

Current Reflections

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FEBRUARY 2010

CALAPOOIA WATERSHED COUNCIL

Annual CWC Open House: February 10, Brownsville

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The Council is pleased to host the annual Open House on February 10 at the Brownsville Baptist Church. Don't miss this great opportunity to meet and chat with your neighbors in the watershed! The evening will begin at 6:30 pm with a special presentation by Dr. Stephen Griffith: "The Calapooia Watershed: What Have We Learned from Nearly 20 years of Research." Dr. Griffith has been a Research Plant Physiologist with USDA Agricultural Research Service in Corvallis, OR, and serves as Lead Scientist and Team Leader of an Agricultural Systems Competitiveness and Sustainability project.

Following Dr. Griffith's presentation and a short break for mingling and desserts, the Council will present their 2009 Project Showcase. The Showcase will highlight the Council's progress on projects and initiatives, including the Calapooia-Santiam Collaboration, Calapooia Middle Reach, Lower Calapooia project, Calapooia-Sodom project, Noxious Weeds, Council updates, and upcoming events!

The Open House is a great opportunity to learn how you can be involved in your local watershed council. You'll also be able to meet state and federal agency technical



CWC Co-Chairs Mark Running and Bud Baumgartner discussing Council projects at the 2009 Open House.

assistance providers as well as private landowners who have completed stream restoration work.

Everyone's Invited!

*CWC Open House
Wednesday, February 10th
6:30-8:30 pm
Brownsville Baptist Church,
27910 Seven Mile Lane,
Brownsville*

Inside this issue:

<i>Director's Diversion</i>	2
<i>Noxious Weeds</i>	2
<i>Council Calendar</i>	2
<i>Regional Partnership</i>	3
<i>Courtney Creek</i>	3
<i>Sodom Dam Removal</i>	4

Reach 2 Outreach and Design

The CWC has been awarded a Title II grant from the US Forest Service to support restoration and conservation designs along the section of the Calapooia River that flows through downtown Brownsville. Private landowners and the City of

Brownsville will hold their first planning session in February. Recommended treatment along this dynamic section of stream include bank stabilization, vegetation management and stream buffer native planting, protection of intact riparian

forests, and off-channel habitat enhancement. Expected benefits from these projects in our watershed include reduction of sedimentation from erosion, instream habitat creation for native fish, and a reduction in noxious weed infestations.

Director's Diversion



Tara Davis, Calapooia Watershed Council Executive Director, at a site visit along the Reach 3 of the Calapooia River.

The CWC is pleased to provide you with a quarterly newsletter packed with important project updates, upcoming events, and special watershed topics for your enjoyment. On my way into work at our new office in Brownsville City Hall, I occasionally stop by the Willamette River just to ponder the importance of the Council's efforts in our tributary basin, as it is a piece of the larger, dynamic Valley landscape. We are pioneering innovative projects that will contribute greatly to the recovery of critical species as well as promote community engagement and economic health. Our

restoration and conservation work with private and public landowners compliments a Valley-wide movement toward sustainable economies, communities and natural resources. I am continuously in awe by our volunteers' enthusiasm, commitment, and the diversity of our membership. We are always hoping to recruit new members participate, as well as retain our legacy supporters.

See you at the Open House!

Tara Davis, CWC Executive Director,
calapooia@peak.org or (541) 812-7622

Noxious Weed Treatment Program



False brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*). Picture courtesy of Institute of Applied Ecology. www.appliedeco.org

Spring 2010 will mark the 5th consecutive year the CWC has been eradicating noxious weeds within the watershed, with the help of over 230 landowners who have given the Council permission to access, survey, and/or treat noxious weeds on their property. The CWC's work is supported by the BLM and USFS Title II funds. Treatment of Japanese knotweed along the Calapooia River and its tributaries remains a priority, but the program is expanding its treatment to false-brome. False-brome can be

distinguished from most other grasses by its hairy leaf margins and lower stems, broad (4-10 mm) leaves, and a long-lasting bright green color. False-brome can become the dominant plant and nearly eliminate native species on forest floors beneath a closed canopy and in completely open habitats, such as pastures and prairies. If you have noxious weeds and are interested in Council assistance, please contact Pamela Archer at (541) 207-3275 or at pamela.archer@gmail.com.

Upcoming Council Meetings and Events

- Feb. 10 CWC Open House, First Baptist Church, Brownsville, 6:30-8:30 PM
- March 11 Regional Meeting, Stayton Community Center, Stayton, 6:30-8:30 PM
- April 14 CWC Monthly Meeting, Brownsville Community Room, 7-8 PM
- May 12 CWC Board Elections & Annual Meeting, Brownsville Community Room, 7-8 PM

Please Join Us at the

CWC Annual Fundraiser

hosted by the

Calapooia Brewery, downtown Albany

June 11, 6-9 PM

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INFORMATION

Calapooia/Santiam Regional Partnership

Thinking and collaborating regionally to build capacity for work locally.

The Calapooia, North, and South Santiam Watershed Councils began collaborating in 2005 to increase the Councils' capacity to implement effective conservation and restoration projects within the three watersheds, improving water quality and habitat for salmon. The "Landowner Recruitment for Restoration Program" was developed to conduct education and outreach to private landowners interested in voluntary restoration projects to increase functioning of streamside buffers to provide shade, nutrient filtration, and native fish and wildlife habitat. Since the regional program's inception, we secured over \$500,000 in grant funds to restore native vegetation and in-stream habitats on listed 303(d) and essential salmonid habitat streams.

As we learned more about each others' councils and watersheds, our reasoning for partnering was reaffirmed. The Santiam and Calapooia Watersheds have similar landscapes, land uses and stakeholders; and our priority habitat concerns, species and watershed processes that require restoration are also similar. Our common primary restoration priorities include aquatic and in-channel habitats, floodplain and riparian habitats, and fish species recovery. Shared secondary restoration priorities are water quantity and quality, wetlands, and upland habitats.

The regional strategy was successful, and the Councils recognized both the need and opportunity to expand our capacity. Four common initiatives were developed by the Collaboration to enable

Councils to pool resources on a regional scale to better implement projects on a local watershed scale: Landowner Recruitment for Restoration, Knowledge and Data Collection, Project Maintenance, and Effectiveness Monitoring.

In 2009, the three councils were awarded, as a regional partnership, the Willamette Model Watershed Program, an opportunity that provides funding and resources over a ten year period. This has increased our capacity with two new regional positions: a Regional Outreach Coordinator and a Regional Monitoring Coordinator (to be hired in Spring 2010). For more information on the collaboration, please contact Erika Lang (ealang77@yahoo.com) or Sarah Dyr Dahl (sarah.dyr Dahl@gmail.com) or (541) 224-4531.



"Together, we can accomplish more in the name of watershed restoration than we can as separate entities."

Courtney Creek Sub-Basin Planning and Restoration

Courtney Creek Sub-Basin, a large tributary system located in the southern Calapooia Watershed, has been recognized by agencies and organizations for its unique habitat types, including vernal pools and upland oak savannah. This drainage is also home to local migrating native fish species such as cutthroat

trout, and provides habitat for ESA listed spring Chinook and winter steelhead with its forested headwaters tributary habitat and cooler temperatures.

To aid our planning and outreach efforts in this sub-basin, we will complete a stream assessment and restoration plan this spring, as

well as hosting neighborhood meetings where we'll present restoration opportunities and get input from landowners. If you live on Courtney Creek and are interested in participating in this restoration effort, please contact Sarah Dyr Dahl at 541-224-4531 or sarah.dyr Dahl@gmail.com.



A flock of geese taking flight near Courtney Creek. Photo by Jim Ewing.



CALAPOOIA WATERSHED COUNCIL

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
MEMBERSHIP TO COOPERATE IN PROMOTING
AND SUSTAINING THE HEALTH OF THE
WATERSHED AND ITS COMMUNITIES.

P.O. Box 844
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www.calapooia.org

You're Invited to our
Open House
February 10th

Sodom Dam Removal Scheduled for 2010

The CWC has been working with a technical team with representatives from the local farming community, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, state and federal natural resource agencies and local stakeholders to develop the Sodom Ditch and Calapooia River Fish Passage and Flow Improvement Project. This team has been meeting since November of 2008 to develop a preferred design for the project. The planning stage of the project was completed in December 2009 and is now in the final design phase. The CWC is applying for permits and

expect project implementation summer 2010.

The preferred alternative chosen for the project was based on landowner, agency, and stakeholder feedback and economics. The criteria for choosing a preferred alternative included a project that met the following: realistically achievable, provide fish passage, provide water delivery for landowners, and reduce flood risk. The project will: (1) remove Sodom Dam and rebuild channel with grade control to provide fish passage

at all flows, (2) develop bifurcation design to minimize maintenance, (3) remove Shear Dam, regrade channel, and establish fish passage at all flows, and (4) remove Spillway Dam and transition Thompson's Mills operations to an alternate water delivery method.

If you have questions about the project, contact the project manager, Denise Hoffert-Hay at (541) 619-5896 or hofferthay@peak.org. Information regarding the project is available on our website, www.calapooia.org.



Sodom Dam, photo CWC 2009.

The CWC would like to thank the members of the Technical Team, including local landowners, who have spent many hours working to develop this project.