



# 2018 MIDCOAST WATERSHEDS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF  
STREAMS AND WATERSHEDS OF OREGON'S CENTRAL COAST

# MIDCOAST WATERSHEDS COUNCIL

# LETTER FROM

Another busy year has flown by. Our Watershed Restoration Specialist, Evan Hayduk, has been incredibly successful in moving multiple MCWC projects forward.

The Council has also been engaged in multiple larger efforts: the Mid Coast Water Planning Partnership, the Mid-Coast Basin Local Stakeholder Advisory Committee, and most recently the Siletz Coho Business Plan process. The Siletz Coho Business Plan is working to develop restoration strategies linked to the federal Coho Recovery Plan priorities.

In addition, the Council continues to participate with conservation organizations, federal and state agencies, and tribes on the development of the Oregon Central Coast Estuarine Collaborative to improve estuarine health and resilience. We now know that many juvenile coho use estuarine areas more extensively than previously thought, and that those that use estuaries survive and return to spawn in higher numbers.

One of the most significant issues facing the Pacific Northwest and the world is the issue of climate change and how to store carbon. While we work to improve riparian conditions in order to have cold, clean streams for salmon recovery and communities, we now know there are other co-benefits of these endeavors for climate.

## NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

There appears to be non-stop news concerning climate change and what we need to do to limit global warming to avoid catastrophic consequences, such as sea level rise and increased ocean acidification, as well as droughts and fires—all of which we are already starting to experience worldwide.

The 2017 document Natural Climate Solutions by Griscom et al. and the 2018 Oregon Global Warming Commission's Forest Carbon Accounting Project Report (both on our website) reinforce the urgency of action and the many options that may be pursued. Be it forest lands, agricultural lands, grasslands or wetlands—there are multiple conservation actions we can take to help reduce our carbon emis-

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Cover photo: Waters from the Yaquina River inundate Poole Slough during a king tide event. Background photo: Oak savanna in the South Fork Alsea Basin.

# THE CHAIR

sions, which will also improve habitat for fish and water quality. Improved land stewardship offers a powerful carbon storage method and provides tremendous opportunities to cut emissions.

We can store more carbon by increasing riparian buffers and having longer timber rotations. While these ideas will be controversial if imposed by regulation, there are many existing incentive programs, and there are likely to be more. Because such solutions are not only good for climate but also for our watersheds, salmon, and communities, we can find many win-win opportunities. These include improved water quality and soil health, more fish and wildlife, and flood buffering which can contribute to climate resilience for our towns.

Further, Griscom et. al identifies that wetlands offer 14% of natural climate solutions to reduce carbon and 19% of the opportunities are at a low cost. While total wetland acreage is less extensive than forests or grasslands, per unit of area, they hold the highest carbon stocks and provide the greatest potential for climate resilience and improved water quality.

The Beaver Creek conservation efforts (see next page) provides a great example of implementing projects that have climate and other benefits. In addition to protecting critical habitat for the threatened Oregon Coast Coho and Marbled Murrelet, these actions also store carbon and provide landscape adaptability and resilience to climate change. By avoiding wetland loss we keep carbon tied up in the soils and allow the wetlands to store and purify water. Conserving existing wetlands is much cheaper than mitigation, creation, and restoration actions to replace wetlands and wetland functions that have been lost.

It is time to increase our efforts to protect and restore our landscape— for current and future generations alike.



**PAUL ENGELMEYER**  
Ten Mile Sanctuary Manager,  
Audubon Society of Portland  
& Central Coast  
Preserve Manager,  
The Wetlands Conservancy

## 2018 BY THE NUMBERS

**4** NEW LAND-OWNERS

**3** RESTORATION PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

**9.5** ACRES OF RIPARIAN ZONE PLANTED WITH NATIVE SPECIES

**24** LARGE WOOD STRUCTURES INSTALLED WITH **168** LOGS TOTAL

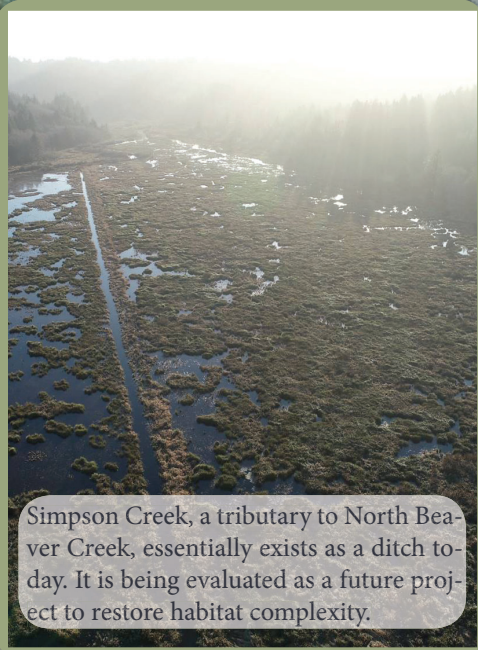
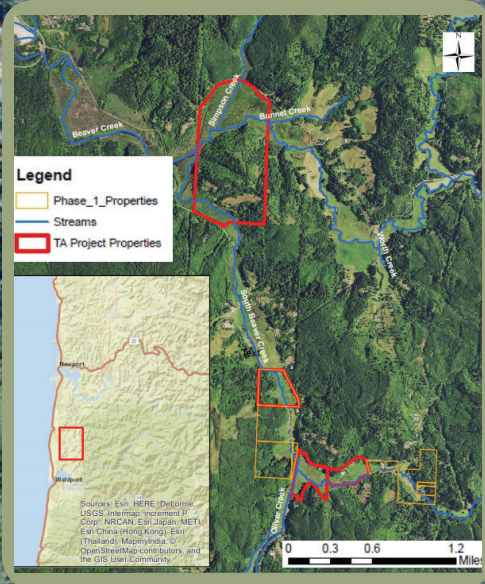
**4** PREVIOUS RESTORATION PROJECTS MAINTAINED

**50.7** ACRES OF RIPARIAN ZONE MAINTAINED

**349** ATTENDEES AT COMMUNITY MEETINGS

# RESTORATION FOCUS BEAVER CREEK

**EVAN  
HAYDUK**  
Watershed  
Restoration  
Specialist



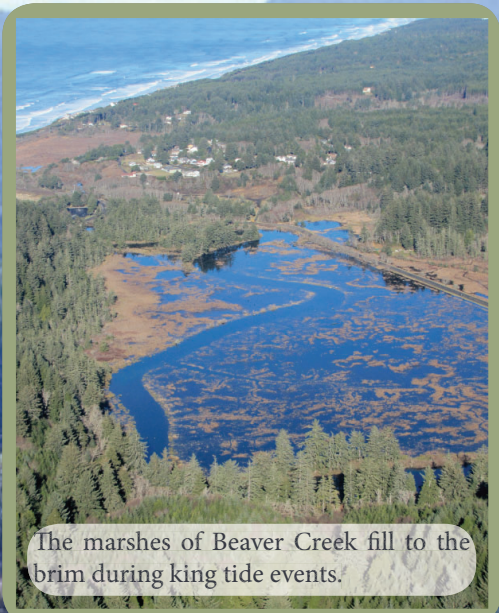
Simpson Creek, a tributary to North Beaver Creek, essentially exists as a ditch today. It is being evaluated as a future project to restore habitat complexity.

Beaver Creek lies between Yaquina and Alsea Bays, entering the ocean at Ona Beach in popular Brian Booth State Park. It has a valuable and productive run of threatened coho salmon that many are working to sustain and enhance. While its' upper reaches start within Siuslaw National Forest, lower portions of the watershed include 1261 acres of land owned by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, a 77-acre wetland preserve owned by The Wetlands Conservancy, and numerous private properties. About 68% of the of anadromous fish bearing stream miles are located on private properties, and hold the most valuable coho rearing habitat in the watershed. The Siuslaw National Forest has been working to protect salmon and multiple other species in Beaver Creek's headwaters, while OPRD, TWC, and supportive landowners have been doing their part lower in the system—from planting trees, encouraging and protecting beaver, and controlling invasive species, to educating the public through kayak tours, interpretive trails and a visitor center. MCWC has been working with landowners in the watershed since our formation. Now we are going back to enhance some of that work, as well as working with new landowners, in a concerted effort on seven contiguous properties on South Beaver Creek (see map at left). This effort is made possible through a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and with the help of many other partners.

Though Beaver Creek may look beautiful, major portions of the basin's lowland habitat are in too poor a shape to support salmon throughout the year. Stream channels lack large wood to capture spawning gravels and have become incised. As a result, water is unable to flow over the banks and connect to the floodplain during high water events, as a healthy stream would. This floodplain disconnection curtails the ability of water stored in floodplain wetlands to help maintain cool stream water temperatures during the summer, when stored water flows back into the stream underground. The stream sides have sparse if any native riparian vegetation to provide shade, habitat for birds, amphibians and other animals, or cover for fish. Lack of native vegetation also harms beavers, an ecosystem engineer critical for salmon recovery. Most of the vegetation you see is invasive reed canary grass. This grass forms root mats so dense that it prohibits native trees and shrubs from establishing. In addition, culverts under roads and driveways are too high or degraded to allow juvenile salmon from seeking out better habitat in side tributaries.

To address these concerns, MCWC received funding to plant 15.15 acres along South Beaver Creek, place large wood structures, install one beaver dam anchor, and remove a problematic culvert. New riparian plantings will extend the pre-existing one-tree buffers installed in the early 2000's, creating a riparian zone up to 180 feet on either side of the stream. Wood placements and the beaver dam anchor will increase stream and wetland complexity, flood-plain connectivity, and total habitat available to salmonids and other animals.

In addition to the private landowners, MCWC is grateful to work with 13 other partners that are contributing to this project: Hancock Forest Management, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Trask Consulting, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and the Seal Rock Water District.



The marshes of Beaver Creek fill to the brim during king tide events.



## PARTNER PROFILE NURSERY WORK

MCWC is one of 41 partners working with North Oregon Restoration Partnership to secure locally adapted native plant species (sourced from their nursery in Tillamook) for our local watershed restoration projects. In cooperation with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, we have established a NORP satellite nursery to store and care for plants prior to their planting in nearby sites. This nursery is strategically located within Brian Booth State Park: it's a 15 minute drive from our office, and centrally-located in relation to our remote restoration projects. Almost every week, volunteers work with OPRD Natural Resources Specialist Celste Lebo to pot NORP plants and start new plants from seeds or cuttings collected locally. Many of these same individuals also helped in setting up the nursery by building raised beds for sowing seeds, frames to store potted plants in, fencing to keep deer and state park visitors from entering, and bird boxes to attract local wildlife. We're always looking for more volunteers, so contact us if you're interested.



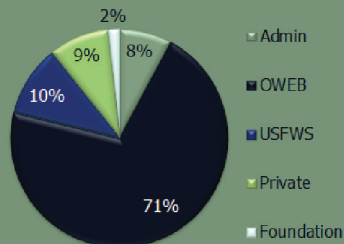
# BUILDING COMMUNITY

## 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

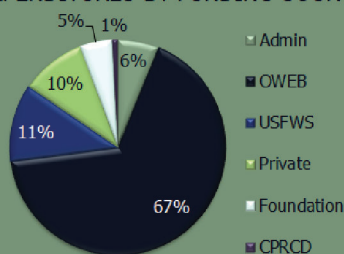
### REVENUES

Federal Grant Receipts	\$66,146
State Grant Receipts	\$129,546
Administrative Receipts	\$12,986
Donations Receipts	\$2,174
Foundation Receipts	\$4,098
Contract Receipts	\$21,548
Interest Income	\$1
Other Receipts	\$3,647
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$240,146</b>

### REVENUES BY FUNDING SOURCE



### EXPENDITURES BY FUNDING SOURCE



### EXPENDITURES

Personal Services	\$76,840
Material and Supplies	\$23,303
Administration Expenses	\$12,986
Office Rent	\$10,832
Contract Services	\$98,518
Internet and Telephone Services	\$1,521
Travel and Conferences	\$5,889
Office Expenses	\$6,377
Interest Expenses	\$761
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$237,027</b>

The above was prepared by MCWC Fiscal Manager, Tanya Graham. Tanya works remotely, after nearly two decades of work locally for both MCWC and Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District.

One of MCWC's goals is to provide a public forum for education and discussion about regional watershed topics affecting our salmon, water quality, and other natural resources. To do so, MCWC reserves the first Thursday of every month to gather board and engaged community members alike for our Community Meetings, which include presentations by guest speakers. The researchers, professionals, and project collaborators we host share their expertise on various natural resource topics of interest in our watershed. While we know that natural resources serve as the backbone of and backdrop to our local culture and economy, it can often be a challenge to glean knowledge on the status of these resources from the experts that study them. That's why MCWC holds a consistent date, time, and place to allow community members to more easily share in the wealth of knowledge that exists here, and to meet other interesting people. After each presentation, we encourage constructive engagement from listeners. In addition, we serve refreshments so that people can take some time to interact with their friends or meet new ones. This creates a learning environment in which everyone who attends is able to grow their understanding of our local ecology and fellow community members.

Below are all the speakers we were grateful to host in 2018.

**JANUARY** 15 Years of Winter Steelhead Monitoring. Eric Brown, ODFW.

**SEPTEMBER** Invasive Species: Threats, Challenges, and Solutions. Jim Nechols, KSU.

**FEBRUARY** Ocean Acidification in Estuaries. George Waldbusser, OSU.

**OCTOBER** The Blob, El Nino, and the Biological Response across the Northeast Pacific. Laurie Weitkamp, NOAA.

**MAY** The Eulachon Story. Mac Barr, ODFW.

**DECEMBER** Why We Can Still Build a Thriving Future- and Easy Ways to Help. Mary DeMocker, author of The Parents' Guide to Climate Revolution.

**JUNE** Freshwater Mussels. Emilie Blevins, Xerces Society.

**AUGUST** Living with Beaver. Evan Hayduk, MCWC.

If you would like to learn about what we have in store for future Community Meetings, be sure to check out our website's News & Events page, and subscribe to our email list.

# GOODBYE TO WAYNE

Wayne Hoffman's long, 20-year career as the Watershed Council Coordinator and then Policy Director for the MidCoast Watersheds Council came to an end in October, 2018. Co-workers, colleagues and friends gathered to celebrate his many contributions to restoring and improving the health of the Oregon Central Coast's rivers and streams.

On the evening of Tuesday, October 23rd, the upstairs of a favorite restaurant, Local Ocean Seafoods, was packed with people wanting to say goodbye and to share many stories about Wayne's role in protecting and improving river and stream habitat for salmon. The company, food and drinks were enjoyed by all along with gifts for Wayne to use at his new home in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Not wanting to burden Wayne with more to move, MCWC and the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District provided him with gift certificates that would allow him to visit the natural areas near his new home. These included memberships to the North Carolina Aquarium in Fort Fisher and to Airlie Gardens, as well as a number of boat trips with Wrightsville Boat Tours so that Wayne can have access to the incredible birding that exists on the barrier islands.

Wayne also served on the Board of Directors for our close partners at the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District. Between the two organizations, his involvement in the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership and the Siletz Basin Coho Business Plan were especially notable in recent years, and he plans on serving an advising role from afar as necessary while work is done to fill his shoes. We are sad to see Wayne go as a friend and colleague, but wish him well for life's next set of adventures.



**MARK  
SAELEN**  
Treasurer  
& Small Government  
Representative

# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

Alsea Watershed Council  
Audubon Society of  
Portland  
Benton County  
Benton Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
Bureau of Land  
Management  
Cascade Pacific Resource  
Conservation and  
Development  
City of Newport  
City of Siletz  
Confederated Tribes of the  
Grande Ronde Indians  
Confederated Tribes of the  
Siletz Indians  
Dahl Disposal Service  
Georgia-Pacific  
Hancock Forest  
Management  
Hatfield Marine Science  
Center  
Institute for Applied  
Ecology  
John Sherman  
Lane County

Lincoln County Public  
Works  
Lincoln Soil and Water  
Conservation District  
Miami Timber  
National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Association  
Native Fish Society  
Natural Resources  
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Newport Visual Arts Center  
Oregon Department of  
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Oregon Department of Fish  
and Wildlife  
Oregon Department of  
Forestry  
Oregon Department of  
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Water Resources  
Oregon Parks and  
Recreation Department  
Oregon State University  
Oregon Watershed  
Enhancement Board  
OSU Extension Service

Pacific States Marine  
Fisheries Commission  
Peter Tronquet  
Private Landowners  
Salmon Drift Creek  
Watershed Council  
Seal Rock Water District  
Siletz Watershed Council  
SOLVE  
Starker Forests  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Wetlands Conservancy  
Thompson Sanitary Service  
Trask Consulting  
Trout Unlimited- Blueback  
Chapter  
US Army Corps of  
Engineers  
US Environmental  
Protection Agency  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
US Forest Service- Siuslaw  
National Forest  
Weyerhaeuser  
Yaquina Birders and  
Naturalists



## DONATE TODAY FOR SALMON TOMORROW

MidCoast Watersheds Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible and may be sent to our mailing address, or made on our website.

Background photo: Bummer Creek.