

# LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT



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## THE CONSERVATION TEAM

Tanya Jorgenson	Lincoln SWCD	District Manager	Since 1998
Mark Stone	Lincoln SWCD	Bio-Surveyor	Since 1995
Christopher Wood	Lincoln SWCD	Bio-Surveyor	Since 1996
Bill Sigler	Lincoln SWCD	Seining Technician	Since 2007
Stacy Polkowske	Lincoln SWCD	Watershed Technical Specialist	Since 2008
Josh Lambert	Lincoln SWCD	Invasive Species Manager	Since 2008
Robin Koeller	Lincoln SWCD	Water Quality Program Assistant	Since 2009
Kate Danks	USDA—NRCS	District Liaison	Since 1986
Wayne Hoffman	MCWC	Coordinator	Since 1999

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Stafford	Chairman	Zone 1	Since 2002
Sterling Grant	Vice Chair	Zone 3	Since 1993
Joe Steenkolk	Secretary	Zone 2	Since 1990
Wayne DeMoray	Treasurer	Zone 4	Since 1987
Rennie Ferris	Director	Zone 5	Since 1999
Ned Lentz	Director	At Large	Since 2004
Wayne Hoffman	Director	At Large	Since 2009
Terrie Grant	Associate Director		Summer 2009
Jay Robinson	Associate Director		Summer 2009

## DISTRICT PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

- Alsea Watershed Council
- Bureau of Land Management
- Cascade Pacific RC&D
- City of Lincoln City
- City of Newport
- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
- Conservation Planning Institute
- Devils Lake Water Improvement District
- Hatfield Marine Science Center
- Lincoln County Public Works
- MidCoast Watersheds Council
- Pacific NW Weed Partnership
- Plum Creek Foundation
- Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
- Oregon Coast Aquarium
- Oregon Conservation Employees Association Network
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- OSU Extension
- Oregon State Weed Board
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council
- Sea Grant
- Siletz Charitable Community Foundation
- Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District
- Siuslaw Watershed Council
- Starker Forest Incorporated
- Surfrider Foundation
- USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USFS—Siuslaw National Forest
- Wetlands Conservancy
- Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area Park

## CONSERVATION FARM AWARD

We would like to congratulate Randy and Sarah Walker for being named Lincoln SWCD's Conservation Farm of the Year for 2009. Since 2005 Walker Farms has operated on 20 acres just east of Siletz. The farm is a familiar sight for any who drive the Logsdon Road. Under previous ownership it had been home to horse training and boarding facility, and before that, a game farm which included exotic animals. For the Walkers, boarding horses was just the beginning. They have expanded the farm to include naturally raised sheep, chickens, ducks, geese, pigs, row crops, and filberts. Three green houses and a garden produce strawberries, salad mix, and many other vegetables and fruits.



Their farm hosts Bright Horizons Therapeutic Riding, and they are instrumental in the Newport Farmers Market. In addition to the farm activities, the Walkers are very active in the community. They are volunteers for the Siletz Rural Fire Protection District and are first responders.

A recent addition to the farm is an array of several solar panels, enough to supply one half the electricity the farm needs. The solar project is in part, the result of grant awarded to the Walkers by USDA Rural Development.

## EDUCATOR AWARD

We would like to congratulate Virginia Tardaewether for being named Lincoln SWCD's Educator of the Year for 2009. Virginia has been working as the Educational Coordinator for the MidCoast Watersheds Council (MCWC) since 2002. During her time with the MCWC, Virginia has written multiple grants and design/implemented watershed education and restoration projects.

Virginia also works with K-12 teachers, students, parents, volunteers, agencies, businesses, and landowners doing riparian and watershed education awareness and restoration. She has also conducted field and class studies about salmon and healthy streams.

Virginia has served as an ODFW Stream Scene & Salmon Spawn instructor as well as a volunteer and teacher trainer for Stream Scene and expanded stream studies. She has been instrumental in the development of our local watershed education and Outdoor School programs for Lincoln County students.

Virginia earned her Bachelors in Science Education and her Masters in Adult Education (cross-cultural communication and curriculum development) at Oregon State University.

While working as an instructor at Chemeketa Community College, Virginia focused her classes on study skills, college reading, vocabulary, spelling, phonics, mathematics, science, high school completion, basic skills, GED, English as another language, inmate education and GED OPTIONS.

Virginia also worked for Lincoln County School District where she was a basic skills instructor and alternative high school instructor. She developed curriculum to fit students needs and goals, maintained student records, completed college and federal reports, recruited, hired, supervised employees and designed staff development. She also helped create the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Education Plan (life long learning) and taught 4-8<sup>th</sup> grade science and mathematics.



## 2009-2010 WATER QUALITY PROGRAM REPORT

The Water Quality Program is growing year after year, grant after grant. The continuing success of this program is based on three distinct, yet essential approaches: Conservation and Restoration Projects, Water Quality Monitoring, and Education & Outreach. Though each approach has a different objective, all three contribute to protecting and restoring the quality of our streams so that they can provide the full extent of their ecosystem services. On-the-ground conservation and restoration projects directly improve the structure and function of the riparian area. Water quality monitoring increases our knowledge of how our streams change throughout the year and year to year. This information is vital for local watershed managers (like Lincoln SWCD), stakeholders and landowners to make informed decisions about land and water use. Education and Outreach is an integral part of program success. Last year we expanded our communication with those we serve through several different avenues. Please refer to the “Education and Outreach” section for more details.

### Conservation and Restoration Projects:

During the course of the year, the Water Quality Program staff contacted 300 landowners and provided technical assistance to nearly half of them. Technical assistance could be in the form of a planting list, a map or a site visit. By providing direction and guidance to motivated landowners, we are empowering local residents with the knowledge to implement conservation and restoration projects on their own. In addition to technical information and advice, we also provide project management which typically includes project development, securing funds, and coordinating implementation. The types of projects we work on include: riparian exclusion fencing, off-stream watering, heavy use area protection, riparian and stream enhancement, and most recently low impact development (LID) techniques like rain gardens and bioswales.

The on-the-ground work we accomplished last year was spread throughout Lincoln County and on a variety of landscapes. We implemented seven (7) riparian planting projects totaling six and a half (6.5) acres and performed plant establishment maintenance (mowing, cage repair, flagging, etc.) on over thirty (30) acres. The native tree and shrub species planted included: Sitka spruce, western hemlock, Douglas fir, western red cedar, big leaf maple, red alder, pacific ninebark, black twinberry, flowering red currant, elderberry, oceanspray, serviceberry, and a variety of willows. Several site prep and plant protection measures were needed depending on existing site conditions and wildlife pressures. Most of the plantings were in a reed canary grass dominated area with the presence of elk and beaver. To give the plants a fighting chance to grow we needed to: 1) scalp the reed canary grass, 2) use a vegetation control mat, 3) apply a rodent control mesh sleeve at the base of the plant, 4) construct a woven-wire cage or enclosure around the plant and 5) plan for long-term maintenance. It may seem like a heavy handed method, but in the end each step is necessary to establish a new riparian forest and the benefits it provides.



Planting on the Yaquina River

Please visit our NEW website for more information and examples of riparian enhancement projects: [www.lincolnsxcd.org](http://www.lincolnsxcd.org)

# 2009-2010 WATER QUALITY PROGRAM REPORT

## Water Quality Monitoring:

In October of 2009 we started water quality monitoring the Yaquina and Big Elk watersheds for temperature, conductivity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, *E. coli*, and pH. A total of six (6) sites are sampled every 3-4 weeks to characterize how the stream conditions change over time (season to season and year to year) and space (throughout the watershed). The data will be used to identify trends and serve as an informational baseline for local watershed managers, landowners and stakeholders to consider when making decisions. For example, Lincoln SWCD is interested in this information to identify areas that may benefit from conservation and/or restoration projects and targeted outreach efforts. Another important piece of information this type of monitoring provides is a baseline that reflects the effectiveness of the projects implemented. In theory, as local agencies and conservation groups get projects on the ground, eventually the water quality of the streams should improve on the watershed scale. If that is the case, that means that the projects implemented have been identified, designed and implemented correctly. If no improvement in water quality is detected that could mean that the projects need to be designed differently or that additional projects are needed.

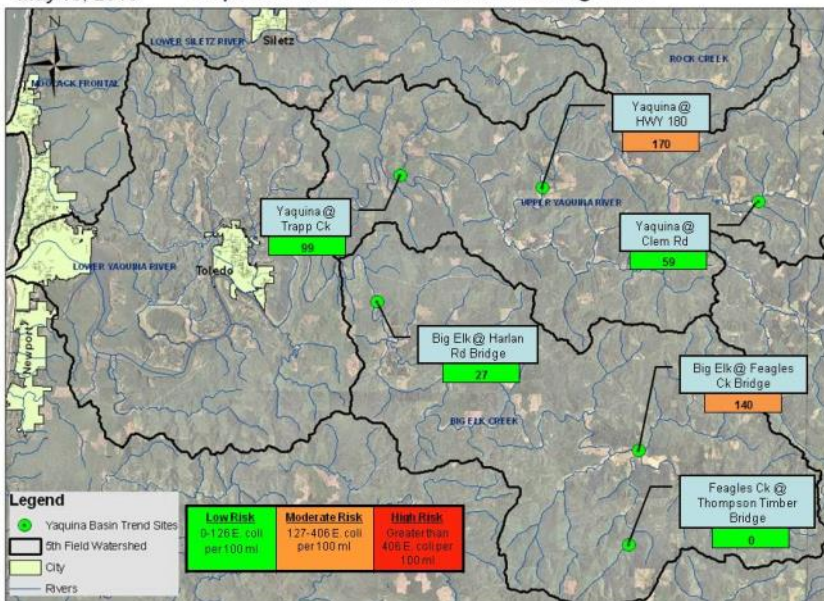
After a year of sampling, the water quality results from the Yaquina and Big Elk watersheds are starting to show some interesting relationships and trends. Common water quality concerns seen throughout year were high levels of *E. coli* and temperature (in the summer), and low levels of dissolved oxygen. The cause of these water quality limitations is most likely a combination of natural conditions (background levels) and human influences. For example, it is very typical to see higher levels of *E. coli* and turbidity after a good rain event. But it is also not surprising to get *E. coli* spikes in areas where livestock have unlimited access to the stream or warm summer temperatures where there is no riparian shade. Monthly water quality reports are sent out via our listserv and are posted on our website.

Contact Stacy Polkowske to receive monthly water quality reports: [stacy@lincolnswcd.org](mailto:stacy@lincolnswcd.org)

## Program and Project Funding:

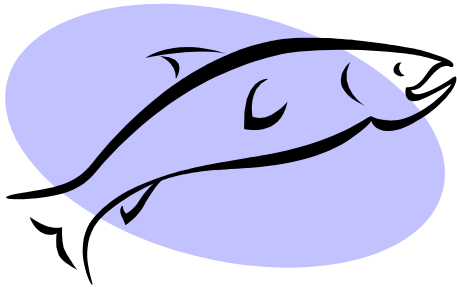
The Water Quality Program is largely funded by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). ODA is our state agency partner that provides financial support for all the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Oregon to implement regional Agricultural Water Quality Plans. DEQ funding is provided through the 319-Grant Program that focuses on non-point source water pollution. This grant allowed us to expand many of our water quality efforts and increase our program capacity by hiring a part-time program assistant, Robin Koeller, in August of 2009. Individual projects were implemented with grant funds from a variety of sources including: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Alsea Stewardship Group, Plum Creek Foundation, and Siletz Charitable Community Foundation.

Sampling Date: May 10, 2010  
Yaquina Basin Trend WQ Monitoring Sites



## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

This year the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District made use of a number of media outlets to raise awareness about conservation practices and inform the public of the services the District can provide, as well as upcoming events. Direct mailings, information booths, newspaper articles, community and school presentations and even a radio show allowed the district to reach out to Lincoln County residents. In the process, existing partnerships have been strengthened and new partnerships have been formed.



### Fish Friendly Car Wash Kits

Five “Fish Friendly Car Wash Kits” have been assembled and distributed throughout Lincoln County. The kits are available, free of charge, for groups who plan to hold car wash fundraisers. Using a kit prevents soapy, dirty runoff from flowing into nearby waterways by diverting runoff to a vegetated area or sewer connection instead of allowing it to enter a storm drain. The kits consist of a storm drain cover, sump pump, hose, extension cord and surge protector, a sign for advertising, traffic cones and safety vests. Summer 2010 saw many

Fish Friendly Car Washes, and much positive feedback has been received regarding the practicality and ease of use of the kits.

### Volunteer Storm Drain Labeling

With the help of volunteers, over 100 storm drain labels were placed in Nye Beach and the Bayfront in Newport. The labels, which read “No Dumping, Drains to Waterway” serve as a reminder that individual actions impact water quality.

### Rural Living Handbook

The Plum Creek Foundation generously granted two thousand dollars to the Lincoln SWCD to put towards the production of the *Lincoln County Rural Living Handbook*. This free handbook illustrates best management practices that current and prospective landowners can employ to increase the productivity of their land while creating benefits for fish, wildlife, and their neighbors. Topics include: woodland management, invasive plants, soil conservation and water quality. Along with educational material, the handbook contains a resource directory with information on U.S. and state agencies, county departments and watershed councils that can offer technical support. The handbook will be ready for distribution within the next year.



Stacy Polkowske and Robin Koeller receive a grant from the Plum Creek Foundation for the *Lincoln County Rural Living Handbook*.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Water Film Series

Once again, the Lincoln SWCD partnered with the Institute for Water and Watersheds to hold a Water Film Series. Two films were chosen to be shown once each at the Yachats Commons and the Lincoln City Cultural Center. “River of Renewal” focused on the conflict over water and wildlife in the Klamath Basin and the movement towards a resolution that considers the needs of farmers and ranchers, American Indians, and salmon fishermen. “Reining in the Storm – One Building at a Time” highlighted Low Impact Development techniques that homeowners can employ to ensure healthy watersheds and healthy communities. The showings drew approximately 60 attendees in all. The Lincoln SWCD looks forward to continuing the Water Film Series next winter.

### Earth Day and Stewardship Week

During Earth Day festivities on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Lincoln SWCD staff was present at both the Oregon Coast Aquarium and the Yachats Commons. The Stream Table was up and running at the Aquarium while the Enviroscape (a non-point source pollution model) was presented at the Commons. Thanks to the Devils Lake Water Improvement District for the use of their Enviroscape! The National Association of Conservation Districts designated April 25<sup>th</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup> “Stewardship Week.” A grant from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contributions Fund allowed Lincoln SWCD staff to promote this year’s theme, “Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats,” by purchasing and distributing educational materials to Lincoln County schools and churches.

### Hands-On Rain Garden Workshop

A partnership among the Surfrider Foundation, Oregon State University Extension and the Lincoln SWCD facilitated the organization of a workshop/training for community members interested in low impact development. A rain garden is one of the easiest and most aesthetically pleasing ways to manage stormwater runoff. Approximately 49 people, from city engineers to Master Gardeners, attended the workshop to learn how to site and construct a rain garden. The attendees’ variety of skills and knowledge helped to make the workshop a huge success.



Report Submitted by: Robin Koeller

Robert Emanuel of OSU Extension interprets the results of a percolation test during the Hands-On Rain Garden Workshop.

## INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM

**Goal: Assist landowners by providing information and direct support with education and control of invasive weed species in Lincoln County**

### Knotweed Control Project

#### 2009 Treatment Season

The latter half of 2009 field season saw our ISC field crew and program manager implementing a revised and more efficient method (spot foliar spray) for controlling and eradicating Asian knotweeds throughout Lincoln County river basins. We treated 86% of all known priority (along rivers) knotweed sites along the Salmon, Siletz, Yaquina, and Alsea River Basins. Along the lower Yachats River, a considerable amount of knotweed was not treated due to US Forest Service (USFS) ownership. These sites are to be treated in the 2010 field season following the approval of the USFS Environmental Assessment (EA) pertaining to herbicide treatment of invasive knotweeds (*as of July 2010, the EA was approved*). Considering that our crew is just four people strong we were able to cover an amazing amount of ground within the relatively short (3 ½ months) treatment window. Our work in 2009 resulted in the treatment of 5.46 acres of highly dispersed knotweed, ultimately protecting over 190 river and stream miles within Lincoln County.

#### 2009 Treatment Results (Japanese, Giant & Himalayan Knotweed)

Number of Sites Treated	473 Sites
Total Area of Knotweed Treated	5.46 acres (237,970 ft <sup>2</sup> )
Resulting Reduction (lack of regrowth in 2010)	3.47 acres (based on 2010 monitoring results)

#### 2010 Survey and Monitoring

The first half of 2010 resulted in yet another expansion in the range of our program. Our spring surveys were focused along reaches of Lincoln County rivers which our program had not visited for three years or longer. New infestations of knotweed were found, with the greatest areas of infestation found along the upper Salmon River (Tillamook/Lincoln County), the Little Elk Creek and the lower Siletz River. A total of 252 new sites were inventoried in 2010 resulting in a total of 760 known active (living) sites throughout Lincoln County and associated headwaters in adjacent Lane and Tillamook County.

Our 2010 monitoring efforts revealed that knotweed treated in 2009 showed an overall reduction of 3.47 acres representing 63% control (lack of regrowth). 79% of all treated sites showed greater than 50% control and 65% showed greater than 80% control with 20% of all treated sites showing 100% control (complete lack of regrowth).

With a particularly adept and motivated crew on board for 2010 we are on track to treat all past treated, untreated and newly documented sites in Lincoln County. With the recent access granted to treat USFS parcels we expect the 2010 treatment season to be the most thorough and effective season yet.

#### 2010 Survey Results

Number of New Sites Inventoried in 2010	252 Sites	(2.61 acre increase)
Total Number of Known Active Sites	760 Sites	(approximately 9-10 acres)



## INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM

### Invasive Species – Future Projects

#### Policeman's Helmet

Survey results on the Five Rivers (Aalsea Basin) for policeman's helmet (*Impatiens glandulifera*), a state listed invasive species, found the heaviest infestations in the upper section of the river outside of Lincoln County (Lane). We continue to find this species increasing its range along riparian areas of Lincoln County.

#### Yellow Flag Iris

In the spring of 2010 our crews surveyed and mapped out yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudocorus*) throughout the recently expanded Ona Beach State Park at Beaver Creek. We are currently working with Oregon State Parks Department to assist in developing a pilot project at this Park to eradicate this State listed invasive species for which we have been tracking County-wide.

#### Other Projects

In the fall of 2009, the ISC program manager, with support and initiation by community members, organized and carried out an English ivy removal project within the community of Seal Rock. With dumpsters provided by Dahl Disposal and support provided by Lincoln County Solid Waste District, the Mid-Coast Watershed Council, and SOLV, we removed ivy from an estimated 70 trees and filled two 20 yard dumpsters. This project has resulted in the development of new partnerships and another ivy pull is planned for a Newport Park for summer 2010.

2010 also marks the second year for which we will be partnering with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to implement a vegetation restoration program at the Yaquina Head Natural Outstanding Area. This project includes two to three years of blackberry and knotweed eradication followed by reintroduction of native plants that thrive on grassy coastal headlands.

Please check the Lincoln SWCD's website, [lincolnsxcd.org](http://lincolnsxcd.org) for photos and details of the many projects that the ISC Program is carrying out.

Report Submitted by: Josh Lambert



**Yachats River**

## AQUATIC HABITAT INVENTORIES

The Mid Coast Monitoring Project has been an ongoing monitoring project for the past 11 years. It's a multi-faceted project consisting of three different phases spanning the entire year. These separate phases consist of Aquatic Habitat Inventories (AQI) conducted from June to August, Adult Spawning Surveys consisting of Spring Chinook Spawning surveys from September to mid October, Coho and Fall Chinook spawning ground surveys from late October to the end of January, and Steelhead surveys from February to the end of May. The last but not least is Public Outreach and Education.

Sites for Aquatic Habitat Inventories (AQI) were chosen in a cooperative effort with Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) and the Mid Coast Watersheds Council. Selected sites were in places with proposed or completed restoration activities. This provides baseline data for long-term monitoring of projects and effectiveness monitoring of projects by documenting pre and post project habitat conditions. In addition to collecting AQI data, we also digitize and collate the data in preparation for analysis by ODFW staff at the Aquatic Inventory Project headquarters in Corvallis. Both raw data and analyzed data are available in the Lincoln SWCD office and from ODFW where it is included in the ODFW database of the statewide Aquatic Inventory Project. Also all AQI data is entered into the GIS data base. Digitized copies of the raw data are filed with ODFW and are at the Lincoln SWCD office.

This year we did Aquatic Habitat Inventories on three streams. The first two were Jaybird and Dewey Creeks. These sites were chosen because the Mid Coast Watersheds Council wanted to try to identify possible limiting factors in Coho production on West side streams in the tidewater area of the Siletz River. Jaybird Creek enters the Siletz River just below the head of tidewater from the west in the Camas Prairie area. It is a medium sized stream with a very low gradient with somewhat limited production. The single most limiting factor that jumped out at us was the lack of spawning gravel. Just about all the gravel was at the end of the survey as the stream climbed up its headwalls.

Dewey Creek enters the Siletz River just below the town of Siletz and is actually above tidewater. There was interest by the Mid Coast Watersheds Council to find out more about the habitat in Dewey Creek so it was added to the inventory list. Dewey is also a medium sized stream but very different than Jaybird Creek. Dewey has lots of gravel and some good rearing areas. The big limit to its production is that the Coho habitat is only about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile long. There is a 2.3 meter falls that is a barrier to Coho migration.

The other AQI completed during this year was on Grass Creek which is a tributary to the South Fork. This was a second post project inventory which will be used to evaluate the success of the project.

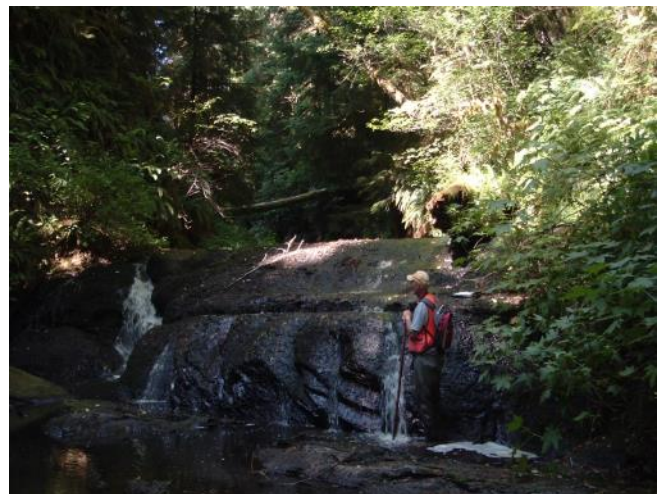
### **Aquatic Habitat Inventory Sites                    10.14 Miles**

#### **Siletz Basin**

Jaybird Creek	7.50 Miles
Dewey Creek	.75 Miles

#### **Yachats Basin**

Grass Creek	1.89 Miles
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**Barrier on Dewey Cr**

## SPAWNING GROUND SURVEYS

### **Spring Chinook:**

The Spring Chinook Surveys on the Alsea and Siletz rivers start in the first week of September. In the Alsea we float four different reaches that total about 20 miles. In the Siletz we cover three reaches that total approximately 14.5 miles. These surveys are float surveys and are done every seven to ten days. The Siletz survey is in cooperation with ODFW's Coastal Chinook Research and Monitoring Project. The aim of this project is to establish run size and population trends for Siletz Chinook in regards to US-Canada fishery treaty negotiations. Due to the extremely low numbers of Chinook in the Siletz system over the past two years the Chinook surveys continue on till the last week of October. At this time we switch over to Coho surveys and ODFW crews take over our Siletz drifts. This is the third year that we have assisted in data collections in the Siletz Chinook Project.

### **Coho, Chum Salmon & Fall Chinook Surveys:**

Coho Spawn Surveys are next starting at the end of October and lasting until the end of January. These surveys are ODFW Random (computer generated), Supplemental (surveys done on special request) and Standard surveys (surveys that have been done on the same stream reach for many years). These surveys are generated by the OASIS project in Corvallis Oregon. These are walking surveys and usually are about one mile long. Any Fall Chinook that are encountered during these surveys are also counted. Scale samples and length measurements are taken on every fourth dead Coho that are found.

Chum Salmon are surveyed on Bear Cr. in the Siletz Basin. This survey starts in late October and continues until about the first of December. The Chum run in Bear Creek in 2008 was average for the 10 years that we have been surveying this stream with 42 Chum Salmon observed.

In 2009 we had 17 different stream reaches totaling 16 miles. These were in the Yaquina, Siletz, Alsea, Yachats and Beaver Creek basins. Coho abundance in the Mid Coast area was high with Beaver Creek at Ona being the most prolific of the streams that we surveyed. Coho populations coast wide were up from previous years. The results of this year's Fall Chinook surveys were once again low with the Siletz being the most depressed. Populations in the Yaquina and Alsea were up from last but still not as high as past years.

### **Steelhead Spawning Surveys:**

Steelhead surveys start at the beginning of February and last until the end of May. The surveys are conducted every 10 to 14 days. In these surveys the Redd (a fishes nest) count is more important than the actual number of fish seen. Steelhead don't die after spawning and tend to leave the spawning grounds shortly after spawning has occurred. As a result not many Steelhead are seen during the course of the spawning season. In order to get some kind of population estimate the redds are used in determining the final estimate of populations. To prevent counting a redd twice a brightly colored rock is placed in the observed redd and left there until the redd is completely healed in and not visible any more. The rock is then removed from the redd.

This year we surveyed 17 stream reaches covering 16.8 miles in 6 different basins. Of these 15 surveys were standard Steelhead surveys and 2 were Random. ODFW once again had serious cutbacks in their Steelhead Survey budget. As a result of this, we did almost all of the steelhead surveys in the mid-coast area.

Steelhead abundance in the Mid Coast region was an average year. It started out with low water in February and lots of spawning. This was then followed by a long period of high flows and limited spawning. It looked like it was headed for a low abundance year. Then in the last part of the spawning season the flows lessened and spawning began again bringing the season's totals up to a little above normal for the season.

## SPAWNING GROUND SURVEYS CONTINUED

Lamprey Eels are also surveyed while surveying Steelhead. Lamprey usually start running about the middle of April and continue to the end of May.

Before conducting any surveys, an extensive search is performed to contact and obtain permission from any landowners whose land we might cross during the completion of a survey. We do this by looking up property tax lots on ARC View in the GIS system. The landowner is personally contacted by phone by one of the surveyors. At that time we obtain verbal permission for access from the landowner and log the time and date permission was granted. If there are many landowners on one side of the survey and one owner on the other, (possibly a timber company), we will try to get all the smaller landowners possible and the one larger landowner, then we have the entire survey covered on one side or the other. If one landowner owns both sides of the stream then we **must** get their permission to go thru, or else we have to go around that segment so as not to trespass. On the Random surveys ODFW usually makes the property owner contacts for us.

When landowners are contacted we inform them that any information that is gathered while conducting a survey on their land is part of the public record. We also ask if the landowner would like copies of the data or the results of any analysis of surveys that have been conducted.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Public outreach continues to be an important part of this project. Crew partnered with agencies, Watershed Basin Planning Groups and local schools, doing watershed presentations and demonstrating watershed function with the stream table provided by the Lincoln SWCD. One such opportunity was at earth day at the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

MCMP crew frequently uses their field knowledge to provide information and locations of stream sites to Lincoln SWCD and Mid Coast Watersheds Council staff. We also make our library of collected data available to all agencies, researchers and any other interested parties. The data is compiled in binders and organized so as to be readily accessible to anyone who might need it.

Occasionally, calls come into the Lincoln SWCD office from property owners about situations of concern on their property or other issues in the watershed. MCMP crew fields some of these calls and tries to answer questions or connect people with the individuals or agency that can best assist them with their needs. The MCMP crew takes advantage of every opportunity to talk with property owners and others in the watershed about salmon habitat, restoration and other watershed issues. From requests for permission for access for survey work, to visits with folks met during surveys, our work provides an excellent chance to answer questions and promote the importance of watershed restoration.

We invite people to participate in the Watershed Council process, and give them information on who to contact for further information on restoration projects for their own property.



## JUVENILE CHINOOK ESTUARY SEINING REPORT

Juvenile Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) have been monitored in Oregon Coastal Basins since the mid-1940s. Between 1978 and 1987, an extensive juvenile Chinook monitoring program was implemented in many of the larger coastal basins in an effort to better understand coastal Chinook life histories and trends in spawner and juvenile abundance. The resulting report (Nicholas and Hankin, 1988) provided some of the most comprehensive information available on Oregon Coastal Chinook life histories and run strengths. Following the protocol developed by Nicholas and Hankin (1988), juvenile Chinook were sampled in mid and north coastal estuaries in the summer of 1996 to monitor juvenile Chinook production following extreme high flows observed during the February flood.

Between 2001 and 2004, northern Oregon coastal fall Chinook abundances reached some of the highest levels since records began in the early 1950s. However, following this high abundance time frame was a precipitous decline. By the 2007 return year, lower than average escapement was observed in many coastal rivers which generated some concern about subsequent juvenile production. Furthermore, significant flooding occurred during December 2007 in many north and mid-coast rivers. This was at a time when most fall Chinook had already spawned and there was a concern that spawning areas would be significantly buried and/or washed away.

The objective of this project is to continue the estuary monitoring indefinitely and/or through a high abundance year. Under this monitoring project, sampling has occurred in 2008, 2009, and 2010 in the large estuaries of the northwest zone. The data collected helps explain the effects of lower adult spawner abundance and/or flooding events on freshwater production. These results are compared to data collected during similar sampling efforts, 1978-87 and in 1996.

The results for each estuary along the Oregon Coast from the north to the south can be reviewed in the completed final report at the District Office.



Bill Sigler—Fish Identification and Numeration



Bill Sigler—Removing Fish from Seine Purse

Report Submitted by: Casey Deckard

United States Department of Agriculture



The Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District (District) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have cooperated for many years. NRCS administers several programs of the US Department of Agriculture which pertain to management of natural resources on privately owned forest and farm lands. The District provides input to the NRCS on local priorities. The years' projects were focused on the District priorities of agricultural water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat improvements.

Under the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**, an incentive program reauthorized under the 2008 Farm Bill, four new contracts were funded in Lincoln County. Implementation of conservation practices began on these contracts and continued on several others. This year the NRCS provided project planning and financial assistance totaling over \$67,000. Interest from private landowners in the program continues to grow. Each year more applications are received and the financial assistance has increased accordingly. The program goals are improvement of water quality for the benefit of humans, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, and prevention of soil erosion.

One new contract was initiated this year, and two other projects are being developed in the **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**, a program for which NRCS provides technical assistance. These projects establish wildlife habitat on agricultural land. Other projects, from previous years, were maintained and continued to be managed to benefit wildlife habitat and water quality improvement.

Other programs offered by the USDA NRCS include the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and the new Conservation Stewardship Program. Neither of these have been well utilized, but have potential to benefit owners of forest and farm land.



**Concrete slab in an area of heavy use to prevent accumulation of mud.**



**Cross fence installed to improve pasture management.**



**Rainwater collection tanks.**

## 2009—2010 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### All Funds Statement of Revenues and Expenditures As of June 30, 2010

**Revenues:**

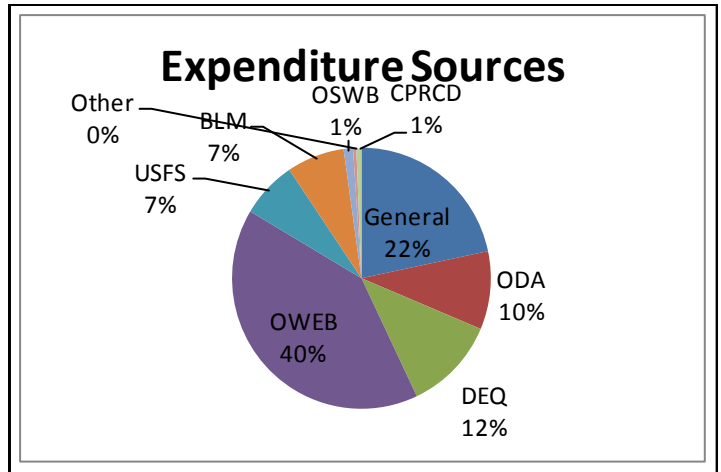
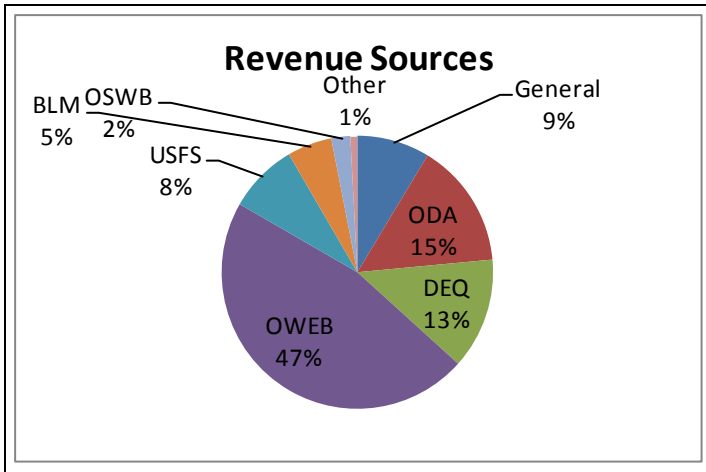
Grant Income	\$ 379,620
Administrative Receipts	28,166
Rent Proceeds	16,000
Contract Income	22,375
Other Receipts	6,748
Transfer in Line of Credit	(1,610)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 451,299</b>

**Expenditures:**

Personal Services	\$319,322
Material and Supplies	21,841
Administration Expenses	28,166
Office Rent	32,368
Contract Services	10,463
Utilities and Telephone	6,792
Travel and Conferences	23,994
Office Expenses	8,594
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$451,540</b>

**Fund Balance: 7-1-09      \$    2,805**

**Fund Balance:      6-30-10      \$    2,564**



**OSWB**—OR State Weed Board  
**BLM**—Bureau of Land Management  
**USFS**—United States Forest Service  
**OWEB**—OR Watershed Enhancement Board  
**ODA**—OR Department of Agriculture

**DEQ**—OR Department of Environmental Quality  
**CPRCD**—Cascade Pacific RC &D  
**Other**—Private, Confederated Tribes of Siletz  
 Indians, Plum Creek Foundation, USDA-NRCS

Lincoln SWCD was established by statute under the administrative oversight of the Natural Resources Division of the Department of Agriculture. The District is a subdivision of state government. The District is exempt from Oregon state budget laws because it is organized under ORS chapter 568 as a soil and water conservation district that does not levy an ad valorem tax. The Board of Directors prepares a cash basis budget for managerial purposes. The District is a municipal corporation exempt from federal and state income taxes.

\*An outside accounting firm performs an official audit review of all District funds. The final board approved audit report will be available after December 1, 2010 at the Lincoln SWCD Office.

The "Dust Bowl" brought to the nation's attention the need to conserve soil and other natural resources. In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the problems of soil erosion in the nation by shepherding the passage of the Soil Conservation Act, which established the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) within the United States Department of Agriculture. The SCS was charged with developing a program to conserve and enhance the nation's soil and water resources. At first, it was assumed the federal government could manage the whole program. However, during the first two years, it became apparent local leadership was needed to coordinate efforts of conservation agencies and tie their programs to local conditions and priorities. The SCS needed the assistance of local farmers, ranchers, and other land managers to put together and operate an effective program. In 1937, President Roosevelt asked all state governors to promote legislation to allow formation of soil conservation districts. During that same year, Congress developed a model conservation district law for consideration by state governments. Thus began a partnership that exists today.

## HISTORY OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District  
23 North Coast Highway  
Newport, OR 97365