



2021

Annual Report

*Celebrating 27 years of watershed
stewardship in the Coquille Basin.
1994-2021*

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 2022

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear members, friends, donors, and partners:

Your support has enabled much success in 2021! Through the work of our dedicated staff, the Coquille Watershed Association generated over \$1.8 million in new grants and donations. These funds support our core program areas of watershed restoration, noxious weed control, and ecological monitoring, and community engagement.

Our efforts have continued to improve habitat conditions in Twelvemile Creek and Woodward Creek, where new log and boulder structures have added physical complexity and enhanced habitat value. Our focus along the North Fork Coquille River has been on knotweed control, fencing and planting to promote native riparian vegetation, whereas on Steel Creek new culvert construction has begun to improve drainage, protect road infrastructure, and reduce sediment loading. Our noxious weed program continues to help landowners and work in conjunction with numerous local and regional collaboratives on the south coast. Our ecological monitoring program has focused on the effects of tide gate replacement projects on fish passage in the Lower Coquille and continues to operate one of the most extensive fish tagging and detection networks in the state. The year 2021 was a dynamic transitional year for us as an organization. We sadly said farewell to Sherri Laier, our Noxious Weeds Program Coordinator, as well as to our Executive Director, Melaney Dunne, whose visionary work transformed our organization in the very best of ways. I have been especially pleased to see how our Board of Directors has been energized by the initiation of the search for our next Executive Director.

As I reflect on 2021 and contemplate our horizon in 2022, I am reminded that we spend much of our funding in the communities we serve, from purchasing project materials from local businesses, to hiring local contractors who contribute to a brighter future through building, fencing, controlling weeds, and planting. We greatly appreciate your support and ask that you kindly consider maintaining your annual donation or membership in 2022. With your help, we will continue to promote healthy and resilient ecosystems and economies in the Coquille watershed.

Sincerely,

Thomas Jefferson
President of the Board of Directors



**Coquille
Watershed
Association**

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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 through November

Julie Huff, Monitoring Program Coordinator

Cyndi Park, Restoration Program Coordinator

Sherri Laier, Noxious Weeds Program Coordinator through September

Rushal Sedlemyer, Project Manager

Ivy Metzgas, Watershed Specialist

Carol Corral, Bookkeeper & Office Manager

Thank you to Melaney Dunne and Sherri Laier,
who both transitioned to new endeavors in 2021!

Board Members

Tom Jefferson - President, Bandon

Dan Silvius - Vice President, Myrtle Glen Farm, North Fork

Jeff Griffin - Treasurer, Port of Bandon

Helena Linnell - Secretary, Coquille Indian Tribe

Bob Sproul - Officer at Large, East Fork

Bruce Follansbee - Officer at Large, North Fork

Fred Messerle - Beaver Slough Drainage District/Messerle and Sons

Michael Clary - South Fork

FINANCIALS

2021 Fiscal Year (January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)



Revenue

Federal Grants: \$597,020

State Grants: \$334,018

Foundation and Private Grants: \$124,951

Partner Contracts: \$20,216

Donations and Interest Earned: \$1,258

Total: \$1,077,462

Expenses

Salaries, Wages, and Benefits: \$403,140

Programming Expenses: \$717,803

Operating Expenses: \$40,822

Total: \$1,161,765

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.



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, off-channel livestock watering).

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.



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 enhance instream channel complexity and floodplain connection for native fish species, including salmonids and lamprey. In total, CoqWA and partners placed wood and boulder structures at 19 sites in the mainstem of Twelvemile Creek, large wood into 14 sites in tributaries and directionally fell trees at 25 sites.

Work Completed: In 2021, 100 hazard logs were harvested from the Horse Prairie fire location and ODOT donated 120 boulders to use for restoration. CoqWA and BLM hired local contractor, Blue Ridge Timber Co., to build 19 wood and boulder structures in Twelvemile Crk. **Upcoming work:** CoqWA received \$38,792 to perform road improvements with private timber companies and BLM to reduce sediment loading into the stream.



Woodward Creek Restoration - North Fork Coquille

Grants: \$831,881, **Partners:** BLM, OWEB, 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. Log jams will be constructed to enhance habitats for native fish and replace three culverts that are currently fish passage barriers for salmonids and other natives.

2021 Work Completed: 38 acres of noxious weeds were treated. Large wood was placed into 20 structures in upper Woodward Creek and three fish culverts were removed and are currently overwintering.



RESTORATION PROGRAM

Restoration Projects



North Fork Riparian Restoration - North Fork Coquille



Grants: \$329,383 **Partners:** BLM, ODFW, OWEB, Coos SWCD, Oregon Health Authority, City of Myrtle Point

Purpose: This ecological restoration project will address DEQ 303(d) list water quality limiting factors by re-establishing processes, functions, and biological and physical linkages between the aquatic and riparian ecosystems. Restoration activities will include wildlife-friendly fencing to exclude livestock access from the river and establishing native plant communities in the riparian areas.

2021 Work Completed: 4,125 ft of fencing has been installed and 3,600 native species were planted.

Upcoming work: In 2022, 4,652 ft of fencing will be installed along with planting of 4,060 native species. Plant establishment activities such as brush maintenance and herbicide applications will continue through 2025

Steel Creek Road Improvements - East Fork Coquille

Grants: \$51,589 **Partners:** BLM, USFWS, Private Timber Company

Purpose: This project seeks to improve road drainage and infrastructure to help prevent sediment from entering streams upstream of the City of Myrtle Points drinking water source. Restoration in this watershed will result in improved water quality and quantity, improved fish & wildlife habitat and public awareness about watershed health, which aligns with our mission of whole-watershed restoration.

2021 Work Completed: Removed undersized, failing culverts at four sites along a timber road and replaced them with correctly sized and aligned culverts. Three of these culverts were 24" and one was 30" in diameter, all were upgraded to 36" culverts.



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: \$58,084, **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.

2021 Work Completed: Phase 3 - Staff surveyed and mapped knotweed re-growth from Lone Pine Bridge to Rock Prairie County Park for the contractor. Hired Habitat Contracting to re-treat old knotweed sites and new knotweed sites. Middle Creek was spot sprayed as needed and annual rye grass was seeded. Staff surveyed previously treated knotweed sites and only found 3 spots of re-growth which will be treated with a backpack sprayer in 2022. Middle Creek Phase I planting has been completed with nearly 2000 trees planted in previously Knotweed infested locations.

Upcoming work: 2022 will include retreatments, surveys for regrowth, and Phase II planting.



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 and treatment of small populations of high priority noxious weeds is critical for efficient eradication and the prevention of future infestations. CoqWA partners with the Coos Watershed to continue mapping, surveying and treating outlier population of noxious weeds in Coos County. In 2021, our organization surveyed and/or treated 68 acres within our watershed.

Funding: Oregon State Weed Board, \$14,317



South Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area

Program Coordinator Sherri Laier coordinated the CWMA until her retirement in October, at which point coordinator duties were passed to Alexa Carleton at CoosWA. 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. Along with coordination of the CWMA in 2021, CoqWA also surveyed and treated noxious weeds on BLM lands in Coos, Curry and Douglas counties.

Funding: BLM, \$37,325



Gorse Action Group (GAG)

CoqWA supports project development and outreach in alignment with the GAG. The 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. In 2021, project development began for Johnson Creek, and outreach in the Coaledo drainage began.

Funding: WRCA, \$15,000



MONITORING PROGRAM

Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring



LOWER COQUILLE WORKING LANDS RESTORATION EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

Grants and in-kind funding: \$844,274 (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 five 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)

2021 Work Completed: Coho juveniles were tagged with small transponders that allow them to be detected. Additional antenna arrays were installed at tide gates to track when tagged coho move in or out of the site. Fish sampling occurred at five locations in the valley throughout winter 2021/22. Water quality and vegetation monitoring also occurred in summer 2021. Thorough reports on this monitoring program can be found on our website. Overall, we continue to observe high numbers of juvenile coho using these sites.

Upcoming Work: We will continue all elements of the monitoring in 2022. We will learn more about the effectiveness of tide gate 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 Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration*
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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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