Fall, 2015

The Confluence

Newsletter of the Rogue River Watershed Council

Judith Tharp, Newsletter Editor

Notes from the Executive Director's Desk

by Brian Barr

The Board of Directors of the Bear Creek Watershed Council, Little Butte Creek Watershed Council, Stream Restoration Alliance for the Middle Rogue, and Upper Rogue Watershed Association took on the challenge of consolidating their operations, perspectives, cultures, passions, past work, and aspirations. These leaders were, above all else, exceedingly courageous.

They opened themselves to a world of uncertainty. Uncertainty about the personalities that would represent the new organization at the staff level. Uncertainty about the direction of the work that would ensue compared to the trails of work they had been carefully charting over the past decades. Uncertainty about how their partners, funders, and residents would accept the consolidated watershed council. And, perhaps most daunting, uncertainty about how each of the four group's three envoys, dispatched to create the first Board of Directors of the Rogue River Watershed Council, would interact with one another to make an organization united in purpose and effective by design.

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And it should not come as a shock to anyone reading this initial newsletter that the Rogue River Watershed Council has much to do. Despite the seemingly endless opportunities for community engagement and watershed restoration in a region that starts in Crater Lake National Park and ends in the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River, first we had to gather up desks, open a bank account, and figure out what lingering responsibilities from the founding organizations needed attention.

While we are finishing those projects, we are also putting a lot of energy into developing ideas and plans for the future. Plans that will be focused and will demonstrate our commitment to making a difference in watershed health that results in cleaner water, healthier native fish populations, and a more involved community.

I am confident that as we refine our intent to a laser-like focus, we will accomplish everything that the courageous architects of "The Merger" envisioned. In the meantime, please do not be bashful about sharing your thoughts on necessary activities, emerging threats, and ideas on how to get one or more of your neighbors involved in watershed health restoration. Our relationship with you provides Rogue River Watershed Council with support, expertise, and an avenue to better engage the communities within this watershed. All of these are necessary to succeed in restoring watershed health. ~

Kids & Creeks

RRWC Board of Directors

Paul Ancell was a member of the Upper Rogue Watershed Association since 2010 and served on the board since 2013. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage. He worked for 25 years for the State of Alaska, mostly in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. He has worked for Rogue Community College since 2008.

Stan Dean is a civil engineer specializing in many facets of the water environment. His Bachelor of Science was earned at Lafayette College, and his Master of Science was awarded at the University of California Davis. He is registered as a civil engineer in both Oregon and California. During his career, emphasis was placed on municipal wastewater treatment, municipal water supply, water resources, water quality and environmental regulations. His last position, prior to retirement in 2013, was District Engineer (a.k.a. General Manager) for the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and Sacramento Area Sewer District. Stan considers his second (unpaid) career to be promoting and facilitating good land stewardship. He is now serving on the Advisory Council for the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Service Land Steward Program and is an Associate Director with the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District.

Tom Dover grew up in the Rogue Valley, and attended Eagle Point Schools for 12 years. He earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering at Oregon State University, with an emphasis on water resources. He worked summers on the swing shift in a local plywood mill. Tom served for ten years in the United States Air Force as a Civil Engineering Officer, where he was involved in design, installation and project planning, major construction management and deployment readiness. He was Chief of the Environmental Management Office at Travis AFB, and Deputy Base Civil Engineer at Soto Cano AB in Honduras. Tom earned an M.S. degree in Environmental Engineering at Oregon State University. He worked as a senior engineer at the City of Lebanon. Upon its formation, Tom was a member of the South Santiam Watershed Council until moving back to southern Oregon. He is currently a cattle rancher on Little Butte Creek between Brownsboro and Lake Creek, using both flood and sprinkler irrigation. He was a member (and President) of Little Butte Creek Watershed Council until its dissolution upon the merger and is a volunteer firefighter with the Lake Creek Rural Fire Protection District.

Pete Gonzalves first explored watersheds and ecosystems in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Working as a mechanic, carpenter and wholesale nursery manager, he moved on to the Sierra Nevada and North Coast Ranges while studying horticulture and forestry. He explored the Cascade and Siskiyou Mountains and earned a Bachelor of Science in Entomology from OSU and went into business providing international organic farm inspections, integrated pest management services for southern Oregon fruit growers and full orchard management. He also served as program manager and executive director of Oregon Tilth, a research and education non-profit organization focused on ecological agriculture. Following three years assisting USDA native plant research and development in Corvallis, he returned to the Rogue Basin and now lives along the South Fork of Little Butte Creek outside of Eagle Point.

Dave Grosjacques graduated from the University of Oregon with a B.S. in Physics. He was a middle and high school teacher at Glendale for 30 years, where he started a watersheds and fish science class. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 13 years as a contractor doing stream surveys in the summer on the upper South Umpqua and several of its tributaries. He has also done habitat surveys for ODFW. During his time with SRA, where he was a board member for 7 years, Dave helped with several in-stream habitat projects, including design and placement of log structures. He has helped organize the annual fish carcass toss for the SRA on Taylor Creek and helped get volunteers from his fly fishing club to do riparian planting for the last 8 years. He is currently president of the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers in Grants Pass, on the board of the Umpqua Fisherman's Association and the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers and a member of the Middle Rogue Steelheaders.

Chuck Huntington lives in Shady Cove and is a semi-retired aquatic biologist with 35 years of experience on studies of salmon, trout, and their habitats, including 31 years as the owner of a biological consulting business. He has conducted environmental effects analyses, been involved in science-based conservation planning, designed and implemented aquatic monitoring projects and has contributed to the restoration efforts in several Oregon watersheds. He served on the ONCC Coho Technical Recovery Team that assisted recovery planning efforts for ESA-listed salmon in coastal Oregon. The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society awarded him the 2008 Robert Borovicka Achievement Award for scientific contributions to fishery conservation.

David Hussell, a native Oregonian, graduated from Portland State University with a B.S. in Psychology and Business Administration. During his previous 42 year career in public administration, he was the City Administrator for the cities of North Bonneville,

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RRWC Board of Directors, Cont.

Washington and Eagle Point, Oregon, city Supervisor for the city of Selah, Washington and Street and Traffic Operations Manager in Yakima, Washington. He also served on the Little Butte Creek Watershed governing board for 14 years including eight years as board vice-president. Dave is the current RRWC Treasurer.

Bob Jones is a licensed geologist/certified engineering geologist that has worked in the water and watersheds arena for about 30 years, 24 of which he has been working at the Medford Water Commission to protect and improve water quality for both sources of supply. He holds two bachelor degrees in Geology and Interdisciplinary Geography/Geology from Southern Oregon University. He is a certified water rights examiner. He recently implemented the Forest Management Plan for the Commission's 3,500 acres of forest land to create a healthy forest, which helps to provide high quality source water. He has provided proactive leadership and technical expertise in regional water issues/policies/direction and was instrumental in developing a partnership to improve water management on a regional level - The WISE Project (Water for Irrigation, Streams and Economy). He has been appointed to and served on numerous state-level advisory committees to develop programs and rules to implement programs that manage and protect water resources specifically related to drinking water. He has provided leadership, guidance and technical expertise to natural resource conservation non-profit organizations at the local, regional and national levels. He has been elected to the RRWC board as the first at-large director in representing the Medford Water Commission, a major partner.

Steve Mason was raised in the Illinois Valley of southern Oregon. He returned to the Rogue Valley after receiving his Masters in fisheries biology in 1997 and has been involved with fisheries issues ever since. Steve is the sole proprietor of Watershed Systems Consulting and has been working with watershed councils to restore local stream habitat for the last 17 years. Steve has served on the boards of the Middle Rogue, Bear Creek and Rogue Basin Coordinating Councils. He currently serves as RRWC's Vice Chairperson.

Jennie Morgan, PhD, PWS is currently managing a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Phase II permit program for Rogue Valley Sewer Services. As the Program Coordinator she develops and oversees implementation of all phases of the program which includes public education and outreach, construction site storm water management, post-construction storm water management, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, and Pollution Prevention in Municipal Operations. In addition, she has four years of experience working as a wetland scientist specializing in wetland assessments and monitoring, wetland creation and restoration, wetland delineations, Section 401/404 permitting, and natural systems for wastewater treatment. As the Professional Wetland Scientist on staff at Rogue Valley Sewer Services, she continues to conduct wetland delineations and mitigation monitoring and to design wetlands for stormwater management. She also has extensive experience sampling streams and rivers and spent two years investigating the control of aggressive species in wetlands for a master's degree and three years investigating ecological wastewater treatment systems for a doctoral degree.

Terry L. Ruiter holds a BS in Fisheries Biology/Zoology from Colorado State University and a JD Law degree awarded by the University of Denver College of Law. Ms. Ruiter has 35 years of experience in environmental consulting and 5 years of experience as a transportation planner for Denver Department of Public Works. Her experience has primarily involved the determination of regulatory compliance. She has worked on projects in transportation, water and energy supply, mineral development, and hazardous waste remediation. She has evaluated compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); Clean Water Act (CWA); Clean Air Act (CAA); Endangered Species Act (ESA); Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); and Federal Facilities Compliance Act for a variety of clients. Her roles on projects ranged from program and project manager to compliance or technical specialist.

Lori Tella has a MLA in Landscape Architecture from the University of Illinois specializing in Ecological Design and Technology. She received her Bachelor's in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Human Ecology from Prescott College in Arizona. Her background in conservation has led her to work in several states, including working with grassland ecology in northeast Oregon, fire effects in Missouri and sustainable military land management in Alaska. Other previous special projects include working with an ecotourism town in Costa Rica on water conservation, green trail design, and wildlife corridor protection. She also developed a How to Guide and Best Management Practices manual for sugarcane farmers in Fiji. Lori has also worked on natural resource issues with the Navajo Nation to improve community development and rangeland sustainability. She is both the RRWC Secretary and Registered Agent for Service.

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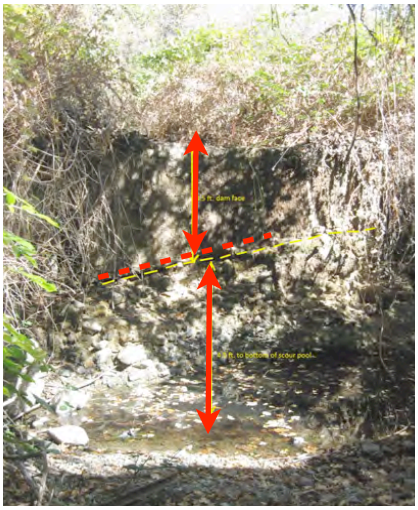
RRWC Board of Directors, Cont.

Ray Tharp holds a BS degree in Business Administration from Fresno State University and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco. His working career centered on various elements of human resources management and labor relations, ending as a Deputy Labor Commissioner for the State of California. Since retiring and moving to Central Point in 1996, he has served as a budget committee and board member of Jackson County Fire District #3 and as the Middle Rogue Steelheaders in-stream and conservation committee chairperson for eight years. He joined the Stream Restoration Alliance in 2012 and currently serves as the chairperson of the RRWC.

Paula Trudeau is a retired U.S. Forest Service silviculturist. She received her Bachelor of Science in Forest Resource Management from Humboldt State University in 1978 and spent 33 years working in Idaho and Oregon in the management of national forest lands. She added graduate training through this period from OSU and the University of Washington as well as Humboldt State. She continues to work intermittently on call as a planner with a national incident management team. A resident of Shady Cove since 1989, she serves on the city's Planning Commission, the Parks and Recreation Committee, and also is on the board of the Jackson County Fire District #4 Support Group. She remains a volunteer for the library and City of Shady Cove. Paula participated with the Upper Rogue Watershed Association from 1995 to merger with portions of that time as Chair and Secretary. ~

East Fork, Jones Creek, then . . .

The dam on East Fork Jones Creek created a 9' jump for upstream migrating fish.



The face of the dam is 3.5' tall and 2' across. The original channel elevation, represented by the dashed line, has downcut 4.5' to the bottom of the scour pool (October 2014).

Concrete dam being removed (August 2015).

Large wood placement at former dam site during channel regrading (early September 2015).

& now

Looking upstream after dam removal (September 4, 2015).

2015 Fall Restoration Project

The fall of this year saw the removal of the fourth passage barrier on Jones Creek just east of Grants Pass by eliminating an abandoned dam on PacifiCorp property and regrading the stream channel. Streambanks will be planted with native trees during the winter. We are anxious to count more juvenile Steelhead migrating out of this stream in coming years.

Summary-RRWC Proposals to OWEB-Fall 2015

Elk Creek: We propose to remove a levee and shape the channel, floodplain and side channel to ensure activation during routine high flow events. Wood structures will be placed along the primary Elk Creek channel to further accumulate spawning substrates and to form pools.

Sugarpine Creek: The project involves two segments of the creek. Habitat limitations on one reach will be addressed by fencing out livestock, stabilizing 95 yards of eroding stream bank and adding 60 or more large logs. We will remove blackberries along the lower stretch and restore four acres of un-grazed native riparian vegetation.

Wagner Creek: A 5.5-foot concrete and log dam blocks fish movement April through October. There are 4.5 miles of habitat upstream of the dam, two of which are low gradient. We propose removing the dam, building a 160-foot long, 5% gradient re-profiled stream channel, installing an irrigation water collection box and extending the water conveyance system from the new withdrawal site to the existing ditch.

Stream Smart: This youth outreach project will reach over 1,000 students and 50 teachers with efforts tied directly to on-site watershed restoration and enhancement efforts. This will meet students' needs to learn about watershed science, connect with nature and engage in service learning. Field trips, site activities and projects will engage students and teachers in activities including monitoring, inventorying, planting, weeding, etc.

Volunteer stream monitoring: Plan to recruit 35 volunteers to monitor water quality and fish populations. Volunteers will develop an understanding of watershed health through active monitoring of RRWC projects. This provides the first step towards more public stewardship. Also, through increased data collection, we will gain reliable information needed to prioritize and evaluate our restoration and water quality efforts.

Restoration Project Outreach: We will recruit 16 landowners for future projects that will result in improved riparian health and water quality. We will work with them in preparing on-site management and restoration plans in order to have projects grant-ready for future funding opportunities.

WISE Pre-project Effectiveness Monitoring: Water quality and quantity in the Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek watersheds of the Rogue Basin are impacted by inefficient irrigation systems. Little data exists upon which effectiveness of efforts to improve water quality and water quantity can be judged. This project will generate data essential to determining whether the planned WISE project benefits aquatic life and habitat. It will fund collecting and analyzing data, completing a baseline monitoring study, and delivering data for basin partners to prioritize restoration projects in Little Butte Creek and Bear Creek watersheds. ~

Our Stream Table is an effective outreach & education tool.

The RRWC has inherited one third ownership in a very valuable instream and riparian teaching tool and has been using it at a variety of events this fall. The hands on, interactive waterflow display model is portable and can be used to show variable flow effects, stream shading, animal waste, fertilizer runoff, and many other situations affecting water quality and quantity and fish populations. The table was built in 2006 and purchased initially by the Middle Rogue Watershed Council, the Illinois Valley Watershed Council, and the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers. Board member Dave Grosjacques stores the table between uses and most frequently operates it at events throughout the Rogue and Umpqua River basins. ~

ROGUE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
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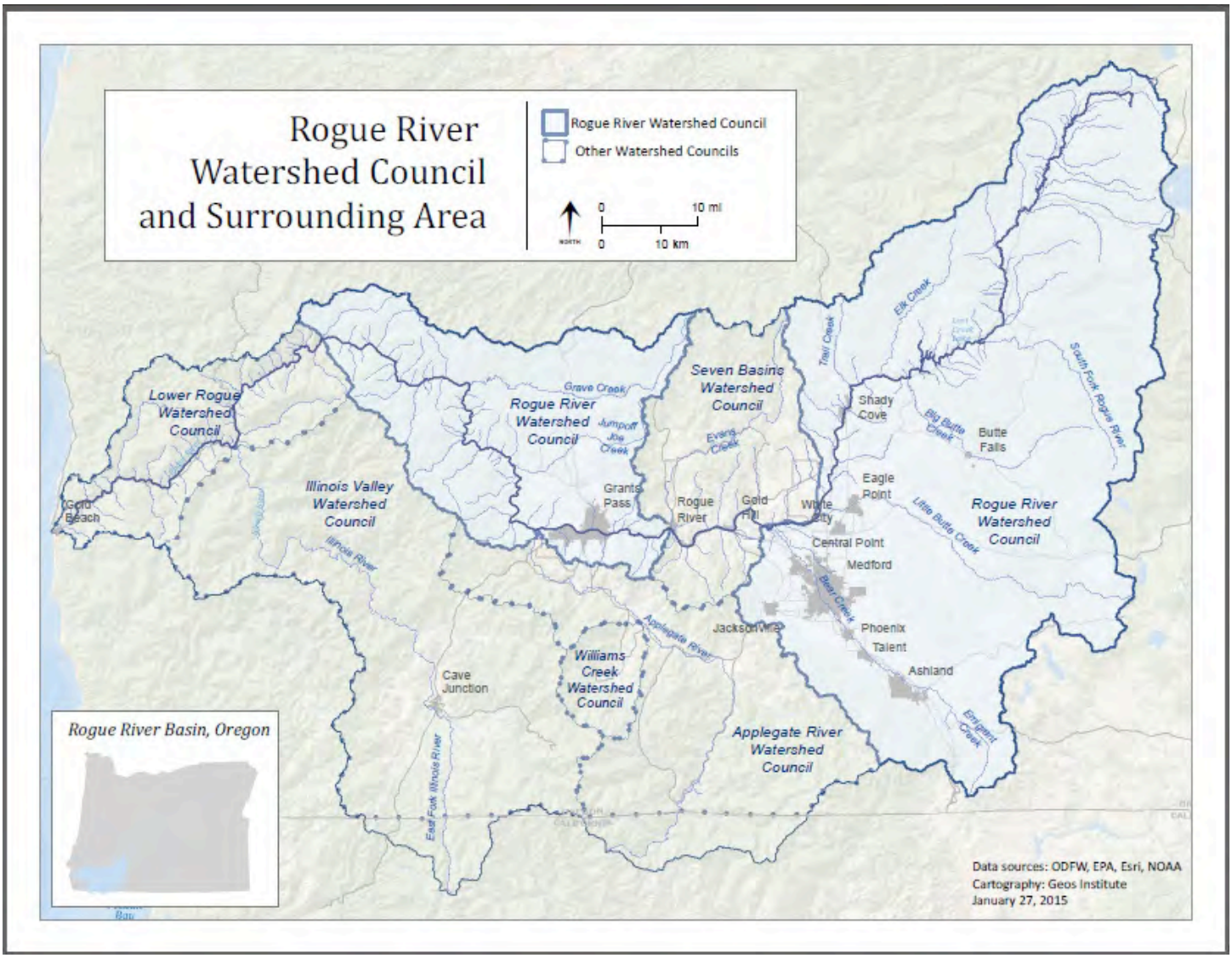
Vision: *A healthy, productive and beautiful Rogue River watershed.*

Mission: *To promote stewardship of the Rogue River watershed through restoration, education and community involvement.*

"We are a 501(c)3 organization and a recognized watershed council. Watershed councils were authorized by the Oregon Legislature in 1995 to promote and implement voluntary cooperative conservation actions."



Keeping up with all the issues involving water quality and quantity, conservation, instream and streamside habitat restoration, monitoring and education within the 1.6 million acres in the RRWC's territory continues to be a huge task. We need your help in so many ways. Whether its planting trees, monitoring stream conditions and fish populations, cleaning up trash, learning answers and answering questions of others wanting to help, trapping and rescuing stranded fish, giving us information on needed activities, teaching kids about life cycles and habitat needs, or donating financial support, all activities will help us to get the job done of providing a beautiful and productive Rogue River. Please consider joining and volunteering for what and how you might help if you have not yet done so. Individual memberships are $20 per year, Family $25, Business $100. You can sign up online at www.rogueriverwc.org or send a check to: Rogue River Watershed Council, 89 Alder Street, Central Point, OR 97502.

Thank You. Ray Tharp, Chairperson.