

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Dedicated to improving the health of streams
and watersheds on Oregon's central coast.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Paul Engelmeyer

Watershed Council Board Chair,

**Ten Mile Sanctuary Manager, Portland Audubon Society
& Central Coast Manager, The Wetlands Conservancy**



Another year screamed by! Many of us are now adjusted to hybrid events with both Zoom and in-person participation. We are also starting to get back to field trips and volunteer events -and that sure feels good.

As some of you may have heard there have been excellent developments with the Council. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Mike Broili as the incoming Chair - congratulations Mike! He has a plethora of relevant experience including in water conservation and has been a great asset to the Board for several years. We are thrilled to have him at the helm, and look forward to his leadership in 2023 and beyond. I am transitioning to the Vice Chair position and look forward to continued work with Mike, the Board, and Council staff.

In 2022, we secured a Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), which will help us move forward on a number of opportunities in the Yaquina and Alsea basins. We are in the process of

hiring a new position to help manage these new projects. On a bittersweet note, Trevor Griffiths, our Habitat Restoration Specialist, nursery manager, and volunteer coordinator moved on to a new position with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD or “State Parks”). While we miss seeing him daily, we are glad to have Trevor as a partner in his new role with State Parks! We are recruiting candidates to fill this position in 2023. Finally, I am so impressed with our small staff - juggling so many things and accomplishing so much this year. Great work Evan and Tom - thanks so much for all you do!

While we have embarked on this next chapter there are a number of efforts that will continue into the future. Updating the Yaquina Estuary Management Plan that was written about 40 years ago is quite a challenge. We hope to influence this process and create a credible template for updating estuary plans statewide. The continued efforts to help DEQ develop plans to improve water quality in the Yaquina and other basins (that do not meet Clean Water Act standards) are also quite a commitment and challenge. ➔

I cannot express my appreciation to the Board of Directors enough. What a small group of committed folks can do is truly impressive! This year Elmer Ostling, one of our long serving and dedicated Board members passed away. He was committed to and knowledgeable about the landscape. We'll also greatly miss his humor.

The conservation and restoration work that gets accomplished on the central coast is not just the Council's. This work would not happen without the help of our many partners including: ODFW, Siletz Tribe, USFS, BLM, The Nature Conservancy, McKenzie River Trust, USFWS, The Wetlands Conservancy, and the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District. It's a real team effort. I would like to thank all those who have been engaged in these conservation efforts, including our dedicated volunteers.

Hopefully, we will cross paths on one of our field trips or educational events. If you have any potential projects do not hesitate to contact the team.

All the best in 2023 - Paul Engelmeyer



Elmer Ostling, a dedicated Board member who passed away in 2022.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

In 2022, many talented speakers provided insights on diverse topics. Recorded presentations are available on our website and YouTube.

January: Migratory Bird Monitoring through Citizen Science (Roy Lowe, retired USFWS)

February: Eelgrass in Oregon's Estuaries (Jim Kaldy, EPA)

March: Forest Management in a Changing Climate (Kirk Hanson, NWNG)

April: Tidal Wetlands in Yaquina Bay (Laura Brophy, Institute for Applied Ecology)

May: Benefits of Riparian Vegetation (Kristi Dyballa, Point Blue Ecology)

June: Salmon Life Histories (Rebecca Flitcroft, USFS)

August: MidCoast Watersheds Council Project Updates (Evan Hayduk, MCWC)

September: Careers in Conservation (James Adams, Highschool Intern with MCWC)

November: Fire in Coastal Forests (Andrew Merschel USFS)



COORDINATOR REPORT

Evan Hayduk
Council Coordinator

Another year, another list of accomplishments for the MCWC and our many partners!

On the ground actions this year included follow up large wood placements in Landward Migration Zones (LMZ's) in Poole Slough (Yaquina). "LMZ's" are areas of higher elevations that will become tidal wetlands as sea level rises. We also worked with BLM and the USFS to place 230 logs on federally owned land in the Mill Creek (Alea) basin, higher in the watershed.

Concurrently, we supported BLM, Weyerhaeuser, and ODFW to design and replace fish passage barriers in the Mill/Beaty Creek basin, which will lead to two culvert replacements and full restoration of fish access to that basin by the end of 2023. We also continued planting and maintenance work on over 100 riparian acres on over 30 properties throughout the central coast, including site preparation and invasive species control on properties affected by the 2020 Echo Mountain complex fire in Otis.



Logs being placed in Mill Creek (Alea)



Field technician clearing invasive species on Little Lobster Creek



Poole Slough log placements in tidal wetlands

2022 also saw some transitions here at MCWC, including new Board elections with some new faces and our Restoration Specialist, Trevor Griffiths, moving on to a new position with OPRD. We wish Trevor all the best and will be working with him on a few projects, including shared management of the Beaver Creek nursery moving forward.

MCWC also merged our operations with the Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council (SDCWC) this year. The SDCWC, under President Paul Katen's tireless efforts, accomplished their priority restoration work and we are excited to finally give Paul a restful



Paul Katen at a Salmon River Clean Up

retirement that he truly deserves!

Looking ahead to 2023, MCWC is hiring two new staff members to continue the ongoing projects and work towards development and funding of new projects. We are excited about the possibilities of moving the needle with the Yaquina and Alsea estuary Focused Investment Partnership, but will continue to work throughout the midcoast area to complete priority projects to improve habitat quality and quantity. We could not accomplish all of this without your support, and the hard work of our partners and volunteers. See you all in 2023.

BY THE NUMBERS

2 FISH PASSAGE BARRIERS REPLACED

5 NEW LANDOWNERS ENGAGED

100 ACRES OF RIPARIAN ZONE ACTIVELY MAINTIANED

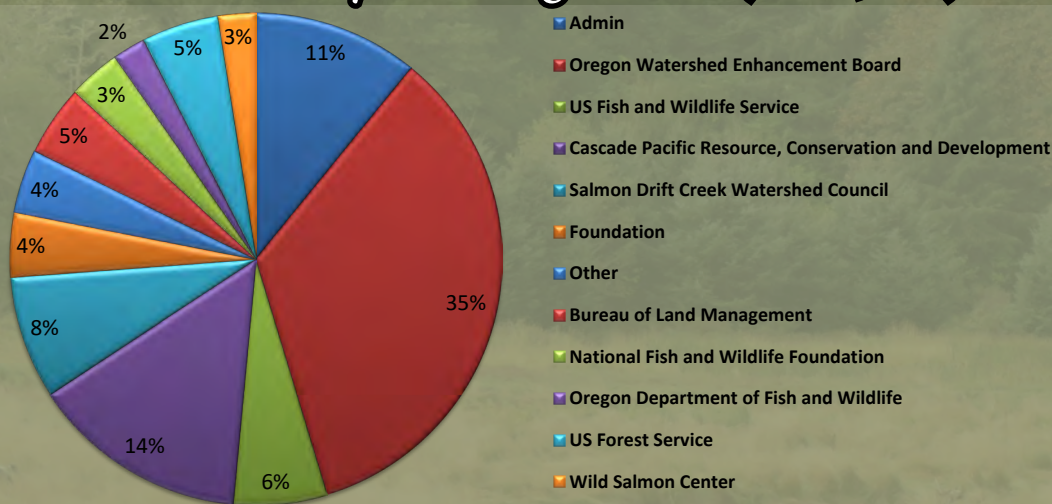
800+ VOLUNTEER HOURS

250 PIECES OF LARGE WOOD PLACED

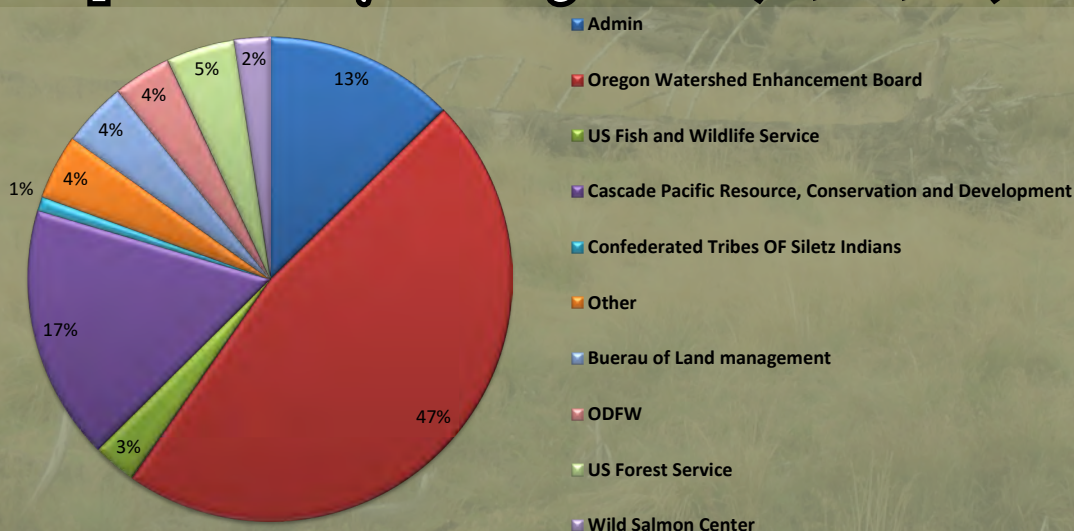
2 MAJOR PROJECTS ENGINEERED

FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenues by Funding Source (\$990,875)



Expenditures by Funding Source (\$1,056,041)



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

There's no way to plant over 20,000 native plants in a year without many, many hands. Our community of dedicated volunteers showed up, rain or shine, and put in hundreds of hours of work into our nursery, planting projects, and working groups. We can't thank them enough, so our annual appreciation event will have to do.

We are always looking to partner and expand our volunteer base, so please feel free to reach out and find out how to get involved. There are many ways to lend a helping hand, not just in the field.



Beaver Creek Nursery



Volunteer appreciation day at Ona Beach



CAREERS IN CONSERVATION INTERNSHIP

The time I spent with the Midcoast Watersheds Council this past summer was truly unique. My internship gave me the opportunity to explore the streams of the Oregon Coast Range and gain an immersive experience of the essential work done by the Council.

I was able to aid in numerous projects including the creation of graphical visuals for creek cross section analysis, the conduction of an AQI (aquatic habitat inventory) of Cerine Creek, and a temperature logger audit of the Alsea River system to monitor salmon habitat conditions. Without this amazing opportunity, I would have remained oblivious to the importance of stream complexity and the massive beneficial potential of large wood placements. I'm so grateful to have been given the chance to connect with my local ecosystems in such an intimate manner. It was indeed an adventure unlike any other.

-James Adams, Highschool STEMHub intern, Summer 2022



BEAVERS

Beavers are watershed superheros. Creating habitat, filtering and storing water, and easing wildfire pressure are just a few of the benefits of these amazing creatures.

We continued our beaver efforts in 2022, planting beaver friendly species in restoration sites, helping educate landowners to their benefits, and connecting landowners to resources to manage beavers.

The first ever MCWC hats, featuring this ecosystem engineer, were gifted to our loyal volunteers. We might just have a handful left if you need one!

We are overjoyed to welcome ODFW's new Beaver Biologist, and look forward to working together in the years to come.



BOARD AND STAFF

Our board is the backbone of our organization. Representing expertise from various fields and stakeholders in the area, we are able to find unique, collaborative solutions to issues facing our watersheds.

In 2022, we welcomed 3 new board members to the team. New faces include Ted Dewitt as our Academic representative, Brandon Larrabee as our Tribal representative, and Michael Meagher as our new treasurer. We look forward to working together and appreciate the expertise they each bring.

STAFF

Council Coordinator: Evan Hayduk

Watershed Restoration Specialist: Trevor Griffiths

Education and Outreach Specialist: Tom McCambridge

BOARD

Chair: Paul Engelmeyer

Vice Chair: Mike Broili

Recorder: Fran Recht

Commercial Fishing Representative: Jeff Feldner

Siletz Watershed Council Representative: Don Larsen

Small Woodlot Owners Representative: Joe Steere

Tribal Government Representative: Brandon Larrabee

Academic/Scientific Representative: Ted Dewitt

Local Government Representative: Paul Seitz

Restoration Workers Representative: Mark Stone

Industrial Forest Representative: Jennifer Beathe

Public at Large: Bill Montgomery, Fred Holzmer

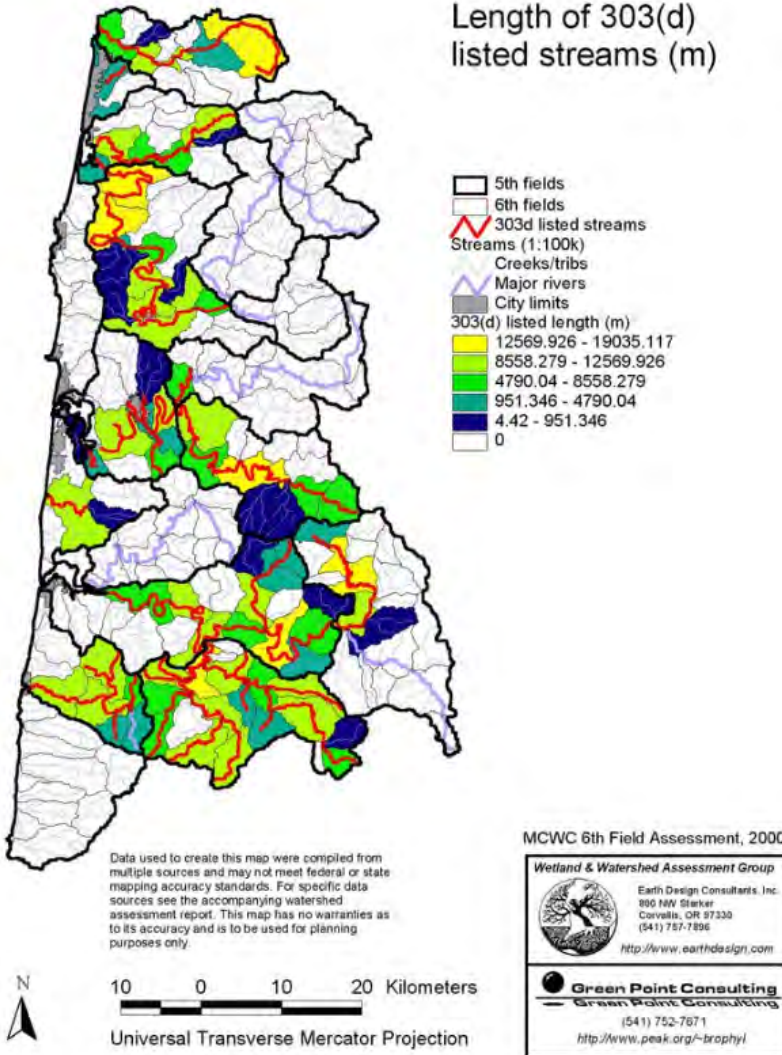
Recreational Fishing Representative: Joe Rohleder

Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council: Paul Katen



DIGITAL RESOURCES

Length of 303(d)
listed streams (m)



In 2022, our website (midcoastwatersheds.org) got a serious overhaul. We have been gathering information about local watersheds for years, and it is now much more accessible. Some of the newly available information includes:

- Watershed assessments for all midcoast basins
- New write ups of our past projects
- User friendly calendar of meetings and volunteer opportunities
- Interactive map of eDNA research results
- And much more!

There is always something new to learn about, so be sure to check back in!

In late 2021, MCWC finally made the leap onto social media, and in 2022 the audience grew from zero to over 700 across several platforms. This is a wonderful new tool to disseminate information about our work and events.

If you use social media, you can find us at @midcoastwatersheds on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube.



Find our social media above or at:
<https://linktr.ee/midcoastwatersheds>

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Aaron, Katie, Leo, & Ona Duzik
Aaron Groth
AJ Jones
Andy Doremus
Andrea Halliday
Annie Young Matthews
Ari Blatt
Audubon Society of Portland
Barbara Lachenbruch
Barry McPherson
Ben Hayes
Benton County
Bill Montgomery
Boone Ogden
Brandon Larrabee
Bureau of Land Management
Carla Shetzline
Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development
Celeste Lebo
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City of Siletz
City of Toledo
Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
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Dan Elefant
Debbie Pickering
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Jennie Dunn-Dixon
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Kevin Erdahl
Kim Hastings
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Lala Mckenzie
Lane County
Laura Doyle
Lincoln County Public Works
Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District
Linda Mallinoff
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Matt Fehrenbacher
Mike Broili
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Noel Bacheller
Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality
Oregon Coast Today
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Dept. of Forestry
Oregon Dept. of State Lands
Oregon Dept. of Water Resources
Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept.
Oregon State University
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
OSU Extension Service
Pacific Forest Trust
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
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Paul Katen
Paul Robertson
Peter & Cathy Tronquet
Private Landowners
Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council
Sara Schreiber
Scott Stouder
Seal Rock Water District
Sharon Van Buren
Siletz Watershed Council
Susan Hogg
Starker Forests
Ted DeWitt
The Nature Conservancy
The News Guard
The NewsTimes
The Wetlands Conservancy
Thompson Sanitary Service
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
Van Eck Forestry
Wolf Water Resources
Weyerhaeuser
Xerces Society