



ENHANCING THE
COAST FORK WILLAMETTE
WATERSHED THROUGH
RESTORATION, MONITORING,
EDUCATION, & STEWARDSHIP.

MONTHLY ENEWS
SEPTEMBER
2025

COAST FORK WILLAMETTE WATERSHED COUNCIL

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WATERSHED ANNOUNCEMENTS

YCC 2025 Season Recap

This year's YCC season has come to a close, and what a season we had! We are so grateful for 2025's amazing crew and our partners that helped make this year such a success.



Maintenance of riparian plantings along the Coast Fork Willamette in Cottage Grove

From park and trail maintenance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Forest Service, to fish salvage operations as part of the McKenzie Watershed Council's Quartz Creek Floodplain Enhancement, our Youth Crew got things done!



Quartz Creek Flood Plain Enhancement Fish Salvage

Whether it was hot or wet or both they did it all with enthusiasm and amazingly positive energy, and we just can't say enough good things about these young folks.



Jed Jumps for Joy

Crew member Jed Reeser recounted what he thought was the best part of the YCC experience. “Being able to see the actual impact made with each fish caught up at Quartz Creek was a motivational feeling. Being any percentage of such a big and wonderful project is quite inspiring.”

Connor Solomon enjoyed working at so many different places throughout the season. "Fish salvage was a highlight," he said, "because it aligns with what I want to do, and meeting the people who do it."

Evan Bunce talked about his favorite thing from this year's crew being the time with his fellow crewmembers. "Hearing everyone's stories and advice was really inspiring and heartwarming."

Elko Keller joined us late in the season, but he jumped right in with great enthusiasm. "My favorite spot we worked was at Dale and Ernie (Smith's). The garden on their property was super beautiful."

Kamdin Ormes most enjoyed meeting and getting to know new people and seeing the work he did make a difference, from watering plants and seeing them "grow and come back from dying" to clearing and cleaning trails and properties of invasives and storm damage. Kamdin added that he "loved just being here."



The crew helps at Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad Community Garden in Cottage Grove

We loved having the crew here too! Thanks for an excellent season,
and cheers to the next.

If you or a young person in your life would like to get in on these
experiences, make sure to look out for our open application window
next spring!

September Volunteer Event – Saturday 9/27

Volunteer Events are Back – Join Us for a Planting Party!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 27th, from 10 AM to 1 PM, at Row River Nature Park's Pollinator Garden. We warmly invite you to join us in enhancing the garden by planting native species, including red flowering currant, tall Oregon grape, Columbian larkspur, and more!



Parking is located along Row River Road.

Tools and gloves will be provided. No prior experience is necessary.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Science On Tap Is Back - 9/23

Join us as we welcome back the marvelous Martyne Reesman, Fisheries Biologist at ODFW, for September's Science on Tap Event, "Chinook Salmon: There and Back Again, a Spawning Salmon's Journey".



The poster features a large, detailed illustration of a Chinook salmon swimming in clear water. In the top left corner is the logo for the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, which includes a circular emblem with a fish, a tree, and a sun, surrounded by the text "COAST FORK WILLAMETTE WATERSHED COUNCIL". Overlaid on the salmon illustration is a dark purple banner with the words "SCIENCE ON TAP!" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the banner, the title "CHINOOK SALMON THERE AND BACK AGAIN, A SPAWNING SALMON'S JOURNEY" is written in bold, dark brown capital letters. Underneath the title, it says "With ODFW Fisheries Biologist, Martyne Reesman." in a smaller, dark brown font. To the right of the title, there are two circular inset images: one showing a DNA double helix and the other showing a person in a brown jacket and hat holding a small fish. Below these, a dark green box contains event details: "4th TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH 5PM - 7PM", "AXE & FIDDLE PUBLIC HOUSE - 657 E Main St, Cottage Grove", and "FREE ENTRY - 10% of food & drink sales to benefit the CFWWC!". At the bottom right, a dark purple box with a white splash graphic contains the date and time: "SEPTEMBER 23 5-7 PM". At the bottom of the poster, there is a dark purple bar with white icons and text for social media and contact information: a website icon for "www.coastfork.org", a phone icon for "541-767-9717", a Facebook icon for "Facebook.com/coastfork", an Instagram icon for "Instagram.com/coastfork", and a YouTube icon for "Youtube.com/@CFWWC".

**CHINOOK SALMON
THERE AND BACK AGAIN,
A SPAWNING SALMON'S
JOURNEY**

With ODFW Fisheries Biologist,
Martyne Reesman.

4th TUESDAY OF
EVERY MONTH
5PM - 7PM

AXE & FIDDLE PUBLIC
HOUSE - 657 E Main St,
Cottage Grove

FREE ENTRY - 10% of
food & drink sales to
benefit the CFWWC!

**SEPTEMBER 23
5-7 PM**

www.coastfork.org 541-767-9717 Facebook.com/coastfork
Instagram.com/coastfork Youtube.com/@CFWWC

We host these family-friendly events on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 5-7pm at the Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St. in Cottage Grove. Events begin with informal socializing, trivia, and updates about the watershed and watershed council. The Science on Tap presentation begins at 6pm.

The event is free to the public, with a \$5 donation suggested.

ALSO:

Just a reminder that thanks to the generous efforts of the talented Jim Lockhart, you can revisit past presentations or catch up if you weren't able to make it in person.

Our Science on Tap event presentations available to watch over on our [You Tube page](#).

Your Favorite Year-End Celebration is Almost Here Join us for the 2025 Winter Watershed Soirée!

Each year us CFWWC folks look forward to properly saying thank you to all of you that helped us make the year a success.



Please join us at Coast Fork Brewing in Cottage Grove on Friday, December 5th from 6-9pm for our 15th annual celebration. Use discount code "EARLYBIRD" to receive \$10 off tickets now through September 30th!

NEWS & UPDATES

Mosby Creek Update - If You Build It, They Will Come



During construction, turtles were seen along the silt curtains at the Mosby Creek project site

We're just wrapping up construction at the project site and getting ready to start planting as soon as the weather allows, but the Northwestern Pond Turtles don't know we're not finished yet - they've already begun to call this place home!



Even with the low water, turtles have begun to bask on these logs – but they're too quick for us to photograph (so far!

We are always excited to see these native turtles in the wild, but it is particularly poignant to see them using the ponds we've only just finished digging. This restoration effort in the Mosby Creek subbasin seeks to reverse decades of habitat simplification resulting from historic land management practices. This undammed system offers a rare opportunity to restore floodplain and instream connectivity, benefiting Northwestern pond turtles (a BLM Priority Species of Conservation Concern, petitioned for ESA listing) and other aquatic species.



Burlap will help to control erosion until new plantings are well established

The next step is planting. We're preparing a vast array of carefully selected palustrine plants, from floating forbes and emergent sedges and rushes, to native grasses, shrubs, trees, and more. We'll be busy this fall planting and seeding the site.

Prescribed Burns – Likely Coming Soon to Land Near You

CFWWC is hoping to implement a prescribed burn this fall at Native Oaks Ridge outside Cottage Grove.

While we're still in the midst of another fire season here in the Upper Willamette Valley prescribed fire can be a touchy subject, but this is a perfect time to talk about this important tool in our restoration and conservation toolkit.



Photo credit: Willamette Valley Fire Collaboration

First off, most of you probably know that this land was shaped by intentional fire for countless generations.

Less than 200 years ago, the Willamette Valley was home to over 1.5 million acres of prairie and savanna habitat, maintained through the the cultural practices of the Kalapuya people, which included intentional burning.

Today, it's becoming increasingly evident that prescribed burning in managed natural areas benefits native prairie, savanna, and oak woodland habitats, while also reducing the possibility of severe, high intensity wildfires.

There are many native plants and animal communities which are fire-dependent and require recurring fire to thrive. Prescribed burning is only conducted under conditions when the flames can safely be kept within the planned area and impacts of smoke to the surrounding community are minimized.

Typically prescribed burning is reintroduced to a natural area following completion of restoration treatments, such as fuels reduction and seeding of native plant species. It can also be an effective tool to combat rampant invasive species spread, and an alternative to herbicides.

It's important to note that safety for fire crews and the community is a huge part of planning any prescribed burn.

A plan must be in place for each burn that spells out the exact weather and resources needed to get the job done and keep the fire in check. Fire managers try to make these burns low-intensity, and they get permits from the Lane Regional Air Pollution Agency (LRAPA) and work with local fire departments, and neighbors close to the burn areas get a heads-up beforehand.

We can't say for certain if our planned burn will go ahead this year, but hope this information will help to inform and allay concerns. If you have questions, feel free to reach out!

YOUR WATERSHED

**SUPPORT RESTORATION, MONITORING, EDUCATION, AND STEWARDSHIP IN
THE COAST FORK WILLAMETTE WATERSHED!**

Become a Member of Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council Today!



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