



Coos Soil & Water Conservation District

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Summer Newsletter Aug 2012

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Off-Channel Water Storage & Fish Habitat Workshop



The Coos SWCD sponsored a workshop on April 24, 2012 at the Coos County Annex in Coquille. The guest speaker was Joe Sheahan for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. He gave about four hours of valuable information about the importance of creating these off-channel wetland complexes. He explained that the wetland complexes were different from alcoves and ponds because they were not as deep and we designed not to silt in and trap fish. Joe expressed how productive these off-channel refuge places can be during high winter flows. He also said that by adding large wood it gave the juvenile salmonids a place to hide and seek refuge from the sun and from predators. Joe even mentioned that predators like bass can get into these complexes, but he said that because this habitat was created any fish that used this habitat was better than nothing even if some were eaten by aggressive fish species. (By; Eric Himmelrich)

COOS SWCD GOALS:

Promote wise use of renewable resources through locally led voluntary conservation. Conserve, protect and develop natural resources for the economic benefit of the people of Coos County. Encourage measures for the protection of waters of Coos County. Assist local landowners in the developing and utilizing their resources to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality and support the Coos County economy.

~Meet the new Watershed Technical Specialist at Coos SWCD~

Dawn Weekly grew up in Coos County area graduated from Myrtle Point High School and currently owns almost 7 ac. with her husband and two daughters just outside of Myrtle Point. She likes to fish, hunt and enjoys being outdoors. Much of the local community knows Dawn from her past services at either the Credit Union in Coquille or the Farm Service Agency in Coquille.



Dawn is excited to start working with land owners who have ideas or need ideas on how to improve and get the best use of their property while improving soil and water quality. She will provide technical support and help find funding sources through various grants and local partners. Maybe you have a creative solution to a common problem, let her know. info@cooswcd.org (541) 396-6879.

Langlois Mountain Rain Gauge

Site 1: Hildebrand's Property
Elevation: 1,006 ft, HOBO #: 194840

Site 2: Steve Kalina's Property
Elevation: 1,323 ft, HOBO #: 270940



Inches Per Month:

Month:	Site 1	Site 2
Sept. 2011	0.53	0.30
Oct. 2011	4.23	3.62
Nov. 2011	8.98	7.52
Dec. 2011	3.78	4.51
Jan. 2012	9.02	10.98
Feb. 2012	4.02	4.52
March. 2012	15.91	21.40
April. 2012	5.45	5.52
May. 2012	2.02	2.25
June. 2012	5.30	4.37
July. 2012	0.75	0.65
Total:	59.99	65.64



2012 Coos county Fair Highlights

This year kicked off the 100th anniversary of the Coos County fair which ran from Tuesday, July 24th through Saturday, July 28th. The Natural Resource tent was located behind the project graduation chicken booth in the old oak grove. The Natural Resource tent was donated by the Coquille Indian Tribe to help support local nonprofit partners. This year the tent hosted Coquille Watershed Association, Oregon Fish & Wildlife, Powers Native Species Center, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Curry Soil and water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Forestry, Coos County Weed Board, and Coos Soil & Water Conservation District.

As I looked back over the historical fair information for Coos Soil and Water it appears this year was an overall success! Our booth handed out a total of 240 different handouts approximately 50% of the available material and resulted in several landowners inquiring on technical or financial assistance. Some of the most popular items were; Field Guide to Weeds, Web soil survey forms, non invasive plants, and Small Grant fact sheets. The tent seemed to provide fun activities for the kids while parents took a break from the hustle and bustle and/or acquired information. (Many parent participated in coloring activities as well!) We look forward to working with the land owners of Coos County.



A fair follow-up with Debbie James at the Coos County Fair office revealed an overall good fair. Debbie said that fair numbers were down for most of the Oregon and Northern California fairs. The Coos fair was also down 2,100, coming in at about 30,383 attendees. This year's 4-H auction total was up despite how many kids received a red ribbon. (A blue ribbon is needed from judges to participate in the auction) Fair auctions totals were reported to be up and came in at \$214,614 for 2012. .

On behalf of all the participating non-profits this year we would like to thank the Coquille Indian tribe for their help with the tent, Tristan Huff with OSU Extension and Kelly Miles with CWA for helping coordinate everything. Also like to give a special thanks to the team at the Powers Native species Center for new display banners for each group in the tent this year. A big thank you goes out to the Fair board and staff as well for all your hard work!!! Ask one of the above mentioned partners for more information and how we can help you. You might be surprised!!

What's being done locally??

ODA, Coos SWCD, and the Coos and Coquille LAC believe that through implementation of positive management practices, water quality will improve and agricultural viability and values will be increased. It is intended that implementation of this Area Plan provide flexibility for landowners and land managers to use their own ingenuity and creativity to address water quality concerns. These programs work with inner agency co-operation for technical and funding assistance. Ask a neighbor!

Agency	
Natural Resource Conservation Services-NRCS	<p><i>Conservation Plans written: 2,375 acres Watershed or area wide conservation plans developed: 3 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan: 1</i></p> <p><i>Land with conservation applied to improve water quality: 3,045 acres</i></p> <p><i>Land with conservation applied to improve irrigation efficiency: 536 acres</i></p> <p><i>Grazing land with conservation applied to protect and improve the resource base: 1,484 acres</i></p> <p><i>Wetlands created, restored, or enhanced: 141 acres</i></p> <p><i>Fence: 26,312 ft, Irrigation System Sprinkler: 258 acres, Irrigation Pipeline: 21,739 ft, Irrigation Water Management: 237 acres, Prescribed Grazing: 208 acres, Pipeline: 8,900 ft, Pumping Plant: 12, Riparian Forest Buffer: 3 acres, Tree/Shrub Establishment: 216 acres, Tree/Shrub Site Prep: 87 acres, Watering Facility: 11, Wetland Enhancement: 141 acres, Wetland Wildlife Habitat, Management: 28 acres, Roof Runoff: 1, Spoil Spreading: 1</i></p>
Coos soil & Water Conservation District-Coos SWCD	<p><i>ODA TA/LMA funding– Landowners contacted: 111 Landowners provided with technical assistance: 80 Site Visits: 40 Sites Monitored for Water Quality: 6</i></p> <p><i>Water Quality Projects Implemented: 4</i></p> <p><i>Water Quality Workshops: 2 with 55 attendees</i></p> <p><i>Water Quality Presentations: 4 with 76 attendees</i></p> <p><i>Events with Displays: 9 with 635 visitors</i></p> <p><i>Classroom Events: 5 with 194 students</i></p> <p><i>Fact Sheets Developed: 2 with 1024 distributed</i></p> <p><i>Newsletter Distributed: 1,800</i></p> <p><i>Field Tours: 3 with 10 attendees</i></p>
Coquille Watershed Association-CWA	<p><i>16 acres of riparian buffer planted, 9 miles of riparian/livestock exclusion fencing installed, 5 acres of wetland complex built, 59 acres of historical meadow restored, 2 culverts replaced 9 boulder weirs built</i></p>
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program- CREP/ FSA	<p><i>Fence: 4,800 ft, Access Control: 6.9 acres, Forest site prep: 146 acres, Tree/shrub establishment: 3.0 acres, Riparian forest buffer: 4.1 acres, Upland wildlife habitat improvement: 70 acres</i></p>
Coos Watershed Association	<p><i>11 acres of new riparian site preparation & planting at 3 sites, 108 acres of riparian maintenance at 20 locations, 50 acres of Purple loosestrife surveyed on 64 sites, with 3,000 bio-controls released at 8 sites, 5 acres of Japanese knotweed treated at 50+ sites, 6 acres of Gorse treated with herbicide at 14 sites</i></p>

Coos and Coquille 2012 LAC meeting



(Pictured above: Eric Himmelreich, Dan Pierce, Sharon Waterman, Tom Forgatsch, Beth Pietrzak)

The 2012 Biennial Coos and Coquille Local Advisory Committee Meeting (LAC) took place June 27, 2012. This year's meeting was held at the Coos County Annex Building from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. There were only 17 people in attendance this year. Pizza, cake, coffee and pop were provided. Beth Pietrzak, who recently transferred from the Curry SWCD to ODA water quality specialist, started the meeting. Tom Forgatsch and Dan Pierce are in process with ODA to become committee members. Joan Mahaffy became the new LAC Chairman. Beth Pietrzak had a slide show from ODA. It went over the dynamics of ODA goal partnering with local districts such as Coos SWCD and Coquille Watershed Association (CWA). Currently most projects are being done is a "shotgun" pattern, which is harder to show direct improvements. ODA would like to start seeing a more "targeted" focus area, multiple project areas relatively close to each other. They believe this is a way to tell a success story by looking in detail at a small watershed that needs a lot of water quality improvements. By looking at a targeted area with many projects you would have a more controlled quality and quantity output. This increases the chances of faster quality results.

Eric Himmelreich gave a ~50 slide power-point mainly showing photos of projects that were implemented during the past two years. Projects included fencing and planting, irrigation efficiency and fish passage/sediment reduction. With a variety of projects on the ground we know have examples for landowners to see the different types of projects and how we can help. We can now focus on trying to build better relationship with landowners and complete more projects in targeted areas.

Pam Blake from DEQ provided three hand outs 1) Draft SCB NARS Summary. 2) Draft Water Quality Condition Approach. 3) Coos County Ag WQWP Area impaired water bodies on the 2010 303d list. Pam also mentioned that based on the data she is reviewing, since 1990 she has seen a lot of visible improvement, for example trees planted in riparian areas are 30 ft tall and also some "passive recovery" where a landowner implement their own best management practices and it did improve the land over time.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Graze the best; buffer the rest in Coos and Curry Counties:

Fencing livestock from streams, restoring riparian vegetation makes sense for a range of local CREP participants

The popularity of this surprisingly simple Federal-state cooperative program is still strong in Coos and Curry Counties. In the coming year, landowners who have signed up for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) will be building fences or wildlife habitat structures and planting trees and shrubs on 9 sites throughout Coos and Curry counties, and we're in the process of signing up 8 new CREP projects for 2013 and beyond. Fifteen more previously installed projects are due for an annual check-up this summer, and 41 older projects are being maintained by landowners in their "free to grow" stage.

Ranchers have used CREP to cover the cost of restoring riparian corridors along streams through areas of ranch that don't make sense to graze, either because the river bank is steep and the productivity is poor, or because the riparian corridors make logical routes for dividing large holdings into planned grazing units. On a large hillside ranch, it's essential to plan livestock movement to minimize the hours (or days) spent moving cattle through difficult drainages, and well-planned riparian fencing can help.

The larger size of these projects also means that the annual rental payment to each landowner comes to a few thousand dollars. At \$114 per acre each year along perennial streams, collecting this annual payment can easily cover the cost of lost feed when areas of low productivity are excluded from grazing.

You don't have to manage a huge ranch to make a difference

Managers of large holdings like our return customers "Graze the Best; Buffer the Rest" to provide a stable ranching future and a diverse landscape that supports fish and wildlife. But you don't have to have thousands of acres to make a difference using CREP. The owner of the smallest CREP project this year embraces the same philosophy on a modest scale. Just a thousand feet of fence, a little Himalayan blackberry control, and planting a few hundred trees and shrubs will provide a 1.5-acre oasis for wildlife and enhance future instream habitat in an area of managed timber and open pasture. Rental payments on this smaller project are not a business consideration, but cost-shares for fencing as well as technical support and an ODF-reviewed planting plan will make a high-quality project possible for this small family producer. Some times after removing the briars and other invasive plants the minimum set back of the fence line is less than were the plants were, thus increasing pasture land. Regardless of operation size, managing our grazing lands well is essential to the health of our surface waters and wildlife habitat, and every land manager can make a difference. Would you like a tour of a CREP project site?? Let us know. For more information about surface water protection on agricultural lands and about the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, call Coos-Curry CREP Technician Barbara Grant at 541-396-2841 Ext. 106 or come by the USDA Service Center in Coquille at 382 North Central Blvd.

A well-designed riparian forest buffer slows flood waters and improves aquifer recharge, helps stabilize stream banks, traps pasture sediment, provides habitat for terrestrial wildlife, and supplies shade, wood, and leafy debris for the instream ecosystem. Riparian buffers are an essential tool in excellent land stewardship!

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT

ENGLISH IVY (*hedera helix*)



Photo by: Tom Forney, Oregon Department of Agriculture

IDENTIFICATION/DESCRIPTION: Vigorous woody perennial with 2 growth forms. Juvenile form remains as a creeping understory vine with leaves that are usually 3-lobed. Adult reproductive form has erect, shrubby stems with diamond-shaped leaves. They have small white flowers in tight clusters with purple berries.

HABITATS INVADED: Most coniferous and deciduous forests, especially near urban areas. English ivy can form a thick canopy layer that carpets the forest understory, climbs and smothers trees, encourages tree rot, makes tree canopy heavier and more susceptible to wind throw, and increases fire hazards. Very shade tolerant!

CONTROL:

Cultural control: Pull vines on the ground by hand and discard. Cut vines will root easily. Cut climbing vines near the ground, then pry the vines from the tree or structure. Once the vines are cut they will eventually die and fall from the tree, usually after the first extended hot and dry period. Occasionally vines will be embedded in the trunk of the tree. This makes control by both hand and chemicals very difficult; continual removal of sprouts will be needed.

Chemical Control:

- **Basal bark application:** apply 33% dilution of triclopyr or glyphosate to exposed stems after stripping the leaves from stems near ground level.
- **Cut stem application** (most effective method): cut each vine stem close to the ground and treat freshly cut surfaces with a 33% solution of triclopyr amine or glyphosate mixed in water.
- **Foliar application:** from summer to fall, foliar-apply a 2 to 5% solution of triclopyr ester mixed in water with a nonionic surfactant. Fully coat foliage. Some control may be possible with glyphosate as a 2% to 4% dilution using at least a 41%, but repeat applications will probably be necessary. Broadcast application of triclopyr will cause less damage to desirable grasses.

Biological Control: None

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- Birds can disperse fruits and seeds into forests and stem fragments can regenerate if left in soil.
- Dense infestations can harbor other pests such as rats.
- Sap may cause skin dermatitis.
- **Class B Oregon Noxious Weed – report locations to www.WeedMapper.org**

Resources:

“Garden Smart Oregon a guide to non-invasive plants” and <http://www.pnwhandbooks.org>

For more information on controlling Noxious Weeds contact the Coos County Weed Board at

<http://www.co.coos.or.us/Departments/BoardofCommissioners/CountyBoardsandCommittees/WeedBoard.aspx>.

On the watch list from OSU

#1



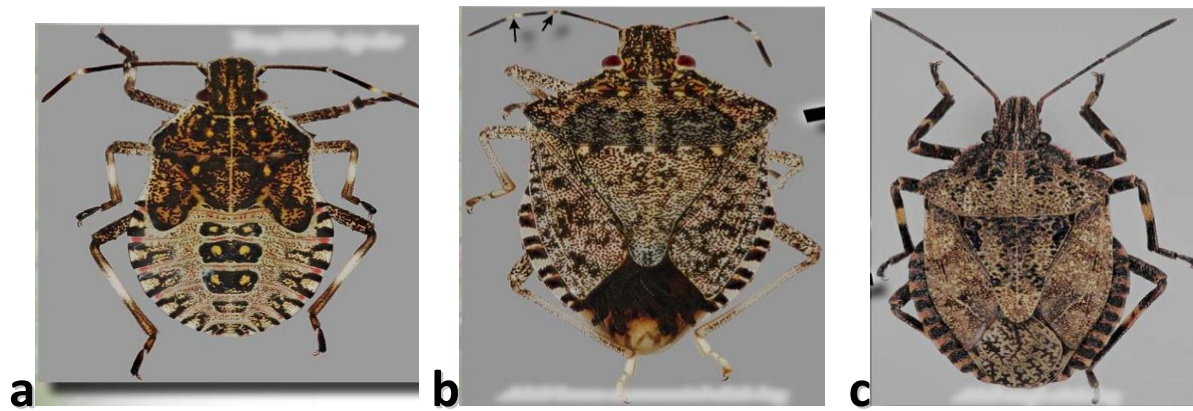
Be on the lookout for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) a fruit eating bug that is invading the Pacific Northwest. If you are a gardener or a grower and want to report fly captures, please refer to **SWD Monitoring for Oregon Non-Commercial Backyard Gardeners**. Apple cider vinegar can be used in a trap container. <http://horticulture.oregonstate.edu/content/field-photo-gallery#>

#2

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Some home gardeners have reported extensive damage to beans, cucumbers, raspberries, and several species of ornamental plants. BMS bugs are most often confused with the Oregon Rough Stink Bug. BMS will also have a smooth edged shoulder shell as where the OR RSB has a ridged orange/redish color edge shoulder shell. All this and more can be found at,

http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/docs/pdf/ippm_bmsb_alert2010.pdf?ga=t



a) Young BMS bug

b) Adult BMS bug
white bands on antena
and outer shell edge

c) Adult Rough Stink Bug
darker stippling colors.

ODA Director's Column in Summer 2012 Ag Quarterly

(This column is from the Ag Quarterly newsletter and is being re-printed with permission from ODA.)

I am delivering a call to action for Oregon farmers, ranchers, and other landowners— please pay attention to water quality issues. It's an important topic that is receiving a lot of attention right now and we want you to be part of the conversation.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is directed by statute to administer its Agricultural Water Quality Program to work with farmers and ranchers on improving ag's contribution to water quality. We work closely with other state agencies that are in the water quality business— most notably, the Department of Environmental Quality. Our program has been and will continue to be successful in addressing and, frankly, reducing agriculture's negative impacts on water quality. It has been in place for 19 years, fully implemented for the past few years with the adoption of rules for the 38 basins around the state, which determine how agriculture is going to deal with water quality problems.

ODA's Agricultural Water Quality Program has mobilized a great deal of effort. A lot of people in agriculture and many agencies have put in a lot of work already throughout the state, and they should be commended for their commitment. The challenge we've had to this point is not being in a position to really address or quantify the effectiveness of the program. We've been focused on getting the rules in place and working with landowners interested in putting projects on the ground. Those projects have involved soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and others. Sometimes landowners have completed projects on their own. But there has not been a coordinated, cohesive collection of data or analysis to show progress and how water quality has improved.

Going forward, what should ODA's Agricultural Water Quality Program look like? Right now, our program is predominantly a complaint-based program. Should it move to some other kind of regulatory-based program? There is some interest in putting resources into a demonstration projects that focus on a specific stream stretch within a basin. In that scenario, an entire reach of a stream would get priority treatment with focused work on the landscape, riparian area, and other elements critical to maintaining or improving water quality. Monitoring conditions would take place before and after the work has been done to determine how water quality is impacted. As we heard during our recent tour and listening sessions around the state regarding our water quality program, there are a lot of ideas out there and probably many more yet to be considered.

So now is the time for all of us to step up and figure out how we can better show the effectiveness of ODA's program. There are critics out there and it is incumbent upon those of us in agriculture to show results. Just as they have over the past 19 years, I know farmers, ranchers, and landowners can step up and document the effectiveness of our Agricultural Water Quality Program.

This is a call to action, a call for help, a call for great ideas. The State Board of Agriculture, in its latest meeting, reinforced its interest and commitment to the program and how to move it forward. We want all of our partners around the state to work with us to do just that. The board has asked ODA to spend some time putting together options for the future. We will be developing those options this summer and will report back to the board in September. We want your input and involvement. You can contact my office directly or our Water Quality Program staff. You can contact a Board of Agriculture member. Or if you are more comfortable working with your local SWCD, watershed council, or producer organization, those are also great avenues to provide input on how the program should move forward.

The issue of water quality isn't going away, nor should it. There is a seat at the discussion table reserved for Oregon agriculture. I'm banking on that seat being occupied by Oregon agriculture.

Local USDA News

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is currently accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Coos and Curry Counties. Our first ranking deadline will be **November 16, 2012**; this means we must have the applications in, establish eligibility and process them so that they can be ranked for funding. Sign up early before the funding runs out!

We have two principle strategies designed to improve water quality and quantity.

Livestock and irrigation. This strategy will address surface water quality by prioritizing livestock producers within ½ mile of streams in Coquille and Sixes watersheds for assistance with equipment upgrades and improvements to irrigation, pasture, and livestock management. The conservation practices offered will help landowners:


- *Use irrigation water more efficiently to minimize surface runoff and nutrient leaching
- *Improve plant cover to trap sediment and other pollutants that impact water quality
- *Install practices that capture organic solids and associated pollutants
- *Manage access to sensitive areas to protect water quality
- *Improve the condition and function of grazing areas near stream corridors

Irrigation Automation for Cranberries. This strategy will help cranberry producers improve water management and reduce energy consumption through localized moisture monitoring, irrigation system improvements and automated irrigation. These conservation practices are designed to help landowners:

- *Use irrigation water more efficiently; minimize surface runoff and nutrient leaching
- *Save energy through reduced pump demand and usage
- *Improve nutrient cycling, crop health, vigor, productivity, survivability and yields

To learn more or to submit an application for either of these strategies please contact the NRCS office at 541-396-2841 and speak to Pat at extension 107 or Amy at extension 105.

~USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer~

 Attention Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers: if you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic or female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. This means you may be eligible if: 1) you sought a farm loan or a farm-loan servicing during that period. 2) The loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and 3) you believe these actions were based on your being Hispanic or female. Please contact an attorney or other legal services. USDA cannot provide legal advice to you. If you think you might be eligible for a claim, please access the Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher call center or website: 1-888-508-4429 www.farmerclaims.gov

News and Upcoming Events

- ❖ **2012 Guerin Memorial Essay Contest –to be announced**
- ❖ **2012 Annual meeting - to be announced**
- ❖ **Director Elections – On the November ballot**

- ❖ **Dave Pinello, local state trapper has recently suffered a stroke and is currently at River Bend Hospital in Eugene. Producers who have been working with Dave can contact Mike Burrell's cell: 541-670-7459 who will be out in the field. If there is a public safety issue please contact Stu Love: 541-888-5515. Sharon Waterman has also offered to take calls and relay messages. Sharon Waterman cell: 541-297-9268 Home: 541-347-3453.**

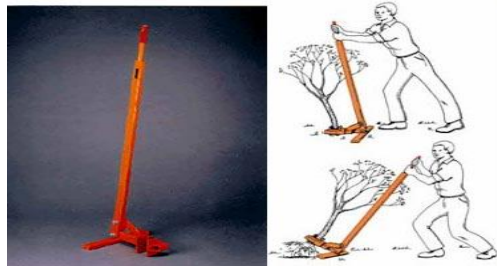
Ag Facts!

- 1) True or False-Mosquitoes are attracted to people who just ate bananas.
- 2) Who did the Oregon Legislature describe as the "Father of Oregon"?
- 3) Who explored Oregon with Meriwether Lewis in the early 1800s?
- 4) Which Oregonian appears weekday mornings on NBC TV?
- 5) This governor is known for land use planning and the bottle bill.

- 1) This is true. Bananas are high in potassium which causes lactic acid to be released in the body, which is very attractive to mosquitoes. 2) John McLoughlin 3) William Clark 4) Ann Curry 5) Tom McCall

Reminders

- **Regular Meetings:** 4th Thursday of every month
- **Landowner Resource Guides available at office**
- **Conservation/Farm Planning**
- **Technical & Financial Assistance**
- **Weed wrenches:** for extracting noxious weeds on your property ex. gorse and scotch broom are available to borrow at the Coos SWCD (396-6879) and NRCS (396-2841) offices in Coquille.



Coos Soil & Water Conservation District
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