



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

July 2007

www.longtom.org

Action Through Understanding

541.683.6578

RESTORATION PROJECT TOUR & DISCUSSION

Owens Creek Fish Passage & Riparian Restoration Managing Small Dams & Ponds to Enhance Habitat

Monday, July 16th

5:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Bear Creek Watershed, west of Junction City
(Map & Directions on back)

AGENDA

5:45: Welcome & introductions

6:00: Restoring fish passage & riparian habitat on Owens Creek
David Turner & Suzanne Linquist, *Landowners*
Cindy Thieman, *Projects & Monitoring Coordinator,*
Long Tom Watershed Council

7:00: Small dam & pond management strategies
Gordon Grant (invited), *Research Hydrologist,*
US Forest Service
Sam Chan, *Watershed Education Team Leader,*
OSU Extension

7:40: Committee and staff reports



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.

Council Meeting Notes

RESTORATION PROJECT TOUR & DISCUSSION

May 29th, 2007

Wild Iris Ridge

Upland Prairie & Oak Habitat Restoration

May's Council meeting was a tour of the Wild Iris Ridge site, a 123-acre parcel with remnant upland prairie, oak savanna, oak woodlands and riparian forest located upstream from the West Eugene Wetlands in the Amazon Creek sub-basin. The City of Eugene purchased this site in 2003 for habitat preservation and community open space. The Council is working with the City and forest ecologist Darin Stringer to restore these habitats to help improve the ecological integrity of the interconnected prairie and savanna systems in west Eugene.



Learning about prairie and oak habitat restoration at Wild Iris Ridge.

Speakers Lauri Mullen (City of Eugene), Jesse Cary-Hobbs (City of Eugene) and Darin Stringer (Integrated Resource Management) provided an overview of the restoration project, emphasizing the partnership between the Council and the City. The historic, current and potential site conditions of the site were described, along with before and after photos showing the extent of blackberry and Scot's broom removal.

The speakers shared the accomplishments and lessons learned from Phase 1 of the project. One major challenge with oak savanna and prairie restoration is the effect on the understory of opening up the tree canopy. Allowing more light to reach the ground can cause nonnative plant populations to explode. Another key consideration is the technique used to remove trees, as heavy equipment can damage ground layer plants.

Phase II of this restoration project will involve further removal of invasive species, reduction of woody vegetation to enhance the prairie and savanna habitats and reduce fuel loads, and more planting of native plants in the prairie.

The speakers also addressed how the techniques used at Wild Iris Ridge can be applied on private property. Please contact the Council if you might be interested in exploring oak or prairie restoration on your land.

Read the new 2007
Water Quality Monitoring
Report on the Council's website:

www.longtom.org



Board member Rich Margerum and family review the site map.

Meeting Backgrounder

PROJECT TOUR - Monday, July 16 @ 5:45 p.m. Owens Creek Fish Passage & Riparian Restoration: Managing Small Dams & Ponds to Enhance Habitat

At this month's Council meeting, we will take a walking tour of one of our restoration projects on Owen's Creek, a tributary of Bear Creek that empties into the Long Tom River downstream of Fern Ridge Reservoir. We worked with partner landowners David Turner and Suzanne Linquist to remove a dam onsite that was blocking fish passage on Owens Creek and are in the process of restoring the riparian area.

A dam installed by a previous owner at river mile 1.9 on Owens Creek served as a fish passage barrier blocking access to 5 ½ miles of good cutthroat trout spawning and rearing habitat. Access to quality spawning and rearing habitat in the upper reaches of the watershed is essential because stream temperatures are too high in the lower reaches of the Long Tom Watershed in the summer and spawning habitat is limited. Poor instream habitat complexity in the reach above the dam, including lack of gravel, no sinuosity, and little woody debris had lead to poor spawning and rearing conditions for cutthroat trout, lamprey, and other aquatic species in the summer and winter. The dam also disrupted sediment transport, altering natural deposition patterns downstream and possibly limiting the downstream transport of gravel.

The previous landowner had also excavated a 300' by 20' alcove running parallel to the channel. Approximately 480 yd³ of sediment had accumulated in the channel behind the dam and another 500 yd³ were stored in the alcove. The riparian area on the south side of the creek was well vegetated with native trees and shrubs. However, the north bank was covered with reed canarygrass, limiting shade and offering little habitat for nesting songbirds and other terrestrial species dependent on riparian habitat. The lack of riparian trees meant no potential for wood recruitment into the stream. The alcove was filled with water milfoil, which chokes the waterway in the summer and causes high biological oxygen demand as it decomposes.

The objectives of the project were to:

- Expand cutthroat trout rearing and spawning habitat by 5 ½ miles
- Restore normal sediment transport and hydrology to this section of Owens Creek, including deposition and scouring, meander formation, and a channel cross-section appropriate to its stream size
- Control reed canarygrass and other invasive, non-native vegetation (i.e., cover no more than 5% of the riparian area)
- Increase native tree and shrub cover to 80% of riparian area
- Increase shade by 50%.

The following restoration activities were designed to achieve the project objectives described above:

- Remove the dam to provide fish passage
- Remove reed canarygrass and water milfoil from the alcove and plant with native aquatic species
- Plant native riparian vegetation

Council Business

2007 Annual Meeting & Celebration

Get in on the Fun!

It seems just yesterday that we were sipping local wine, bidding on auction items and celebrating the work of the Council at Our Daily Bread at last year's Annual Meeting & Celebration. But another year has almost gone by and we are in the midst of planning this year's event. We need your help!

You have talents; we have needs! What can you help with?



Sponsors

Awards

Food

Speakers

Ticket Sales

Donations

Music

Advertising

Invitations

If you can lend a hand to make this year's Celebration the best one yet, please contact Jenna Garmon at 683-6949 or jgarmon@longtom.org.

Nominations Open for Steering Committee

Please consider how you or someone you know could help guide the Council

Seven positions on the Council's Steering Committee will be open in October. Terms are 3 years. The nominating committee has formed and is charged with putting together a slate of new committee members that, along with current members, will provide for a diversity of geographic representation and expertise to guide the Council. The nominations committee will meet in August. Please contact Dana Erickson or Ric Ingham through the Council office for more information: (541) 683-6583.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please send a letter of nomination to the nominating committee to the Council address by August 1st. The letter should include at a minimum your name, contact information, a statement of interest, and geographic affiliation. Geographic affiliation is defined by the main sub-watershed in which you live - Upper Long Tom, Lower Long Tom, or Amazon. Geographic diversity of the Steering Committee is maintained by having 1/4th of Committee members be from each of these main sub-watersheds, with the remaining 1/4th serving at large.

All those nominated will be included on the ballot for the Steering Committee and given an opportunity to have their statement published in the Council newsletter prior to the Annual Meeting. New Steering Committee members will be elected at the Annual Meeting this October.

Council Announcements

Council Receives Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Funding

“Excellent” ranking puts Council in top tier

This year, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board voted to provide \$5 million in funds to support the work of 60 watershed councils. Funding comes from the Oregon Lottery as a result of a citizen initiative in 1998, sales of salmon license plates, federal salmon funds and other sources.

The Council was awarded \$96,000 for two years starting July 1, 2007. This funding comes from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and forms part of the funding stream that supports education, stewardship, stakeholder discussion, tours and meetings, and generally support the work of the council for these two years.

Matching donors include: Bureau of Land Management, City of Eugene, SureCrop Farm Services, Inc., Lane County Small Woodland Owners Association, Reerslev Farms, Inc., City of Veneta, C&L Farms, Swanson Group, Inc., and Roseburg Resources Co.

This was a competitive grant program using merit-based awards. The Long Tom Watershed Council was ranked with 14 other watershed councils in the top tier with a ranking of “excellent”, earning the highest available scores from the independent statewide review panel. Following are some comments from the review team on the Long Tom Watershed Council’s application:

“The application was very well written and it was clear to the reviewers that this council is a top performer in all areas. The overall rating of this council is excellent.”

“The council has been creative in providing opportunities for citizens to participate in council activities.”

“The council is very involved in active management of the organization.”

“The council plays a leadership role in watershed activities.”

“The application provided an excellent example of how a watershed council should plan strategically.”

“Throughout the application there was evidence of how much value the councils places on collaboration.”

“They have demonstrated an ability to leverage funds and in-kind resources.”

“The accomplishments exceed expectations. ”

According to OWEB Executive Director Tom Byler, “Councils are the key to success of cooperative conservation work in Oregon. The council coordinators help interested landowners and community members identify non-regulatory approaches to protect clean water and recover salmon populations,” he said.

Congratulations to all participants in the Long Tom Watershed Council for being a great and balanced council! So much goes into this kind of result - every detail of citizen commitment, volunteer time, good attitudes, a willingness to engage in constructive criticism and development, and most of all, a willingness to do the work to make this kind of voluntary system function well.

Special thanks to Corey Johnson and Jim Pendergrass for their thoughtful review of the application.

Council News

Likely Donation to Council will come from Settlement Funds

Money will be put towards restoring water quality in Amazon Creek or Long Tom River

You may have read in the newspaper recently about a legal settlement between Oregon RiverWatch, and the cities of Eugene and Springfield and the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission. While **the Council was not in any way involved in the lawsuit**, the parties to the lawsuit agreed that the Council was the most appropriate local organization to put the funds to good use due to our focus on water quality, strong reputation, and eight-year history of work in the watershed and community. Therefore, the Council has been designated as the entity to receive the funds from the settlement to put towards improving water quality in Amazon Creek or the Long Tom River. The Long Tom Watershed Council will receive \$65,000 to coordinate and implement this work. The settlement agreement includes a number of things in addition to this donation.

The Council is committed to using the funds toward a meaningful restoration project. The Council has designed and run a multi-phase, citizen-based program to monitor water quality and stream health in the Long Tom River Watershed since the formation of the Council in 1998 and we'll use this knowledge to select an effective project.

For more information, please contact Dana Erickson, Watershed Coordinator, 683-6578.

A Fond Farewell to Rich Margerum

The Council expresses our sincere gratitude to outgoing Steering Committee member Rich Margerum for his years of service and dedication to the Council.

Rich is an Assistant Professor and Department Head Director for the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management at the University of Oregon. He will be leaving shortly for a year sabbatical in Australia with his family, where he will spend part of his time on new research.

Rich's leadership and expertise in collaborative planning, group decision-making and consensus building has been invaluable to the Council. Rich recently served as Steering Committee Chair, served an extra year to lead Council Development Committee and Non Profit Transition Team, and is the Council's liaison to the Groundwater Management Area stakeholder group.

Thank you, Rich and good luck in your year Down Under!



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

Please call Dana Erickson at 683-6578

Watershed Announcements

Willamette Riverkeeper's PADDLE OREGON 2007 August 20-24

5-day paddling event that starts near Eugene, passes through Corvallis and ends south of Salem

Put-in: Monday, August 20th, 2007, at Armitage Park on the McKenzie River, east of Eugene. Check in at 8am, on the water by 10am.

Take-out: Friday, August 24th, 2007, at Willamette Mission State Park, north of Salem. Participants get off the water between 3-6pm.



For more information:
www.paddleoregon.org;
503-223-6418;
info@willamette-riverkeeper.org.



Water, Water, Everywhere?

Thursday, September 13, 2007: 3:30-5:30pm

Oregonians are beginning to witness the difficulties caused by water limitations. Water quantity and quality issues in the Willamette and Klamath Basins are among the Governor's top environmental priorities. Wastewater is a critical issue as well.

Convener: Benton County Commissioners (the northern part of the Long Tom Watershed is in Benton Cty)

Purpose: Determine interest in developing water policy and a water plan

Keynote: Dr. Michael Campana, Director, OSU Institute for Water & Watersheds

Location: Corvallis-Benton County Library, Corvallis

For more info., contact: Lisa Grisham: (541) 766-6852; lisa.grisham@co.benton.or.us.

Interested in other watershed councils in Oregon?

Contact the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils: www.oregonwatersheds.org

More Opportunities & Calendar

Council Events

Restoration Tour of Owens Creek Bear Creek Sub-basin

Monday, July 16: 5:45pm-8:00pm

Agenda on front & directions on back of this newsletter)

Contact: Jenna Garmon, 683-6949;
jgarmon@longtom.org

Annual Meeting Committee

Help us make our 2007 Annual Meeting & Celebration a success! Join a committee, solicit donations, help sell tickets - we'd love your help!

Contact: Jenna Garmon, 683-6949;
jgarmon@longtom.org

Other Events

StreamTeam: Native Plant Nursery

Volunteer Hours

Native Plant Nursery at Alton Baker Park

Ongoing: Fridays from 1-4pm

Contact: Matt McCrae at 682-4850

WREN: Children's Dragonfly Walk

Join dragonfly experts Steve Gordon & Cary Kerst for a walk to learn about the biology, ecology and behavior of the dragonfly.

July 6: 9:30 am

Meet at 5th and Wallis (access Wallis by turning south off West 1st Ave between Seneca and Bertelsen roads).

Please register - space limited to 15 children.

Contact Holly McRae at 683-6494;

hmcrac@wewetlands.org

WREN: Dragonfly Walking Tour

Meet local experts and authors of "Dragonflies & Damselflies of the Willamette Valley: A Beginner's Guide" Steve Gordon & Cary Kerst for a walking tour. Checklists, field guides, nets and dip nets provided.

July 7: 9:30 am

5th and Wallis (access Wallis by turning south off West 1st Ave between Seneca and Bertelsen roads).

Contact Holly McRae at 683-6494;

hmcrac@wewetlands.org

DONOR RECOGNITION

Our Gratitude To
Army Corps of Engineers

For supporting the Monitoring
Program this year!

Opportunities on the Web!

www.longtom.org

www.wewetlands.org

www.ortrout.org

**Do you have a neighbor or friend that might be interested in the Council?
Are you interested in volunteering?**

Please call Jenna Garmon at 683-6949

Our Watershed & Council



*Action
Through
Understanding*



Steering Committee

Lower Long Tom

Brent Skiles
Eric Freepons
Co-Secretary
Tony Stroda

Upper Long Tom

Will Bondioli
Co-Vice Chair
Ric Ingham
Co-Vice Chair
Gary Nolan

Amazon

Peg Boulay
Sarah Medary
Co-Secretary
Tina Fenley
Treasurer

At Large

Ryan Collay
Rich Reeves
Corey Johnson
Jim Pendergrass
Chair
Rich Margerum
Immediate Past-Chair

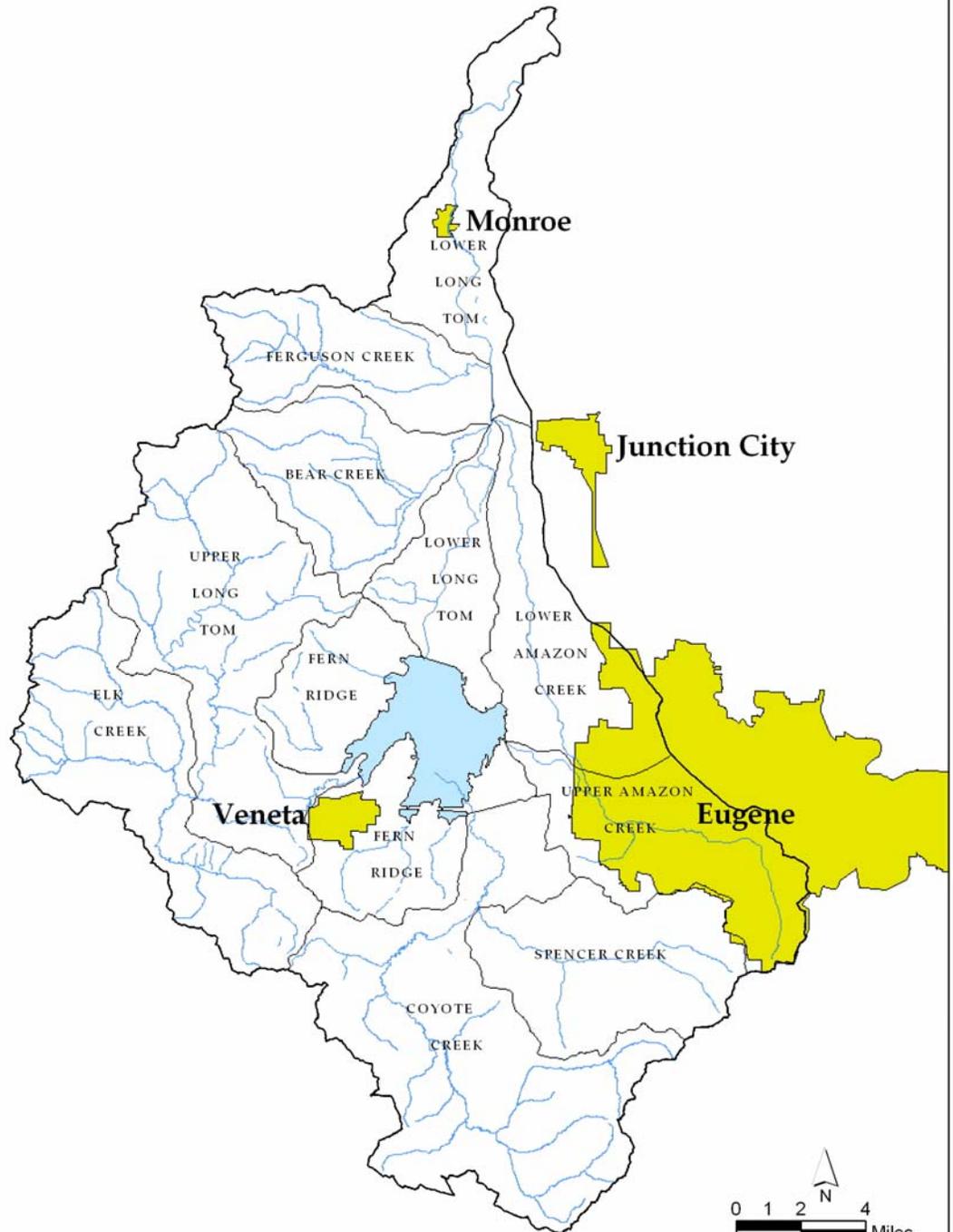


751 S. Danebo Ave.
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Fax: (541) 683-6998

Web:
www.longtom.org

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

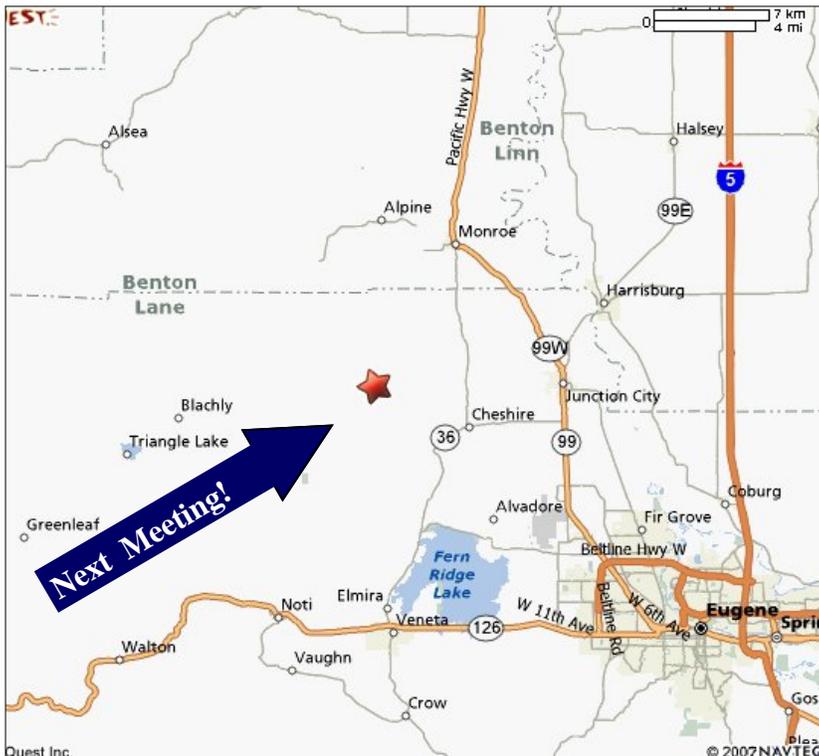
Stewardship & Outreach

Jenna Garmon
(541) 683-6949

Want to save your Council money on mailing costs?
Let us know you'd like an electronic version by emailing jgarmon@longtom.org!



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



Restoration Project Tour
Monday, July 16th - 5:45 p.m.
Owens Creek, west of Junction City
24896 High Pass Rd

Directions:

Head NORTH on Hwy 99 (from Eugene). Go to Junction City and turn LEFT (west) onto High Pass Rd, at intersection surrounded by Guaranty vehicle lots. Go 8.5 miles (crossing Territorial Rd. at 4.0 miles) and following the big left curve at Lavelle Rd. The site is at 24896 High Pass Rd. Park on the grass.