

Annual Report: July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

One Family Making a Difference in Three North Santiam Watershed Subbasins Alder Creek, Bear Branch Creek & South Valentine Creek

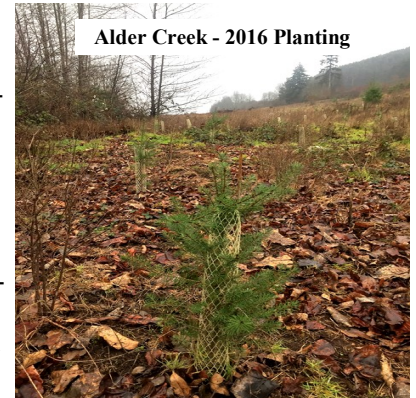
Ed Beitel and his family own and manage cropland on both the Linn and Marion County sides of the North Santiam River. Crops grown by the Beitel Family include fine fescue, perennial rye grass, wheat, sweet corn and green beans.

In 2015, the North Santiam Watershed Council (NSWC) staff began working with Ed Beitel and his son Francis Beitel on restoring the streamside corridor adjacent to Bear Branch Creek just outside of Stayton in Linn County. Ed was tired of seeing the heavy infestations of messy non-native blackberries, holly and ivy, which made access to the creek nearly impossible. NSWC staff found the riparian wildlife habitat was degraded along his waterways with invasive weeds prevalent throughout the riparian zone. The lack of a fully functioning riparian area can have a negative impact on water quality by allowing excess sediment into the waterways. Ed understood that by removing the invasive plants and planting native trees and shrubs, in the long term, would help better stabilize the soils, reduce sediment runoff, reestablish native woody vegetation, suppress nonnative plants and improve fish and wildlife habitat throughout the project reach.



Bear Branch - 2016 Riparian Planting

The NSWC, in partnership with Linn Soil & Water Conservation District, Linn County Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) helped Ed develop a 5.95 acre riparian restoration project along both sides of Bear Branch Creek. With Willamette River Initiative Model Watershed grant funds awarded through OWEB and Meyer Memorial Trust along with landowner FSA CREP cost shares, the NSWC staff were able to conduct project site prep, planting and plant establishment activities on 5.95 acre of streamside property. Invasive Armenian blackberry, English holly, ivy and hawthorn were removed and over 13,200 native trees and shrubs were planted along Bear Branch Creek.



Alder Creek - 2016 Planting

In the beginning, Ed was reluctant to work with the NSWC. Like many landowners, Ed was concerned the NSWC was a regulatory or governmental entity. After working with the council staff he quickly learned watershed councils are non-regulatory, non-governmental, nonprofit organizations made up of diverse volunteer stakeholders with a mission focused on assisting landowners with their watershed natural resource concerns. Watershed council staff, funded by Oregon Lottery dollars through OWEB grants and capacity funds provided by Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT), dedicate their time and efforts to assisting willing landowners, like Ed, find solutions to their watershed concerns. Staff are able to provide landowners with technical support and assistance with obtaining grant funds to help implement restoration projects.



South Valentine Creek - 2017 Planting

In 2016, the NSWC staff began assisting Ed with restoring two additional riparian corridors running through land he owned and managed in the Alder Creek and Valentine Creek subbasins, both located on the Marion County side of the North Santiam River. In 2016 and 2017, the NSWC utilized free plant material obtained through the Marion County Free Tree Program and a City of Salem riparian donation to assist Ed with planting and plant establishment activities on 7.5 riparian acres at the headwaters of Alder Creek. In 2017, the council again utilized OWEB, and MMT grant funds to hire R. Franco Restoration to conduct 11 acres of site prep, plant over 20,000 native trees and shrubs and conduct spring and fall plant establishment activities along the South Valentine Creek. The NSWC staff will continue to assist Ed with plant establishment activities until his plantings are free-to-grow.



Who We Are

Members of the North Santiam Watershed Council are local volunteers who share an interest in improving the health of the watershed in partnership with interested landowners and land managers. Utilizing scientific assessments and best management practices, the council facilitates projects, partnerships and actions that improve watershed health.

NSWC BOARD MEMBERS

Operations Committee

Brad Nanke, Chair, City of Salem

Brent Stevenson, Vice Chair, Santiam Water Control District

John Caruso, Secretary/Treasurer, Marion County

Steering Committee

Suzette Boudreaux, Little North Fork Santiam Subbasin

Dave Carpenter, At Large, Landowner

Mike Kroon, Natural Resources, ODF

Jan Irene Miller, At Large, Landowner

Debbie Paul, At Large, Linn SWCD

Bill Sanderson, Recreation & Economic I

Lawrence Schwabe, Grand Ronde Tribe

Jon Tucker, Lower North Santiam Subbasin

Vacant, Middle North Santiam Subbasin

Council Staff

Rebecca McCoun, Council Coordinator

Tyler Pedersen, Shared Santiam Project Manager

Joseph Deardorff, Shared Santiam Project Technician

NSWC Strategic Planning



The North Santiam and South Santiam Watershed Council's initiated both individual council and joint strategic planning discussions in March and June of 2017. Grant funds provided by the Meyer Memorial Trust allowed the councils to contract Allison Handler with Solid Ground Consulting to facilitate the strategic planning process and based off the collaborative discussions have helped each council create working strategic plan documents.

Thank you to all the volunteer board members and local stakeholders who are helping us build a stronger and more efficient watershed council organization!



Special Thank You & Farewell

The North Santiam Watershed Council would like to give a "Special Thank You" to Mike Kroon of Stayton. In the fall of 2017, Mike Kroon, the council's Natural Resource Representative, stepped down from his Steering Member Position. Thank you Mike for your outstanding 10 years of service and leadership.



Our Program Funders & Project Partners



Thank you to all the participating landowners, community members and land managers working hard to improve the health and resiliency of the North Santiam Watershed.



Financial Summary: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Revenue

Federal	(13%)	\$	50,521
State	(48.5%)	\$	189,349
Local	(4.5%)	\$	17,500
Foundation	(30%)	\$	117,011
Donations/Fundraising	(4%)	\$	16,127
Total Revenue		\$	390,508

Expenses

Salaries	\$	138,891
Operating Costs	\$	25,116
Project Costs	\$	208,464
Total Expenses	\$	372,471



Cascade Pacific Resource, Conservation & Development, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is the North Santiam Watershed Council's Fiscal Sponsor & Employer of Record
To learn more visit: <http://www.cascadepacific.org>



NSWC Riparian Planting Summary For 2017



From January to March 2017, the NSWC contracted restoration crews to plant 67,550 trees & shrubs on 77 riparian acres. The Marion County Free Tree Program provided 6,000 of the trees. Plants were distributed to 2 new project sites and interplanted at 5 existing sites. Planting work was contracted locally to R. Franco Restoration Inc. based out of Aumsville, Oregon.

NSWC 2017 Planting Summary				
Location in the North Santiam	Creek	Acres	# plants	Notes
Bird Haven Tree Farm	North Santiam River	15.8	14,325	New planting
Bird Haven Tree Farm	North Santiam River	18.2	9,775	Interplanting
Dieckman Slough	Dieckman Slough	24	19,325	Interplanting
Beitel Bear Branch	Bear Branch Creek	6	2,850	Interplanting
Beitel South Valentine	South Valentine Creek	11	20,225	New planting
Smith Bear Branch	Bear Branch Creek	1	750	Interplanting
Curtis Bear Branch	Bear Branch Creek	1	300	Interplanting
		77	67,550	

The NSWC purchases all plant material from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) contract grow. The following nurseries contributed to the 2017 contract grow: Heritage Seedlings & Liners, Scholls Valley Native Nursery, Brooks Tree Farm, Champoe Nursery, Inc. & Seven Oaks Native Nursery.



Bear Branch Prairie, Oak, Riparian & Stream Restoration

In late April 2017, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded the North Santiam Watershed Council \$320,103 for the Bear Branch, Prairie, Oak and Stream Restoration project. The project located on Bear Branch, a Lower North Santiam River Tributary in Linn County, will restore 67 acres of remnant Willamette Valley wet prairie and oak savanna, 57 acres of oak woodland, 44 acres of riparian buffer along 1.4 miles of reach, and 0.6 miles of instream aquatic habitat. Project Partners include US Fish & Wildlife Service Partners Program, USDA Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, Linn Soil & Water Conservation District, Meyer Memorial Trust, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Cascade Pacific RC&D, Steve Smith, Jan Irene Miller & Jim Bayuk, and Jim and Linda Sandner (Landowners). Work began during the summer of 2017 and will continue through 2023.



Bear Branch Creek



Wet Prairie/Oak Savanna



Restoration Planning Team



Community Engagement

“Your Watershed Your Community”

The North Santiam Watershed Council takes actions to help increase public awareness and participation in the watershed council and its activities, and provides needed information to landowners on activities that will help them protect and improve the health of the watershed.

July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 Activities

NSWC booth at the Greener Cleaner Canyon Event 9/2016

Third Annual Detroit Lake Shoreline & Riverside SOLVE Clean Up 9/2016

Hosted Oregon Season Tracker Workshop in Stayton 3/2017

NSWC table at Marion SWCD Ag Water Quality Workshop 4/2017

NSWC table at Salem Environmental Education Youth Summit 5/2017

