



Mid-Coast Watersheds Council
23 N. Coast Hwy Newport, Oregon 97365

watersheds of: SALMON RIVER, SILETZ RIVER, YAQUINA RIVER, ALSEA RIVER, YACHATS RIVER, AND OCEAN TRIBUTARIES

For immediate release
March 8, 2011

At the Mid-Coast Watersheds Council's annual meeting last week in Newport, a number of people were recognized by the group for their support of efforts to conserve and restore the areas streams, marshes, and water quality for salmon and other species.

A special award was given to Greg Torland, recently retired Senior Trooper from the Oregon State Police's Fish and Game Division for his outstanding efforts to protect the environment. Torland was presented with a framed photograph.



Trooper Torland helping with a site visit on the Yaquina River

Recovery of salmon is a complicated endeavor often called a "three legged stool" relying only in part on the conservation and restoration efforts of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts and others, said Fran Recht, one of the Council's officers. The other necessary parts are agencies such as Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Water Resources Department and Oregon Department of Agriculture doing projects and supporting actions that are protective of salmon. The third necessary part is the enforcement of laws such as fishing laws, wetland laws and water quality protection rules. The group recognized Torland not only for his efforts at such enforcement but going much further to help the environment,



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citing his long months of persistence and efforts to clean up derelict oyster gear in the Yaquina and assisting the group with site visits and in identifying watershed conservation opportunities.

Recognition was given to founding members of the watershed council who are still involved with the non-profit group that was founded in 1994. For 17 years, noted Council Coordinator Wayne Hoffman, these supporters have given the group consistent support, aiding in building the Council to one that can consistently do between \$750,000 and \$1 million dollars worth of conservation, restoration, and education work a year. Of the 17 founding members 8 are still active and have continued helping the Council succeed: These members are Wayne Demoray, Paul Engelmeyer, Rennie Ferris, Fran Recht, Tom Shafer, Joe Steere, Mark Stone and Kip Wood. They were presented with a "It's a Little Know Fact that Fish Grow On Trees" tee shirt. Rennie Ferris not only was a founding member of the group but received recognition for 12 years of service as an officer of the Board of Directors of the group and for outstanding, consistent participation at the group's meetings representing agricultural interests.

Others receiving the group's appreciation and a tee shirt included current Council Chairperson Sam Adams, representing local industry whose presence at 54 of the groups 57 meetings since 2006 (when records started being kept) was noted. His participation record was nearly matched by Elmer Ostling, a Waldport resident who was recognized for being a consistent and helpful presence on the Council's Board and on many of its committees for at least a decade. Watershed Council Coordinator, Wayne Hoffman, who just began his 12th year as coordinator of the group was also honored. His leadership with the local council and among Council's state-wide and his recognized scientific expertise was noted.

Others receiving thanks and acknowledgement for helping the group in its work for many years included Jennifer Beathe and Jeff Light representing industrial timber, Bob Kemp, representing commercial fishing, Don Larsen, a recreational fisherman and Siletz basin member, Stacy Polkowske from the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District representing the public at large, Anne Sigleo formerly of the EPA, representing the public at large, John Spangler from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Corrina Chase, recently retired coordinator for the Salmon-Drift Watershed Council.

The group meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm in Newport at the Central Lincoln Public Utility District offices, across from the Safeway complex. An education program featuring different watershed topics is on each agenda and refreshments are served. The public is encouraged to attend.