The mission of the Coos Watershed Association 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.
The Association’s youth programs reached full bloom in summer 2013. A ten person Coho Field Studies class kept me, Kailan Mackereth, Amber Yardley, and Emily Wright fully occupied; we sponsored a seven person Oregon Youth Conservation Crew, ably led by Dave Nelson; and seven college students and recent graduates conducted surveys for Dan Draper and Freelin Reasor. The summer followed a successful spring of Master Watershed Stewards at Marshfield High School, which focused on conservation leadership skills. In the fall a new MWS cohort focused on field biology. It seemed like we had little time to catch our breath before re-starting the programs for 2014.

Twenty thirteen was also a year of transition: Bessie Joyce, our Assessment and Outreach Coordinator left for the greener pastures of Eugene. I first crossed paths with Bessie when she outreached on Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan (S.B. 1010) for the Coos Soil & Water Conservation District. We hired her in 2004 to help with our riparian monitoring, and brought her back (I tracked her down camping in Hawaii) when we received Coos Bay Lowlands Watershed Assessment funding. She led our assessment process around the Bay for the next nine years, while at the same time developing our education programs. Also in 2013, our Lowlands Restoration Projects Manager, Tyler Pedersen, followed his heart to Corvallis to support his wife’s finishing her degree. Tyler started with us in fall 2008 and built our riparian stewardship program (including the first Oregon Youth Conservation Corps crew) and expanded our invasive species program.

We fortunately found excellent successors to these positions. Alexis Brickner joined us as the Lowlands Restoration Project Manager. A recent M.S. graduate in environmental science (ecology track) from O.S.U., Alexis did her thesis, sponsored by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, on a rare native plant reintroduction on Rufus Island, in the Columbia River. She also worked for ODA on a variety of projects, including surveys for western lily in the Coos basin. Raised in Kansas, with an undergraduate degree from K.U. provided both the genetic and experiential basis for her rabid Jayhawk basketball fandom. Alexa Carleton replaced Bessie as Outreach and Assessment Coordinator. Alexa is also a recent M.S. graduate, from Washington State University-Vancouver where she did her thesis work on restoration and monitoring of Fendler’s Blue Butterfly in the Willamette Valley. Aside from her field ecology background, Alexa also taught aquatic ecology at Hood Community College and was a GK-12 National Science Foundation Fellow in the Vancouver, WA, school system.

If this report seems overly dominated by stories about personnel, it’s because it takes good people to get our work done. It’s through the dedication of the staff and Board of Directors, as well as our partners in assessment, restoration, monitoring, and education that we are able to accomplish as much, as efficiently, and as effectively. I hope you’ll enjoy reading about our efforts in 2013, and participating with us as we continue our work in 2014, our 20th anniversary year.

Cordially,

Jon Souder, CWA Executive Director
Program Highlights

Select watershed accomplishments in 2013

Restoration

- 19 restoration projects completed in summer 2013 improved fish passage for 30.3 miles of stream, reduced sediment load from 3 miles of road, and restored habitat complexity in 4 miles of anadromous spawning and rearing stream through 412 large wood placements.

- Our 7 Summer 2013 Oregon Youth Conservation Corps members—all Marshfield or North Bend High School students—cleared reed canary grass, blackberry, and field bindweed to promote native riparian tree and shrub planting on 3 miles of restored stream bank. Area cleared by the crew totals over 16 acres—that’s 14.5 football fields!

- In partnership with BLM and contractors, we spread 408 cubic yards of locally-sourced oyster shells on the North Spit Habitat Restoration Area (HRA) and prepared another 210 cubic yards of shells for spreading in 2014. Shells enhance habitat for threatened western snowy plover by providing coverage from predators. The North Spit is Oregon’s most productive site for plover fledglings.

Monitoring

- Our 2-person road survey crews covered 257 miles in Summer 2013, completing “Phase I” of road surveys in the Elliott State Forest (ESF), and starting a 2-year road survey project in the Bureau of Land Management Tioga Creek watershed. Since 2012, CoosWA has surveyed over 50% of the 530 mile road system in the ESF. Road survey data provide critical information on erosion potential, sediment load, and implications for water quality and fish habitat.

- We added two real-time rain gages to our South Fork Coos and West Fork Milltoma stations. In total, we operate 11 stream gauging stations to USGS standards and 3 multi-parameter weather stations. Data collected are available to the public on our website—a resource we’re learning is popular with fishermen!

Outreach and Education

- At our Pony Creek Earth Day Event, co-hosted with SOLVE, volunteers and MWS students planted 50 native shrubs, removed 2,000 square feet of invasive ivy and blackberry, replaced 12 swallow boxes, stenciled no-dumping signs on 3 storm drains, and picked up 100 pounds of garbage.

- In the culminating event of our Spring 2013 Master Watershed Stewards Program, 10 Marshfield High School students led 60 sixth graders through learning stations on salmon, invasive species, migratory birds, and insects at Pony Creek.

- Our Summer 2013 Coho Field Studies cohort learned salmon population and ecological monitoring techniques through seining, PIT tagging, fish identification, and macroinvertebrate, vegetation and water quality surveys on Tioga, Palouse, and Larson Creeks. Eight students completed the program, each earning 3 credits through Southwestern Oregon Community College and a $1500 stipend.
CoosWA implemented $575,809 in restoration projects with public and private landowners in 2013. The restoration map (left) shows the extent and diversity of our restoration work in 2013. Fish passage projects were our largest restoration expense in 2013. A tide gate replacement on North Slough was one of our larger fish passage projects ($96,407) and opened 22 miles of upstream access to anadromous fish.

CoosWA Restoration Expense (Absolute and Relative) by Activity (FY 2013)

- Wetland, $3,199, 1%
- In-Stream, $180,755, 31%
- Fish Passage, $234,844, 41%
- Snowy Plover Habitat, $17,487, 3%
- Noxious Weeds, $25,793, 4%
- Road Drainage, $469, <0.1%

Matson Creek Wetland Preserve

Since 2000, and in partnership with The Wetlands Conservancy, we work yearly towards restoring Matson Creek Wetland Preserve and using the site as a teaching tool. Notable progress made in 2013 includes:

- CoosWA VISTA Emily Wright led the effort in writing a 3-year Site Tactical Plan, which defines long-term goals and yearly priorities for barn conservation, nursery expansion, ecological restoration, and monitoring.

- Volunteers and Mark Villers of Blue Ridge Timber Cutting, Inc., removed an old residence and milking parlor in summer 2013 to improve site safety. Volunteers salvaged metal roofing, and Mark donated his services and equipment to raze the structures. Thanks Mark!

- 20 MWS students planted riparian trees and learned about tidal wetlands, aquatic insects, native plants, and soil erosion over three fieldtrips at Matson in the fall.

Below: We’ve come a long way since building the nursery in 2007! Removing the milking parlor in 2013 improved site safety and allows for potential nursery expansion in 2014. Top left: Milking parlor (center structure) and beginnings of nursery shown in April 2007; Bottom Left: Removed milking parlor in July 2013; Right: healthy Sitka spruce seedlings in a raised bed in the foreground with black cottonwood saplings behind. Weyerhaeuser Company donated Spruce seedlings, which CoosWA will use for future riparian and wetland restoration projects.
2013 was a year for new growth and maturation for Coos Watershed Association as an organization and for the Board. We implemented whistle blower, document retention, child safety, and Fee-for-Service policies in 2013 and increased capacity for CoosWA summer field crews by acquiring a new field truck. We also began drafting cooperative agreements with the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, and The Wetlands Conservancy, to allow for long-term partnership in mutually desirable projects in our watershed.

At the 2013 Annual Retreat, the Board decided to split our Research and Education Committee into two ad-hoc committees—Research and Assessment, and Education—so that Board members may work with staff in a more focused manner on related programming. Not wasting any time, the new Education Committee made good progress in 2013 by devising bylaws for the Friends of the Coos Watershed and policy on Friends funding use.

Board activity extended beyond the boardroom, as a few of us volunteered alongside CoosWA staff at Pony Creek for Earth Day and the Downtown Farmers Market in September and August. Several of us got a chance to see the great restoration work done by staff on board tours at Bridges Creek in September and the native plants nursery at Matson Creek Wetland Preserve in December. Thanks to the diligent assistance of Emily Wright and Aimee Peters, the Board raised roughly $7,000 in the 2013 Annual Campaign.

As with the passing of time, the Board saw some changes to its structure. Susanna Nordhoff, who served as a Board member for four years, including on the Audit Committee and as Secretary for the Executive Committee, resigned. Jennifer Wirsing stepped up to volunteer as Secretary, and we are grateful this relatively new Board member was willing to take on a leadership role. Similarly, Jason Richardson stepped up to serve as Vice-President, as Don Yost migrated upstream from Vice-President to Board President, relieving Marty Giles of her excellent work as Executive Committee President.

Finally, two longtime Board members—Mike Graybill and Jim Young—retired in 2013. Mike is a founding member of the Association, convening its first meeting in November, 1993. Despite his busy schedule as Reserve Manager of the South Slough NERR, Mike served as Board Secretary from 1993–1999 and 2001–2005, and co-chaired the Research and Education Committee in recent years. Likewise, a demanding schedule as Coos District Forester for Oregon Department of Forestry did not deter Jim from leaving his mark on CoosWA. Jim joined the Board in 1998, and ably served as our Vice-President from 2000–2005 and President from 2006–2010. Both men made invaluable contributions to the CoosWA Board, the life and vision of Coos Watershed Association, to the larger scientific community, and to our Coos Bay Area community. Thank you, Mike and Jim! We wish you nothing but happiness and good fishing in your retirement.

### 2013 Board of Directors

- **Don Yost**, President (Member at Large) • **Jason Richardson**, Vice-President (Weyerhaeuser Co.) • **Elise Hamner**, Treasurer (International Port of Coos Bay) • **Jennifer Wirsing**, Secretary (City of Coos Bay) • **Marty Giles**, Past-President (Wavecrest Discoveries) • **Jim Young**, (Oregon Department of Forestry) • **Reese Bender**, (South Coast Anglers STEP Association) • **Dan Brelage**, (Brelage Pacific Dairy) • **Mike Graybill**, (South Slough NERR) • **Jeff Hill**, (Sause Bros) • **Tom Hoelsly**, (Menasha-Campbell Group) • **Joan Mahaffy**, (Mahaffy Farms) • **Paul Merz**, (Fisheries and Aquaculture) • **Dave Messerle**, (Messerle & Sons) • **Greg Stone**, (Stuntzer Engineering) • **Al Solomon**, (Member at Large) • **John Schaefer**, (Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians)

### 2013 Core Staff

- **Jon A. Souder**, PhD, Executive Director • **Nick Scheidt**, Uplands Restoration Project Manager • **Tyler Pederson/Alexis Brickner**, Lowlands Restoration Project Manager • **Bessie Joyce/Alexa Carleton**, Outreach and Education Coordinator • **Aimee Peters**, Office Manager • **Freelin Reason**, Supervisory Monitoring Technician • **Dan Draper**, Supervisory Monitoring Technician • **Dave Nelson**, Riparian Stewardship Crew Leader • **Kailan Mackereth**, Life Cycle Monitoring Coordinator • **Emily Wright/Caitlin White**, VISTA Member • **Rachel Mickey/Nicki Feiten**, AmeriCorps Member

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**Update from the CWA Board**

**Accomplishments and changes in 2013**

Board members (left to right) Marty Giles, Dave Messerle, Elise Hamner, Greg Stone, and Jim Young are pleased with their September site tour at Bridges Creek. Standing out in his white ODF hat, Jim also stood apart as an exemplary Board member since joining in 1998.
**2013 Financial Summary**

### Statement of Activities

**Revenues**

- Grants
  - Program services: $909,276
  - Administration: $116,158
  - Program service revenue: 0
  - Contributions: $17,267
  - Other income: $134,179
  - Interest income: $51

**Total unrestricted revenue**: $1,176,931

**Expenses**

- Program services: $1,018,226
- Support services: $158,976

**Total expenses**: $1,177,202

**Net assets, beginning of year**: $457,173

**Net assets, end of year**: $456,902

**Change in net assets**: $(271)

### Statement of Financial Position

**Assets**

- Cash and cash equivalents: $362,143
- Grants receivable: $417,224
- Prepaid insurance: 4,212
- Office and field equipment (less accumulated depreciation, $65,762): 30,157

**Total assets**: $813,736

**Liabilities and Net Assets**

- Accounts payable: $225,181
- Accrued payroll taxes and benefits: $18,715
- Accrued vacation: $38,468
- Deferred grant advances: $74,470

**Total liabilities**: $356,834

- Net assets
  - Unrestricted: $456,902

**Total net assets**: $456,902

**Total liabilities and net assets**: $813,736

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Together, state, federal, and foundation grants comprise the greatest revenue sources for CoosWA (nearly 90% in FY 2013). Of these, grant funding from OWEB is particularly important—in FY 2013, OWEB funding ($677,836) was about 58% of total revenue. Charitable contributions in the 2013 Annual Campaign ($7,212) fell roughly 20% from 2012 giving ($9,124), but relative total revenue contribution from donations increased in FY 2013 thanks to a major gift from Eileen Souder.

Restoration projects like bridge installation at Bridges Creek (shown below: before [left], and after [right]) to improve fish passage and habitat continue to be our largest cost. Total expense in FY 2013 ($1.177 million) fell 25% from FY 2012 ($1.577 million), largely from declined spending in restoration in FY 2013. As a result, other program areas represent greater relative expense in FY 2013. Education and outreach costs ($71,512), for example, were 6% of total expense in FY 2013 (compared to 4% in FY 2012). CoosWA awarded $30,000 in stipends and tuition waivers to student interns in FY 2013—unprecedented for us.
Thank you

Those who supported Coos Watershed Association in 2013

Project Partners
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Bureau of Land Management
Cape Arago Audubon Society
Confederated Tribes of the Coos Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology
Coos Bay / North Bend Water Board
Coos County
Gray Family Foundation
Laird Norton Family Foundation
Campbell Forest Products
Meyer Memorial Trust
National Audubon Society/Together Green
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
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
Oregon Youth Conservation Corps
Plum Creek Foundation
SOLVE
South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
Southwestern Oregon Community College
The Ford Family Foundation
The Wetlands Conservancy
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Weyerhaeuser Timber Company

Businesses and Organizations
Abel Insurance
Agri Tech Design
Billeter Marine LLC
Blue Ridge Timber Cutting Inc.
Cedar Electric & Construction, Inc.
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians
CROPP Co-op/Organic Valley Pacific NW NOVA
Davis Land and Cattle Co.
Honda World
Hough-MacAdam-Wartnik
IFA Nurseries, Inc.
Knutson Towboat Company
Lee Webster Excavating
Marineau & Associates
McGee Engineering
Menasha Log Co., LLC
Messerle & Sons
Michael A. Gordon, CPA
Millicoma Logging
Oregon International Port of Coos Bay
Qualman Oyster Farms
Sause Bros.
Scott Partney Construction
Smith & Wirth Lower Ranch, LLC
Sol Coast Companies
The Dyer Partnership Engineers & Planners
Weyerhaeuser Company
Anonymous (2)

Individuals and Families
Anne & Philip Matthews
Annie Follows Heart Chilla
Barbara Taylor
Brad Carlson & Margaret Ann Anderson
Dave Ford & Molly Ford
Dave Messerle
Eileen Souder, in memory of Arnold Souder, Jr.
Elise Hamner
Greg Stone
Hanspeter Zweifel & Barbara Butler
Howard Jackson
Jason Richardson & Megan Richardson
Jay & Linda Farr
Jenni & Adrian DeLeon
Jennifer Groth
Jim & Alice Layport
Jim & Nancy Clarke
Jim Young
Joan Mahaffy
John Flaxel
Jon Kintner & Shirley Kintner
Loren Swanson
Louise Solliday
Martin & Suzie Callery
Marty Giles
Norma Kline
Patty Scott
Reese Bender
Rick Fox & Joan Goodman
Ron Metzger
Suzanne Adams & Bob Adams
Tom Hoesly

Volunteers, Student Interns, Oregon Youth Conservation Corps Crew, and AmeriCorps Members
Amber Yardley • Amy Nelson • Blaise Medved • Brandon Flood • Brandon Kuechenberg • Carlee Brink • Dave Taylor • Drew Stark-Guidry • Emily Wright • Eric Stallings • Jamie Fereday • Justin Rainbolt • Kaine Horner • Katelynn Carroll • Keeaundra Rodriguez • Kristen Hofer • Lawton Knight • Jazmine Grantham • Jeremiah Ackerman • Maddie DePlois • Maggie Allen • Mason Henderson • Michelle Adamson • Nick Mikes • Nichole Besyk • Nicki Feiten • Ociana Hansen • Rachel Mickey • Treavor Deane • Samantha Stephens • Sean Long • Victoria Benedict • Wiley Cathcart • Zach Dimare

LCM Coordinator and OSU graduate student Kailan Mackereth (center) and Coho Field Studies student interns handle a rotary screw trap, Summer 2013

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Since our founding in 1993, Coos Watershed Association has relied on the support of dozens of volunteers, donors, and project partners. There are many ways to contribute to ecological restoration, monitoring, and youth education in the Coos watershed:

- **Donate materials in-kind to CoosWA!**: In 2013, CoosWA hosted 2 AmeriCorps members, 14 student interns, and 9 volunteers in our Life Cycle Monitoring Project. Our waders, boots, and raingear have about a one-year lifespan with that much activity! If you have any under-used chest or hip waders, boots, or raingear in your home, in relatively good shape, and would like to find a good use for them, we can help! Snacks for MWS student trips are also appreciated.

- **Partner with CoosWA!**: Did you know 76% of roughly 750 stream miles in the Coos watershed run through private property? In fact, virtually all of our restoration projects in 2013 were in private partnership. If you are a landowner with a fish passage, water quality, stream bank erosion, or invasive plant concern, and are interested in working with CoosWA, please let us know!

- **Become a Friend of the Coos Watershed!**: Individual memberships start at a suggested $25, you can join anytime during the year, and you will be the first to know about new communication and reports from Coos Watershed Association.

- **Volunteer with CoosWA!**: We welcome volunteers nearly year-round for salmon monitoring, and would welcome someone with an eye for design and communication to help with our website, newsletters, and outreach.

Please contact us via phone, email, or our website if you would like to help!