

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Join CoosWA and South Slough for Free Water Quality Events in September

Coos Bay, OR (Coos Watershed Association and South Slough NERR), September 3, 2009 – The *Friends of the Coos Watershed* – the community support group of the Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) – in collaboration with the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNERR), will host two free events in September focused on water quality both nationally and locally.

Are you interested in water quality issues nationally and locally? Have you ever wondered what is in your drinking water or what land use has to do with water quality? Join South Slough and CoosWA for two FREE events in September.

Saturday September 26: National Estuaries Day at South Slough

View the PBS Frontline documentary *Poisoned Waters* and learn about water quality issues from the Chesapeake Bay to Puget Sound. Learn about sources of pollution, why stormwater is a major threat, how land use affects water quality, and much more. There will be two FREE screenings at 10 am and 1 pm at the South Slough NERR Interpretive Center in Charleston.

Wednesday September 30: Green Night at Java Jones

Then join South Slough NERR and CoosWA for a discussion of water quality in the Coos watershed. Discussion leaders will focus on drinking water and land use issues, and lessons from “smart growth.” This FREE public discussion will be from 7 to 9 pm as part of Java Jones’ Green Night program at 757 Newmark Avenue in Empire.

About the Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) – 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.

About the South Slough National Estuarine Reserve (South Slough NERR) – The South Slough NERR is a 4,800-acre natural area located in the Coos estuary on Oregon’s south coast. The Reserve was designated in 1974 as the first unit of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), a network of estuarine habitats protected and managed for the purposes of long-term research, education, and coastal stewardship. All NERRS are administered as a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and coastal states. The Oregon Department of State Lands serves as the South Slough’s state partner. More information on the South Slough: <http://www.southsloughestuary.org>.

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