Coquille Watershed Association
Annual Report


Coho Salmon in Elk Creek

1994-2016

Coquille Watershed Association

22 Years of Restoring Watershed Health, One Stream At A Time
Fiscal Information
Most recent tax filings:
Total Funding for FY 2014–15: $426,948
$85,610 in Federal Grants
$219,227 in State Grants
$122,111 in Private Grants & Donations

Total Expenses for FY 2014–15: $430,562
$198,628 Wages & Benefits (5.5 FTE)
$190,008 Project Expenses
$41,926 Operating Expenses

Form 990 is available to view at the CWA Office:
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Woodward Creek Instream Restoration
Grants and In-Kind Funding: $204,930
Partners: BLM-Coos Bay, ODFW R & E, Campbell Global, Oxbow Timber 1 LLC, ODFW, CWA Council Volunteers

This project is located in the Woodward Creek drainage area within the North Fork Coquille River Watershed. Woodward Creek has important spawning and rearing areas for coho, steelhead, cutthroat and Pacific lamprey, and the project area is occupied and designated as critical habitat for Oregon Coast Coho, a threatened species on the ESA. Watershed issues stem from road building and timber harvesting up to the streambanks causing the loss of LWD/woody debris recruitment, and Woodward is listed on DEQ 303(d) for temperature and sediment, with the lack of shade causing high water temperatures. The primary goals of this project are:

- 1) Increase pool depth/complexity
- 2) Trap fines/sediment
- 3) Juvenile cover
- 4) Nutrient cycling
- 5) Improve/create off-channel habitat
- 6) Improve floodplain connection
- 7) Increase LWD volume

This project will place approximately 326 logs in 31 sites along 3 miles of Woodward Creek, in addition to riparian work. This project is a continuation of the multi-year, whole basin restoration approach being implemented in the North Fork Coquille River Basin (NFCR). Since 2008, the Coquille Watershed Association has been a partner in implementing stream restoration projects within approximately 32 miles of tributaries of the NFCR. The project is planned to be completed in 2016.
This project removed debris from a demolished foot bridge, asphalt, underlying gravel, and a small rock retaining wall, and was then replanted with native trees and shrubs in order to re-establish riparian zones within the old campground area and return it to a natural state. We did encounter more fill material than expected under the asphalt and would not have been able to stay on budget had we not been able to recycle the materials on a nearby ranch to improve heavy use and feeding areas. The project is complete and we accomplished all the goals that we set out with.
Knotweed has been a “growing” issue in the Coquille Watershed over the past few years. The Coquille Watershed Association and partners are cooperating on efforts to survey and inventory knotweed on the North Fork of the Coquille.

This project is ongoing and additional funds were recently secured from the ODEQ, and preliminary long term goals for the next five years are to engage landowners to cooperatively remove knotweed from the landscape, improve riparian habitat and functionality by restoring native species composition, seeking program assistance and funding for weed removal, riparian restoration and other beneficial activities. The overall idea is to use what we learn here and apply it to the other Forks in the Coquille River Watershed and try to control this invasive weed. At the time of this report, we have completed 90% of the river survey/evaluation with 34 miles on the North Fork and 8 miles of the Middle Creek, and work will continue through 2016.
Baker Creek Culvert & Fish Ladder Removal
Grants and In-Kind Funding: $154,138
Partners: BLM-Coos Bay, USFWS, ODFW, Plum Creek/Weyerhaeuser, Port of Coquille, CWA Board & Council Volunteers

Phase II of this project represents a significant opportunity to restore habitat connectivity to a crucial cold-water tributary of the South Fork Coquille River and improve adult salmonid access to spawning areas upstream of the project site. Elevated water temperature (and limited cold water refugia) has been identified as a key limiting factor for Coho Salmon populations in the Coquille River watershed (Coquille River Sub-basin Plan, Coquille Indian Tribe, 2007).

The objectives for the project are to secure the engineering and designs to remove the existing obsolete fish ladder, culverts and associated fill, place large wood/boulders in the stream channel, armor/improve upstream bridge pilings to ensure that the culvert removal will not cause bridge or access road failures and rehabilitate disturbed areas with proper erosion control measures including replanting with native trees and shrubs. At this time, we have secured funding but are waiting for the new landowner, Weyerhaeuser, to review the project and engage in the process.
The Go Native Project at Bandon High School and the Powers High School Native Species Center came together because educators felt there were cultural and scientific reasons to connect young people to the native plants that surround our communities, and, currently, there are very few native plants available for wholesale purchase in the areas of Coos and Curry counties.

The programs obtain seedlings (usually donated) and other young starts, then students care for them for 1-3 years. They are then purchased for riparian/wetland projects and/or given away to the public on native species days. The nurseries have been awarded contracts and hope to become self-sustaining, and they will also serve as a supplier for all of the area’s citizens for beautifying and improving landscapes, attracting pollinators, creating habitat and many other benefits. Previous funding was secured for a greenhouse and supplies, this years’ funding was used to purchase items including water systems, tubes, tanks, racks, pots, trays, sand, soil, lumber and hand tools.
The Coquille Watershed Association has been working for over 8 years to restore the North Fork Coquille basin. After many successful projects, most of the upper watershed has been completed and we plan to focus on maintenance and adding to older sites, and also to work with downstream private landowners to tie-in with the North Fork Knotweed projects and riparian restoration efforts.

We are in discussions to take old project data and combine it all to a newer GIS mapping program to see what and where projects were done and how they are doing now. This will also allow us to reference successful projects in the area, as well as why specific areas had no restoration done.

We will utilize ODFW historical survey and habitat data and compare this to newer data. If we can add water quality data we may be able to locate specific stretches that need additional restoration and Best Management concepts implemented.
This project site is located on a well-maintained organic dairy off the Lower Coquille 5th-field watershed and is identified as having high intrinsic potential (HIP) for over-wintering habitat for juvenile Coho Salmon. The Lower Coquille River Wetland & Stream Enhancement project will improve wetland complexity, add sinuosity to approximately 1 stream mile, open up native fish access to 1 stream mile of desired habitat, plant 5 acres of culturally and ecologically significant species and install 6,000 feet of wildlife-friendly barbed wire fencing.

Work continues on this multi-year project, although the past year was hampered by permitting delays. Once all permits are secured, we plan to install the tidegate and implement the channel work. Fencing and planting will take place fall & winter 2016.
The purpose of the project was to identify and map as many tidegates as possible in a 37-mile span of the tidally-influenced segment of the Coquille River. The short-term goal was to survey all possible waterways and produce a detailed inventory database of tidegates in the Coquille system, which will generate potential restoration projects. The long-term goals are that other restoration groups, landowners and contractors will benefit from the data and find opportunities, leading eventually to the replacement and/or removal of all non-functioning and non-fish-friendly tidegates in the system. These activities will open up miles of accessible habitat for fish and will lead to better control and land management for landowners with working landscapes.
The Coquille Watershed Association’s work includes facilitating communications and implementing conservation projects with landowners, schools, civic organizations, private foundations, Native American Tribes and governmental agencies to enhance and restore aquatic and wildlife resources in the Coquille watershed, and our website has been outdated and inaccessible since 2007, leaving us unable to inform the community about important news, facts and events in their watershed.

In early 2016, the CWA was granted funding through the Coquille Tribal Community Fund to build a new, user-friendly website. We have contracted a local web designer and expect to launch the new site in summer 2016!
Big Creek Culvert Removal
Grants and In-Kind Funding: $5,128
Partners: OWEB Small Grant Program, Private Landowner, ODFW, CWA Board & Council Volunteers

This OWEB Small Grant project improved instream habitat by removing a failing culvert on a tributary of Big Creek that provides spawning and rearing habitat for Coho Salmon, steelhead and trout. The banks were then sloped to meet the natural surrounding bank lines. Removal of the culvert will now allow the natural distribution of stream gravels.

After removal, the landowners then seeded and mulched the project area and interplanted 1-gallon pot cedar trees. The stream bed grade has visibly decreased, gravel transport has increased and fish passage has improved. These features will be the focus over the next few years of monitoring.

Leslie Wetland Log Cribs
Grants and In-Kind Funding: $12,364
Partners: OWEB Small Grant Program, Private Landowner, Yankee Creek Forestry, Trout Unlimited, CWA Council Volunteers

This OWEB Small Grant funded the installation of 10 nurse log structures within a 2-acre wetland near the Bandon National Wildlife Refuge. The cribs will serve as the base for native plantings, specifically Sitka Spruce, Bigleaf Maple, Red Cedar, Crabapple and Twinberry. The cribs will be monitored for 5 years.

The plantings provide needed native species diversity, which is lacking in the wetland, and will eventually shade out the reed canary grass once they reach free-to-grow size. This will shade the stream reducing solar input, and the reduced water temperatures and increased woody debris will provide improved habitat for Chinook & Coho Salmon and steelhead trout.
This project utilized OWEB Small Grant funds in a partnership with resources from a CREP project. The Coquille Watershed Association worked with the landowner to put in 2,700’ of waterline to six off-stream watering sites supplied from two supply tanks installed on a hill above the project. A seventh site is pending and will be completed after the landowner chooses the final cross-fencing design.

The water system is a critical component to the CREP fencing and planting project to enable the landowner to fully exclude livestock from Bear Creek, drainage ditches and the Coquille River.

Montgomery Off-Channel Watering
Grants and In-Kind Funding: $38,486
Partners: OWEB Small Grant Program, Private Landowner, NRCS-USDA, CWA Council Volunteers

Camp Myrtlewood Riparian Restoration
Grants and In-Kind Funding: $19,507
Partners: OWEB Small Grant Program, Camp Myrtlewood, Wild Rivers Land Trust, CWA Council Volunteers

Before
After

This OWEB Small Grant project is in progress and will thin the riparian buffer along 5 acres of Myrtle and Cove creeks in the Grove Stand riparian area of the Coquille Watershed. Thinning will encourage the healthier trees to grow stronger and more quickly to provide increased habitat for amphibians, small mammals and birds. Some trees will be felled toward the creek to provide nutrients, shade and cover.

In addition to thinning, over 800 diverse native species will be planted throughout the riparian zones. A total of 12 acres is proposed to be treated through this project.
This extensive, multi-site project on working landscapes took place within the North Fork Coquille River watershed. This section of the North Fork Coquille River is primarily a migration corridor for adult and juvenile salmonids (Chinook, Coho and steelhead), and the project sites are within the Myrtle Point Drinking Water Source Protection Area, so providing a riparian area to filtrate run-off and sediment inputs is highly valuable. After enduring drought conditions and severe flooding mid-project, at completion years later, the CWA, landowners and partners were able to exceed our expectations by installing 24,892 feet of wildlife-friendly, livestock-exclusion fencing, removing 18.84 acres of invasive weeds, planting over 4,300 native trees, shrubs and willows in over 31.43 acres along 4.71 stream miles of the North and East Forks of the Coquille River. Plant Establishment activities will continue for 5 years to make the best efforts towards tree survival rates.
Yankee Creek Restoration
Grants and In-Kind Funding: $145,627
Partners: BLM-Coos Bay, USFWS, Campbell Global, ODFW, Western Native Trout Initiative, Plum Creek, OWEB Regular Grant Program, Lone Rock Timber, CWA Council Volunteers

This project placed 239 logs by excavator to build 47 logjam sites over 2.17 miles in Yankee Run Creek and Right Fork Yankee Run Creek on BLM and Campbell Global lands.

The placement of these logs will provide improved gravel recruitment, sediment traps, shelter for juveniles, nutrient cycling, improved species migration patterns, increased pool depth and complexity, and increased wood attributes all associated with cooler water temperatures.

The Yankee reaches are low gradient with high potential for trout habitat, and the Yankee Run drainage area has a good source of spawning-sized gravel material, so the low gradient and gravel recruitment made Yankee Run an excellent candidate for restoration to improve fish habitat.
CWA Council Capacity Support, OWEB Biennial Grant 2015-17 - $110,275

The purpose of the OWEB Council Capacity grant is to provide operating capacity support for the Coquille Watershed Association. The Coquille watershed contains 500 miles of habitat for winter steelhead and the Oregon Plan identifies 211.5 miles as priority stream reaches for Coho Salmon and fall and spring Chinook Salmon. Over the past year, the CWA has supported the development and implementation of 18 projects that address salmon and steelhead habitats. The grant also allows for Operating Expenses, along with a portion of the Director’s salary, and covers critical expenses including yearly tax filing, payroll reporting, business licensing, insurance, rent, office supplies and utilities.
Thank you for your support in 2015-16!