

# Network Update—Summer 2006

Newsletter of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils. Vol 2, Number 3

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## Network Achieves

By Jason Dedrick, Network Chair

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The presence at the July Network board meeting of representatives from two state agencies caused me to reflect upon how far the Network has come, and the level of importance we have achieved in a statewide outreach capacity.

An OWEB representative discussed the upcoming Education and Outreach Grant cycle. The Network board was able to provide valuable feedback that may serve to shape future grant cycles and how projects are prioritized. A representative from the Division of State Lands also attended the meeting as a means to actively solicit feedback from councils on how the permitting process could be further streamlined. It is my expectation that this and other recent conversations will soon create a restoration-specific permit that could greatly simplify our

watershed enhancement projects.

At the last Network meeting, we had reports from volunteer teams working on training, research, and strategic planning, helping to bring results directly to your councils. We also reviewed the first of a series of radio advertisements that will soon be running statewide to promote the work of councils. Individuals and organizations in Oregon and around the country are taking notice of what we are accomplishing, as councils are again being recognized for our unique and innovative approach, only this time it is at the statewide level. With volunteer time from nearly half the councils statewide in the past year, this truly is your organization and it is my hope that our progress together thus far is merely an indicator for what is still to come. Keep up the great work!

## Coordinator's Corner...

By John Moriarty, Network Coordinator

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### Bylaws Adopted

July and August are an exciting time for the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils! At the end of July the Network's Interim Board completed a major milestone in the formation of the organization. Following over a year of discussion and feedback with councils throughout the state, the board signed Articles of Incorporation and adopted bylaws for the Network. We are currently working on our application for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status with the IRS. Each of these is a crucial piece in becoming an organization that can help sustain the work of councils. None of them would have been possible without input from many councils and the dedicated volunteer efforts of Michelle Bussard, attorney Janice Mackey (who donated a large portion of her legal

time reviewing our documents) and the members of our Organizational Development Team who laid much of the groundwork during 2005. A heartfelt *Thank You* to all of you!

### Strategic Planning

Early August marks the beginning of a strategic planning process for the Network. In response to comments from councils at the Gathering in Bend last November, the board recognized the need to engage in a thorough planning process to clearly define the Network's role and how it will meet the goals that councils have set for it. Councils formed the Network for three broad purposes.

1. Build council capacity (through training, increased funding and improved communication)
2. Improve key relationships (especially at the state and regional level)
3. Promote watershed restoration and

watershed councils (with the public and decision-makers)

During the next several months, the Strategic Planning Team will develop a working strategic plan ("what we do"), followed by a business plan ("how we do it"), a budget ("how much it costs to do it") and a fundraising strategy ("how to find the money to do it"). The team will be guided by the questions and concerns, hopes and dreams that councils have expressed for the Network since discussions about forming such an organization began more than 6 years ago. As information is developed, the team will be looking for feedback from all councils. Keep your eye out for more details in September and October. The strategic planning team consists of six Network Interim Board Members and seven others:

Jason Dedrick (NOWC Interim Board

**Continued as COORDINATOR  
on Page 4**

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**Views Expressed in Network Update are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils or its member watershed councils.**

**In this issue...** From Watershed Assessments to BPA Sub-basin plans, to Regional Restoration Priorities, Oregon watershed councils have undertaken a variety of planning efforts. In these pages, several ongoing efforts are reported and analyzed.

## **Restoration Priorities—An Interview with Ken Bierly**

*At the direction of the Oregon Legislature, OWEB has initiated a process to create regional restoration priorities for watersheds around the state. OWEB Deputy Director Ken Bierly has been given responsibility for shepherding this process. Network Update editor Daniel Newberry interviewed Ken about the process and progress of this effort.*

**Net:** OWEB will soon be using locally-developed priorities as a criteria in awarding grants. This comes from the legislature, right?

**Bierly:** Yes. There is a statutory requirement that OWEB fund priorities. A general administrative rule has been adopted.

**Net:** What is the OWEB Board's involvement in all this?

**Bierly:** They're invested in the process and it's clear they want principle-based priorities. They see the increasing sophistication from local folks in the protection and restoration of watersheds, but want to see something other than a list of projects.

**Net:** Several efforts with a variety of approaches have been completed to date, but the "Limiting Factors" approach seems to be the preferred method.

**Bierly:** There are multiple drivers for restoration. We want to identify the limiting factors [ed: to watershed health, such as fish passage barriers, water quality, water quantity, etc.] at a coarse spatial scale—Fifth field HUC [ed: USGS's Hydrologic Unit Code]. The entire state will be covered—there are very few places in the state where restoration is not warranted.

**Net:** How will OWEB use these priorities?

**Bierly:** First, by the Regional Review

Teams in ranking grant applications. Second, by the staff to demonstrate to the Board how recommended projects line up with these priorities. Also, to speak to the public about where funding goes—to locally-based priorities. The OWEB Board is invested in locally-set priorities that meet local needs. This will fulfill the broader needs based on watershed health, not just for coho salmon recovery.

**Net:** What's been completed so far?

**Bierly:** Willamette, South Coast, Rogue, Hood River, and Lower Columbia have been completed. The Hood River report has been combined with Fifteen Mile and has been reworked.

**Net:** And the schedule for completion?

**Bierly:** The Bonneville sub-basin plans for Columbia tributaries have helped those areas and should be completed by the end of December. Specifically, the Deschutes should be completed by the end of August, Malheur/John Day and Grande Ronde in September, and Owyhee and Umatilla/WallaWalla in October. The North/Mid-Coast will use the Coho Recovery Plan and the Klamath/Lakes report will be a special effort, more like a series of watershed assessments. Everything should be wrapped up by the end of the calendar year [ed: 2006].

## Willamette Habitat Restoration Priorities Project

By Michael Carlson, Conservation Director, Clackamas River Watershed Council, and John Runyon, Watershed Program Manager, Adolfsen and Associates.

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The Willamette Watershed Councils recently developed summaries of local priorities for restoring fish and wildlife habitat and water quality within the 11,478 square mile Willamette River Watershed. This comprehensive summary of watershed restoration priorities was originally developed to help OWEB focus their grant funding on high priority projects in the Willamette basin. However, it has also become an excellent tool for the entire Willamette community.

The restoration priorities were developed with a “ridge-top—to—ridge-top” perspective, encompassing terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic habitats. This broad watershed approach is

based on information taken directly from local watershed assessments, watershed action plans and recently completed studies.

The priorities focus on three major themes:

- Restoration of habitat connectivity (e.g., fish passage and wildlife corridors).
- Restoration of key watershed processes and functions (e.g., large wood, flow, sediment, and disturbance regimes).
- Restoration of aquatic, riparian, wetland, and terrestrial habitats, including addressing habitats for ESA-listed species and addressing areas that impact water quality.

We recognize there are a number of comprehensive planning efforts that have occurred in the Willamette Basin, including the Willamette Sub-basin Plan and the Willamette River Basin Planning Atlas.

The watershed council produced restoration priorities were developed within the context of these larger efforts and they are an excellent companion to our locally-derived and community-based set of watershed restoration priorities.

In addition to the summaries of watershed restoration priorities, the watershed councils developed a database that describes the key factors limiting fish and wildlife and water quality throughout the Willamette. The database is now available from OWEB.

At this point, the Willamette basin has an excellent framework for basin-wide cooperation. Interested parties now have several tools available for priority restoration project selection from a local sub-watershed to basin-wide perspective. We hope this framework will offer anyone interested in habitat and water quality improvements in the Willamette Watershed an efficient way to galvanize support and leverage resources for future projects.

## Rogue Basin Coordinating Council Completes Regional Restoration Priorities

By Brad Carlson, coordinator, Middle Rogue WSC

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Learning from other efforts around the state, OWEB challenged the Rogue Basin Coordinating Councils (RBCC) to develop a bottom-up, council-driven process to develop Regional Restoration Priorities, and create a final document that had the backing and support of watershed councils and public sector agencies.

The process began in January 2005. Over the following months member watershed councils of the RBCC (there are eight member watershed councils) took up the challenge and formed a budget review team, a contract development team, a project development team, and through the leadership of John Ward (then president of RBCC), a final draft copy of the Scope of Work, outlining a timeline and necessary steps for completing the restoration priorities docu-

ment. In July 2005 a contract team composed of three members was hired to facilitate and assist watershed councils in the development and completion of the watershed health priorities process.

Over the next eight months, RBCC, along with the contract team, met 2-3 times per month. Included in this process were group presentations to each of the member watershed councils, public outreach meetings to secure feedback on the initial draft document, as well as several other meetings to discuss document lay out strategies, watershed health prioritization strategies, address watershed council concerns for the document, and get feedback from watershed councils on their overall satisfaction with the process.

In March 2006 a final document was published that outlines watershed health priorities for each of the eight watershed councils in the Rogue Basin. Priorities were not itemized, but rather were grouped into categories based on review and assessment of available data and information, as well as input and feedback from

all participating watershed councils and agencies. Additionally, priorities were also matched to OWEB project types to better guide councils in their decision making process about what projects and priority watershed health factors to address. Watershed councils will also use the document to adjust priorities for their watershed council area, develop new projects based on those priorities, and submit for funds to OWEB for projects developed around these priorities.

From start to finish, the process took nearly 17 months to complete, and a final copy of the document is now available for viewing on the web at [www.restoretherogue.org](http://www.restoretherogue.org) by clicking on "Watershed Health Factors Assessment." This planning effort was supported by a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

I and other representatives to RBCC would be more than happy to discuss the fine details of our experience developing priorities to other councils around the state. I can be reached at (541) 474-6799.

## Water Quality Monitoring in the Upper Deschutes

By Lesley Jones, Upper Deschutes WSC  
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In the Upper Deschutes River watershed, poor water quality affects most of the primary river systems, including the Deschutes River, Whychus Creek, Little Deschutes River and Tumalo Creek.

Since 2001, the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council's Water Quality Monitoring Program has been collecting, analyzing and distributing information about the status and health of the rivers in these areas. Our monitoring identifies priority areas for restoration, evaluates restoration success and identifies emerging conservation issues.

To date, 200 stations in the Deschutes River, Tumalo Creek, Whychus Creek, Metolius River, and Little Deschutes River watersheds have been included in the monitoring program. In 2005, the Watershed Council collected data from 89 monitoring stations, brought outreach and education to local communities, and provided technical assistance to numerous stream restoration projects.

Current Water Quality Monitoring Projects include:

### Temperature Monitoring

Temperature changes have been tracked since 2001 to evaluate whether local rivers meet state criteria and how streamflow restoration efforts are reducing in-stream temperatures. Continuous temperature monitoring during the summer months

### City Water Quality Monitoring

The City of Bend and the Watershed Council have partnered since 2003 to evaluate the water quality of the Deschutes River and Tumalo Creek within the Urban Growth Boundary. The monitoring, designed to identify baseline conditions, will continue to 2009.

### OSU Undergraduate Internship

Starting 2005, the Watershed Council and Oregon State University partnered to provide OSU students an 11-month internship in watershed research and science. Rachel Francois joined the Watershed Council as the first OSU intern.

### Volunteer Monitoring

In 2005, nine volunteers participated in Regional Temperature Monitoring along the Deschutes River and Whychus, Tumalo, and Paulina creeks.

### Regional Database

Since 2001, the Watershed Council has provided water quality data management for the region. In recent years, water quality monitoring information has been lined into the EPS's STORET database so partners can access the data online. This database is shared with partners and utilized to evaluate watershed health.

### COORDINATOR—From Page 1

Chair), Crooked River Watershed Council

Brad Carlson, Coordinator, Middle Rogue Watershed Council

Ryan Houston, Executive Director, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council

Jeff Oveson, Executive Director, Grande Ronde Model Watershed

Liz Redon, Coordinator, North Santiam Watershed Council

Dana Erickson, Coordinator, Long Tom Watershed Council (will offer volunteer staff support)

John Runyon (Chair of the Strategic Planning Team), Watershed Program Manager, Adolfson Associates (former council coordinator)

Barbara Bell, Development Strategist and Fundraiser

Jackie Dingfelder, State Representative (former council coordinator)

Peter Ruffier, Wastewater Division Manager, City of Eugene (council member)

Chuck Sams, Tribal Lands Director, Trust for Public Lands (former council coordinator)

Susan Schwartz, Chief Administrative Officer, River Network

Diane Snyder, Executive Director, Wal-lowa Resources

### Network/OACD Partnership

The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts continue to work together on delivering a message about the important role that councils and districts play in the restoration and conservation of watersheds throughout the state. We are bringing the message that councils and districts are unique, distinct and complementary local partners who are critical to meeting the broad goals of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. In order for councils and districts to work effectively in their local communities they *both* need to be sufficiently supported. Oregonians overwhelmingly believe that clean water is crucial to all aspects of our lives (it's true!), and districts and councils are working to protect our water, not just in and next to creeks and rivers, but throughout the landscape—from ridge top to stream bank. Help us deliver this message by talking to your commissioners and legislators (they're home right now) about the good work you're doing locally.

### Annual Meeting

Councils: Remember to mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Councils on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – Noon, just before the OWEB Conference begins in Seaside. Remember, each region will be presenting their members for the Network Board of Representatives at this meeting. Each region determines their own representatives to the Board, so please start working on that process during the next two months. Contact your current representative for assistance. We will be sending additional agenda information for the meeting during the next couple of months, as well as posting it on the website. We look forward to seeing you all at the coast!

## Designing our Future: Strategic Planning in the Coos Watershed

By Margaret Kirby, Coos Watershed Association

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During 2004, the Coos Watershed Association worked with ShoreBank Enterprise Pacific to develop a strategic business plan. ShoreBank staff—Mike Dickerson and Adam Zimmerman—interviewed the Association staff and the Board of Directors in order to complete an organizational and programmatic review of the Association. From this internal audit, ShoreBank made recommendations to the Board for how the Association could work through its challenges and enhance its strengths. These were developed in the *Strategic Framework 2005 – 2015*, a business plan to guide the organization's future growth. This plan was adopted by the Board of Directors in January of 2005.

Since then, the Strategic Planning Committee has regularly met to work towards the implementation of the *Strategic Framework*. Broadly defined, the recommendations are for (1) board enhancements to include development and training; (2) staffing/personnel management enhancements, including hiring additional staff, providing professional development/training, providing a health benefits

package, and developing an internship program; and (3) operations enhancements, including system upgrades and general office improvements. As improvements have been made they have stabilized and strengthened the organization substantially.

At the Board level, we continued to work in our standing and ad-hoc committees. We created committee structures and are currently working to develop board responsibilities and expectations and implement committee work plans. We began the development of a board orientation process for new members, developed a board manual, and identified board development/training needs.

An important recommendation in the *Strategic Framework* is to enhance the functioning of the staff. We have hired a Program Manager in order to allow the Executive Director to focus on organizational growth and fund development, made provisions in our budgets for the professional development of our staff, provided a health benefits package for our employees that considers a wide range of individual needs, identified areas where we might be able to utilize interns and volunteers, and incorporated opportunities for enhanced communication and team building amongst Association staff.

Another area in the *Strategic Framework*

focused on operational enhancements. These included the improvement of information management through database development, both for use in project management and administration, a centralized file management structure, improved contract/grant management systems, enhanced detail and increased frequency in financial reporting, hardware/software upgrades, and the development of a standard operating procedures manual.

In 2006 the Strategic Planning Committee recommended that the Board of Directors create a new ad-hoc committee with the express purpose of developing and implementing a fundraising plan in order to maintain the necessary core operating funds to sustain the organization. We are working to partner with organizations in order to provide training for the Board and develop and execute a fundraising strategy to enable the continued growth of the Association. The success of the Fund Development Committee will allow for the uninterrupted implementation of the recommendations in our *Strategic Framework*.

## Partnership for Umpqua Rivers Receives National Award

The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers has been named as a recipient of the 2006 Take Pride in America National Award, which recognizes the Roseburg-based watershed council partnership group for outstanding volunteer efforts on federal, state and local private lands.

Take Pride in America Executive Director Michelle Cangelosi announced the award in the Private Public Partnership category, and will make a formal presentation at an awards ceremony to be held September 14 at the Department of the Interior in Washington, DC. According to Cangelosi,

the Partnership's long history of substantial accomplishments stood out to the judges.

"I'm extremely pleased that we were recognized for this award. It's a tribute to our many volunteers and partners who make our work possible," said Bob Kinyon, executive director of the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers.

The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers is a nonprofit corporation that is charged with enhancing water quality and fish habitat within the Umpqua Basin, which stretches from the Cascades to the coast in southwest Oregon. Over the last decade, the Partnership has vigorously pur-

sued their mission, working closely with a wide variety of landowners and agencies. Examples of the regional projects that the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers has completed include tree planting, fencing, live-stock crossings, stock water, instream log and boulder structures, culvert replacements, volunteer water quality testing, watershed assessments and public education and outreach.

"The partnership is a prime example of what's been happening all over Oregon for the past 10 years to protect and restore fish habitat and improve water quality through coordinated, watershed-scale work implemented by grassroots efforts," said Tom Byler, executive director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

**OWEB Council Support Workshops**

Sept. 13 The Dalles 10-12pm

Sept. 13 LaGrande 4-6pm

Sept. 14 Ontario 10-12pm

Sept. 14 Burns 4-6pm

Sept. 15 Redmond 10-12pm

Sept. 18 Newport 10-12pm

Sept. 25 Gold Beach 3-5pm

Sept. 26 Medford 10-12pm

Sept. 27 Eugene 10-12pm

Sept. 28 Salem 10-12pm

Sept. 29 Seaside 1-3pm

For details, visit the OWEB website, [www.oregonwatersheds.org](http://www.oregonwatersheds.org), and select "What's new for Watershed Councils"

**UMPQUA—From Page 5**

"It's great to see their work recognized on a national level," he added. OWEB has invested more than \$6.5 million in this kind of partnership work since 1999 in the Umpqua Basin, Byler reported.

This year's winners in the annual Take Pride in America awards were selected from nominations representing individuals, groups and projects in 32 different states. "These Take Pride award winners embody the mission of Take Pride by accepting responsibility and taking action to enhance our public lands," Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne said. "It is through their stewardship that they are creating a lasting legacy within their community," he noted.

Take Pride in America, an initiative of the U.S. Department of the Interior, is a nationwide partnership program that inspires Americans to volunteer in caring for their public lands. The program's goal is to instill an active sense of ownership and responsibility in every citizen for natural, cultural and historic resources, and to support and recognize the efforts of those who volunteer for public lands. For more information, visit [www.TakePride.gov](http://www.TakePride.gov).

**2006-2007 Schedule for OWEB Grant Applications****APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 24, 2006**

Restoration/Acquisition September 19-20, 2006

Technical Assistance September 19-20, 2006

**NEW APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 16, 2006**

\*Monitoring/Assessment March 14-15, 2007

Restoration/Acquisition March 14-15, 2007

\*Education/Outreach March 14-15, 2007

\*Technical Assistance March 14-15, 2007

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 23, 2007**

Restoration/Acquisition September 18-19, 2007

\*Technical Assistance September 18-19, 2007

\*Grant cycle may be offered if funding is available

**Transitions****Welcome New Coordinators:**

Lisa Hatley—North Fork John Day

Tim Weaver—Little Butte Creek

Cheryl McGinnis—Clackamas

Tara Putney—Calapooia

Josh Williams—Bridge Creek/Mid-John Day

**Farewells...**

Lu Anthony—Little Butte WSC, after 13 years. Is that a record?

Sue Greer—Bridge Creek/Mid John Day

**In the Next Issue of Network Update...**

The Fall, 2006 Issue of *Network Update* will include articles on education and outreach projects undertaken by Oregon Watershed Councils. Please submit articles or send submissions by October 1, 2006 to [newsletter@oregonwatersheds.org](mailto:newsletter@oregonwatersheds.org)

Visit the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils website at [www.oregonwatersheds.org](http://www.oregonwatersheds.org)