Our mission is to support environmental integrity and economic stability within the Coos watershed by increasing community capacity to develop, test, promote, and implement management practices in the interest of watershed health.
Dear Friends,

This year—2012—saw a number of firsts for the Coos Watershed Association: our first restoration project costing over $1,000,000, with the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company; our first $1 million grant proposal, to reconnect the East Fork Millicoma River oxbow; our first semester-long high school program, with the Master Watershed Youth Stewards; the first refereed journal article from our Life Cycle Monitoring Project; and the completion of the first phase of the Partnership For Coastal Watersheds with the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. These are but a few of the many projects undertaken in 2012. The commonality among all these is that they are built on years of creative partnerships and investment of talent and treasure by us and others.

As our programs evolve and mature, we are constantly expanding our network of partners to serve that part of our mission to “develop, test, promote, and implement management practices in the interest of watershed health.” To continue to be effective, our efforts must be entrepreneurial and resilient to changing circumstances. The Board and staff expended considerable time this last year reviewing the scope of both existing and future activities to develop guidelines and procedures that insure our activities are compatible with that portion of our mission to “support environmental integrity and economic stability within the Coos watershed.” The results of this effort will lay a foundation for strengthening and diversifying our portfolio of activities in the coming years.

In November 2012, Oregon voters overwhelmingly passed Measure 76 that continues the 7.5% net proceeds of the Oregon Lottery dedicated to watershed stewardship. While the parameters of the grant program will undoubtedly shift, we expect a high level of state financial support for our efforts to continue. Next year, in anticipation of our 20th anniversary, we will begin the process of revising our Strategic Framework (2004 – 2014) which I expect will show the Association has far surpassed the accomplishments foreseen when it was founded in 1994.

The activities portrayed here are a result of a highly functioning organization where staff, Board, partners, and supporters are all working towards the same goals. It’s exciting and extremely rewarding to play a role in this success!

Executive Director

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**About the Coos Watershed**

The “Coos watershed” is the area of land, from ridge to ridge, that drains through Coos Bay, Oregon into the Pacific Ocean, totaling 630 square miles. 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.

Formed in late 1993, the Coos Watershed Association (Coos WA) is a local non-profit organization that gives people with a wide range of interests a way to collaborate and develop the “big picture” of conditions and opportunities in the Coos watershed. The Association also helps individual landowners decide how to manage and restore the watershed’s natural systems.

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**Estuarine Water Quality**

CoosWA works with a Water Quality Partnership committee to better understand conditions in the Coos estuary. In 2012, Jenni Schmidt was hired to complete an inventory of existing data about the Coos estuary. The inventory now contains information regarding 200+ data sets, and much of the inventory information is mapped online on a GeoCommons website: [http://geocommons.com/maps/207088](http://geocommons.com/maps/207088)

In August, 21 individuals representing local industries, government, and natural resource organizations attended a Water Quality and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) workshop to learn about Implementation-Ready TMDL program that will be developed for the Coos estuary in the next few years by the Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency.
The Coho Life Cycle Monitoring Project, in partnership with Oregon State University, completed its ninth year in 2012. Former student Art Bass published a journal article and Adam Weybright defended his thesis. Katherine Nordholm finished up her fieldwork and entered the final phase to complete her Master’s degree. In the fall, CoosWA welcomed Kailan Mackereth to the project. Kailan will be using her background in macroinvertebrates to examine food webs related to coho salmon.

Project Goals
1. Estimate salmon spawner abundance and outmigrant smolt populations to calculate freshwater and marine survival:
2. Investigate coho movement and habitat use patterns in a tide-gated stream.

With the help of a new AmeriCorps member, Rachel Mickey, the Life Cycle Monitoring Project has established an internship program with Southwestern Oregon Community College to provide students with the opportunity to gain field work experience while receiving college credit. Amanda Lee of Coos Bay was our first intern to participate in the program. We look forward to expanding the program in the years to come.

The OWEB grant for the project was renewed for an additional two years.

Road Surveys
During 2012, we started road surveys in the Elliott State Forest (ESF) with a combination of funding from OWEB and ODF. Surveys were completed using the US Forest Service’s Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package (GRAIP) protocol. Of the 530 miles of road in the ESF, we have surveyed over 107 miles, and we will be continuing surveys in 2013. Other road surveys were completed around Noble and Bridges Creeks which were used to develop grant proposals for restoration projects.

Aquatic Habitat Inventory Surveys
During the summer of 2012, two crews conducted Aquatic Habitat Inventory (AHI) surveys on the Williams River (off the South Fork Coos River) and on tributary streams draining to the West Fork Millicoma in the Elliott State Forest. AHI surveys collect data on streambed material, riparian vegetation, channel morphology, and other characteristics. The AHI data is used to help prioritize restoration projects in each of the surveyed sub-basins. The data is also used in the Coho Habitat Limiting Factors Model to identify habitat constraints on coho smolt production, another factor in the prioritization process. Crews surveyed about 15 miles of tributary streams within eight named tributaries in the West Fork Millicoma Basin, and they surveyed 21 miles of the Williams River mainstem.

Relative Bed Stability Surveys
In 2012, two crews conducted EPA’s Relative Bed Stability (RBS) surveys at nine sites in the upper West Fork Millicoma River, located at several of our log jam project sites, for the third consecutive year. The crews also surveyed a total of 30 sites in the Bottom Creek and Cedar Creek basins located in the Upper South Fork Coos River Basin.
During 2012, the Coos Watershed Association implemented $1,038,515 in restoration projects with public and private landowners, though the total cost of projects was much greater. Restoration project funding was provided by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), ODFW R & E Board, Oregon Department of Forestry, Bonneville Environmental Foundation and match from project partners.

**Riparian Maintenance & Noxious Weed Control**
- Five acres of riparian plantings at five sites;
- 1,750 feet of fencing;
- Eight riparian sites maintained covering 35 acres; and
- 105 noxious weed control sites covering 25 acres on 68 properties.

**Stream Complexity Improvements**
- Five projects to restore 3.2 miles of streams & rivers:
  - 84 logs and 124 trees placed in log jams; and
  - 500 cubic yards of boulders.

*CoosWA 2012 Restoration Expenses by Project Type*
Fish Passage Improvements
Nine projects improved access to 24.6 miles of coho streams:
- Tide gate replaced in North Slough on the U.S. 101 bridge:
- Four culvert replacements: and
- Two culverts replaced with concrete bridges on the Coos Bay Wagon Road.
Program Highlights

Assessment & Outreach

Master Watershed Stewards (MWS) Youth Program
2012 began with the opening of the first semester of the Master Watershed Stewards (MWS) Youth Program at Marshfield High School in February. On twelve Fridays between January and June, eighteen students toured the watershed by bus, learning about everything from riparian restoration and forest assessment to municipal water treatment and oyster farming. After summer break, the MWS program fired up again in the fall with a new group of thirteen students. The Matson Creek Wetland Preserve became our outdoor classroom as we focused our studies on conditions in the upper valley.

Partnership for Coastal Watersheds Phase One:
The End of the Beginning
The Partnership for Coastal Watersheds wrapped up its phase one, which began in 2009/2010, and set its sights on phase two. Over the year, the full steering committee and sub-committees met three times and a Technical Advisory Group met in a workshop at South Slough Reserve in April. CoosWA will continue working with the PCW in 2013, in partnership with South Slough NERR, thanks to a grant from the NERRs Science Foundation. Follow the PCW project at: wwwpartnershipforcoastalwatersheds.org

PCW’s 2012 outcomes include
• State of the Watersheds Assessment: South Slough and Coast Frontal Watersheds
• Prioritization process customized for PCW and actions prioritized
• Action Plan: South Slough and Coast Frontal Watersheds
• PCW Program Evaluation

Youth Arc of Engagement

Two MWS students monitoring riparian vegetation at South Slough Reserve.

Natural Resources Internship Program
• Over $23,000 in stipends awarded to natural resources interns at SWOCC

Coho Field Studies
• Six Biology students
• Four Technology students

AmeriCorps & VISTA
• Second year of VISTA project
• First year of AmeriCorps Direct

Summer Survey Crews
• Hired five local youth
• Surveyed over 36 miles of streams and 107 miles of roads

Oregon Youth Conservation Corps Summer Crew
• Five youth worked 2,000 hours
• Maintained nearly five miles of riparian plantings
• Removed over 700 invasive plants

Graduate Studies
• Katherine Nordholm completed her Master’s thesis project.
• Kailan Mackereth took over the Coho Life Cycle Monitoring Project.

In 2012, 400 cubic yards of oyster shell were locally purchased and hauled to the North Spit for spreading on open sand to improve habitat for the Western snowy plover, a threatened species. The shells provide camouflage for the tiny birds during nesting season and help control the spread of invasive European beach grass, which is known to harbor predators.

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In 2012, CoosWA named Weyerhaeuser Company its Partner of the Year. Weyerhaeuser has been a long-time supporter of the Association’s mission and activities, as well as being a key partner on numerous restoration projects on their lands. In addition, Weyerhaeuser employee Jason Richardson is an active member on the CoosWA Board of Directors. Their commitment to watershed restoration is commendable, and CoosWA looks forward to many years of collaboration to come.

Collaborative Partnerships

Hodges Creek is a tributary to the East Fork Milkoma River, crossing the Weyerhaeuser Allegany Mainline Road at mile 2.5. The pre-existing culvert at this stream crossing was undersized and perched, blocking upstream passage of adult Chinook and coho salmon, juvenile salmon, and trout to over 0.5 miles of highly productive habitat. In addition, the culvert was covered by over 37,000 cubic yards of non-engineered fill, posing the greatest risk of road-fill failure in the Coos Watershed. Catastrophic failure would have released a flood wave as large as any splash dam that occurred in the watershed’s history, completely devastating the lower portion of the East Fork Milkoma River, which is still recovering from an embattled history of splash dam practices.

The Coos Watershed Association, Weyerhaeuser Timber Company and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife partnered to replace the Hodges Creek culvert during the summer of 2012. The pre-existing culvert was replaced by a 26-foot wide by 260-foot long multi-plate corrugated metal arch pipe attached to concrete footings. Large wood and boulders were placed in and downstream of the culvert to aid fish passage and enhance habitat conditions. As a result of this project, fish passage has been significantly improved; fall Chinook and coho salmon were already observed spawning above the culvert in Hodges Creek during the fall and winter of 2012-2013.

This Project is yet another example of the strong commitment Weyerhaeuser Timber Company has made to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

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Thank you to our grantors and project partners for contributing the success of our projects and the fulfillment of our mission!

Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Bureau of Land Management
Cape Arago Audubon Society
Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
Coos Bay / North Bend Water Board
Coos County
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, USDA
Laird Norton Family Foundation
Campbell Forest Products
Meyer Memorial Trust
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 Watershed Enhancement Board
South Coast Business Employment Corporation
South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
The Ford Family Foundation
The Freshwater Trust
The Wetlands Conservancy
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Weyerhaeuser Timber Company

A Joint Investment for Restoration
- Weyerhaeuser: $1.45 million
- OWEB: over $100,000
- ODFW: over $1,000

Partner of the Year: Weyerhaeuser Co.

In 2012, CoosWA named Weyerhaeuser Company its Partner of the Year. Weyerhaeuser has been a long-time supporter of the Association’s mission and activities, as well as being a key partner on numerous restoration projects on their lands. In addition, Weyerhaeuser employee Jason Richardson is an active member on the CoosWA Board of Directors. Their commitment to watershed restoration is commendable, and CoosWA looks forward to many years of collaboration to come.

From left: Nick Scheide, Mike Graybill, Jon Souder, Jason Richardson.
Our amazing staff were able to secure $1,750,059 in funding for 2012. This funding allowed us to continue work on programs and expand our involvement in some areas. Overall it was a financially sound year for the Association and we are looking forward to 2013.

Sources of Funding for 2012

Project expenditures were funded mainly by state grants this year (64%), while Federal grant funding made up 27% of the total. Federal funding was up 11% from 2011. The funding from contracts and service (6%), and foundations (3%) remained similar to that in 2011. With hard work by our Board of Directors and AmeriCorps VISTA member, donations were up to .5%.

Expenses by Program in 2012

During 2012 we spent $1,576,988 on program and support services. The majority of this funding continues to go towards restoration projects (66%), up 8% from last year. The remaining funds were spent on assessment (10%), administration (10%), monitoring (8%), education and outreach (4%), and technical assistance and project development (2%).

Statement of Activities

Revenues

Grants
- Program services: $1,397,788
- Administration: 140,842
- Contract services: 40,494
- Contributions: 14,167
- Other income: 99,341

Total unrestricted revenue: $1,692,632

Expenses

Program services: $1,426,444
Support services: 150,544

Total expenses: $1,576,988

Net assets, beginning of year: $341,529
Net assets, end of year: $457,173
Change in net assets: $115,644

Statement of Financial Position

Assets
- Cash and cash equivalents: $239,270
- Grants receivable: 549,544
- Prepaid insurance: 4,337
- Office and field equipment (less accumulated depreciation, $58,185): 18,478

Total assets: $811,639

Liabilities and Net Assets
- Accounts payable: $228,682
- Accrued payroll taxes and benefits: 19,567
- Accrued vacation: 33,616
- Deferred grant advances: 72,601

Total liabilities: $354,466

Net assets
- Unrestricted: 457,173

Total net assets: $457,173

Total liabilities and net assets: $811,639
This was a productive year for the Board of Directors. As always, they provided excellent guidance for the Executive Director and staff on our many programs and activities. Board members put a lot of effort into committee work, resulting in a lot of great products.

Over the course of the year the Research and Outreach Committee diligently continued their work on—and finished!—the three strategies that will help guide the Committee: Outreach & Public Engagement, Research & Monitoring, and Assessment. Our new and continuing work with youth in the area meant it was time to develop a child and youth safety policy; that policy was drafted and adopted with help from Emily Wright and a few Board members. A Fee-for-Service policy was also developed that will help guide staff in making decisions about accepting opportunities to provide services in exchange for fees.

It was a fantastic year for our annual campaign. Karen Pringle of the Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation was kind enough provide her expertise in fundraising to the Board. Thanks to the hard work of the entire Board of Directors and Emily Wright the 2012 annual campaign brought in a little over $9,000.
Thank you to everyone who contributed in 2012 to support the Association’s efforts! We are very fortunate to have such dedicated Friends who help us restore and enjoy our beautiful and bountiful Coos watershed.

BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

Abel Insurance
Al Pierce Co., LLC
Blue Ridge Timber Cutting, Inc.
Cedar Electric & Construction, Inc.
Coquille Indian Tribe
CROPP Co-op/Organic Valley
Pacific NW NOVA
Davis Land and Cattle Co.
Engle’s Furniture
Honda World
Hough-MacAdam-Wartnik
LA Logging
Marineau & Associates
McGee Engineering
Menasha Log Co., LLC
Messerle & Sons
Sause Bros.
Sol Coast Companies
Stebbins and Coffey
Tarheel Aluminum
The Dyer Partnership Engineers & Planners
West Coast Contractors, Inc.
Weyerhaeuser Company
Anonymous (1)

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

Al Solomon*
Bill Lansing
Brad Carlson & Margaret Ann Anderson
Dolores Crombie
Don Yost*
Doris Olson
Elise Hamner*
Greg Stone*
Hanspeter Zweifel & Barbara Butler
Jay & Linda Farr
Jenni & Adrian DeLeon
Jennifer Groth
Jim & Alice Layport
Jim & Nancy Clarke
Jim Young*
Joan Mahaffy*
John Flaxel
John Schaefer*
JR Herbst
Larry & Donna Nichols
Marty Giles*
Mike & Cindy Bodkin
Mike Graybill*
Molly DePlois
Monica Schreiber
Patty Scott
Reese Bender*
Rick Fox & Joan Goodman
Steven Sadler
Susanna Noordhoff*
Anonymous (2)

*Current Board of Directors

How You Can Participate

Renew your Membership
As a continuing Friend of the Coos Watershed, your support plays a vital role in the ongoing resiliency of the Association. The Association relies on our Friends to give us the boost we need to keep our projects and programs running. Look forward to hearing from us again this fall!

Become a Friend
You can join your neighbors in supporting the Association by becoming a Friend of the Coos Watershed. With your tax-deductible contribution, you will receive the Coos Currents E-newsletter, an invitation to our Annual Meeting, notices about special events and activities, and the fellowship of the community of folks who care about our watershed. Join us today by visiting www.cooswatershed.org/donate or complete the form on the back of this report.

Team up with Your Employer
You can double or triple your impact by participating in your workplace’s matching gift program. If your employer (or your spouse’s) will match the gift you make, simply obtain a matching gift form from the personnel or community relations department, fill out the donor portion, and send to Coos Watershed Association. We’ll take care of the rest!

Make a Lasting Impact
Bequests and other planned gifts are a way for your support of the Association to last far into the future. Our staff can help you determine how you want to leave a legacy that is most meaningful to you. Contact our Executive Director to discuss this opportunity.

2012 Friends Expenses by Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life Cycle</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Travel</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promotional</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>MWS Program</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coho Field Studies</td>
<td>8%</td>
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</table>

See chart to right.

Friends Financials

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Friends Income</th>
<th>Friends Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$3,546</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$9,120</td>
<td>$2,258</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See chart to right.
Please contact us to learn more about the Coos Watershed Association! Whether you are a landowner with a potential restoration project or seeking assistance on ways that you can better manage your land, or if 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
Online:
www.cooswatershed.org
www.facebook.com/cooswa

Support Coos Watershed Association

Join your neighbors in supporting watershed restoration, salmon recovery, and stewardship education by becoming a Friend of the Coos Watershed Association or renewing your annual membership.

Gift Levels

- $25 Individual
- $50 Family
- $100 Sponsor
- $500 Leader
- $1000 Steward
- $____ Other

With your gift, you will receive CoosWA news and updates via e-mail. If you prefer to not receive our news, you can opt-out by checking the box below.

I opt-out of e-newsletters and other updates from Friends of the Coos Watershed via e-mail.

Thanks to seasonal staff and interns who worked with CoosWA during 2012:

Jenni Schmidt  Amanda Lee  Rushal Sedlmeeyer  Courtney Hawkins  Madeline DePlois  Daniel Snuggerud
Samantha Bruno  Paul Harlow  Randi Backman  Ryan Muncy  Grant Stein
Alessandra Hossley  Tristan Gates  Jeremy Field  Nathan Grey  Brad Hudson
Kristina Hossley  Amanda Beck  Eric Dickinson  James Meyer  Kody Allison

Please clip and mail to: Coos Watershed Association; P.O. Box 5860; Charleston, Oregon 97420