

# LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

**March 2004**

Monthly Meeting  
**Tuesday, March 30, 2004 6:30-9:00**

**!!NEW LOCATION!!: Lower Long Tom Sub-basin—Legion Meeting Hall, Monroe**

*Please bring snacks to share - we'll do the drinks!*

Lower Long Tom folks, please bring snacks.

## AGENDA

(Facilitation by John Moriarty M.S.)

6:30 Sign-in, Browse Info, and Socialize

7:00 Welcome and Introductions

7:10 Improving forage, and riparian areas,  
with grazing management

*Woody Lane, PhD, Dairy Nutritionist,  
Lane Livestock Services*

8:10 Break

8:20 Small Grant Program— our watershed's  
priorities and how to apply

*Dennis Todd*

8:50 Announcements and Reports

9:00 Wrap-up and Adjourn



As temperatures warm and the soil dries, conditions ripen for successful restoration projects such as the one described in this month's Projects and Monitoring Update

## Our 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.*

# Watershed News

## Bird and Bat Houses: When could they be more harm than good?

Cold rain and frozen pellets bombard me from above as I walk the long, muddy, windward path back to the woodshop. I brace against a stiff headwind, my synthetic outerwear guarding me from the squall. I just finished installing baffles on the bird and bat house mounting poles. Last month, I constructed these living spaces to protect cavity nesters from winter's cold rain and summer heat. Now, when installing them, I bear a complex responsibility to protect the native inhabitants from predators and non-native bird species. A long-time birder helped me to assemble a short list of thoughts on protecting cavity-nesting birds. I quickly learned that it is easy to do more harm than good! Here are some tips to make sure you are helping out the situation:

1. Install drain and ventilation holes, and ensure sufficient nest box cavity depth.
2. Research proper placement including habitat and height above the ground.
3. Use metal mounting poles instead of wooden posts to reduce predator access. If posts are used, install some sort of predator baffle.
4. Clean out old nests every fall.
5. Do not put perches on birdhouses.
6. If starlings or house sparrows use a box (proper entry opening size may not prevent this) remove the nest. These two species are exotic species and are extremely damaging to the native population. Providing houses for starlings and house sparrows harm the native species more than if you do nothing.
7. If 'coons or domestic cats (yours or neighbors) can reach the nest boxes, then do not bother installing nest boxes. Again, the birds are better off if you do nothing in that case!

There is much more to this story! Lane County's chapter of the Audubon Society, 485-2473, is a great link to bird information, as is Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 503/872-5268 (Portland) or 935-2591 (Fern Ridge Wildlife area). Good information is also available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, <http://oregonfwo.fws.gov/EndSpp/BirdInfoWebsites.htm>

Join the Long Tom Watershed Council for their next monthly meeting, 30 March 2004, at 6:30 p.m. at the Legion Hall in Monroe. For directions and information, please contact Dana Erickson at 683-6578.

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 names in the byline of the article! For more information, contact Jim at [ekinsja@yahoo.com](mailto:ekinsja@yahoo.com).

# Council Meeting Backgrounder

## Improving Pastures and Riparian Areas Through Grazing Management

Woody Lane is a nationally-known livestock nutritionist living in Roseburg, Oregon. He owns and operates an independent consulting firm "Lane Livestock Services," teaches courses in forages and livestock nutrition to ranchers in the area, facilitates three rancher forage study groups in Western Oregon, and writes a popular monthly column called "From the Feed Trough..." for the nationally-published magazine "The Shepherd". Woody is in great demand as a speaker and has given scores of nutrition and forage workshops across the United States and Canada, and has worked internationally in New Zealand and Macedonia. In the past few years, he helped develop the well-known "SID Sheep Production Handbook" and together with the veterinarian Don Bailey, developed an instructional set of three videotapes called "Lambing Time Management." For the newest edition of the Sheep Production Handbook, Woody wrote the section of Intensively-Managed Grazing Systems. Woody earned his advanced degrees in livestock nutrition from Cornell University and worked for two years with the famous Allegheny Highlands Project in West Virginia. In the 1980s, he was the State Extension Sheep and Beef Cattle Specialist for the University of Wisconsin.

### **Meet Your OWEB Representative**

Douglass Fitting, the new Willamette Basin Representative for Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, will be at this meeting. A small woodlot owner in Idaho, Douglass also has a keen interest in rivers and fish and is fun to talk with! Come meet him at the March meeting in Monroe—and remember, it's at the Legion Hall.

### **Blackberry Problem? Try goats!**



**Goats** readily eat blackberries and are capable of destroying large infestations.

**Sheep** are useful to some extent in the control of blackberries because they eat seedlings and young tip growth, however young sheep and goats may become entangled in blackberry thickets.

**Cattle** exert little or no grazing pressure on blackberries and are relatively ineffective in controlling them.

"Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man" - Stuart Udall

# Projects & Monitoring Update

By Cindy Thieman, Projects & Monitoring Coordinator

This project is located in the Coyote Creek sub-watershed southeast of Fern Ridge Reservoir. Before the project began, the site had two constructed ponds, several downcut, seasonal streams, and a variety of non-native, invasive plants growing in the riparian areas. Historically this 20-acre property was grazed by cattle and more recently sheep. The landowner decided to stop grazing his property and enhance conditions for native plants and wildlife. The Council started helping the landowner by coordinating with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan. This enabled the landowner to apply for and receive a tax deferral status equivalent to his previous F2 status even though he was no longer generating farm or forestry income off his property. The Council also secured an OWEB grant to assist the landowner in implementing a number of enhancement activities on his property. The objectives of this project are to improve oak savanna habitat, enhance conditions for native amphibians and pond turtle, and restore the seasonal streams running through the property.

We started work on the project in 2001, excavating blackberry from several areas, removing an old dam on a seasonal stream, and placing a turtle basking log in an existing pond. **Photo 1** (see front cover) shows the section of stream where the dam was removed. After excavation, we seeded the area with blue wild rye, a native upland prairie grass, and planted shrubs at the edge of the stream. We also planted over 200 native shrubs along the other seasonal streams on the property.

In 2003, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service placed logs at several locations along one of the seasonal tributaries to reduce channel downcutting and enhance conditions for riparian wetland species (see **Photo 2 below**). Recent observations indicate that the stream flowed underneath the log placements this winter instead of backing up and flowing over the logs. This means we will need to augment the log structures with willow plantings and possibly install biodegradable fabric to trap and build up sediment in front of the logs.

The landowner's role in the project is to control re-growth of non-native plant species on the property, protect the riparian plantings, and enhance conditions for oak savanna species. Managing the property for oak savanna, mainly through bi-annual mowing and protecting oak seedlings from deer browse, will provide favorable conditions for native prairie plants like Kincaid's lupine and Romer's fescue, and could benefit species like streaked horned lark, acorn and Lewis' woodpecker, and Fender's blue butterfly.



# Watershed Calendar & Events

## Calendar of Events

(Details on following pages)

Wednesday, April 7th , 3:00-5:00

### Biodiversity Council Meeting

485-6886 or email

mob@darkwing.uoregon.edu

Sunday, April 18th , 1:00-4:00

### Stream Team/Audubon Trail Guide Program Training

682-4850 or email

lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us

Sunday, April 25th , 1:00-5:00

### Naturescaping for Clean Rivers Workshop

682-4850 or email

lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us

## Biodiversity Council Formation

Interested citizens are gathering for an afternoon meeting on April 7. There, a small team will briefly present the idea of pooling their separate, but impressive, biodiversity conservation knowledge and experience. A model for this effort is in Chicago, where over 160 organizations and agencies cooperate as the Chicago **Biodiversity Council** to assemble the "big picture" of native biodiversity in the Chicago region. They help Chicago-area communities understand, appreciate, and conserve the local plants, animals, and ecosystems that constitute their unique "Chicago Wilderness."

See <http://www.chicagowilderness.org/>

If you are interested, please come to this informational meeting at:

EWEB Training Room

Wednesday, April 7, 2004

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Questions? Please contact Mary O'Brien, 485-6886, mob@darkwing.uoregon.edu, or Steve Gordon sgordon03@earthlink.net.

## CENTURY FARM AND RANCH APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Information and applications for the Oregon Century Farm and Ranch program are now available. Founded in 1958, the program honors families with century-long connections to the land and recognizes Oregon's rich agricultural heritage. More than 1,000 family farms and ranches have been recognized during the past 45 years. To be eligible for a Century Farm and Ranch Award, a farm or ranch must have been operated continuously in the same family for a century or more.

The Century Farm and Ranch Program works cooperatively statewide with historical societies and agricultural groups to identify potential nominees. The program is administered through the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation, in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Farm Bureau and the Oregon Historical Society. The awards are presented annually at the Oregon State Fair. For more information or for current applications, contact *Glenn Mason, project coordinator, at (503) 297-5892 or orcentury@juno.com*

## *Eugene Stream Team Happenings*

**By Lorna Baldwin: 682-4850**

Sunday, April 18th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. is our spring training for the **Stream Team/Audubon Trail Guide program**. We haven't met since last October but we have some school trips coming up so we thought you might like to develop (or refresh) your skills and knowledge base. We will be walking along the Willamette River and Delta Ponds and a teacher will join us to talk about how to communicate with students out of doors. Please let me know soon if you want to join us.

Sunday, April 25th from 1:00 to 5:00 is the second annual **Naturescaping for Clean Rivers workshop**. If you are just starting to include native species in your landscaping Evelyn Hess will have lots of useful information to share with you. It is free and registration is on a first come- first serve basis. Door prizes include native plants!

# Council Meeting Notes (January) by Duane Zetner

Mike Kesling – Intro and Mission statement.

Brian Issa requested members to fill out volunteer forms

A Great presentation by **Eric Wold – West Eugene Wetlands Partnership**– City of Eugene

Historic vegetation map from 1850's showing upland prairie wet prairie, woodlands consisting of pine, oak, fir, oak savannah, camas prairie.

260 native plants present, several rare and endangered, including Willamette Daisy, Lo---Bradshaw. 45 spp of butterfly, 32 spp of dragonflies, 203 spp of birds.

Gray clay soils with low permeability make wetlands. Formed by sedimentary and silt deposits from overland flow and Mt. Mazama deposits. No Missoula flood deposits. 47" of rain/yr in area.

The basis for the wetlands project has its basis from statutes going all the way back to the clean water act and more recently from land use planning from the Lane County Commissioners.

Overall goal of the wetlands project is to acquire, restore, and manage wetlands, develop recreational facilities and promote environmental education.

A well-publicized project is the 100 acre modified hydrology site at greenhill and royal. This and other projects have used many tools to rid areas of non-native plant species including solarization – using big sheets of plastic to kill rhizomes. Other methods include sod removal, mowing, disking, tilling, thermal heat from steam, infrared light, and fire.

Summer crews collect seed from 90 native spp within 20 miles of Eugene. Tufted beargrass a popular spp to collect. Various mixes of seeds are later prepared for broadcast dispersal, usually 30 spp in a mix. Bulbs and plugs are also collected – usually by contract for various projects like the one at 18<sup>th</sup> and Bertelson where seed mixes were also used.

Post planting maintenance is done by hand weeding; Eugene does not use herbicides. All sites are monitored and remedial actions taken as necessary.

The City gets involved in mitigation banks with developers and others.

**Cindy Thiemann – monitoring report.** 18 original baseline sites where conductivity, turbidity, temperature measured. 14 of those have nitrate, total P. Some of those additionally have E-coli measured. Macroinvertebrate data now being collected at random sites within each sub-basin. Fish monitoring could also be monitored at some sites – need landowners to agree to check traps – ODF&W trains landowners.

Bear Cr. Monitoring results. - Nitrate and P, 13-19 % of sites not meeting requirement. 40 % of E-coli not meeting state standard.

**Dave DeCou – Grant Support Policy discussion.** Support may mean a written letter from LTWC agreeing with a project or stating it meets our goals, council will support, not necessarily financial. Policy is trying to get communication between parties and organizations started earlier and avoid hurried, last second, and uninformed decisions. Council gets 12-15 support requests a year. Concern that a 3-month process is too long for proposed standard process, fast track much better.

Matters of substance should go before council. A goal would be to give advance notice of projects, pre-notify. Question about how much detail is needed for council. Amount of detail needs to be defined and understood. What levels of info required and not required? Detail for projects does not usually come until end of process; landowners won't have too much up front. Risk of council marginalizing process. Fast track can work, not ideal. Use modified fast track by involving steering committee members or sub-committee?

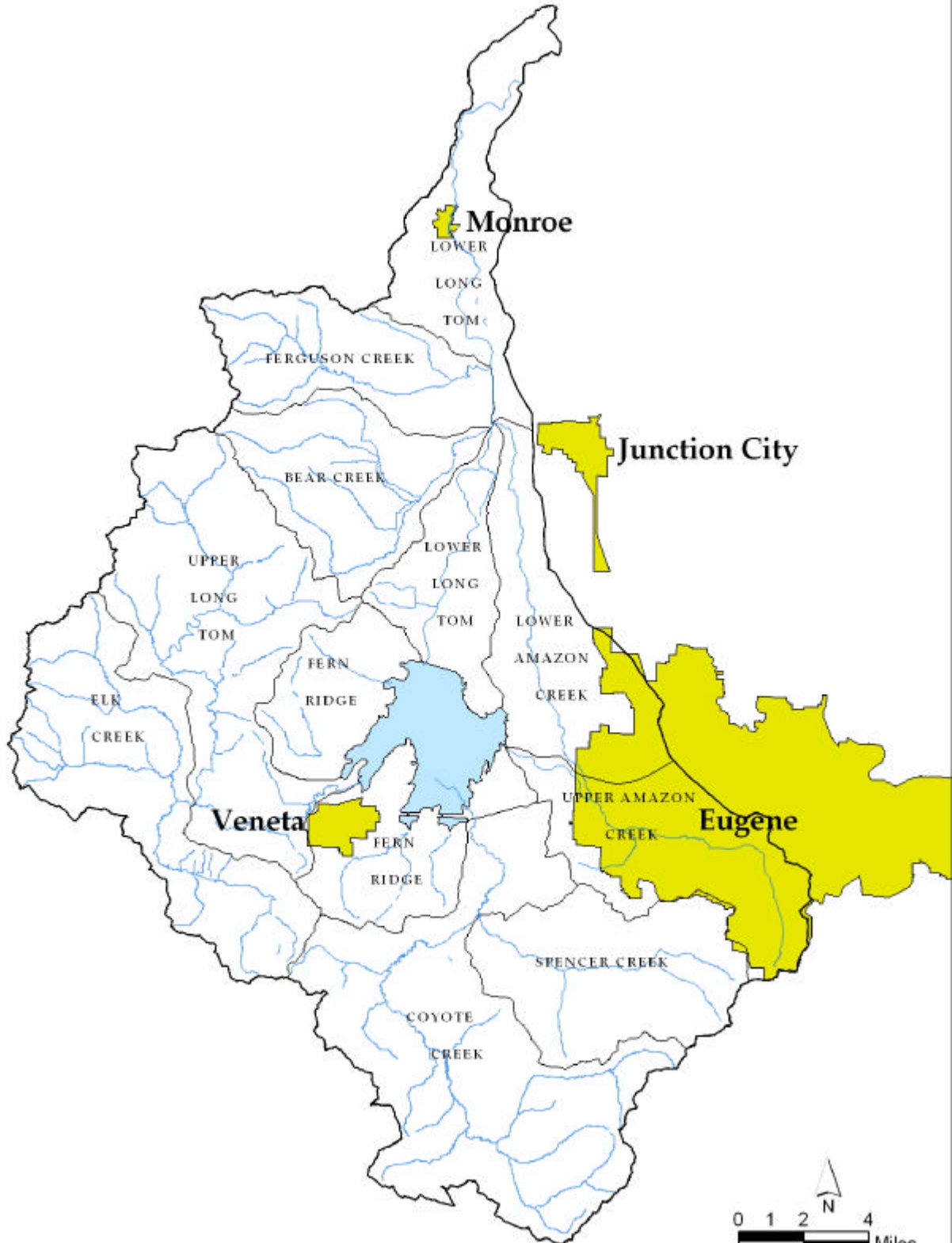
Would council support a grant to use herbicides? Council needs a way to process info from applicant. People coming to council with projects are members of council. Management of timelines and expectations need to be re-worked. How would it work if as an example LCOG brought a proposal directly to council? Response: OK, if put on agenda early enough, gets buy in early.

Proposed policy not a control method. Interaction and dialogue good.

**Mike Kesling- Steering report.** 2 grants awarded for monitoring. Resource Development Committee identified 2 additional grants for projects. Tech-Team report by Chris Massingill. Fair booth discussed. 2 requests for council to get involved in biodiversity and groundwater organizations- will watch development of the groups.

# Watershed Map

## Long Tom Watershed Ten Major Subbasins



Please call or email me to correct your mailing info, or **get this newsletter by email and save us postage!**  
Dana Erickson, (541) 683-6578

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

**Monroe Legion Hall**

**6:30 p.m. Tuesday**

## **NEW LOCATION!**

### **Directions to the Legion Hall at 6th and Main, Monroe.**

From Highway 99, turn west onto Main Street directly across from Terry's Gas and Repair in downtown Monroe. The Legion Hall is one block west of Highway 99 on Main Street, kiddie-corner to the Monroe Post Office.

