

Board of Directors

Jeff Messerle, President
Messerle & Sons

Bradford McKeown, MBA, Vice
President
Member at Large

Bree Yednock, Ph.D., Past President
*South Slough National Estuarine
Research Reserve*

Kristopher Murphy, Secretary
Coquille Indian Tribe

Don Yost, Treasurer
Member at Large

Mike Dunning
OR International Port of Coos Bay

Elise Hamner
SW Oregon Community College

Marty Giles
Wancrest Discoveries

Joan Mahaffy
Agriculture

Joe Metzler
Cape Arago Audubon Society

Jason Richardson, P.E.
Weyerhaeuser Company

Randy Smith
Oregon Department of Forestry

Allen Solomon, Ph.D.
Member at Large

John Sweet
County Commissioner

Executive Director
Haley Lutz

October 4, 2022

Dear CoosWA Supporter,

We sincerely hope this finds you and your family safe and well.

Thanks to the support of people like you and our local, state, and federal partners, we were able to make a positive difference to Coos County this year through over 1.75 million dollars in financial support! All the money we receive through grants and donations goes directly to improving watershed conditions in our basin, helping our ecosystems, community, and economy to thrive.

Below are a few highlights of what our staff, board, and partners worked together to accomplish in 2022:

- Collaborated with 15 tribal, local, state, and federal organizations to complete the Coos Basin Coho Strategic Action Plan. This planning effort immediately led to securing over 11 million dollars from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for coho recovery efforts in the Coos basin over the next six years. This Focused Investment Partnership funding will be leveraged with an additional eight million in matching funds from partners. This is a very exciting, strategic investment in the health of the Coos watershed, coho recovery, and the Coos County economy.
- Worked with private landowners and an array of partners to begin implementing the Kentuck Creek Habitat Restoration Project. This year, our restoration contractor upgraded four road crossings, re-meandered over 3,000 feet of mainstem and tributary channel and placed logs with rootwads in key areas throughout the newly re-meandered reach. This winter, crews will install fences and begin planting the newly developed riparian buffers, and next summer we will establish three freshwater wetland ponds for additional habitat.
- Seasonally employed four young adults—who are currently pursuing or recently completed a natural resources degree—on our road survey, fish salvage, nursery maintenance, and noxious weed crews.
- Employed six local youth on our summer restoration crew, who spent their summer surveying vegetation, removing invasive species, constructing livestock fencing along creeks, helping survey and salvage fish, caring for plants in our native plant nursery, collecting seed and maintaining riparian plantings at restoration sites across the county.
- Continued essential partnerships and efforts to control noxious weeds and encourage replacing with native plants, including expanding our nursery capacity—now over 20,000 native trees and shrubs a year.

Our most challenging projects are often special opportunities that don't have ready grant sources—**that's where your help is most needed.** Through your indispensable contributions last year, we were able to:

- Replace our hard-working crew truck that every CoosWA program utilizes.
- Support local professional development in fisheries science through paid coho salmon monitoring internships.

- Award the sixth annual Teddy Villers Natural Resources Scholarship to local college student Aubrey Thorsen. This scholarship honors the life of Teddy Villers (Oct. 7, 2004 – Sept. 4, 2015), son of Mark and Adela Villers, who had a strong curiosity and deep passion for the natural world. We award it each year to a Coos watershed individual who exemplifies the spirit of the award and is pursuing education in the field of natural resources.

2022 CoosWA Birthday Bash Fundraiser and “Pool Party” – Saturday October 22, Mingus Park, Coos Bay

For this year’s fundraiser we are partnering with the City of Coos Bay to do an ivy removal and native planting project at Mingus Park. In addition, we will be hosting an after party on the Mingus Park pool deck (no swimming, sorry) with a raffle, live music from TBird and the Demarzo Trio, and food and beverages available for purchase from 7 Devils and Plate LLC food truck. We’ll have CoosWA staff and board members at these fun events to chat with you about our valuable work and answer any questions you may have. *We hope you can join us!*

- **12-4pm:** Service Event: please bring a water bottle, gloves, your favorite hand tool (if you like), and dress for the weather. Most importantly, encourage your friends and neighbors to participate, too!
- **4-7pm:** After-Party: All are welcome and encouraged to come celebrate (even if you did not attend the service event!)

And, yes, there are more ways you can support our vital mission today—or any time:

- Send us a check at the address on our letterhead.
- Send us a one-time, or recurring monthly donation, through the donation button on our website, www.cooswatershed.org. Please type your mailing address and phone number into the notes field so we can send you a tax-deductible receipt.
- If you shop at Fred Meyer, link your Rewards card to the Coos Watershed Association, and they will donate a portion of sales to us—similarly, if you shop on Amazon, consider using Amazon Smile and making us your charitable organization of choice (Amazon makes the contribution at no additional cost to you). Learn more about these options at <https://cooswatershed.org/what-you-can-do/#donate>.

Thank you so much for continuing to be such a valuable part of the Coos Watershed Association!



Jeff Messerle, President



Haley Lutz, Executive Director

We would like to extend a huge thank you to this year’s Birthday Bash sponsors!

