



COAST FORK  
WILLAMETTE  
*Watershed Council*

## Biennial Report 2007 – 2008

### From the Coordinator

*By Pam Reber*

In the 2007 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Support Grant Ranking, the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council was identified as the “most improved watershed council” in the State of Oregon. Prior to 2005, the Council conducted outreach and an assessment of the Lower Coast Fork, but had not brought any projects online. Since then, a group of committed volunteers and staff recreated the Council into a vibrant, visible, and growing entity with six funded projects, two funded landowner outreach programs, an education program in four Cottage Grove schools, and a joint water quality-monitoring program.

Organizationally, we operated with one full-time Coordinator/Project Manager until last month when we added a half-time Outreach and Administrative Specialist. Governance is conducted by the Steering Committee which meets monthly and is assisted by recommendations from two other standing committees: the Education/Outreach Committee and Technical Committee. Many committee members are representatives from partner organizations, as partnerships are at the heart of our work.

The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council is a grassroots effort. We welcome everyone with an interest in the watershed to get involved. However, you just may find yourself up to your knees in the creek or wading through a thicket of blackberries before you know it!

### From the Steering Committee

After conducting an informal survey of our Council members, two central topics emerged as the main reasons to work with the Watershed Council. One is *access to natural resource information*. If you manage property, you are likely to contend with invasive plants, erosion, or maybe the risk of flooding. Our members reported receiving good information from trained professionals that deal daily with land-use issues. Included within our steering committee and technical committee are botanists, fish biologists, and wildlife managers, along with forestry and wetland professionals. The second reason is a *desire to participate in a local organization committed to improving watershed health*. People stated that the Council was an important mechanism to teach about and lead the way towards restoration.

**Please consider joining us. We are open to all who have a stake or interest in the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed.**

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Coast Fork Willamette  
Watershed Council

**“... the most improved  
watershed council ...”  
in the State of Oregon!**

2007 OWEB  
Support Grant Ranking

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## Coast Fork Watershed Council Overview



**Garden Lake Park: The UO Softball Team helps with mulching, with a Council-installed kiosk.**

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### Mission:

*The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council serves to improve water quality and watershed conditions in the Coast Fork Willamette river basin through education, coordination, consultation, and cooperation among all interests, using the collective wisdom and voluntary action of our community members.*

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**Friends of Mosby Creek Picnic**

### Watershed Restoration

- Garden Lake Park Riparian Restoration Project
- East Regional Park Enhancement Project
- Small Grants:
  - Ogsbury Riparian Restoration
  - STREAM Program Phase I
  - Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, Riparian and Riverine Restoration
  - Priory Farm Restoration Project
  - Upper Willamette Small Grant Team Management

### Education / Outreach

- Partnerships
  - Mosby Creek
  - Floodplain Restoration Feasibility Study
- STREAM Education Program
- Monthly Public Meetings and Tours

### Water Quality

- Coordinating with local agencies on policy and action
- Partnership: two-year Water Quality Monitoring Program
- Water Quality education in schools

## Watershed Restoration

The primary purpose of the Watershed Council is to implement restoration projects. During this biennium, the Council conducted 11 acres of vegetation enhancement at Garden Lake Park, where our efforts are being built upon by a City of Creswell Youth Legacy grant to install interpretive signage and a pavilion, in addition to bridges being built by the Ford Family Leadership Class. A parallel project in Cottage Grove is funded and underway to enhance 42 acres of floodplain and riparian forest at East Regional Park. We are hopeful that these partnerships will allow our key communities to build trust in the work of the Council.

The Coordinator acts as lead for the Upper Willamette Small Grant team to implement a \$100k budget. A small grant is one costing under \$10k. To date, 4 funded projects have been brought online in the Coast Fork. These address riparian health (three) and Western pond turtle habitat (one). The STREAM project is conducted in part by students involved with our watershed education program in Cottage Grove. In addition, Kennedy Conservation Corps students have been out working on all three riparian sites! **Contact us today for a site visit to see if your property qualifies for this program!**

The Coast Fork Technical Committee reviews projects, assists with site visits and project development in accordance with the Council 2007 Action Plan, and guides restoration planning efforts conducted by staff. This group of 8 to 12 volunteer technical specialists meets about eight times per year and provides expertise in GIS mapping, fisheries, wildlife biology, wetlands, and restoration. The Council emphasizes restoration on private lands, yet continues to garner the technical support of federal partners such as the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

## Education / Outreach

The Coast Fork Education/Outreach Committee co-coordinates our monthly public meetings and guides the development of our Education/Outreach Strategy. In 2006, the Council brought 4 Cottage Grove schools together with a local nonprofit partner,

Walama Restoration Project, to spawn the STREAM education program: Students Trained in River Enhancement, Assessment, and Monitoring. Over 150 Cottage Grove students benefited from water quality and riparian health curriculum during the 2007-08 school year. This program is expanding into water quality monitoring during the 2008-09 school year. This partnership, led and funded by Walama Restoration Project, allows teachers to integrate the landscape into their teaching platform and offers improved opportunities for students with a kinesthetic learning style.

Partnerships like this are at the heart of our work. This biennium, our partnership efforts are facilitating improved monitoring (water quality, flow, and other hydrologic data), outreach, floodplain project design with the Corps of Engineers Floodplain Restoration Feasibility Study, and the STREAM watershed education program. **Thank you to all our partners and a special thanks to our Council members and volunteers who continue to be visionary, diligent, and incredibly patient in working toward our common goal of improved watershed health.** Here is an example of one of our partnerships.

### *Mosby Creek Aquatic and Riparian Restoration Planning*

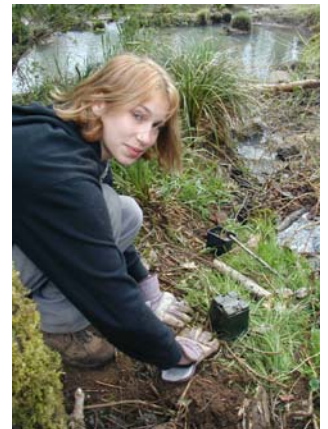
Mosby Creek is the one free-flowing (undammed) tributary in the Coast Fork that is suitable for spring Chinook spawning. Although not an established run, deep pools and its rural character make it a great tributary for cutthroat trout, lamprey, mussels, otters, and other native wildlife. In 2007, the Coast Fork Council was invited to join a partnership between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Weyerhaeuser. That same year, we co-hosted the kickoff of the *Friends of Mosby Creek* group at a picnic.

Weyerhaeuser owns the upper two-thirds of this high-priority tributary. The vision is to restore the aquatic habitat in this bedrock-dominated system. To begin, we jointly secured an OWEB grant to conduct a stream survey on the main stem of Mosby Creek. This work was conducted in summer 2008 by ODFW's research wing from Corvallis. Results will be integrated into flow and cross-section data that is being taken of the upper main stem of Mosby Creek by our partners.

*Friends of Mosby Creek* continues to hold an annual picnic and winter "Restoration Partners" meetings. Funding to conduct site visits and project planning with local landowners was secured jointly in October 2008. Many neighbors have already come together with a common vision of improved watershed health. We look forward to building a long-term partnership to ensure that this vision becomes reality.

### **Water Quality**

In 2007, the Coast Fork Council worked with Lane Council of Governments, the Department of Environmental Quality, three other watershed councils and three municipalities to address impacts to water quality in the Upper Willamette. This partnership resulted in greater collaboration to address water quality through strengthened municipal plans. In addition to conducting two tree plantings and co-coordinating the annual SOLV "Down by the Riverside" event with Cottage Grove, the Coast Fork Council jointly secured funds for a two-year water quality monitoring program with 15 sites in our watershed.



**STREAM Education Project**

### **Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council**

**Steering Committee:** Allen Martin–*Chair*, Brian Forge–*Vice Chair*, Larry Weaver–*Treasurer*, Alison Center, Dave Cunningham, Deb Schmidt

**Education/Outreach Committee:** Pam Reber–*Chair*, Stefan Aumack, Eric Cullander, Gail Hemsoth, John Hogan, Donna Long, Deb Schmidt, Stephanie Schroeder, Tami Schroeder, Beverly Wilson

**Technical Committee:** Laurie Bernstein and Alison Center–*Co-chairs*, Dave Cunningham, Bob Danehy, Daniel Evans, Brian Forge, Doug Garletts, Julie Knurowski, Erik Moberly, Jim Mough, Jim Reed, Larry Weaver, Pamela Wright

28 S. Sixth St. Suite A ▪ Cottage Grove, OR 97424 ▪ (541) 767-9717 ▪ [www.coastfork.org](http://www.coastfork.org)  
 Coordinator/Project Manager: Pam Reber [coastfork@willamette.net](mailto:coastfork@willamette.net) ▪ Outreach/Administrative Specialist: Jerina Page

## Financial Report

**Fiscal Manager: McKenzie Watershed Alliance**

**Treasurer: Larry Weaver**

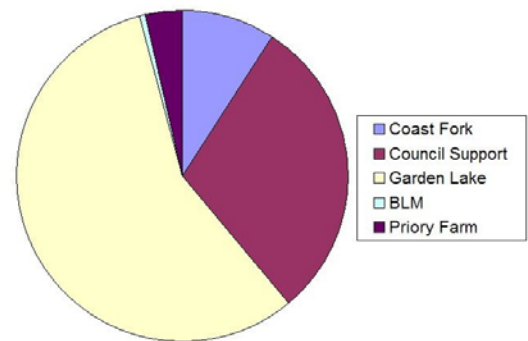
During the first fiscal year (July 2007 - June 2008) of this biennium, the Council implemented total funds of just over \$85,500.

Our emphasis has been on strengthening our capacity to develop and implement projects with traditional restoration grants. In order to lay the most sustainable long-term groundwork, the Council spent this year bringing our first major projects online and positioning us to be both efficient and independent financially. The risk-averse guidance of our Steering Committee and proficient fiscal management of the McKenzie Watershed Alliance provide outstanding oversight.

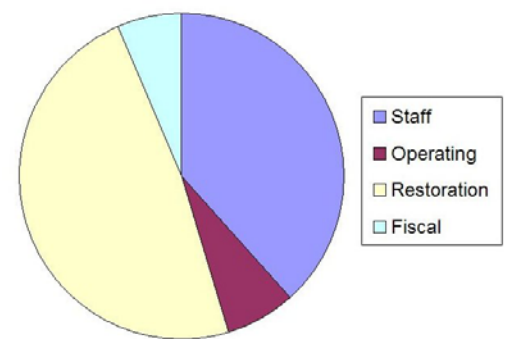
Growth of the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council is at a critical juncture. Secured grant funding provides an anticipated budget of \$179,000 for the period July 2008-June 2009. This budget provides for the coordinator position and the addition of a half-time outreach/administrative position, as well as contracted services, supplies, and project design for all of our projects.

This year will see us expanding our work in East Regional Park in Cottage Grove, completing our restoration efforts at Garden Lake Park in Creswell, completing the Mosby Creek Aquatic Inventory, and conducting landowner outreach in both the Lower Coast Fork floodplain and Mosby Creek.

Revenue 7/2007 - 6/2008



Grant Expenditures 7/2007 - 6/2008



## Partners - Volunteers - Donors Thank You!

**Aprovecho Research Center** ▪ **Artist:** Tony Willey ▪ **Axe & Fiddle/Backstage Bakery** ▪ **Book Donors:** Jan Ogsbury, Old Mill Feed Store ▪ **Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eugene District:** Diana Bus ▪ **Camas Educational Network:** Jason Blazar ▪ **City of Coburg:** Jack Harris ▪ **City of Cottage Grove:** Amanda Ferguson, Tom Munroe, Jessica Taylor, Jan Wellman ▪ **City of Creswell:** Layli Nichols, Roy Sprout, Mark Shrives ▪ **City of Eugene:** Matt McRae, Lauri Mullen ▪ **Coast Range Association:** Chuck Willer ▪ **Computer Monitor Donor:** Deb Schmidt ▪ **Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce:** Mark Bass, Kristen Sanger ▪ **Cottage Grove Community Foundation:** Frank Simpson ▪ **Cottage Grove High School:** Eric Cullander ▪ **Cottage Grove Sentinel:** Jon Stinnett ▪ **Creswell Bass Club:** Christopher 'Doogie' Douglas ▪ **Creswell Chronicle:** Helen Hollyer ▪ **Creswell High School:** Anne O'Connell ▪ **Creswell Kiwanis:** Shawn Hittenburger ▪ **Creswell Historical Society:** Marge Williamson ▪ **Creswell Parks Committee:** Sheila Hale ▪ **Fern Hill Nursery:** Devon Bonady ▪ **Ford Family Leadership Program** ▪ **Forest Web:** Sue Gabriel, Cristina Hubbard, Janine Nilsen ▪ **Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah:** Chris Orsinger, Val Rogers ▪ **Friends of Garden Lake:** Larry Weaver ▪ **GeoResources:** Allen Martin ▪ **Kennedy Alternative High School:** Tom Horn, Vickie Costello ▪ **Kennedy Conservation Corps:** Stefan Aumack, Matthew Hall ▪ **Lane Community College:** Gail Hemsoth, Dave Fors ▪ **Lane Council of Governments:** Denise Kalakay ▪ **Lane County Waste Management:** Patti Hansen, Don Strunk ▪ **Lincoln Middle School:** Beverly Wilson ▪ **Long Tom Watershed Council:** Dana Erikson, Cindy Thieman ▪ **Madrona Consulting:** Aryana Ferguson ▪ **McKenzie Watershed Council/Alliance:** Larry Six, Amanda Wilson, Jared Weybright ▪ **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council:** Eve Montanaro, Chuck Davis ▪ **Mike Johnson Tax Consultant** ▪ **Mt. Pisgah Arboretum:** Brad Van Appel, Tom LoCascio ▪ **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** ▪ **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):** Lance Krusick ▪ **The Nature Conservancy:** Leslie Bach ▪ **Network of Oregon Watershed Councils:** John Moriarity, Ben Lubbers, Althea Gallman ▪ **Northwest Youth Corps** ▪ **Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ):** Pamela Wright, Jared Rubin, Steve Hanson ▪ **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW):** Erik Moberly, Jeff Ziller, Chris Yee ▪ **Oregon Invasive Species Council:** Sam Chan ▪ **Oregon State Parks:** Kees Ruus ▪ **Oregon State University (OSU):** Stan Gregory, Pete Klingeman ▪ **OSU Extension:** Melissa Fery ▪ **OSU Sea Grant:** Sam Chan, Tania Siemens ▪ **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB):** Wendy Hudson, Leilani Stevens ▪ **Portland State University River Restoration Field Institute:** Janine Castro, Dick Dewey ▪ **The River Network** ▪ **TreeTops Web Design:** Don Loeffler ▪ **University of Oregon Environmental Leadership Program:** Steve Mital, Kirsten Rudestam ▪ **Upper Willamette Cooperative Weed Management Area:** Vern Holm, Glenn Miller ▪ **Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District:** Dave Downing, Issac Holowitz, Mary Pishioneri, Paul Reed ▪ **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE):** Dustin Bengtson, Doug Garletts, Tami Schroeder, Chris Budai, Matt Rea ▪ **U.S. Forest Service, Umpqua National Forest:** Deborah Schmidt, Laurie Bernstein, Rob Cox ▪ **Walama Restoration Project:** Stephanie Schroeder, Yotokko Kilpatrick ▪ **Weyerhaeuser Corporation:** Bob Danehy, Peter James ▪ **Willamette River Keeper:** Travis Williams