



# 2019

# Annual Report

*Celebrating 25 years of watershed  
stewardship in the Coquille basin.  
1994-2019*

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.

April 2020

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear members and friends,

Thanks to your support we achieved significant milestone accomplishments in 2019! Our Restoration Program implemented three major projects collectively opening 4 miles of spawning habitat for fish, restoring 1.5 miles of riparian and instream habitats, and improving fish access to over 100 acres of floodplain habitat. Additionally, our noxious weeds control efforts expanded to control knotweed on 7 miles of the North Fork Coquille River riparian corridor and over 10 sites of outlier gorse found throughout the watershed. The restoration outcomes of 2019 are truly a shared accomplishment as many of these projects were implemented after several years of hard work and dedication from staff, technical advisors, and landowners. I would like to acknowledge that all of our major projects in 2019 were implemented on private lands; we are most grateful for the landowners that partner with us to realize benefits to working lands and natural resources in the Coquille watershed. We all have much to be proud of!

While we are thrilled to highlight our recent accomplishments, we are also actively planning for the future. In addition to planning upcoming projects in restoration, monitoring, and education we are also transitioning one of our staff positions. As many of you know Kyle Motley, our Restoration Program Coordinator, is wrapping up his tenure at the Association. Kyle has brought many skills to the organization and has certainly left his mark, leaving the program in a much stronger position than when he started – thank you Kyle! This month, we welcome Cyndi Park as the new Restoration Program Coordinator and look forward to her leadership of the program.

To close, this year will bring additional changes and challenges for all of us as we navigate the coronavirus pandemic. Please know that here at the Association we consider the safety and health of our staff and partners to be a top priority. We are working hard to foster resiliency in these uncertain times and our dedication to our mission remains unwavering. As always, we have greatly appreciated the core mission support to sustain our programs and I ask that you please consider maintaining your annual donation or membership into 2020 as it will be invaluable support for our organization to continue our work in the community in the coming years. Thank you for your consideration and wishing you well!

Sincerely,

Mel Dunne  
Executive Director  
director@coquillewatershed.org



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# 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 Coordinator*  
*Kyle Motley, Restoration Program Coordinator*  
*Goldie Warncke, Noxious Weeds & Education Programs Coordinator*  
*Rushal Sedlemyer, Project Manager*  
*Ivy Metzgas, Watershed Technician*  
*Carol Corral, Bookkeeper & Office Manager*

## Board Members

*Tom Jefferson - President, Bandon*  
*Bruce Follansbee - Treasurer, North Fork*  
*Helena Linnell - Secretary, Coquille Indian Tribe*  
*Ron Steiner - Resource Advisor, Weyerhaeuser*  
*Bob Sproul - Officer at Large, East Fork*  
*Dan Pennington - Myrtle Glen Farm, North Fork*  
*Micha Gross - Myrtle Glen Farm, North Fork*  
*Brian Kraynik - Captain, Coos Boat Tours*  
*Fred Messerle - Beaver Slough Drainage District/Messerle and Sons*  
*Jim Nielsen - Small Woodland Owners*  
*Pat Quinn - Camas Valley*

(Pat and Micha completed their tenure on the Board in 2019, we are so appreciative of their service and passion for the Coquille!)

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

# FINANCIALS

*2019 Fiscal Year (January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019)*



## *Revenue*

Federal Grants: \$277,502

State Grants: \$1,564,252

Private Grants and Contracts: \$375,491

Donations: \$15,070

*Total: \$2,232,315*

## *Expenses*

Salaries, Wages, and Benefits: \$309,126

Project Expenses: \$1,730,574

Operating Expenses: \$48,976

*Total: \$2,088,676*

*For every \$1 spent on operations in 2019, \$23 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. Financial records for 2019 were audited by a third party CPA.*





# 25TH ANNIVERSARY

1994 - 2019

*Celebrating 25 years of watershed stewardship*



Since 1994, the Coquille Watershed Association has been restoring habitats & working lands and supporting local jobs & businesses in the Coquille watershed. All of our work has been funded through grants and the continued support of our members and community leaders.

In September 2019, we hosted an event to thank landowners, partners, and funders and to celebrate a quarter century of watershed enhancement in the Coquille! It was a successful and fun community fundraiser event. Our anniversary celebration gave us the opportunity to share our stories and progress as a watershed council and to highlight our strategic plan and intentions for the next 25 years!

Our event included local food, beverages, live music, & a silent and live auction. We are so appreciative of the community support from local businesses and individuals that donated items for the auction, provided food/beverages, and also to all who were able to attend and celebrate with us!

In total we raised \$6,000 to support our mission and programming.

**THANK YOU!**



# WATERSHED MAP



# RESTORATION PROGRAM

## *Program Overview*



**Program Staff:** Kyle Motley - Restoration Program Coordinator, Goldie Warncke - Noxious Weeds Program Coordinator, Rushal Sedlemyer - Project 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

## *Restoration Projects*



### **Seestrom Tidelands Project - Mainstem Coquille**

**Grants and in-kind:** \$1,018,000 secured to be spent in 2019 and 2020 (OWEB, USFWS, WRCA, TNC)

**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.

**2019 Work Completed:** Permitting was completed and the northern tidegate was replaced and channels were created. The pasture is improved in productivity for grazing and juvenile coho were observed in winter 2019/20 in the site.

**Upcoming work:** We will complete fencing and planting on the site in 2020 in the northern half of the property. Funds are currently being sought for phase 2 restoration.





# RESTORATION PROGRAM

## *Restoration Projects*



### **Baker Creek Fish Passage - South Fork Coquille Watershed**

**Grants:** \$156,000 for engineering, \$885,500 for implementation (OWEB, ODFW, USFWS, BLM)

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

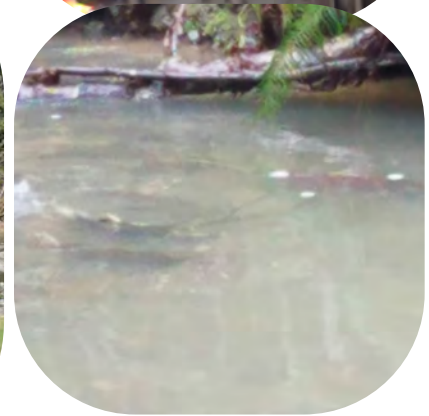
**Purpose:** Fish passage to spawning habitat and cold water refugia was blocked by a large railroad grade culvert that was perched 18 ft above stream level. To restore fish passage, we are removing the culvert, restoring the stream channel to natural conditions, and constructing log jams for salmon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

**2019 Work Completed:** In partnership with Weyerhaeuser, the culvert, fish ladder, and fill material was removed in the summer of 2019. The channel has naturally cut back following removal. We observed coho spawning upstream of where the culvert used to be located in January of 2020!

**Upcoming work:** Habitat restoration will take place in 2020 including riparian planting and log placements for salmon habitat. We will continue to monitor the project site for many years to come.



*Baker Creek culvert before removal.*



*Coho spawning in newly opened habitat, January 2020.  
Photo credit: Ron Steiner*



*Baker Creek immediately following removal, August 2019*



*Baker Creek, Spring 2020*



# RESTORATION PROGRAM

## *Restoration Projects*



### Winter Lake Planting Project- Mainstem Coquille

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

**Purpose:** To complement the tideland restoration implemented by project 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](http://www.coquilleworkinglandscapes.com))

**Work Completed:** 15,172 trees have been planted and 110,000 willows have been collected and transplanted.

**Upcoming work:** We will be conducting plant maintenance for several years to ensure high survival and establishment of native plants in the project area.



### Woodward Creek - North Fork Coquille Watershed

**Grants:** \$147,000, **Partners:** BLM, timber companies

**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. We will also construct log jams to enhance habitats for native fish.

**2019 Work Completed:** We have been awarded funds from the Drinking Waters Providers Partnership and have engineered culvert replacements on fish bearing streams and have planned logs placements.

**Upcoming work:** Road surveys will be performed and road improvements will be designed from this data. Road sediment proofing, log placements, and noxious weed surveys will be completed in 2020 and 2021.





# RESTORATION PROGRAM

## *Restoration Projects*



### **Big Creek Fish Passage Project - Middle Fork Coquille**

**Grants and in-kind:** \$213,064 (OWEB), Coos County Public Works - Roads

**Partners:** ODFW, Coos County Public Works Dept., BLM, private landowners

**Purpose:** To replace two undersized culverts that are tributaries to Big Creek (Bridge, OR). Additionally, habitats were enhanced in the streams by placing large woody debris in the stream and planting riparian areas.

**2019 Work Completed:** Coos County led the culvert replacements in summer 2019. Large woody debris was also placed in summer 2019 to improve habitat for native fish. Riparian planting was completed in winter 2019/2020.

**Upcoming work:** We will monitor this project for multiple years to evaluate project success.





# RESTORATION PROGRAM

## *Noxious Weed Control Projects*



### **North Fork Knotweed Control Project, Phase 3 - Middle Creek & Upper North Fork Coquille River (NFCR) Expansion of Control**

**Grants and in-kind support:** \$51,120, **Partners:** Oregon State Weed Board, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, private landowners, timber companies, and Coos SWCD.

**About the project:** There is a significant knotweed infestation along the riparian corridors of the NFCR and its tributaries. The purpose of this ongoing project is to implement our knotweed control and riparian restoration plan, map the existing infestation, and control high priority reaches of the 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. Phase 3 (2019 - 2025) will include re-treatment and expanded treatment, continued landowner outreach, additional surveys, and replanting riparian areas with native vegetation following successful control.

**2019 Work Completed:** Phase 3 - we retreated 41 sites along 1.5 miles of Middle Creek and expanded treatment to include 40 sites along 5.5 miles of mainstem NFCR. Private landowners provided tremendous support and with their assistance, the knotweed treatment and control project on the Middle Fork has been used as local demonstration site where tours can show the process of knotweed treatment and control, riparian revegetation, and the benefits to the landowner. Additionally we surveyed the East Fork Coquille River and are thrilled to report that we observed no knotweed in this watershed (a tributary to the NFCR).

**Upcoming work:** 2020 will include retreatments, expanded surveys, and expanded treatment in the NFCR watershed. We will be planning riparian restoration actions as well to implement in 2021.



# 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, heavily used sites. Early detection of high priority noxious weeds is critical and needs to be addressed within the entire watershed. In 2019, CoqWA and CoosWA joined forces to survey, map and treat outlier populations of noxious weeds in Coos County. This project mapped 160 sites and treated 33 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, \$7,500 for CoqWA activity



### South Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area

Program Coordinator 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, \$35,000



### Gorse Action Group

Rushal Sedlemyer 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. Rushal coordinates projects and events.

**Funding:** WRCA, \$25,000





# MONITORING PROGRAM

## *Program Overview*



**Program Staff:** Julie Huff - Monitoring Program Coordinator, Ivy Metzgas - Watershed Technician

**Program Goal:** The goal 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 restoration practices both locally and regionally.

**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 the success of future restoration projects by informing lessons learned from restoration practices. 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*



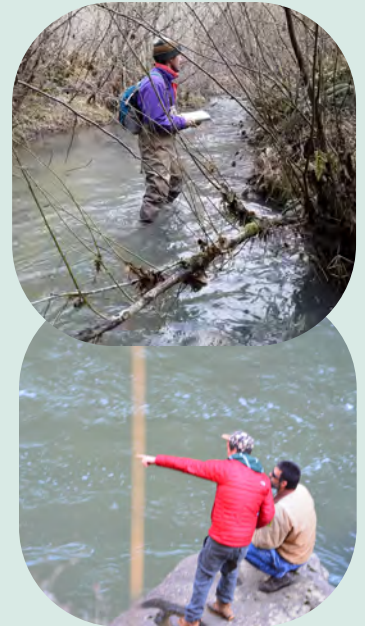
### TWELVEMILE CREEK BASIN ASSESSMENT MIDDLE FORK COQUILLE WATERSHED

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

**Partners:** Roseburg Resources, BLM, ODFW, OWEB

**2019 Work Completed:** Instream restoration actions have been planned based on previously gathered watershed data and funding to implement instream habitat improvements has been secured! Road surveys have been completed and we are working on planning road improvement actions with partners.

**Upcoming Work:** In summer 2020, we will implement instream restoration actions (log structures constructed) and also plan and seek out funding for road improvements to implement in 2021.



### DEMENT CREEK BASIN ASSESSMENT SOUTH FORK COQUILLE WATERSHED

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

**Partners:** BLM, ODEQ, ODFW, ODA, Lone Rock Resources, Weyerhaeuser, private landowners, OWEB

**2019 Work Completed:** We have completed stream surveys, road network surveys, and implemented another year of water quality sampling (temperature and sediment monitoring). We have begun restoration project planning efforts based on the collected data.

**Upcoming Work:** We will design habitat improvements (log placements and riparian plantings) throughout the basin and seek funding to support the restoration plans. We are working with landowners on road improvement actions to reduce sediment loading into Dement Creek. We will apply for funding in 2020.





# 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 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, water level, vegetation)
- Fish Response to Habitat Uplift (relative abundance and condition factor)

**2019 Work Completed:** All field instrumentation has been installed and is actively collecting data. The second season of fish sampling is underway! Several monitoring committee meetings have occurred and helped inform data analysis and project planning. Our first annual report on the project was completed.

**Upcoming Work:** We will continue all elements of the monitoring in 2020 and we have submitted grants to expand monitoring efforts to additional sites in the Lower Coquille. We hope to learn more about the effectiveness of tidegate replacements and working lands restoration projects to inform the development of future projects across estuaries in the Pacific Northwest.



# EDUCATION PROGRAM

## *Program Overview & 2019 Activities*



**Funding:** \$41,325, **Partners:** Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, Coquille Valley Art Association, SW OR Community College, ODFW, BLM, Coquille Indian Tribe, Coquille Schools, US Forest Service, Coos Watershed Assoc., Oregon Community Foundation (OCF)

**Program Staff:** Goldie Warncke, Education Program Coordinator

**Program Activities:** Throughout the 2018-2019 school years, the Coquille Valley Elementary third grade students participated 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. We also had an intern from SWOCC assisting with this project. Additionally, we received a grant from OCF to expand this programming in 2019! Specifically with this funding, we have partnered with Coos Watershed Association to connect with educators and develop community supported place-based education opportunities for youth on natural resource topics. We will be continuing this expansion work in 2020.

The Coquille Watershed Association had booths at the Powers Fishing Derby, Bandon Cranberry Festival, Coos Watershed Mayfly Festival, and the Coos County Fair. We also gave 14 presentations on our work in the community over 2019. 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\*  
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!*



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**Email:**  
[info@coquillewatershed.org](mailto: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