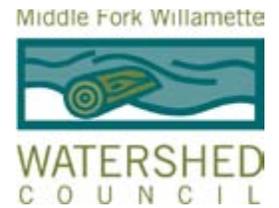


FALL 2015

NEWS & NOTES

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS

With the seasonal transition from summer to fall, we are reminded that the landscape is full of change. As the incoming MFWWC Executive Director, I watch the season change from my office window at Elijah Bristow State Park - red, yellow, and gold leaves making their final flair before falling to the ground with the onset of winter. I see a future of change within the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council, guided by a newly adopted 5 year Strategic Plan. I also see the possibility of change with newly forming partnerships and opportunities - as well as re-invigorated existing partnerships - as the future for restoration and conservation in the Upper Willamette. As the leaves fall and the seasons change, I am reminded that change brings possibility. Happy Fall!

-Sarah Dyrdaahl

With longtime Executive Director, Eve Montanaro's departure, the MFWWC welcomed Sarah Dyrdaahl in August 2015 as the new Executive Director. Sarah brings over a decade of experience working on rivers in Alaska and Oregon, including significant experience building and managing habitat restoration programs for 4 watershed councils in Oregon. Sarah grew up in the country, on the banks of the Applegate River in southern Oregon - an experience that fostered a lifelong love of rivers - and ultimately led to a career - or better yet, a lifestyle - centered on rivers, and the landscape and communities that depend on them. When not working in the Middle Fork Willamette, Sarah can be found out exploring and enjoying the many beautiful watersheds of Oregon - on foot or by boat. Sarah may be contacted by email at director@mfwwc.org or by phone 541-937-9800.

WildCraft Cider Works presents the Urban Orchard Harvest Party

Join us while fall is in full swing for an outdoor street festival to celebrate the bountiful harvest our community has brought us!

Live music featuring:

- * ROB GARZA (OF THIEVERY CORPORATION) DJ SET * MR. LIF *
- * SOL SEED * BUSTIN JIEBER * LLORONA * WILL BROWN *
- * RAFFLE * FOOD PAIRINGS * KID ZONE *

10% of all profits from the event will be donated to the Rivers to Ridges Partnership, a local network of environmental conservation groups, including the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council. These organizations are the stewards of our wild places and our watersheds, and without them our great community and ecosystem would not be as rich and diverse as it is today.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

WATERSHED RANGERS LAUNCHES 2015

The MFWWC welcomes back teachers and students to an exciting new year of Watershed Rangers programs and field activities! We are looking forward to several exciting changes this year, including new lessons to help meet shifting CORE standards, new partnerships, new teachers, and "new" schools that will be joining the program this year!

New lessons will include, "What is pH?" - an introduction to measuring water quality by understanding its acidic or basic structure using common household products such as baking soda, laundry detergent and soda pop to help illustrate the pH scale. Field activities for 6th grade students will include a focus on hydrology and its effects on shaping the earth's surface, through natural and human means.

Thanks to BLM, US Forest Service, Oregon State Parks, US Army Corps of Engineers and Springfield Utility Board, Watershed Rangers enriches students' participation with a variety of expertise, hands-on field activities and tours. Additionally, the Council is excited to welcome Katherine Nordholm, ODFW Assistant District Biologist, to Watershed Rangers for the 2015 season.

Katherine hails from ODFW Research where she has been working on the Life Cycle Monitoring and Aquatic Inventories projects and has had over ten years of experience working in fisheries. She has earned both Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Oregon State University. Katherine's experience with watershed councils, recruiting and training volunteers, and planning and executing projects will be an asset to both education and outreach programs.

Many new teachers are entering the Middle Fork district this year as well, and science is taking a priority as dedicated resources, including specialized staff, are working to increase students learning potential with more interactive classroom lessons taught in "blocks" rather than traditional once or twice a week lectures and activities.

Finally, Watershed Rangers is excited to onboard Mountain View Academy (MVA). Our first field trip this year will engage 55 MVA students in restoration projects at a local Lowell park destination, thanks to Oregon State Parks & Recreation.

DISCOVER YOUR WATERSHED: MUSHROOMS OF THE MIDDLE FORK



Coming soon to a forest near you!

Please join USFS and MFWWC staff for a special hiking tour of mushrooms in the Westfir-Oakridge area. Meet your local Forest Service botanists, learn how to find and identify typical northwest edibles, pick up a mushroom permit, and have fun meeting other enthusiasts in your area.

DATE TBA. We're waiting for the rains! Sign up for the MFWWC e-news for the next announcement by emailing education@mfwwc.org.



Willamette RIVERKEEPER presents THE *Great* WILLAMETTE CLEAN UP 10.3.15 GET DIRTY FOR GOOD

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015: The Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council will be sponsoring a GWCU site with the City of Oakridge, Upstream Adventures, and Oregon Adventures, meeting at Greenwaters Park Pavillion, at 9AM on Saturday, October 3. Afterwards, we'll shuttle to Eugene with Mayor Coey to join other Lane County volunteers at a special Volunteer Thank You Party and free luncheon! Music, raffle, free beverages and more!

To register, please visit www.willametteriverkeeper.org and click on the REGISTER link with the icon pictured above.

RESTORATION NEWS

LOST CREEK BASIN

Fish Passage & Large Wood Placement: The end of August saw the completion of another high priority fish passage project in the Lost Creek basin. Trask Design and Construction replaced a perched, undersized culvert with a 20 foot wide bridge on Eagle Creek, a tributary to Lost Creek. The existing 70-inch culvert, perched at nearly 5 feet above the streambed, was a 100% fish passage barrier at all life stages and flows. The newly constructed bridge will open up 2 miles of upstream fish habitat to native and migratory fish species. The BLM has been instrumental in this project, both as a landowner, and as a project partner, contributing significant resources to the overall effort. In summer of 2014, the BLM placed 103 trees (206 logs) into 3/4 miles in Lost Creek. These structures will capture and sort sediment, and create necessary stream complexity for instream fish habitat, including Spring Chinook Salmon.

Lost Creek Riparian Restoration

Riparian restoration work continues in the Lost Creek basin, with stewardship activities occurring across 27 existing acres with 11 different landowners. Invasive weed treatment continues to occur on these sites until the native vegetation is “free-to-grow”, which usually takes 3-5 years. In addition to maintaining existing sites, the MFWWC is working with two landowners to expand riparian restoration efforts in the Lost Creek basin. Approximately 20 new acres will be prepped in fall 2015 for winter 2016 planting!

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL: JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Japanese Knotweed Treatment

Japanese knotweed continues to be a priority for MFWWC and our partners. Left untreated, knotweed can take over river banks, preventing recruitment of native vegetation, and ultimately leading to degraded riparian function. River systems depend on an influx of native leaf litter fall to fuel the food web, as well as the recruitment of woody material (everything from tiny branches to old growth trees) to sort gravels and create instream habitat complexity. Knotweeds are native to Eurasia and were brought to North America as a popular garden ornamental. These plants have become a widespread problem, expanding throughout Oregon’s rivers and streams, which provide the ideal habitat for knotweed – flashy flood flows where a stem fragment the size of a human fingernail can break off, float downstream, and form a new plant on soft sediments and gravel bars, making it essential for managers to treat knotweed from a “top down” approach. Treating knotweed is challenging. Years of field studies have shown that the most effective treatment for the control of knotweed is through selective chemical treatments, using an aquatic safe broadleaf herbicide. Timing for treatment is late summer, when the plant is done growing above ground and starts to actively transport sugars to complex underground roots (rhizomes) in preparation for next year’s growing season. The Middle Fork Willamette is the most upstream headwater tributary in the Willamette system. How we manage knotweed here affects the entire Willamette watershed and communities downstream. In the Middle Fork, knotweed is only known to be present in the lower watershed – downstream of Dexter Dam on the mainstem river, and in the Lost Creek basin, near Dexter. The MFWWC and our partners work very closely with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, researchers, and other practitioners to implement the most effective, proven treatments using licensed, skilled contractors. For more information on Japanese knotweed, visit:

<http://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/Weeds/JapaneseKnotweedProfile.pdf>



Above: Lost Creek basin large wood placement and fish passage project at Eagle Creek. Below: Japanese Knotweed





MFWWC STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sarah Dyrdaahl, Executive Director
- Karen Sarno, Operations Manager
- Michelle Emmons, Education & Outreach Coordinator
- Chandra LeGue, Environmental Representative & Board President
- Barbara Hazen, Watershed Recreationist & Secretary
- Duane Bishop, USFS Middle Fork District Ranger
- Pat Burns, Oakridge Resident
- Chuck Davis, Springfield Resident & Water Quality Specialist
- Jesse Jones, City of Springfield Representative
- Erik Petersen, USACE Willamette Valley Operations Manager
- Kristine Struck, BLM NEPA Specialist
- Kevin Tuers, Seneca Jones, Timber Representative & Treasurer
- Julie Whalen, Oregon State Parks

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Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
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Calendar Reminders

October 3: Great Willamette Clean Up - Greenwaters Park Pavillion, 9am- 12pm, Oakridge. This site is sponsored by the City of Oakridge, Oregon Adventures, Upstream Adventures and MFWWC.

October 10: Wildcraft Cider Urban Orchard Party (benefiting Rivers to Ridges Partnership) 12pm-12am, WildCraft Cider House, Eugene.

October 21: MFWWC Board Meeting, 4-6pm, 38259 Wheeler Rd. Dexter.

COMING SOON IN OCTOBER : USFS Mushrooms of the Middle Fork. Sign up for our enews announcement by emailing education@mfwwc.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE:
WWW.MFWWC.ORG

Questions or comments?

Email middleforkwillamette@mfwwc.org or call us at 541-937-9800.

The Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council is “working together as a community to restore and sustain the ecological integrity and economic viability of the watershed, and promoting local control of our future by providing effective voluntary solutions to watershed issues.”