



2018 Annual Report

The Coquille Watershed Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission to promote ecologic and economic resiliency in the Coquille watershed.

January 31, 2019

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear members and friends,

I invite you to take a moment to reflect on your connection with the Coquille watershed. How do you rely on it? What do you value about the watershed? The waters of the Coquille are an interconnected and highly precious natural resource for us all and regardless of what your primary uses and values are, it's impossible to imagine our lives without the river and its tributaries. The health of the watershed is integral to supporting our agricultural heritage, working forests, vibrant communities, and productive ecosystems. Here at the Association, we're thinking about the watershed's health every day and we're dedicated to improving and enhancing its function to support resilient economies and ecosystems.

Reflecting back on 2018, I identified three key highlights I'd like to share with you. Firstly, we grew our staff size from 2 to 5 staff members. This growth has allowed us to increase our capacity and services provided to the community. Secondly, we have had amazing community involvement. It is imperative to acknowledge that our work is accomplished only because we are fortunate enough to partner with willing landowners and community members who volunteer to take part in programming. Therefore, a tremendous thank you is owed to every landowner that we had the privilege to work with in 2018. Thirdly, 2018 provided many opportunities to build a resilient, community supported organization. Our Board of Directors, technical advisors and staff completed our 5-year Strategic Plan, developed several new operating policies, and established productive committees to further our mission.

To close, we are truly thrilled to share our 2018 Annual Report with you! The report includes overarching information on our organization in addition to specific program accomplishments and highlights. Thanks for making 2018 a great year!

Sincerely,

Mel Dunne

Mel Dunne
Executive Director
director@coquillewatershed.org



The Coquille Watershed Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission to promote ecologic and economic resiliency in the Coquille watershed.

MISSION STATEMENT & CORE VALUES



Mission Statement

To work collaboratively with communities and landowners to develop and implement voluntary watershed restoration, enhancement, and community engagement activities that promote healthy and resilient ecosystems and economies in the Coquille watershed.

Core Values

We recognize and believe that:

- It is possible to achieve both environmental integrity and economic resiliency in the Coquille watershed.
- The natural products and processes of the watershed are indicators of watershed health and are important to the economy and vitality of communities.
- Human activities have a legitimate place in the watershed.
- Our actions can affect the stability of the watershed and related economy.
- A watershed-scale perspective improves our ability to sustain the health of the watershed and related economy.
- Native fishes & wildlife are important to the economic, recreational, ecological, and cultural values of the communities in the watershed.
- Community education opportunities are key to achieving long term, sustainable, and positive change.
- The coordination of our individual efforts can achieve a synergistic and beneficial effect on the watershed.

BOARD AND STAFF



Staff Members

Melaney Dunne, Executive Director

Julie Huff, Monitoring Program Manager

Kyle Motley, Restoration Program Manager

Goldie Warncke, Noxious Weeds & Education/Outreach Program Manager

Rushal Sedlemyer, Programs Technician

Board Members

Tom Jefferson - President, Bandon

Pat Quinn - Vice President, Camas Valley

Bruce Follansbee - Treasurer, North Fork

Helena Linnell - Secretary, Coquille Indian Tribe

Ron Stiener - Resource Advisor, Weyerhaeuser

Bob Spoul - Officer at Large, East Fork

Dan Pennington - Myrtle Glen Farm, North Fork

Micha Gross - Myrtle Glen Farm, North Fork

Brian Kraynik - Coquille Water Trail Coordinator, Captain

Fred Messerle - Beaver Slough Drainage District/Messerle and Sons

Jim Nielsen - Small Woodland Owners

Standing Committees: *Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Education and Outreach Committee, Project Steering Committee.*

FINANCIALS

2018 Fiscal Year (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018)



Revenue

Federal Grants: \$179,746
State Grants: \$376,154
Private Grants and Donations: \$104,454
Total: \$660,354

Expenses

Salaries, Wages, and Benefits: \$229,298
Project Expenses: \$360,272
Operating Expenses: \$57,637
Total: \$647,207

In 2018, 72% of funding was spent in Coos County supporting our local businesses and industries.

For every \$1 spent on operations in 2018, \$9.50 was spent on direct programming and services in the community.

For additional financial information, including IRS Form 990 returns, please see our website or contact us directly.



WATERSHED MAP



RESTORATION PROGRAM

Program Overview



Program Staff: Kyle Motley - Restoration Program Manager, Goldie Warncke - Noxious Weeds Program Manager

Program Mission: The mission of the restoration program is to enhance lands throughout the watershed to improve habitats for native fish and wildlife while also maintaining the capacity of working forests and ranches. For each project, we work collaboratively with the landowner, a team of local technical advisors, and high quality engineers and contractors to successfully implement projects that improve habitats and water quality.

Program Activities: Habitat and Working Lands Restoration, Noxious Weed Control

About Restoration: Our restoration projects aim to holistically improve water quality and habitats while also ensuring that project designs are compatible with the production goals of the landowner. We focus on improving stream and riparian habitats to support healthy populations of native fish, wildlife, and plants.

About Noxious Weed Control: Noxious weeds pose a serious threat to the South Coast economies and ecosystems. We prioritize taking action on controlling outlier populations of noxious weeds to prevent their spread. We actively participate on the Coos County Noxious Weed Control District Advisory Board, the South Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area, and the Gorse Action Group. Our target weed species are aligned with the Coos County Weed Board's "T-list" species.



RESTORATION PROGRAM



Upland Restoration Projects

Baker Creek Fish Passage - South Fork Coquille Watershed

Grants: \$156,000 for engineering, \$885,500 for implementation

Partners: USFWS, BLM, ODFW, Weyerhaeuser, Coquille Indian Tribe

Purpose: Fish passage to spawning habitat and cold water refugia in is blocked by a large railroad grade culvert that is perched 18 ft above stream level. To restore fish passage, we are removing the culvert, restoring the stream channel to natural conditions, and constructing log jams for salmon habitat.

2018 Work Completed: Engineering and cultural resource surveys have been completed and funding has been secured. Permits are in the process of being submitted.

Upcoming work: The culvert, fish ladder and fill material will be removed and the channel will be regraded in 2019. Habitat restoration will take place in 2020.



Baker Creek culvert.

Woodward Creek - North Fork Coquille Watershed

Grants: \$147,000, **Partners:** BLM, FIA

Purpose: To survey the roads in the Woodward Creek drainage to prioritize enhancements that will decrease fine sediment loading from the road network into the stream. Vehicle access to eroded roads on private and BLM lands will be restricted and outreach will be done to inform citizens of the erosion damage caused by unauthorized vehicle use.

2018 Work Completed: Funds have been acquired from the BLM and another grant application has been submitted. There was an initial meeting with timber companies in the Woodward Creek drainage who identified priority areas to survey.

Upcoming work: Road surveys will be performed and road improvements will be designed from this data. Road decommissioning and barrier placement will take place in 2019.



Example of poor road condition in Woodward Creek watershed.

RESTORATION PROGRAM

Upland Restoration Projects



Steel Creek - East Fork Coquille Watershed

Grants: \$124,100, **Partners:** BLM, Moore Mill, FIA

Purpose: To improve spawning habitat and stream complexity for native fish and reduce sediment loading from the road network into Steel Creek. Restoration actions include decommissioning a road, constructing log jams, surveying the road network and designing road improvements.

Work Completed: ½ mile of road along Steel Creek was decommissioned, road surveys have been performed and are being currently analyzed to develop projects. Additionally, nine large wood structures were placed in Steel Creek.

Upcoming work: Develop and implement road improvement projects, continue outreach to private landowners on Steel Creek to perform more restoration.



Honcho Creek - North Fork Coquille Watershed

Grants: \$14,700

Partners: BLM, FIA, OWEB Small Grant Program

Purpose: To create habitat and improve spawning gravel for salmon in Honcho Creek by constructing three log jams. These log jams will provide refuge, floodplain connection, gravel retention and complex habitats for native fish.

2018 Work Completed: Project Finished!



RESTORATION PROGRAM

Lowland Restoration Projects



Winter Lake Planting Project

Grants: \$359,000, **Partners:** ODFW, The Nature Conservancy, Beaver Slough Drainage District, OWEB, Coquille Indian Tribe

Purpose: To complement the tideland restoration implemented by TNC and partners by planting 150,000 native trees and willows along newly constructed tidal channels and low elevation areas. Riparian vegetation will provide habitat for salmon and shade tidal channels during summer. (www.coquilleworkinglandscapes.com)

Work Completed: 9,000 trees have been planted and 75,000 willows have been collected and transplanted. **Upcoming work:** 11,000 trees and 55,000 willows will be planted in fall of 2019.



Seestrom Tidelands Project

Grants and in-kind: \$1,018,000 secured to be spent in 2019 and 2020, **Partners:** USFWS, ODFW, Coquille Indian Tribe, private landowner

Purpose: To restore fish passage and floodplain connection between the Coquille River and 270 acres of pasture while also improving pasture management and flood control for the ranch. Tidegates will be replaced to improve fish passage, new meandering channels will be built, trees will be planted inside a fenced livestock exclusion area around the channels. These actions will provide habitat for juvenile salmon and better drainage for the landowner.

2018 Work Completed: Engineering is in the final stage and permits are in the process of being submitted. Funds have been acquired for year one implementation. **Upcoming work:** Restoration will start in 2019 when one tidegate will be replaced and channels behind it will be built and fenced for salmon habitat. Funds are currently being sought for year 2 restoration.



This project was awarded \$200,000 generated from Oregon's salmon license plate sales!

RESTORATION PROGRAM



Lowland Restoration Projects

Lower Coquille River Wetland and Stream Enhancement Project

Grants: \$376,300

Partners: Coquille Indian Tribe, ODFW, private landowner, Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Purpose: To work within the “working landscapes” model for conservation that identifies win-win scenarios for private landowners and conservation of natural resources. This project improved fish passage through a tidegate equipped with a Muted Tidal Regulator, increased wetland and stream complexity in approximately one mile of channel by remeandering the channel and placing LWD. Additionally, 5 acres of riparian area was planted and fenced to exclude livestock and water management with the new tidegate will improve the drainage for the pasture.

2018 Work Completed: Project Finished! We completed the planting and fencing work in 2018. The tidegate was replaced in 2017. The landowner has been an incredible partner in this project!

Upcoming work: Ongoing plant establishment and fencing maintenance will be continued by the landowner.



RESTORATION PROGRAM

Noxious Weed Control Projects



North Fork Knotweed Control Project, Phase 2 - Middle Creek

Grants and in-kind support: \$38,020, **Partners:** Oregon State Weed Board, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, Private Landowners, Lone Rock Timber Co., Forest Investment Associates, and Coos SWCD.

About the project: There is a significant knotweed infestation in the North Fork basin along the riparian corridors of the North Fork Coquille River and its tributaries. The purpose of this ongoing project is to develop a knotweed control and riparian restoration plan, map the existing infestation, and then control high priority reaches of the knotweed infestation in collaboration with private landowners using the best available science and methods. Phase 1 (2015-2017) consisted of mapping the infestation and development of a knotweed control plan. Phase 2 (2018) included the first priority reach treated and landowner outreach. Future phases will re-treat and expand treatment, continued landowner outreach, and additional surveys.

2018 Work Completed: Phase 2 - we treated 41 sites along 1.5 miles of Middle Creek. Private landowners provided tremendous support, with 105 hours of in-kind time tracked. With their assistance, the knotweed treatment and control project on the Middle Fork will be used as local demonstration site where tours can show the process of knotweed treatment and control, riparian revegetation, and the benefits to the landowner. Moreover, several Middle Creek landowners now have the tools and resources to continue treatment on their own by participating in the Coos County Noxious Weed Control District Herbicide Cost Share Program. **Upcoming work:** Phase 3 will involve a survey of the East Fork Coquille River, re-treatment of Middle Creek, and expansion of treatment to the upper North Fork Coquille River.



RESTORATION PROGRAM

Noxious Weed Control Projects



Collaborative Weed Control Projects and Initiatives

Coos County Noxious Weed Control District Advisory Board Early Detection and Rapid Response Program

Most noxious weeds prefer highly disturbed sites, heavily used sites. Early detection of high priority noxious weeds is critical and needs to be addressed within the entire watershed. In 2018 CoqWA and CoosWA joined forces to survey, map and treat outlier populations of noxious weeds in Coos County. This project mapped 32 sites of and treated 10 sites for noxious weeds in the Coquille watershed. This project also focused on noxious weed control outreach. We shared our expertise in identification, mapping and control to multiple groups.

Funding: Oregon State Weed Board, \$14,000 for CoqWA activity



South Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area

Program Manager Goldie Warncke coordinates the CWMA. The mission of the CWMA is to reduce the negative impact of invasive plant species on the economy, environment and human health by collaborating with the community through education, information exchange and coordinating regional efforts for control. CWMA members include: watershed organizations, timber companies, agencies, private landowners, and other user groups.

Funding: BLM/CoosWA, \$35,000



Gorse Action Group

Goldie serves as the Local GAG Project Coordinator. The GAG's three key goals include: 1) preventing new infestations from establishing, 2) strategically controlling large, established infestations, and 3) increasing capacity and commitment to manage gorse on the South Coast. Goldie coordinates projects and events.

Funding: WRCA, \$17,600



MONITORING PROGRAM

Program Overview



Program Staff: Julie Huff - Monitoring Program Manager, Rushal Sedlemyer - Programs Technician

Program Mission: The mission of the monitoring program is to actively measure current watershed conditions and the effects of restoration practices on watershed health through consistent, scientifically proven methods with the intent on using the results to further improve our restoration practices.

Program Activities: Basin Assessments and Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring

About Basin Assessments: The purpose of a basin assessment is to evaluate the current conditions in a sub-basin to identify, prioritize and design restoration projects that will enhance water quality, habitats, and working lands. Basin assessments include: road surveys to assess the extent of sediment loading to streams from road networks, Aquatic Habitat Inventory surveys (AQI) to identify limiting factors and priority reaches for restoration, water quality monitoring, and landowner outreach to discuss results and potential projects.

About Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring: Restoration effectiveness monitoring is critical to successful future restoration projects by the continual refinement of restoration practices based on the monitoring outcomes of previous projects. In addition, monitoring is a necessary tool for the adaptive management of a site to ensure the intended outcomes are being met.



MONITORING PROGRAM

Basin Assessment Projects



TWELVEMILE CREEK BASIN ASSESSMENT MIDDLE FORK COQUILLE WATERSHED

Grants and in-kind funding: \$71,804

Partners: Roseburg Resources, BLM, ODFW, OWEB

2018 Work Completed: Site visits with project partners have begun to identify roads to survey and identify instream restoration locations.

Upcoming Work: We will verify that the AQI survey completed by ODFW in 2000 is still indicative of the current state of the watershed. Road surveys will begin in winter of 2019 to identify where sediment loading into the creek occurs. Restoration planning will occur using that data.



Drainage issue on road.

DEMENT CREEK BASIN ASSESSMENT SOUTH FORK COQUILLE WATERSHED

Grants and in-kind funding: \$58,777

Partners: BLM, ODEQ, ODFW, ODA, Lone Rock Resources, Private Landowners, OWEB

2018 Work Completed: All AQI stream surveys were completed and road surveys have begun in winter of 2018. Also, 9 temperature loggers were deployed and sediment sampling using the discrete water sampler has begun for the 2018-2019 rainy season.

Upcoming Work: We will complete road surveys and continue our sediment sampling throughout the season. By mid-2019 we will compile all of our assessment results to plan and design restoration and road-improvement projects.



Automatic liquid sampler deployed on Dement Creek to evaluate sediment loading.

MONITORING PROGRAM

Basin Assessment Projects



SANDY CREEK BASIN ASSESSMENT MIDDLE FORK COQUILLE WATERSHED

Grants and in-kind funding: \$61,200

Partners: BLM, ODFW, USFWS, OWEB, Coos County Road Department, private landowners

2018 Work Completed: AQI and GRAIP surveys have been completed and the results have been analyzed in 2018. Projects are currently being developed from this data. Willing landowners have been reached and communications initiated regarding potential projects.

Upcoming work: Potential restoration projects will be evaluated by the project team and the Project Steering Committee. Grants will be written for approved projects in 2019.



MONITORING PROGRAM

Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring



WINTER LAKE RESTORATION EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

Grants and in-kind funding: \$365,070

Partners: ODFW, Beaver Slough Drainage District/landowners, Coquille Indian Tribe, ODEQ, The Nature Conservancy, OWEB

The purpose of this project is to determine how effective the restoration project (www.coquilleworkinglandscapes.com) has been at meeting its goals, primarily the enhancement of winter rearing habitat for juvenile coho and restoration of ecological processes. The four year project includes:

- Fish Passage (channel depth and connectivity, velocity at tide gate)
- Fish Habitat Quantity and Quality (channel complexity, water quality (temperature, DO, TN, TP, TSS), water level, vegetation)
- Fish Response to Habitat Uplift (relative abundance and condition factor)

2018 Work Completed: All field instrumentation has been installed and is actively collecting data. The first season of fish sampling is underway which includes training of CoqWA staff. Two monitoring committee meetings have occurred and helped facilitate the needs and priorities of this project.

Upcoming Work: We will continue downloading and auditing continuous data loggers throughout the year, start water quality sampling in the dry season and collate all of the data to start analyzing for trends and relationships.



EDUCATION PROGRAM

Program Overview



Funding: \$21,325, **Partners:** Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, Coquille Valley Art Association, SW OR Community College, ODFW, BLM, Coquille Indian Tribe, Coquille Schools, US Forest Service, Gorse Action Group, South Coast CWMA

In 2018, Goldie launched our program to teach watershed science and stewardship. Throughout the 2018-2019 school year, the Coquille Valley Elementary third grade students are participating in art and science lessons that include topics on salmon, working lands, and leading an on the ground restoration project on Cunningham Creek at CVE. Also, the Coquille Jr. High art classes will be developing natural resource art projects. Both CVE and Jr. High students will have the opportunity to display their work at the Coquille Valley Art Association and other locations. We aim to expand this programming in 2019 and beyond!



The Coquille Watershed Association had booths at the Powers Fishing Derby, Bandon Cranberry Festival, Coquille Gay 90's Parade, Coquille National Night Out, Coos Watershed Mayfly Festival, the Coos County Fair and Myrtle Point Harvest Festival. Locals and visitors alike learned about watershed stewardship, noxious weeds, and other natural resources topics!



PARTNER RECOGNITION



Thank you to our invaluable partners!

We are most grateful to our partners and funders, without whom our work would not be possible!

Beaver Slough Drainage District
Coaledo Drainage District
Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians
Coos County
Coos Soil and Water Conservation District
Coos Watershed Association*
Coquille Indian Tribe*
Coquille Junior High
Coquille Valley Elementary
Curry Watersheds Partnership
Forest Investment Associates
Gorse Action Group
Lone Rock Timber Co.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*
Oregon Dept. of Agriculture*
Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality*
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*
Oregon State University Extension
Oregon State Weed Board*
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board*
Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
Powers High School Native Plant Program
Private landowners
Roseburg Resources
South Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area
The Ford Family Foundation*
The Nature Conservancy
US Dept. of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service
US Dept. of Agriculture - US Forest Service
US Dept. of Interior - Bureau of Land Management*
US Dept. of Interior - US Fish and Wildlife Service*
Weyerhaeuser Co.
Wild Rivers Coast Alliance*

**asterisk denotes funder*

CONTACT US

Stay involved and keep in touch!



Physical and mailing address:
Coquille Watershed Association
390 N. Central Blvd.
Coquille, OR 97423



Website:
www.coquillewatershed.org
Email:
info@coquillewatershed.org



Phone:
541-396-2541



Donate today!
Click [here](#) to donate directly.
We are also on [Amazon Smile!](#)

Become a Member Today!

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

Become a member today! By becoming a member, you are supporting our work to build community around the shared values of enhancing the local economy and stewarding our natural resources.

For more information please go to our website or call: 541-396-2541