

April 2018



WATERSHED NEWS

*The Coquille Watershed Association
Quarterly E-Newsletter*

Dear Members and Friends,

I am thrilled to share the first edition of our quarterly newsletter with you!

My oh my, the start of 2018 has been busy! We have had new staff join the team, we are continuing work on several high-value, win-win restoration projects, and we are growing our programs in noxious weed control, education and outreach, and monitoring. Additionally, our Executive Council is engaged in a strategic planning initiative to create a 5 year Strategic Plan for the organization.

As I reflect on my first year working at the Coquille Watershed Association, I am filled with gratitude and inspiration. To accomplish our mission, partnerships and collaborations among diverse stakeholder groups are integral. Over the past year, it has been truly rewarding to work with all of our existing partners, landowners, and community members and I thank each of you for your contributions of time, enthusiasm, and donations. Together we have made great progress improving salmon habitat, water quality, and working lands in the Coquille watershed.

Lastly, thank you to our funders who have included: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality, Oregon State Weed Board, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, Coquille Indian Tribe through the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, Bureau of Land Management, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, & private donations.

Please contact us with any thoughts or suggestions on content to include in future editions.

Sincerely,

Mel Dunne
Executive Director
director@coquillewatershed.org



The Coquille Watershed Association is a 501c3 non-profit organization with the mission to promote natural resources conservation and economic stability in the Coquille watershed.



OUR STAFF

Get to know our staff!



Gloria Titus - Office Manager
admin@coquillewatershed.org

Gloria has returned to Coos County after spending the majority of her career in the Seattle area working as a finance professional, where she gained a robust background in business. She is highly regarded in her field and has worked with many talented financial executives where she learned the techniques of financial accounting and reporting. Her specialty area was in Treasury Management. She obtained her Associates of Science degree from City University by attending classes at night, working full time during the day and raising 4 small children at the same time, no small challenge! Gloria enjoys working on home improvement projects including landscaping and gardening. She also enjoys acrylic painting and spending time with family.



Kyle Motley - Restoration Program Manager
kmotley@coquillewatershed.org

Kyle has an MS in natural resources from the University of Vermont where he focused on forest health and a BS in environmental science from Juniata College. He has worked on monitoring, restoration and forestry projects with the USFS, the NPS, and several local government agencies on the east coast. Beyond working in the USA, Kyle has worked, volunteered and traveled in over 20 countries and continues to backpack, hike, travel and do pottery in his free time.



Goldie Warncke - Education and Noxious Weeds Programs Manager & South Coast CWMA Coordinator
gwarncke@coquillewatershed.org

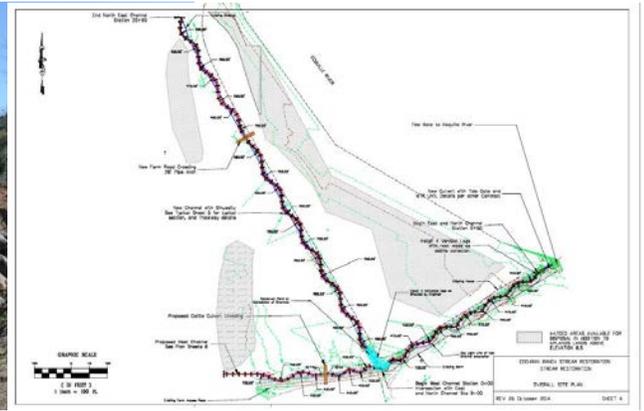
Goldie grew up in the Santa Cruz Mountains. As a kid she spent her free time wondering in the redwood forest behind her house or playing on the sweeping beaches of central California. As a young adult she lived in Montana and then finally landed in Oregon in 2000. Goldie's family including her mom and step-father all live here in Coquille! Goldie has two wonderful spirited children, one fiery grandchild and a supportive hubby, who teaches at CVH JR/SR High. Goldie enjoys whitewater rafting, snowboarding, surfing (I am learning), hiking, photography, cooking and as a side business does flora biological illustration.



RESTORATION

Updates on Current Projects

Lower Coquille River Wetland and Stream Enhancement Project



Historically there was an estimated 25,000 acres of vegetated wetlands in the lowlands of the mainstem Coquille River. Currently, only 3-4% of tidal and freshwater wetlands remain. To improve grazing in the Coquille Valley, vegetation was removed and streams were channelized and tidedgated to drain tidally influenced wetlands. Vegetated marshes provide critical over-wintering habitat for juvenile coho and the current lack of overwintering, slow water refugia is a primary limiting factor for recovery of the ESA listed Oregon Coast coho population. Therefore, many coastal watersheds are pursuing restoration projects to preserve working lands while also enhancing salmon habitat and water quality.

This project site is an organic dairy and was identified as having high intrinsic potential for over-wintering habitat for juvenile coho salmon. The project replaced a failing tidegate and undersized culvert, remeandered 3,600 feet of stream channel, created a small wetland pond, will construct ~6,000 feet of fencing, and planted ~3 acres of riparian corridors with native trees and shrubs. The project has improved drainage on the pastures and is expected to increase the productivity of the dairy operations.

Baker Creek Culvert Removal Project

Fish passage on Baker Creek is currently inhibited by a 12' diameter culvert that is perched 18' above the stream grade. Currently, there is a fish ladder but it is aging and prevents 100% of juvenile passage and limits adult salmon and steelhead access to upstream Baker Creek. The Coquille Watershed Association, technical advisors, and Weyerhaeuser are working collaboratively with engineering firms to design the removal of the culvert and restoration of Baker Creek to enhance habitat and water quality. CoqWA has been awarded \$200,000 from ODOT for project implementation. The team intends to apply for the remaining funding needed in 2018 with implementation scheduled for summer 2019.





EDUCATION AND OUTREACH & NOXIOUS WEEDS

Updates on Current Initiatives



North Fork Coquille River Knotweed Control and Riparian Restoration

Goldie is leading the charge against the North Fork knotweed infestation! Knotweed infestations along streams is very detrimental to habitat and water quality as the roots do not retain the soil well and CoqWA secured funding to implement landowner outreach activities and control efforts on Middle Creek in 2018. We are re-surveying the area to ensure that all known sites of infestation are targeted pending landowner approval. The best time to treat knotweed is in August/September. If you are interested to learn more or are a landowner concerned about knotweed on your property please contact Goldie!



Education and Outreach Initiatives

CoqWA is working hard to enhance our education and outreach programming for students of all ages and to all stakeholders in the watershed. We are currently working on several collaborative efforts regarding natural resources education that promote stewardship, scientific literacy, and elevate community awareness of our work in the community and how to get involved.

Some examples of our initiatives include:

- Developing relationships with educators in our school districts
- Collaborating with the CoosSWCD and CoosWA to develop materials on win-win lowlands restoration opportunities
- Raising awareness of noxious weed issues in the region by participating on the Coos County Noxious Weed Control District Advisory Board, Gorse Action Group, and the South Coast CWMA.



EVENTS & CONTACT US

Stay involved and keep in touch!



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Donate today!
Please click here to donate directly.
We are also on Amazon Smile!



Upcoming Events:

4/18/18 - Executive Council Meeting
7pm at the Owens Building

4/21/18 - Ivy Pull at Ferry Road Park in North Bend sponsored by the South Coast CWMA

Become a Member Today!

Interested in getting involved and supporting the work of the Coquille Watershed Association?

Become a member today!
For more information please go to our website or call: 541-396-2541