

LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

May 2006

Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 30th, 2006 5:45 - 8:00 p.m.

Amazon basin: Mariposa Woodland at 52nd & Willamette

Directions on back page



Council members—Please bring your own snacks - we'll do the drinks!

AGENDA

5:45 Welcome & Introductions

Will Bondioli, Vice-Chair,
Steering Committee

**6:00 Oak Woodland Habitats—
OUTDOOR TOUR**

Darin Stringer,
Consulting Forester

**7:30 Council's Restoration
Priorities for Oak
Habitats**

Cindy Thieman

7:40 Riparian Monitoring

Chris Massingill and
University of Oregon student
team



One of our Long Tom River cutthroat trout puts up with being measured by a local biologist. This one came in at 14". The trout can be either fluvial, moving between streams, or resident, staying in one stream. The fluvial fish tend to be larger, like this one.

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.

Meeting Backgrounder

Oak Habitat at Mariposa Woodland

This unique area of the Ridgeline Park System is fortunate to be graced with several grand Ponderosa pine, Oregon white oak, and California black oak trees. These ancient trees, many well over 200 years, are remnants of an historic oak-pine plant community that once thrived in this region. These trees provide the structure that supports hundreds of unique plant and wildlife species. Although most of the oak-pine savanna that once dominated the valley has been lost to development for urban and rural living and cropland, this relic stand has been protected. Realizing the value of this plant community, the City of Eugene is working proactively to restore and protect its historic character.



One of the most significant threats to these ancient trees is competition with Douglas-fir and other trees that have begun encroaching with the repression of fire that historically maintained these habitats. The Parks and Open Space Division in consultation with local experts such as Integrated Resource Management, The Nature Conservancy, McKenzie River Trust, University of Oregon and others has developed a restoration plan for this area. The first step will involve the manual removal of marked trees. Opening the canopy will reduce the competition for light and water that is currently threatening these legacy trees and the biological diversity that depends upon them. Subsequent efforts will include enhancements to the understory plant community and invasive species control.

Darin Stringer, a consulting forester and restoration ecologist specializing in management of oak habitats will be leading our tour. The website: www.irmforestry.com provides details on his company and the services they offer.

See the next pages for the Council's Restoration Priorities, or please go to www.longtom.org and we'll have maps at the meeting.

Council's Restoration Priorities

TERRESTRIAL

Five key habitat types in the watershed have been significantly reduced or modified from historic levels in a way that severely limits the distribution of native fish and wildlife. These are: upland prairie and oak savanna, wet prairie, dry conifer and hardwood forest, perennial ponds and backwaters, and riparian areas.

“The Long Tom Watershed is the anchor area for Willamette basin terrestrial species in upland prairie, oak savannah, and wet prairie habitats – it should be the geographic focus as we will not be able to recover listed species without it.”

- Steve Smith, USFWS, February 2005.

Upland prairie & Oak savannah

Focal species¹: American kestrel, horned lark, vesper sparrow, western rattlesnake, western pond turtle, black-tailed jackrabbit, Fender's blue butterfly, Kincaid's lupine, white-topped aster, Nelson's checkermallow.

Status and Priority:

Upland prairie and oak savannah are the rarest habitat types in the Long Tom Watershed and the entire Willamette Valley. Historically they covered a significant portion of the watershed. Their loss is mainly due to conversion to urban and agricultural land, and fire suppression which has allowed shrubs, trees, and non-native invasive species to colonize these sites. Upland prairie provides habitat to a number of sensitive or threatened plant and animal species.

This habitat is a top priority because of the number of listed species, the extent to which the habitat has been altered and eliminated, and the limited dispersal ability of the Fender's blue butterfly. The West Eugene Wetlands and prairies in the southeast portion of the Long Tom Watershed are the anchor for this habitat in the entire Willamette Valley.

Geographic Priorities:

Please also refer to the associated map for this habitat.

High Priority:

Spencer Creek, Fern Ridge south, parts of Coyote, lower end of Upper Long Tom, areas east of Fern Ridge Reservoir up to City of Eugene UGB.

Habitat in these sub-watersheds is the best of what's left in condition and extent.

Bear Creek, Ferguson Creek, Lower Long Tom

These sub-watersheds contain habitat needed to expand northward the range of prairie/savannah-dependent species. This is needed to link habitats for species' dispersal and to promote interchange with other populations for genetic diversity.

Within the priority areas, TNC portfolio sites are specific known opportunities.

Considerations for prioritization:

This habitat type is fragmented and thus restoration should 1) expand the functionality of existing habitat by restoring areas of adjacent habitats and 2) connect existing concentrations or patches. Conservation measures should prioritize sites with concentrations of existing at-risk³ species, that are designated critical habitat, or that are identified in a *Recovery Plan*.

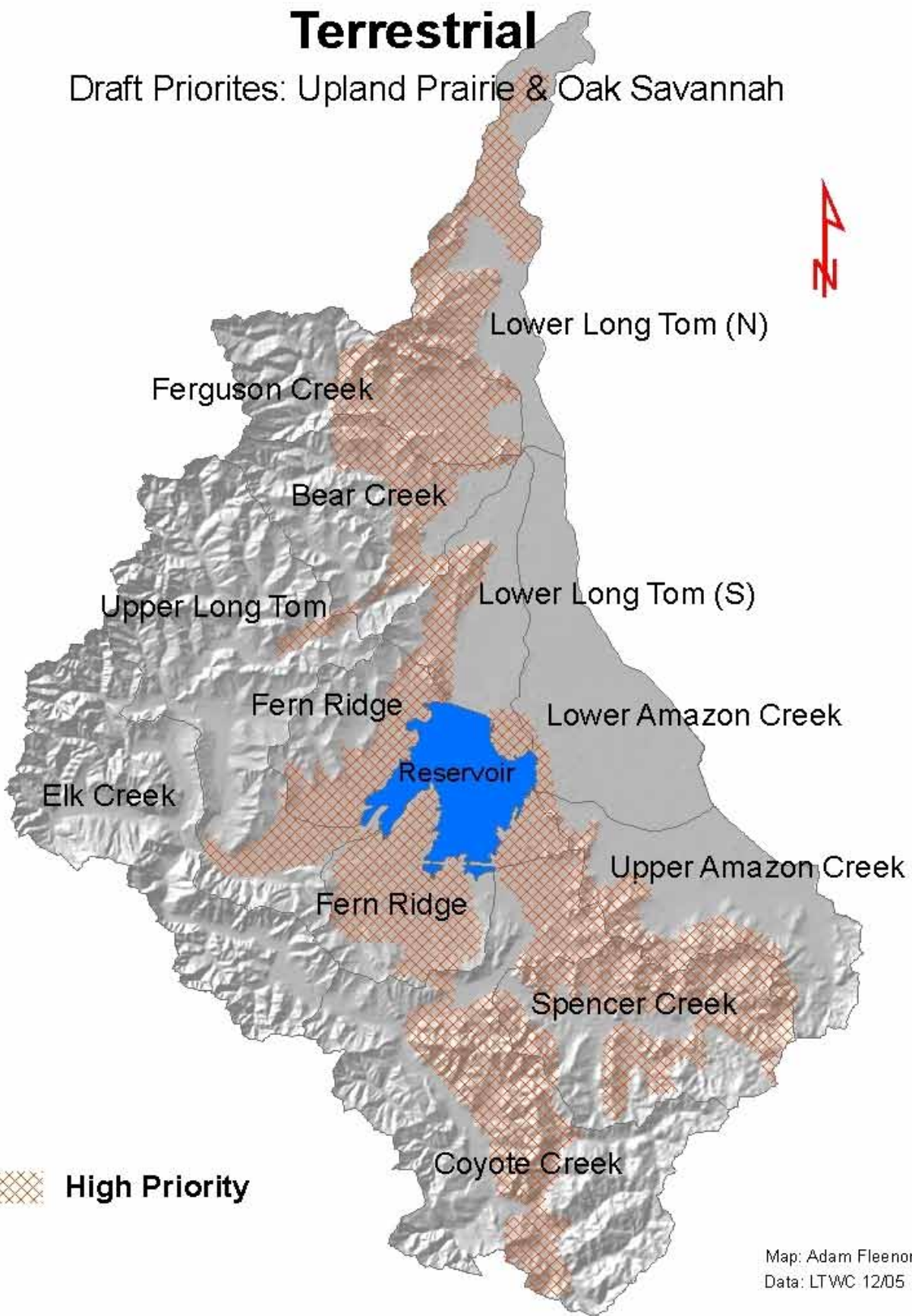
Possible Project Types:

Vegetation Management (VM): reduce and control invasives (ISM), controlled burning (CB)², conifer thinning (CT), thinning to create savannah conditions; planting and re-vegetation, reintroduce native forbs and especially nectar plants, planting oaks; upland bird management practices for agriculturally productive lands.

Notes for Terrestrial Priorities

1. Federally listed threatened or endangered species are underlined.
2. At this point controlled burning and land acquisition are two project types the Council will not undertake.
3. “At-risk” species are those listed with some kind of concern for their status in the Natural Heritage Info. Center database. There is a specific list for the Long Tom River watershed. Each species is evaluated regarding their population and breeding population status and ranked in relation to their statewide, federal and global situations, as applicable.

Terrestrial Priority Map



Watershed Events & Announcements

Non Profit Development of the Long Tom Watershed Council by Dana Erickson

Steering Committee spent the majority of their May meeting reviewing our first full set of Draft Bylaws, presented to them by Corey Johnson. She worked with Will Bondioli, Vice Chair of Steering Committee, and Dana Erickson, Coordinator, to produce them. Steering will review one final section at their June meeting and then we'll post the Draft Bylaws on the website and take comments at the June and July Council meetings. A final draft of the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation will be posted on the website again and be up for approval at this year's Annual Meeting in October.



Oak stand along historic Coyote Creek, one of the Council's restoration project sites.

Have you filled out our Membership Interest Form?

Please let us know about your interest - it's free, no hassle, and is a good way to connect into the many opportunities of the Council
<http://www.longtom.org/volunteer.html>

Considering a project with the Council?

Please call Cindy at
683-2983

Council Announcements

Welcome Jules!

Jules began working with the Long Tom Watershed Council the beginning of May as the Assistant Coordinator. Some of the things she will be helping with include monitoring and stream surveys with volunteers, newsletter production, member involvement, and designing council meetings, just to name a few. Jules was raised in mid-Michigan, and received her Bachelors of Science degree in Botany and Plant Pathology from Michigan State University. She has been in Eugene for almost ten years and considers herself an Oregonian through and through. She loves gardening using native plants, hiking, hunting for wild mushrooms, spending time with her husband and their two dogs, and helping to care for her mom. In the rest of her spare time she is a member of the Lane County Beekeepers Association, and volunteers with the Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN).



COMMENT ON COORDINATOR'S PERFORMANCE & UPCOMING WORK PRIORITIES

COMMENTS to be received by May 30

Soon the Council's Contract Review Team will meet to discuss Dana Erickson's contract performance over the course of the last nine months (August '05 – April '06). At this meeting the group will review the first set of accomplishments in the 2005-07 work plan.

The time has come to share your feedback. Please contact me with your comments and assessment of Dana's performance in providing Coordination Services for the Council. Do the work priorities (see next page) support and mirror the current Council's action plan as you understand it? Under Dana's coordination - Does the Council function in accordance with the expectations of its members?

Send thoughts or comments to Jason Blazar, Committee Chair at <blazar@camasnet.org>.

I look forward to reading your written comments, please respond by May 30.

Council Announcements

Coordinator Work Priorities for First Period 2005-07

The Coordinator work plan is tiered off the Council Work Plan and aims to get specific jobs done, as well as to support the work others are doing for the Council in paid and volunteer capacities. These priorities will be reviewed as part of the next Contract Review meeting so please send thoughts or comments to Jason Blazar, Committee Chair at <blazar@camasnet.org> by May 30. You can also contact Dana Erickson, <coordinator@longtom.org>. Thank you for the time you spend helping this Council plan and execute work for the Long Tom Watershed!

Council Work Plan#	% Time	Task	Focus for period June - December 2006
3.2	25%	Sub-watershed Enhancement Program	Implement for Bear Creek subwatershed (begin Fall 06).
5.3	20%	Manage & Evaluate Council	Serve as initial and primary contact for Council. Prepare SC meeting materials and respond to requests from Officers. Serve on and advise Committees: Council Development, Search, & Resource Development (others as possible). Review financials and sign payment requests. Provide work plan updates to Contract Review Committee.
1.1	10%	Conservation Strategy	Final draft of Conservation Strategy
3.1	10%	Membership Involvement Program	Guide Assistant to engage and support committees and volunteers; database upkeep.
4.1	10%	Increase natural resource knowledge base of citizenry	Guide Assistant to write agenda for meetings, tours or workshops Program Committee plans.
5.1	10%	Secure resources	Secure office space. Meet with Resource Development Committee as needed to update fundraising strategy. Produce strategy. Alert RD of grant opportunities. Approve budgets for all Council grant apps.
1.3	4%	Collaborate to address priorities	Document requests. Review and recommend possible roles. Prepare memos to SC. Respond to requesting person or entity. Coordinate Council's involvement through liaison reports to SC and support to liaisons.
1.2	3%	Implement Projects	Serve as contract officer or equivalent for projects work. Help guide work.
2.1	3%	Monitor Watershed Conditions	Use monitoring results in sub-watershed program. Serve as contract officer or equivalent for monitoring work. Help guide work.
5.2	2%	Partnerships for Priority Work	Form necessary partnerships for Council's priority work. Create partnership documents.
2.2	1%	Monitor Project Success	Ensure results are presented and discussed in appropriate forum(s), minimum: at SC.
3.3	1%	Outreach	Guide Assistant for newsletter publication and Annual Meeting

Watershed Involvement Opportunities

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, May 24th

Hynix Wetland and Upland Walk with WREN

6-8:30 p.m.

This tour is geared towards birders and others that are interested in seeing areas of the west Eugene wetlands and uplands not typically open to the public. The walk is moderately strenuous over uneven ground. Meet at the Hynix South Gate. To reach the South Gate, turn South on Willow Creek off of 11th Ave and follow it directly to the South Gate. Space is limited. For registration call Holly McRae at 683-6494.

Tuesday, May 30th , 5:45 pm, Eugene

Long Tom Watershed Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 31st

Discover Dragonflies! With WREN

7:00 p.m.

Learn about these fascinating insects and their amazing life cycles. See beautiful photos with Odonates in shades of red, blue, black, white and green and learn more about their unique behaviors. Join Steve Gordon and Cary Kerst, authors of "Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Willamette Valley" for an evening of adventure with some our most colorful, wild neighbors. Meet at the West Eugene Wetlands Yurt. For more information, contact: Holly McRae, 683-6494.

Saturday, June 3rd

Spring Butterflies of the West Eugene Wetlands with WREN

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Late spring is an excellent time to observe butterflies and wildflowers in the West Eugene Wetlands. This will be a leisurely 3-hour field trip. Meet at the BLM's West Eugene Wetlands Office at 751 S. Danebo. Space is limited to 20 people. Pre-registration required. Leader: Eric Wold. Call Holly at 683-6494 to pre-register. This field trip is sponsored by the local chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA).

Saturday, June 15th 6:30 p.m., Eugene **DATE CHANGE**

Long Tom Watershed Steering Committee Meeting

June 19-24

Wetland Academy of Science with WREN

Children entering grades K-5 in the fall can come out to the West Eugene Wetlands for a week of hands-on exploration activities! Classes for K-2nd graders are offered from 9-11:30 a.m., students entering grades 3-5 in the fall can join us from 12:30-3 p.m. Each day we will investigate a different wetland topic, including dragonflies, animal tracking and nocturnal wildlife.

Opportunities on the Web!
www.longtom.org
www.wewetlands.org

Notes

Council Meeting Notes

April 25th, 2006

Amazon sub-watershed

American Red Cross Building

6:30 pm—meeting **welcome and introductions** (Rich Margerum)

6:40 pm—**non –profit update** (Corey Johnson) plans to finish a draft of the by-laws for Steering and Council review soon. Then we'll bring a completed set prior to the Annual meeting in October.

6:45 pm—USGS (Hank Johnson) - **Toxins in the Long Tom and Willamette Rivers**; Mercury is largest toxicity risk in the Willamette. USGS study indicated that the worst for Amazon Creek are Carbaryl and Diazinon, both are insecticides. Shift from Diazinon to Carbaryl after Diazinon was banned and 'Seven' became insecticide of choice. More information available on their website, and phone calls are welcome.

<http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/qwdata>

Hank Johnson (503) 251-3200

7:45 pm—**Long Tom Restoration priorities** (Cindy Thieman)- Lower Long Tom and Upper and Lower Amazon are priority areas for toxins. Comment: Fern Ridge Reservoir should be included in the priority list for toxins. Ferguson Creek and Bear Creek were listed as high priority for bacteria since Lower Long Tom and both Amazon sub watersheds have less potential for treatment. Final draft maps will be available on our website this summer. www.longtom.org, thanks to volunteer Adam Fleenor and Dana's work to produce them.

8:00 pm—**Education efforts and their impact in the Tualatin Basin** (Court Smith, OSU) - Urban areas are not divorced from streams. Cultural influences on lawn maintenance—neighborhood appearance/approval is the primary reason for maintenance style. 95% of people get their information about lawn care from other people; only 5% from labels.

http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Yard/Natural_Lawn_&_Garden_Care/Natural_Lawn_Care/

Conclusions:

- People feel that they are being judged by their neighbors.
- Study population was not convinced of environmental impact importance.
- Aesthetics in low input designs need emphasis.

By Desiree Tullos, Co-secretary, Edited by Dana Erickson

*Interested in other watershed councils in Oregon?
Network of Oregon Watershed Councils www.oregonwatersheds.org*

Our Watershed & Council



*Action
Through
Understanding*



**Steering
Committee**

Lower Long Tom

Brent Skiles
John Reerslev
Eric Freepons
Co-Secretary

Upper Long Tom

Will Bondioli
Vice Chair
Dennis Capps
Gary Nolan

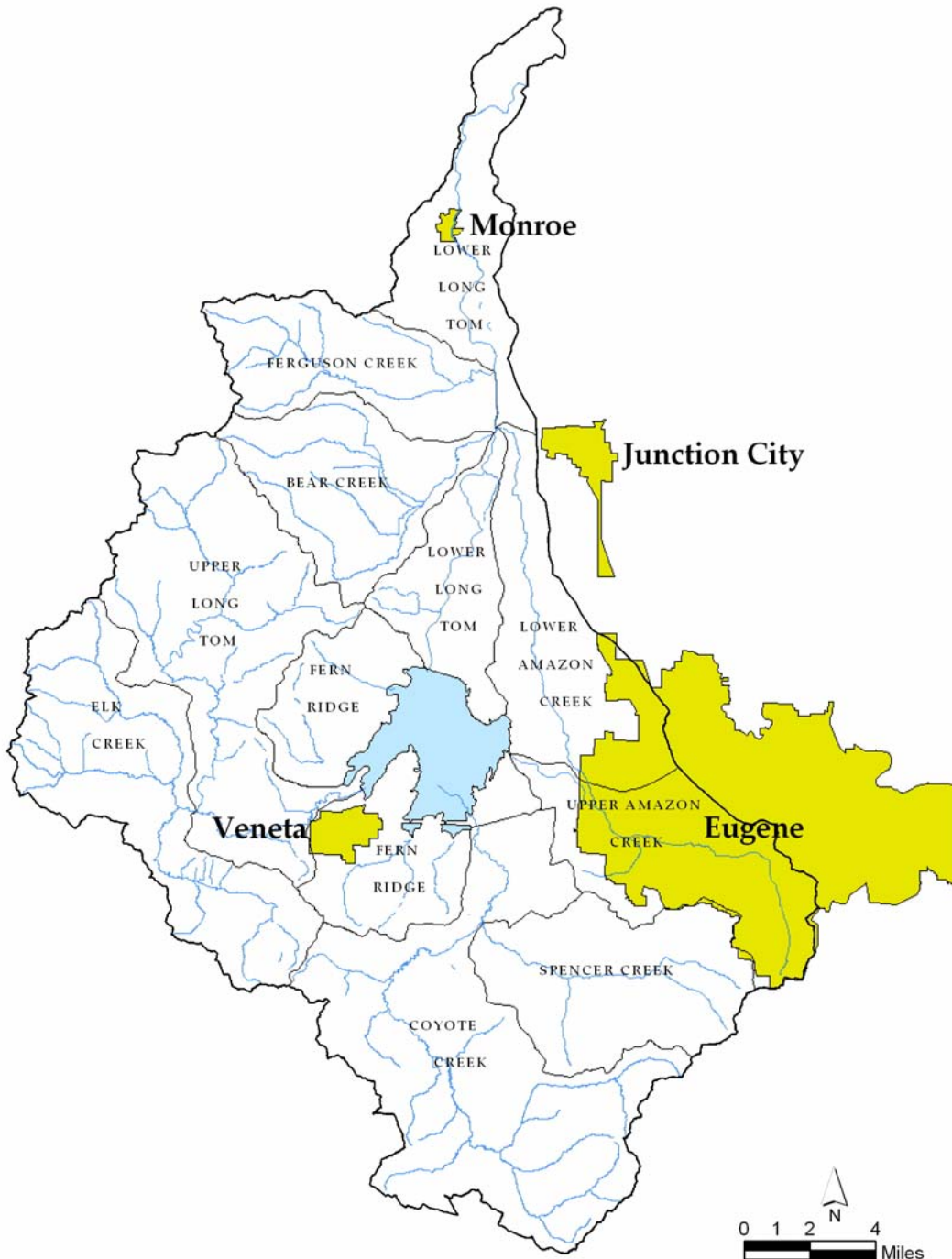
Amazon

Sarah Medary
Tina Fenley
Treasurer
Rich Margerum,
Chair

At Large

Ryan Collay
Desiree Tullos
Co-Secretary

Long Tom Watershed Ten Major Subbasins



Source: Long Tom Watershed Council, Brian Issa 9/03

Staff

Projects and Monitoring

Cindy Thieman
(541) 683-2983

Coordinator

Dana Erickson
(541) 683-6578

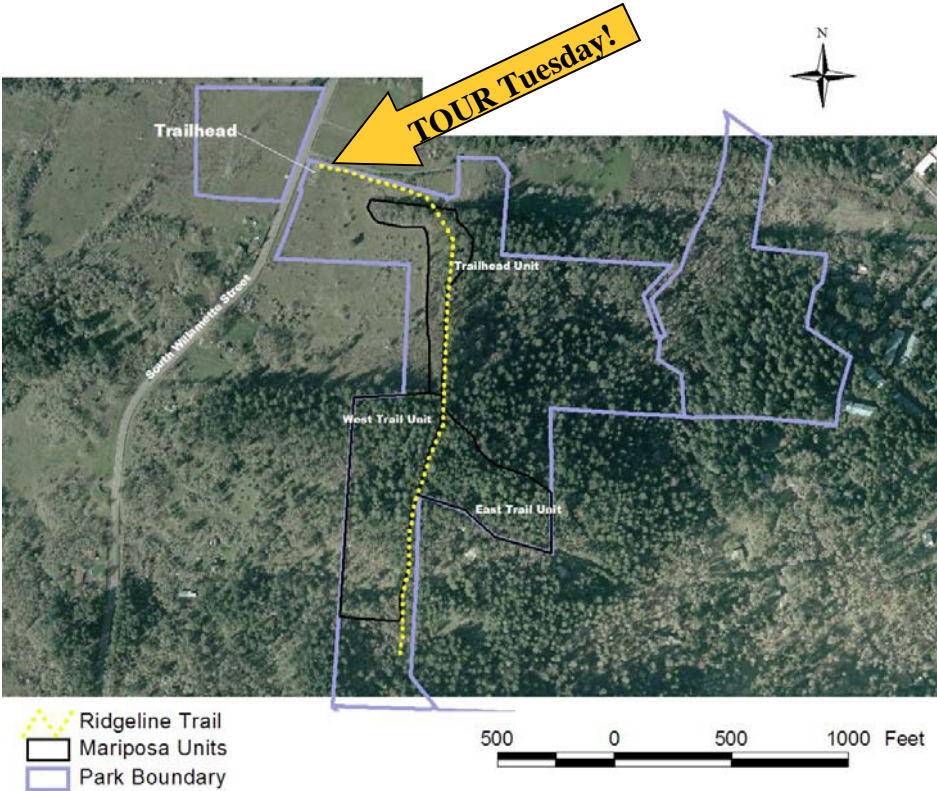
Assistant Coordinator

Jules Gordon
(541) 683-6949

INSIDE: Oak Habitat TOUR—Tuesday May 30th!!
Please get the word out—Invite a neighbor, friend or colleague!



Long Tom Watershed Council
Phone: 683-6578 e-mail: *coordinator@longtom.org*
www.longtom.org
751 S. Danebo Avenue
Eugene, OR 97402



The tour site is located about 500 yards up the trail from the Willamette/52nd parking lot along Willamette Street.

Mariposa Woodland Oak-Pine Habitat Enhancement Project Area

Council Meeting on this site at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday—May 30th