

# LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 53RD ANNUAL REPORT 2007 – 2008

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

### INSIDE THIS YEARS REPORT:

<b>ELECTED OFFICIALS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>BIO-SURVEY REPORT</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REPORT</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FISHER PLANTING PROJECT</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>TMDL MONITORING REPORT</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>MIDCOAST WATESHEDS COUNIL REPORT</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>USDA/NRCS REPORT</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2008 - 2009 WORKPLAN</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2007 - 2008 AUDIT</b>	<b>11</b>

The year was marked by bold initiatives and changing faces. We were able to establish a nursery plant program to benefit coastal projects and localize plant production. The district benefited from a new watershed technical specialist and knotweed project manager and then we had unexpected turnover in both those positions. The public profile of the district is still not what it could be but it is improving with several news articles and a video production that was aired on television!

Stability should be our highest priority.

Financial stability would be a welcome change from the roller coaster of funding that challenges the district on a monthly basis. Not only a stable financial base but an enhanced level of funding would make it possible for the district to move forward into areas of conservation that we have been unable to work in due to limited personnel. With financial resources the district could fully fund a district manager to direct day-to-day operations and outreach to partners and the public.

The “climate” is changing in our favor. While most folks do not want to increase their tax liability, citizens want their environment to be healthy and protected. The time for action towards financial stability is now. The district can continue to lurch from one grant cycle to the next or it can take the appropriate action to gain financial security to do the work the citizens of our district expect.

The district has tremendous potential to influence the place that we live in. We need to harness that potential.

I salute those newly elected and reelected to the board and all those folks that are involved in making the work of the District successful. There is much more work to be done.

Robert vanCreveld, Chairman

# ELECTED OFFICIALS



ROBERT VANCREVELD  
CHAIRMAN  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE  
SINCE 1996



STERLING GRANT  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
DIRECTOR ZONE 3  
SINCE 1993



WAYNE DEMORAY  
TREASURER  
DIRECTOR ZONE 4  
SINCE 1987

A "District Director" is a person who has been elected or appointed to serve on a Conservation District Board. District Directors serve a four year term on a voluntary basis. Some customary duties of a District Director include but are not limited to the following:

- Directors are to keep informed of local conservation issues.
- Directors will promote the Districts work to local landowners.
- Directors will promote the Districts work to legislators and other decision makers regarding the District.
- Directors will work effectively with District staff and cooperating agencies.
- Directors will oversee that implementation of District programs is done effectively and efficiently.
- Directors will ensure that the Board's policies and activities are consistent with the policies of the Oregon Dept of Agriculture, Natural Resources Division and the Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

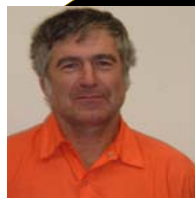
If you would like more information concerning the "Roles and Responsibilities" of District Directors, please refer to the Oregon Soil and Water Conservation District Guidebook by calling (541) 265-2631 or reviewing a copy in our office.



JOE STEENKOLK  
DIRECTOR ZONE 2  
SINCE 1990



RENNIE FERRIS  
DIRECTOR ZONE 5  
SINCE 1999



JIM STAFFORD  
DIRECTOR ZONE 1  
SINCE 2002



NED LENTZ  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE  
SINCE 2005

# B I O - S U R V E Y R E P O R T

## AQUATIC HABITAT INVENTORY (AQI'S)

Sites for Aquatic Habitat Inventory (AQI) were chosen in a cooperative effort with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Mid Coast Watersheds Council. Selected sites were in places that had proposed or completed restoration activities or in basins that are scheduled for Limiting Factors Analysis. AQI's were conducted from the beginning of June thru the end of August.

The three inventories conducted in the Upper Yaquina Sixth Field are new inventories associated with a Limiting Factors Analysis Study (OWEB Grant 207-152). Our AQI data collected for the Upper Yaquina Sixth Field Limiting Factors Assessment and Restoration Plan was supplied to Steve Trask, of Bio-Surveys, and Duane Higley, of Sialis Company, as well as to the Aquatic Habitat Inventory Project at ODFW. Mr. Trask and Mr. Higley are conducting the Limiting Factors Analysis on the Upper Yaquina for the Mid Coast Watersheds Council. The inventory on North Fork Schooner Creek is a post log project survey. The AQI in Reed Creek is part of a restoration effort in the New Carissa Marbled Murelet mitigation purchase deeded to the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians. It is a pre-log project AQI.

### Aquatic Habitat Inventory Sites (Total – 9.9 Miles):

#### Upper Yaquina Sixth Field:

Little Yaquina + Trib A – 1.0 Miles, Humphrey Creek + Trib A – 1.7 Miles, Buttermilk Creek + Trib A – 3.6 Miles

#### Siletz Basin:

North Fork Schooner Creek – 1.7 Miles, Reed Creek – 1.9 Miles

---

## SPAWNING SURVEYS

### Spring Chinook Spawning Surveys:

Spring Chinook Surveys on the Alsea and Siletz Rivers were started around the middle of September. This consisted of surveying approximately 20 miles of the Alsea River split up into four reaches and 14.5 miles on the Siletz River split into three reaches. The surveys were drifting surveys conducted every seven to ten days.

### Coho Spawning surveys:

ODFW gave us twenty different stream reaches to conduct Spawning Surveys on. These stream reaches were located in the basins of the Siletz, Salmon, Yaquina, Alsea and Yachats rivers and four Ocean Tributaries. In all, 18 miles of streams were surveyed once every 7 to 10 days. Extensive property owner research was done on each stream reach to ensure that all property owners were contacted before any survey was conducted. The crew uses all contacts with property owners as a chance to discuss restoration opportunities and watershed issues.

---

## STEELHEAD SPAWNING SURVEYS

Twenty stream reaches were surveyed once every 10 to 14 days. In all, 25 miles of streams were surveyed in the basins of the Alsea, Siletz, Salmon, and Yachats Rivers as well as two Ocean tributaries.

---

## EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Personnel talked about watershed issues and restoration potential with numerous property owners during contacts for permission for access to lands for various survey and monitoring activities.

The Bio-Survey crew operated a booth at the Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC) Sea Fest Fair in June 2008. The LSWCD Stream Table was the main attraction where watershed function and stewardship was presented and discussed with visitors. People from all over the United States and several foreign countries visited the booth.

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REPORT

During the 2007-2008 year, the District continued to promote voluntary action to resolve local natural resource concerns by bringing federal, state, and private foundation dollars to Lincoln County to provide financial assistance and resources to landowners. Our technical staff provided information and assistance to design and implement conservation projects, and to educate landowners about water quality, best management practices and available cost-share and incentives programs.

LSWCD coordinated efforts and cooperated with private landowners, and with local, state, and federal agencies to achieve our 2007-2008 goals. These goals included: informing agricultural/rural landowners about water quality standards and assisting them in project planning and implementing. We also spend time developing funding mechanisms for past water quality projects identified as being in need of modification, enhancement or expansion to further efforts of achieving intended agricultural water quality benefits.

---

## The various strategies used to accomplish these goals were:

- Assist landowners to protect and restore riparian areas and wetlands; improve crop, pasture, and forest lands; and manage wildlife habitat.
- Increase community awareness through educational programs, demonstration projects, tours, workshops, special events, publications, and one-on-one consultations.
- Suggest methods to manage livestock and manure which will reduce costs and protect land and water quality. Conduct follow-up site visits and evaluations of previous projects on agricultural lands in Lincoln County.

---

## 2007 – 2008 Program Highlights

- LSWCD secured funding through a DEQ non-point source 319 grant to implement the "Rain Garden" demonstration project at a Lincoln City park.
- LSWCD established the Conservation Nursery Cooperative to provide native trees and shrubs to local restoration projects.
- LSWCD participated in the 6th annual Sea Fest Celebration hosted by Hatfield Marine Science Center.
- LSWCD got a new and improved website!

---

## 2007 – 2008 Project Accomplishments

- Trees and shrubs provided for restoration: 8175
- On-site evaluations: 52
- Bank stabilization: 1580 feet
- Landowners assisted: 57
- Workshops: 1
- Presentations: 3
- School Visits: 9 (reaching 198 students)
- Water quality projects: 11
- Grant applications: 7
- Fact sheets distributed: 59
- Newspaper articles: 4
- Displays: 1 (reaching 500 visitors)



# F I S H E R P L A N T I N G P R O J E C T

Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District completed their “Fishing for Trees” project this year. The project began in March 2007 and successfully employed 6 displaced fishermen who were registered with the Oregon Salmon Commission. All work performed focused on improving the intrinsic habitat for Coho salmon in accordance with The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The primary funding was made possible by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) with additional funding and/or services provided by Lincoln SWCD, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, Oregon Department of Agriculture, MidCoast Watersheds Council, and the US Forest Service. The OWEB funds received for the project were provided by the 2006 Salmon State of Emergency grant program.

With riparian planting as the focus, the fishermen worked with 13 private landowners and planted over 4,400 trees and shrubs. In addition to the private landowners, the fishermen worked with US Forest Service and planted over 3,400 trees on Forest Service property.

In total, over 14 linear miles of streams were planted and to increase the survival rate for the trees, a large portion of the 7,800 trees received wire protective fencing (as seen in the photo below).

In addition to riparian planting, the fishermen helped cleanup Forest Service lands by removing an old homestead, 21 ineffective culverts and the removal of several dump sites.

*Report Submitted by: Tanya Jorgenson, District Manager*

---

## Sample Planting Site





# INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM

Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District completed its fourth knotweed season in September 2007. The programs current focus is on controlling the spread of Japanese knotweed, Himalayan knotweed, and Giant knotweed, all of which reside on the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed List.

Funding for the Invasive Species Control Program is provided by Lincoln SWCD, US Forest Service and the US Bureau of Land Management.

June 4, 2007 marked the beginning of the fourth knotweed control season. With the help of two field technicians, Paul Anherter and Billy Wilson, who spent their summer treating knotweed throughout Lincoln County, as well as informing and educating the public about the spread of knotweed.

Educational outreach was achieved by large mailings, pamphlets, attending the local Farmers Market, press releases and having a spotlight on the Cable Network TLCTV "Around Lincoln County" program.

Treatment this season primarily focused on the Salmon River as well as the Yachats River. Some sites were treated on the Alsea and Yaquina River as well.

Throughout the season, additional funding was sought to continue the program into the 2008.

*Report Submitted by: Tanya Jorgenson, District Manager*



# TMDL MONITORING REPORT

(TMDL—TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD)

Spatial and temporal sampling for fecal coliform, E. coli, dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity and turbidity was completed in the Alsea and Siuslaw watersheds in March 2008. Sampling for all parameters except fecal coliform was completed in the Yachats, Salmon, Siletz, Yaquina, and Big Elk watersheds in June 2008. Sampling events for dissolved oxygen by DEQ laboratory staff were completed in the Yaquina watershed in May 2008. Sampling for fecal coliform in the Mid Coast Basin estuaries was also completed in May 2008 by DEQ laboratory staff and local water quality monitoring groups.

In early December 2007, a three-day sampling of water quality parameters listed above was conducted during a major storm event in the Mid Coast Basin. Samples and stream discharge were recorded in the Salmon, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Yachats and Siuslaw watersheds.

A Stream Pro Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler was purchased by the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District at the end of 2007. Since that time, DEQ and District staff have received training and began gathering stream discharge information for developing ratings curves and dissolved oxygen loading curves for 303(d) listed streams.

Continuous temperature data collected in 2006 and 2007 in the Mid Coast Basin was entered into the Continuous Audit Format and submitted to the DEQ Laboratory for entry into the LASAR database. This data supplements the TMDL Heat Source model calibration data that was collected throughout the basin in 2005.



The Mid Coast Basin Water Quality web site (<http://www.midcoastpartners.org/main.html>) was expanded to include more information about the TMDL process. A summary of all water quality data collected since 2006 was posted on the main page of the site and is available to the public for download as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

In addition to monitoring, Lincoln SWCD assisted a number of landowners in correcting significant water quality limiting conditions identified through the analysis of the monitoring results. During the current year, ten new project were developed and seven of those were completed.



# MIDCOAST WATERSHEDS COUNCIL

In the 2007-2008 year the MidCoast Watersheds Council implemented major in stream restoration projects on North Fork Beaver Creek, Elkhorn Creek, Horse Creek, Preacher Creek, Lobster Creek, and Little Lobster Creek. These were helicopter projects placing large logs into the creeks to build log jams and restore in stream function. The Preacher Creek and Lobster Creek projects also included passage improvements, a large culvert replacement and a trash rack removal, respectively. We also completed a phase of the ongoing Lint Slough restoration, removing two concrete structures and much of the berm separating the slough from the adjacent bypass canal.

We continue to work very closely with our many partners, particularly the Lincoln SWCD, OWEB, ODFW, USFS, ODF, and USDA/NRCS. Lincoln SWCD staff work closely with the Council on a day-to-day basis. Over the past decade, the Council and SWCD have been very successful at working complementarily, avoiding competition over project opportunities. Currently, the Watersheds Council is concentrating more on in stream restoration, passage improvement, and estuarine restoration, and the SWCD, on agricultural water quality improvement and riparian restoration.

*Report Submitted by: Wayne Hoffman, Coordinator*





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

Under the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**, an incentive program authorized under the Farm Bill, one contract was funded in Lincoln County after selection in the 2007-08 year. Implementation of conservation practices began on this contract and continued on six others, affecting almost 300 acres of agricultural land. The program goals are improvement of water quality for the benefit of humans, fish, and wildlife, prevention of soil erosion, and management improvements. This year, the NRCS provided project planning and funding totaling \$170,000 in cost share assistance.

One new contract was established in Lincoln County this year in the **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**. The project established a wildlife buffer on five acres of land in the Siletz River Watershed. Other projects, from previous years, were maintained and continued to be managed to benefit wildlife habitat and water quality improvement.

*Report Submitted by: Kate Danks, NRCS*



**Before treatment of heavy use area**



**After treatment—surfacing with rock**

# 2008–2009 WORKPLAN

## **DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

- Objective:** Administer District Operations
- Primary Goal:** Effectively and Efficiently Operate the District
- Current Funding:** Oregon Department of Agriculture, Admin Funds from various grants, Financial Contract with the MidCoast Watersheds Council, Rents received from Oregon Dept of Agriculture, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and MCWC

## **LANDOWNER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

- Objective:** Provide Conservation Planning, Technical and Financial Assistance to Landowners and Operators
- Primary Goal:** Provide Assistance to Help landowners/Operators plan and implement Conservation Endeavors
- Current Funding:** Oregon Department of Agriculture

## **MIDCOAST EVALUATION PROGRAM**

- Objective:** Implement Programs that Assist Constituents with Natural Resource Concerns
- Primary Goal:** Collect Data to Monitor the Benefits of Projects that have Previously Been Completed
- Current Funding:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

## **COMMUNITY-BASED WATER QUALITY STANDARDS PROGRAM**

- Objective:** Coordinate Collection, Analysis, and Assembly of Data for the Development of Temperature, Bacteria and Dissolved Oxygen TMDLs. Demonstrate Best Management Practices to Improve Water Quality
- Primary Goal:** Provide Data to DEQ Staff for TMDL Development and Technical/Financial Assistance to Landowners for Ameliorating Water Quality-limiting Conditions
- Current Funding:** Oregon Department of Environmental Quality 319 Program (DEQ)

## **FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

- Objective:** Implement Programs that Assist Constituents with Natural Resource Concerns
- Primary Goal:** Provide Assistance to Help Landowners/Operators get Conservation on the Ground
- Current Funding:** United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

## **INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM**

- Objective:** Implement Programs that Assist Constituents with Natural Resource Concerns
- Primary Goal:** Assist Landowners in Targeted Areas with Identification and Eradication of Invasive Species
- Current Funding:** US Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service

# 2007 - 2008 AUDIT

**PREPARED BY: RITACCO AND WILDER, P.C.**

All Funds  
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures  
As of June 30, 2008

**Revenues:**

Grant Income	\$425,547
Administrative Income	36,729
Rent Income	15,412
Contract Revenue	19,100
Interest	62
Nursery Sales	20,601
Donations	1,082
Other Revenues	<u>5,250</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$523,783</b>

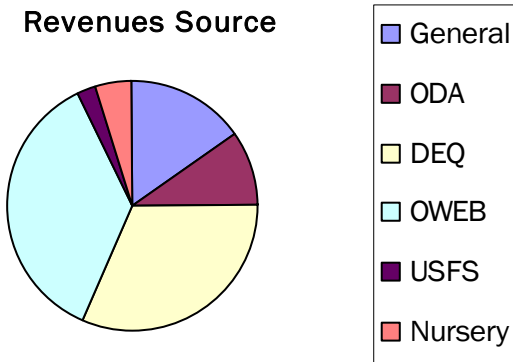
**Expenditures:**

Personal Services	\$287,222
Grant Project Cost	33,945
Administration Expense	36,729
Office Rent	30,736
Contract Services	39,200
Travel and Conferences	27,744
Utilities and Telephone	6,169
Office Expenses	3,960
Nursery Costs	15,867
Capitol Outlay	22,111
Other Expenses	<u>12,697</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$516,380</b>

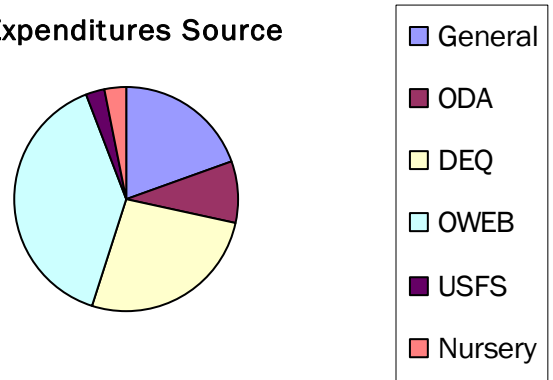
Fund Balance—7-1-07                      \$ 7,840

Fund Balance—6-30-08                      \$ 15,243

**Revenues Source**



**Expenditures Source**



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.



### Mission Statement

The purpose of Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District is to improve and conserve 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.

### Vision Statement

The Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District will be recognized and respected in the community by the public and other local agencies. The District will have an effectively trained staff that is knowledgeable about local resource concerns and is courteous and respectful in providing natural resource services and information. The District will also be known as a place in the community where people can turn with their natural resource concerns and know that their voices will be heard. The District will continue to be financially sound and able to offer support to landowners who are conserving, enhancing, and restoring our natural resources.

### Values and Guiding Principles

The following values and guiding principles direct the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District in how it conducts business, relates to customers, and interacts with the public. The Lincoln SWCD will:

- Address natural resource concerns with landowners in a timely manner.
- Design and implement projects that are consistent with our mission and vision.
- Provide information, technical assistance, and incentives so landowners will meet natural resource goals.
- Work on a voluntary basis with landowners.
- Be accountable in all decisions made concerning the district.
- Be respectful of private property rights and the decisions of landowners.
- Maintain professional interactions with other agencies and the community.

#### **Location:**

23 North Coast Highway  
Newport, Oregon 97365

**Phone:** 541-265-2631

**Fax:** 541-265-9351

**Email:** [Lincolnswcd@midcoastpartners.org](mailto:Lincolnswcd@midcoastpartners.org)

**Web Site:** [www.midcoastpartners.org](http://www.midcoastpartners.org)

#### **Meetings:**

2nd Thursday of the  
month. 7:00PM