



LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2011-2012 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
Josh Lambert	Lincoln SWCD	Watershed Technical Specialist	Since 2008
Aaron Duzik	Lincoln SWCD	Invasive Species Control Manager	Since 2010
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 Soil and Water Conservation District
- 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
- 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
- Western Invasives Network
- Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area Park
- Yaquina Watershed Council

Business Plan

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER AWARD

WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM

Local Assistance in Lincoln County

The Watershed Restoration Program continues to provide landowners with a local source of technical and financial assistance with conservation planning and making on-the-ground best management projects that suit individual user needs a reality. Our program begins with outreach and education to empower landowners with the incentives of adding conservation into their land management strategies. Ultimately, this knowledge can help keep rural and urban lands stable, productive, healthy, and within the legal guidelines of water quality regulations (see TMDLs next page). 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 for fish, wildlife, insects and humans alike. 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 or in concert with our Watershed Technical Specialist. The types of projects we work on include: riparian exclusion fencing, off-stream watering, heavy use area protection, riparian and stream enhancement, and low impact development (LID) techniques like rain gardens and rainwater collection and storage systems.

Projects

Conservation and Restoration Highlights: Over the course of 12 months Lincoln SWCD and our in-house partner, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Resource Conservationist, provided over 200 Lincoln County landowners with one-on-one technical support, project development and management, financial assistance, and project coordination and implementation. We made personal site visits to 19 different landowners to assist with issues ranging from stream erosion, culvert failure, water resources, to past project overview and future project development. During this same period we implemented multiple projects that addressed livestock exclusion from streams (fence), barn storm-water (gutter) and manure



Riparian bench planting along Upper Yaquina River



Successful riparian exclusion fence and planting project on the Yachats River, as seen two years after installation

management, mud reduction (hardening), farm road upgrades, and carried out riparian restoration planting projects totaling 5 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.

The benefits gained from each of these projects are always numerous. These include protecting loss of personal property, reducing stream bank erosion, enhancing pasture resources, protecting stream and river water quality for drinking and recreation and restoring fish and wildlife habitat degraded by invasive plants.

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), and the Alsea Stewardship Group.

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

Trend monitoring

Did you know that temperature is considered a pollutant in Lincoln County streams and rivers? Have you ever wondered if there is something in your local river that could harm you? There are many containments that make their way into our surface waters that can be difficult to detect without monitoring. These pollutants, often called “non-point source” (NPS) pollution because they typically diffuse into a water body verses coming from a pipe, can add up to reduce the water quality of our rivers, lakes, beaches and the ocean. Many of these pollutants such as sediment and water temperature which are present within a natural range can be increased to unbalanced or harmful levels by human activity. Often these pollutants are the result of certain land-use practices that if implemented in a different way can easily prevent degradation.

Lincoln SWCD Water Quality Monitoring program has worked since the late 2000’s to provide comprehensive and continuous “trend” monitoring of multiple watersheds throughout Lincoln County. This program’s objective is to gather data to characterize the water quality conditions over time within targeted watersheds including the Yaquina, Big Elk, Beaver Creek (Ona Beach) Siletz and Alsea. Partners like Salmon Drift Watershed Council, Oregon State Parks, and Department of Environmental Quality are monitoring water quality in other areas of the County like the Salmon River, Schooner Creek (Lincoln City) and Drift Creek (Siletz Bay). Overall, this information provides Lincoln SWCD and local conservation partners the ability to isolate NPS sources and determine restoration and outreach priorities to address them. If you are interested in learning more about your local water quality it is available publicly at our monthly Board meetings or through our monthly email (info@lincolnswcd.org).

Total Maximum Daily...What?

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the State agency charged by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure States are implementing and enforcing Clean Water Act guidelines to protect beneficial uses of water (drinking, recreation, habitat) has begun formally developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Mid Coast Basin (most of Lincoln County and the Siuslaw River Watershed). TMDLs are the scientifically based regulatory determinations or allocations that specify exactly how much of a human generated pollutant (metals, toxic plastics, bacteria, pesticides, sediment, etc) can be safely allowed into a water body after natural sources and safety buffer is accounted for. Once TMDLs have been issued (early 2013) landowners (private, municipal, federal etc) will be required within a reasonable amount of time to have a plan in place that shows active or planned changes in land use practices to reduce their “pollution loads”. For the Mid Coast TMDLs, DEQ is working with stakeholder groups (including Lincoln SWCD) to

determine Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can, if implemented or already in place, put a landowner who has property along a *impaired* waterway into compliance with the TMDL. Not all streams in Mid Coast are classified as impaired. TMDLs will only be issued for those that have been shown to have temperature, bacteria (*E. coli*), and sediment levels above regulatory standards. Lincoln SWCD is one of the primary organizations tasked with working with landowners to implement BMPs and develop conservation based plans and implement projects on their property to keep lands productive while protecting water resources. We can help you assess whether your property is on an impaired water way, if the TMDL applies to you, and provide technical and possibly financial assistance to help you address TMDL compliance . Lincoln SWCD is not a regulatory agency.



Best management project featuring gutters for stormwater management and gravel for mud control, BMPs like these prevent unnatural levels of sediment and possibly bacteria from entering public waters

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

Over the last 12 months our staff have put on workshops, outreach booths at community events and provided outreach and educational information about water quality and conservation minded topics to engage Lincoln County residents. Below are a few highlights from the year.

Water Film Series in Newport



In April, Lincoln SWCD put on our third annual Water Film Series. Four film events were held over two months at the Oregon Coast Community College, in Newport, free of charge. Topics ranged from industrial mining interests in the wild Bristol Bay watershed of Alaska (Red Gold) to privatization of water resources around the world (Blue Gold) to the uniquely adapted cloud forests of Costa Rica. Lively discussion after each film was had at each viewing and occasionally guest speakers were present to discuss their personal experiences with the issues. In addition to the great community dialogue, Lincoln County Solid

Waste provided a 50 gallon rain barrel that was raffled off during the final film. We look forward to continuing this series into the future.

Lincoln SWCD Native Plant Sale

Lincoln SWCD hosted our second annual native plant sale in December, 2011. Pleasant weather brought people in droves to browse and buy a variety of native trees, shrubs, herbs and wildflowers. Every year we listen to what people are looking for and adjust our ordering. Many plants went to conservation groups doing restoration and many were purchased by urban and rural residents looking to enhance a little or a lot of land. 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, and we were raising funds to support the purchase of equipment that support conservation projects. This year the District purchased a new trailer. The new trailer allows staff to coordinate and deliver materials to projects throughout the County more cost effectively.



Native Plant Sale on a sunny December day!

Early Detection Weed Training

As part of our Invasive Species Control Program, we work with a network of community volunteers, professionals and through our trained staff to inform residents about the harmful consequences of non-native invasive plants to Lincoln County natural resources. Humans are the primary reasons for many invasive plant introductions, so naturally, we work to educate residents on current threats, how to deal with them and most importantly, what could be coming down the pipeline. See our Invasive Species Control Program (next page) for a profile of many of the species that we assist landowners to control using our in-house seasonal field staff. In 2011, our Watershed Technical Specialist and Invasive Species Program Manager prepared and provided a one hour long presentation to the Oregon State University Extension Master Gardeners as part of their training curriculum and an hour long presentation at the Connie Hansen Arboretum in Lincoln City open to the public. These presentations focus on what invasive species are, why they are a problem, how you can help *report an intruder* and a detailed overview full of photos and live examples of the highest priority invasive plants in Lincoln County. Check our website events page for future trainings: www.lincolnswcd.org.

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.

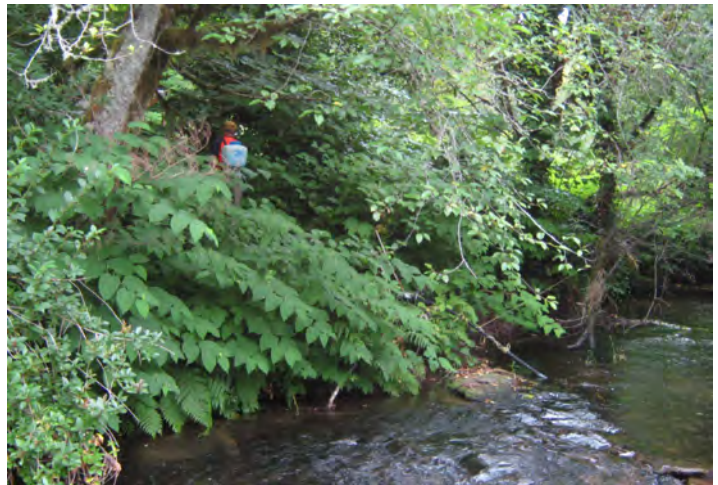
Current Projects:

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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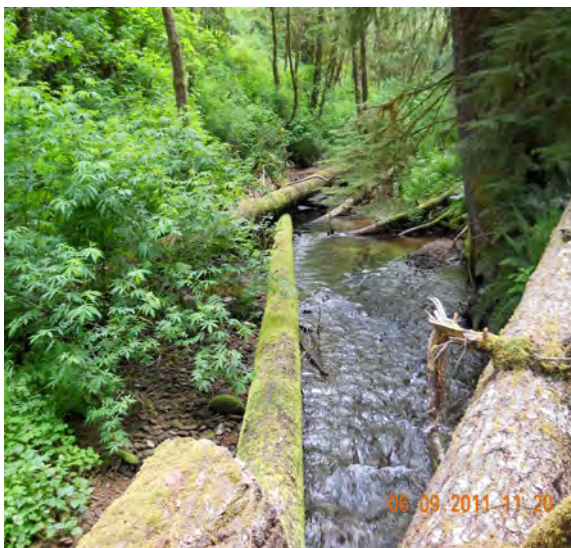
MID COAST MONITORING PROJECT

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

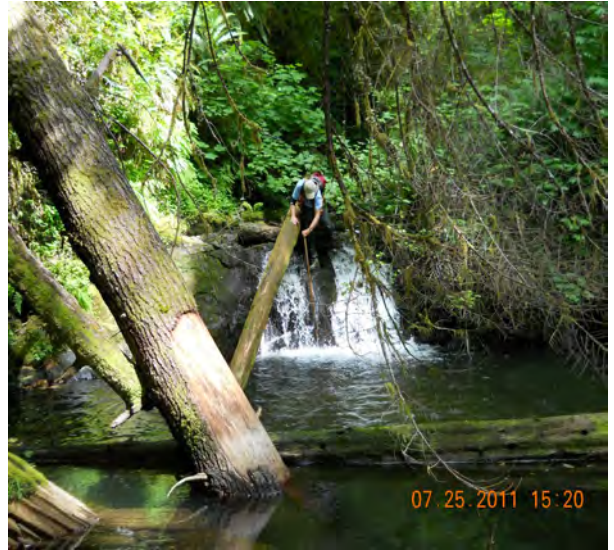
AQUATIC HABITAT SURVEYS CONTINUED

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**

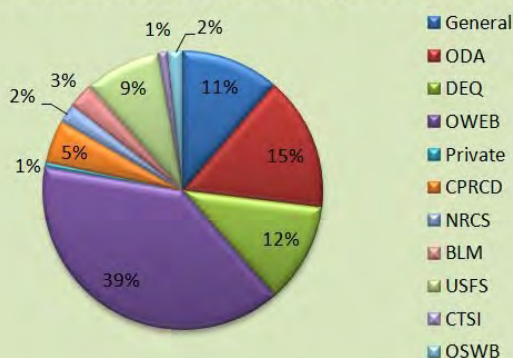
Expenditures:

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>

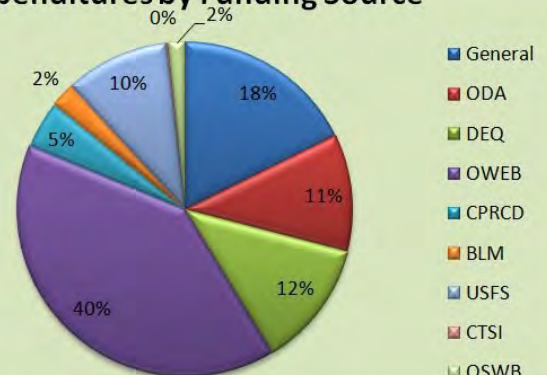
Total Expenditures **\$498,680.00**

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