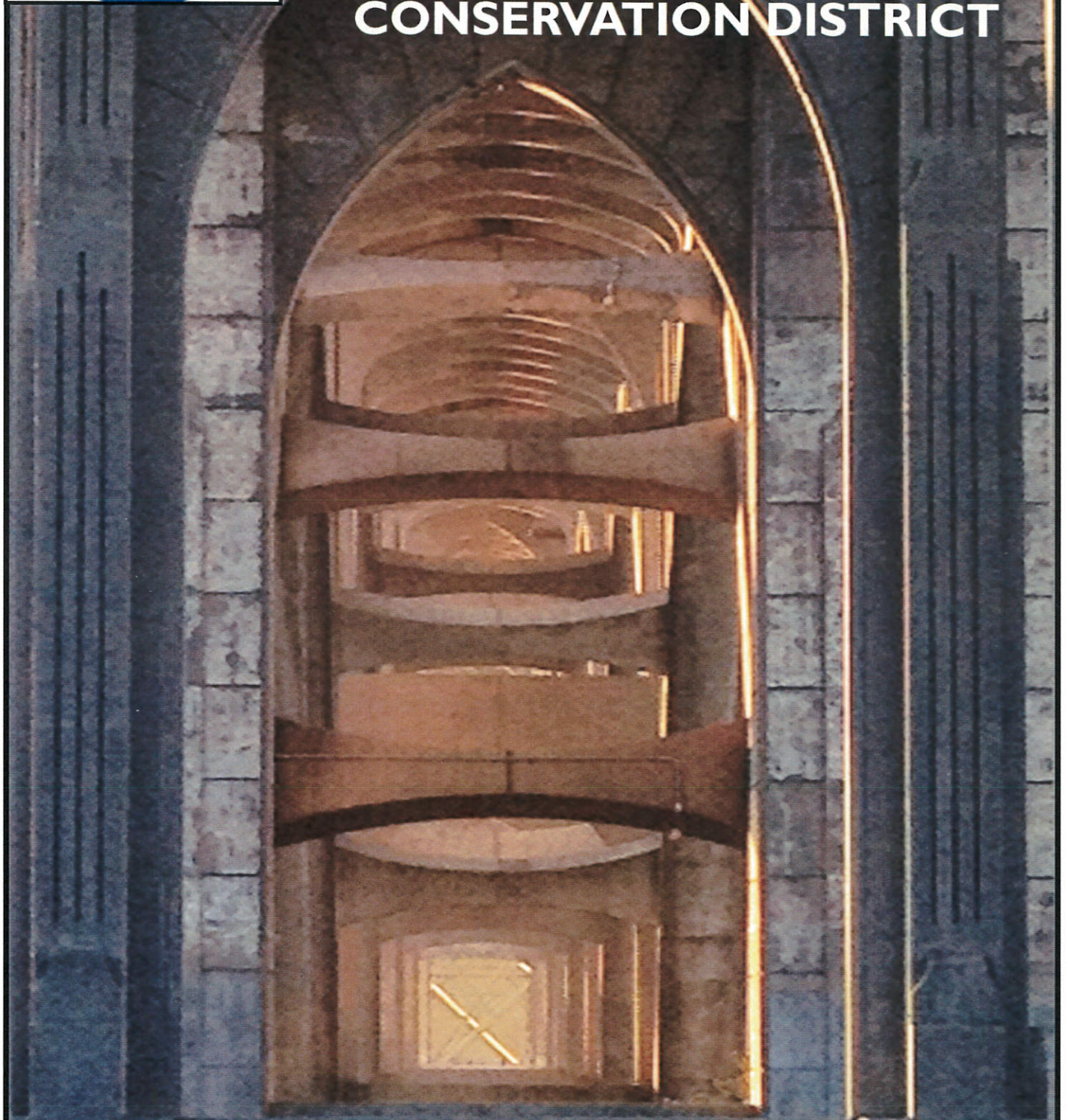




# 2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT

## LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



23 North Coast Highway  
Newport, Oregon 97365  
(541) 265-2631

[www.lincolnswcd.org](http://www.lincolnswcd.org)  
[info@lincolnswcd.org](mailto:info@lincolnswcd.org)  
Fax: (541)265-9351

Photo: Yaquina Bay Bridge





**2012-2013  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

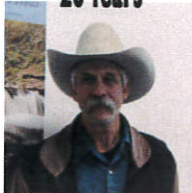
**2012-2013  
DISTRICT STAFF**

**11 Years**



Jim Stafford  
Chair - Director

**20 Years**



Sterling Grant  
Vice Chair  
Director

**26 Years**



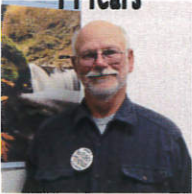
Wayne DeMoray  
Treasurer  
Director

**4 Years**



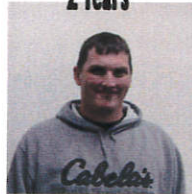
Wayne Hoffman  
Secretary  
At-Large Director

**14 Years**



Rennie Ferris  
Director

**2 Years**



Ryan Gassner  
Director

**3 Years**



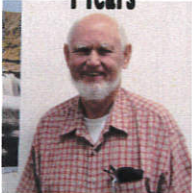
Mark Saelens  
At-Large Director

**4 Years**



Terrie Grant  
Associate Director

**4 Years**



Jay Robinson  
Associate Director

The Board of Directors meets every second Thursday of the month. These meetings are open to the public and begin at 7:00 PM at the District Office.

**DISTRICT PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION**

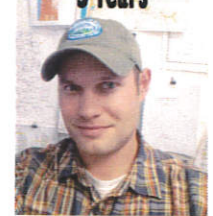
- Alsea Watershed Council
- Alsea Stewardship Group
- Benton Soil and Water Conservation District
- Bio-Surveys, LLC
- Bureau of Land Management
- Cascade Pacific RC&D
- City of Lincoln City
- City of Newport
- City of Toledo
- City of Yachats
- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
- Dahl Disposal Inc.
- Devils Lake Water Improvement District
- Eddyville Charter High School
- Hatfield Marine Science Center
- Lincoln County Commissioners
- 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
- Oregon Department of State Lands
- Oregon League of Conservation Voters
- 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 Watershed Council

**15 Years**



Tanya Jorgenson  
District Manager

**5 Years**



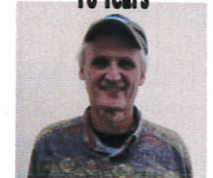
Josh Lambert  
Watershed Technical  
Specialist

**3 Years**



Aaron Duzik  
Invasive Species  
Program Manager

**18 Years**



Mark Stone  
Bio Surveyor

**17 Years**



Christopher Wood  
Bio Surveyor

**1.5 Years**



Abigail DeYoung  
Admin Assistant



# 2012—2013 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## All Funds Statement of Revenues and Expenditures As of June 30, 2013

**Revenues:**

Grant Income	\$507,481.00
Administrative Receipts	\$39,909.00
Rent Proceeds	\$13,353.00
Contract Income	\$27,162.00
Plant Sale Income	\$2,106.00
Other Receipts	\$66.00

**Expenditures:**

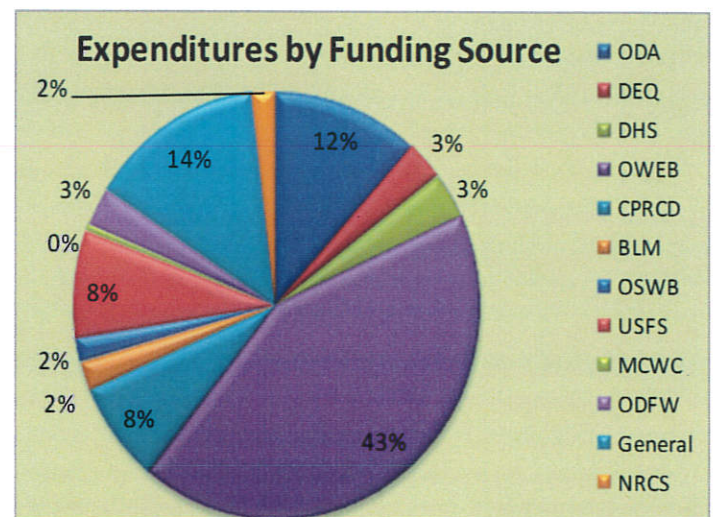
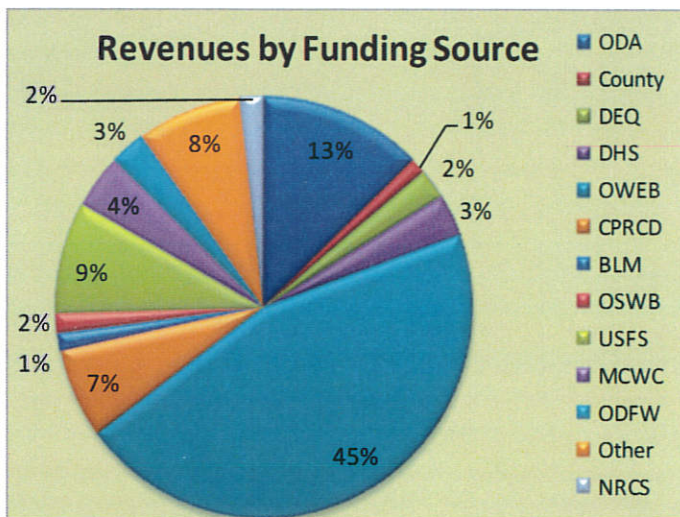
Personal Services	\$260,164.00
Material and Supplies	\$128,045.00
Administration Expenses	\$39,909.00
Office Rent	\$31,086.00
Contract Services	\$57,909.00
Utilities and Telephone	\$4,407.00
Travel and Conferences	\$28,374.00
Office Expenses	\$9,964.00
Interest Expenses	\$758.00

**Total Revenues** **\$590,077.00**

**Total Expenditures** **\$560,616.00**

**Fund Balance as of 7-1-12** **\$5,986.00**

**Fund Balance as of 6-30-13** **\$35,447.00**



**ODA**—Oregon Dept. of Agriculture  
**COUNTY**—Lincoln County  
**DEQ**—Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality  
**DHS**—Dept. of Human Services  
**OWEB**—Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
**CPRCD**—Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation Development  
**BLM**—Bureau of Land Management

**OSWB**—Oregon State Weed Board  
**USFS**—United States Forest Service  
**MCWC**—MidCoast Watersheds Council  
**ODFW**—Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife  
**NRCS**—Natural Resource Conservation Service  
**Other**— Native Plant Sale, Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council, Alsea Watershed Council, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept. of State Lands

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 is available at the Lincoln SWCD Office.



## WATER QUALITY AND RESTORATION PROGRAM

**Best Management Practices and Restoration:** The Watershed Restoration and Water Quality Program both provide landowners with a local source of technical and financial assistance for developing conservation plans and finding solutions to problems associated with natural resource conservation and utilization. Whether the focus is water quality impacts from farm activities, salmon habitat restoration or urban low impact planning to reduce storm water we work with operators, landowners, municipalities, and State and Federal agencies to assist with implementing best management projects that suit user needs. 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. Our programs also work with landowners to implement on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects that directly improve the resiliency of our watershed to provide clean water, productive soil, and healthy habitats for fish, wildlife, insects and humans alike.

**Assistance:** Between July 2012 and June 2013, we completed site visits with 15 separate landowners and provided technical assistance in the form of technical feedback, conservation plan development, project development and implementation for problems stemming from stream bank erosion, pasture and riparian area management, undersized culverts, native landscape planning, invasive plant management, farm nutrient and animal waste management, rainwater collection and storage. In addition to voluntary assistance, we partner with the Oregon Department of Agriculture during water quality investigations when a farm may be in violation of Agricultural Water Quality Management Act and Clean Water Act regulations that are aimed at protecting water quality. The purpose for District staff presence is to provide an intermediary, non-regulatory source of technical assistance for landowners who would like additional help to address a natural resource related concern. We provide education, technical solutions, project management and financial assistance to help landowners comply with local rules and regulations. Out of 4 ODA water quality investigations in Lincoln County this year, we are currently working with 3 landowners to implement projects that will protect stream and river water quality along their farms and keep their operations in compliance with State and Federal regulations.

**Projects:** Over the course of 12 months, Lincoln SWCD and our partners have developed and secured financial assistance for 5 habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects and implemented 4 habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects.

### Water Quality Improvement Projects:

Lincoln SWCD worked with four farm operations by developing and securing financial assistance to imple-



**Resurfaced forest access road reduces sediment to local streams in Big Elk Creek**

ment projects that will improve water quality. For instance, we are helping to upgrade animal waste collection facilities for a small dairy on the Yachats River and a horse boarding facility near Devils Lake, Lincoln City and create off-stream livestock water and exclusion fence for a ranch in the Upper Siletz Watershed. In



**20,000 gallon rain water storage facility near Baker Creek, upper Siletz River**



## WATER QUALITY AND RESTROTATION PROGRAM

this same area, we worked with a cattle operation to reduce pumping from a small trout bearing creek by installing a 20,000 gallon rainwater collection/storage system. Lincoln SWCD collaborated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), on two projects to reduce sediment inputs to nearby streams by resurfacing over 1/4 mile of farm roads. District staff and partners secured over \$53,000 of financial assistance to support the implementation of these projects, leveraging an additional \$30,100 in matching funds.

### Habitat Restoration Projects

Lincoln SWCD and the MidCoast Watershed Council are collaborating to implement Phase 2 of a watershed restoration project that will replant over 8 acres of riparian zone along 3 miles of the upper Yaquina River watershed during the winter of 2013/14. Lincoln SWCD and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) partnered on a project that has put large wood on about 1/2 mile of Coho salmon habitat to increase pools and in stream complexity for juvenile fish rearing in Flynn Cr (Alsea Watershed) and plant over 300 trees along the riparian area to provide cooling shade and a future source of large wood recruitment. Along with ODFW and the Oregon Department of Transportation, we assisted with the replacement of a major tidal culvert along Hwy 101 in the Siletz River estuary, opening up 40 acres of tidal wetlands to fish passage. District staff and partners secured over \$121,000 of financial assistance to support the implementation of these projects, leveraging an additional \$559,000 in matching funds.



Large wood placed in Flynn Cr (Alsea Watershed) to increase juvenile salmon habitat

**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.

## MONITORING PROGRAM

**Trend monitoring:** In 2013, Lincoln SWCD secured funding to continue monitoring water quality throughout the Siletz, Yaquina, Big Elk, Beaver Cr, Alsea and Five Rivers watersheds. The focus is to measure water quality parameters like turbidity, pH, water temperature, dissolved oxygen and harmful bacteria, that result from sources of nonpoint source pollution, like failing septic systems, harmful erosion or inappropriate agricultural practices. Often these pollutants are the result of certain land-use practices that if implemented in a different way can easily prevent further degradation to water quality. This information helps Lincoln SWCD and local conservation partners focus outreach/educational and restoration efforts towards landowners that may be the source of nonpoint source pollution. If you are interested in learning more about your local water quality, email [josh@lincolnswcd.org](mailto:josh@lincolnswcd.org) and request the monthly water quality listserv email.

**Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in the Mid Coast Area:** The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), is the State agency charged by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure States are implementing and enforcing Clean Water Act guidelines. DEQ sets guidelines and water quality standards that are meant to protect beneficial uses of water (drinking, recreation, habitat). When a water body does not meet these standards a Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) is developed to provide guidelines for landowners, to meet standards. The Mid Coast Basin (most of Lincoln County and the Siuslaw River

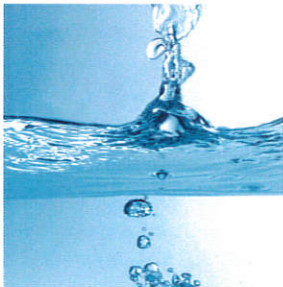


## MONITORING PROGRAM CONT.

Watershed) are currently undergoing the development of TMDLs for many streams and lakes. TMDLs specify 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 a safety buffer is accounted for.

Lincoln SWCD's Watershed Technical Specialist has participated in this process since its inception in 2011, by providing local expertise, outreach assistance and technical review of the development of the Bacteria TMDL. Lincoln SWCD is a primary organization tasked with helping agricultural, rural residential, small acreage and urban landowners become aware of regulations like TMDLs to make sure they are in compliance and if not, provide them with technical assistance to help them get there. Lincoln SWCD is not a regulatory entity. Contact us today to find out if you live on a listed stream that may have a future TMDL.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



Over the last 12 months our staff has hosted community events, outreach booths and provided outreach and educational information about water quality and conservation minded topics to engage Lincoln County residents. Below is an overview of our regular educational and outreach offerings that occur in urban areas.

### Water Film Series in Newport

In April, Lincoln SWCD hosted our fourth 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 mercury pollution in the Columbia river; the social and environmental impacts of urban expansion into watersheds; sea-level rise in third world island nations; and the health of the U.S. and Canada's Great Lake's ecosystem. Lively discussion after each film was had at each viewing. This year, our sponsor Lincoln County Solid Waste provided a 50 gallon composter, raffled off after the final film. We look forward to continuing and expanding the focus of this series into the future.

### Lincoln SWCD Native Plant Sale

Lincoln SWCD hosted our third annual native plant sale in December, 2012. We virtually sold out of plants the first day, leaving a rather sparse selection on day two. In 2013, we plan on promoting a native plant sale Pre-Order option. This will provide a wider selection of native plants at better prices during the summer time when gardeners are often planning their next round of beautification and habitat enhancements. The normal December plant sale will still occur at our office parking lot in Newport, during the first week of December, 2013. Don't miss it, and come early. The goal for the sale is to provide a source of native plants that are well suited to our coastal climates, and to raise money to support the purchase of equipment that supports conservation and habitat restoration projects.





## 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, the State of Oregon, and abroad to facilitate prevention and successful control of invasive species across many private and public landowners. The ISCP is quickly becoming a County leader in vegetation control for environmentally sensitive areas. Although the ISCP provides assistance for a wide range of habitats, the program is particularly skilled in responsible control practices for riparian and wetland invasive plants.

### **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 regarding 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 2013, the program responded to many early detection reports of invasive weeds and in each case the ISCP was either able to treat the infestation, provide technical assistance, or document the infestation for incorporation in a future project. An updated list of targeted weed species and species of concern can be found at the district's website: [www.lincolnswcd.org](http://www.lincolnswcd.org) or for a map of the distribution of invasive species throughout Oregon, you can visit: [www.weedmapper.oregon.gov](http://www.weedmapper.oregon.gov)

### **Current Projects :**

#### **Policeman's Helmet (*Impatiens glandulifera*)**

Policeman's helmet is an annual flower that has started to displace native vegetation along the rivers of Lincoln County. It's large stature and dense growth outcompetes shorter stature species resulting in direct competition and reduction of native vegetation.

2013 was the first year the ISCP mounted a large scale control effort for policeman's helmet, starting in the Five Rivers and Alsea basins. The project surveyed and treated over 25 miles of river for policeman's helmet. By the end of the field season we had treated 3.5 net acres of infested area which were located mostly



**Policeman's Helmet is an annual that can easily be controlled by hand pulling or mowing**



**Policeman's Helmet is easy to identify with its colorful pink to purple flowers**



**INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM CONT.**

within 200 feet from the rivers' edge.

In 2013 policeman's helmet was found in every major river basin in Lincoln County. The ISCP hopes to expand this control project in 2014 to all of the county's drainage basins so that we can eventually eradicate this invasive weed species.

**Knotweed Control Project ( *Fallopia & Polygonum spp.* )**

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. Due to their large rhizomatous root (i.e. lack of fine root structure) and since they die back during the winter months, knotweeds do not provide as much stream bank stability as native plants and sometimes can increase erosion.

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 added to our program's capacity and success. Our hardworking seasonal crews are the backbone of this long term project and our 2012 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 2012 resulted in the treatment of 3.71 acres of highly dispersed (620 sites) knotweed, of which we reduced coverage area by 75% (based on 2013 monitoring). Since 2009, the ISCP has treated over 30 net acres of knotweed and making progress toward our effort to protect and enhance over 190 river and stream miles within Lincoln County.

**2012 Treatment Results (Japanese, Giant & Himalayan Knotweed)**

<b>Number of Sites Treated</b>	<b>620 Sites</b>
<b>Total Area of Knotweed Treated</b>	<b>3.71 Acres (161,418 ft<sup>2</sup>)</b>
<b>Resulting Reduction</b>	<b>75% (of 2012 sites treated in 2013)</b>



New crew member Mike finds out how large Japanese knotweed infestations can grow (Five Rivers area)

New patch of knotweed found on the banks of the Alsea River



## INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM

### False brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*)

False brome is a perennial bunchgrass that thrives in full sun and shaded environments. False brome displaces native understory plants, suppresses forest regeneration, degrades wildlife habitat and increases fire risk, making this species of particular concern to Lincoln County given its potential impact on the forest products economy.

The ISCP began treating false brome on the upper reaches of the Siletz River in spring of 2013. After finding the upper most infestation, were able to survey and treat about a 1/4 acre of patchy infested area along 2 miles of the riparian zone. The false brome on the Siletz River is much worse than earlier anticipated and the ISCP is working towards aggressively targeting this area for control in 2014.



Patches of false brome along the banks of the Siletz River

### Spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*)



Spurge laurel can grow dense colonies under trees which outcompete native vegetation

Spurge laurel is a highly shade tolerant evergreen, perennial shrub that grows to be about 3-4 feet tall. It is particularly problematic due to its ability to rapidly colonize areas, form monotypic stands, outcompete native flora, potentially change soil chemistry, and alter natural succession. Spurge laurel contains toxins in its berries, stem, leaves and sap which are poisonous to humans, as well as to dogs and cats, the sap can cause severe skin and eye irritation.

The only known occurrence of this species in Lincoln County is in the City of Yachats. In April and May of 2013 with the help of volunteers from the Yachats Invasive Plant Sub-committee (YIPS). The ISCP was able to locate and manually pull most of the spurge laurel plants over an area of about 18 acres.

## New Projects for 2014:

### Yellow flag iris (*Iris psuedacorus*)

Besides the four other species mentioned above slated for control in 2014, the ISCP hopes to start a control program for yellow flag iris. The ISCP has inventoried over 120 yellow flag iris sites within wetlands and along river banks of Lincoln County. This rhizomatous plant can choke native wetlands and shallow waterways with thick monocultures while displacing native species.





# INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

## Other Projects:

During the winter of 2012-13 the ISCP continued to revegetate controlled knotweed sites with native vegetation. On the lower Yachats river there were three old riparian knotweed sites (totaling 1.2 net acres) that were planted with a variety of native trees and willows in order to help speed recovery and ensure bank stability. The ISCP plans to continue to revegetate larger controlled knotweed sites in the coming years to facilitate a full recovery from this noxious weed.



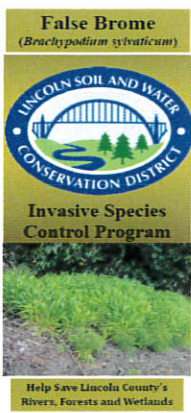
Yachats knotweed infestation in 2008



The same Yachats knotweed site planted with native trees and vegetation in 2013

# INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

## New Brochures for 2013



The ISCP can answer questions about a particular plant (including identification), control methods, and whatever else you can think of about invasive weed species. Questions pertaining to invasive species, requests for a color brochure on specific high priority species that we are currently focusing on (above), or information about our annual Weed Watcher training, please contact ISCP Program Manager Aaron Duzik at [aaron@lincolnswcd.org](mailto:aaron@lincolnswcd.org) or at 541-265-2631. To report an invasive species go to [www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org](http://www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org). Please check the Lincoln SWCD's website, [www.lincolnswcd.org](http://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.

Report Submitted by: Aaron Duzik



## MIDCOAST MONITORING SURVEY PROGRAM

The District's MidCoast monitoring survey program (MCMP) has been ongoing for the past 14 years. It is a multifaceted program 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 early component Chinook Spawning float surveys from September to mid October. Coho and Fall Chinook spawning ground surveys from late October to the end of January, and Steelhead/Lamprey Eel surveys from February to the end of May. In addition to surveys, the program also offers public educational outreach.

## AQUATIC HABITAT INVENTORIES

Aquatic Habitat Inventories (AQI) surveys provide baseline data for long-term monitoring of projects and effectiveness monitoring of projects by documenting pre and post project habitat conditions. Sites for AQI were chosen in a cooperative effort with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) and the MidCoast Watersheds Council (MCWC). Selected inventory sites were in locations that have proposed or completed restoration activities. In addition to collecting AQI data, District staff 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 at the Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) office and from ODFW where it is included in the ODFW database of the statewide Aquatic Inventory Project. AQI data is also entered into a Geographic Information System (GIS) database. Digitized copies of the raw data are filed with ODFW and are at the Lincoln SWCD office.

This year District staff conducted AQI work in two Basins. One was Beaver Creek (outlet at Ona Beach State park), and the other was the Yaquina Basin. The Oliver/Peterson Creek work was done at the request of the Mid Coast Watersheds Council and the local ODFW District. These partners wanted to know more about habitat conditions, accessibility, and limiting factors for anadromous fish in anticipation of in-stream improvement projects in the Beaver Creek Basin.

This past summer District staff conducted a post AQI on 23Creek and Cook Creek. A pre project AQI was completed in 2002 and a culvert replacement project was completed in 2005. In 2005, MCWC in cooperation with OWEB, ODFW & Simpson Timber (now Forest Capitol Partners) replaced four culverts on Cook Creek. Later, in stream logs were placed above the new culverts along with some riparian planting. The riparian plantings show good survival rates. The new culverts have provided access to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of stream that had been inaccessible to salmon for many years. The 2002 pre project survey revealed very few Coho juveniles in Cook Creek. The 2013 AQI showed young Coho all through the survey all the way to the natural limit of salmon passage. The Cook Creek log placements are clearly providing cover and spawning gravel for salmon.



Also in 2005, the MCWC completed a log placement project on 23 Creek along with some culvert work. Here are two photos, one showing a tributary culvert as it looked in the 2002 AQI, and then how it looked during the summer of 2013. Clearly, the 2002 culvert does not provide fish access. Notice how in the new culvert, fish can easily move through the system.



### Aquatic Habitat Surveys — Total miles inventoried = 7 Miles

#### Beaver Creek Ona Beach:

Oliver Creek	3.30 Miles
Peterson Creek	2.20 Miles

#### Yaquina Basin:

23 Creek/Cook Creek	1.50 Miles
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## SPAWNING GROUND SURVEYS

### Early Component Chinook Float Surveys

The Early Component Chinook Surveys on the Alsea and Siletz Rivers start in the last week of August. In the Alsea River, District staff floated four different reaches that total approximately 20 miles. And in the Siletz River, staff covered three reaches totaling approximately 20 miles. These surveys 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 the US-Canada fishery treaty negotiations.

Chinook surveys continue until the last week of October. At this time District staff switch over to Coho surveys and ODFW crews take over the Siletz drifts.



*Mark surveying from canoe & taking a scale sample*

## SPAWNING GROUND SURVEYS

### 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 Oregon Adult Salmonid Inventory and Sampling Project (OASIS) 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 is 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 2012 was the second highest in 14 years of surveying this stream.

In 2012 District staff conducted Coho surveys on 20 survey sites totaling about 20 miles. These were in the Yaquina, Siletz, Alsea, Yachats and Beaver Creek basins. Coho abundance in the Mid Coast area was 34161



## SPAWNING GROUND SURVEYS CONT.

### Coho, Chum Salmon & Fall Chinook Surveys Cont.

and was the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest coastal Environmentally Significant Unit (ESU) Coho population estimate since 2002. Coast wide there were 77,403 fish for the estimated Coho abundance for the Oregon Coast ESU. The results of 2012 Fall Chinook surveys in the Siletz River was an estimated escapement of 4,907 adult spawners. This was up from 2011 totals but was still well below the average of 8,476 from 1990 to 2012. Populations of Chinook in the Alsea River were also up from last year and were above the 12 year average of 17,826. Chinook escapements for the Yaquina were down from the previous year and below the 12 year average of 6,440.

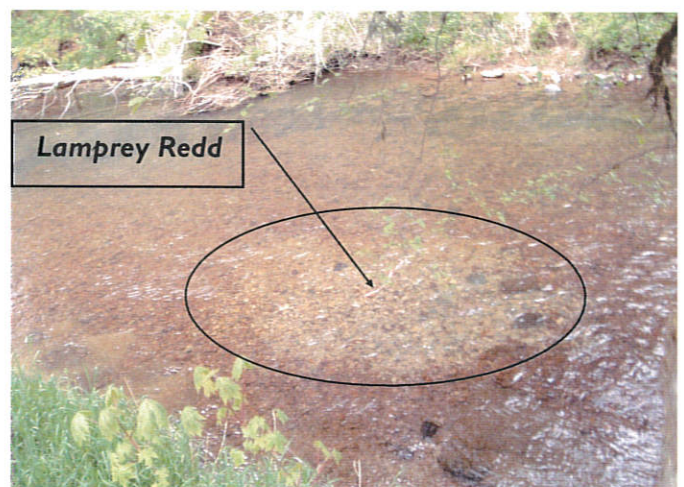
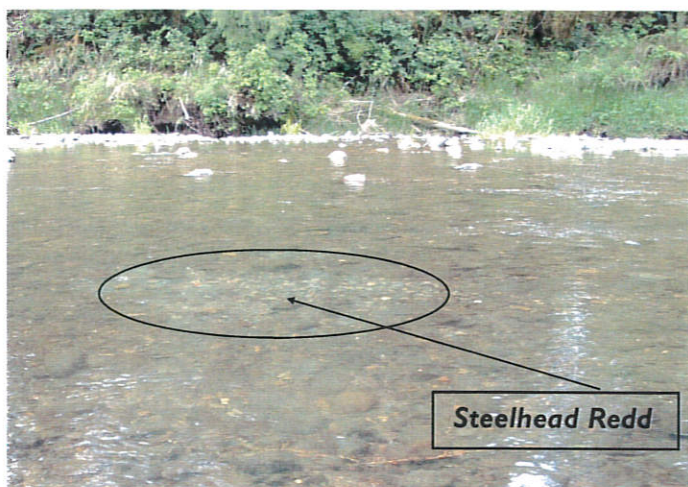
### Steelhead Spawning Surveys

The District staff started steelhead surveys at the beginning of February and surveyed until the end of May. The surveys were conducted every 10 to 14 days. With these surveys a redd (a fishes nest) count is more important than the actual number of fish observed. 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, redd counts are used in determining the number of adult steelhead. 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 no longer visible. The rock is then removed from the healed redd.

This year District staff surveyed 18 stream reaches covering 23.7 miles in 6 different basins. Of these, 16 were standard Steelhead surveys and 2 were Random. The number of Steelhead redds observed coast wide in 2013 were higher than in recent years. The run of wild Steelhead however was below average. The size of the wild run was determined by counts made at trap locations all over the Oregon coast.

The discrepancy between the redd counts and trap counts resulted from stream water levels being lower during this survey season. With lower waters, the viewing conditions for Steelhead surveys were at their best since the Steelhead surveys were started in 1999.

Lamprey Eels are also surveyed while surveying Steelhead. Lamprey usually start running about the middle of April and continues to the end of May. In 2012, spawning Lamprey started showing up in March (one month earlier than usual) and were still showing up in June. The Yachats River Basin had the highest lamprey numbers in surveys conducted by the District.





## MID-COAST MONITORING OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Before conducting any surveys, an extensive search is performed to contact and obtain permission from any landowners whose land District staff might cross during the completion of a survey. These permission request contacts offer an opportunity for staff to engage landowners in discussions about salmon habitat issues. This kind of interaction sometimes results in future habitat enhancement opportunities.

District staff acquires landowner contact information by looking up property tax lots using a GIS system. The landowner is personally contacted by District staff and verbal permission for access is requested. If there are many landowners on one side of the survey and one owner on the other, (possibly a timber company), staff will try to get all the smaller landowners possible and the one larger landowner, then the entire survey is covered on one side or the other. If one landowner owns both sides of the stream then District staff must get permission to go through, or else go around that segment so as not to trespass. On the Random surveys ODFW often times will make the property owner contacts and access requests.

When landowners are contacted, they are informed that any information gathered while conducting a survey on their land is part of the public record. District staff also asks if the landowner would like copies of the data or the results of any analysis of surveys that have been conducted.

Public outreach continues to be an important part of this program. District staff partner with agencies, Watershed Basin Planning Groups and local schools, providing watershed presentations and demonstrating watershed function with the stream table provided by the Lincoln SWCD. Staff frequently use 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. Our program staff assists with 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. Staff 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, the District staff provides an opportunity to answer questions and promote the importance of watershed restoration.

District staff often invites people to participate in the District process, and gives them information on who to contact for further information on restoration projects for their own property.



United States Department of Agriculture



During the summer of 2012 Jerry and Elizabeth Kosydar undertook a complex stream bank restoration project in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The project is located on the Siletz River, where site conditions complicate restoration efforts beyond commonly used methods. Deep silt soils and high volumes of water result in highly variable conditions that are often unstable and difficult to plan for. The presence of several sensitive species of fish and water quality concerns added extra dimensions.

The final project design was based on recommendations from Fisheries specialists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Funding for the project was provided by the Kosydar's, NRCS, MidCoast Watersheds Council,

and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The design included placement of 40 logs in eight structures, 30 logs placed individually, a roughened rock toe, and bank shaping followed by extensive grass, shrub, and tree planting. Beaver found the new plantings and cut many of the shrubs. High water flows came earlier than normal, but the structures held, the shrubs resprouted and the project is successful so far. Approximately 500' of river bank was treated, reducing erosion and the amount of sediment entering the river.



The USDA-NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Report Submitted by: Kate Danks



## 2012 ELECTIONS



During the November 2012 elections, we had 4 positions on the ballot. The following Directors were re-elected by the citizens of Lincoln County to serve on the District Board through 2016:

Ryan Gassner – Zone 2  
Wayne Hoffman – At Large I  
Rennie Ferris – Zone 5  
Wayne DeMoray – Zone 4

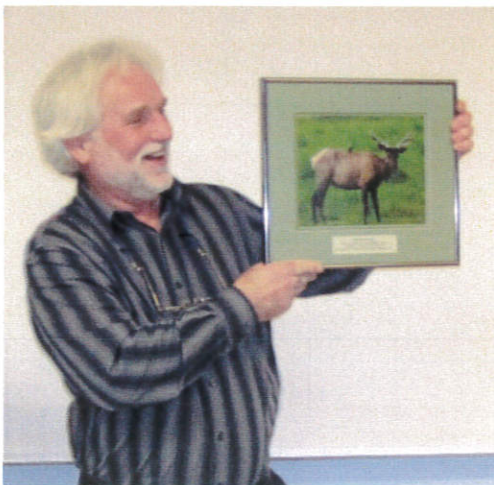
Thank you Jim Stafford, Director Zone I, for swearing in our re-elected Directors.

## 2012 SERVICE AWARD

**WAYNE DEMORAY**

**25 YEARS!**

**THANK YOU**



During Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District's 57<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, the Board and staff presented Wayne DeMoray with the Dedicated Service Award. Wayne has provided strong dedication and support to the District for the last 25 years.

Wayne has been very active with the Lincoln SWCD Board and has served in many capacities. He served as Chair of the Board for 6 years, Vice Chair for 1 year, Secretary for 3 years and Treasurer for 9 years. Serving on the Board, Wayne brings innovative ideas to the table and is a strong source of support for the staff as well as Lincoln County landowners.