



Long Tom Watershed Council
Bimonthly watershed news and meeting notice
May 2009

Action
Through
Understanding

RESTORATION PROJECT TOUR

Poodle Creek Fish Passage & Riparian Enhancement Project

Tuesday, May 26, 2009
6:00—7:45 pm

David & Marta Heidt's Property

(Omega Farms)
21479 Cook Rd., Noti

Directions on Page 10



An inside view of a new culvert on Poodle Creek. The new structure improves fish passage by decreasing the **stream's velocity and easing upstream** passage for native fish.

AGENDA

- 5:30 pm Meet at the Council office if you want to carpool to the site
- 6:00 pm Providing Fish Passage
David & Marta Heidt, Landowners
Guest Speaker, Fish Passage Improvement
Cindy Thieman and Jed Kaul, Restoration Team
Long Tom Watershed Council
- 7:15 pm Fish Passage Assessment project, this summer
Jed Kaul
- 7:30 pm Announcements & Closing

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identification training
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The Long Tom Watershed Council serves to improve water quality and watershed condition in the Long Tom River basin through education, coordination, consultation, and cooperation among all interests, using the collective wisdom and voluntary action of our community members.

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www.longtom.org

Council Meeting Backgrounder

Upper Poodle Creek Fish Passage & Riparian Enhancement Project

Project Background

This project was implemented in the headwaters of Poodle Creek, a primary tributary in the Elk Creek sub-watershed. The stream habitat in the upper section of Poodle Creek is some of the best Cutthroat trout spawning and rearing habitat in the Watershed. Sampling at 2 nearby sites revealed an abundant and diverse macroinvertebrate community, providing ample food for cutthroat trout and other aquatic species. Also, ideal substrate and cool water temperatures provide excellent spawning habitat. The land upstream of the fish passage barrier at this site is publicly owned forestland.

The Oregon Conservation Strategy lists improving fish passage as a recommended conservation action for the Willamette Valley ecoregion and also cites habitat fragmentation or actions that increase population isolation as limiting factors for cutthroat trout. This project directly addressed both of these issues. Other limiting factors for cutthroat trout in the Long Tom watershed include a lack of instream habitat diversity and spawning gravels. Removing these culverts helped to remedy both of these factors.

The Council has documented E. coli levels exceeding DEQ standards on a number of occasions in Poodle Creek. The likely source of these bacteria is livestock, due to the relatively large number of cattle and horses along the creek. Additionally, the Council has recorded high summer water temperatures at the mouth of Poodle Creek which can be attributed to a lack of riparian vegetation and the shade it provides.

Project Goals and Objectives

The goal of this restoration project was to improve fish passage and water quality in the upper Poodle Creek basin. Project objectives include:

- ◆ Increase connectivity between mid-elevation winter rearing habitat and cold headwater summer refuge habitat for cutthroat trout and other aquatic species by replacing 2 undersized culverts.
- ◆ Improve multiple water quality parameters by decreasing sedimentation from erosion caused by the culvert outlet, improving stream shading, & attempting to lower E. coli. levels.
- ◆ Restore riparian areas adjacent to Poodle Creek by fencing them off from livestock and planting with native trees and shrubs.

Restoration Techniques

The fish passage component of this restoration project included replacing an undersized culvert on upper Poodle Creek. The new culvert was designed to handle a 50-year flow event and to allow large woody debris to freely pass through it. A one-half mile of riparian area was restored by installing livestock exclusion fencing and planting it with native trees and shrubs. Off-channel watering was supplied in each of the pastures. Additionally, 3 areas of severe erosion were terraced to slow velocities, allow for the establishment of willows and trees, and improve off-channel habitat for juvenile trout during high flows.

Project Benefits

- ◆ Cutthroat trout and other aquatic species now have year-round access to high quality spawning and rearing habitat upstream of the culvert.
- ◆ Sedimentation of Poodle Creek was diminished by decreasing erosion at the outlet of the culvert and by terracing and planting severely eroded areas.
- ◆ Disruption of large woody debris movement during high flow events was diminished with the installation of the larger diameter culvert.
- ◆ Shading of stream was increased by fencing and planting riparian areas.



Before the project: this undersized culvert on upper Poodle Creek was one of two migration barriers for resident & fluvial cutthroat trout & other aquatic species



After the project: the undersized culvert was replaced with this larger counter sunk arch culvert allowing passage for cutthroat trout and other aquatic species

WEEDIN PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Invasive Species Early Detection Training June 18

Ever wondered if the strange new plant you notice on a hike is a new invasive species that could become a weedy problem? An upcoming workshop on the identification and prevention of new invasive species will be offered by The Willamette Resources & Educational



Invasive species to watch for (clockwise from top left): purple loosestrife (Eric Coombs, OR Dept. of Agriculture); false brome (Glenn Miller, OR Dept. of Agriculture); shining geranium; garlic mustard (Glenn Miller, OR Dept. of Agriculture).

Network (WREN), Friends of Buford Park, Mount Pisgah Arboretum, the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and Oregon Sea Grant. The workshop is part of an educational and volunteer program called WEEDIN: The Willamette Education and Early Detection of Invasives Network. The program was launched in 2007 to reduce the spread and impact of invasive species. WEEDIN educates and trains the public on how to identify, report, and control new invaders that are affecting our wetlands, river banks, prairies, forests, and watersheds. Our goal is to stop these damaging new invaders before they become a problem. Concerned citizens, property owners, and nature enthusiasts are welcome to join

the WEEDIN network and learn how to identify and report new invasive species before they become the next English Ivy.

The workshop is free and will be June 18 from 5:00-8:30 p.m. at Mount Pisgah Arboretum. Tania Siemens, an Invasive Species Ecologist from The Nature Conservancy and Oregon Sea Grant Extension, will give a presentation on invasive species impacts and identification. There will be live and preserved specimens available to study and an interpretive hike and tour of invasions at Mount Pisgah that could have been prevented. A light dinner

will be provided. WEEDIN volunteers will also have the opportunity to adopt-a-plot at a favorite natural area, stream side, or trail to protect from new invaders.

Space is limited to 60 people. To attend please RSVP to Tania Siemens, tania.siemens@oregonstate.edu or 541-914-0701.

What habitats do you have and could you enhance them?
What can you do about the health of your stream and riparian area?

Call our Restoration Team—Cindy at 683-2983 or Jed at 683-6183—to discuss project possibilities

Seeking Volunteers for Stream Surveys

Help Assess Fish Passage Barriers in the Long Tom Watershed!

Project Description: With grant funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Long Tom Watershed Council is working to assess barriers to fish passage in our Watershed. Using information collected through field surveys June through September 2009, the Council will identify priority projects for removing migration barriers and restoring passage for cutthroat trout and other migratory fish in the watershed.



Cutthroat Trout

Benefits and Activities for each Volunteer:

1. Learn about problems cutthroat trout and other native aquatic fauna face in the watershed; how culvert design and maintenance affect migratory fish species; and how individual landowners can play a role in helping to restore fish passage and reconnect fish to important habitat areas up- and downstream through culvert improvements.
2. Receive training on field equipment (e.g., GPS, laser level, clinometer) and data collection techniques necessary to gather field data accurately and consistently.
3. Assist in collecting and recording data in the field on culverts or other types of barriers (e.g., barrier width, height, substrate type, gradient, water depth, habitat quality, etc.) at predetermined sites throughout the Long Tom Watershed.

Qualifications:

- Good attitude and ability to work as a team – volunteer stream surveyors will work with other volunteers and Council staff to complete barrier surveys.
- Ability to take measurements in and around streams; help carry equipment.
- Interest in stream restoration, migratory fish, freshwater ecology, water quality or related field.

Timeline and pay: Opportunities are available June-September 2009. This is a volunteer position.



Time commitment: Ideally volunteers will commit to at least five days during the project period. However, we encourage all interested individuals to contact the Council so we may consider a time commitment that works for you. We will hold a volunteer training day on Saturday, June 6, 2009 to welcome volunteers and introduce the project in more detail, including data collection, field equipment, and visits to survey sites. Volunteers should plan to attend the training day.

Application process: Please contact Jed Kaul (jkaul@longtom.org, 541-683-6183) to discuss your interest in the project, related skills, and available time commitment. Thanks for your interest!

Do you have a dam or culvert on your property that we could survey? There are NO ramifications for any landowner that has a culvert or dam that blocks fish passage. You would have an opportunity to let us work alongside you to address it, bringing in grant funding and technical expertise. We can provide many references of satisfied landowners we have partnered with.

Celebrations and Thanks

Council Awarded 3 New Grants!

The Council is pleased to announce the following grant awards which will allow us to continue to work with Long Tom Watershed landowners to improve water quality and watershed health.

Jordan & Coyote Creeks — Fish Passage and Pasture Management

Award: \$19,812; Match: \$9,200

Funders: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

Partner landowner: Deborah and Alan Mattson, Polyrock Ranch

Project Summary: Restore fish passage and reduce water temperatures in Jordan and Coyote Creeks

Lower Long Tom River/Historic Coyote Creek — Lomatium Prairie & Floodplain Forest Restoration

Award: \$92,405; Match: \$71,190

Funders: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, McKenzie River Trust, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Partner landowner: Paula Erickson

Project Summary: Oak savanna/woodland restoration and protection & enhancement of Bradshaw's lomatium

Owens Creek — Fish Passage Improvement

Award: \$64,592; Match: \$63,568

Funders: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Partner landowners: John and Christine Deck, Deck Family Farm

Project Summary: Fish passage improvement, manure storage, riparian fencing & planting

In Appreciation

Our heartfelt thanks go to Carl Harrison and McFarland-Cascade for providing mulch for the Historic Coyote Creek Riparian Restoration project, and to the Veneta Boy Scout Troop #54 for their hard work spreading mulch to protect the newly planted trees!

Thanks to all!

Contacts for volunteer opportunities:

Long Tom Watershed Council: 683-6949

WREN: 683-6494

Nearby Nature: 687-9699

City of Eugene, Volunteers in Parks: 682-4845

City of Eugene, Stream Team: 682-4850

Willamette River Open Space Vision

Please join the Lane Council of Governments for the first of two planned public workshop focusing on the Willamette River in and around the Eugene and Springfield area. Learn about this invaluable open space resource and share your ideas on river corridor improvements. Topics will include recreation, trails, wildlife habitat, public safety, and visual quality.

Date: Tuesday, June 9 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Eugene Water & Electric Board Training Center (500 East 4th Avenue in Eugene)

Workshop Agenda: Presentation starting at 6:00 p.m. followed by opportunity to provide input on your vision for the Willamette River.

The Vision

Our community has long treasured the Willamette River for the natural, recreational, and visual qualities it provides. The river gives us a sense of place and contributes greatly to the quality of life for all who call the Eugene-Springfield area home. The goal of for this planning effort is to create an inspiring vision for the Willamette River corridor that will help lead the way for coordinated efforts to further improve this outstanding open space resource in the coming years and decades.

Purpose

Over the past decade, numerous planning efforts have studied and made recommendations on the Willamette River at various scales ranging from the entire Willamette Valley to specific sites along the river. However, a comprehensive open space vision or plan has never been compiled specifically for the Willamette River in and around our metropolitan region. In 2003, the Rivers to Ridges Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open Space Vision was **endorsed by local elected officials and identified the Willamette River as a key element of the region's open space network** from a habitat, recreational, visual, and cultural perspective. The Willamette River open space planning effort will build upon the 2003 Rivers to Ridges vision and also incorporate the numerous other proposals and recommendations that have been developed through other planning efforts and studies. In addition, input and ideas generated by the public, interest groups, and the study partners will be used to create a single consolidated open space vision for the river corridor in the coming months.

Key Implementation Guidelines

The Willamette River Vision and Action Plan will be implemented through voluntary participation of study partners and private property owners. Guidelines for implementation include:

- Reliance on a partnership of local, county, state, and federal agencies, land trusts, watershed councils, and private property owners to implement the vision.
- Use of a non-regulatory approach to achieve the Willamette River open space vision.
- Reliance on voluntary participation of private property owners. Information, technical assistance, and incentives will be provided to help private property owners implement the vision.
- Coordination of the open space vision and its implementation with ongoing planning efforts in the area.
- Get Involved

Contact

For more information, please contact Jeff Krueger, Senior Landscape Architect at 541.682.4122 or email jkrueger@lcog.org.

Partners contributing to this open space planning effort include:

Lane Council of Governments, McKenzie Watershed Council, The Nature Conservancy, City of Eugene, McKenzie River Trust, City of Springfield, Willamalane Park & Recreation District, Lane County Parks, Eugene Water & Electric Board, Willamette Riverkeeper, Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission

Watershed Calendar & Opportunities

Council Events

Steering Committee Meetings
Thursday, June 18, 2009; 6:00 p.m. &
Thursday, July 9, 2009; 6:00 p.m.

Restoration Project Tours
Tuesday, May 26, 2009 — Poodle Creek
Fish Passage Improvement and Riparian Enhancement
Tuesday, July 28, 2009 — Spencer Creek
Fish Passage Improvement

For more information, contact Susan Oldland:
stewardship@longtom.org; 683-6949

WREN Wetland Wanders and More

June 9-Wetland Wander
First time at Golden Gardens Park! 9-10 a.m.

Golden Gardens is a 146-acre natural area park **located in Eugene's Bethel neighborhood, at the intersection of Golden Gardens Street and Jessen Drive, north of Barger Drive.** The park was formerly a gravel pit which provided material used in the construction of Belt Line Road and its overpasses. WREN will provide binoculars.

June 13-Family Wetlands Exploration Day
West Eugene Wetlands 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Late spring is a wonderful time to explore the West Eugene Wetlands with your family. WREN staff and volunteers will be on hand to check out nature exploration equipment and provide guidance for discovering the spring wonders in the wetlands. Bring a picnic lunch and water. Meet at the West Eugene Wetlands Yurt, 751 S. Danebo Ave., Eugene.

For more info and to register contact Holly McRae at 683-6494 or email hmcrac@wewetlands.org

3rd Annual Walkin' and Rollin' Through the Wetlands

Saturday, May 30
Eugene Wetlands, 10a-2p

Celebrate American Wetlands Month and explore the West Eugene Wetlands by biking or walking the Fern Ridge Bike Path between Beltline and Greenhill Road.



Along the way, local experts and organizations, including Long Tom Watershed Council, will have educational displays highlighting the many wonders of the wetlands. Learn about wetland plants, animals, and restoration projects. Participants also receive a Wetland Passport they can have stamped at each booth for a chance to win prizes in a drawing. For more information, contact Holly McRae at 683-6494.

We need volunteers at the Council's booth —
can you help?

Contact Susan Oldland, Stewardship Coordinator at 683-6949, or stewardship@longtom.org

Would you like a presentation about the watershed and our Council?
Would your organization like to talk about ideas for collaboration?

Please call Dana Erickson at 683-6578

Please Support the Council

Support the work of the Long Tom Watershed Council!

The watershed council model is based on building a shared community approach to solving natural resource issues. The success of this approach depends on community involvement and support. We hope this will include your help. There are many ways to support the Council's work - volunteering, attending meetings and tours, and equally as crucial— donating funds.

The Council has a 11-year history working with watershed residents improve water quality and habitat through learning and action. We just hit a milestone of 30 completed restoration projects. Since most of the land in our watershed is privately owned, much of this education and restoration work involves developing relationships with private landowners and supporting their efforts to be stewards of their land. In addition to the watershed benefits, this work also contributes to our local economy - over 90% of the restoration grant dollars that the Council brings in are spent in this county - on local contractors, suppliers, businesses, and employees.

The Council does more than restoration – we are the only entity that monitors water quality and stream health throughout the basin, and we share watershed information with the community. Council meetings, tours, and discussions stimulate learning and problem-solving. We also partner with local agencies and organizations to address the crucial, big picture issues in our watershed that no one entity can tackle alone.

With your support, we can continue to enhance and restore the ecology of our watershed that sustain our quality of life and create partnerships that cross all boundaries.



Yes, I'd love to help with a tax-deductible donation to the Long Tom Watershed Council to improve water quality and the watershed in my community!

Your name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

*Phone: _____ *Email: _____

Note: The Council will not release your personal information to other organizations.

Check here if you'd like to receive our newsletter and other announcements via email

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make your donation check payable to Long Tom Watershed Council. Send completed form and tax-deductible donation to:

Long Tom Watershed Council
751 S. Danebo Ave.
Eugene, OR 97402

THANK YOU!

Questions?
Dana Erickson
Executive Director
683-6578



Our Watershed & Council



*Action
Through
Understanding*

Steering
Committee

Lower Long Tom

Tony Stroda, *Chair*
Jim Pendergrass,
Treasurer
Eric Freepons

Upper Long Tom

Ric Ingham
Carl Harrison
Patti Little,
Secretary

Amazon

Peg Boulay
Brad Taylor,
Co-Vice Chair
Eric Wold

At Large

Kat Beal
Kim Carson
Rich Reeves,
Co-Vice Chair

Contact Us:

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Long Tom Watershed Ten Major Subbasins



STAFF

Executive Director
Dana Erickson
683-6578

Projects & Monitoring
Cindy T. or Jed K.
683-2983/
683-6183

Fiscal Manager
Amanda Wilson
683-6949

Stewardship
Susan Oldland
683-6949

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Directions to Council Office from Eugene:

Follow W. 11th west toward Florence.

One signal past Beltline Rd. is Danebo Ave. Turn right;

The first driveway on your right after the Hertz dealership and Amazon Creek is the Wetlands Project Office (white sign) and leads up a small hill to a red ranch house (Council office).

To carpool to the project site, meet at the Council office at 5:30 p.m.

Directions to the Project Site from the Council office:

Take Hwy 126 west ~14.6 miles, past Noti, to Poodle Creek Rd.;

Turn right (N) on Poodle Creek Rd.;
Go ~3.8 miles and turn left onto Cook Rd.;

The project site is located at the very end of Cook Road (~2.4 miles). The road will turn to gravel and you pass a few other homes before you get to the end of the road.