



LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District Mission

The mission of the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District (Lincoln SWCD) is to improve and conserve the quality of soil, water, and other natural resources on agricultural, forested, private, urban and rural lands in Lincoln County by:

- ◇ Providing information, education, and outreach.
- ◇ Providing technical assistance to private landowners to develop and implement conservation plans on their property.
- ◇ Providing an interface between agencies and landowners.
- ◇ Collaborating with federal, state, and local government agencies and groups.

In carrying out our mission, the Lincoln SWCD works, coordinates, and cooperates with: property owners and operators, public and private conservation organizations, agriculture groups, public agencies and citizens.

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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
Stacy Polkowske	Lincoln SWCD	Watershed Technical Specialist	Since 2008
Josh Lambert	Lincoln SWCD	Invasive Species Control Manager	Since 2008
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
Wayne DeMoray	Treasurer	Zone 4	Since 1987
Wayne Hoffman	Secretary	At Large	Since 2009
Rennie Ferris	Director	Zone 5	Since 1999
Ryan Gassner	Director	Zone 2	Since 2011
Mark Saelens	Director	At Large	Since 2011
Terrie Grant	Associate Director	-	Since 2009
Jay Robinson	Associate Director	-	Since 2009

DISTRICT PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

- Alsea Watershed Council
- Alsea Stewardship Group
- Benton SWCD
- Bio-Surveys, LLC
- Bureau of Land Management
- Cascade Pacific RC&D
- City of Lincoln City
- City of Newport
- City of Toledo
- City of Yachats
- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
- Dahl Disposal Inc.
- Devils Lake Water Improvement District
- Eddyville Charter High School
- Hatfield Marine Science Center
- Lincoln County Public Works
- Lincoln County Solid Waste
- Marys River Watershed Council
- MidCoast Watersheds Council
- Mid Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Northwest Weed Management Partnership
- 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
- Oregon Department of Human Services
- OSU Extension
- OSU Sea Grant
- Oregon State Parks and Recreation
- Oregon State Weed Board
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council
- Siletz Charitable Community Foundation
- Siletz Watershed Council
- 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
- Yaquina Watershed Council

Introducing the newest Lincoln SWCD Publication: the *Lincoln County Rural Living Handbook*

Rural living in Lincoln County offers beautiful landscapes, unique communities, and close connections to nature. Since the meadows, forests, wildlife, fields and rivers of our County are attracting more and more people to the rural life, we have compiled this handbook to address some of the issues rural landowners may encounter.

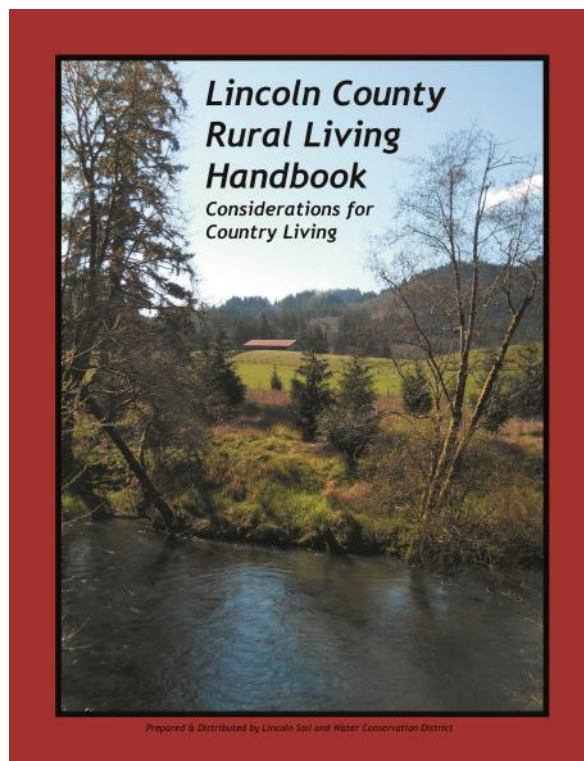
The issues covered in the Lincoln County Rural Living Handbook range from construction and engineering to business practices, animal care and management, and government regulation. Many of the questions that arise are complex, requiring guideline interpretation and site-specific solutions. Sources of information are listed at the end of some sections will provide referrals to appropriate agencies or businesses.

Stewardship of the land and its resources is an important aspect of rural life.

This handbook has been prepared so landowners have an easy way of identifying subjects they need to address in using their land, as well as providing easy access to sources of additional information. Use this handbook as a resource in determining if rural life is for you and, if so, how to get the most from your land. The Lincoln SWCD helps landowners identify the questions they need to ask, and where they should start asking, so that rural life in Lincoln County is as enjoyable and rewarding as possible.

This handbook was developed by Lincoln SWCD with support from the Plum Creek Foundation, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Agriculture and several fellow partners in conservation.

This publication is aimed at property owners new to rural life in Lincoln County but also provides a great refresher for long time rural residents. This publication is *free to Lincoln County Landowners* so stop by for a copy!



CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER AWARD

Everyone at Lincoln SWCD would like to give our warmest thanks to **Carol Cole**, who provided countless hours and amazing volunteer support through editing and designing the Lincoln County Rural Living Handbook. Our Conservation Volunteer Award was presented to Carol at our Annual Meeting on December 8th, 2011. Thank you Carol! We couldn't have done it without you!

WATER QUALITY AND WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Water Quality & Watershed Restoration Program continues to grow project by project, grant after grant. The 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 our watershed to provide clean water, productive soil, and healthy habitats. 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, and landowners to make informed decisions about best land and water uses. Finally, our Education and Outreach efforts are an integral part of the program's success. Last year, we utilized several different avenues to communicate with those we serve including information booths, news articles, person-to-person, our website and innovative education materials.

Landowner assistance and on-the-ground work

Conservation and Restoration Highlights: Lincoln SWCD provided over 200 Lincoln County landowners with one-on-one technical assistance. By providing direction and guidance to interested 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.

The on-the-ground projects accomplished last year was spread throughout Lincoln County and on a variety of landscapes. We implemented 2 wildlife friendly fences totaling 3800 feet, 2 heavy use area protection projects on 0.6 acres, and 7 riparian planting projects totaling 8.8 acres. These projects were designed with landowner input and consideration to their land management goals. Ultimately, the landowner is responsible for the long-term maintenance of these projects so it is critical to develop a project that works *with* the landowner.



Riparian planting along N. Fork Yachats River



Large wood placement in Beaver Cr

Every year, with every project, we learn something new from our success and challenges. For example, to give the trees we plant a fighting chance to survive we needed to:

- 1) remove the surrounding competitive vegetation,
- 2) use a vegetation control mat,
- 3) apply a rodent control mesh sleeve at the base of the plant,
- 4) construct a cage or enclosure around the plant to protect it from wildlife (mostly elk) browse, and
- 5) plan for long-term maintenance.

It may seem like a heavy handed method, but each step is necessary to establish a new riparian forest and the invaluable benefit it provides.

WATER QUALITY AND WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM

Program and Project Funding:

The Water Quality & Watershed Restoration Program is largely funded by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Individual projects were implemented with grant funds from a variety of sources including: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Alsea Stewardship Group and private foundations.

Getting trendy with monitoring

Lincoln SWCD has revamped their water quality monitoring program in effort to establish a water quality baseline for the several streams of the Mid-Coast Basin. The District began baseline or trend monitoring throughout the Yaquina and Big Elk watersheds in October 2009. These efforts were expanded to the Beaver Creek (Ona Beach) watershed in October 2010, and funding was approved in April 2010 to expand monitoring to the Siletz and Alsea watersheds. The program's objective is to gather sufficient data to characterize the water quality conditions through time and space within these watersheds. This information will give Lincoln SWCD, and other interested stakeholders, the ability to see how stream conditions change from season to season, year after year. High quality and consistent data will be a valuable tool to:

- ◇ Isolate non-point source pollution (NPS) sources
- ◇ Determine restoration, monitoring, and outreach priorities
- ◇ Quantify project and TMDL effectiveness over time
- ◇ Inform policy and land/water use decisions

The sampling locations are spread throughout the watershed and vary in local land use, elevation in the watershed and stream conditions. Every 3 to 4 weeks we sample for temperature, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, bacteria (*E. coli*), pH, turbidity, and stage height. On the day of sampling, we also take note of precipitation, changes in the landscape that may affect the local water quality, and the flow measured by a stream gauge at a sampling site on the Yaquina River. The results are disseminated monthly to the public via Lincoln SWCD's listserv and to DEQ to be included in the statewide LASAR database. Please sign up to receive the water quality results by emailing: stacy@lincolnswcd.org.



Wetland habitat logs



Fencing and riparian planting in the Yachats Watershed

A useful relationship Lincoln SWCD looks at is how different precipitation amounts affect *E. coli* levels. For example, if *E. coli* levels are high with or without any rainfall it tells a different story than if *E. coli* levels are elevated only after a heavy rainfall in the late summer or the "fall flush". If a site has a consistent record of high *E. coli* levels it is useful to look at the surrounding land uses for clues to the bacteria source such as septic systems, heavy wildlife use, agricultural activities, etc. It is also useful to add an additional sampling site along a reach that can help identify the stream segment that is being polluted. This supplemental information guides Lincoln SWCD's outreach and assistance efforts to areas where projects can be most effective at improving water quality.

Report submitted by: Stacy Polkowske

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

Ocean Friendly Rain Garden planted in Newport

Lincoln SWCD partnered with the City of Newport and the Newport Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation to plan, design and implement an Ocean Friendly Rain Garden at Newport City Hall. The first collaboration efforts for this project began in early 2009. After several meetings, designs and some fundraising the project finally broke ground in September 2010. The collaborative community project aims to raise awareness of storm water runoff and water quality solutions for homeowners, business owners and developers. It is a demonstration for alternative ways of dealing with storm water and beautifying one's property at the same time. Not only is City Hall an ideal project site in itself, but it is also the venue for the local farmer's market that sees a lot of community activity.



Newport City Hall Rain Garden Demonstration

The appeal of the rain garden comes from its functionality as a storm water management tool and for its ability to create natural buffers for contaminants like oil, grease, bacteria and just about anything that can wash off an impervious surface. The Newport City Hall garden, which diverts about 5,000 square feet of the roof drainage, received nearly two inches of rain just one day after it was planted. Given the drainage area, that's nearly 5,000 gallons of water that was kept out of the storm water system for that single event! The gallons really start to add up, which in the end, improves the health of the urban watershed, Yaquina Bay and local beaches.

After that large storm, sand bags started to pile and line low spots in Newport, acutely reminding the residents and business owners of the planning needs for storm water management. Rain gardens are becoming a part of the overall solution by slowing and retaining water from directly entering the storm water system which is often over compromised during high volume rain events. Given the local interest, Lincoln SWCD and partners, are continuing to provide technical assistance and seek out other rain garden opportunities.

Native Plant Sale supports the Rural Living Handbook

Lincoln SWCD hosted their first native plant sale in December 2010! Despite the wind, rain and cold temperatures, we sold 1000 native trees and shrubs to local landowners and conservation groups. Given the success, we hope to make the native plant sale an annual event! The goal for the sale was two-fold: we wanted to provide an opportunity for locals to get a variety of plants that are well suited to our coastal climates (without driving the distance), and we were raising funds to produce our rural living handbook.

The "Lincoln County Rural Living Handbook – Considerations for Country Living" is a picturesque, easy-to-read, 44-page document that scratches the surface on what it means to live in rural Lincoln County (see page 3). It also provides several suggestions for the reader to get more information on any one subject. Topics discussed include: backyard wildlife, septic systems, healthy forests, water quality and being neighborly. The handbook will be available at local retail stores, realty offices, Lincoln SWCD events and, of course, the Lincoln SWCD office.

Submitted by Stacy Polkowske

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM

Program Goals

The Invasive Species Control Program (ISCP) coordinates available State and Federal resources to address the highest priorities of newly introduced invasive plants including planning to address future introductions. This program develops and carries out control plans, monitors Lincoln County natural resources and provides education and outreach materials for Lincoln County residents. The ISCP works with many partners throughout Lincoln County, Oregon State and abroad to facilitate prevention and successful control of invasive species across many private and public landowners.

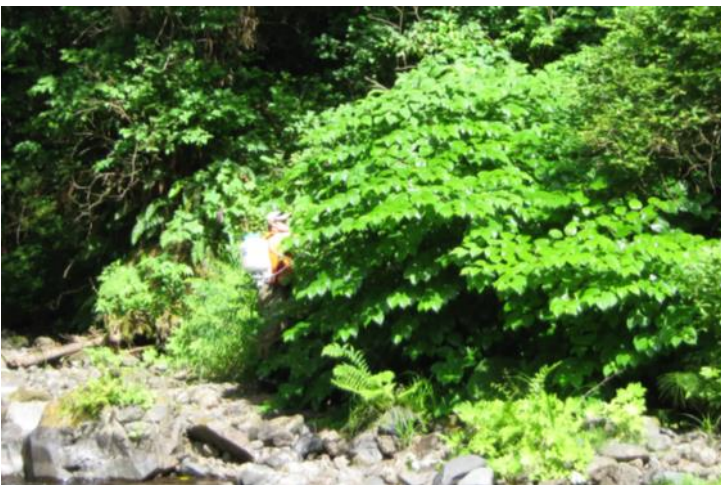
Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR)

Early detection and prevention are central tenets of the ISCP's integrated weed management approach. The ISCP works to provide education and outreach to Lincoln County landowners and partners about high priority invasive plants and to carry out early detection (survey and inventory) and rapid response (control and removal) of newly introduced or highly controllable populations of invasive plant species. The ISCP is currently the central contact center for invasive species reporting in Lincoln County. In 2011, the ISCP responded to over thirty early detection reports within Lincoln County. We carried out control on twenty of these reports including new introductions of false brome and old man's beard, two invasive species that will have a serious impact on coastal forests if established in Lincoln County. The remaining sites were added to work plans of current large scale projects or projects in development. In June 2011, ISCP manager and Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept.'s Natural Resource Specialist gave a three hour public presentation about invasive species and profiled our highest priority species, complete with a live sample display and a field based publication featuring high priority invaders for Lincoln County. This presentation is also slated for 2012.

Current Projects:

Knotweed Control Project

The ISCP has carried out a comprehensive, County-wide knotweed control project since 2009. This project is aimed at controlling, reducing and preventing further spread of highly invasive, nonnative knotweeds throughout the entire County. Knotweeds are perennial shrubs native to Asia that were once a popular ornamental. However, when introduced to wild areas, knotweeds have the capacity to invade and replace our riparian areas with monocultures of unproductive habitat. Knotweeds are considered one of the most destructive and difficult to remove invasive plant species in river ecosystems in the US, Canada and Europe.



Program Manager Josh spraying Japanese knotweed on Schooner Cr, Siletz



Crew Leader Aaron, attending to giant knotweed on the North Fork of the Yachats River

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM

Successful knotweed treatment is reliant upon treating all infestations along a river system since untreated infestations will continue to spread downstream. Increased landowner and local partner support for our program has increased our program's capacity and success. Our hardworking seasonal crews are the backbone of this long term project and our 2010 crew was no exception. Using aquatic labeled foliar spray we treated knotweed along the Salmon, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Beaver and Yachats River Basins. Our work in 2010 resulted in the treatment of 9.02 acres of highly dispersed (682 sites) knotweed, of which 5.4 acres did not grow back in 2011. In other words, we achieved 60% control putting us ahead of our targets and making progress toward our effort to protect and enhance over 190 river and stream miles within Lincoln County.

2010 Treatment Results (Japanese, Giant & Himalayan Knotweed)

Number of Sites Treated	682 Sites
Total Area of Knotweed Treated	9.02 Acres (392,280 ft ²)
Resulting Reduction	5.38 Acres (234,352 ft ²) (based on 2011 monitoring)

Policeman's Helmet (*Impatiens glandulifera*)

ISCP rapid assessment over the past two years has found that policeman's helmet, a state listed invasive species, is increasing its range along riparian areas of Lincoln County. Our crews carried out manual control on



two large infestations totaling half an acre on the Five Rivers and Salmon River. Some landowners are getting involved to help control this plant on their property. This species is an annual that can be cut at the base during flower (before seed pods develop). Preventing flowering is highly effective for permanent removal and preventing spread. Plans to continue landowner outreach and control are slated for 2012.



Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris psuedacorus*)

ISCP has inventoried the distribution of this wetland thriving iris species since 2009. Yellow flag iris has a low distribution in Lincoln County but is a very difficult species to remove by the fact that it typically invades sensitive habitat like open water or submerged wetlands. We began in 2011 and are continuing in 2012 to work with various landowners and State partners to carryout pilot control projects throughout Lincoln County to



Hundreds of iris flowers collected from along Beaver Cr Natural Area, preventing seed spread

test the efficacy of certain control methods. Our crews also participated in deadheading yellow flag iris throughout Beaver Cr to prevent seed production and spread. Our goal is to implement a County wide control project by 2013.



One of many patches of yellow flag iris throughout the Beaver Cr Natural Area

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM



Massive Clematis infestation near Toledo

Old Man's Beard (*Clematis vitalba*)

Clematis vitalba is a perennial vine, native to Europe, which grows prolifically over any substrate. The weight of its woody vines can overtop, kill and topple mature trees. Although it can look like an English ivy infestation from afar, up close clematis can be distinguished by its compound leaves, white flowers in the summer and the massive woody vines that typically hang vertically from infested tree limbs



5-leaflet compound leaf and mature flowers of a young clematis vitalba vine

(easily seen in winter when leaves fall off and plant goes dormant). This species has very few known distribution in Lincoln County. In 2011, the ISCP began control efforts on three sites with control of the remaining known sites being planned for 2012.

Tansy Ragwort (*Senecio jacobae*)

In response to a recent rebound of tansy ragwort along the Oregon Coast, which is due to a natural and temporary lull of local biocontrol populations, ISCP crews relocated multiple cinnabar moth colonies to burgeoning tansy infestations in order to facilitate the moth's eventual return to more effective numbers.

Other Projects

In the May 2011, the ISCP manager in partnership with MidCoast Watersheds Council, Oregon Coastal Community Forest Association, Dahl Disposal, Lincoln County Solid Waste District, SOLV and multiple volunteers carried out another community English ivy removal along the forest trail behind the Toledo Library. We filled two dumpsters with English ivy and English holly, and provided education and outreach about the importance of and proper removal of English ivy.

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The ISCP can answer questions about a particular plant (including identification), control methods and whatever else you can think of pertaining to invasive species. Questions pertaining to invasive species, requests for a color brochure on specific high priority species that we are currently focusing on (right) or information about our annual Weed Watcher training please contact ISCP Program Manager Josh Lambert at josh@lincolnswcd.org or at 541-265-2631. To report an invasive species go to www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org., Please check the Lincoln SWCD's website, www.lincolnswcd.org for photos and details of the many projects that the ISCP is carrying out, which includes a comprehensive list of high priority invasive species for Lincoln County. Submitted by Josh Lambert

<p>Policeman's Helmet <i>(Impatiens glandulifera)</i></p> <p>Help Protect Lincoln County's Coastal Rivers and Wetlands</p>	<p>Yellow Flag Iris <i>(Iris pseudocorus)</i></p> <p>Help Protect Lincoln County's Coastal Rivers and Wetlands</p>	<p>Knotweeds</p> <p>Help Save Lincoln County's Coastal Rivers and Wetlands</p>
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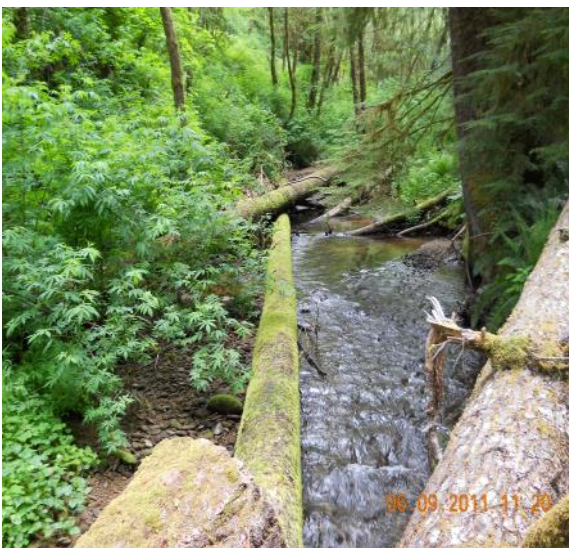
MID COAST MONITORING PROJECT

The Mid Coast Monitoring Project (MCMP) has been an ongoing monitoring project for the past 12 years. It's a multifaceted project consisting of three different phases spanning the entire year. These separate phases consist of Aquatic Habitat Inventories (AQI) conducted from June thru 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.

AQUATIC HABITAT INVENTORIES

Sites for AQI were chosen in a cooperative effort with Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) and the MidCoast Watersheds Council (MCWC). 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 Geographic Information System (GIS) data base. Digitized copies of the raw data are filed with ODFW and are at the Lincoln SWCD office.

This year we did AQIs on six streams. Two streams were surveyed in each of the Siletz and Yachats River Basins and the Beaver Creek Basin. The two Siletz Basin sites were Ojalla and Scare Creek. These sites were chosen by the MCWC to identify possible limiting factors in Coho production on west side creeks in the tidewater area of the Siletz River. Ojalla Creek enters the Siletz River above tidewater from the west in the Camas Prairie area at river mile 30. It is a medium sized stream with a low gradient and somewhat fish limited production. Upon completion of the inventory the one thing that was the most evident to us was the lack of large woody debris in the stream. While doing landowner contacts for permission to access private property on Ojalla Creek several landowners showed interest in the possibility of participating in a restoration project at some time in the future. Based on this interest the MCWC contacted many of these landowners which ultimately resulted in the submission and acceptance of an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant proposal for large woody debris (LWD) placement project on March 2010. The project was scheduled for August 2011.



Elkhorn Creek Large Wood Project

Aquatic Habitat Inventory Sites	9.94 miles
Siletz Basin	
Ojalla Creek	1.4 miles
Scare Creek	1.3 miles
Yachats Basin	
North Fork Yachats River	4.04 miles
Williamson Creek	1.7 miles
Beaver Creek Basin	
North Fork Beaver Creek	0.5 miles
Elkhorn Creek	1.0 miles

AQUATIC HABITAT SURVEYS CONTINUED

Scare Creek is a small creek entering the Siletz River in tide-water at river mile 13.5. Scare Creek was chosen for survey as result of a permit application submitted to Lincoln SWCD by Northwest Natural Gas for a bridge placement on a severely damaged culvert along its reach.

The next two surveys were post project inventories on the North Fork Yachats River and Williamson Creek. This was the third post project inventory on both of these streams.

The last two streams were in the Beaver Creek basin. The surveys took place on the North Fork Beaver and Elkhorn Creeks. Both of these were also post LWD project inventories to document changes in these streams after log placements.

Submitted by: Kip Wood and Mark Stone



SPAWNING GROUND SURVEYS

Spring Chinook

In 2010, we surveyed 22 different stream reaches totaling 18.49 mi. These were in the Yaquina, Siletz, Alsea, Yachats and Beaver Creek basins. 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 20 miles. These 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 are only conducted through the last week in October. At this time we switch over to Coho surveys and ODFW crews take over our Siletz drifts. This is the Fourth year that we have assisted in data collections in the Siletz Chinook Project.

Coho abundance in the mid coast area was the fifth highest in the last 15 years. Coho populations coast wide were the highest in the last 15 years with 283,478 estimated Coho for the Oregon Coast. The results of this year's Fall Chinook surveys were much better for the Siletz with an estimated escapement of 4,225 adult spawners. The Pacific Salmon Treaty goal for spawner escapement for the Siletz is 2,944 fish. This was greatly improved over the last two years escapement. Populations in the Yaquina and Alsea were also up from last year.

Coho, Chum Salmon & Fall Chinook Surveys

Coho spawn surveys annually start at the end of October and last until the end of January. These surveys are generated by the Oregon Adult Salmonid Inventory and Sampling Project (OASIS) project in Corvallis Oregon and are either random (computer generated), supplemental (surveys done on special request) or standard (surveys that have been done on the same stream reach for many years). Any Fall Chinook that are encountered during these typically 1 mile long walking 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 Creek 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 2010 was a little below average based on the 11 years that we have been surveying this stream. 45 Chum Salmon observed whereas the average for the past 11 years is 60.

SPAWNING GROUND SURVEYS CONTINUED

Steelhead Spawning Surveys

Steelhead surveys start at the beginning of February and last until the end of May. These 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 do not 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 a 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. Due to serious cutbacks in ODFW's Steelhead Survey budget Lincoln SWCD did of the steelhead surveys in the mid-coast area.

The Steelhead run in 2011 was different than most years. In February, low water was conducive to early spawning. The Umpqua, mid south coast, and Mid Coast districts had from 125 to 225% above average spawning for the last five year average. By the last week of February the heaviest rains started. The mid coast district did better than the other districts to both the north and south. All the other districts up and down the coast had declines in redds per mile for the remainder of the spawning season. These districts all ended up with about 50% or less redds per mile lower than the five year average. The mid coast district ended with almost 150% redds per mile above the five year average. Most of the spawning took place in late April and May with a lot of big fish. Lamprey Eels are also surveyed while surveying Steelhead. Lamprey usually start running about the middle of April and continue to the end of May. This year we had colder than usual water that delayed the Lamprey spawning for a bit. The Lamprey didn't really start spawning until mid May and were still very actively spawning when we stopped surveying in the end of May.



Large Steelhead Redd Approx. 6 ft Long



Large Lamprey Redd

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 which time Lincoln SWCD obtains verbal permission for access from the landowner. 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 through, or else we have to go around that segment so as not to trespass. On 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.

MID-COAST MONITORING OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Public outreach continues to be an important part of this project. Lincoln SWCD partnered with agencies, Watershed Basin Planning Groups and local schools, to provide watershed presentations and demonstrations of watershed function with the stream table provided by the Lincoln SWCD. MCMP crews frequently provide their field knowledge to provide information and locations of stream sites to Lincoln SWCD and MCWC 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. Submitted by Kip Wood and Mark Stone.



Mark Stone surveying a local stream



Kip Wood explaining the stream table

NEW FACE FOR THE DISTRICT

After several brainstorming sessions and rough drafts, we are proud to present our new and improved logo! With the help of a professional graphic designer, the District has come up with a picture that we feel represents our place and our mission. The art deco bridge is a recognized symbol for the central Oregon coast, but it also speaks to our programs and services that bridge resources to accomplish our mission and goals. And of course we couldn't live without trees, rolling hills and a meandering stream!



LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

United States Department of Agriculture



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) continued a process of strategic planning this year, to better focus efforts and financial resources in coordination with activities and strengths of partner agencies and groups. The planning effort will continue into 2012, further challenging and promoting conservation of natural resources. Private landowners have remained committed to improving management.

New projects funded this year addressed agricultural water quality and forest stand improvements and forest management plan development.

The Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District (District) and the 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 District has partnered strongly with the NRCS in development of a strategic approach to conservation which will benefit both.

Two new contracts were initiated this year under 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.



Stream bank erosion site planned for treatment in 2012

Under the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**, an incentive program reauthorized under the 2008 Farm Bill, nine 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 \$230,000. Interest from private landowners in the program continues to grow. Over the last several years requests for assistance have increased. In the upcoming year, the amount of assistance available will decrease, due to federal budget reductions.

Report submitted by Kate Danks



Alder stand, prior to thinning



Conifer stand thinning project completed in 2011

2010—2011 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

All Funds Statement of Revenues and Expenditures As of June 30, 2011

Revenues:

Grant Income	\$428,957.00
Administrative Receipts	\$31,418.00
Rent Proceeds	\$19,707.00
Contract Income	\$19,380.00
Plant Sale Income	\$2,245.00
Other Receipts	\$842.00
Transfer in Line of Credit	<u>(\$5,025.00)</u>

Total Revenues **\$497,524.00**

Fund Balance as of 7-1-10 **\$2,564.00**

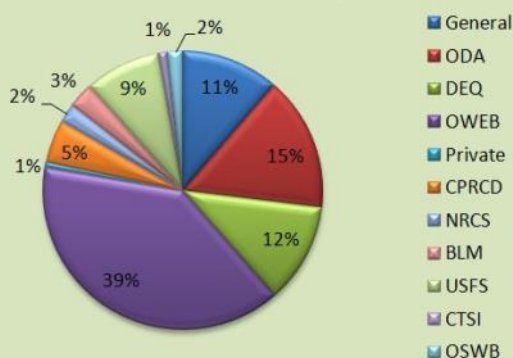
Expenditures:

Personal Services	\$282,410.00
Material and Supplies	\$41,527.00
Administration Expenses	\$31,418.00
Office Rent	\$29,531.00
Contract Services	\$78,530.00
Utilities and Telephone	\$6,027.00
Travel and Conferences	\$20,628.00
Office Expenses	\$8,473.00
Interest Expenses	<u>\$136.00</u>

Total Expenditures **\$498,680.00**

Fund Balance as of 6-30-11 **\$1,408.00**

Revenues by Funding Sources



Expenditures by Funding Source



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
CTSI—Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
CPRCD—Cascade Pacific RC & D
Other—Private, 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 approved audit report will be available 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