



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

November 2017

Action
Through
Understanding

Public Meeting Invitation

Monroe Dam Alternatives Feedback: Long Tom River Plan Ready for Comment

Monroe Community Library, Thursday, Nov. 30, 6-8 p.m.



Above left: Looking at the small check dam on Long Tom River looking west towards Monroe. (Photo: Mary Ann Peterson). Above right: Oxbows, like this one connecting to the river behind Monroe High School, offer good habitat for fish.

Meeting Topics:

- Overview of feedback we heard from community
- Present possible alternatives for Monroe dam site
- Opportunity for attendees to learn more about each alternative, ask questions and provide comment
- All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

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LTWC Public Meetings are free and open to everyone

Light refreshments are provided

LTWC Listserv:

Interested in receiving our newsletter electronically or joining our listserv?

Email Rob, operations@longtom.org

The Long Tom Watershed Council serves to improve water quality and watershed condition in the Long Tom River basin and surrounding drainages through education and collaboration among all interests, using the collective wisdom and voluntary action of our community members.

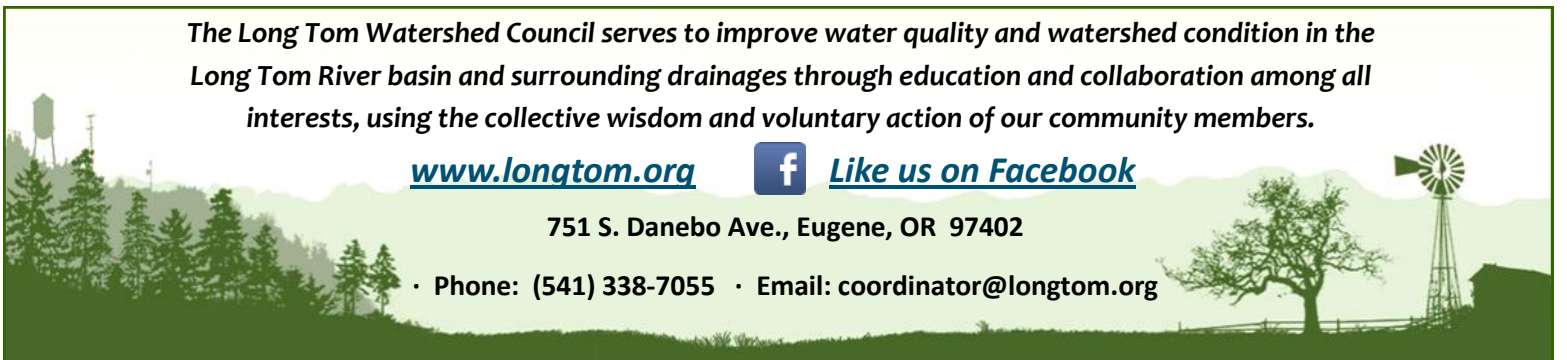
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Monroe Dam Alternatives Feedback: Long Tom River Plan Ready for Comment

We want to hear your feedback! A draft of the Long Tom River Habitat Improvement Plan is ready for community review. Please attend the **Thursday November 30th** public meeting at the Monroe Library from 6 pm – 8 pm. We will summarize the core ideas and recommendations of the plan and discuss alternatives to the future management of the Monroe dam. A year ago, the Council began working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a community outreach and engagement process to identify opportunities to improve habitat, address fish passage blockages, and identify natural processes to increase the channel capacity for the Long Tom River downstream of Fern Ridge Reservoir, particularly around Monroe.

Since last November, over 100 watershed stakeholders have participated in three public meetings and multiple Steering Committee meetings to discuss project goals, understand current river conditions, provide feedback about fish passage alternatives, and share ideas.

In August, the Council conducted follow-up phone conversations with Steering Committee participants and individual stakeholders who live along the Long Tom River. This process served as an opportunity for the Council to learn what the community values, answer questions, and understand what alternatives stakeholders support – up to and including removal of Monroe’s dam. What we heard is a strong connection to the Long Tom River and a desire from the community to have the river become more of a prominent asset in Monroe. People are also supportive of improving habitat for fish. Stakeholders support alternatives that maintain the City of Monroe’s water supply, and there is a strong appreciation of the agricultural community’s value to the watershed. These considerations shape the recommendations of the draft Long Tom River Improvement Plan. If you would like to respond to the survey about the Long Tom River, please use this link - www.longtom.org/long-tom-survey. The survey will be open from November 27 – December 7.

During the meeting, we’ll show each alternative, outline the issues community members said they care about, and discuss the feasibility of implementing each alternative. Public meeting participants will have an opportunity to learn more about each alternative at four stations with key points and visuals, ask questions and provide comment. All are welcome and encouraged to participate!

Public Meeting: **Thursday, November 30, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Monroe Community Library**

Questions? Denise Hoffert, denise.confluence@peak.org or 541-619-5896. Or Dana, dana@longtom.org

Speakers



Denise Hoffert is a local consultant and project manager for developing the outreach and implementation plan.



Cam Bishop is a Natural Resource Specialist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Willamette Valley Project.



Dana Dedrick (Special Projects Lead) and **Jed Kaul** (Fish Biologist) are the LTWC staff leads for the project.

Owens Creek: A Watershed Success Story

Not far from Bennett Vineyards where the watershed community celebrated LTWC's 20th anniversary, the Council reached another significant milestone this fall on a privately owned ranch by **removing the last priority fish passage barrier on Owens Creek!** Not only do native fish like cutthroat trout now have access to an additional 15 miles of upstream habitat, the project connects the entire length of Owens Creek for fish, from headwaters to confluence. It's a momentous accomplishment representing the culmination of over a decade of building relationships with private landowners and connecting their vision and interest with the grant dollars and the Council's technical expertise that has resulted in the removal or replacement of 11 barriers on eight properties.

The largest tributary to Bear Creek, Owens Creek is nestled in the northwest corner of the watershed, just south of Ferguson Creek. It flows eastward following High Pass Road before turning southeast along Smyth Road and meeting Bear Creek just west of Cheshire. The landscape along Owens Creek is incredibly diverse as it flows through farms, forests, ranches, vineyards, and the occasional patch of wetland or oak woodland.

It's a fertile area for both working lands and fish. The Bear Creek Sub-Basin, along with Ferguson Creek, are the only two sub-basins in the watershed accessible to cutthroat trout migrating from the lower reaches of the Long Tom River and the Willamette River. Streams in these two basins, particularly Ferguson and Owens, offer high quality habitat in the upper reaches that trout require for spawning, for juveniles to spend time growing before heading downstream, and to escape potentially lethal summer water temperatures. Ten years ago, the problem was that if fish tried to move upstream, they ran into constructed features like undersized culverts that blocked their path to the habitat they were seeking.

To understand the habitat needs and possible solutions, the Council collected years of data, which provided the information necessary to prioritize habitat enhancement and fish passage restoration in Owens Creek and elsewhere. These efforts have included water quality analysis, monitoring for stream temperature and macroinvertebrate presence, and two significant research studies to inventory the number of passage barriers and learn more about the seasonal migrations of cutthroat trout. In the summer of 2009, LTWC fish biologist Jed Kaul and four seasonal technicians surveyed approximately 275 culverts throughout the watershed and found that 80% of them were barriers to upstream fish movement. We then looked at which culverts blocked access to the best habitat and where the longest reaches of streams could be opened up for migration if we were



The last priority fish passage barrier on Owens Creek, near its confluence with Bear Creek, was an undersized and perched culvert. Working with Trask Design and Construction, the culvert was replaced with this 40' concrete slab bridge.

"As a landowner along Owen's creek, we have been fortunate to work with the Long Tom Watershed Council, who helped us improve our own section of creek by replacing an undersized culvert with a bridge and planting a high density, mixed stand of thousands of native trees and shrubs. The truly great thing has been having them repeat this process all along Owens Creek and other parts of the Long Tom, thereby improving the entire system for people, plants, and wildlife." – Deck Family Farm

“Together with LTWC, we replaced three Owens Creek fish passage barriers on our property in 2011. These were the last three barriers prior to the headwaters of Owens Creek. It’s thrilling to know that now all of Owens Creek is open to fish passage from the headwaters to the confluence with Bear Creek.” - Kurt & Mary Koehler

able to remove adjacent passage barriers. Mapping this data out, the habitat potential made all of Owens Creek a priority.

In 2010, the Council began a Cutthroat Trout Migration Study, where dozens of volunteers participated in tagging live-trapped trout so that we could monitor trout movements and learn more about the seasonality and triggers for their migration patterns. Using a combination of recapturing previously tagged trout and tag detection stations, we were able to begin creating a clearer picture of trout life histories in the watershed. One individual trout, initially tagged at the Monroe drop structure, was detected later in Bear Creek, and then in Owens Creek – 17 miles from Monroe and 24 miles from the Willamette River! We found Migration Study stories like these resonated with so many people watershed-wide, many of whom have fond memories of trout fishing or are simply amazed at where these fish turn up.

Correcting fish passage is only part of the story, too, as the Council and Owens Creek landowners and project partners also focused on improving the health of the habitat within and along the stream. Fish prefer messy streams, and at many of these projects, work has been done to increase habitat complexity and create more places to spawn and escape predators by installing log jams with root wads that create more complex stream habitat. High summer water temperatures can severely stress or kill trout, so 40+ acres of streamside habitat have been planted with native trees and shrubs, which will provide shade that cools water temperature. Collectively, the work on Owens Creek has leveraged nearly \$1 million in grant funding over the years from state, federal, and private sources to connect migration corridors and improve habitat in and along the creek.

None of this work would have been possible without the voluntary commitment from private landowners, all of whom have also contributed either their own money, labor, or both to ensure project success. Owens Creek is an exciting watershed success story that exemplifies the cooperative spirit of neighbors working together on local land and water issues to benefit watershed health. **From the Council to this special group of neighbors – thank you for supporting a vision for fish habitat in Owens Creek!**



This stream simulation pipe arch culvert opened the upper reaches of Owens Creek for fish passage. Culverts should be as wide as the stream during normal winter flows.

“With the restoration work by LTWC along a number of properties on Owens Creek, the creek’s habitat is improving for fish and wildlife. There are much fewer invasive plants and many more native willows, snowberries, and ninebark plants growing along the creek, cooling the water with shade and attracting songbirds and dragonflies.

Our house is along Owens Creek and it feels like we live in a natural preserve. Owens Creek only seems like a little creek when you stand next to it on High Pass or Smyth Roads and look down its banks. Many spots are only one or two feet wide and none of it looks very deep. But look more carefully at the creek and you will discover its real beauty and good health. I think it is among the most beautiful spots in the whole Long Tom River valley. Thank you LTWC and local residents for taking good care of this bit of paradise.”
— David Turner

LTWC's 20th Anniversary Campaign

We are just \$12,000 away from meeting our \$60,000 campaign goal for our 20th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign! Dozens of private donors have joined business partners Armadillo Roofing Inc., The Seneca Family of Companies and WildCraft Cider Works in supporting this milestone campaign for the Long Tom!

Last year the council was executing over 30 active restoration and capacity grants to get high quality work accomplished on the ground in the Long Tom - this year the council is driving projects associated with over 60 active grants right here in the

watershed! That is a significant growth of impact! What do all of those grant funded projects have in common? **They are all leveraging YOUR investment to get this work done on the ground to directly benefit this watershed.** It is your local support, used as match for these grant dollars, that consistently gives our council the leg-up, and helps us to secure these highly competitive grant dollars to benefit the community we share. **These projects cannot happen without your support.** Your dollars are spent right here in the watershed and directly influence cleaner water, and healthier habitats that we all experience every day.

We have just two months left in the year to meet our campaign goal - a generous gift today will help the council to keep this strong momentum going and ensure success on the ambitious work ahead. You can learn more and give online at: <http://www.longtom.org/watershedmoments>



Recent Gifts - Thank You for Your Support!

20th Anniversary Campaign: Richard Booth, Dana Dedrick, Davis Commercial Properties, Kurt & Mary Koehler, Pat McDowell, WildCraft Cider Works

Tribal Engagement Campaign: McKenzie River Trust, Pacific Continental Bank

Annual Celebration Supporters: Rolf Anderson, Vicki Blackman, Jim & Maria Bradshaw, Michael Brown, Gary & Jo Holzbauer, Rik Huhtanen & Karen Scholler—In memory of Ray Holmes, Kurt & Mary Koehler, Jeff Krueger, Laughing Stock Farm, Shelly Miller, Jim & Christine Pendergrass, Court Smith—In honor Dana Dedrick and Cindy Thieman, Dave Thomas, Grahm Trask

Gifts for our 2017 Watershed Awardees! (gift baskets, gift certificates): GloryBee Foods, McMenamins, Mountain Rose Herbs, Organically Grown Co.

Thank You for Helping us Celebrate 20 Years!

We would like to sincerely thank this incredible watershed community for coming out to celebrate our 20th Anniversary! We had nearly 150 people attend our September 14 Annual Celebration for great food, company, conversation and appreciation for the work of so many landowners and partners watershed wide – plus some great local wine from **Bennett Vineyards & Wine Company** celebrating the bounty of the watershed! Thank you to the Bennett family for hosting us at their beautiful property, to our passionate and dedicated speakers, and to our **event sponsors Ninkasi Brewing and Stroda Brothers Farm** for helping to make the event happen!



We also want to thank our business supporters of our ongoing 20th Anniversary Fundraising campaign: **Armadillo Roofing Inc., The Seneca Family of Companies, and WildCraft Cider Works** for their commitment to this watershed and our ongoing work! This was a great bow to put on 20 years of watershed moments, and we're thrilled at the opportunities ahead for the next 20! Thank you for a beautiful evening in the watershed!



We're grateful to the **Eugene City Barnstormers** for helping to set the mood with their buoyant music!

Finally, thank you to **Cliff Etzel**, local photographer and storyteller, for taking these wonderful photos! You can see more photos of the event on our website: longtom.org/20thanniversaryphotos/



Top photos (clockwise): sunset over the celebration at Bennett Vineyards; Art Johnson and family receive the Project Landowners of the Year award; dinner prepared by Carte Blanche Caterers. Panel of speakers (bottom row from left): Jason Hunton, Doug Card, Cindy Thieman, Ryan Collay, Charles Ruff, and moderator David Turner

Thank You, Trisha Maxfield!

The Council would like to bid a fond farewell to Trisha Maxfield, who was our part-time Operations and Database Assistant on staff for the past year. Trish recently graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in environmental studies, and she also has nine years of military experience with the Oregon Army National Guard. Along with her faithful dog, Luca, she's taking some time to work in and explore Ecuador.



Trish provided essential administrative and program support for LTWC. The Council and our friends at McKenzie River Trust are currently teaming to interview candidates for a shared, full-time Administrative Assistant position that will not only provide core office assistance, but will also be an integral part of a support team for each organization and for the partnership. Stay tuned!

Thank you for all your hard work, Trish, and best wishes!

LTWC in the News!

Board member David Turner was interviewed by the *Eugene Weekly* in October to speak about his love for the Long Tom, and his book *Along The Long Tom River*.

You can read the article, "Stories from the Long Tom," at www.eugeneweekly.com/20171005/visual-arts/stories-long-tom.

You can also see an interview with David, and others inspired by the watershed, at our website: www.longtom.org/watershedmoments.

The Long Tom Watershed Council, a local nonprofit, counts on participation from many people and organizations. The local office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) donates postage for our mailings. They use the following disclaimer, standard procedure for all BLM partnerships:

BLM Disclaimer: "The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government."

The Long Tom Watershed Council is still a local nonprofit (since 1998) with no government authority. We partner with local people, businesses, and agencies in the interest of finding local solutions and bringing grant funding from private and public sources to do restoration, education, and monitoring work in the Long Tom River basin. We're thankful for the donation of postage expenses!

LTWC Board of Directors

Lower Long Tom

Steve Horning
David Turner

At Large

Ginnie Grilley, *Vice-Chair*
Jonathan Powell, *Treasurer*

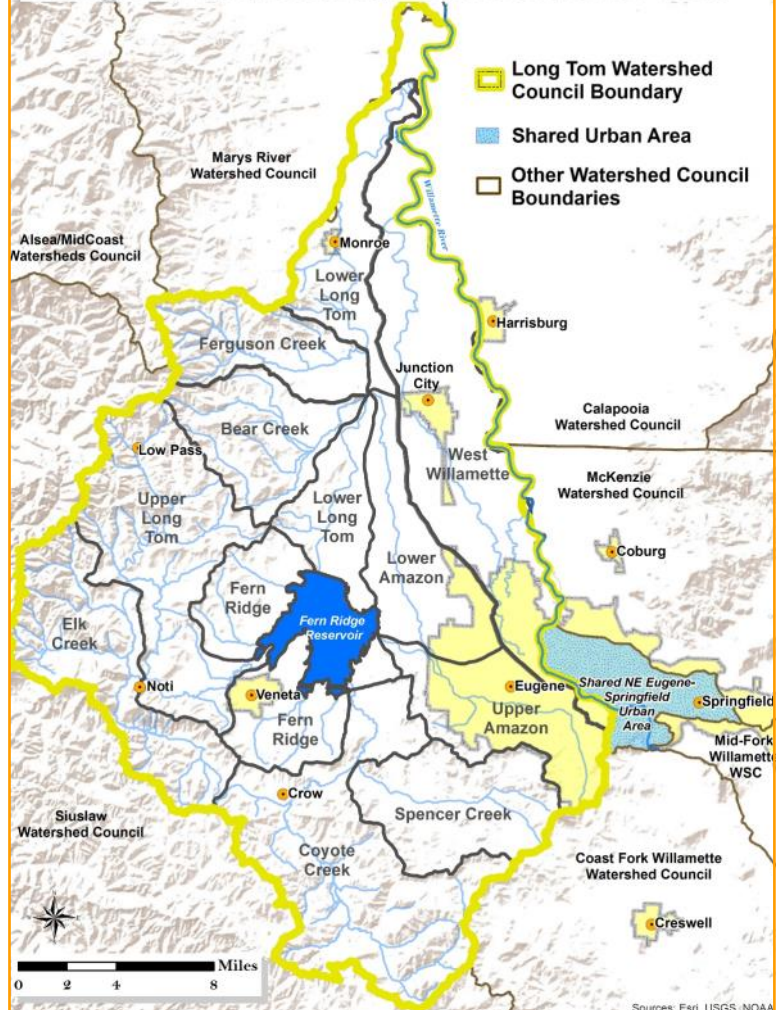
Upper Long Tom

Charles Ruff, *Past Chair*
Jabrila Via

Amazon

Alan Dickman
Shelly Miller, *Chair*
David Thomas, *Secretary*

Long Tom Watershed Sub-basins & Area of Work



Council Staff Contacts

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Katie MacKendrick, *Ecologist*: 338-7033

Sarah Whitney, *Urban Habitat & Stormwater*: 654-8965

Amanda Reinholtz, *Habitat & Water Quality Sp*: 338-7060

Heidi Heisler, *Fiscal Manager*: 338-7042

Volunteers Help Remove Invasive Ludwigia!

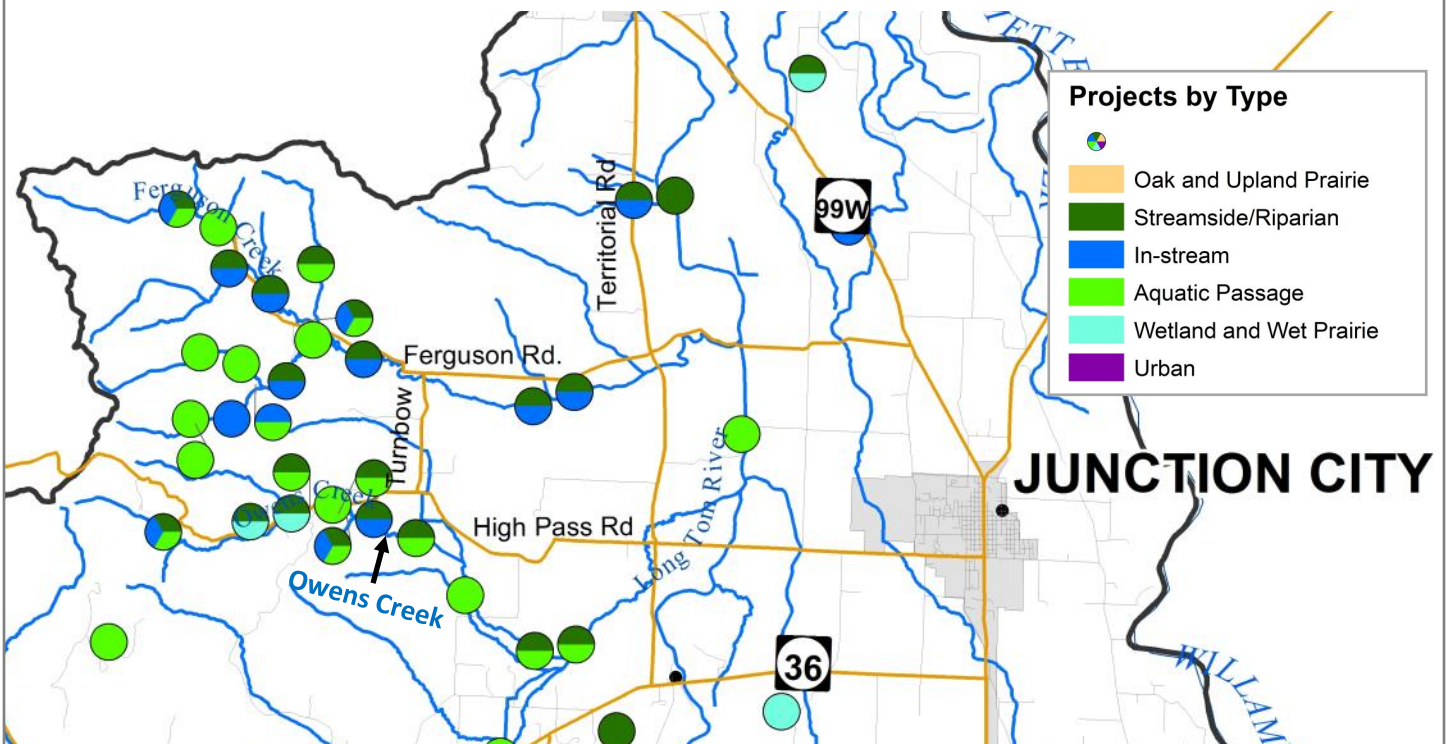
Thank you to the more than a dozen community members who volunteered at the end of August to pull Ludwigia! *Ludwigia hexapetala*, or Uruguayan water primrose, is an aggressively invasive aquatic plant. It forms dense mats that can rapidly overtake still or slow-moving water, disrupting recreation, interfering with irrigation intakes, and reducing water quality and important habitat for fish.



With the support of a grant from the Oregon State Weed Board, and partner agencies like the City of Eugene, LTWC has been monitoring and treating source populations of Ludwigia in the Long Tom Watershed for the past three years.

During one weekend at the end of August, volunteer crews (pictured) set out in canoes on the Long Tom River to pull the invasive weed. Thank you so much to these amazing folks for taking time out of their summer weekend to help the Council tackle this important watershed issue!

Bear and Ferguson Creek Habitat Improvement Projects



Bear and Ferguson Creek support priority habitat for native fish. 11 barriers to fish passage barriers (light green) have been corrected at 8 project sites along Owens Creek alone.