LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

April 2004

Monthly Meeting **Tuesday, April 27, 2004 6:30-9:15** Upper Long Tom —Veneta Community Center

Please bring snacks to share - we'll do the drinks! Upper Long Tom folks, would you be so kind as to bring snacks?

AGENDA

(Facilitation by John Moriarty M.S.)

- 6:30 Sign-in, Browse Info, and Socialize
- 7:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 7:10 Off-Highway Vehicle Use: Panel and Q&A Session

Moderator: John Moriarty, Facilitation & Mediation Services

Panel Members:

Dale Claassen, Swanson-Superior LLC, Noti Paul Clements, OR Dept. of Forestry, W. Lane District, Veneta Drum Evans, Emerald Trail Riders Venessa Johnston (or other club member), Junction City Jeepers Sara Leiman, small woodland owner, Lower Long Tom

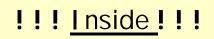
Also attending for discussion: Mike Law, Oregon State Parks ORV Coordinator (stationed at Honeyman State Park).

8:40 Small Grant Program Local priorities for the funds available—and how to apply Dennis Todd, Council Member, Grant Team Member

- 9:00 Announcements and Reports
- 9:10 Wrap-up and Adjourn



This month's meeting is a panel discussion of the issues surrounding Off-Highway Vehicle Use



OHV Panel Discussion

Red-legged Frogs

Projects and Monitoring Update

Riparian Assessment Training Workshop

Well Water Class

Wetlands Events

And MORE!!!

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

Red Legged Frogs

I am happy to see the red-legged frog tadpoles swimming about in the backyard duck pond. Personal preference aside, I find their presence worthwhile. Yesterday, a friend of mine, who is also a biologist studying red-legged frogs, explained that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Natural Heritage Program consider red-legged frogs a sensitive species. Studies suggest the likelihood that sites with red-legged frogs have more native fish and a fuller complement of some invertebrate fauna. Therefore, breeding red-legged frog populations may be an indication of less-degraded valley wetland. Here in the Long Tom River basin, these native frogs begin breeding activity in late January, and lay eggs between mid February, and mid March. By the end of March, eggs hatch, and tadpoles mature to young frogs by early July. Surprisingly little is known about how red-legged frogs spend their first summer, but they are thought to move overland into cooler, shady riparian forests to spend summer nights eating insects. In this way, they can survive summer's heat desiccating their winter rearing ponds.

Historically, they lived in sloughs, oxbow lakes, and seasonal ponds with nearby woods. Today, redlegged frogs also find habitat in ditches, watering ponds, and backyard garden ponds, as long as suitable space for them exists. Their breeding ponds generally have moderate to heavy vegetation cover, to which egg masses are attached, and amongst which feeding tadpoles find shelter during spring. It may also provide refuge for the juvenile red-legged frogs from the non-native (and hungry) bullfrog. Vegetation used for egg masses generally includes sedges and rushes, as well as small twigs. People can build habitat for red-legged frogs by encouraging native wetland

vegetation. Short of gigging pesky bullfrogs, draining small ponds in August will kill off virtually all bullfrog tadpoles, which generally require two years to mature. While they can survive surprisingly well in the muck, bullfrog tadpoles will be eliminated if the pond is totally dry at some point.

If that is not feasible, providing lots of cover will allow the red-legged frogs some advantage over their invasive counterparts.

Join the Long Tom Watershed Council for their next monthly meeting, 27April 2004, between 6:30pm and 9:00pm, in Veneta. For directions and information, please contact Dana Erickson at 683-6578.



www.lindamacdonald.com

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.

Council Meeting Backgrounder

OHV: Off-Highway Vehicle

Four-wheelers, dune buggies, motorcycles, trail bikes, snowmobiles, and other motorized vehicles intended primarily for use off of paved roads.

OHV Management, An Overview

By Brian Issa, Monitoring and Education Assistant

Since the late 1980's the sale and use of OHVs have risen significantly. In 2001, U.S. consumers were purchasing OHV,s at the rate of 1,500 per day, with nearly one-third of them doing so for the first time (US Department of the Interior BLM, 2001). In recent years, the popularity of motorized recreation has skyrocketed with interest in trailbikes and two-wheeled motorcycles declining in favor of four-wheeled All-Terrain-Vehicles (ATVs). These larger, more powerful machines are capable of accessing more remote and rugged areas than ever before. While most of this activity is focused on public lands, the sheer number of OHVs and blurry ownership boundaries can lead to spillover onto private lands. Landowners are increasingly concerned about trespassing, noise levels, and vandalism on and around their property. The rapid increase in the number of riders, and the resulting user conflicts, environmental damage, and demand for riding opportunities, have created a very complex problem for land managers trying to balance the issues of recreation provision and resource protection. This has also created a problem for people who ride responsibly, as there can be a negative public perception of OHV and ATV use.

Successful OHV management has three primary components, education, trail design, and enforcement.

Education

Education is the most important element in any OHV program, and the most difficult task to accomplish. OHV users are a highly mobile and independent group, and it can be difficult to create effective points of contact where educational activities can occur. This necessitates a multipronged approach to user education, requiring that land managers work cooperatively with user groups, OHV dealers, local businesses, and others to increase the number of opportunities to contact users. In some areas, users have used volunteers to establish contacts with riders in the field. These riders not only attempt to educate others, but exert a certain amount of positive peer pressure on their fellow users.

Continued on next page

According to USDA Forest Service, the number of OHV recreationists in US:	5 million in 1972 20 million in 1983
	28 million in 1995
	36 million in 2000

Council Meeting Backgrounder continued...

Trail Design (Provision of Recreation Opportunities)

Many land mangers view adequate provision of riding opportunities as the key to controlling off-trail riding and the resource damage that often results. However, history has shown that simply increasing the number of trails is <u>not</u> effective. OHV users are a diverse group, and land managers must understand exactly what type of experience users in their area are looking for. This requires direct and ongoing interaction with the riding community. Trails must also be properly designed and constructed to minimize erosion and to discourage off-trail travel.

One land manager referred to what he called the "ten-percenters", or the 10% of riders that don't obey the rules and cause the majority of resource damage. Although this is clearly an arbitrary figure, there are a fraction of users who do not ride responsibly. Riders and managers must work together to deal with these folks. Education efforts that target new riders stand a decent chance of shaping user behavior in a positive way before their riding behaviors have become ingrained. Education efforts must also be coupled with penalties for irresponsible riding.

Enforcement

The "ten-percenters" who do not ride responsibly need to know what the consequences will likely be for their actions. Both land mangers and OHV users alike have a stake in better enforcement of existing OHV regulations. OHV citations are seldom given, and fines are almost always in the range of fifty dollars. Most people involved agree that a more aggressive approach is needed. Frequent suggestions point to coordination with local law enforcement and imposing fines that "hurt" so that regulations become more than just words on paper. Some have even advocated a "3 strikes" policy with fines of 250 and 500 dollars for the first two offences, and OHV confiscation on the third infraction.

We look forward to an informative and lively conversation with panelists and Council members at this month's meeting in Veneta. Hope to see you there!

Council Meeting Panel

Arranged by Rolf Anderson, Program Committee

Questions:

1) What is your experience/involvement with Off-Highway vehicles? Why are so many people participating in this activity? What kinds of OHV uses does your group participate in (OHV Users)? What kinds of OHV activities do you see on the land you manage (land managers)? Audience Questions

2) How would you describe the issues with OHV activities - from the perspective of the land manager and the perspective of the OHV user? Audience Questions

3) What constitutes responsible use and management? Can you give specific examples of responsible use and management—where OHV activity is being done "right"? Who can do what to help make that happen? **Audience Questions**

Format:

Each panel member will address Question #1, then it will be open to audience questions. We'll address Question #2 and #3 in the same fashion, with Q&A after each.

Projects & Monitoring Update

By Cindy Thieman, Projects & Monitoring Coordinator

Riparian Restoration Project on the Upper Long Tom River

This restoration project is located on the upper Long Tom River, 3 miles west of Veneta, on private property. Here the Long Tom River cuts a sinuous path through a floodplain forest of conifers and hardwoods. Annually, floodwaters top the Long Tom's bank and flow through side channels and oxbows. Historically, the entire Long Tom River interacted with its floodplain in this fashion. Over the past century, humans have confined much of the river to its main channel by straightening and deepening it. Thus, it is important to protect and, if necessary, restore the sections that have not been altered because of the floodwater storage and floodplain habitat they provide.

The major impairment to habitat at this site was dense and extensive patches of blackberry. The landowners requested assistance from the Council to remove the blackberry and replace it with native conifers and hardwoods.

The first phase of the project consisted of mowing approximately 5 acres of Himalayan blackberry surrounding two oxbow ponds. This was done with a large mowing blade attached to a bobcat (see photo 1), which makes it possible to vaporize tall blackberry brambles in minutes! The bobcat was also equipped with rubberized tracks that reduce soil compaction and other problems associated with wheels. The oxbow ponds on this property are used by a large population of western pond turtle. By removing the blackberry, we have improved turtle access to these ponds and potential nesting habitat. So far this spring, several turtles have been sighted heading towards the ponds and basking on logs within them (see photo 2).

The second phase of the project involves controlling the re-sprouting blackberry. At this site, we opted to use spot treatments of herbicide because of the extent of the blackberry. This coming winter we will plant native trees and shrubs in the area where we removed the blackberry. Eventually, the shade from these trees will reduce new blackberry invasions and provide cover and forage for a variety of bird and wildlife species.

Funding for this project was part of a large projects grant the Council received in September of 2003 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. If you'd like more information, please contact Cindy at 683-2983.



Council News

Assessing Riparian Condition of Western Oregon Streams Training Session 2004

Junction City, Oregon: May 20-21, 2004

Who should attend: Landowners, especially farmers and ranchers, field personnel, agency employees, and others who are involved with or interested in riparian area values and functions, and simple, science-based ways to determine their condition.

What is it? A 2-day training session on how to assess riparian condition, focused on streams in Western Oregon. A primary objective of this training is to develop a common vocabulary and understanding of riparian areas among people who work on the land. The session includes one day in the classroom and one day visiting multiple streams in the field.

Benefits to Participants: After attending this workshop, you will have a better understanding of the values associated with riparian and wetland areas, methods for assessing their condition in the field or on your land, and where to go for assistance in improving conditions where necessary and according to your goals. The assessment method is straightforward and involves completing a checklist with 17 yes/no questions.

Cost and Registration:

<u>Registration is \$180.</u> Please make checks payable to Long Tom Watershed Council. We can only accept checks (no purchase orders or credit cards). Scholarships: Some scholarships are available, especially for landowners and people without institutional support, or for employees of non-profits. <u>Space is limited to 30 people</u> as we want to facilitate meaningful interaction and allow for discussion in the field.

Contacts:

Training Coordinator – for class or registration questions Chris Massingill, Westside Riparian Cadre Coordinator, (541) 847-4321 <u>mainstream@99webstreet.com</u>

Workshop host – for mailing registration Dana Erickson, Long Tom Watershed Council Coordinator, 751 S. Danebo, Eugene, OR 97402. (541) 683-6578 <u>longtom@efn.org</u>

> **Teaching Team** Chris Massingill - Mainstream Contracting Dr. Mike Borman - OSU Extension Dr. Mack Barrington - Oregon Department of Agriculture Derrek Godwin - OSU Extension

The Long Tom Watershed Council is hosting this workshop with training coordinator Chris Massingill, Westside Riparian Cadre Coordinator and author of the 2003 comprehensive Riparian planting guide. The Westside Riparian Cadre is an interagency, interdisciplinary teaching team connected to the National Riparian Service Team.

Watershed Calendar & Events

Calendar of Events Details on following pages

Tuesday, April 27th, 6:30 pm, Veneta Long Tom Watershed Council Meeting

Ongoing through April, first week of May Lomatium bradshawii Monitoring See details on this page.

Thursday, May 13 (date may change), 6:30 pm Long Tom Watershed Council Steering Committee meeting Visitors welcome.

Contact: Dana, 683-6578.

Wednesday and Thursday, May 5th and 6th Rural Living Basics Class, Well Water and Septic Tanks 6:30-8:30 p.m. See details on page 8

Thursday and Friday, May 20th and 21st Assessing Riparian Condition of Western Oregon Streams Training Session 2004

> A two day session especially for western Oregon land owners and land managers hosted by the Long Tom Watershed Council See details on page 6

Various Dates in April and May The Secret Life of Wetlands

> WREN will be conducting many fun and educational events over the next two months.

For details see page 9.

Help monitor an important plant

For anyone who is interested, it's *Lomatium bradshawii* monitoring time again - that time of year when we get down on our hands and knees and count little baby green things. For anyone who wants to help, you can either count or record the counts. Any help is appreciated - even one day. It's in a

lovely oak grove out on the Long Tom Area of Critical Environmental Concern (owned by the BLM). Anyone who has helped before or wants to help for the first time is most welcome. I will be going out almost every day until the end of April, and possibly into the first week in May.

For more information, contact Dharmika Henshel West Eugene Wetlands Botanist 683-6230

Announcing for 2004, The Eighth Annual **Conservation Poster Contest, Sponsored by the** East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District.

Entries are now being accepted for the 2004 Conservation Poster Contest. This year's theme is "The Living Soil". The contest is open to all school age children in K-12th grades. The poster may be created at school, camp, church, home or youth group meetings.

Participants will receive certificates of achievement. The 1st place winner in each grade category will also receive a US Savings Bond.

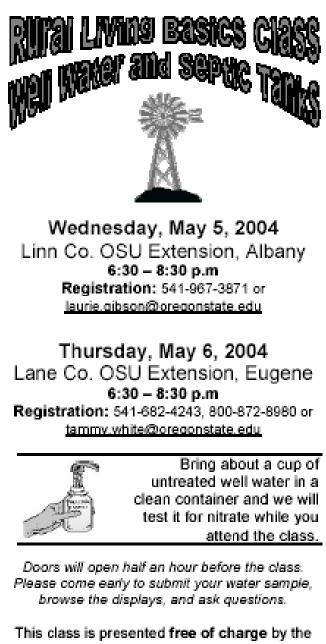
The deadline for entering the contest is June 30, 2004. Teachers, youth organization leaders, students and other interested persons, should contact the East Lane SWCD at 780 Bailey Hill Rd., Suite #5 Eugene, Oregon 97402 or call (541) 465-6443 Ext. 3 for more information and poster contest entry forms.

Thank You!!

Duane Zetner for chronicling the goings-on of our council in his detailed meeting notes!!

Court Smith for contributing funds to our watershed council.

Watershed Events continued...



Southern Willamette Groundwater Project.



Preference given to residents of the Groundwater Management Area. Others may attend as space allows. Registration opens Monday, April 5.

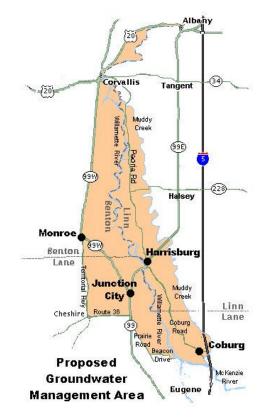
Do you get your water from a well? Do you live in the new Groundwater Management Area? (see map) The area between Eugene and Albany along the river has been identified for special attention because many wells have nitrate that is approaching an unsafe level. Learn more about your well and groundwater at a class presented by the OSU Extension Well Water Program May 5 in Albany and May 6 in Eugene. These classes, which cover how to care for your well and septic system, are presented at no charge to the public through a generous grant from Oregon DEQ in conjunction with the Southern Willamette Groundwater Management Area (GWMA).

The "Rural Living Basics" classes will be taught by Gail Glick Andrews of Oregon State University. Nitrate is the main form of nitrogen used by plants, so it is important to have enough in the soil to for crops, gardens and landscaping. However, when nitrate makes its way to a drinking water supply it becomes a health risk. Public water supplies are tested regularly for nitrate and must meet strict standards. If you get your drinking water from an individual household wells it is your responsibility to test the water to see if it is safe to drink. It is especially important for households with pregnant women or newborns to test for nitrate because of a rare type of blue-baby syndrome, but *all* homes with private wells should be aware of their nitrate level.

Free screening of well water for nitrate will be offered as part of the classes. Bring about a cup of untreated well water in a clean container and it will be tested while you attend the class. Nitrate test results will be provided at the end of the class.

Doors will open 30 minutes before each class. You are encouraged to arrive early to submit your water sample for the nitrate test, ask questions, and browse displays. For information on wells, water testing, and septic systems visit the OSU Well Water website at

http://wellwater.oregonstate.edu. For information on the Groundwater Management area, go to http://groundwater.oregonstate.edu/willamettte. If you don't have web access contact Gail Andrews at 541-737-6294.



Watershed Events continued...

April Programs in the West Eugene Wetlands

To register or for more information call Holly McRae at 683-6494 or email at west_eugene_wetlands@hotmail.com.

Library Presentations: Wings & Wetlands, Saturday 5/1 – Sheldon Library, 2:30, Thursday 5/6 – Bethel Library, 3:30, Thursday 5/13 – Eugene Library, 3:30-5:00

Wild Wetland Walk, Saturday, May 1st

Join Bruce Newhouse of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, and Peg Boulay, for a wild wetland walk in West Eugene to search for blooming wildflowers and trees, butterflies, and other ecological wonders. Meet at the Willow Creek Natural Area at 10am for this two hour walk. Participants should wear rubber boots or shoes that can get wet and muddy. Space is limited to 15 people.

Fly by the Light of the Moon (Owl Walk), Friday May 7th

Meet at the BLM Wetland Office (11th & Danebo) at 7:00pm. After an introduction to local owls, we will go afield to try to see or hear five species of local owls: Bring a flashlight, binoculars, and warm clothing. Space is limited.

International Migratory Bird Day Walk, Saturday May 8th

Join Dan Gleason of the Lane County Audubon Society for this early morning bird walk to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. Meet at 7:00AM for this two hour walk, starting at the Meadowlark Prairie Overlook on Greenhill Road, south of Royal Avenue.

Willow Creek Work Party, sponsored by TNC, Saturday May 8th

Meet at 9:30 AM at the turnout on the north side of West 18th Ave., 1/3 mile west of Bertelsen Rd. Parking space is limited, so please carpool, bicycle, or take the bus if you can. Bring drinking water, work gloves, and loppers, clippers, or a hand saw if you have them . The event will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. Contact Ed Alverson, at 682-4927

Stories of the Kalapuya, Thursday May 13th

Join Kalapuya Elder, Esther Stutzman to hear stories of the first residents of the West Eugene Wetlands. Meet at the BLM Wetlands Yurt, on the NE corner of West 11^{th} & Danebo, at 6:30 for this $1\frac{1}{2}$ hr presentation. Space is limited.

Children's Amphibian Walk, Saturday May 15th

Amphibians and reptiles have long been under appreciated for the important role they play in nature. 8-12 year olds are invited to join Willow Wegner of the United States Geological Survey to look for these beautiful and fascinating wetland inhabitants. We will meet at the BLM Wetlands Yurt on the NE corner of W 11^{th} & Danebo at 10:00am for a $1\frac{1}{2}$ hr walk. Space is limited.

Bird Walk, Saturday May 22nd

This is prime birding time in the spring migration! Join Steve Gordon at the Stewart Pond parking lot (on Stewart Road east of Bertelsen Road before the barricade on the slope of Stewart Knoll) at 8:00 am. Bring boots or sturdy walking shoes.

Family Wildflower Walk, Saturday May 22nd

No time in the West Eugene Wetlands is lovelier than spring, with an incredible variety of colorful wildflowers. Join naturalist Jules Staser for a wetland walk for families, to learn about these wetland beauties. Prepare for rain or shine, and wear good walking shoes. Meet at 1:00 at the BLM Wetland office located on the NE corner of West 11th & Danebo.

"Wetlands 101," Sunday May 23th

A guided walking tour through Eugene's Wetlands from 1-4pm, with guides Dan Gleason (Lane County Audubon) and Lorna Baldwin (Eugene Stream Team). For more information and to register contact: Lorna Baldwin at 682-4850 or lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us

Western Pond Turtle Talk, Wednesday May 26th

The current western pond turtle population in Oregon is thought to number less than 10% of the historical population. Join Kat Beal of the Army Corps of Engineers for a scientific presentation about the natural history and management actions for the turtle. Meet at the BLM Wetland Yurt on the NE corner of W 11th & Danebo at 7:00pm for a 1 hour presentation. Space is limited.

Spring Butterflies of the West Eugene Wetlands, Saturday May 29th

Late spring is an excellent time to observe butterflies and wildflowers in the West Eugene Wetlands. Meet at the BLM's West Eugene Wetlands Office at 751 S. Danebo at 1:00 pm. Space is limited to 20 people. Pre-registration required. Call Ellie at 541-684-8973.

Raptors of the Wetlands, (offered twice) Wednesday May 5th & Tuesday May 18th

The West Eugene Wetlands provide habitat for many birds of prey. Join Louise Shimmel of the Cascades Raptor Center for a first-hand experience to discover some of the raptors that can be found in the West Eugene Wetlands. Meet at the BLM Wetlands Yurt located at the NE corner of W 11th & Danebo at 7:00pm. Space is limited.

March Council Meeting Notes by Duane Zentner

Intro by Dave DeCou, Steering Committee Chair

Woody Lane gave a very informational and interesting presentation on *Grazing Management in Riparian Areas.* Woody is a forage nutritionist from Roseburg who works with commercial livestock producers such as in the Upper Willamette Grazing Group here in the valley.

Woody characterized foraging in Oregon as some of the best in the world. Forage is basicly a solar panel that converts nutrients into carbohydrates. The crux of forage development is broken into 3 parts, 1.(initial or slow), 2.(fast), and 3. (mature). Woody drew a seigmoid curve to illustrate. Initial stages grow only 5-10 lbs of dry matter ac/day, fast 40-100 lbs ac/day and mature 30-40 ac/day. Best grazing occurs in 2nd or fast stage when forage is growing vigorously and can replenish itself after grazing. Moving cows into a pasture when it reaches the top end of fast growth stage and taking them out just before it reaches the top end of initial stage is most efficient. Usually the 5 day rule - leaving animals in 1 area no more than 4-5 days achieves this.

What does this mean for water quality and riparian areas? Overgrazing or too much grazing in the initial stage weakens plants that create bare spots that lead to erosion, soil destabilization and run-off, especially near creeks but even on higher ground. Set-stocking or leaving animals in a small area with closed gates more than a week is a poor practice and detrimental to both forage and soil.

Keeping forage in fast growth stage by watering, fencing, and moving animals is recommended. Keep water available and decentralized so animals are not moving far for it. If animals are walking for water they are not eating and this is unproductive. A good water distribution system will keep animals out of riparian areas. Cows in creek puts more manure in water and overloads streams with nutrients, can be a source of excess phosphorous.

Woody dispelled several myths about cows really needing trees and barns for shelter; animals have evolved w/out these for ages. Trees concentrate cows and this leads to soil disruption, compaction, erosion, etc. Barns, and areas near barns also do this and are a mechanism for spread of diseases like pneumonia, and scour. Barns are good for calving. Owners of 5-10 acre ranchettes are worst forage managers.

Woody holds detailed classes on pasturing for a \$90 and can be reached at: 240 Crystal Springs Lane, Roseburg OR 97470. ph. (541) 440-1926. e-mail: Wlane@RoseNet.Net

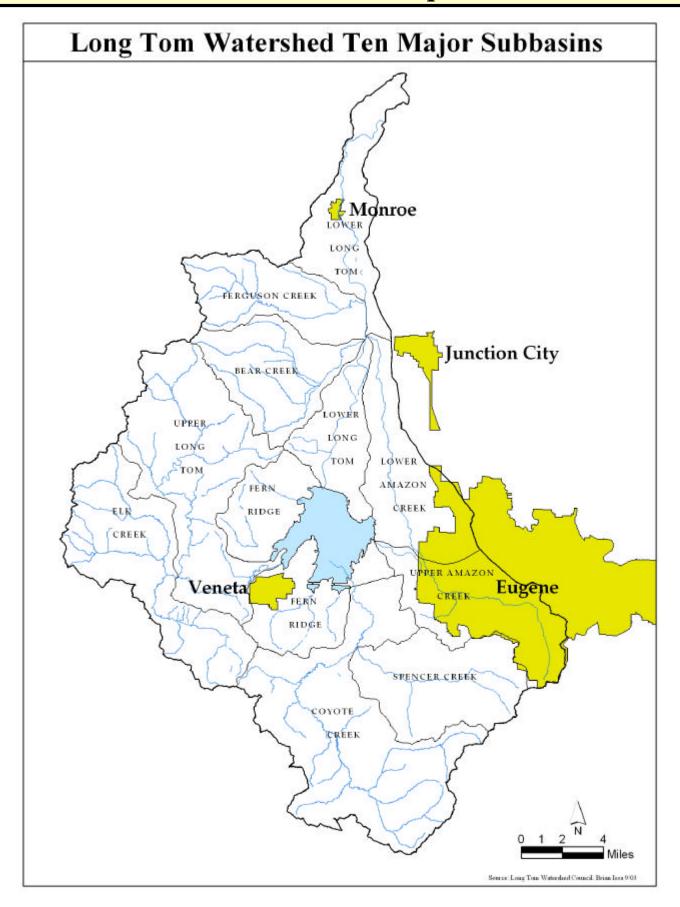
Dennis Todd presented procedures for applying for an OWEB small grant. The program is designed to award expedited grants based on locally set priorities. Grants are awarded up to \$10,000 through a streamlined process for various stream and water quality projects. Decisions are usually made within 30 days. Applications are available at <u>http://www.oweb.state.or.us/SmallGrant/smallgrant.shtml</u> or from East Lane and Benton Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Long Tom or Marys River Watershed Councils.

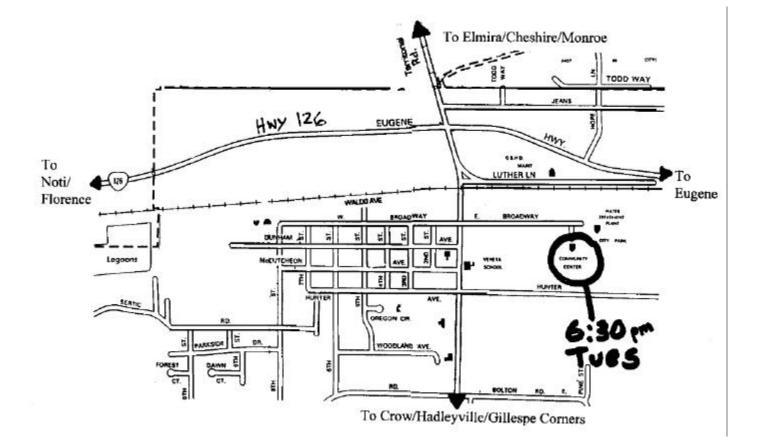
These grants are an excellent opportunity to enhance your land and the watershed as a whole. Send applications to: Upper Willamette West Small Grant Team, c/o Paul Reed, East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District, 780 Bailey Hill Road, Suite 5, Eugene, OR 97402, Phone: (541) 465-6436 ext 3, Email: preed@efn.org

Dennis will give 2 more similar presentations about these grants at each of the next two council meetings.

"Throughout the history of literature, the guy who poisons the well has been the worst of all villains..." -- Author unknown --

Watershed Map





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

Panel Discussion on **Off-Highway Vehicle Use** at the Council meeting this month—Tuesday, 6:30, Veneta. Inside: Red-legged Frogs, Riparian Restoration Project on the Long Tom River, Training on Assessing Riparian Condition, Well Water Class and free testing, numerous Wetlands Events, and MORE!!!