



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL
Bimonthly watershed news and meeting notice
JANUARY 2009

Action
Through
Understanding

TOXICS IN AMAZON CREEK:

the situation, possible actions, and what's coming in the future

American Red Cross Conference Room
Thursday, January 29th 6:00—8:00 p.m.

Agenda

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Toxics in Amazon Creek with Guest speakers:

Hank Johnson, Hydrologist, Willamette Chief for the National WQ Assessment Program, USGS

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director, Oregon Toxics Alliance

Jim Coyle, Toxics Program Coordinator, DEQ

Break, with Refreshments

Steering Committee Report

Announcements



A newly restored section of Amazon Creek below Martin Street.

INSIDE:

- Pg. 2. Meeting backgrounder—toxics
- Pg. 5. Call for volunteers
- Pg. 6. Chemical collection reminder
- Pg. 7. Fern Ridge Wildlife Area Plan
- Pg. 8. Watershed Calendar & Opportunities
- Pg. 8. Benton County Prairie Habitat Plan
- Pg. 9. Please support the Council

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

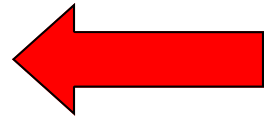
www.longtom.org

TOXICS IN AMAZON CREEK:

the situation, possible actions, and what's coming in the future



American Red Cross Conference Room
Thursday, January 29th 6:00—8:00 p.m.



Free to the General Public; donations much appreciated!

Guest Speakers

- **Hank Johnson, Hydrologist, Willamette Chief for the National WQ Assessment Program, USGS (Portland office)**— Hank will talk about the different categories of toxics, their probable sources and what's known about their effects, as well as what's known specifically about the Amazon Creek basin.
- **Lisa Arkin, Executive Director, Oregon Toxics Alliance**— Lisa will discuss how she looks for patterns and asks questions, and how she helps communities respond to local toxics issues.
- **Jim Coyle, Toxics Program Coordinator, DEQ (Portland office)**— Jim will discuss the Willamette Toxics Monitoring Program that began in 2007, the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership program that might be useful in Amazon Creek, and touch on the overall regulatory framework for toxic pollutants.

Questions we will address at the meeting:

- Based on current information, what is the scope of the problem in Amazon Creek – what are the **known** toxic pollutants in Amazon Creek and the probable or potential sources of these pollutants?
- What other **suspected** toxics might a comprehensive study reveal in Amazon Creek and what are the likely sources of these pollutants?
- What is the relative toxicity of the contaminants and how do they affect aquatic life?
- What is being monitored elsewhere—and if we wanted to establish baseline data for the toxics in Amazon Creek what parameters would we need to look at and for how long?
- What toxics do you think are “actionable” - could we measurably decrease within a 10 year period if we were to devote funding to improving water quality in the Amazon Creek basin?

For more information, please contact Christy Yost, 683-6949, cyost@longtom.org

Council Meeting Background

Prepared by Jed Kaul, Restoration Technician, and
Dana Erickson, Watershed Coordinator

The topic of the January 29th Council meeting is toxics in Amazon Creek. The Council is finding the subject of toxics very challenging to address due to the widespread nature of the issue, the lack of information and expense of collecting new data, and the range of possible solutions including regulatory action - something the Council does not engage in. Nonetheless, we want to renew the question and decide our strategy toward pollutants in Amazon Creek to see if there's anything specific and useful the watershed council can do that the responsible agencies will not be able to in the future. We are specifically curious to see if there are some measurable ways the Council could affect the problem so that we might incorporate those specific actions and targets in our work plan.

What we know about toxics in Amazon Creek: Fifteen pesticides and other pollutants (e.g. heavy metals, pyrene, naphthalene) have been measured in both Amazon Creek and the A-3 Channel during short-term studies conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey (1990) and the City of Eugene (1996-1998). None of these exceeded criteria set for the protection of freshwater aquatic life by the Department of Environmental Quality or the Canadian Council of Resources and Environmental Ministers (which has determined standards for a wider range of pollutants), although three of the compounds have no established criteria. Since the levels of suspended and dissolved contaminants in surface waters vary dramatically (sometimes on a weekly or even daily basis), the number of samples in this study is too small to draw any conclusions. Bed sediment contamination is also variable, but in space not time.



The section of Amazon Creek lined with concrete flows from about 24th to 16th street.

What are some of the problems associated with exposure to toxics in aquatic ecosystems: Aquatic species, such as our native salmonid residents of the Long Tom Watershed, Cutthroat trout and Chinook salmon, are sensitive to toxics, both hydrophilic (water soluble) and hydrophobic (water insoluble) compounds, due to their close relationship with water. Fish absorb these chemicals through their respiratory systems, directly through their skin, and through their food in the case of bioaccumulative compounds such as Hg, PCBs, or organochlorine pesticides. Further, studies have shown that chemicals which are harmless when tested on salmon individually can be deadly when combined. Native amphibians like the red-legged frog are even more sensitive to aquatic contaminants.

What is being done to monitor toxics in our rivers & streams: The DEQ began a toxics monitoring program in the Willamette River Basin in 2008 reviewing water samples as well as fish body tissue samples to determine the levels of contaminants in each. Contaminants are either hydrophilic or hydrophobic therefore two different media (water & fish body tissue) are being analyzed.

Toxics from the following categories will be monitored: Herbicides (9 different constituents), insecticides (15), DDTs (6), PCBs (21), PBDEs, found in fire retardants (10), heavy metals (16), Emerging contaminants such as estrogen compounds (4), pharmaceuticals (4), cleaners (7), PAHs, by-products of fossil fuel combustion (4), fire retardants (2), DEET, BPA, Diethyl Phthalate (an ingredient in plastics), and Dioxin.

The City of Eugene has been monitoring heavy metals for over a decade. In the future the City of Eugene will likely increase its regular pesticide monitoring under its new stormwater permit reporting requirements from the DEQ.

The USGS recently published a new study on the effects of urbanization on toxic pollutants which showed that higher levels of pesticides in streams were related to increased amounts of impervious surfaces in urban areas. Amazon Creek at Danebo Avenue was one of the sampling sites for this program. Additionally, the USGS monitors toxics in 2 other programs: The Toxic Substances Hydrology Program and the National Water Quality Assessment Program.

What efforts are being made to address the problem of toxics in our waterways: Despite the widespread utilization of pesticides across the country, individual users of pesticides at the homeowner level are not held accountable for the misuse which regularly occurs, even though the USGS found levels of 15 pesticides throughout Oregon and Washington that were higher than standards set to protect aquatic life.

The DEQ regulates some toxics through permitting, such as the stormwater permit for Eugene. Also, since 1999, the DEQ has been using a voluntary, collaborative approach called Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships (PSPs) to identify problems and improve water quality associated with pesticide use at the local level. The PSP approach uses local expertise in combination with water quality sampling and toxicology expertise of the DEQ to encourage and support voluntary changes that cause measurable environmental improvements. The key actions of the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership approach are to:

- Identify local, pesticide-related water quality issues.
- Share results early and often with local stakeholders.
- Explain data in relation to effects and water quality criteria.
- Engage the agricultural community for identifying and implementing solutions (The Watershed Council would need to expand this to the urban community for Amazon Creek).

Use ongoing effectiveness monitoring to measure success and provide feedback to support water quality management.

Questions we'll ask at the meeting: Please see the flyer in this newsletter for the questions we'll ask at the meeting.

The following web links were used to gain information for this article:

Long Tom Watershed Assessment, pg. 122-123: <http://longtom.org/assessment2.html>

USGS Toxic Substances Hydrology Program: <http://toxics.usgs.gov/about.html>

USGS National Water Quality Assessment Program: <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/>

USGS Scientific Investigations Report, Chapter D: Effects of Urbanization on Stream Ecosystems in the Willamette Valley and surrounding area: <http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/usgspubs/sir/sir20065101D>

ODEQ Toxics Monitoring Program: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lab/wqm/tmpSAP.htm>

ODEQ Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/pubs/factsheets/community/pesticide.pdf>

Volunteer Tree Planting Days

Long Tom Watershed Council ~ Winter 2009

BE A STEWARDSHIP **VOLUNTEER**

The Long Tom Watershed Council invites you to help restore local creeks by planting some of the 7,000+ native trees and shrubs we are putting in this winter.

Have fun, learn something new, get exercise, and do your part to improve the health of your watershed!

Planting native species will improve water quality, enhance habitat for fish & wildlife and stabilize creek banks.



☒ **Saturday, February 14th**
10 am to 2 pm

☒ **Saturday, February 28th**
10 am to 2 pm

WHERE:

Meet at the Council office:

751 S. Danebo Ave., Eugene (please call for directions and to RSVP).

We will carpool to the project sites.



All are Welcome!

IMPORTANT! Please RSVP ASAP with Jed Kaul
@ 541-683-2983 or jkaul@longtom.org

We will supply all tools, training,
coffee and snacks.

Please bring warm clothes, boots,
rain gear, drinking water and
work gloves (if you have them).

Chemical Collection Reminder

Participating growers in the **Lane, Linn and Benton County** area had an opportunity to get rid of old and unwanted pesticides, fertilizers, mercury, and petroleum products (including lubricants, hydraulic fluids, brake fluids, old diesel fuel) at a **FREE** chemical collection event February 11-12, 2009, funded by Benton, Linn and Lane County Extension offices, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and the Governor's Fund for the Environment. These unused chemicals can pose a threat to surface water and groundwater, used for drinking by people throughout the Southern Willamette Valley.

Qualifying growers **completed a farm chemical survey and returned the information to Oregon State University Lane County Extension Office January 14, 2009.** The survey information was confidential and was not to be used outside of this project. Under no circumstances will growers be regulated, investigated, or subjected to any enforcement by participating in this survey and chemical collection event.

If you completed this survey, you will be notified of a scheduled time to drop off chemicals at the Walnut Street facility in Corvallis, OR, on February 11 or February 12. A postcard will be mailed to you confirming your drop-off time and date. You will need to present this card when you drop off chemicals.

If you have other chemicals (paints, solvents, batteries), up to 35 gallons may be recycled through the household hazardous waste collection event on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009. For details, contact Audrey Eldridge, DEQ, 877-823-3216 ext. 223 (toll free) or email eldridge.audrey@deq.state.or.us.

For more program information, or available assistance prepackaging the chemicals for disposal, please contact: Ross Penhallegon at the OSU Extension Service (541) 682-4243 or 541-912-3443 (cell); or email: ross.penhallegon@oregonstate.edu, Denise Kalakay of the Lane Council of Governments at 541-682-7415; dkalakay@lcog.org. Or, if you live in the Groundwater Management Area, please contact Audrey Eldridge at 541-776-6010 ext. 223; eldridge.audry@deq.state.or.us.

Fern Ridge Wildlife Area Long Range Management Plan



Interested stakeholders in the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area are invited to review and make additional comment on the planning process.

January 23, 2009 at 7:00 PM

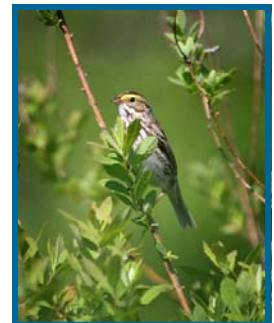
Eugene Water and Electric Board, North Headquarters Building
500 East 4th Avenue, downtown Eugene



The draft management plan went through agency and public review a year ago. The license agreement was signed by both the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in October 2008. During the past several months the draft plan has been reviewed and edited by Watershed and Wildlife Division staff before being sent to the ODFW Commission. The January Commission packet was mailed to the Commissioners on December 24, 2008. The packet materials were then placed on the ODFW Commission Information webpage. The public can access the draft plans by visiting the ODFW web page at www.dfw.state.or.us and clicking on the January 9, 2009, *Agenda and Materials* link. Scroll through the agenda to the Wildlife Area Plan exhibit and download the Fern Ridge draft plan attachment (<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/>). On April 17, 2009, the plan is scheduled for final review and presentation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for plan adoption. Your participation is an important part of the planning process. For further information, please contact Wayne Morrow by phone, mail or e-mail.



Wayne Morrow
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
wayne.e.morrow@state.or.us
Fern Ridge Wildlife Area
26969 Cantrell Road
Eugene, OR 97402
541-935-2591



CONTRIBUTION RECOGNITION

Our Gratitude To

Lane Forest Products

For supporting the Council's water quality projects with a new contribution this year!

DONATION RECOGNITION

Our Gratitude To

Jack Gray at Wintergreen Farm

For supporting the Council this year!

What habitats do you have and could you enhance them?

What can you do about the health of your stream and riparian area?

Call our Restoration Team—Cindy or Jed—at 683-2983 to discuss project possibilities

**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 Calendar & Opportunities

Council Events

Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 12; 6:00p.m.—8:00p.m.
Contact: Dana Erickson, 683-6578
coordinator@longtom.org

Council Meeting

Thursday, January 29; 6:30 p.m.—8:15 p.m.
Contact: Dana Erickson 683-6578;
coordinator@longtom.org

The draft **Benton County Prairie Species (HCP) Habitat Conservation Plan** is now available for public comment at

<http://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/hcp/documents>

Three public meetings about the HCP will be held in January: Corvallis: 1/27, Corvallis Public Library, 7-9pm
Wren: 1/28, Wren Community Hall, 7-9pm
Kings Valley: 1/31, Kings Valley Charter School, 1-3pm
For more information, please visit the HCP website at:

<http://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/hcp/events>

To view the Benton County Prairie Species HCP Newsletter, view a summary of the draft HCP or obtain a copy for comment, please go to

<http://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/hcp/newsletters>

WREN Wetland Wanders: February 10 - Stewart Pond; March 10 - Checkermallow Access. Take a casual walk through various West Eugene sites the 2nd Tuesday of every month. WREN provides binoculars. Contact: Holly McRae at 683-6494 or hmcr@aewetlands.org

“Water For People” Benefit Night

February 19th, starting at 6:00pm

Presentation, Raffle & Live Balkan music from Kef Cosmic Pizza, 199 W. 8th Ave., Eugene, 338-9333

All door proceeds go to Water For People. Cost is \$10 per person, kids under 12 are free. Water for People helps support locally sustainable drinking water resources, education and health programs for people in developing countries. More info: www.waterforpeople.org
Kef: www.balkanmusic.org

Other Events

We need **volunteers** to continue our efforts along the river removing blackberries, planting native shrubs, mulching, and sowing native grass seeds! Raingear, gloves, tools, and refreshments provided. Join **Walama Restoration Project** at Maurie Jacobs Park, 9:30am-12:30pm, the 3rd Saturday of every month beginning in January: 01/17, 02/21 and 03/21. Drive north on River Road, turn right onto Fir Ln, park in the lot at the end of the street. Walk toward the river. Find us next to the Greenway Bike Bridge, across from the Valley River Center, on the south bank bike path.

More Info. contact: Liza Kachko at 484-3939, liza@walamarestoration.org or go to www.walamarestoration.org.

AmeriCorps is looking for a volunteer from the Monroe-Corvallis area to make a one year commitment to monitor the Willamette river. Samples will be taken once a month on site at the Long Tom River at Old River Road. No experience necessary-training provided.

Contact: Alison Sigler, 503-223-6418
alison@willametteriverkeeper.org

Fern Ridge Wildlife Area interested stakeholders public meeting to review the draft management plan and accept additional public comment.

January 23, 7:00PM
Eugene Water and Electric Board
North Headquarters Building
500 East 4th Avenue
downtown Eugene

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

Please Support the Council

Support the work of the Long Tom Watershed Council!

The watershed council model is based on building a shared community approach to solving natural resource issues. The success of this approach depends on community involvement and support. We hope this will include your help. There are many ways to support the Council's work - volunteering, attending meetings and tours, and equally as crucial- donating funds.

The Council has a 10-year history working with watershed residents improve water quality and habitat through learning and action. We just hit a milestone of 30 completed restoration projects. Since most of the land in our watershed is privately owned, much of this education and restoration work involves developing relationships with private landowners and supporting their efforts to be stewards of their land. In addition to the watershed benefits, this work also contributes to our local economy - over 90% of the restoration grant dollars that the Council brings in are spent in this county - on local contractors, suppliers, businesses, and employees.

The Council does more than restoration – we are the only entity that monitors water quality and stream health throughout the basin, and we share watershed information with the community. Council meetings, tours, and discussions stimulate learning and problem-solving. We also partner with local agencies and organizations to address the crucial, big picture issues in our watershed that no one entity can tackle alone.

With your support, we can continue to enhance and restore the ecology of our watershed that sustain our quality of life and create partnerships that cross all boundaries.



Yes, I'd love to help with a tax-deductible donation to the Long Tom Watershed Council to improve water quality and the watershed in my community!

Your name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

*Phone: _____ *Email: _____

Note: The Council will not release your personal information to other organizations.

Check here if you'd like to receive our newsletter and other announcements via email

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make your donation check payable to **Long Tom Watershed Council**. Send completed form and tax-deductible donation to:

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

THANK YOU!

Questions?
Dana Erickson
Executive Director
683-6578



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Our Watershed & Council



**Action
Through
Understanding**



**Steering
Committee**

Lower Long Tom

Jim Pendergrass,
Treasurer
Eric Freepons
Tony Stroda

Upper Long Tom

Ric Ingham
Carl Harrison
Patti Little,
Recording Secretary

Amazon

Peg Boulay
Brad Taylor,
Co-Vice Chair
Eric Wold

At Large

Kat Beal
Kim Carson
Rich Reeves,
Co-Vice Chair



Contact Us:

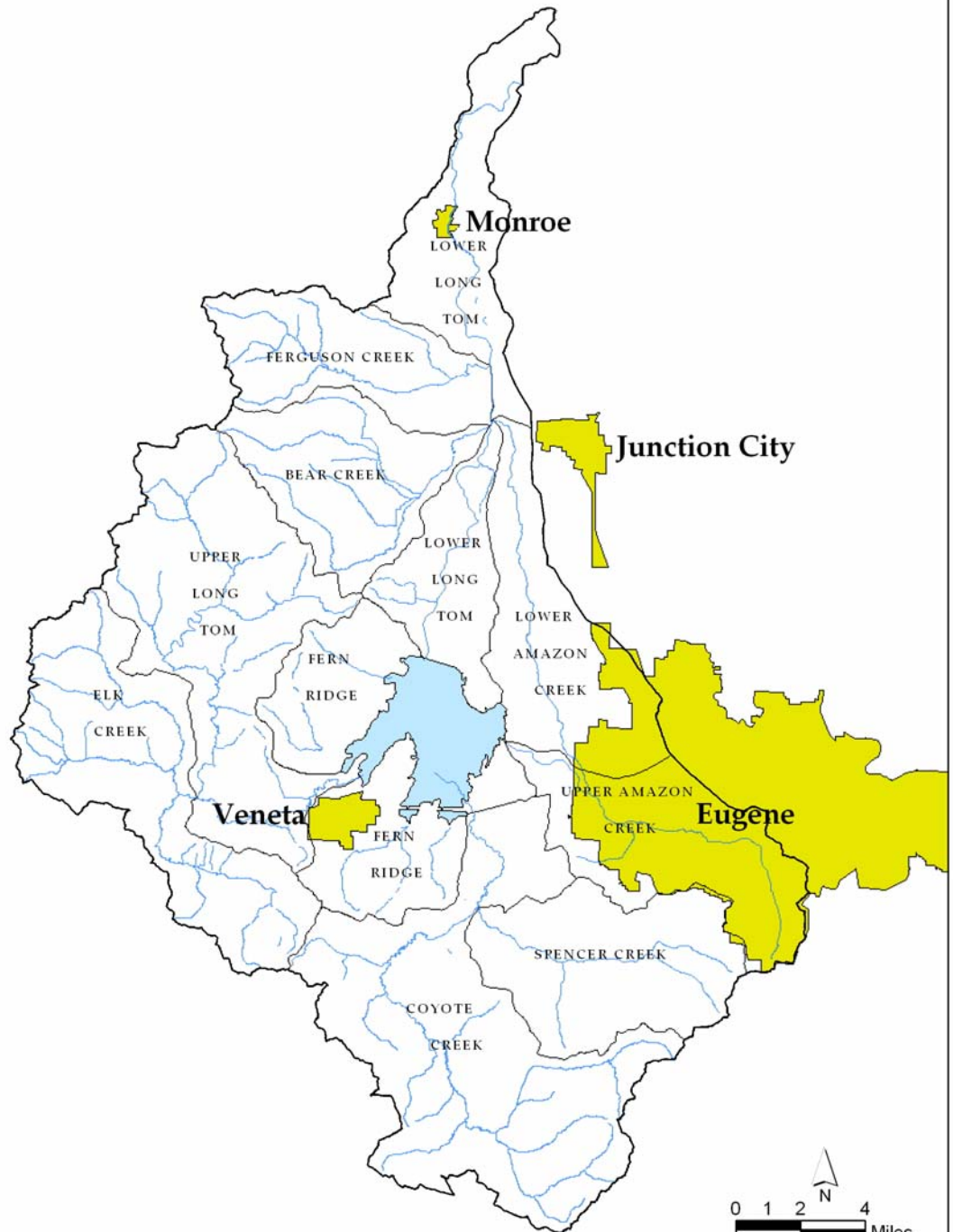
751 S. Danebo Ave.
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Phone: (541) 683-6578

Fax: (541) 683-6998

Web:
www.longtom.org

Long Tom Watershed Ten Major Subbasins



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

STAFF

Executive Director
Dana Erickson
683-6578

Projects & Monitoring
Cindy T. or Jed K.
683-2983

Fiscal Manager
Amanda Wilson
683-6949

Outreach & Admin
Christy Yost
683-6949

**Council Meeting Thursday, January 29th at 6:00 p.m. in Eugene:
PESTICIDES AND TOXICS IN THE AMAZON RIVER**
Please help get the word out—invite a neighbor, colleague, or friend to attend!



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

American Red Cross Conference Room

6:00 p.m. this Thursday—January 29th

**Directions to American Red Cross
862 Bethel Ave, Eugene OR 97402**

Just off Roosevelt to the north, between Hwy 99 and Chambers

Orienting from within Eugene or from Hwy 99W:

- ⇒ **From River Rd/Chambers Blvd - go north from W.11th and turn west/left on Roosevelt**
- ⇒ **Then turn north/right onto Bethel**

OR

- ⇒ **From Hwy 99 / W. 6th Ave. downtown - go north and turn east/right on Roosevelt Blvd**
- ⇒ **Then turn north/left onto Bethel**

- ⇒ **American Red Cross building is 0.6 miles on your left**

Map this location at
www.maps.google.com

- ⇒ **Free parking and plenty of it**

- ⇒ **Warm meeting room and refreshments provided... come one come all!**