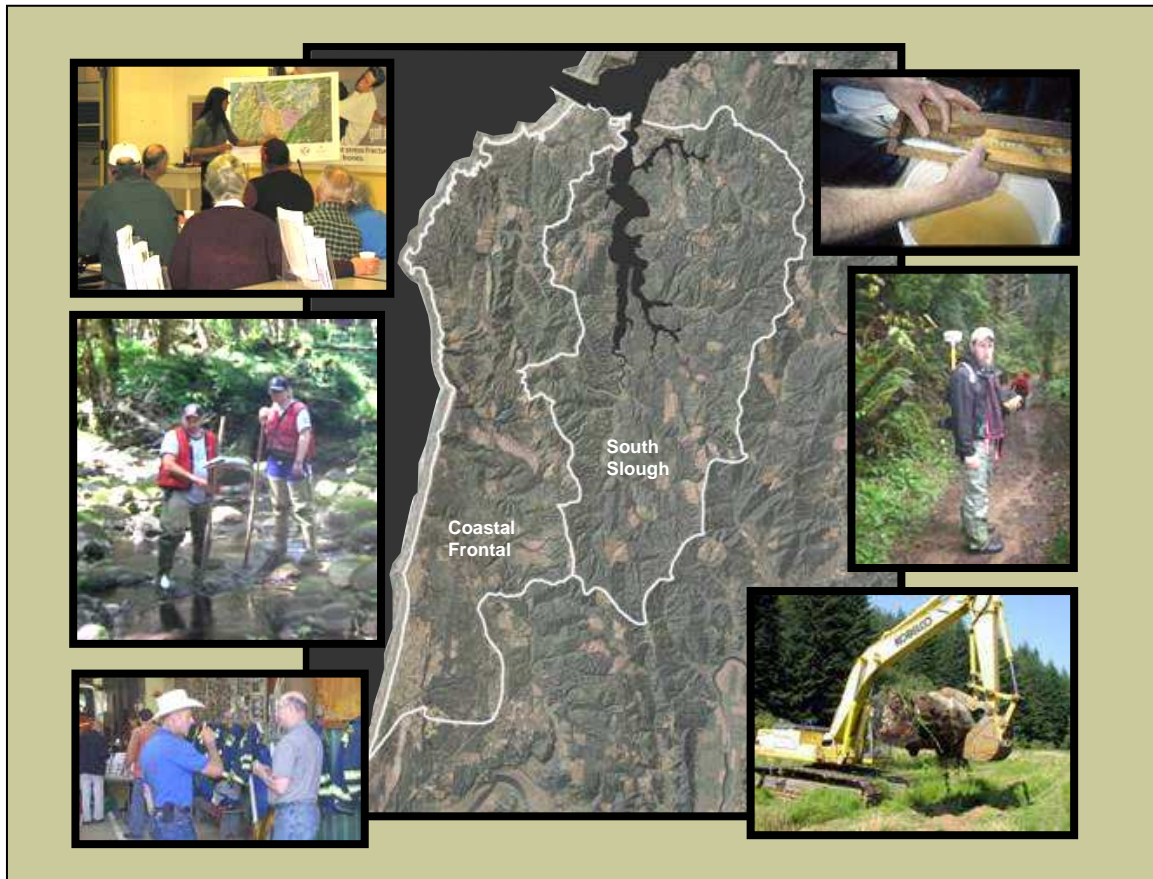


# ***Partnership for Coastal Watersheds***



## ***Project Overview***

Beginning in winter 2009/2010 the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Coos Watershed Association, local landowners, technical advisors, and interested individuals and organizations will begin work on a new approach to managing coastal watersheds.

The Partnership for Coastal Watersheds, focused on the South Slough watershed and several small watersheds that drain to the Pacific Ocean between Cape Arago and Bullards Beach (the coastal frontal watersheds), could provide our community with a way to anticipate and respond to the local effects of climate and land use changes.

Large-scale changes in land uses and climate-related impacts have the potential to alter our community's quality of life and its long-term economic viability. Changes will come from a variety of sources including proposed mineral sands mining, expanded golf-course and residential developments, shifts in Dungeness crab, rockfish and salmon fisheries, and possible increased potential for fire in Coast Range forests.

These changes overlies the effects of more traditional land uses, such as timber harvesting, fishing and public recreation, as well as the day-to-day management of the South Slough NERR, a 4,800 acre area dedicated to research and education.

The landowners, scientists, and interested individuals and organizations who form a community partnership for this project will identify voluntary watershed management actions designed to characterize and respond to the many pressures that changing climate and land uses present. Partners will identify incentives to encourage implementation of these practices.

The overall strategy includes four elements:

***Watershed Assessment and Visioning***— Partners will conduct an assessment of current conditions in the project area to provide the basis for discussion among local landowners, technical advisors and interested individuals and organizations to understand local land management concerns and develop an ecological and socio-economic vision for the project area.

***Watershed Management***— Using the results from the watershed assessment and visioning, the project partners will identify and prioritize watershed restoration projects (for example, wetland and stream restoration, road drainage improvements, forest fuels management, etc.) that will provide both ecological and socio-economic benefits for local residents.

***Watershed Status and Trends Monitoring***—Partners will track the watersheds' response to future climate- and land use-induced changes and evaluate the effectiveness of restoration actions.

***State of the Watershed Information Website***—A website housing project meeting schedules, agendas, minutes, visual materials, and monitoring data will also feature a State of the Watershed assessment. The biennial report will summarize project progress, help the project team and our community to understand changes in the watershed, and help plan future management actions.

This project is intended to be ongoing, allowing our community to consider its options in response to changes characterized by long-term watershed monitoring. The first two years of the project are funded by a grant from the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology with additional funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Laird Norton Family Foundation.

**For more information please contact:**

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