



# LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

February 2019

Action  
Through  
Understanding

## Public Meeting Invitation

### Tuesday, February 26, 6 - 8 p.m.

### Ag Expo: Voluntary Resources & Tools for Agricultural Landowners

### Monroe Community Library (380 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St. across from high school)



Photos from left: Aerial view of agricultural land in the Long Tom Watershed; middle: stream re-meander project at Laughing Stock Farm—owner Paul Atkinson will be in attendance 2/26 to share his story; right: riparian plantings on a working pasture.

### What info can you expect to find at this event?

- Range of voluntary incentive and assistance programs available
- Habitat improvement at various scales—whether through grant funding or working to make improvements on your own
- Conservation & Restoration Planning
- Conservation easements
- Results & analysis from LTWC’s Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) data collection in and around Amazon Creek
- Practices to improve water health, soil health, and habitat
- Free nitrate screenings from OSU Extension **(Bring your well sample!)**

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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.

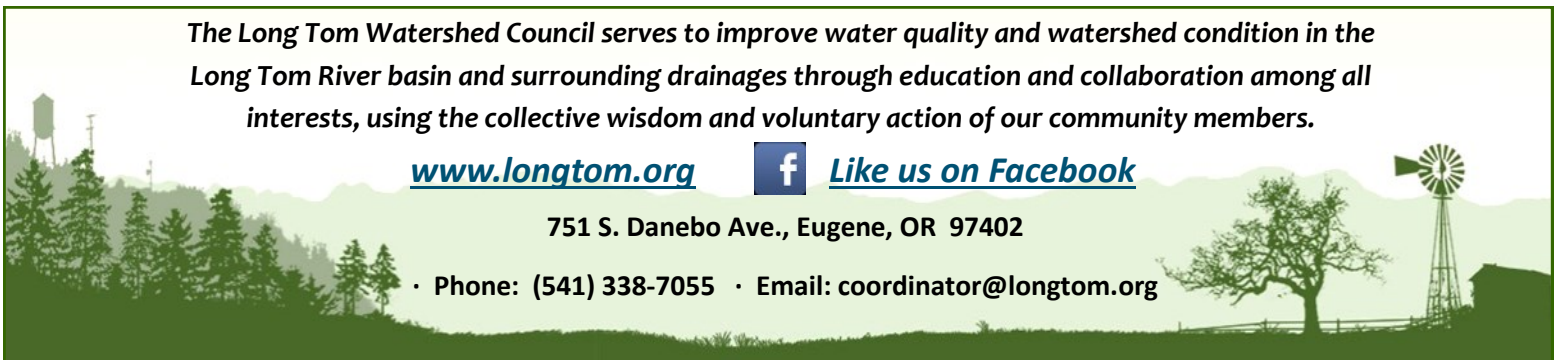
[www.longtom.org](http://www.longtom.org)



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751 S. Danebo Ave., Eugene, OR 97402

• Phone: (541) 338-7055 • Email: [coordinator@longtom.org](mailto:coordinator@longtom.org)



# Feb 26 Public Meeting: Resources Available to Ag Landowners to Improve Habitat and Water Quality

The Long Tom Watershed Council's first public meeting of 2019 will be a fair-style event designed for the **agricultural community to learn more about the variety of tools, resources, and voluntary incentives available for property owners interested in improving habitat and water quality on farm and pasture lands.** The council is convening a number of restoration NGOs and agencies that offer habitat improvement tools, restoration programs, or other resources to help landowners learn about opportunities to align the goals of working lands with ways to improve watershed health. Professionals from these organizations, as well as agricultural landowners who have experience with restoration and conservation programs, will be on hand to share their expertise and talk with attendees. Attendees will gather briefly at the beginning to hear short introductions from each professional about their organization and what you can learn at their booth; then, folks will have the majority of the time to visit directly with particular people and organizations if interest. The full list of participating organizations and entities is listed below.



*A grass waterway on a private lands project on Owens Creek uses native grasses to filter runoff from adjacent Christmas tree stands before the water enters the Long Tom River.*

## Participating People and Organizations:

- **Long Tom Watershed Council**  
Jed Kaul (*Fish Biologist*) - grant-funded restoration opportunities through the Council such as grassed waterways  
Sarah Whitney (*Urban Restoration & Stormwater Specialist*) - urban and rural solutions to watershed health
- **Oregon Department of Agriculture** – Kirk Cook, *Pesticide Stewardship Specialist* - See the latest data and results from pesticide sampling in and around Amazon Creek as part of the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP)
- **McKenzie River Trust** – Robin Meacher, *Land Protection Manager* - Tools to help landowners voluntarily steward their land through conservation easements and protection strategies
- **Greenbelt Land Trust** - Claire Fiegenger, *Conservation Director* - Tools for conservation to help landowners voluntarily steward their land, including through the creation of conservation easements and protection strategies
- **Benton County Soil & Water Conservation District** –Donna Schmitz, *Resource Conservationist* - Tools to help landowners voluntarily steward their land through conservation easements and protection strategies
- **Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District** – Dave Downing, *District Manager & Watershed Tech Specialist* - Technical assistance including site visits, management plans, restoration projects, and soil testing
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** - Federal conservation programs for ag landowners, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- **Oregon State University Extension Groundwater Quality Education** – Chrissy Lucas, *Outreach Program Coordinator* - Groundwater health. **\*Bring in a sample of your groundwater for free nitrate testing!\***

- **Oregon State University Extension Small Farms Program** – Teagan Moran, *Educational Program Assistant*  
- Resources on topics including weed management, soil health and water resources, pasture and grazing management, and more
- **Paul Atkinson**, owner, Laughing Stock Farm. Paul and his wife, Sid, have participated in an LTWC habitat restoration project to improve fish passage and re-meander a stream through their pasture. They also have a conservation easement through Northwest Conservation Land Trust on the property
- **Trey Hagen**, owner, Confluence Farms. Trey & Tammie Hagen and their family have participated in a couple LTWC habitat restoration projects, and their land is also entered into a conservation easement through McKenzie River Trust.



*Amazon Creek at High Pass Road. This is our furthest downstream pesticide sampling location. Learn more about our PSP data results at the Feb 26 event!*

Questions about this event? Rob: 541-338-7055, [operations@longtom.org](mailto:operations@longtom.org)

## **Intern Profile: Sara Worl**

Sara is a masters student and graduate employee in Environmental Studies at the University of Oregon studying Environmental Justice and Land Management. While attending the Klamath TRES prescribed burn training hosted by the Karuk Tribe and the Mid Klamath Watershed Council this past fall, she met Katie MacKendrick and was introduced to the great work of the LTWC. While interning with the LTWC she will be working with Team Traditional Ecological Knowledge, assisting with management plans for landowners doing oak restoration, and helping out with monitoring projects.

Sara has always felt incredibly grateful to call the Willamette valley home. Originally from Beaverton, Sara moved to Eugene in 2002 to attend the UO. After graduating with a BA in Planning, Public Policy and Management she worked for nonprofit community development organizations in Oregon and Brazil. In 2013 she started working with the Willamette National Forest and Northwest Youth Corps in youth engagement and civil rights programs. This work led her pursue a masters degree in Environmental Studies at the University of Oregon. While not at school Sara enjoys cross country skiing, cooking, directing summer camps, and many river-related activities.

Thank you, Sara, for bringing your talents and energy to LTWC!



*Sara at the November biochar demonstration and training*

## Help Put our Next Fish Passage Milestone Within Reach!

Each winter, juvenile spring Chinook salmon leave the high flows of the Willamette and swim up the Long Tom to Monroe, Oregon. There, a small dam owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers blocks their upstream passage to over 100 miles of important rearing habitat in the Long Tom and its tributaries. Over the last 21 years, the council, and the watershed community has worked together to enhance this habitat for other native fish through the replacement of barrier culverts, installation of large woody debris to enhance in-stream habitat, and restoration of riparian areas to manage temperatures and improve water quality. Now, the resident coastal cutthroat trout, speckled dace, and reddsides are ready to welcome their long absent seasonal native neighbors, juvenile Spring Chinook salmon, back to the watershed (see photos on next page!)



In support of the two-decade effort of on the ground work, the council has been working in earnest with local partners including the City of Monroe and the Army Corps of Engineers for the last four years to find a fish passage solution at the Monroe dam that benefits these tiny salmon, the growth aspirations of the city of Monroe, and the health of the entire watershed.

But we need your help to keep the effort going! We have already secured a total of \$108,000 in combined grants, and donations from local donors, toward the coming year's work on this project. In a few short weeks the watershed council will be sharing important information and next steps about this project, and asking the watershed community to help us raise an additional \$70,000 needed to propel this work this year! Keep an eye on your inboxes and mailboxes for more information about this exciting vision for the watershed, and how you can be a part of it.

**Did you know?** FOUR vital streams for fish habitat are now free of priority barriers to fish passage in the Long Tom Watershed! Ferguson Creek, Owens Creek, Bear Creek (Coyote Creek tributary), and now Jordan Creek are able to provide essential spawning, juvenile rearing, and cold water refuge habitat. **This monumental achievement happened because of YOU. It's a success we can celebrate in the 21 years of partnerships with incredible private landowners and the generous support of individual donors and partners in the community. Thank you** for helping to improve our home watershed for native fish!



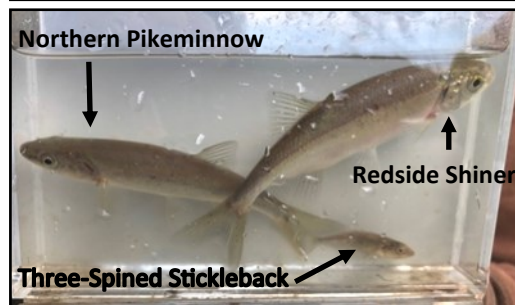
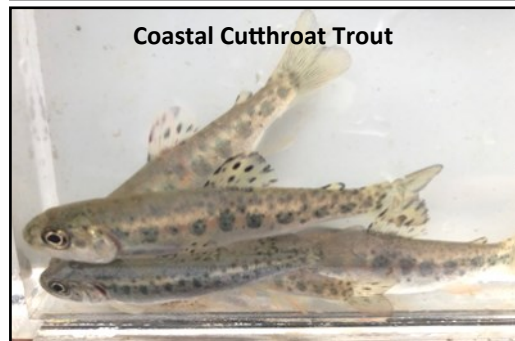
*Last summer, LTWC replaced the final priority fish passage barrier on Jordan Creek with this 14-foot wide culvert on Camp Murname, owned by the Boy Scouts of America. Thanks to the landowners and Roseburg Resources for their contributions to this project!*

## Native Fish of the Long Tom!

As part of the efforts of LTWC, Army Corps, and the City of Monroe to find a fish passage solution for the lower Long Tom, we've also started a fish survey to find out more about the fish species present and when they're using the river. In late January, LTWC's fish biologist, Jed Kaul, joined Karen Hans of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to sample fish below the dam on the mainstem of the Long Tom River in Monroe. In their very first pass with the seine net, they captured two juvenile Chinook salmon, including this yearling pictured at right!

While most people don't think of the Long Tom when they think of salmon, the Long Tom River is an essential part of this fish's complex life history in the Willamette Basin. Wild fish born in the McKenzie or Middle Fork Willamette make their way down the Willamette mainstem during winter's high flows in search of rearing habitat like the Long Tom has to offer. The warmer, slower and naturally clay-silted and nutrient rich waters make for great places to hide and get a little bigger before heading out to sea. Historically juvenile fish would have been common in many parts of the Long Tom system this time of year. The small dam in Monroe prevents these fish from accessing much of their historical range.

Alongside this wild spring Chinook the team also captured and observed other native fish including five young coastal cutthroat trout (middle photo), a northern pikeminnow, reddsider shiner, and a three-spined stickleback!



## Monroe High School Students Participating in Fish Survey!

The Monroe High School is also participating in the fish survey! Earlier this month, students began a data collection effort in the Long Tom River and an adjacent side channel behind the school. Mary Palmer is the Monroe science teacher and is involving each of her six science classes over the next couple weeks. The goal of the project is to provide high school students and other interested community members with an opportunity to explore the river in their own backyard and learn more about the fish species inhabiting the river, and also provide more data for fisheries scientists on the types of species present and when they use the river. Karen Hans, fish biologist at ODFW, is helping to lead this educational study with LTWC.

So far, students have found cutthroat trout, several dozen native three-spined stickleback, and also a couple non-native mosquitofish, a non-native bluegill, and plenty of rough-skinned newts!

Many thanks to Monroe High School and Karen Hans for making this happen!



# Thank you to our generous donors for your support!

## **Project & Program Match**

Linda & Doug Carnine  
(Traditional Ecological Knowledge  
Youth Education Program)  
Roseburg Resources  
(Jordan Creek Restoration Project)

## **Faith Community Fund**

Elizabeth Halpern  
Chuck & Katharine Hunt—  
in honor of the Marriage of Betsy  
Halpern & John  
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Penny Palmer  
Letha & James Pontius  
Richard & Ty Zeller

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Harold Hushbeck  
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Sara & Robert Kaul  
(Jed's Mom & Dad)  
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Darian & Kaisa Lightfoot  
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Anonymous—In memory of Piper  
Anonymous (6)

## **Annual Celebration Sponsors**

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Weyerhaeuser Company

## **Rent Donation**

Lee and Veronica Davis

## **Taste the Watershed**

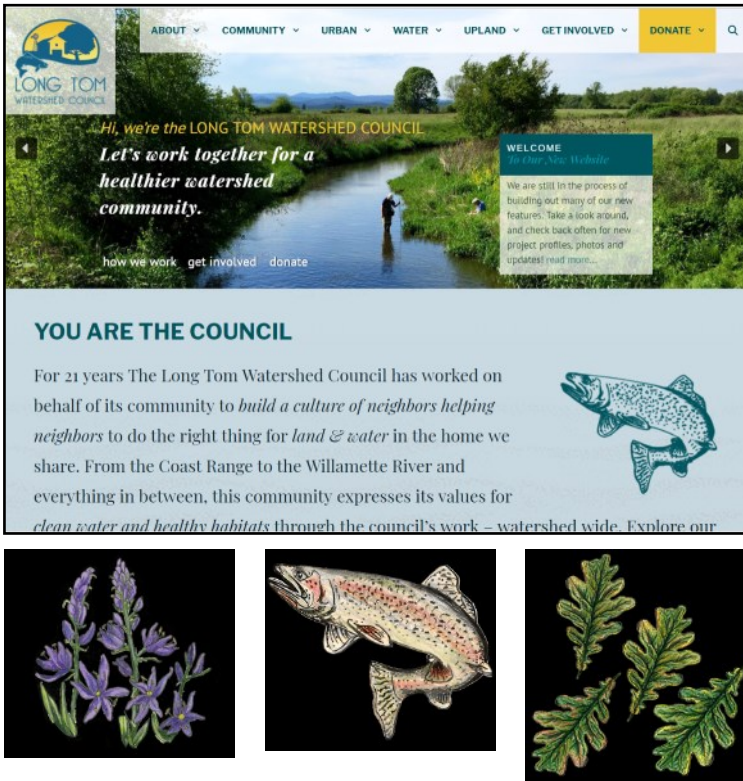
Hot Mama's Kitchen & Bar  
Oregon Wine Lab  
WildCraft Cider Works



Monkey Flower (image from Coyote Creek South project)

# Watch for LTWC's New-Look Website!

Our website is receiving a facelift! The council is updating some key design elements and navigational features of our website to modernize its look and make it easier for people to use. New features will include a project viewer! Keep an eye out for our new-look website in the very near future! [Longtom.org](http://Longtom.org).



## LTWC Board of Directors

### Lower Long Tom

Alec Hrynshyn

### At Large

Ginnie Grilley, *Vice-Chair*

Darian Lightfoot

Pat McDowell

Jonathan Powell, *Vice-Chair*

### Upper Long Tom

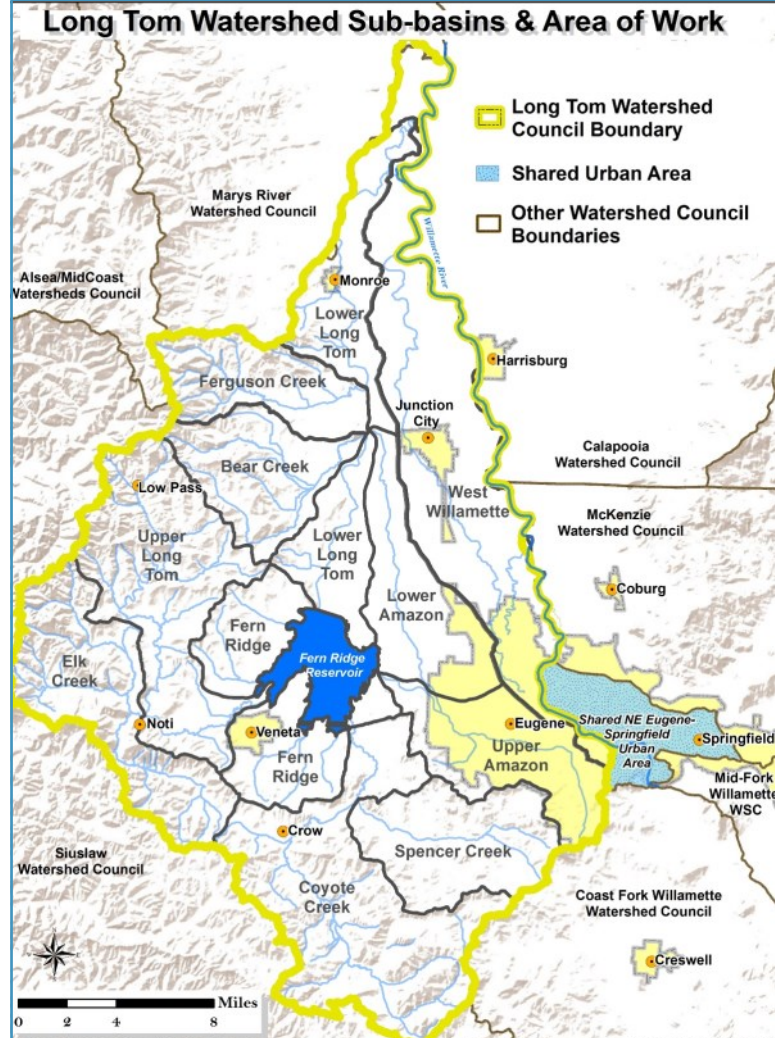
Lindsay Reaves, *Secretary*

Jabrila Via

### Amazon

Shelly Miller, *Chair*

Dave Thomas, *Treasurer*



## Upcoming Events

### \*Likely Next Public Meeting Date\*

Tuesday, March, 6 - 8 p.m.

Location and topic TBD

**Watch for more info on our next newsletter, Facebook, and our new-look website!**

## Council Staff Contacts

Clinton Begley, *Watershed Coordinator/ED*: 541-654-8965

Rob Hoshaw, *Operations Director*: 338-7055

Dana Dedrick, *Special Projects Lead*: 654-8965

Jed Kaul, *Fish Biologist*: 338-7058

Katie MacKendrick, *Ecologist*: 338-7033

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

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

Heidi Heisler, *Fiscal Manager*: 338-7042

Sarah Pollock, *Administrative Assistant*: 338-7055

Miranda Hawkes, *Stormwater Drafter/Designer*: 654-8965

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!

## Grants Secured for Team TEK Youth Education Program!

We would like to thank the Spirit Mountain Community Fund (SMCF) and the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund (STCC) for their generosity in supporting the engagement of Native youth in learning about traditional ecological knowledge, history, and culture. SMCF will be contributing \$25,000 towards the Team TEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) Youth Education Program, and STCCF is contributing \$1,200 toward supplies for a traditional camas bake event for the youth later this spring or summer.

These grantors are helping to leverage the more than \$60,000 in previous grants and the generous donations from community members and partners that have been instrumental in launching this program. It is our hope that this youth education program will

lead to more Native voices involved in habitat restoration, and also provide opportunities for Native youth to explore potential college and career pathways in conservation and restoration.

We also want to thank the numerous Tribal members, staff, and educators who have helped form this tremendous partnership. Many thanks to SMCF and STCCF for your generous contributions!



*LTWC Operations Director Rob Hoshaw (left) at the STCCF check presentation in February*

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## Voluntary Stormwater Project Results in Reduced Testing Requirements!

We want to recognize one of our first Trout Friendly Landscape project partners for an awesome achievement! Earlier this month, Gibson Steel Basins in west Eugene learned they were able to opt out of future testing for a number of pollutants under their DEQ-issued 1200-Z industrial stormwater permit. This means that the business has tested below benchmark levels for several consecutive tests on a list of pollutants that include pH, total suspended solids, oil and grease, copper (total & dissolved), lead (total & dissolved), zinc (total), nitrates and nitrites, arsenic, and more. As a result, DEQ has determined they won't need to test for those constituents until the next permit reissuance in 2022, saving several years worth of testing fees.



About four years ago, LTWC partnered with Gibson Steel Basins to identify several water quality improvement strategies, starting with a 3,000 square foot rain garden. The rain garden is a vegetated stormwater facility that treats an acre and a half of impervious surfaces including the roof and outdoor work spaces. This achievement provides key data supporting the effectiveness of urban stormwater facilities like this one in reducing the amount of pollutants that enter our streams! Other water quality improvement strategies that were identified by LTWC and implemented by Gibson Steel Basins include roof treatment for the galvanized roof, more frequent site and catchment basin cleaning. Kudos to Gibson Steel for their commitment to helping create a cleaner and healthier watershed!