LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

October 2003

Annual Meeting
Tuesday, October 28, 2003 6:30-9:15
Lower Amazon Subbasin—EWEB training room

Happy Halloween!

AGENDA

6:30 Social

7:00 Welcome by the Steering Committee

7:15 Business
Charter changes
Affirming new Steering Committee members

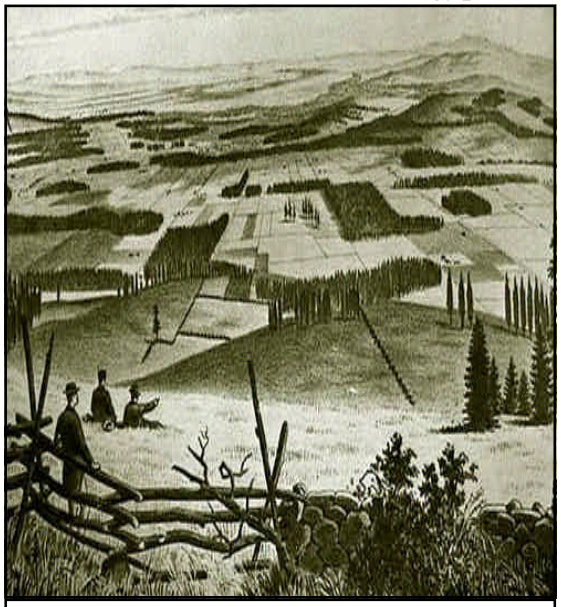
7:45 Mission and goals

7:50 Council Coordinator's presentation
Dana Erickson

8:20 Projects and Monitoring presentation
Cindy Thieman

8:50 "Funding raising"
Finance Committee

9:15 Wrap up and Adjourn



Willamette Valley circa 1888. (Author unknown)

Next Month

Join us in Monroe
Tues, November 25, 6:30-9:15

Directions and information in the next newsletter or contact Dana Erickson at 683-6578.

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.

Watershed News

Long Tom Watershed Council
Steering Committee: Membership 2003
Status as of Oct 15, 2003

Lower Long Tom sub-basin

1. Mike Kesling, Field Dept Manager, SureCrop Farm Service, (serving 2001-05)
2. Open, Agricultural Landowner (serving 2003-06)*
3. Dave DeCou, Agricultural Landowner, One Step Forward Farm (serving 2001-04) Vice-Chair

Amazon sub-basin

1. Anita Ragan, Eugene resident, (serving 1999-2004) Treasurer
2. Scott Duckett, Wetlands and Open Waterways Manager, City of Eugene, (serving 2002-2005)
3. Rich Margerum, UO Professor of Community and Regional Planning (serving 2003-06)*

Upper Long Tom sub-basin

1. Rick Allison, Poodle Creek landowner, (serving 2000-05) Chair
2. Open, (serving 2003-06) Co-Secretary*
3. Larry Rhodes, Woodland Owner, Professor of Education (serving 2001-04) Co-Secretary

At-large

1. Ryan Collay, Educator and Spencer Creek landowner, (serving 2002-05)
2. Chris Massingill, Riparian Ecologist, (serving 2003-06)*
3. Duane Zentner, Forester, Roseburg Resources, (serving 2002-05)

*Denotes new member, or open position for which we are in the midst of conducting interviews.

"We never know the worth of water 'til the well is dry."

-English Proverb

Watershed News

Each month, volunteer editor Jim Ekins arranges a column for the West Lane and Tri-County News on behalf of the Long Tom Watershed Council. Submissions of topics are always welcome, as is an offer to write a column, or a name of someone you think could. Authors get their names in the byline of the article! For more information, contact Jim at ekinsja@yahoo.com.

A Change of Season

A distinctly cool humid breeze breaks my contemplation of the swift water below. I look up from the "to do list" (#3: pile split and crimped irrigation pipe near the gate, #4: tow the disker back to the shop) just in time to catch the final fleeting moments of a mourning dove's life as it twists and turns in mid flight, ultimately incapable of out maneuvering its pursuer. A tasty meal indeed for the young sharp shinned hawk--the dove has fattened itself on the oats that inevitably escaped the thresher last month.

The distant ridge is ablaze with alpenglow from the sun's oblique light blasting under the early morning clouds' abrupt edge 15 miles to the east. An incoming front crosses the valley, verga standing out as glowing fingers piercing the lower atmosphere. I wave to the old man driving an early 1950's Ferguson 30, carting today's feed to the group of illegally cute alpaca watching me from the opposite revetment.

I check the "to do" list to find, #5: clean osprey nesting towers. The ospreys have gone by now, instinctively tempted by warmer climes far to the south. The fishing is not so good anyway. The flow of the Long Tom gradually swelled since last Tuesday with Fern Ridge's autumnal drawdown. There, the private sailboats and public floating privy have been brought ashore. The spring rains will again fill the reservoir; meanwhile winter floods in the valley can usually be avoided. But, I think to myself, it's not winter yet. The airspace above and below remains quite busy. Mergansers sprint upriver between and below the banks while a giant flock of noisy starlings herd the local red tailed hawk around. Higher yet are the first flocks of southwardly mobile geese—or perhaps they are just locals looking for a field in which to graze the day away. Almost lost in the clouds, two vultures kettle their way above the landscape, seeking some unfortunate critter's deathbed. Then the first spittle of rain checks my cheek and I reconsider my denial of the winter's onslaught.

A month from now, this place will be quiet but for the faint hiss of a chilly drizzle. Soil will turn to mud, winged creatures will turn southward, the alpacas will return to their barn stalls, and fallen leaves will turn to duff. I finally turn away from the Long Tom to check on my trees and to complete the frenzied pre-winter to-do list.

Thanks Jim!

Coordinator's Letter

LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL
751 S. Danebo Ave ❖ Eugene OR 97402
www.longtom.org

October 2003

Dear Watershed Residents and Friends,

As the season changes in Oregon, so changes our Steering Committee composition and list of work plan activities. And although our budget has taken a few blows this year - $20,000 off Council Support and only 6 months secured for the monitoring program, I am confident we can work together to improve those pieces. The rest looks solid for 2003-05 thanks to Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and our partners. I am looking forward to working with the Council as we continue to learn about and discuss watershed issues, monitor water quality, find solutions to known impairments, implement projects, and simply do better in our land and water stewardship each day.

The volunteer spirit of the Long Tom Watershed Council members still impresses me each day...

…**The talents of the new Steering Committee members** joining us…

…**The leadership abilities of our continuing Steering members**…

…**The commitment of our outgoing Steering members** to continue their efforts in education, research, projects, and committee work…

…**The dedication of the water quality monitoring volunteers** out there every month in our streams, even as the weather turns to the unpredictable and sometimes sopping wet Oregon fall…

…**The landowners and managers doing projects** for restoration and conservation…

…**The dedication of professionals** stepping up to serve as facilitators, group advisors, committee members, news column editors, map makers, technical support, and valuable worker-bees at large…

…And **the willingness of each person** coming to the table to share perspectives, lending your hands and your voice in a community effort to maintain and improve the water quality and habitat of this watershed.

Overall, this is certainly a long term effort, and very tough, but I keep hearing that so many find it rewarding because of the people we're each getting to know, and the changes we're already seeing.

Please join us at our Annual Meeting to be held Tuesday, October 28th, 6:30 p.m. at Eugene Water and Electric Board's training room. We'll affirm and welcome the Steering Committee, ask you to review and approve some simple changes to our 1998 Charter to reflect the current way the Council operates, and regale you with stories and slideshows of the progress we've made.

Sincerely and with a smile to you,

Dana Erickson
Coordinator

Annoncements & Opportunities

Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 25th

Planting Tugman Creek

Tuesday, October 28th

Long Tom Watershed Council Meeting

6:30-9:15 EWEB Training Room
500 E. 4th Ave, Eugene

October 22,23,28,29,30, 2003

DEQ Public Meetings for Groundwater Management Area

See facing page for details

Friday-Sunday November 14-16, 2003

Sustainable Business Symposium

University of Oregon

Proposed Charter Changes

In accordance with the provisions for amending our 1998 Charter, the Steering Committee will present the following substantive changes to reflect the way the Council operates now and leave some flexibility for the future.

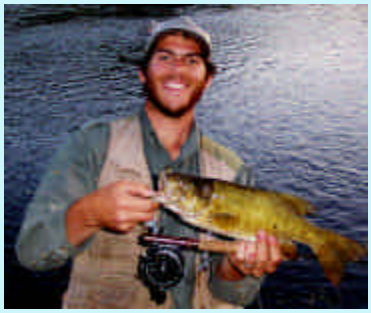
1) Change Steering Committee terms from two to three years. This allows for slightly less rotation, four people per year instead of six, to create a more knowledgeable and efficient committee.

2) Allow Steering to appoint interim people to fill a vacant position until the next normal rotation, as is the custom with many organizations. Council still approves regular vacancies, and affirms new members each year.

3) State that at least six meetings of the full Council are held each year, instead of stating that they are held monthly except December. Already, the Council had found that meeting in August produced low turnouts, and for the future the Program Committee is looking to produce quality in balance with quantity of meetings in the future. They specifically need the option of less monthly meetings in order to plan and deliver more complex and action-oriented workshops and sub-watershed problem-solving sessions.

A New Face

Hi! My name is Brian Issa, and I will be working with the council for the next year as your new "Monitoring and Outreach Assistant". I'm a recent graduate of the U of O Community and Regional Planning Masters program and have undergraduate degrees in Biology and Environmental Soil/Water Science from Utah State University. I grew up in rural Utah and moved to Oregon in 1999. As a fisherman, a scientist, and a citizen, I have a keen interest in the protection and restoration of our waterways. It's exciting to be working with you to further this purpose. If you see me out and about doing water quality testing, stop and say hi!



Annoncements & Opportunities

Sustainable Business Symposium

"Who's Profiting and How"
University of Oregon

Plan now to attend one of the longest-running sustainability conferences in the Northwest, in the newly completed, sustainable Lillis Business Complex! **The 7th Annual Sustainable Business Symposium** features a sustainable products exposition, panels, workshops, and speakers, providing concrete examples of how businesses can simultaneously increase profits, decrease ecological impacts and increase investment in the social capital of our communities.

Speakers include Donna Wilson (VP of Human Resources, VanCity), Carsten Henningsen, (co-founder, Portfolio 21), Alan Durning (founder and Executive Director, Northwest Environment Watch), and John Cusack (founder and President, Gifford Park Associates). In addition, the symposium will host a Friday night local vs. corporate debate featuring Michael Shuman (director, Green Policy Institute) and Jack Roberts (Oregon Labor Commissioner).

The Sustainable Business Symposium is a non-profit volunteer run event. The Symposium is **FREE** and **OPEN to the public**.

For more information visit
http://www.uoregon.edu/~sbs/
or call (541) 346-0670

DEQ is Proposing a Groundwater Management Area for the Southern Willamette Valley

DEQ recently completed a three year study on groundwater quality in the Southern Willamette Valley (SWV). The SWV is one of the fastest growing areas of the state, and the majority of public water systems and private well owners rely on shallow groundwater for drinking water supplies. Based on groundwater sampling conducted by DEQ in 2000-2003, approximately 20% of the wells sampled contained more than 7 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of nitrate, and more than 35% of those wells were over the public drinking water standard of 10 mg/L of nitrate. Nitrate in the SWV is not a naturally occurring contaminant, and the study indicates that nonpoint sources such as septic systems and fertilizers are among the primary causes for the pollution.

In October and November, DEQ will be asking for public comment on our proposal to declare a Groundwater Management Area for part of the SWV, which is statutorily required if assessment information indicates widespread nitrate groundwater contamination.

Meetings will be held:
October 22, 7 p.m., Greenberry Grange, *corner of Hwy 99 W and Greenberry;*
October 23, 2 p.m., Public Service Bldg, *530 NW 27th, Corvallis;*
October 23, 7 p.m., Tangent Farm Service Agency; *33630 McFarland Rd., Tangent*
October 28, 2 p.m., Harrisburg Town Hall, *354 Smith Street, Harrisburg;*
October 29, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, *680 Greenwood, Junction*

Annoncements & Opportunities

Planting Tugman Creek
Saturday, October 25th
10:00 to noon

Have you seen the new course of Tugman Creek? The small incised channel has been give a more natural meander through the park to create several types of wetland habitats. Now that the construction is over is time to put in native plants that have been cultivated at the Native Plant Nursery by volunteers just for this project. We have about 800 shrubs, plants and bulbs to plant and hope you can lend a hand a week from this Saturday. We will supply tools, gloves and instructions. PLEASE dress for the weather and for mud! If it is blowing or raining hard we will not work but if it is just a drizzle we will. It will be very helpful if you let me know if you are coming so that I can supply the right amount of tools and snacks. Thanks and hope to see you soon!

YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT HERE!!

If you have an announcement that you would like to have printed in the newsletter, please call or email Brian at 683-6949 (bissa@darkwing.uoregon.edu). We're also looking for stories, watershed news items, history tidbits, comments and suggestions.

Remember: This is YOUR newsletter!!

Thank You!!

Outgoing Steering Committee Members

Michael James, Scott Gibson, Anna Scott
Bart Johnson,

Michele Stowe – Americorp Intern 02-03
Lauri Mullen - News column editor 02-03
John Moriarty - Council facilitator, advisor
Mindy Sandford - Steering Committee recorder from City of Veneta
Art Johnson - Project landowner

Water Quality Monitoring Volunteers

Lane Metro Youth Corps (Andy Meskil), NW Youth Corps, Will Peters, Andy Strickland, Nancy Hafner, Cathy Glaudin, Paul Atkinson, Paul Reed, Dawn Lesley, Jack Detweiler, Carl DiPaolo, John Dillard, Brian Green, Erik Osborn, and Rolf Anderson. Dave and Suzanne Turner have recently joined the team and will be monitoring the Ferguson Creek sites. **Special thanks to ALL volunteers and their families for their support, time, and energy!!!**

Thanks Amazon Working Group Members!

Ed Alverson, Lorna Baldwin, Jason Blazar
Paul Engelking, Andy Gilmore
Michael James, David Monk, Jared Rubin
Dennis Todd, Therese Walch
Duane Zentner

Facilitator:
John Moriarty

Interns:
Dan Hurley

Projects & Monitoring Update

By Cindy Thieman, Projects & Monitoring Coordinator

Changes to our Water Quality Monitoring Program

Council volunteers and staff have been monitoring water quality since September of 1999 for parameters including dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, conductivity, pH, *E. coli*, nitrates, phosphorus, and total suspended solids. Here is a quick summary of results and how we've revised the program for the new grant applications. The full monitoring report will be available by the end of this month and we'll post it to the website soon after. There will be a presentation on results, including color maps, at the Annual Meeting October 28th..

Most striking are the results showing high *E. coli* levels in several sub-watersheds. As shown in earlier studies, Amazon and Coyote Creek have chronic *E. coli* problems. In addition, very high levels have been found in Bear Creek, Ferguson Creek and at the outlet of Fern Ridge Reservoir. Data from these sub-watersheds is new information since no bacterial data had been collected at these sites before the Council's monitoring program.

Data for dissolved oxygen and water temperature suggest problems at all downstream sites during the summer months. Both nitrate and phosphorus are a concern in the upper and lower Amazon sub-watersheds and the lower Long Tom River. The upper sub-watershed drains the City of Eugene and the lower sub-watershed and the lower Long Tom River drain high-density, irrigated cropland.

Conductivity and **pH** data follow predictable trends, increasing in the summer (especially at downstream sites), and decreasing in the winter. Because there is no state standard for this parameter it is difficult to say whether conductivity levels are a problem. At our urban and agricultural sites there are distinct spikes in conductivity during the summer months. This may relate to use of fertilizer and other chemicals, as well as slower flows which concentrate salts.

Turbidity data show spikes associated with winter storm events. According to state guidance criteria (i.e. not an official standard) turbidity levels exceeding 50 NTU are detrimental to many aquatic organisms. At certain sites, turbidity levels have exceeded 50 NTU during the winter.

Starting in August we began a revised watershed-monitoring program that builds on the water quality data we have collected over the past 4 years. The components of the updated program are:

1. Elimination of *E. coli*, nitrogen and phosphorus sampling at sites where these parameters have not shown impairment.
2. Increased sampling for *E. coli*, nitrogen and phosphorus in sub-watersheds where they have been identified as a problem.
3. Modified monthly water quality field monitoring (temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and conductivity) at 18 baseline sites. pH has been discontinued as it has not shown impairment. Dissolved oxygen will not be measured December-March.
4. Continue continuous temperature monitoring at 34 baseline sites.
5. Macroinvertebrate sampling at randomly selected sites in each sub-watershed.
6. Fish trapping on upper stream reaches in the watershed.

Two changes that we will make to the monthly field-monitoring program will be to **no longer measure pH and to only measure dissolved oxygen from April through November.** Data from the past 3 years have shown that streams in the watershed are not impaired for pH and that dissolved oxygen levels meet state standards at all sites during winter months. We will continue monitoring temperature in the summer at 34 established sites using Vemco dataloggers, which record temperature on an hourly basis. These data are relatively inexpensive to collect and provide important information on water quality trends. The design of the field-monitoring portion of the program is outlined in Table 1 on the following page.

Projects & Monitoring Update continued...

Table 1. Parameters for the Monthly Field Monitoring

# of Sites	Parameters	Sampling Frequency	Method
18	Temperature	Monthly (single readings)	Conductivity meter thermometer
34	Temperature	Hourly: May - November	Vemco data-loggers
18	Turbidity	Monthly	Portable field meter
18	Conductivity	Monthly	Portable field meter
18	Stream Flow	Monthly	Stream height measurement
18	Dissolved Oxygen	Monthly: April - November	Winkler titration

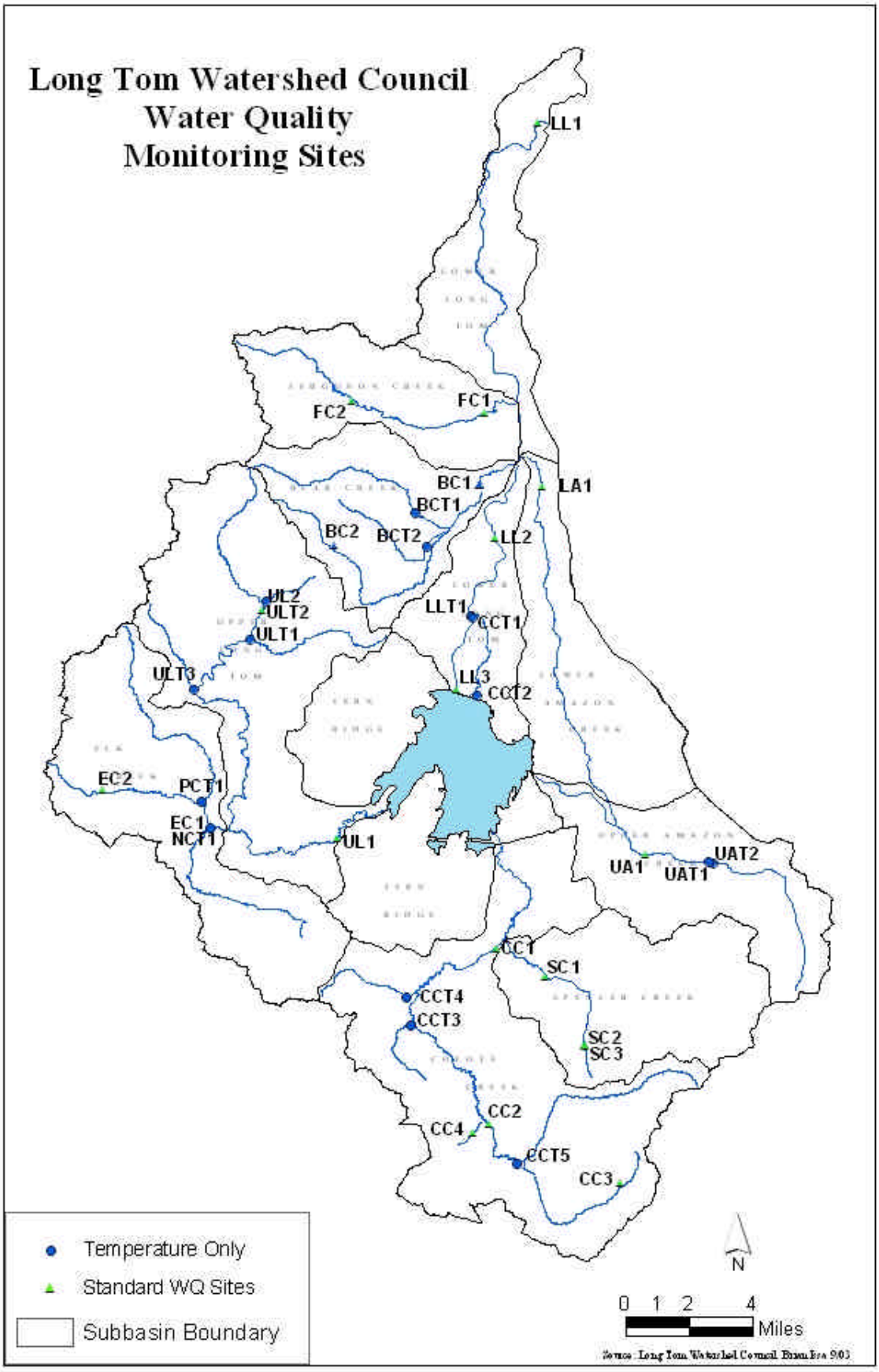
Several sub-watersheds are impaired for *E. coli* and a few are impaired for nutrients. Because of this we are adding bacteria monitoring locations in the Bear Creek, Ferguson Creek, Coyote Creek, and Elk Creek sub-watersheds. We are adding monitoring locations for nitrate and phosphorus in the lower Amazon sub-watershed. We have elected not to add bacteria or nutrient sites in upper Amazon Creek because the City of Eugene already conducts this type of monitoring at numerous locations. Table 2 summarizes sampling sites for field monitoring, bacteria, nitrogen and phosphorus monitoring. Data showing where bacteria and nutrients are coming from in a sub-watershed have been requested by landowners during our Sub-watershed Enhancement Program meetings. Providing these data is very important so that landowners can problem-solve the impairments in their own area.

Table 2. Monitoring Sites & Parameters for each Sub-watershed

Sub-watershed	Field Monitoring Sites	# Bacteria Monitoring Sites	# Nitrate Monitoring Sites	#Phosphorus Monitoring Sites
Bear Creek	BC1, BC2	BC1, + 3 addtl.	None	BC1
Coyote Creek	CC1, CC2, CC4	CC1, CC2, +1 addtl.	None	CC1, CC2
Elk Creek	EC1, EC2	EC1 + 3 addtl.	EC1	EC1
Fern Ridge	LL3	LL3	LL3	LL3
Ferguson Creek	FC1, FC2	FC1, + 4 addtl.	FC1	FC1
Lower Amazon	LA1	LA1	LA1 + 3 addtl.	LA1 + 3 addtl.
Spencer Creek	SC1, SC2	SC1	None	SC1
Lower Long Tom	LL1, LL2	LL1, LL2	LL1, LL2	LL1, LL2
Upper Amazon	UA1	UA1	UA1	UA1
Upper Long Tom	UL1, UL2	UL1, UL2	None	UL1, UL2
Total # samples (collected every 2 months)		24	10	16

FACT: 180 million gallons of motor oil are improperly disposed of in streams, sewers, landfills, or on the ground each year in the U.S., that's more than 16 Exxon Valdez spills!

Projects & Monitoring Update continued...



Projects & Monitoring Update continued...

Macroinvertebrate Sampling

In addition to the changes mentioned on the previous page, we will begin sampling for macroinvertebrates if our monitoring program continues to be funded next year. There are several important reasons to collect macroinvertebrate data.

- First, in about 25% of cases, macroinvertebrate data will indicate problems with stream health that water quality data alone will not.
- Second, they integrate both water quality conditions over time and the stream's physical habitat.
- Third, macroinvertebrate data can be used to identify key stressors affecting stream organisms.

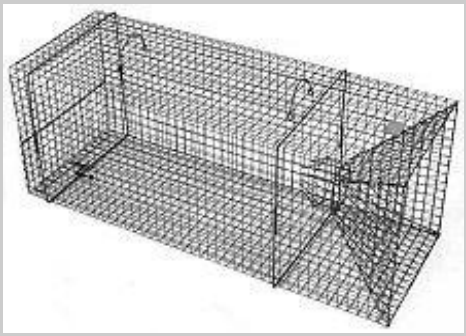
We will collect samples once every five years to use as an indicator of long-term stream health and improvements to stream conditions correlated with restoration efforts in the Watershed.

Did You Know???

Caddis flies are of the order Trichoptera, have four hairy wings usually held back rooflike over the abdomen, long antennae, and chewing mouthparts. Most Caddis build their underwater homes from various stream components such as pebbles, twigs and leaf pieces in a tubular shape, or some will resemble a long four sided pyramid. Others build their homes from a web-like material they produce. Search for these insect homes and gently pick them apart to reveal the larva. Some, like the 'Rock Worm' (Rhyacophila), have no nest until pupation, or just prior to emergence.

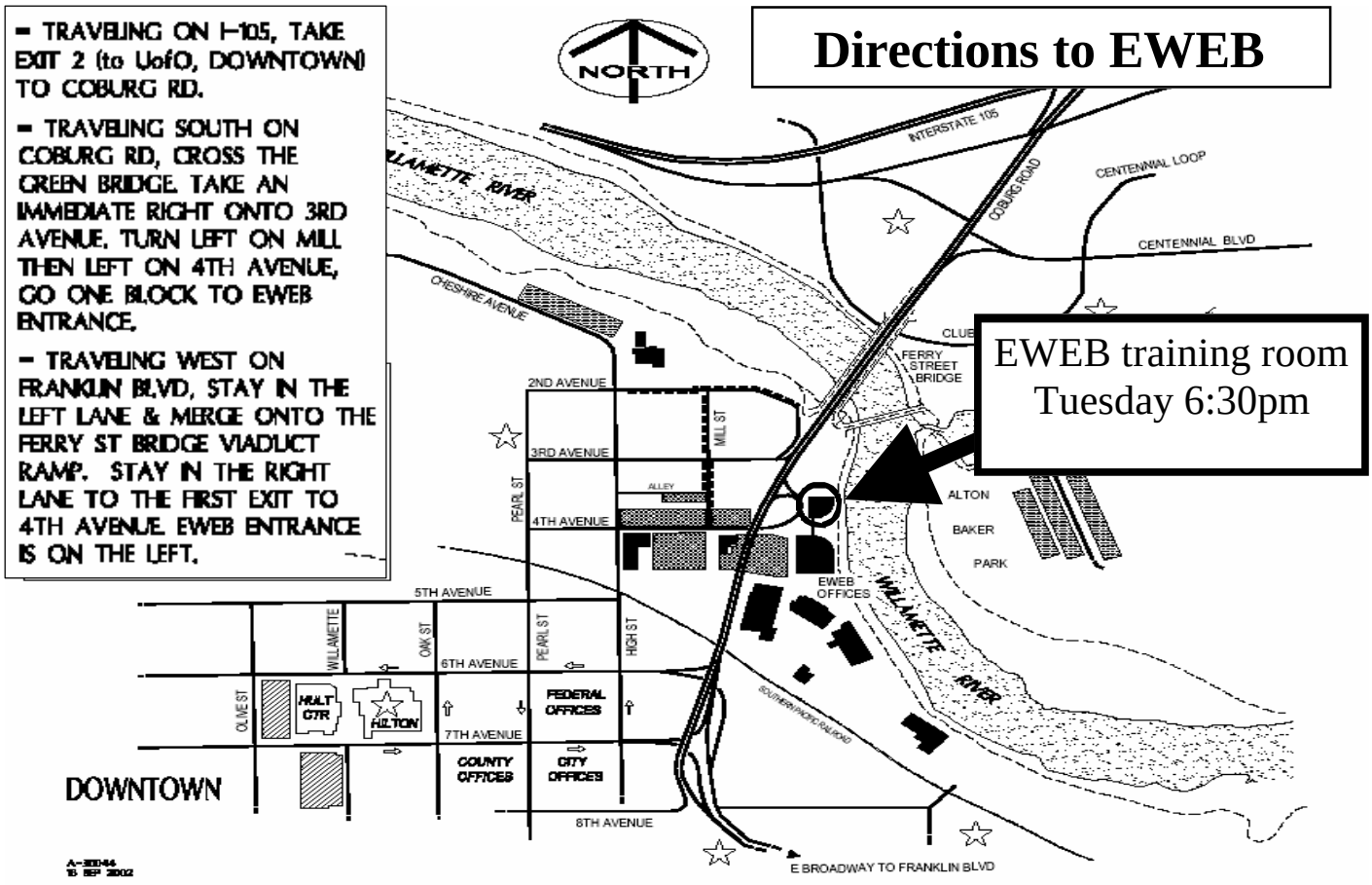
Fish Traps

The final addition to our monitoring program will be to lend out fish traps to landowners interested in learning which fish live in their local streams. Several people from Albany NW Steelheaders recently constructed 2 fish traps for us. Traps are constructed of rebar, plastic mesh, and zip ties and although cost effective, are quite labor intensive to assemble. Our traps are 3 feet in diameter and about 7 feet long. Construction is similar to the picture at right with some major innovations courtesy of the volunteers. Thanks Steelheaders!



If you have a small creek running through your property and are interested in borrowing a fish trap this winter please contact Cindy Thieman at 683-2983.

FACT: ***The oldest known fish trap found near Petersburg, Alaska was over 5,000 years old!***



Long Tom Watershed Council
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Please call or email me to correct your mailing info, or **get this newsletter by email and save us postage!**
Dana Erickson, (541) 683-6578