

# Waters in Common

## Siuslaw Estuary Partnership

2011

### Why Are Estuaries Important?

Estuaries are the portion of the river where fresh water mixes with seawater. The Siuslaw estuary extends from the river mouth almost to Mapleton.

Estuaries are important because:

- Their sheltered waters are home to countless plants and animals that live in water that is part fresh and part salty.

- Estuaries protect water quality by filtering pollution and reducing sediments.
- Eelgrass shelters fish & controls water currents.
- Estuaries and the land surrounding them are places where people live, work, kayak, fish, hike, and bird watch.
- Livelihoods depend on healthy estuaries.



Great Egret,  
An inhabitant of the Siuslaw Estuary

NOAA

### Siuslaw Estuary Partnership

A collaborative effort by the City of Florence and its partners to protect and improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in the lower Siuslaw River Watershed.

This second newsletter highlights Siuslaw Estuary Partnership Projects and key issues they are trying to address. It also includes ways you can be involved in protecting the environment we share.

### What Is the Key Estuary Wetlands Project?



Roy Lowe, USFWS

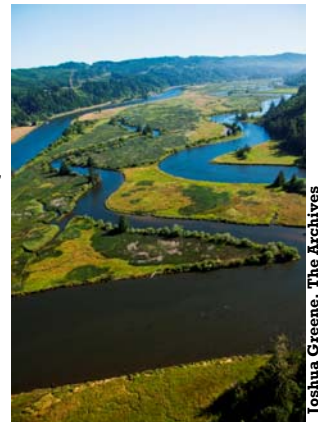
Waite Ranch, 217 acres, former cattle ranch to be restored with tidal connectivity

The Siuslaw Watershed Council along with other partners and funders will be protecting and restoring the North Fork Marsh & Waite Ranch recently acquired by McKenzie River Trust.

One goal is to re-establish the tidal exchange between the river and Waite Ranch's the property interior.

Activities associated with this project include creating a management plan, surveying, acquiring tide and channel morphology and data & monitoring the site.

Restored tidal connectivity can provide nesting, feeding and nursery areas for fish & wildlife, improve water quality and habitat connectivity.



Joshua Greene, The Archives

Duncan Island, An example of tidal exchange in property interior

### Help Shape the Vision for a Siuslaw Estuary Trail

The Partnership is drafting the Vision for a Siuslaw Estuary Trail. You can help shape this vision by sharing your ideas with staff and stakeholders at the **Open House on Monday, April 25, 4-7 pm.**

For a sneak preview, see the Draft Report for the Siuslaw Estuary Trail Vision: Location and Design Options on the web site, [www.siuslawwaters.org](http://www.siuslawwaters.org).



East of the Port of Siuslaw



Kelli Weese, City of Florence



**The Siuslaw Estuary Partnership** is a collaborative effort of federal, state, and local partners to protect and improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in the lower Siuslaw River Watershed. This 3 year project is funded by project partners and the US Environmental Protection Agency. An Interdisciplinary Team of 18 partners and 2 stakeholder groups provide guidance on the project.



Community Stakeholders Group

Share your ideas and concerns with the two stakeholder groups at the **Open House on April 25th**.

Go to [siuslawwaters.org](http://siuslawwaters.org) for a list of stakeholder members and their affiliations.



Elected Officials Stakeholders Group

## Keep it Clean! Protecting Water Quality

	Oct	Fall Nov	Dec
Streamflow	Y	Y	Y
Temperature - HOBO	Y	Y	Y
Cond, pH, ORP, T, DO	Y	Y	Y
DO- Winkler Titration	Y	Y	Y
Turbidity	Y	Y	Y
Coliform	Y	Y	Y
Total P			
Nitrate	Y*		
Alkalinity			
Total Organic Carbon			
Common Ions			
Zinc and Copper			
(Public Works on Munsel Creek site only)			
Lead (Below Gun Club only)			
VOCs			
IOC's			
Glyp /2,4-D			
Caffeine			
Zinc and Copper (Demonstration Site Only**)			
Oil and Grease (Demonstration Site Only**)			
Pharmaceuticals & Personal Care Products (Clear Lake Only)			
* Preliminary sample only			
** First flush in 2011, approximate month			
Monthly + 2 storms			
Quarterly + 2 storms			
Semi-Annually + 2 storms			
Semi-Annually + 1 storm			
First flush only (Year 2)			
Annually			

Florence has the only sole source aquifer in the State of Oregon. This means that, if the aquifer is contaminated in a manner that cannot be fixed, the City will lose its drinking water source.

Water from the aquifer flows into the estuary and is connected to the lakes and creeks. Protecting water quality protects fish and wildlife, too!

3 Siuslaw Estuary Partnership projects will assure that water quality is protected—the Surface and Groundwater Monitoring Program, Aquifer Protection Plan, & Stormwater Best Management Practices.

For a complete report on all water testing done to date and the complete monitoring schedule, visit the Water Quality and Quantity page of the project web site: [www.siuslawwaters.org](http://www.siuslawwaters.org).



**Unused medicines?**  
Bring them to the Florence Justice Center—don't flush down the toilet, put down the drain, or in the trash.

## Art Contest: Enter to Win

Calling all Artists: beginning, aspiring or advanced. Attend the April 25 Open House and enter your work in the Project Logo & Art Contest.

For more information go to [www.siuslawwaters.org](http://www.siuslawwaters.org)



Das Meer, (Cover Inset) MJ Schleiden, 1874,

**Protect Your Water—See Inside!**

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**We're on the Web!**  
[Siuslawwaters.org](http://Siuslawwaters.org)

**Public Open House**

April 25, 2011

4:00-7:00 p.m

Presentations at 5:00 p.m.

**Florence Events Center**

715 Quince St.



For Information:

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**541-997-8237**

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