



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL
Bimonthly watershed news and meeting notice
MAY 2008

**Action
Through
Understanding**

RESTORATION PROJECT TOUR

**Bear Creek Fish Passage & Stream
Enhancement**

Tuesday, May 20th, 2008 (new date!)
6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Kathy & Hal Noble's property
Bear Creek Watershed
(directions on back)



We restored this stretch of Bear Creek by sloping the banks, adding large pieces of wood and planting native species

AGENDA

- 5:30 pm *Meet at the Council office if you want to carpool to the site*
- 6:00 pm **Welcome and Roundtable Introductions**
- 6:10 pm **Restoring Fish Passage and Enhancing Bear Creek**
Hal & Kathy Noble, *Landowners*
Karen Hans, *Biologist*
Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Cindy Thieman, *Project Manager*
Long Tom Watershed Council
- 7:05 pm **Announcements & Closing/Meeting Review**

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**Save-the-date for the
next Council Meeting:
Tues., July 29th 6 p.m.
Restoration Project Tour**

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.

751 S. Danebo Ave., Eugene, OR 97402 · Phone: (541) 683-6578 · Fax: (541) 683-6993
www.longtom.org

Council Meeting Backgrounder

RESTORATION PROJECT TOUR

Tuesday, May 20 @ 6:00 p.m.

Bear Creek Fish Passage & Stream Enhancement

At this month's Council meeting, we will take a walking tour of one of our restoration projects on Bear Creek, a major tributary to Coyote Creek. We worked with partner landowners Kathy and Hal Noble to improve water quality, restore fish passage, and enhance instream habitat for cutthroat trout, lamprey and other aquatic species.

This site had two fish passage barriers that blocked access to five miles of good cutthroat trout spawning and rearing habitat in the upper reaches of the watershed. Such habitat is essential because stream temperatures are too high in the lower reaches of the watershed in the summer and spawning habitat is limited. The stream had been straightened, resulting in downcutting, severe erosion, and disconnection from its historic floodplain. Past grazing practices had also damaged stream bank integrity, prevented native shrubs and trees from establishing, and led to a riparian area dominated by non-native blackberry.

Project objectives were to:

- Provide access to 5 miles of cutthroat trout rearing and spawning habitat
- Reduce bank erosion
- Eradicate or control blackberry 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
- Shade over 80% of stream reach
- Increase pool frequency and sinuosity by 20%
- Increase channel flood-storage capacity

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

- Removed dam, replaced culvert with bridge
- Installed 4 rock weirs to prevent downcutting
- Installed infiltration gallery to replace lost irrigation withdrawal site from dam removal
- Created 3 streamside terraces
- Installed 4 logs with root wads
- Removed blackberry with excavator
- Planted native willows, trees and shrubs
- In the process of constructing riparian fence



Pre-project: We removed this undersized culvert that blocked fish passage to 5 miles of essential cutthroat trout habitat.



Post-project: We replaced the above culvert with this bridge that provides year-round cutthroat trout passage and decreased downstream erosion.

Cutthroat Trout in the Long Tom Watershed

By Katie MacKendrick, Intern

Springtime means cutthroat trout are feeding and traveling to spawn upstream from the Long Tom River to smaller tributaries in the watershed. Spawning begins in November and continues through May. New eggs hatch six to seven weeks after spawning and young fish emerge March through June.



Cutthroat trout are the only native trout species present in Coast Range tributaries of the Willamette River. The genus, *Oncorhynchus*, comes from the Greek words “onkos” meaning hook and “rynchos” meaning nose. The species name, *clarki*, comes from the explorer Captain William Clark. Identifying characteristics of cutthroat trout in the Long Tom Watershed include small to medium-size, irregularly shaped spots and a red slit on both sides of the throat. Fluvial cutthroat tend to be larger (12 inches long) and have a silvery sheen, similar to sea-run cutthroat, while resident cutthroat tend to be smaller (8 in. or less) and have a darker, copper-colored sheen.

Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/fishing/forests/fishresources/>

Cutthroat exhibit two life history patterns in the Long Tom watershed. Resident (nonmigrating) cutthroat spend their entire lives in one stream. Fluvial cutthroat migrate between the Long Tom and other streams or rivers (e.g., Willamette). Fern Ridge Dam blocks the migration of fluvial cutthroat trout from the lower Long Tom River to habitat in the sub-basins above the reservoir.

In the Long Tom Watershed, cutthroat trout prefer habitat with deep pools and hiding places such as woody debris. Land use activities including development, mining, forestry and agriculture, and dams, culverts and other passage barriers, all have potential to impact cutthroat trout habitat. While cutthroat still inhabit the main stem and most tributaries of the Long Tom River, losses in habitat and sensitivity to poor water quality are causing the species to decline. This decline has led the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to designate cutthroat trout as a species of concern.

Part of the Long Tom Watershed Council’s work is to identify the most significant threats to fish in the watershed. Addressing barriers to fish passage is one of the most important ways to help protect and recover cutthroat trout stocks. Barriers, including culverts and other structures, block cutthroat trout from accessing important habitat for spawning, feeding and escaping high summer water temperatures and predators.

For this reason, the Council will survey culverts and surrounding habitat throughout the watershed this summer as part of our Fish Barrier Assessment, funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The Council will use the survey data collected to identify which barriers are the highest priorities to remove to restore passage for cutthroat trout and other aquatic life in the watershed.

To make this project a success, the Council needs landowner and volunteer support.

Landowners:

We encourage landowners with culverts on their property to contact us to learn more about how to get involved. There are NO ramifications for any landowner that has a culvert or dam that blocks fish passage—simply an opportunity to let us work alongside you to address it with grant funding and technical expertise.

Volunteers:

We seek volunteers interested in helping the Council survey stream crossings and culverts in the field this summer. A volunteer training will be held on **Saturday, June 7th**. Please visit our website www.longtom.org and look under **News! News! News!** to learn more about this opportunity!

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

Call Cindy at 683-2983 to discuss project possibilities

Giving Thanks

Creek Restoration Volunteers

Our deepest thanks to our hard-working volunteers who helped us Ferguson Creek by scalping and mulching recently planted native trees and shrubs!

Audrey Abbott
Peter Bogden
Anna Bradley
Josephine Brookes
Cassie Chen
Emma Daugherty
Thomas Dodge
Leesa Gratreak
Mychal Kidd
Leah Kovach
Mackenzie Lee
Grace Neal
Stephanie Ostrander

Gavin Russell
Erika Sander
Zack Schneider-Lynch
Jessie Schults
Amy Selven
Melissa Sipe
Molly Thompson
Stacy Urlacher
Ranfis Villatoro
Sarah Williams
Emory Wonham
Kara Zwickey



Volunteers roast hot dogs provided by landowner Al Bartlett, after a successful day of weed removal and mulching.

DONOR RECOGNITION

Our Gratitude To

The City of Eugene

For supporting the Council this year!

Introducing Council Intern, Katie MacKendrick



Volunteer and Intern Katie MacKendrick helps plant trees along Bear Creek.

The Council is very pleased to be working with intern extraordinaire Katie MacKendrick! Katie's primary project is the Fish Barrier Assessment, focusing on volunteer recruitment and training (but willing to help with anything!). She will also be surveying fish passage barriers for the Council this summer. We asked Katie to introduce herself:

I grew up in rural Southwestern Wisconsin, where tall grass prairies, oak woodlands and mixed hardwood forests make the long, cold winters bearable. I moved to Eugene last September to begin graduate school in community and regional planning at the University of Oregon. I started volunteering with the Council in January 2008 to help with the fish passage barrier assessment. I was drawn to the Council for the chance to learn more about the watershed in which I live and to work with other residents and landowners to improve habitat and water quality for all.

**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

Celebration Corner

Council Awarded Five 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.

Owens Creek – Riparian and Stream Enhancement

Award: \$40,000

Funders: StreamBank, Oregon Trout

Partner landowner: Joe McFadden

Project Summary: 4.5 acres of riparian restoration - weed removal, planting with native vegetation, and livestock exclusion fencing, 2 off-channel watering stations, large wood placement

Coyote Creek – Stream & Riparian Enhancement

Award: \$16,788

Funder: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

Partner Landowner: Paul Atkinson

Project Summary: Bank sloping or stream terraces, a series of log weirs to control stream grade, blackberry removal, replace undersize culvert that blocks fish passage

Fish Analysis and Design (Technical Assistance)

Award: \$43,198 (total cost for both technical assistance grants; see below)

Funder: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

Partner Landowner: Tony Stroda

Project Summary: Analyze fish passage options at Stroda Dam on Long Tom River

Stream & Oak Habitat Enhancement Design (Technical Assistance)

Award: Included in technical assistance grant above

Funder: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

Partner Landowners: Brad Barker and Derek Jaros

Project Summary: Develop plans to restore tributary of Spencer Creek, enhance 20+ acres of oak habitat, replace 2 culverts that are fish passage barriers, and enhance wetland habitat

Coyote Creek – Community-Based Restoration and Recovery

Award: \$43,424

Funder: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Oregon Governor's Fund for the Environment

Project Summary: Provide information and technical assistance to landowners in Coyote Creek, using the Council's subwatershed approach, to develop restoration projects that address critical water quality and habitat issues

The Council is grateful to these funders and our partners for supporting this important work.

Get Involved with the Council

Please mark your calendars for our 2008 Annual Meeting & Celebration!

Save the Date!



Long Tom Watershed Council 2008 Annual Meeting & Celebration

Saturday
September 20th, 2008
In the afternoon
Stroda Brothers' Farm
On the Long Tom River in Monroe

Featuring:

- ◆ Barbeque and potluck
- ◆ Watershed Accomplishments & Awards
- ◆ Hay ride & tour of locally-owned farm
- ◆ Watershed Experiences Auction
- ◆ Election of new Board Members

Help celebrate accomplishments in restoration and partnerships, learn about the watershed, and enjoy great food and company!

If you only come to one meeting a year, this is the one!



For more information: 683-6949; jgarmon@longtom.org; www.longtom.org

Seeking Volunteers for Stream Surveys: June-September 2008

Want to help restore native cutthroat trout in the watershed? The Council is looking for volunteers to survey barriers to fish passage (culverts, dams and road crossings) throughout the Long Tom Watershed this summer.

- Learn about stream ecology, cutthroat trout and the barriers culverts can create for fish passage.
- Learn how to identify barriers by gathering measurements and using field equipment.
- Work alongside other volunteers and staff in the field.

Interested? Please contact Jenna Garmon at 683-6949 or jgarmon@longtom.org.

Please plan to attend the Volunteer Training Day: Saturday June 7, 2008.

**Do you have a neighbor or friend that might be interested in the Council?
Membership is as easy as expressing interest in watershed issues and Council activities.**

Please call Jenna Garmon at 683-6949

Watershed Events

Down by the Riverside Amazon Creek Work Party

When: Saturday, May 17, 9 am-1pm

Where: Meet at the West Eugene Wetlands Project Office, 751 S. Danebo Ave.



Activities will include removal of invasive plants and trash along Amazon Creek. Tools, snacks, drinks and direction will be provided.

For more info., call 683-6494.

This event is sponsored by SOLV, the City of Eugene, REI, the Long Tom Watershed Council and WREN.

2nd Annual Walkin' and Rollin' Through the Wetlands

Saturday, May 31
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Explore the West Eugene Wetlands by bike or foot on the Fern Ridge Path between Beltline and Greenhill Road. Along the way, local experts will have educational displays to help you discover the many wonders of the wetlands. Learn about wetland plants, animals, restoration projects, and the education center. At each booth along the path, be sure to get your passport stamped for a chance to win raffle prizes!



Photo by Sandra Miles

Visit the Council's booth!



Help Nip Invasive Species in the Bud by becoming an Invasives-Watch Volunteer!

Love to hike and hate weeds? Sick of seeing waterways overrun by bull frogs? Looking for a fun and rewarding way to do something about it? Then, Invasives-Watching may be the volunteer opportunity for you! The West Eugene Wetland Partnership is starting a new volunteer program that will train volunteers to become Invasives Watchers to look for and report new invasive species.

Invasive species cause serious problems by disrupting ecosystems. They out-compete native species and change habitat conditions that native plants and animals need to survive. By detecting and reporting new weeds before they become established, Invasives Watchers help protect their local landscape.

Being an Invasives Watcher is easy and fun and can be integrated into your other volunteer activities. You simply need to learn how to recognize 5-10 target species and report them if you see them. This is a perfect volunteer opportunity for people with keen observation skills who love the outdoors.

Interested? **There will be a half-day training workshop in Eugene on July 19th.** Please contact Tania Siemens at 914-0701 or tsiemens@tnc.org for more info or to attend a training.

Interested in other watershed councils in Oregon?

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

Opportunities & Calendar

Council Events

Council Restoration Project Tour

Bear Creek Fish Passage and Stream Enhancement

Tuesday, May 20: 6 p.m.-7:15 p.m.

82912 Simonsen Rd, Eugene

Contact: Jenna Garmon, 683-6949 or jgarmon at longtom.org

Amazon Creek Work Party

Remove invasive plants and litter from Amazon Creek

Saturday, May 17: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Meet at the West Eugene Wetland Project Office, 751 S. Danebo Ave.

Contact: Holly McCrae at 683-6494 or hmcrae@wewetlands.org

Walkin' & Rollin' through the Wetlands

Explore the West Eugene Wetlands by bike or foot on Fern Ridge Path between Beltline and Greenhill Road

Saturday, May 31: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Contact: Jenna Garmon at 683-6949 or jgarmon at longtom.org

Volunteer to be a Stream Surveyor

Help us complete our Fish Barrier Assessment for the native cutthroat trout of the Long Tom Watershed

Saturday, June 7: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Contact: Jenna Garmon at 683-6949 or jgarmon at longtom.org

Council Restoration Project Tour

Location and agenda TBD

Tuesday, July 29: 6 p.m.

Contact: Jenna Garmon at 683-6949 or jgarmon at longtom.org

Other Events

Wings & Wine Festival 2008

Saturday, May 10

A series of bird-related activities coupled with the flavorful bounty of Oregon's Wine Country, the Wings and Wine festival is held about 15 miles west of Eugene at both Fern Ridge Reservoir and Secret House Winery in Veneta, OR.

Visit wingsandwinefestival.com for the schedule of events.

Alton Baker Work Parties

Saturday, May 10: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday, June 7: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Join Nearby Nature to work on naturescaping, park trails, gardening, and more. Dress for the weather! We'll provide tools and gloves. Meet at the Park Host Residence.

Contact: 687-9699

WREN Wednesday Wetland Wander

Wednesday, May 14: 9-10:30 a.m.

Join Emily Steel, City of Eugene Restoration Ecologist on a walk through the beautiful See-sil Savanna. Learn about the birds, plants, and oak restoration efforts. Meet at the west end of Royal Avenue. Wear shoes that can get wet and muddy.

Contact: Holly McCrae, 683-6494

Mt. Pisgah Wildflower Festival & Plant Sale

Sunday, May 18: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Attend this annual celebration of Oregon's wildflowers! This year, native plants and their beautiful butterfly pollinators will be the focus of the celebration. Enjoy educational exhibits and a display of hundreds of wildflowers.

Contact: 747-3817

Willamette River Clean Up

Saturday, June 14: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join over 100 volunteers to remove trash from the banks of the Willamette River through Springfield and Eugene. Boaters and walkers needed.

Contact: 682-4850

Contacts for volunteer opportunities:

Nearby Nature: 687-9699

WREN: 683-6494

City of Eugene, Volunteers in Parks: 682-4845

City of Eugene, Stream Team: 682-4850

Our Watershed & Council



**Action
Through
Understanding**

**Steering
Committee**

Lower Long Tom

Jim Pendergrass,
Chair
Eric Freepons
Tony Stroda

Upper Long Tom

Ric Ingham,
Co-Vice Chair
Tina Fenley,
Treasurer
Patti Little

Amazon

Peg Boulay,
Co-Vice Chair
Brad Taylor
Eric Wold

At Large

Kat Beal
Will Bondioli
Ryan Collay
Rich Reeves
Corey Johnson,
Recording Secretary

Contact Us:

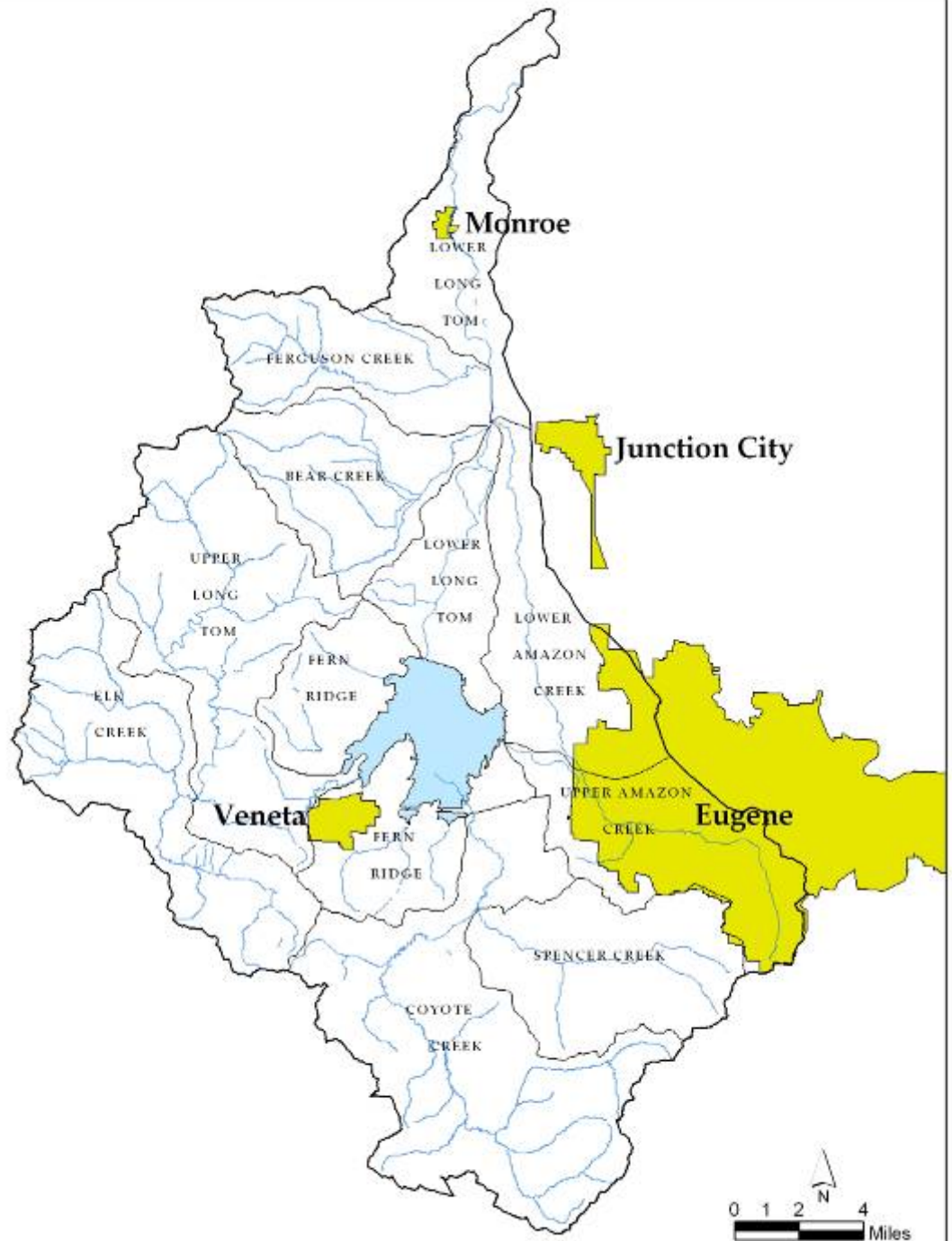
751 S. Danebo Ave.
Eugene, OR 97402

Phone: (541) 683-6578

Fax: (541) 683-6998

Web:
www.longtom.org

Long Tom Watershed Ten Major Subbasins



Source: Long Tom Watershed Council, Dec. 2003

Staff

Projects and Monitoring

Cindy Thieman
(541) 683-2983

Coordinator/E.D.

Dana Erickson
(541) 683-6578

Stewardship & Outreach

Jenna Garmon
(541) 683-6949

Restoration Project Tour Tuesday, May 20th at 6 p.m. in Eugene:
Tour of Bear Creek Fish Passage & Stream Enhancement Project



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



**Restoration Project Tour
Tuesday, May 20th, 6:00 p.m.
Kathy & Hal Noble's property
82912 Simonsen Rd., Eugene**

Directions to project site from W. 11th:
Head south on Bailey Hill Rd., which becomes Lorane Hwy. Turn right onto Territorial Hwy. Turn slight left onto Simonsen Rd. Look for the big yellow farmhouse.

To carpool, meet at the Council office @5:30 p.m.

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 is the West Eugene Wetlands Project Office (white sign) and leads up a small hill to a red ranch house (Council office).