



COOS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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Our Mission

The mission of the Coos Watershed Association is to support environmental integrity and economic stability within the Coos watershed by increasing community capacity to develop, test, promote, and implement management practices in the interest of watershed health.

Statement of Shared Values:

1. It is possible to achieve environmental integrity, economic stability, and human well-being within the Coos watershed.
2. Natural products and processes of the watershed are indicators of watershed health, and are important to the economy and vitality of the community.
3. Human activities have a legitimate place in the watershed.
4. Our actions can affect the stability of the watershed and related economy.
5. Deliberate planning and action for watershed health are important and effectively achieved by the people who live and work within the watershed.
6. A watershed scale-perspective improves our ability to sustain the health of the watershed and related economic activities.
7. The coordination of our individual effects can achieve a synergistic, beneficial effect on the watershed.
8. Maintaining harmonious relationships with stakeholders, partners, landowners, clients, suppliers, employees, and each other contributes to the organization's effectiveness in improving the health of the watershed.
9. Fostering and appreciating a diversity of opinion, background, and approach while supporting the mission of CoosWA will ultimately strengthen the Board and further our efforts to advance the mission and sustain our organization.

A note from our Director

Our 28th year was marked by many highlights, such as an exciting new Focused Investment Partnership funding award for the Coos Basin Coho Partnership, a successful birthday bash fundraiser, the 6th annual Mayfly Festival, and numerous improvements to the Coos watershed's habitats through restoration, monitoring, and outreach projects. We said goodbye to some board and staff members who moved on to new adventures, but we also welcomed new people onto our team who bring new ideas, passions, and expertise.

We are excited to share some of our 2022 high points with you in the report that follows. As always, we are grateful to our community and our partners who work alongside us to improve the health of our watershed in a manner that is sustainable, resilient, and supportive of our local economy and culture. None of this work is possible without you, and we continue to be grateful for all the ways that you continue to support us.

With gratitude,

Haley Lutz

2022 Staff Members

1. Haley Lutz, Executive Director
2. Chris Bauman, Financial and Office Manager
3. Alexa Carleton, Outreach Coordinator
4. Dan Draper, Restoration Project Manager
5. Freelin Reasor, Hydrological Specialist
6. Ed Hughes, Fisheries Ecologist
7. Maria Farinacci, Fisheries Research Assistant
8. Kevin Whittaker, Fisheries Research Assistant
9. Allison Tarbox, Restoration Project Manager
10. Ed Cope, Plant Programs Manager
11. Dave Nelson, Restoration Crew Lead
12. Anders Hansen, Plants Restoration Technician
13. Jesse Jones, Monitoring Specialist

Thank you to our 2022 seasonal crew members:

Amanda Lee, Aubrey Turner, Makenna Johnson, AJ Kliewer, Trevin Mills, Niko Ecija Cousens, Dean Yurica, Joshua Bowman, Sabrina McNeely, Kaylee Delzotti, Anthony Reed.

Thank you to our 2022 interns:

Kirk Fisher, Makenna Johnson, Dean Yurica.

2022 Board Members

1. Jeff Messerle, President (Agriculture)
2. Bradford McKeown, Vice President (Member-at-large)
3. Kristopher Murphy, Secretary (Coquille Indian Tribe)
4. Don Yost, Treasurer (Member-at-large)
5. Bree Yednock, Past President (South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve)
6. Mike Dunning (OR International Port of Coos Bay)
7. Marty Giles (Recreation & Tourism)
8. Elise Hamner (Southwestern Oregon Community College)
9. Roselynn Lwenya (Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians)
10. Joan Mahaffy (Agriculture)
11. Joe Metzler (Cape Arago Audubon Society)
12. Jason Richardson, PE (Weyerhaeuser Company)
13. Randy Smith (Oregon Department of Forestry)
14. Al Solomon, Ph.D. (Member-at-large)
15. Stephan Stys (Member-at-large)
16. John Sweet (County Commissioner, Coos County)

***Parentheses indicate the stakeholder group represented by each member of the Board.*



Coos Watershed Association staff members, March 2023.

Strategic Action Plan for Coho Salmon Recovery in the Coos Basin

The Coos Basin is comprised of dynamic rivers, productive agricultural lands, and the largest estuary completely in Oregon. The Coos Basin Coho Partnership (CBP), composed of tribes, local NGOs, state and federal agencies, and industrial partners, came together to develop the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for Coho Salmon Recovery in the Coos Basin. This plan outlines the long-term strategies that need to be enacted over the next 25 years to sustain our coastal coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) population into the future. With a focus on supporting working agricultural lands, while at the same time increasing and improving ecological conditions for coho salmon, this SAP balances the needs of the local economy and salmon restoration efforts.

In 2022, the SAP was published, and in that same year, we received news that the Coos Basin Coho Partnership had been chosen for a Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) funding award through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to begin carrying out the actions in the plan. The \$11 million grant will accelerate high-priority restoration, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement projects in the Coos watershed, with the aim to recover local populations of threatened Oregon Coast coho salmon.

CoosWA and our partners have been securing OWEB grants and investing millions of dollars in Coos County for decades through projects that restore and enhance aquatic habitat. What's special about this award is that it provides funding stability over a six-year period and will serve as a catalyst for future projects in the Coos Basin. The economic and ecological impacts of coho salmon restoration will extend beyond the FIP funding's disbursement, with long-term benefits for sport and commercial fisheries, tourism, and clean water for communities.



Strategic Action Plan
for Coho Salmon Recovery

~ The Coos Basin ~



Cover page of the Strategic Action Plan for Coho
Salmon Recovery in the Coos Basin.



Oregon coast coho. Photo credit: Jim Yuskavitch, courtesy of Wild Salmon Center.

Each agency plays an important role in providing capacity, expertise, and additional funding. In fact, with contributions and matching funds from CBP partners, the total amount leveraged for the Coos Basin is expected to reach nearly \$20 million over six years, almost doubling OWEB's investment. The full CBP team includes:

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Coquille Indian Tribe, Coos Watershed Association, Coos Soil and Water Conservation District, Curry Soil and Water Conservation District, Weyerhaeuser, Wild Rivers Land Trust, Wild Salmon Center, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Coos Bay Bureau of Land Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center, Natural Resource Conservation Service, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program.

Restoration Highlights

The following projects were supported by the Coos Basin Coho Partnership, each moving the needle towards achieving the goals outlined in the SAP (see Page 1).

Instream Restoration

In-stream projects take place right in the stream itself, such as building log jams, reshaping streams that have been channelized, removing barriers to migrating fish, and reducing the amount of sediment that enters the water from surrounding areas. CoosWA began implementing these types of restoration projects in the mid-1990s to improve the quality and quantity of habitat for a diverse array of aquatic species, including coho salmon, and has continued ever since. Here's a snapshot of what that looked like for 2022.



The beginnings of a log jam on Tioga Creek.

In the upper reaches of the watershed, CoosWA partnered with the Bureau of Land Management and Bavarian Olympus Timber to start Phase 3 of the instream restoration project on the mainstem of Tioga Creek that began in 2015. Tioga is considered a high-priority basin, known for its high-quality habitat and high numbers of spawning adult salmon—but also for its low counts of wood and pools, a legacy impact of timber practices in this area (e.g., log driving, stream cleaning). In 2022, we built seven log jams over 0.5 miles of the Tioga Creek mainstem, which had exposed bedrock and high temperatures. This instream wood allows gravel to build up over the bedrock, create deep, cold, scour pools, and ensure that the water traveling downstream is very cold, which is especially important for these headwater reaches that impact all the areas downstream. The remaining mile of Phase 3 instream is set for 2023.

In the Palouse basin, we upgraded a stream crossing¹ on a tributary to Palouse Slough from a 24" pipe to a 6' culvert to meet fish passage requirements. The crossing upgrade improved access to a mile of tributary habitat that acts as cold water refugia for rearing juvenile salmonids in lowland systems. This project is the first piece of a large restoration project, currently in the design phase, that aims to improve stream complexity, water quality, and seasonal land drainage.



Stream crossing upgrade in the Palouse basin (24" pipe to 6' culvert).



Newly dug channel at Millicoma Confluence project.

At the confluence of the Millicoma and South Fork Coos Rivers, we began construction on the Millicoma Confluence restoration project. We excavated half a mile of meandering channel, which will provide critical winter rearing habitat for salmonids. Additional construction, slated for completion in 2023, will include excavating an additional .35 miles of channel, breaching the existing levee, and completing construction on the set back levee. Once complete, we will have created over 10 acres of Sitka spruce swamp habitat, which will be fully open to tidal inundation.

Lowlands update: Large-scale restoration projects, such as those outlined above, typically spend multiple years in the planning, funding and development stage before we are able to start the on-the-ground work. In the lower reaches of our watershed, CoosWA is developing several future projects that address private and public infrastructure, improve water quality, promote juvenile fish rearing, and reconnect primary and secondary stream habitats while helping wildlife flourish in these landscapes. In 2022, we began planning for future work throughout the watershed with multiple projects in Haynes Inlet and Catching and Lillian Slough basins. Keep an eye on future annual reports and newsletters for more info on these up-and-coming projects.

Stream crossing: wherever a stream intersects a road, such as a culvert. When undersized or in danger of failing, we will often replace with a larger culvert or bridge.

Restoration Highlights continued

Feature Story: Kentuck Creek Habitat Restoration

The Kentuck Creek sub-basin is situated along a narrow agricultural valley that drains into the Coos estuary and has been heavily impacted by past land management practices. We had a unique opportunity to work with two enthusiastic and incredibly committed landowners on addressing water quality and habitat concerns in this area—so committed, in fact, that one of the landowners ended up becoming our contractor for the project (Peerless Property Services LLC, owned by landowner Steve Colberg and his brother Carl). Both landowners shared a vision of restoring their adjacent lands back to their historic condition and were committed to seeing it through, every step of the way. Here are a few highlights of what we accomplished working alongside them in 2022!



Pre-restoration critter salvage.

Relocating aquatic wildlife

Before any restoration work takes place, we first relocate organisms currently residing in the areas slated for construction. In this case, there was a section of stream that would no longer hold water once the new channel was constructed. Over a six-day period, many different staff members, landowners, and project partners stepped in to help us relocate 12,000 organisms to a safer location. This included nearly 3,000 coho, over 3,000 lamprey, and a mix of stickleback, sculpin, trout, crayfish, red-legged frogs, and Pacific giant salamanders!



Landowners Steve and Akane help with erosion control along the new channel.

Re-shaping the creek

Historically, like many other valleys in our watershed, the Kentuck Creek followed an S-shaped pattern as it wove through the valley. This creek has now been reshaped twice: first, to drain the original creek and divert water to side channels and create dry land in the center of the valley for agriculture, and then again by our crew in 2022, when we re-dug the original channels and allowed the creek to flow back into its original position in the valley. We re-meandered nearly 2,000 feet of the Kentuck Creek mainstem and another 1,550 feet of tributary habitat. We also pulled back 1,500 feet of the bank to create a more gradual slope that will minimize erosion and provide a good growing environment for riparian plants to establish in the years ahead. Once the channels were re-shaped, we added 18 habitat structures (rootwads and spawning gravel) that will create pools, riffles, and overall habitat complexity.



Newly re-meandered channel in the mainstem of Kentuck Creek.



Newly replaced culvert feeding into Kentuck Creek.

Fish access

We worked closely with our contractor and the Coos County Road Department to replace four failing and drastically undersized stream crossings with a railcar bridge and larger culverts, which greatly improved migratory fish access to 6.5 miles of upstream coho spawning habitat.

It takes a village

This is a multi-year project, and the fun is not over yet! In 2023, we will be establishing a riparian buffer and creating wetland ponds and channels that will drain back into the re-meandered mainstem habitats of Kentuck Creek. We are grateful to the many organizations that have come together to make this project happen: United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Wild Salmon Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Conservation Reserve

Enhancement Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Coos County Road Department, Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, local Tribes (Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and Coquille Indian Tribe), and Oregon Youth Corps.

Restoration Highlights continued

Matson Nursery Update

The Matson Creek Native Plant Nursery has continued to flourish, and we greatly expanded the scope of its production capacity in 2022. We grew out and planted the typical suite of trees, shrubs, and live stakes: 12,800 plants, representing 27 native species, were planted by our winter crew across various restoration project sites in CoosWA and partner-led projects in Coos County. Most of these projects establish buffer zones along riparian corridors to keep the water clean and cool for the organisms that rely on them.

We also expanded our nursery operations this year by partnering with the Bureau of Land Management to help pilot a seed collection program for dune-adapted species. Our summer crew collected 64.5 pounds of seed from 35 native species, which will be sown on local dune restoration projects. Additionally, we began creating seed production beds for a variety of important species. We prepared six sand-filled raised beds, which will be utilized to grow 12 important or imperiled species for dune restorations. We also began planting ~1/4 acre of production plots for native grasses and wildflowers, which are ideal for trailside and right-of-way stabilization.

None of this could have been accomplished without our dedicated youth crews and volunteers. This was our first year of having a full youth crew since the onset of the pandemic, and their work was essential for keeping pace with our ramped-up plant production. Also, the monthly volunteer program that we started in June 2022 attracted 20 community members who logged 75 hours of work at the nursery in the months that followed. We are grateful to everyone who participated and hope to see them all again in 2023!

Noxious Weeds Program

The Noxious Weeds Program takes a proactive approach to weed control in the Coos Basin. Some targets to highlight for 2022 are knotweed on the South Fork Coos River; gorse, biddy-biddy, and jubata grass in the Whiskey Run Trail System; policeman's helmet on North Slough; gorse populations under powerlines and in Coos County forests; and beachgrass and Scotch broom at Bastendorff Beach and the North Spit. Many of these efforts have been ongoing for years, but campaigns such as South Fork knotweed and North Slough policeman's helmet will feature an aggressive new outreach campaign with door-to-door knocking to drum up sub-basin support of the effort.

To engage more community members in noxious weed control, this year we added a new event in partnership with the Gorse Action Group called the Gorse Pedal and Pull: a mountain biking and gorse-pulling competition in the Whiskey Run trail system. Participants pulled at least 500 plants and logged lots of miles on their bikes! This was a fun activity that drew in new volunteers (mountain bikers!) and new partners, such as local bike shops, while providing education on gorse control and making a huge dent in its population at this popular bike riding destination.

We also continued our public weed education and outreach efforts, including the Cooperative Weed Management Area's Weed of the Month, the Coos County Cost Share program, and ivy pull public volunteer events. All of these critical weed control and outreach activities are made possible by our continued collaborations with Bureau of Land Management, Cities of Coos Bay and North Bend, Coos County Noxious Weeds Advisory Board, Coquille Watershed Association, the Gorse Action group, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State Parks, Port of Coos Bay, South Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, US Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service, and the many landowners in our watershed.



Plants crew collects seeds to grow in Matson dune plots.



Volunteers process seed during a Matson nursery day.



Volunteer pulls gorse during Gorse Pedal and Pull event.

Science & Monitoring Highlights

Life Cycle Monitoring (LCM) Program

2022 was the 18th year of the CoosWA Coho Life Cycle Monitoring (LCM) program, which contributes to the greater understanding of juvenile coho salmon use of estuaries and their migratory path as they rear in freshwater and tidal environments. This program runs every month of the year, and we rely on different tracking and trapping techniques depending on the season and life stage being targeted.



Coho salmon parr spotted during surveys at Palouse Creek.

We had another successful year of tracking coho on Willanch and Palouse Creeks, two tide-gated, lowland streams. Our team conducted spawning surveys every seven to ten days from October to February, observing 38 coho in Willanch Creek and 241 in Palouse. This year's count was closer to average compared to the last couple years for the 18-year study period (the last couple years saw significantly higher returns than the average).

During the rest of the year, our team identified, counted, weighed, measured, and marked coho salmon with individual PIT tags to help us track their movement, using methods such as seining (summer) and Rotary Screw Traps (winter and spring). To help with these tasks, we hosted three LCM interns from Southwestern Oregon Community College and University of Oregon. We are deeply grateful for the 59 interns who have supported the LCM program since 2012!

Hydrology and Stream Gauges

CoosWA continues to operate and maintain seven stream gauges in and around the Coos Basin (East and West Fork Millicoma, Marlow, South Fork Coos, Tioga, Tenmile, and Eel). These gauges track stream flow, water quality (temperature, sediment levels, and turbidity), and weather data (air temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, vapor pressure, solar radiation, wind speed/direction, wind gust, precipitation, and lightning strike count and distance). This information is utilized by a variety of stakeholders via our website, where real-time stream data are uploaded every 15 minutes for public use (<http://streamdata.cooswatershed.org/>). The website is especially helpful to check during winter weather, such as the late December storm that dropped 3" of rain over 72 hours and led to widespread downed trees and power outages!

Road Surveys

In 2022, the Coos Watershed Association began a project to assess the roads in and around the Devils Staircase Wilderness, a newly established (March 2019) wilderness area in the Siuslaw National Forest that is nestled between the Umpqua and Smith River watersheds. We don't normally have opportunities to work this far outside of our home watershed, but the Coos Bay Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invited us to lead the project because of our experience leading road surveys in the Coos watershed. The goal of this project was to identify potential road failure locations that could negatively affect the wilderness through things like runoff, sediment input, and undersized culverts. We hired and trained a two-person survey crew to collect GPS locations of road sections, drainage points (culverts), and potential problems (road failures, landslides). This survey crew spent long days hiking deep into the woods to survey almost 60 miles of at-risk forest roads that cannot be accessed by car because they are blocked off to limit negative impacts to the forest. Our study will recommend road improvements to protect this wilderness area.

This same crew also surveyed 25 miles of roads that drain to the South Fork Coos River, near the Cox, Coal, and Mink Creek watersheds. This project was funded by the RAC (BLM Resource Advisory Committee), which dispersed Secure Rural Schools and Community Funds managed by the Coos Bay Bureau of Land Management. Most of these forest roads are on BLM property, and the data from these surveys will be used to develop road improvements and maintenance plans that provide safe access for the public.



Summer 2022 road survey crew.

Outreach & Education Highlights

Youth Engagement

In 2022, we focused on three primary projects during our school-year Conservation Stewardship Corps program, which we offer each year through a partnership with the Oregon Youth Corps (OYC). At the Milner Crest School, Destinations Academy students planted sunflowers and veggies in the school garden, as well as over 200 cuttings of native shrubs that were later transplanted into their permanent home at the Coos History Museum. At Marshfield High School, Key Club students added groundcover to the native planting area we established outside the school the previous year. And finally, we ended the school year by removing Scotch broom from Pony Slough with over 100 North Bend High School students over a three-day period. All of these projects aim to teach skills and improve the ecological health of school campuses in our watershed, and because they are ongoing, hundreds of students end up contributing over the course of multiple years.



Matson Creek BioBlitz 2022.

This was also our 11th year of hosting a Summer Conservation Corps crew through OYC, and hired six youth who spent the summer working on habitat restoration projects all over the watershed. They helped maintain riparian plantings in both the Coos and Coquille watersheds, collect native seeds, operate the nursery, remove invasive species, and maintain fence lines. They also participated in several training and enrichment workshops, including CPR and first aid certification, small engine operation and repair, and resume-building. They even participated in a "BioBlitz" (a biological inventory or census that involves counting all the plants, animals, and other organisms that live in a place) at the Matson Creek Wetland Preserve, observing over 300 species of plants and animals in one day! We look forward to continuing this very successful program in 2023.



North Bend students remove Scotch broom from Pony Slough.

Community events

To celebrate the 6th annual Coos Watershed Mayfly Festival, we offered a series of "mini" Mayfly Festival Pop-up events around the watershed in May. Over the course of the four mini festivals, we engaged over 160 people in watershed conversations, activities, games, and fun. We are especially grateful to the North Bend High School Science National Honor Society, South Slough Estuarine Research Reserve, and University of Oregon's Charleston Marine Life Center for joining us at these pop-ups; to the Braemer Charitable Trust, Coos County Cultural Coalition, and Northwest Natural for contributing funding this year; and to Wegferd's Printing for the new batch of 2nd Edition Mayfly Festival Activity Booklets!



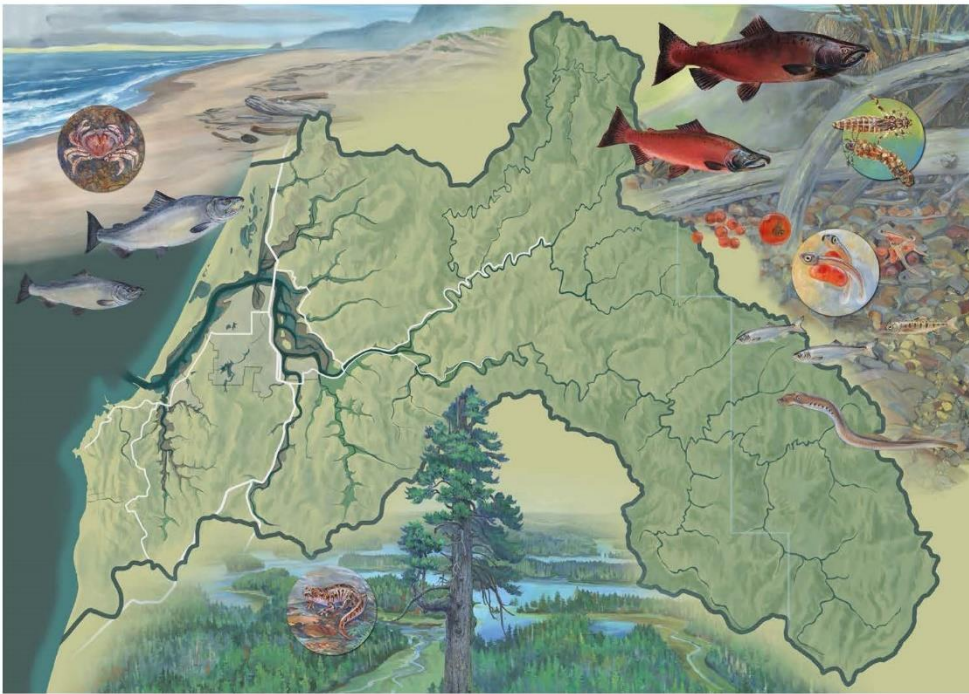
Mini Mayfly pop-up festivals in North Bend and Charleston.



28th birthday bash stewardship event and after-party at Mingus Park.

To celebrate our birthday, we hosted a 28th birthday bash stewardship event and after-party fundraiser at Mingus Park. We engaged over 80 community members and CoosWA staff/board, removed a *lot* of ivy from the slopes above the Mingus pool, and replanted with native trees and shrubs. For the evening event, Plate LLC served up hot food, 7 Devils poured cold drinks, and T-Bird and the Demarzo Trio performed live music. In addition to the volunteer support, we're also grateful to the donors and event sponsors who helped us raise over \$18,000 during this year's fundraiser! These fundraised dollars will be a huge support to our program operation costs in 2023.

New watershed outreach tools



Coos watershed map design, printed on magnetic dry erase board for outreach events.

In 2022, we teamed up with wildlife illustrator Ram Papish to create an artistic rendering of the Coos watershed. His design features some of the landscapes and wildlife that are home to our watershed, and we printed it on a 30" x 44" magnetic dry erase board that we can take to events. The next phase of the project will involve adding magnets for all the landmarks that make our watershed unique. Look for this fun, hands-on, and engaging outreach tool at all our booths and events!

Ram also designed five storm drain stencils, featuring local animals impacted by stormwater runoff, that will be painted in various Coos County cities during the summer of 2023. Keep an eye out for some bright colors on the pavement this summer!

Teddy Villers Natural Resource Scholarship



The Teddy Villers Natural Resource scholarship honors the life of Teddy Villers (Oct. 7, 2004 – Sept. 4, 2015).



Aubrey Turner, recipient of the 2022 Teddy Villers Natural Resource Scholarship.

In 2022, the Villers Family of Blue Ridge Timber Company and the Coos Watershed Association offered the 6th annual Teddy Villers Natural Resource scholarship. This award honors the life of Teddy Villers, son of Mark and Adela Villers, who lost his life while working on a salmon habitat restoration project with his dad in September 2015. Teddy had a strong curiosity and deep passion for the natural world. From a young age, he loved being outside working with his dad in the woods on projects that improved the watershed for both wildlife and people. The Villers family established a scholarship in Teddy's name, which is awarded to a local candidate each year who demonstrates passion for and commitment to pursuing post-secondary education in the field of natural resources.

We were pleased to award the 2022 scholarship to Aubrey Turner, a SWOCC student planning to study Forest Management at OSU. Previous recipients of this award include Abby Richards (2021), Alissa McCord (2020), Melanie Cavanagh (2019), Cole Michael Smith (2018), and Jamie Decker (2017).

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2022

Statement of Activities

for the year ending December 2022

Revenues

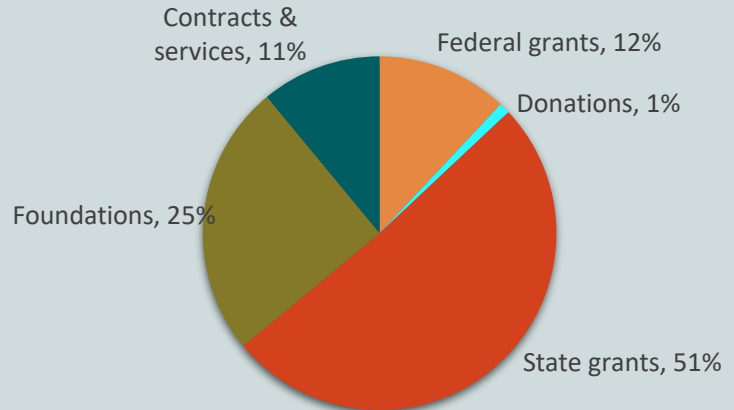
Grants	\$1,732,200
Contributions	\$19,808
Other income	\$212,670
Total revenue	\$1,964,678

Expenses

Program services	\$1,631,417
Support services	\$200,878
Total expenses	\$1,832,295

Net assets, beginning of year	\$576,934
Net assets, end of year	\$863,821
Change in assets	\$286,887

2022 Revenue by Source \$1,964,678



Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2022

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$266,770
Grants receivable	\$558,727
Other assets	\$42,906
Office and field equipment	\$128,750
(less accumulated depreciation)	<133,332>
Total assets	\$863,821

Liabilities

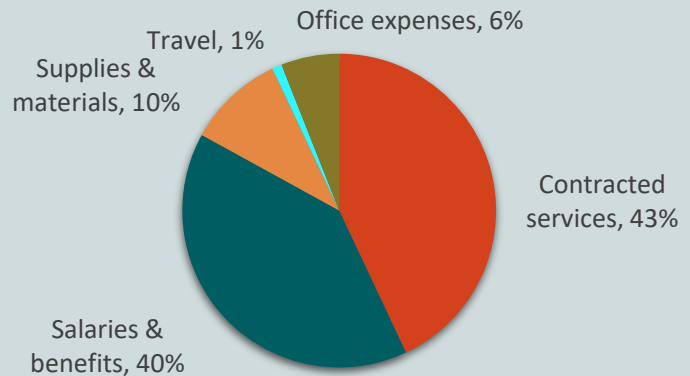
Accounts payable	\$195,193
Accrued payroll taxes and benefits	\$42,278
Accrued leave	\$65,614
Deferred grant advances	\$145,656
Total liabilities	\$448,741

Equity

Restricted	\$39,866
Unrestricted	\$375,214
Total equity	\$415,080

Total liabilities and equity	\$863,821
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2022 Expenditures by Category \$1,832,295



COOS
Watershed
Association

Special Thanks

Over the past 28 years, the Association has had the pleasure of employing over 200 people and welcoming 87 community members representing a wide variety of stakeholders to serve on our Board of Directors. Board members go above and beyond to guide and support the Association, through regular board meetings, committees, planning sessions, and volunteer events. Four board members reached important milestones in 2022: Don Yost (25 years), Jason Richardson (15 years), Bree Yednock (5 years), and Jeff Messerle (5 years). One CoosWA staff member also reached an important milestone: Chris Bauman has been the CoosWA financial and office manager for five years!



Board and staff members celebrating 2022 milestones, from left to right: Don Yost, Jason Richardson, Bree Yednock, Jeff Messerle, and Chris Bauman.

Looking ahead to our 29th year

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the many partners, landowners, funders, field techs, volunteers, interns, students, and community supporters who made sure that 2022 was a great year for the watershed. We look forward to working with you again next year! Help us celebrate our 29th year with the following events in 2023: the 7th annual Mayfly Festival (May 20 at Mingus Park), our 29th Birthday Bash Fundraiser (October), and many more fun things in-between.

To learn more about these events and other upcoming opportunities, choose from any of the following: sign up for our email list to receive our quarterly newsletter (<https://cooswatershed.org/#subscribe>), visit our website and social media pages, give us a call, or shoot us an email. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

The CoosWA board and staff

Photo credits: Photos by CoosWA, reserving all rights.



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