



# 2020

# Annual Report

*Celebrating 26 years of watershed  
stewardship in the Coquille Basin.  
1994-2020*

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 2021

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear members and friends,

Thanks to your support we achieved many great successes in 2020 that we are excited to share with you all in this year's annual report. Accomplishments include restoring instream habitat in Twelvemile Creek (a tributary to the Middle Fork Coquille) and continuing knotweed control in the North Fork watershed. Notably, we also expanded the monitoring of restoration projects in working lands in the Coquille Valley, with exciting initial results on juvenile salmonid use of the restored sites!

To me, 2020 is a year that truly demonstrated our resilience. We came together with partners and landowners to continue our work while adapting to stay safe during multiple challenges from the pandemic and an extreme fire season. The commitment that our partners and landowners have shown to the mission and programs of the Association have continued to inspire us. In fact, 2020 was a year marked with several new projects initiated across Restoration, Noxious Weeds, and Outreach Programs. In 2020, we collectively applied for over \$1.5 million in grant funding opportunities to implement these projects over the coming years. Much of our grant funding is spent in the communities we serve by purchasing project materials from local businesses and hiring local contractors to complete project deliverables such as large woody debris placement, native plantings, fencing, and noxious weed control.

As always, we have greatly appreciated the core mission support to sustain our programs. I ask that you please consider maintaining your annual donation or membership into 2021 as it will be invaluable financial 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,

*Melaney Dunne*

Mel Dunne  
Executive Director  
[director@coquillewatershed.org](mailto: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*  
*Cyndi Park, Restoration Program Coordinator*  
*Sherri Laier, Noxious Weeds Program Coordinator*  
*Rushal Sedlemyer, Project Manager*  
*Ivy Metzgas, Watershed Technician*  
*Carol Corral, Bookkeeper & Office Manager*

Thank you to Kyle Motley and Goldie Warncke,  
prior staff that transitioned to new endeavors in 2020!

## **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*  
*Fred Messerle - Beaver Slough Drainage District/Messerle and Sons*  
*Jim Nielsen - Small Woodland Owners*  
*Jeff Griffin - Port of Bandon*

Ron completed his tenure on the Board in 2020, we are so  
appreciative of his service and passion for the Coquille!

# FINANCIALS

2020 Fiscal Year (January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020)



## Revenue

Federal Grants: \$373,406  
State Grants: \$777,662  
Foundation and Private Grants: \$124,722  
Partner Contracts: \$22,190  
Donations and Interest Earned: \$2,387  
*Total: \$1,300,367*

## Expenses

Salaries, Wages, and Benefits: \$394,879  
Programming Expenses: \$781,734  
Operating Expenses: \$46,323  
*Total: \$1,222,935*

*Note, compensation line includes both program and administrative staff,*

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



- Federal Grant
- State Grant
- Partner Contracts
- Foundation and Private
- Donations and Interest Earned 0.2%

- Operations
- Programming
- Salaries, Wages, and Benefits



# WATERSHED MAP



# PROGRAMMING

## *Programs Overview*



**Restoration Program:** 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. Projects are designed to holistically improve water quality and habitats while also ensuring that the project is compatible with the production goals of the landowner. Common project activities include: fish passage enhancement (culverts, bridges, tide gates), instream habitat enhancement (large woody debris), riparian habitat enhancement (fencing, planting).

**Noxious Weeds Program:** 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 and we implement best practices when controlling populations.

**Monitoring Program:** The goal of the monitoring program is to actively assess 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.

**Outreach Program:** We engage the local community at events and with organized presentations. We also implement youth programming with local schools.





# 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. In partnership with Weyerhaeuser, the culvert, fish ladder, and fill material was removed in the summer of 2019.

**2020 Work Completed:** Large woody debris was placed in Baker Creek in summer 2020 to increase complexity of the stream, enhancing spawning and rearing habitat. Planting native conifers in the riparian area of the work site also occurred in Fall 2020.

**Upcoming work:** We plan to monitor the project site for at least 5 years and work with partners to also conduct spawning surveys for salmoids each winter.



*Baker Creek culvert before removal.*



*Large Woody Debris Installation, Summer 2020*



*Baker Creek, November 2020*



*Baker Creek, Spring 2020*



# RESTORATION PROGRAM

## *Restoration Projects*



### **Twelvemile Creek Instream - Middle Fork Coquille**



**Grants:** \$268,112 **Partners:** BLM -Roseburg District, ODFW, OWEB, Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians

**Purpose:** To restore instream habitat for native fish species including salmon, trout, and lamprey. 25 Large Woody Debris structures will be placed in the watershed to enhance spawning and rearing habitat. Twelvemile Creek is the last major spawning tributary for salmon in the Middle Fork system.

**Work Completed:** 10 LWD structures were placed in Dice Creek (a tributary to Twelvemile Creek).

**Upcoming work:** In 2021, the remaining 15 structures will be placed in the watershed. Road improvements with private timber companies and BLM will also occur to reduce sediment loading into the stream.

### **Woodward Creek - North Fork Coquille Watershed**



**Grants:** \$688,000, **Partners:** BLM, timber companies, Coos County Forest

**Purpose:** The project will holistically improve water quality and habitats in the Woodward Creek watershed. Road improvements will be completed to 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 and replace three culverts that are currently fish passage barriers for salmonids and other natives.

**2020 Work Completed:** We have engineered culvert replacements on fish bearing streams, planned log placements, installed barriers to prevent illegal OHV access, and completed road surveys.



# NOXIOUS WEEDS 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:** \$43,245, **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.

**2020 Work Completed:** Phase 3 - we retreated sites along 1.5 miles of Middle Creek and expanded treatment to include sites along 7.5 miles of mainstem NFCR. Private landowners provided tremendous support and with their assistance, the knotweed treatment and control project 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.

**Upcoming work:** 2021 will include retreatments, expanded surveys, and expanded treatment in the NFCR watershed. Notably, knotweed control has been very successful on Middle Creek and we will begin to work with landowners on revegetation efforts with native species in the riparian area.





# NOXIOUS WEEDS 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 2020, CoqWA and CoosWA collaborated to continue to survey, map and treat outlier populations of noxious weeds in Coos County. This project mapped 1150 sites and treated 41 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, \$25,000



### South Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area

Program Coordinator Sherri Laier 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

Sherri Laier supports project development and outreach in alignment with the GAG.

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.

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



# MONITORING PROGRAM

## *Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring*



### LOWER COQUILLE WORKING LANDS RESTORATION EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

**Grants and in-kind funding:** \$600,000 (spent over 5 years)

**Partners:** ODFW, Coquille Valley ranch landowners, Coquille Indian Tribe, ODEQ, The Nature Conservancy, OWEB, NMFS

The purpose of this project is to determine how effective new tide gate and working land restoration projects have been at meeting the goal of enhancing winter rearing habitat for juvenile coho and restoring ecological processes on working ranch lands. 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 (fish movement, relative abundance and condition factor)

**2020 Work Completed:** Coho juveniles were tagged with small transponders that allow them to be detected. Antenna arrays were installed at tide gates to track when tagged coho move in or out of the site. Fish sampling occurred at four locations in the valley throughout winter 2020/21. Water quality and vegetation monitoring also occurred in summer 2020. We have observed a high number of juvenile coho using these sites!

**Upcoming Work:** We will continue all elements of the monitoring in 2021. We will learn more about the effectiveness of tidegate replacements and working lands restoration projects to inform the development of new projects. Data will be shared in forthcoming reports.





# 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