

Long Tom Watershed Council Annual Celebration!

A family picnic!

Sunday, September 28, 2003 1:00 p.m - 4:30 p.m.
Upper Long Tom sub-watershed
Oregon Country Fairgrounds

You are invited to come join the fun with us!
Everyone who lives, works, or plays in the Long Tom Watershed is welcome
to attend our Annual Celebration!

WHAT: This is a bring your own Picnic Event. The Council will provide non alcoholic drinks, music, awards, site tours, and outdoor games to play.

WHERE: Hosted at the Oregon Country Fair site in Veneta. Please see directions at end.

WHY: To celebrate our accomplishments together, show support for our future, and learn about our host's watershed enhancement efforts.

OUTLINE of FESTIVITIES:

- 11:30am: Set up volunteers arrive.
- 1:00 pm: Greet, Meet, & Eat Family Style. Musical entertainment.
- 1:30pm: Inspirational Talk & Awards
- 2:30pm: Pick from 2 site tours: "The Indian Creek Enhancement Project" or
"Living with the water along the Long Tom River Banks."
- 3:30pm: Games, Social Hour, & More Musical Entertainment!



Bring your picnic, and a blanket,
and we'll see you there!

FYI, our annual business meeting will be in October this year
Tuesday, October 28, 6:30 pm Amazon sub-watershed – EWEB Training Room

Questions, info, comments?

Dana Erickson, Coordinator, 683-6578, longtom@efn.org

www.longtom.org

Watershed News Column

Each month, volunteer editor Jim Ekins arranges a column for the West Lane and Tri-County news on behalf of the Long Tom Watershed Council. Submissions of topics are always welcome, as is an offer to write a column, or a name of someone you think could. Authors get their name in the byline of the article! Contact ekinsja@yahoo.com

Ecological Impacts of Fire in the Long Tom Basin

By Jim Ekins

The grassfire scurries across the prairie terraces, chasing after critters of feather and fur. A golden eagle in early southerly transit lands atop a lucky appetizer too slow to avoid the flames. Keeping a watchful eye, sparrow hawks have their pick of little grassland inhabitants otherwise successfully evading the fire. The fire line stops here and there by a ditch, a dip, a trail or a creek. Intensity diminishes where the elk herd bedded down last night, compacting the vegetation into a dense mat. Unseen to the casual observer, seeds just below the duff and in mineral soil warm to, but not beyond, their scorching point, and are destined to sprout with increased vigor upon arrival of the first autumnal rains.

The fire, in fits and starts, lopes ahead in lobes of smoke and char, eventually reaching a bit of gallery forest: a remnant channel of the Long Tom. Here the forest floor is tangled with brush and briars, desperate for combustion in the dry September air. Flames lick up the sides of tall cottonwoods and singe the lowest leaves of the bigleaf maple. These trees do not burn but will be reinvigorated with the ashes dissolution.

Where the prairie meets the valley foothills of the Coast Range, flames make rapid runs up the slope, desiccating then consuming everything in its path. With the exception of the grove of 300-year-old oaks, the natural system of rushes, reeds, and grasses begin their cycle anew. These oaks have seen the scene time after time, their bark not damaged beyond the surface.

Higher in the coast range mountains the fire courses along the ground, nipping at unfortunate understory brush and seedlings. Here and there a tree's sap is irrevocably boiled, though the majority of the forest will survive the heat. A mosaic of black, brown, and green enlarges as the flames travel deeper into the uninhabited forests and tree farms. Some areas will emerge unscathed while others will be blackened to begin life's cycle anew.

Finally, weather cruises in from the west, moistening the air and bringing a welcome rain. Wildland fire fighters wielding Pulaski's, axes and shovels ring the fire in an incombustible line of mineral soil and water. The fire may smolder under watchful eyes, but it poses no more immediate danger.

The Long Tom Watershed Assessment (www.longtom.org), BLM (541/683-6600, <http://www.edo.or.blm.gov/>), and the Western Fire Ecology Center (541/302-6218, <http://www.fireecology.org/>) have more information about this subject. Join the Long Tom Watershed Council for their Annual Celebration, on 28 September, between 1:00p and 4:30p. For directions and information, please contact Dana Erickson at 683-6578.

PROJECTS & MONITORING UPDATE

Cindy Thieman

2003-2005 Projects & Monitoring Grant

Last month the Council signed off on its second watershed restoration projects grant with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). The total cost for the grant is \$298,336. \$212,234 of this comes from state lottery dollars that contribute to watershed restoration under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The remaining 29% (\$86,102) comes from in-kind services and cash from the participating landowners and community partners. The projects grant pays for two years of a $\frac{3}{4}$ time project manager, staff support for the Council's sub-watershed enhancement program, and seven restoration and enhancement projects. These projects include fencing livestock from tributaries of Poodle Creek and Ferguson Creek, replacing culverts that block fish passage on Eber Creek, placing large wood in Ferguson Creek, eradicating blackberry along the upper Long Tom River, re-connecting historic Coyote Creek to its original confluence with the Long Tom River, and creating riparian terraces along South Fork Ferguson Creek.

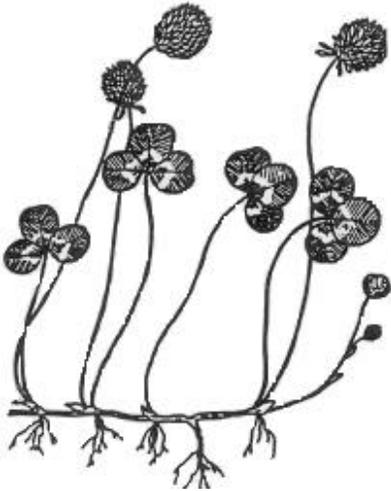
Due to a shortage of funds for non-capital projects (i.e., projects that do not directly relate to on the ground restoration) OWEB was only able to provide interim funding to a handful of monitoring programs around the state. Fortunately, our water quality monitoring program was one that received interim funding! We received \$15,800, which we will use to operate a revised monitoring program between now and the beginning of February. At that time we hope to receive continued funding from OWEB or possibly the Department of Environmental Quality via a 319 grant.

Off-channel Water along Poodle Creek

This summer, five neighboring landowners completed the first phase of fencing, riparian planting, and off-channel water development along Poodle Creek. These landowners used a variety of technologies to provide off-channel water for their livestock, which no longer have access to water from Poodle Creek. Rick Allison and Mark Westphal had power and an existing pump site along their section of the creek so they installed electric pumps. Jack Gray installed a gravity feed system that brings water down to the trough from their well. Will Bondioli used a solar powered pump to bring water from Poodle Creek, which is pictured to the right. Also in the photo is the fence he constructed to keep horses away from the creek and riparian area where newly planted Douglas fir and cedars are growing.



FORAGE & PASTURE MANAGEMENT



Pasture Management
Poisonous Plants
Forages on the Internet

Grasses
Legumes
Grazing
Minerals
New Varieties
Hay and Balage
Weed Control
& Much More!

- *10 Week Course. Sept. 24 – Dec. 3, 2003*
- *To be held near Salem*

This will be a practical course on forages, grazing, pasture, hay, and silage. We'll cover plant growth, nutritional value, grazing techniques, soil tests, and hay storage. You will learn how to identify different grasses and legumes. We will discuss new forage varieties, pasture renovation, intensive grazing, unusual forages, poisonous plants, weed control, economic tips, etc. This will be a relaxed class, with lots of active discussion, hands-on activities, and field trips. Open to all producers – ranchers with beef cattle, sheep, horses, llamas, goats, dairy, or any stock on pasture – beginner or veteran graziers, seed industry and feed suppliers, veterinarians, and anyone else interested in forages.

Time & Place: Wednesday Evenings
6:00 – 9:00 pm
First class begins on Sept. 24
Location at south edge of Salem
Directions upon registration.

Cost: \$90.00

How to Register: Mail in registration form below

For Further Information: call instructor **Woody Lane**
voice: 541-440-1926
fax: 541-440-1007
email: wlane@rosenet.net

Sponsors: Bailey Seed Company
DLF International Seeds
Wilco Farmers Co-op

About the Instructor:

Woody Lane is a livestock nutritionist from Roseburg who has taught many popular forage and nutrition courses & workshops in Oregon and around the US. He has a Ph.D. in livestock nutrition from Cornell University and has worked with ranchers in the US, Canada, and New Zealand. For many years, he was the Extension Beef Cattle & Sheep Specialist in Wisconsin. He moved to Oregon in 1990 and runs his own livestock consulting business in Roseburg.

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Mail-in Registration Form

Name _____

Street/Ranch Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☎ Telephone Number _____

Email _____

Send in your registration in advance! **Space is limited!**
Detailed information will be sent to you upon registration.

Make \$90 check payable to: Dr. Woody Lane

Mail this to: Lane Livestock Services
240 Crystal Springs Lane
Roseburg, OR 97470

Sponsors of this course: Bailey Seed Company
DLF International Seeds
Wilco Farmers Co-op

Mending Natural Systems in Our Cities – Workshop

Thursday evening, and Friday, Oct 9 and 10.

Please see this link for a great workshop flyer!

<http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks/hendricks/workshop.pdf>

Long Tom Watershed Council

Phone: 683-6578 email: longtom@efn.org

www.longtom.org

751 S. Danebo Avenue

Eugene, OR 97402

***** **Annual Celebration!!!** *****

Sunday, Sept. 28th at the Oregon Country Fair!

See inside for details

MISSION: 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.

DIRECTIONS to Annual Celebration

Sunday, Sept 28th, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

DIRECTIONS TO THE OCF SITE AT 4612 AERO ROAD:

From Eugene: take HWY 126 west and turn right onto TERRITORIAL ROAD at the Veneta stop light. Go north and just after speed limit changes take that first left onto SUTTLE ROAD at the store. Continue for 1 to 2 miles west looking to the left, just past mile maker 3 and Henderson's chicken farm (24524 Suttle), for AERO ROAD. It's marked at its entrance with a sign OCF WORKER'S ENTRANCE. Turn left onto AERO ROAD. Proceed slowly about 1/4 mile through the white gate. Follow the signs and PARK!

From other areas north: get on to TERRITORIAL ROAD and head for Elmira/Veneta. SUTTLE ROAD at the store is located 1/4 mile or so past the Elmira school on the right. *Follow the rest of the directions above.*

If you're coming from the west you can take a left on to SUTTLE ROAD at HWY 126 east of Noti. Then you'll be looking for a right turn on to AERO ROAD just past the 24372 or 24394 Suttle road addresses and the chicken farm on the right or an encounter with Territorial Road will let you know you've gone too far. *Follow the rest of the directions above.*

Welcome!