



2012 Annual Report

Prepared December 31, 2012
for the Fiscal 2012 year
(July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012)

Dear Friends and Supporters,



The Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC) continued to grow in a positive direction in fiscal year 2012. New advancements include development of youth watershed education programming, increased staff capacity, and continued private and public landowner partnerships to enhance riparian, upland, and instream habitats and perform maintenance on existing projects like Sodom Channel.

With the major fish passage barriers in the mainstem Calapooia River removed, our “young” non-profit organization discovered the opportunity to evaluate our future restoration and community engagement goals and watershed council values. Last year we began the informative strategic planning process with board, staff, and stakeholders. After 9 months of hard work, many, many meetings, and a full staff and board retreat, we are excited to release our five-year Strategic Plan in early 2013.

The ultimate grand finale to fiscal year 2012 was our opportunity to host the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in the Calapooia Basin out on Sodom Channel, accompanied by our regional restoration partners, the North and South Santiam Watershed Councils, and shared staff. After enduring major storms and flood events last winter, OWEB was impressed by the integrity of our reconstructed channel project. Sodom was a learning experience for us, and highlighted the value of solid agency and community partnerships that we hope will endure through even the toughest winters or low flow summers. All projects can be challenging, and when they don't go as planned, the Council appreciates the opportunity to involve the local community in developing solutions.

The CWC is constantly impressed by the dedication of our volunteers, especially our co-chairs Bud and Mark and treasurer, Connie. Community engagement will in no doubt be a focus of ours into the future and we hope more watershed stewards choose to participate in the events and volunteer opportunities our council offers.

Regards,



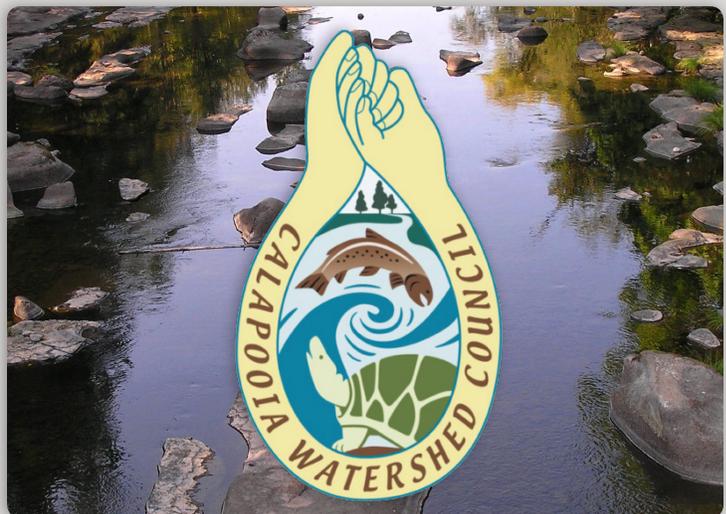
Tara Davis, Executive Director



CWC staff, board members, and regional staff following the OWEB tour

Council Mission

The Calapooia Watershed Council shall promote and sustain the health of the Calapooia Watershed through stewardship, restoration, education, community involvement, and strategic partnerships.



Board Members

Bud Baumgartner
Co-Chair

Mark Running
Co-Chair

Connie Burdick
Treasurer

Caitlin Coberly

Matthew Fiorito

Dave Furtwangler

Joe Graville

Ed Hodney

John Joiner

George Pugh

Dee Swayze

Tara Davis

Executive Director

Denise Lott

Operations Coordinator

Kyle Smith

Communications and Development
Director

Sarah Dyrdaahl

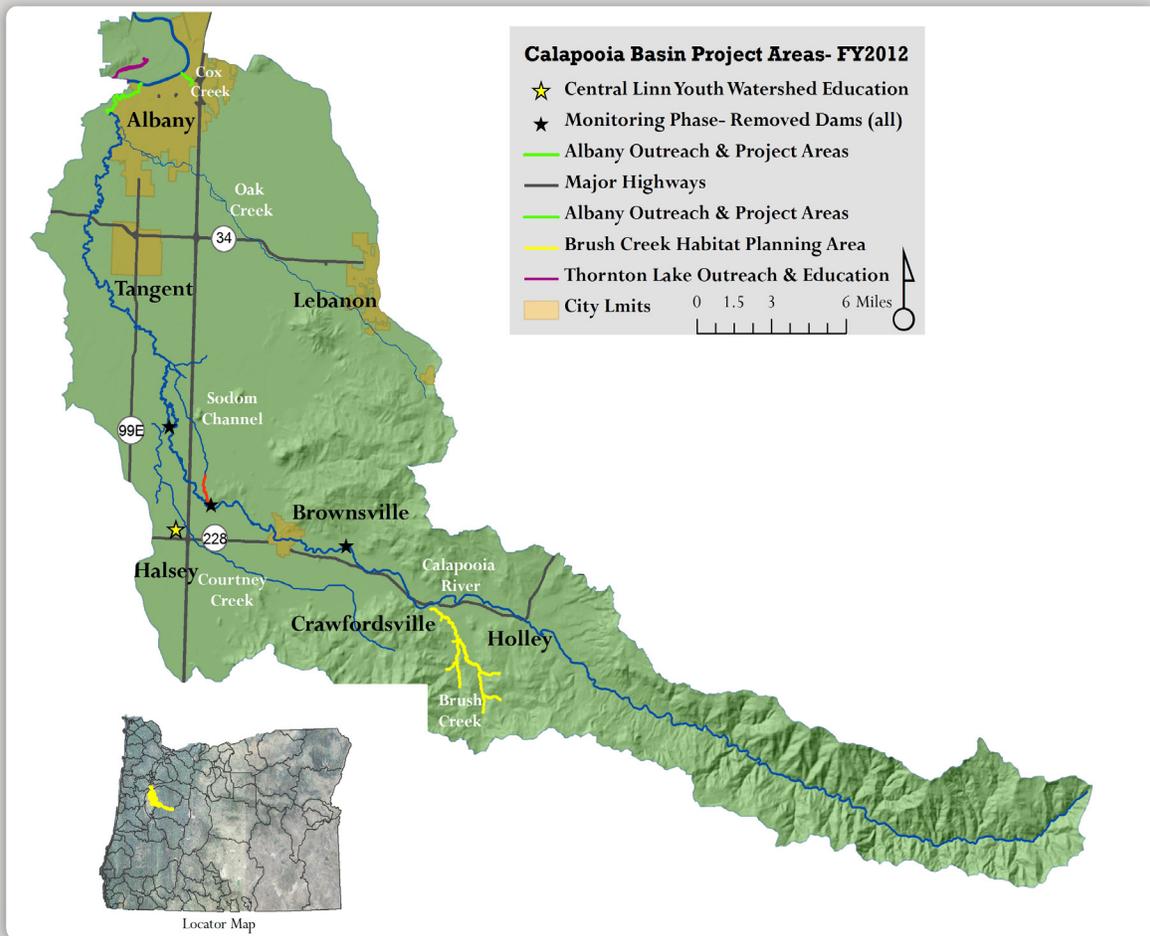
Regional Projects Coordinator

Eric Andersen

Regional Monitoring Coordinator

Brice Crayne

Landowner Partnership Coordinator



FY2012 Projects

In 2011-2012, the Council conducted restoration projects on over 40 acres of riparian habitat in the Calapooia Watershed. We also started new partnerships in the Albany area that we look forward to building on in the coming years. Project areas for 2011-2012 included;

- **Albany-area Projects-** The Council is working with the City of Albany to remove Cox Creek Dam and conduct restoration on two sites near the City's "Talking Water Gardens." Details on page 5.
- **Sodom Channel Project Maintenance-** Monitoring and maintenance at the former Sodom Dam site on the Calapooia continues. Details on page 4.
- **Thornton Lake Outreach and Education-** The Council is working with Benton Soil and Water Conservation District to offer programming to residents in the Thornton Lake area. Details on page 5.
- **Brush Creek Habitat Planning-** In partnership with Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service staff, the Council is planning restoration efforts on Brush Creek.
- **Model Watershed Riparian Restoration-** As part of the Willamette Initiative and the Model Watershed Program, Council staff continues to pursue restoration of key wetland, riparian, and wet prairie habitats on Courtney Creek and the Middle Reach of the Calapooia River. Details on page 4.
- **Youth Watershed Education-** In partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Council initiated plans to provide watershed education classes at Central Linn Elementary School starting in late-2012.



Erika Lang

Erika Lang has been a valuable part of the Calapooia Watershed Council family since 2005. Erika worked as the Regional Landowner Partnership Coordinator for the Calapooia, North Santiam, and South Santiam Watershed Councils. Erika was instrumental in developing the Landowner Recruitment for Restoration program (and played foster-parent for many a stray cat). In 2012, Erika moved with her husband to Wisconsin and we miss her dearly.

Restoration Accomplishments

Middle Reach Calapooia

- Active restoration with nine landowners in Reaches 2 and 3
- ~2.5 miles of instream habitat and floodplain restoration (Reaches 2 and 3)
- 34 acres of active riparian and floodplain revegetation, including 20 acres through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Effectiveness monitoring of restoration activities
- Outreach and recruitment to ten landowners in Reach 1

Courtney Creek Sub-basin

- Active restoration with three landowners
- Seven acres of riparian revegetation (three acres through CREP)
- Outreach, recruitment, and project planning with an additional five landowners
- New partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Land Management, and private landowners for oak savanna restoration.



Riparian Restoration

Model Watershed restoration priorities continue to be the Middle Reach Calapooia River and Courtney Creek sub-basin. Through our Regional Partnerships with the South and North Santiam Watershed Councils, we continue to leverage expertise in – and funding for - outreach, landowner recruitment, project management, and effectiveness monitoring by each council employing just one staff position. The three councils not only share staff positions, but also grants, funding, and contractors.



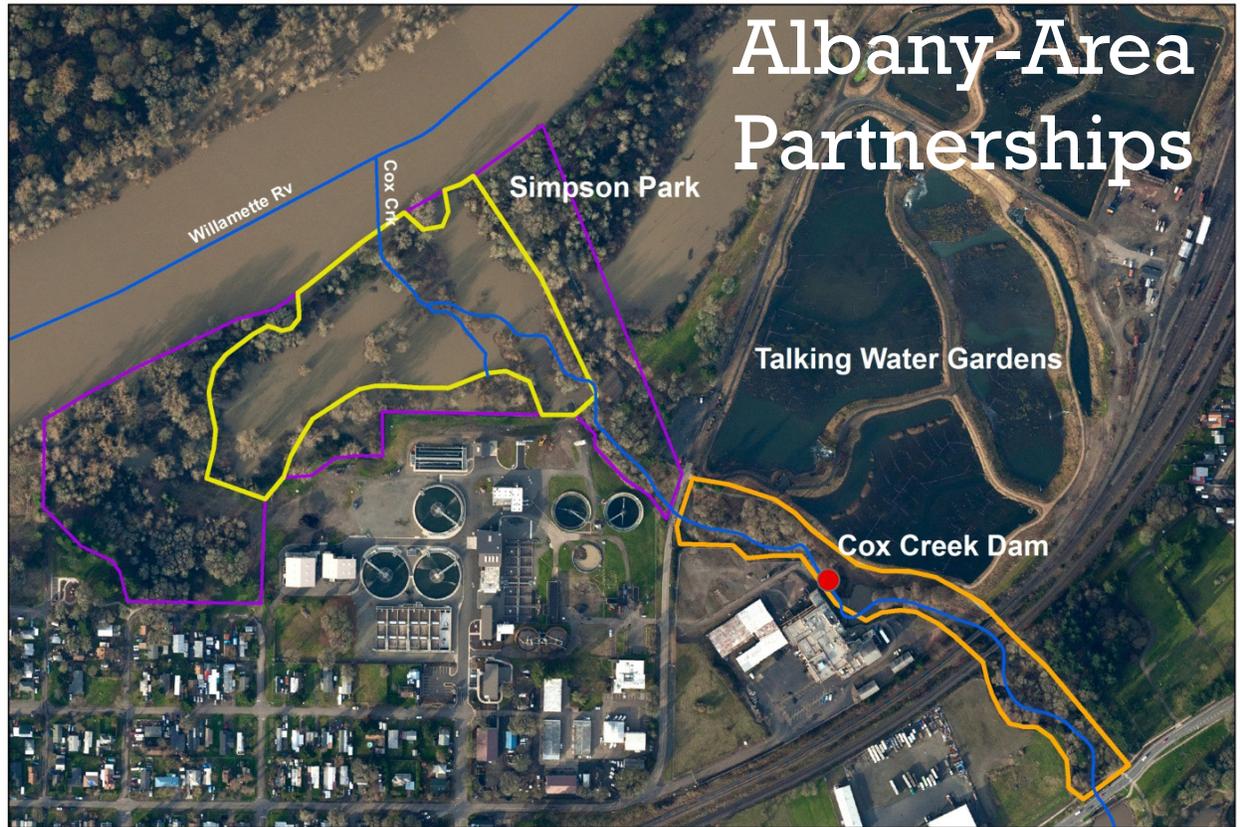
Fish Passage

Removal of Sodom and Shearer Dams made FY2012 a very busy time for the Council. Sodom and Shearer were the last major fish passage barriers on the Calapooia, and opened access to the river's cool headwaters spawning habitat for native Chinook and steelhead populations. After Sodom Dam was removed in July 2011, the Council worked with River Design Group (RDG) to conduct 1,500 linear feet of channel reconstruction to maintain the bifurcation split flow of the Calapooia River and Sodom Channel. The Council also conducted vegetation management including the planting of over 10,000 willows, snowberry, spiraea, Oregon grape, and other native species at the Sodom site.

Following the 20-year flood event that took place in January 2012, the Council worked with RDG on design development to address the bank erosion that occurred in Sodom Channel. The new channel design works with the existing conditions and includes establishment of a floodplain bench along the channel margin and extensive revegetation along the riparian area.

Based on input from landowners at the Council's February and April 2012 monthly meetings, RDG also made adjustments to the top riffle in the Sodom Channel and to the inlet to the Calapooia River. Changes implemented include: (1) Removal of the wood jam that formed during winter 2011-12 on the upright pilings at the top riffle and modification of the pilings. (2) Removal of rock from Riffle 1 to open the cross-section and increase winter flow capacity in the Sodom Channel. (3) Installation of boulders and wood to restrict the opening to the Calapooia River. The Council will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the design and will work with landowners to find solutions to issues involving the Sodom Dam removal.

Funding for the repair project was provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency via Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Vegetation maintenance is also being supported by OPRD and a contracted work crew is providing the labor. Planting efforts will take place during the winter 2012-2013 season.



Albany-Area Partnerships



This map was created for the CWC by T.Davis on December 7th, 2012; data sources include flooding, Linn County, and Eagle Digital January 2012 Flood Imagery

0 50 100 200 Meters



Lower Cox Creek- Vegetation Management Area

- Streams
- Intensive Re-Veg (11 acres)
- Light and Passive Re-Veg
- Riparian Re-Veg (5 acres)

Through partnership with Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, CWC has developed a significant relationship with the **Thornton Lake Community** that we look forward to building on in the coming years. In 2012, CWC provided workshops on invasive species removal, aquatic ecology, and lake health management for residents in and around the Thornton Lake area. Through this work, the Council built partnerships with private landowners, OSU, the City of Albany, and Friends of East Thornton Lake.

Our work in Albany also includes **two restoration projects near the City's "Talking Water Gardens"** facility adjacent to Simpson Park and the removal of the Cox Creek Dam which is anticipated in Summer 2013. Vegetation conversion efforts on 16 streamside acres and the confluence of the Calapooia with the Willamette are on-going (see map above). Invasive populations were sprayed during the summer of 2012 and invasive control efforts will continue as the project moves forward. In winter 2013, the site will be planted with native shrubs and trees and will be monitored for survival until the plants are "free to grow."

The **Cox Creek-Willamette River confluence** area has an active floodplain, with water flowing overland several times each winter. The vegetation is currently dominated by non-native species such as reed canary grass, Himalayan blackberry and English ivy. To convert this 16-acre site from non-natives, flail mowing was conducted in late summer 2012. In winter 2012-2013, native plant species will be installed at the site including: Oregon ash, Oregon grape, ninebark, cottonwood, swamp rose, spiraea and snowberry.



Fish passage restoration at Cox Creek Dam is expected to benefit a wide variety of aquatic species. Fish use in Cox Creek includes Chinook salmon, winter steelhead, lamprey, dace, sand roller, large-scale sucker, northern pike minnow, redbreast shiners, and sculpin. Cox Creek is unique in that it remains well-connected to its floodplain, providing a large area for fish seeking slower moving water during winter storm events. The removal of Cox Creek Dam will increase the length of stream available to fish seeking lower water velocities. Cox Creek is also home to terrestrial wildlife as seen by recent beaver activity and browsing deer. Bird and bat surveys completed in the area are demonstrating a wide diversity of avian species also call this area home.



Strategic Planning

In early-2012, the Council began the process of **developing a five year strategic plan**. The Council received Ford Family Foundation support to complete their first Strategic Plan since their non-profit status formation in 2008. The plan includes a 5-year action-oriented outlook and a chance to identify new challenges and define clear values for the organization going forward. Board, staff, and “360” stakeholder interviews were accomplished with the outside assistance of a local contractor to identify organizational strengths and weaknesses, as well as public perceptions of the Council’s work.

In Fall 2012, the River Network conducted a confidential online survey to assess input from council members and staff. River Network also facilitated a day-long planning session for Board and staff. Through this session, the Council was able to:

- Create a shared strategic vision.
- Develop an organizational strategic plan.
- Create an action item plan for immediate implementation and long-term strategies that includes Board member recruitment now and in the future and strategies to maintain meaningful involvement and partnership from the Board.

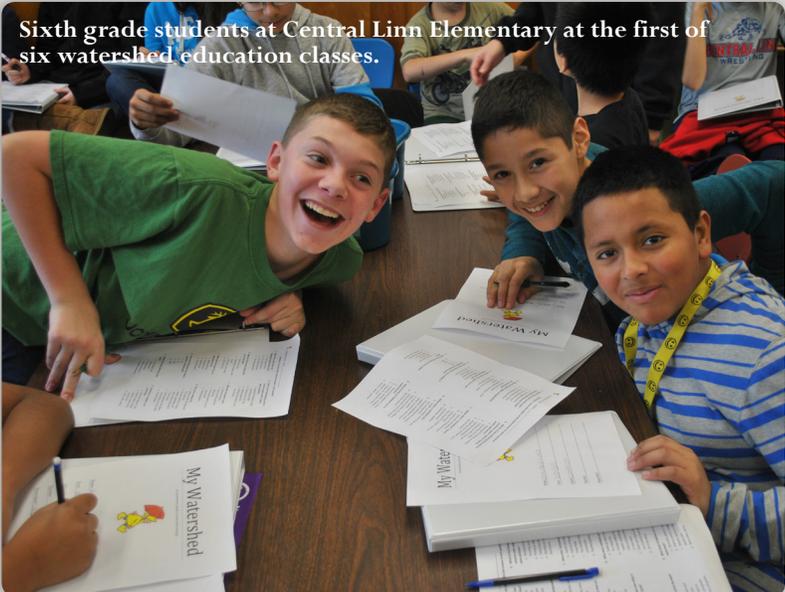
The CWC will release a final draft of our Strategic Plan in 2013 and will post this document on our website.

Looking ahead to 2013, the Calapooia Watershed Council has a number of exciting new projects and programs on the horizon. Working in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Council will launch a **youth watershed education program** with Central Linn Elementary School. Central Linn sixth graders will partake in six in-class “Discovery Sessions” where they will learn about watershed concepts, raise trout in an in-class aquarium and release them into a local stream when mature. CWC will also be coordinating the sixth-grade Outdoor School at Camp Koinonia in May of 2013.

We’re also planning an increase in the number of community events we offer for FY2013. The Council will be working with a diverse group of partners to reach new audiences and provide more resources within our watershed in the years ahead!



Thornton Lake, North Albany, Invasive Plant Control Workshop, November 2011



Sixth grade students at Central Linn Elementary at the first of six watershed education classes.

Financial Information

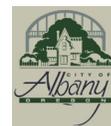
Expenses

Expenditure		Amount
Contract Services	\$	1,741,336
Personnel	\$	174,997
Project expenses	\$	31,093
Rent and Utilities	\$	9,128
Travel	\$	6,812
Fiscal Management	\$	5,303
Supplies/Maintenance	\$	3,590
Printing and Copying	\$	1,177
Liability Insurance	\$	1,173
Donations	\$	696
Depreciation	\$	489
Postage	\$	458
Restricted Project Funds Carryover	\$	57,177
TOTAL	\$	2,033,429

Revenue

Source	Amount
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	\$ 1,772,132
Meyer Memorial Trust	\$ 95,820
Oregon Parks & Recreation	\$ 83,867
American Rivers/NOAA	\$ 30,461
Dept of Environmental Quality	\$ 14,494
US Forest Service	\$ 13,198
Bureau of Land Management	\$ 9,118
Hewlett Packard	\$ 7,680
Farm Service Agency	\$ 5,620
Other Sources	\$ 2,712
City of Albany	\$ 2,500
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	\$ 789
Cascade Timber Consulting	\$ 500
The Nature Conservancy	\$ 250
TOTAL	\$ 2,039,141

Many Thanks to Our FY2012 Sponsors!



The Calapooia Watershed Council
is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization



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