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Streamside Stewards Changes Due to Coronavirus

Dear Streamside Stewards,

I'm writing to give you an update about the North Clackamas Watersheds Council's Streamside Stewards in light of the Coronavirus outbreak. The situation is changing rapidly. Please stay in touch. This is what is happening now: it may change in a week or a few days.

First and foremost, I hope you are all safe, healthy, and taking care of yourselves. This is a stressful time for all of us. As we move forward, safety and slowing the pandemic are our priorities; weeds and plants can be managed later, if need be.

Mosaic Crews Are Operating Differently

- As of this writing, Mosaic is able to work in the field.
- To reduce risk of the virus spreading, Mosaic is operating in small crews, sometimes singly. You may see just Lauren or other Mosaic employees by themselves.
- They are also not sharing vehicles or tools. That means parking may be tight if they come in a group.
- They will be doing all scheduling and communication via phone and email. Please respect the 6' distance when you see them on the site.

Communication

- Communication between Mosaic and landowners and residents will be via phone and email.
- If you would rather not have Mosaic on your property during this time to protect vulnerable residents, etc., please contact Lauren Cary at lauren@mosaicecology.org and cc me at neil@ncwatersheds.org. Please be sure to include the address of the property.

- In the next few weeks, we'll be sharing some more online resources about how you can help manage invasives that may threaten your plants while we're operating at reduced efficiency.

Moratorium on New Sites

- These safety measures mean work will be slower. Therefore we're not taking on any new sites until the crisis abates. Since coming up with a site plan also requires understanding the landowner's objectives and seeing the property, this process is on hold either until the situation abates, or we can come up with other solutions.
- In the meantime, contact neil@ncwatersheds.org to be added to the list when we can bring on new sites.

5 Ways You Can Help

1. Remember to avoid close contact (6' minimum) with folks you see in the field.
2. You can help us spot infestations. If you notice invasives re-emerging, please take photos and email them to Lauren and me. We'll have more eyes on the ground and can prioritize our work better. Some of them (blackberry, etc.) you may be able to help by managing yourself. Others, like Japanese Knotweed, spread faster when hand-pulled. We want to make sure we're treating each plant the right way. The Clackamas SWCD has some good online resources. <https://weedwise.conservationdistrict.org/>
3. In the next few weeks, we'll be asking you to also pitch in by taking photo plot images of your property and upload them to us. This is part of our ongoing site monitoring. We'll be sending you instructions soon.
4. We will be asking you for more help in the days to come.
5. We will have some financial challenges down the road. The pandemic will impact our funding sources: salmon recovery is partly funded by the Oregon Lottery, and bars and video poker have been closed. A potential economic downturn will affect several other sources of funds that keep us going. You can help be resilient by making a [contribution to the Council](#).

We'll get through this, together. The work we do—making watersheds healthy by bringing people together—is a bit harder now. But we'll still realize a future where people, salmon, frogs, trees, healthy communities thrive together in our watersheds.

Thank you for your commitment to healthy streams and healthy people,



Neil Schulman
Executive Director

