

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission is to work with citizens of rural communities to enhance their quality of life through social, economic, and environmental improvements.

Our Programs

- Siuslaw Stewardship Collaborative
- Western Invasives Network
- Berggren Demonstration Farm
- Fiscal Administration and Fiscal Sponsorship

"Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you." - Wendell Berry

Dear Members and Friends,

I am nothing but impressed and inspired by the amount of dedication and passion you all have for conservation work and, more specifically, our organization. This last year has been one to inspire us all as we have worked towards further rebuilding of our organization and adjusting to many changes RC&Ds have seen over the past year. It has taken time to adjust to the removal of funding from Congress, time to adjust to changes in staff. I feel that we have really found ourselves here at Cascade Pacific, and discovered who we are and where we are going. The board completed a strategic analysis of our organization over the past year, and we look forward to continuing that work and leading the organization forward based on mission impact.

Cascade Pacific Board, Staff and Members should be proud and be commended for its professionalism, recognition and continued commitment to the conservation work we all do. Protecting our communities and valuable environmental resources is critical at this time, and will continue to get more and more critical as populations grow and valuable resources are tapped into. Through our mission we can all work together to improve the quality of life in our communities through social, economic and environmental improvement.

It is truly amazing to reflect back on where this organization was a few years ago, and know where we are now. Committed to moving forward, financially stable, staffed with qualified committed and professional staff is who I see this organization is today and some of the steps we have taken over this last year. 2013 has been a year of building and solidifying our programs, process and strategic planning. Now we can take this organization to the next level.

I look forward to 2014 and the opportunities and growth it will bring to this organization. I am proud to have played a small role in helping it to survive the challenging economic times and honored to have served this organization for the past 5 years.

I would like to end by giving special recognition to the staff of Cascade Pacific. The staff should be recognized for their resiliency and dedication to making an impact in their community. It is evident that the staff continues to be this organization's most valuable resource. They demonstrate a high level of competence in their work and extreme dedication to this organization. From all of us on the Board, a great big thank you to all the Cascade Pacific Staff!

Connie Karr, CPRCD Board President

Governing Board

Connie Karr, President • Karl Morgenstern, Vice President • Kent Daniels, Secretary • Michael Cairns, Treasurer
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Molly Davis, Fiscal Manager

Peggy Nelson, Fiscal Accountant

Patty Collins, Program Office Assistant

Vern Holm, WIN Coordinator

Jared Pruch, Berggren Demonstration Farm Coordinator

Angela Andre, Berggren Demonstration Farm Manager

Katy Giombolini, Berggren Demonstration Farm Outreach & Education Coordinator

Rebecca McCoun-Travers, Coordinator, North Santiam Watershed Council

Kelly Foley, Regional Landowner Partnership Coordinator, North Santiam Watershed Council



Siuslaw Stewardship Collaborative

Watershed Restoration Program

By Kirk Shimeall, Executive Director / Stewardship Coordinator

Now in its fifteenth year of successful partnership with the Siuslaw National Forest, CPRCD awarded over \$343,000 this fiscal year to local organizations for forest restoration projects on private lands. The amount awarded over the life of the program is over \$1.6M, with match amounts of \$1.8M, for a total of over \$3.4M!

These funds are made available through a cooperative agreement between CPRCD and the USFS to distribute and manage project funds generated from forest thinning on the Siuslaw National Forest. CPRCD advertises an application each year and manages the project awards through their completion. Money generated from retained receipts on National Forest lands helped to fund projects around invasive weeds removal, riparian restoration, tree planting, and improving fish passage. The following groups received Stewardship funds for their excellent project ideas:

- Lincoln Public Works • Lincoln SWCD • Mary's River WC • Nestucca Neskowin WC •
- Salmon Drift Creek WC • Siuslaw SWCD • Siuslaw WC • van Eck Forest Foundation •

The process of determining project awards is a true partnership among CPRCD, the USFS, and local stakeholders that include private landowners, watershed councils (WC's), Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD's), city and county government, tribal representatives, and conservation organizations. They participate in monthly Stewardship Group meetings to become informed and help shape the decisions that generate funded restoration projects that benefit both private lands and the Siuslaw National Forest. There are now four different Stewardship Groups: the Alesa, Siuslaw, Mary's Peak, and Hebo.

The Stewardship program as practiced in our partnership with the Siuslaw National Forest and other participants in the Stewardship Groups is a model of what can be achieved through cooperative collaboration and is widely admired. Cascade Pacific's role in this collaborative effort is important, as we provide a neutral third party with no vested interest who can help reach agreement from those partners at the table. We help this unique collaborative to succeed!

Elk Creek Culvert Before and After



Growth and Positive Changes for Western Invasives Network (WIN)

By Vern Holm, WIN Coordinator

Three big changes impacted the Western Invasives Network over the last year, and they were all good. First, I went from being a contractor to an employee of CPRCD. Part of the change that this brought was in the program name: the Northwest Weed Management Partnership is now the Western Invasives Network – we think readers will agree that the acronym WIN is a little more catchy than NWMP!

No matter what the name, WIN is a dynamic and growing program and thanks to expansion it now serves natural resources managers in seven southwest Washington and 14 northwest Oregon counties. WIN's mission is to prevent the introduction, and to control the spread of, the most harmful invasive plant species in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington by coordinating information and activities of Cooperative Weed Management Areas and willing land managers.

To accomplish this, as the WIN Coordinator, I work with over 130 local, state, federal agencies,



Surveying Invasive Weeds, Columbia River

timber companies, agriculture, WSU/OSU Extension, Tribes, and non-profits to help leverage and share resources leading to cooperative vegetation management and habitat restoration projects.

But wait – there's more! Future plans include creating one of the largest Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) in the Pacific Northwest – an Oregon/Washington collaboration of stakeholders belonging to the Cascadia Prairie Oak



Surveying North Santiam River for Invasives

Partner-

ship (CPOP). WIN will assist partners in the CPOP CWMA with invasive weed control strategies prior to site restoration.

Additional efforts will be to continue to work with the Oregon Invasive Species Council, the Oregon Vegetation Management Association, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region and other state and regional groups as we strive to protect natural places and enhance the economic growth of timber, fishing, recreation and agriculture.



Teen Weed Spotters, Fenders Blue Habitat

Cultivating New Farmers at the Berggren Demonstration Farm

By Jared Pruch, Farm Coordinator



As a new and evolving program, the Berggren Demonstration Farm has spent much of the past two years identifying our 'niche' in the farm and food landscape of the southern Willamette Valley. The past growing season has brought exciting new direction and partnerships to our work, with a guiding focus on educating a new generation of ecologically-minded farmers.

Staff news: In February, we hired **Angela Andre** as our new Farm Manager. Angela brings more than 35 years of experience as both a farmer and educa-

tor to the position, and we are lucky to have her on board! Under her direction, the farm has implemented a pasture-based system of rotational grazing with livestock and poultry. **Katy Giombolini**, who served as an AmeriCorps RARE member last year, was hired on in July as our Education & Outreach Coordinator. Katy is the coordinator of the new 'Farm Corps' internship program; she is also the co-planner of the Local Food Connection and facilitates many of the farm program's outreach efforts.

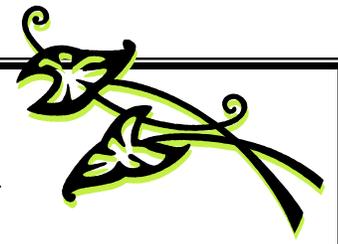
Milestones & accomplishments: With generous support from the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB), the Meyer Memorial Trust, the Gray Family Fund, Ninkasi Brewing, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and our community partners, we are pleased to report the following significant developments in our program from this past year.

- ◆ **Livestock & produce.** On the farm this summer we raised over 500 chickens, ducks and turkeys, 20 meat goats and rabbits, 20 tons of clover hay, and a bounty of annual vegetables. From building housing for the animals to installing drip irrigation for vegetable gardening, it was a year of construction and infrastructure improvement at the Demo Farm.
- ◆ **Southern Willamette Farm Corps.** In 2014, we will be implementing the pilot year of Farm Corps, a rigorous on-farm educational internship program. The program - the first 'chapter' expansion of the Rogue Farm Corps model from southern Oregon - provides student interns with a 'full immersion' farming experience on a local farm.
- ◆ **Local Food Connection.** The 7th annual Local Food Connection conference drew more than 250 farmers, ranchers, and food buyers to Lane Community College for a day of networking and informational workshops. Our keynote presenter was Jock Gibson, president of Lochmead Dairy.
- ◆ **Mobile Poultry Processing Unit.** Under the new '1,000 Bird Exemption,' farms who are producing fewer than 1,000 poultry annually can legally process birds on site. We have established a mobile processing 'kit' that other farms can borrow to capitalize on this new market opportunity.
- ◆ **Environmental Education.** More than 100 students from local middle schools visited the Berggren Watershed Conservation Area three times during the 2012-2013 school year for educational field trips focused on sustainable agriculture (fall), native riparian ecosystems (winter), and whole watershed health (spring).

We also hosted numerous student practicum experiences with University of Oregon and Lane Community College students, held a 'chicken taste-off' for neighbors and friends, collected spent brewery grain from Plank Town Brewing to feed to farm animals, hosted two summer interns, developed a farm website, and planted the first portion of our demonstration truffle orchard. In short, it's been a busy and productive year for the Demo Farm and our related programs!

North Santiam Watershed Council

By Rebecca McCoun-Travers, Council Coordinator



Employer of Record and Fiscal Administration services offered through Cascade Pacific RC&D have benefited the North Santiam Watershed Council greatly. Having the human resource responsibilities taken off the shoulders of the all-volunteer board has allowed the watershed council's focus to stay on promoting and sustaining the health of the watershed and its communities; the very reason why board members have joined the watershed council to begin with. The council volunteers are not finding themselves bogged down with human resources and financial matters which have allowed them to stay focused on the natural resource issues they care about.

With an environmental science and biology background, I am also grateful to have experts available to help me with the council's grant budgets. The employees at Cascade Pacific RC&D are just a phone call away and are always eager to assist me with all council financial and contractual matters. In my first few months on the job, Cascade Pacific has not only provided the North Santiam Watershed Council with fiscal administration and human resources services but they have also assisted the council with applying for grants, creating contracts, requesting and processing donations and has assisted the council with obtaining updated computer software at a discounted rate. Cascade Pacific RC&D holds the 501(c)3 non-profit status and, as the watershed council's fiscal administrator, is able to apply for grants on behalf of North Santiam Watershed Council which has chosen not to bear the financial burden of a non-profit. The partnership between the North Santiam Watershed Council and Cascade Pacific RC&D has allowed each organization to excel in their own area of expertise which ultimately results in higher levels of efficiency and cost savings for all involved.

"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us.

When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." — Aldo Leopold

Luckiamute Watershed Council

By Kristen Larson, Council Coordinator

Cascade Pacific RC&D staff is dedicated to serving its fiscal clients. The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) has one full-time staff person as the Council Coordinator and we rely on CPRCD for our fiscal administration needs. Cascade Pacific provides grant review, contract diligence and development, and financial reporting to our funders in addition to our accounting. We operate with several open grants at a time in order to accomplish watershed restoration work on the ground, which requires regular communication between the LWC and Cascade Pacific to make sure we are working in sync. The team at Cascade Pacific is incredibly service-oriented, friendly, hard-working, and dedicated to their service and our missions.

