

# Network of Oregon Watershed Councils-Spring 2009 Update

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## **State Budget Hearings to be Held in Central & Western Oregon**

With enormous uncertainty and considerable trepidation, Oregonians await the May economic forecast for a sense of how deeply the 2009-2011 budget will be affected. The **Joint Ways & Means Committee** of the [Oregon Legislature](#) has scheduled a **series of field hearings** to listen to public input on how to balance the budget. While there is no disputing the importance of education, human services, and so many other valuable public services, we also want to **encourage decision-makers not to forget the essential “natural capital” upon which our economy rests**. A preliminary [briefing paper](#) from the [University of Oregon Ecosystem Workforce Program](#) indicates that \$1,000,000 in watershed restoration investment results in 13-29 new jobs, depending on the type of project. Further, that \$1,000,000 turns into millions more in additional local economic activity. Approximately 80% of the restoration funds the [Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board](#) (OWEB) invests through its grant programs stay in the county where they are delivered. Local contractors, local equipment, and local supplies form the backbone of watershed restoration in Oregon. It is crucial to maintain sufficient funding in OWEB's budget to support [watershed councils](#), soil & water conservation districts, and the noncapital grant programs that fund technical assistance, monitoring, outreach and education.

## **Hearing Schedule**

### **April 20th – Lincoln City**

Lincoln City Cultural Center  
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

### **April 21st – Portland**

Portland Community College  
Cascade Campus Moriarty Arts and Humanities Building Auditorium  
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

### **April 23rd – Salem**

State Capitol, Hearing Room F  
(*Video links to communities TBD*)  
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

### **April 29th – Bend**

Location TBD  
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

### **April 30th – Ashland**

Southern Oregon University  
Stevenson Union, Rogue River Room  
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## May 1st – Eugene

University of Oregon

Prince Lucien Campbell Hall, Room 180

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

## New Watershed Council Coordinator Workshop in May

### May 7 & 8, 2009 — Eugene

The [Network of Oregon Watershed Councils](#) will host a two day workshop for new (and not-so-new) council coordinators early next month at the Eugene Water & Electric Board offices. Coordinators with up to 2 years on the job are invited to attend this workshop focusing on the issues most challenging for those new to the job. Experienced coordinators, tribal and agency experts, River Network staff, and others will be on hand to guide participants through a series of sessions exploring board relationships, action planning and time management, budgeting, OWEB grant writing, project prioritization and implementation, cultural resources, permitting, contracting and more. Scholarship assistance is available, with preference given to those coordinators with less than one year in their position.

## Update: Successful Seminar & Workshop Series

### Risk Management for Watershed Councils

In March, the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils hosted a series of regional seminars entitled ***Risk Management for Watershed Councils*** in Salem, Medford, La Grande, and Bend. The seminars were attended by watershed council staff and members, OWEB personnel, and representatives of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and focused on **managing the risks inherent in the work that watershed councils do** across the state. Built around a hypothetical stream restoration project—including development, design, implementation, volunteer, and education and outreach components—the seminars were developed with the help of partners Deb Dyson (attorney at law), Lynn Omev and David Harrison (WSC Insurance), and North Santiam Watershed Council Coordinator Liz Redon. Approximately 50 people, representing 36 councils, agencies, and organizations from throughout the state, attended the seminars and provided valuable feedback that helps the Network to refine our seminar/workshop development process. **A PowerPoint presentation and handbook containing risk management information and examples of pertinent materials were created for the seminars and are available on the Network's website** at [Risk Management Seminars: Summary and Materials](#). If you would like more information on this topic, please contact [Alethea Gallman](#), Network of Oregon Watershed Councils' Education and Training Coordinator, at 541.682.8481.

### Council Volunteer Appreciation & Leadership Development

In late March and early April, the Network hosted pizza dinners in four locations around the state. *Council Volunteer Appreciation and Leadership Development* dinners were held in McMinnville, Medford, Tillamook, and Pendleton. **Nearly 90 council members and staff attended the events**, during which council members were recognized and treated to dinner for their contributions to watershed council work. In addition, the dinners provided an opportunity for council members and staff to network with members of other councils and have a facilitated conversation about effective leadership. **Council members** around the state **called the evenings “very valuable,”** describing them as a **“good forum for exchanging ideas and successes,”** and stating that **“it was great to visit with other boards.”** We will be scheduling more Council Volunteer and Leadership Development events around the state as the year goes on. Councils, if you are interested in having us host an event in your watershed, please contact [Alethea Gallman](#) at 541.682.8481.

The Network would like to thank the following sponsors and partners for their invaluable contributions, which make these events possible: [Meyer Memorial Trust](#), [Spirit Mountain Community Fund](#), [Laird Norton Family Foundation](#), [Compton Foundation](#), the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, [ICF/Jones & Stokes](#), [River Design Group](#), [Port of Portland](#), [ENTRIX, Inc.](#), [Winzler & Kelly](#), and [Environmental Science and Assessment](#).

## Sponsored River Network Partnerships

The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, as part of its ongoing work with [River Network](#), recently **awarded ten councils free “sponsored partnerships” with River Network (a \$100 value)**. The councils who received the partnerships were chosen on a “first come, first served” basis, in which the first councils to respond to an email posted by the Network on the Coordinators’ list-serve received the one-year partnerships. Congratulations to the following councils for their lightning response, and thanks to River Network for their partnership offer.

Applegate River	North Fork John Day
Lower Nehalem/Necanicum	Gilliam-East John Day
Salmon Drift Creek	South Santiam
Alsea	Wasco County
Yamhill Basin	Upper Nehalem

## Working One-on-One with Councils

The Network is pleased to announce that **we are working one-on-one with several councils around the state**. Alone and in partnership with River Network, we are currently working to facilitate strategic planning and council self-evaluations for councils on the North Coast, in Northeastern Oregon, and the Willamette Basin. If you would like information about these processes, or would like to discuss the possibility of working one-on-one with the Network to help accomplish your council’s goals (in any part of the state), please contact [Alethea Gallman](#) at 541.682.8481.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Watershed Council Gathering: October 27-30, 2009

[Water in a Changing World: Sustaining Oregon’s Ecosystems and Local Communities](#)  
[Running Y Ranch – Klamath Falls, Oregon](#)

If you’re involved in watershed restoration work in Oregon, then **you won’t want to miss this signature event!** Join watershed councils, non-profits, businesses, tribal representatives, elected officials, and natural resource agencies from around the state to help us build community for healthy watersheds. Expanded workshop opportunities will include sessions on advanced project management, organizational development, and emerging topics in watershed management. In addition, this year’s Gathering will feature a panel discussion and project tours examining the people and process behind the Klamath Settlement Agreement. Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available. Please contact [Ben Lubbers](#), Program Associate (541-682-8365) or [John Moriarty](#), Executive Director (541-682-8323) for details.

## Support the Network

**Now, it’s as easy as a click of the mouse to [donate](#) to the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils.** Please visit our website to learn more about watershed councils and consider a **secure, tax deductible contribution** to help us support their efforts. We envision strong, resilient watershed councils throughout Oregon sustaining healthy land, water and economies. Oregon watershed councils are the pride of our local communities and a model for our country and the world. Oregon is unique in its commitment to community-based restoration of our natural systems and local economies. **Join our effort to maintain and expand this extraordinary model.** Thank you.

With best wishes for a wonderful spring,