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.
Over the past year, the Coos Watershed Association has matured into a more effective and sustainable organization.

Highlights of the year include:

- Through amendments to our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws the Board established the *Friends of the Coos Watershed* group. The kickoff event included two performances of Peter Donaldson’s show *SalmonPeople*. As a result of his performances and our outreach efforts another twenty-five members were enrolled. (read more about *Friends* on pg. 6)
- The Board of Directors worked diligently to create its *Resource Development Plan* with our consultants Roi Crouch and Mary Ward. The Plan is an offshoot of our *Strategic Framework* that guides the Association’s activities from 2005 to 2015. As part of this effort they inaugurated our first Annual Campaign to solicit donations from the local community.
- Our assessment, restoration, and monitoring programs continued to perform strongly. With the help of our partners we implemented almost $1 million in restoration projects. Using our “hire the fishermen” employment program we were able to install bank protection along Larson Creek, complete maintenance on all of our riparian plantings, and conduct monitoring projects. Draft watershed assessments for both Daniels and Catching basins were completed in 2007.
- In recognition of our efforts, the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) requested that we prepare a proposal to be their sixth Model Watershed Program. CoosWA staff and the Research and Outreach Committee created what will become our programmatic action plan for the next ten years. If selected, the BEF will provide 10 years of support ($260,000 total) to CoosWA to implement a scientifically rigorous evaluation of the results of our program.

With the changing of the seasons came transitions for two of our valued staff members. Matt Anderson, who started as a technician and was subsequently promoted to Projects Manager and then to Monitoring Coordinator, left to enter graduate school. Maggie Kirby, former Program Manager, took a job with Shorebank Enterprise Cascadia. We wish them well in their endeavors.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated staff, an engaged Board of Directors, and a supportive community. This report shows what is possible when this convergence occurs.

Cordially,

Executive Director

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During 2007, the Coos Watershed Association continued to implement restoration projects that enhanced in-stream habitat through additions of large wood and improved fish passage. The Coos Watershed Association also maintained existing riparian plantings, and established new riparian plantings. Project partners in 2007 included the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Coos County Road Department, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Weyerhaeuser Corporation, and private landowners. The Association’s Restoration Program expenditures of grant funds totaled $573,066; and project partners provided $409,531 in match bringing the total budget for on-the-ground projects to $982,597. Restoration project funding was provided by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, BLM, ODF, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

In 2007, we applied for almost $1.2 million in restoration grant funds, and were awarded $929,051 for projects to be implemented during 2008. Of this total, $832,481 was awarded by OWEB.

Restoration accomplishments in 2007 included:
- 58 pieces of large wood placed over 1.5 stream miles
- 206 cross-drain culvert installations on 17 miles of road
- 4 culverts and 2 tide gates replaced, improving fish passage to 3 stream miles.
- 17.6 acres of new riparian site preparation and planting at 8 locations, and 40 acres of riparian maintenance at 6 locations.
The CoosWA monitoring program continues to grow in extent and sophistication. In 2007 we passed a milestone for the monitoring program when the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) invited us to prepare a 10-year Model Watershed Program (MWP) proposal. We continued and expanded our basic hydrological/meteorological data collection, initiated the first year of post-project road sediment abatement effectiveness monitoring, and began a collaborative research project on juvenile coho salmon passage at tide gates.

Model Watershed Program. The BEF instituted a unique approach to watershed restoration when, in 2002, they determined that their short grants to support restoration activities were not providing adequate results, and that instead there was a need to make longer term commitments to organizations so that they could build scientifically-rigorous planning and evaluation into their programs. In March of this year, we received the call requesting a proposal.

Preparing a 10 year watershed restoration strategy was not a trivial task. Working with Todd Reeves, along with Robin Jenkinson who was our BEF project manager, Jon Souder and Joseph Feldhaus prepared draft proposals for the CoosWA Research and Outreach Committee and review by BEF’s watershed technical advisory committee. CoosWA submitted our MWP proposal to BEF in November, and we should hear the results of this proposal in the first quarter of 2008. Highlights of the resulting plan include:

- Formulation of an evaluation strategy with collaborators at the U.S.E.P.A. and the OSU Statistics Department that uses state-of-the-art statistical methods to leverage sampling done over larger landscape scales to help control for local variation and climatic cycles.
- Identification of four focus sub-basin areas to concentrate our evaluation efforts. The map (at right) shows the location of these: Bottom Creek (with the Cedar Creek basin as reference); upper West Fork Millcoma River; the Heads-of-Tide region on the S.F. Coos and Millicoma Rivers; and the Coos Bay Lowlands.
- Development of a matrix of goals, objectives, and strategies to implement them. For each objective a set of hypotheses, evaluation metrics and benchmarks are identified, along with any uncertainties associated with our ability to meet the objective.

Tide Gate Research. CoosWA joined Dr. Guillermo Giannico of the OSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to prepare a proposal for the initial OWEB Research Grants program in January. The Research Grants are funded from the interest received from Measure 66 Oregon Lottery Funds in OWEB’s account that have not been expended. The first call for Research proposals was made in 2006 with submissions in January, 2007.

We proposed a three year study (2007 – 2010) to evaluate juvenile coho fish passage in three different tidal slough situations: unconstrained passage in Winchester Creek within the South Slough NERR; passage at the side-hinged gate that we installed in Larson Slough in 2002; and passage at the traditional top-hinged wooden gate on Palouse Slough. All three streams are areas where baseline life cycle monitoring has been conducted by either CoosWA or ODFW. Our project will utilize the rotary screw traps to catch juveniles and smolts and give them Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags that provide unique identifiers for each fish. Antennas will be placed on each side of the tide gates which will record the time and direction of passage for each of the tagged fish. Initial pilot studies during the winter 2007-08 provided an opportunity to test the techniques.

Hydrological & Meteorological Monitoring. The CoosWA operates four stream gauging stations to USGS standards on the South Fork Coos River, West and East Forks Millcoma Rivers, and Marlow Creek using OWEB, DEQ, and ODF funding. In 2007 the BLM provided funding to restart and operate their stream gauge on Tioga Creek in the S.F. Coos system. We continue to operate three stream gauging stations under contract to the Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board to assist in the dam operations (Pony Creek) and water rights determinations (Tennmile and Eel Creeks). We also continued operation of the three multi-parameter weather stations, as well as the rain gauge that was installed for the Dellwood Sediment Study. The combination of grant and contract funding allows us to achieve economy of scale efficiencies for these critical data collection programs. Our hydrological and meteorological data was used by Nate Hyde, a student of Dr. Antonio Baptista at the Oregon Graduate Institute of the College of Science and Engineering, Oregon Health and Sciences University. For his Master's thesis, “Towards national estuarine modeling and characterization/classification systems: a pilot study for Coos Bay,” he used our flow data to calibrate his models.
Assessments

The assessment process has been addressing the three areas referred to as the Heads of Tide (a selection of 13 streams on the lower Millicoma River) Catching Slough, and Daniel’s Creek sub-basins. This work, bundled into one big project titled Lower South Fork Coos River Assessment, Outreach and Education Planning, was funded primarily through grants from the Oregon DEQ and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Main tasks of the project overall include additions to the Heads of Tide assessment, field surveys and assessment development for the Daniel’s Creek and Catching Slough sub-basins, coffee klatch meetings with landowners, and development of prioritized restoration plans for all three areas.

A significant amount of progress was made in 2007 towards completing the Lower South Fork Coos project. A draft of the Catching Slough Assessment was developed in the spring, based on data collected over the previous year. Assessment field surveys in the summer focused on completing work in the Daniel’s Creek sub-basin. After landowner permissions were granted, aquatic habitat inventories were conducted in approximately seven miles of stream covering 15 study reaches. Riparian shade assessments (photo interpretation with field verification) were conducted for approximately 24.5 miles of stream. The aquatic habitat study areas and the results of the riparian shade assessment are shown in the map above. Other surveys for Daniel’s Creek were conducted in previous years. A draft of the Daniel’s Creek Assessment was developed in the fall. The Lower South Fork Coos project will be completed in September, 2008.

Septic Workshop

A workshop titled Maintaining Your On-site Septic System was held September 20th at the North Bend public library, and was attended by 25 people. After a similar, successful workshop coordinated by CoosWA the previous year, DEQ requested a repeat of the event and provided additional funding. The main presenter, DEQ Drinking Water Protection Specialist, Jaqueline Fern, provided an excellent educational program that was informative and well received by the audience. Prior to the workshop, post-card invitations were mailed to 1163 ownerships in the Coos Bay Lowlands assessment areas (all ownerships are outside of the municipal sewer area).
In 2007, the Coos Watershed Association Board of Directors amended the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to establish a donor group called the Friends of the Coos Watershed. The Friends are seen as a “corps of committed supporters from which volunteers may be recruited for a variety of purposes.” This group was established with the hopes that it will provide additional volunteer energy that will be required to create more of a community presence for the Association through outreach and fundraising events.

The group was introduced to the community through a kickoff event in November of 2007 in collaboration with the actor/storyteller Peter Donaldson and Little Theatre on the Bay. The kickoff event included two performances by Peter Donaldson of his thought-provoking one-man play Salmon-People about salmon and the watershed. Donaldson became the first Friend and as a result of his performances and our outreach efforts, another twenty-five Friends were enrolled by the end of 2007.

Benefits of being a Friend include:

- Supporting public education about the importance of watersheds
- Quarterly newsletter on Association activities and projects
- An opportunity to volunteer in our outreach programs
- Advance notice of workshops and tours
- The ability to help make a difference in our local community

Coos Watershed Association
P.O. Box 5860
Charleston, OR 97420
(541) 888-5922
www.cooswatershed.org
Although the 2007 commercial salmon season on the Oregon coast was not officially declared a disaster by the Governor, many commercial salmon fishers continued to face financial hardships through limited season openings and poor catches. CoosWA obtained funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to continue to employ 4 displaced fishers as a “Riparian Stewardship Crew” to work on riparian restoration and bank stabilization projects. A significant accomplishment during 2007 was in working with 6 consecutive rural residential landowners on Larson Creek to stabilize vertical and actively eroding streambanks where property loss was threatening buildings, driveways, and pasture. Using streambank bioengineering methods, willow walls were installed on over 1,000 feet of eroding streambank. 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, 2.2 acres was cleared of noxious weeds and planted with native vegetation to form a diverse riparian buffer. In addition the Riparian Stewardship Crew cleared nearly 50 acres of noxious weeds (including Himalayan blackberry, Japanese knotweed, morning glory, Canada thistle, and reed canarygrass) to maintain previously restored riparian areas, as well as to prepare sites for the 2007-2008 riparian plantings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restoration Project</th>
<th>accomplishments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Fork Coos River:</td>
<td>Cleared and maintained 7.5 acres of riparian plantings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Springs Riparian Restoration</td>
<td>Cleared and maintained 13 acres of riparian plantings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fern Hollow Farms Riparian Restoration</td>
<td>Cleared 8 acres for a future planting project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dellwood Log Yard Riparian Restoration</td>
<td>Cleared and maintained 2.6 acres of riparian plantings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Place Riparian Restoration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millicoma River:</td>
<td>Cleared and maintained 1.4 acres of riparian plantings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hendrickson Creek Riparian Restoration</td>
<td>Cleared and maintained 2.0 acres of riparian plantings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packard Creek Riparian Restoration</td>
<td>Cleared 5 acres for a future planting project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegany Log Yard Riparian Restoration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catching Slough:</td>
<td>Constructed 150 feet of willow wall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catching Slough Bank Stabilization</td>
<td>Cleared and planted 2,900 feet of riparian vegetation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catching Slough Riparian Planting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay Tributaries:</td>
<td>Cleared and maintained 4.4 acres of riparian plantings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ODF Ranch Riparian Restoration</td>
<td>Constructed over 1,000 feet of willow walls five feet high to help reduce streamside erosion and bank failure. Cleared and planted 2.2 acres of native vegetation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larson Creek stream bank stabilization</td>
<td>Helped clear noxious weeds on 2.5 acres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pony Creek Riparian Restoration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bob Hill at Larson site
CoosWA was privileged to host Mr. Alistair Maltby, Director for the North of the Association of River Trusts in the United Kingdom, who toured the Pacific Northwest to visit with watershed restoration groups. Alistair’s Traveling Fellowship was sponsored by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. River Trusts in the United Kingdom are similar to watershed councils in the United States in that they are charitable organizations focused on applied restoration science.

During Mr. Maltby’s two days with us we were able to organize a site visit to the boulder placement project on the West Fork of the Millicoma River at Deer Creek in the Elliott State Forest. Boulders were placed in two different configurations in 1999: one type represents the effects of a side canyon (Deer Creek) depositing large amounts of boulders across the stream width; and the other type involved clumps of boulders along the channel edges and in the middle of the stream. We were accompanied on our visit by Dr. Janine Castro, hydro-geomorphologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and fisheries biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Another site visit was taken to Willanch Creek to review the riparian restoration and fish passage improvements. We reviewed the 10 years of temperature monitoring that shows a 10 degree Fahrenheit drop in maximum summer water temperatures. Alistair was particularly impressed with these results since high stream temperatures affect salmon in England in similarly sized streams. Upon his return, he published an article in *Salmo Trutta* (the magazine of the Wild Trout Trust, which is similar to Trout Unlimited in the U.S.). In a section discussing temperature as a pollutant, he says “the Coos Bay Watershed Council in Oregon has been very successful in bucking this trend. They have taken a small trout stream running through an agricultural valley, completely re-vegetated the banks by restoring mainly willow, allowed the recovery of beaver, and the resulting temperature was a consistent 5ºC cooler.” Alistair has said he’s using the long-term temperature monitoring we did in Willanch Creek as justification to propose a similar effort in the United Kingdom.

We’re hoping to continue our networking with other groups working on watershed restoration. We have discussed the exchange of staff with the Association of River Trusts, and now only need to identify a source of funding from our end!
In 2007, the Coos Watershed Association maintained the efficiency and effectiveness of its financial accounting systems. This year, Margaret Kirby our Program manager left the Watershed’s employment to pursue other opportunities. Thanks to her hard work and new policies she helped to implement, we were able to continue to work at the same level of capacity in our financial department.

During 2007, we closed out approximately $1,081,232 in grants and contracts, half of which included a Bureau of Land Management project to upgrade culverts and fill along East and West Catching Slough Road to enhance fish passage and an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board project to improve anadromous fish access to 6 miles of stream habitat by removing culverts and replacing where needed with bridges; and improve drainage and sediment filtration on 30 miles of high risk mid-slope and riparian roads.

This year we applied for $1,190,177 in funding, of which we were awarded $929,051.

During 2007, we spent approximately $1,014,675 on program and support services. Over half (61%) of this funding was expended on restoration project implementation, with (17%) associated with monitoring. Spending for assessment work decreased to 4%, but project development expenditures remained about the same at 3%.

Sources of Funding in 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grants</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Grants</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grants</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Grants</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
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Grants Closed in 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Grants</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Grants</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses by Program in 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restoration</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance/Project Development</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expenses associated with support services totaled 15%, which included operational expenses for our support staff (Executive Director, Program Manager (1/2 of the year), and Bookkeeper/Office Manager) and office-related costs. We did see a net income in 2007 due to less support staff.

As our administrative costs are approximately 15% of annual expenses, we need to generate additional funds for this purpose in order to make up the difference. During the last year the Board of Directors moved forward with the fund development plan by establishing the Friends of the Coos Watershed and completing a fundraising event.

Most of the expenses during 2007 were associated with staff salaries and benefits (47%) and project contracts (38%). About 10% of the year’s expenditures were attributed to project-related supplies/materials and travel, and only 5% of expenses came from operational office expenses. Capital expenditures during 2007 included the purchase of a trailer and Polaris Ranger— for use by the Association’s Riparian Stewardship Crew. The trailer is used to transport the Polaris Ranger and other equipment to complete riparian planting, site preparation and establishment activities throughout the year, providing considerable cost-savings in grant funding used to complete this work.

### Expenses by Type in 2007

- **Salaries & Benefits**: 47%
- **Contracted Services**: 38%
- **Office Expenses**: 5%
- **Supplies & Materials**: 7%
- **Travel**: 3%

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### Statement of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$136,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants receivable</td>
<td>167,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid insurance</td>
<td>4,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office and field equipment (less</td>
<td>18,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accumulated depreciation $25,433)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$326,570</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$72,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued payroll taxes and benefits</td>
<td>6,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued vacation</td>
<td>13,825</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>93,505</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net assets</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>191,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>41,648</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>233,065</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total liabilities and net assets</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$326,570</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Statement of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Allocation to administration</td>
<td>$110,396</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract services</td>
<td>35,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>1,879</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>1,603</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$155,957</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>$884,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support services</td>
<td>133,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,017,895</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change in net assets</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$5,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>$227,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td>$233,065</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The major activity of the Board of Directors in 2007 was the creation and initial implementation of the Association’s Resource Development Plan 2008 – 2011 that provides strategies to sustain the financial resources necessary to implement CoosWA’s Strategic Framework, 2005 – 2015. Additionally, the Board continued its regular meeting and committee schedule, went on a projects tour, and had a stimulating Annual Meeting.

Resource Development Plan
Using funding raised by the Board and matched by The Ford Family Foundation, our consultants Roi Crouch and Mary Ward led the Board through a series of exercises and work sessions that identified three major goals for the Plan:

- Increase Board giving and involvement in fundraising
- Raise unrestricted funds through expanded community-based support
- Provide for sustained and restricted resources

Work groups worked from January to August developing strategies for each of these goals based on the results of a Board retreat in December of 2006. Strategies and objectives to implement each of these goals were also developed with the idea that the Board should initially focus on implementing “low-hanging fruit” activities until additional resources became available to implement the more involved parts of the Plan.

To increase giving and involvement, the Board drafted and approved a “Statement of Expectations” for Board members that includes the requirement for a personal annual donation from each member as well as participation in some form of fundraising activity. Following fundraising training with Roi Crouch and Mary Ward, the Board initiated its first-ever Annual Campaign to solicit donations from the local community and businesses in November and December.

To increase broader community-based support for CoosWA, the Board established the Friends of the Coos Watershed as an avenue for the general public to be involved in our activities. We kicked off the Friends during two presentations of Peter Donaldson’s one-man show SalmonPeople. We also mailed membership solicitation to all Oregon Salmon License Plate holders in the Coos Bay and North Bend area and to all members of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. As the result of these activities we initially enrolled 26 Friends of the Coos Watershed.

Annual Meeting
The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Coos Watershed Association was held at the Coos Country Club on March 29th. Our keynote speakers were Dr. Michael Banks, Director of the Cooperative Institute for Marine Resource Studies and Ms. Renee Bellinger, Faculty Research Assistant. Both speakers were from the Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center, in Newport. Michael and Renee are the principals behind Project CROOS which uses genetic data to map the natal streams for Chinook salmon caught by commercial fisher-

men off the Oregon coast. CoosWA Board member—and commercial fisherman—Paul Merz worked with the project to coordinate the fishermen who are paid to collect fish and data for the DNA analyses. Banks and Bellinger presented initial results showing that the DNA techniques can be used to rapidly identify the river of origin of an individual fish. This allows scientists to better determine where specific schools of salmon can be harvested without impacting imperiled stocks. The implication of this research is the ability to better manage mixed stocks of salmon where some are healthy and some are imperiled. A spirited discussion with Board members and guests resulted from the presentation.

Projects Tour
The Board’s annual restoration project tour in August visited the Dellwood region of the South Fork Coos River. The first stop was to visit the construction site for a large open-bottomed arch culvert that will allow fish passage up McKnight Creek from the S.F. Coos River. When completed, an additional mile of habitat will be available to spawning salmon. The next stop was a site on the Dellwood Mainline road where we are monitoring the effects of increasing the number of ditch relief culverts to reduce fine sediment running into adjacent streams. The first year of post-project monitoring was conducted during storm events in the winter 2006-07 with a second year to be completed during the winter 2007-08. The Board went downstream into broader valleys to look at our riparian restoration projects and the challenges they face. Since the 1996 Storms there has been a significant infestation of Japanese knotweed—a highly invasive plant that becomes a monoculture along streamside—in the upper S.F. Coos River. Our initial attempts to control the outbreak were unsuccessful, but we have recently received funding for more intensive control measures. Finally, the group visited the Winter Springs Ranch which was the first of our “modern” riparian restoration projects to see this extremely successful project.
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Not Pictured:

Adam Weybright
*Monitoring Coordinator*

Joseph Feldhaus
*Project Manager*

Sarah Dyrdahl
*Riparian Restoration Specialist*

We would like to thank former staff who worked during 2007:

Margaret Kirby
*Program Manager*

Matt Anderson
*Monitoring Coordinator*
Grantors & Partners

Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Bureau of Land Management
Cape Arago Audubon Society
Coos Bay / North Bend Water Board
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Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture
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Natural Resources Conservation Service
South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
The Ford Family Foundation
The Wetlands Conservancy
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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TechSoup
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Stan Van der Wetering, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
Mark Villers, Blue Ridge Timber Cutting
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.

Coos Watershed Association
P.O. Box 5860
Charleston, Oregon 97420
Phone: (541) 888-5922
Fax: (541) 888-6111
E-mail: cooswa@cooswatershed.org
URL: www.cooswatershed.org

Coos WA Staff at work (clockwise from top left): Dan Draper, Freelin Reasor, Jon Souder, Bessie Joyce, Adam Weybright, Sarah Dyrdahl, Michael Lester, Joseph Feldhaus, Aimee Peters