LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

May 2004

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, May 25, 2004 6:30-9:00
Amazon Subbasin—Four Oaks Grange

Please bring snacks to share - we'll do the drinks!

Amazon folks, please bring snacks.

AGENDA

(Facilitation by John Moriarty M.S.)

6:30 Sign-in, Browse Info, and Socialize

7:00 Welcome and Introductions

7:10 West Nile Virus: A health issue for humans and wetlands

Panel Members:
Dr. Sara Hendrickson, Lane County Public Health

Polly Anna Lind, Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)

Tamara Wilhite, Lane County Preparedness Program

8:40 OWEB Small Grant program
Dennis Todd, Council Member

9:00 Announcements and Reports

9:10 Wrap-up and Adjourn

At this month's meeting we will be discussing West Nile Virus and the role of healthy wetlands with experts from around the area.

! ! ! Inside ! ! !

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

Thirsty Seedlings

Jim Ekins

The mid-May sun beams down on me as if it were July. I am already preparing to water my riparian seedlings; I planted them only a few short months ago in the rain, sleet and mud. But this spring's windy, dry condition has me thinking about soil moisture and the survival of several hundred trees, few more than 18 inches tall. I am glad I put some thought into management and maintenance before I jumped into the planting project.

Human-planted riparian forest species tend to have higher survival rates if they are watered for the first two or three years. But how does one effectively water hundreds of widely spaced trees? Knowing I have sufficient access to a water source, I adapted a system that conserves water, is time efficient, and provides water only to the root zone of the intended plant. It also trains the trees to grow roots straight down and deep. I use 5-gallon buckets with a 3/16-inch hole drilled in the side at the bottom to allow water to trickle out to the base of the tree for 20 to 30 minutes. I fill each bucket and then move to the next in a minute or less. I can go through about 75 trees an hour if I have an assistant and about 50+ by myself, depending on the spacing between trees and distance to my water source.

Use buckets that nest together without becoming wedged. Hammering a stuck bucket out of another is frustrating. I found a source of identical, food-grade, 4-gallon plastic buckets, in a local bakery's recycle heap. With the manager's permission, I picked up a handful every time I stopped in with a hankering for carrot cake. Over a span of months, I found myself with over fifty buckets. Also, after fumbling with the buckets, trying to locate the little drip hole, I began marking its location. Next month, I'll write about water conveyance, timing, and other thoughts on "medium-scale" tree watering.

NEW COUNCIL WEBSITE!!

Thanks to Susan Payne, a very dedicated and techno-savvy volunteer, we now have our new website up and running! The site includes an online resource library, restoration project tour, news, calendar of events and other great resources for anyone interesting in the goings-on in the Long Tom Watershed and Council.

Check it out at: www.longtom.org

Sponsored by Monroe Telephone Company

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

West Nile Virus: What You Need To Know

By Brian Issa, with info adapted from the CDC and www.riversalive.org

What Is West Nile Virus?
West Nile virus (WNV) is a potentially serious illness. Experts believe WNV is established as a seasonal epidemic in North America that flares up in the summer and continues into the fall. This fact sheet contains important information that can help you recognize and prevent West Nile virus.

What Are the Symptoms of WNV?
WNV affects the central nervous system and symptoms vary.

- **No Symptoms in Most People.** Approximately 80 percent of people who are infected with WNV will not show any symptoms at all.
- **Mild Symptoms in Some People.** Up to 20 percent of the people who become infected will display mild symptoms, including fever, headache, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Symptoms typically last a few days.
- **Serious Symptoms in a Few People.** About one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. The severe symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent.

How Does It Spread?

- **Infected Mosquitoes.** Generally, WNV is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes are WNV carriers that become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread WNV when they bite humans and other animals.
- **Transfusions, Transplants, and Mother-to-Child.** In a very small number of cases, WNV also has spread through blood transfusions, organ transplants, breastfeeding and even during pregnancy from mother to baby.
- **Not through touching.** WNV is not spread through casual contact such as touching or kissing a person with the virus.

How Soon Do Infected People Get Sick?
People typically develop symptoms between 3 and 14 days after they are bitten by an infected mosquito.

How Is WNV Infection Treated?
There is no specific treatment for WNV infection. In cases with mild symptoms, people experience fever and aches that pass. In more severe cases, people usually need to go to the hospital where they can receive supportive treatment including intravenous fluids, help with breathing and nursing care.

What Is the Risk of Catching WNV?

For most, risk is low. Relatively few mosquitoes actually carry WNV and less than 1 percent of people who are bitten by mosquitoes develop any symptoms of the disease..

Greater risk for those outdoors a lot. People who spend a lot of time outdoors are more likely to be bitten by an infected mosquito. They should take special care to avoid bites.

People over 50 can get sicker. People over the age of 50 or with weakened immune systems are more likely to develop serious symptoms of WNV if they do get sick and should take special care to avoid mosquito bites.

Council Meeting Backgrounder continued...

What Can I Do to Prevent WNV?
The easiest and best way to avoid WNV is to prevent mosquito bites.

- When you are outdoors, use insect repellents containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide). Follow the directions on the package.
- Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Consider staying indoors during these times or use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants. Light-colored clothing can help you see mosquitoes that land on you.
- Make sure you have good screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.
- Remove sources of stagnant water around your home such as spare tires. (see below)

Mosquitoes and Wetlands
Some people mistakenly think that all mosquitoes carry this virus and that draining every bit of damp ground will eradicate the threat. In reality, it's the Culex, or so-called "filth mosquito" that generally carries the virus. The filth mosquito, in its larval stage, lives in highly organic watery areas like septic outflows, catch basins, leaf-clogged gutters, and unattended birdbaths and swimming pools. Healthy wetlands do not support these kinds of conditions and therefore, do not support the West Nile Virus. So, in addition to that can of Deet-containing insect repellent, your West Nile Virus ammo pack should include a local, healthy wetland.

According to a new brochure produced by Purdue University, an effective way to reduce all varieties of mosquito is to restore a wetland. Bringing these important areas back provides habitat for dragonflies, damselflies, water strays, backswimmers, and predacious diving beetles; critters that love nothing more than eating mosquitos. More wetlands also provide more flood control and fewer areas where standing water become mosquito breeding grounds. In contrast altered or degraded wetlands can have stagnant water, increased nutrient levels and fewer natural mosquito predators. Therefore, natural and well-restored wetlands minimize mosquito production. Many health experts are educating community leaders that restoring wetlands is one way to win the fight against WNV this season.

Not convinced?	**Get rid of those tires!**
After the Essex County Mosquito Control Project restored a 1,500-acre wetland in Massachusetts, the area's mosquito population dropped by 90 percent	A 2002 survey by Fort Wayne - Allen County Department of Health found that 66 percent of the West Nile Virus carriers' bodies were born out of larva found in waste tires.

What you can do at home:

- Gett rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels.
- Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths weekly. Keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they aren't being used. Any water that stands for more than a week is sufficient to breed mosquitoes.
- Drill holes in spare tires and tire swings, or get rid of them altogether.

What Else Should I Know?
If you find a dead bird: Don't handle the body with your bare hands. Contact your local health department for instructions on reporting and disposing of the body.
For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/westnile, or call the CDC public response hotline at (888) 246-2675 (English), (888) 246-2857 (Español), or (866) 874-2646 (TTY)

Projects & Monitoring Update

By Cindy Thieman, Projects & Monitoring Coordinator

Biological Control of Non-native Blackberry

Most of you are aware of, or would not be surprised at, the millions of dollars spent each year in controlling non-native, invasive blackberry and the costs associated with lost productivity. This plant takes over pastures, invades agricultural and forest land, and disrupts the natural function of riparian zones and streams. At a recent workshop put on by the Douglas County SWCD and Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), I learned that non-native blackberry also significantly increases the risk of fire. We saw pictures of several intense blazes that started when a spark from a train or children playing with matches reached the dry tinder of dead canes that exists under the canopy of all mature blackberry plants. Those of you with houses near large stands of blackberry should seriously consider how to reduce these thickets, which pose a significantly greater fire danger to your house than other types of fuel.

After listening to a variety of testimonials on the impacts of these non-native species, Dennis Issacson, a retired ODA noxious weed coordinator, spoke on controlling blackberry through biological means. Classical biological control consists of introducing predator or disease organisms like insects, fungi, or bacteria from the plants' location of origin. Once introduced, these organisms reproduce and spread on their own, attacking only the targeted species. The species of non-native blackberries found in this country originated from Europe and Asia. Thus, a natural predator or disease should be found there as well. To date, the most effective biological control discovered for non-native, invasive blackberry is a rust fungus called *Phragmidium violaceum.* This fungus has been introduced in Australia and Chile, which also have significant invasions of Eurasian blackberry species. In the 1970's, a Chilean scientist brought back this rust from Europe and released it into the wild. Although he did this without government sanction, there were reportedly no negative effects on native plants or commercial cane-berry production. And it was very successful in reducing the spread and stunting the growth of non-native blackberry. In Australia, another researcher illegally released this rust onto the continent in 1989. In this case, it was partially successful. The rust he or she released only attacked one variety, or "biotype", of non-native blackberry. This allowed the other biotypes to fill in the void that the first biotype had left. Despite this unforeseen setback, prospects for widespread control are still good with the introduction of additional strains of *P. violaceum* that will attack the other biotypes.

So why aren't we introducing this rust into the United States? The reason is that legally introducing a biological control agent into this country requires extensive research and a lengthy political process. The first steps are raising awareness levels and quantifying the problem. Although many farmers, ranchers, foresters, and scientists are acutely aware of the problems non-native blackberries are causing, the general public is not. Also, there is surprisingly little quantification of their economic impact. The next step is identifying the biotypes of non-native blackberry in this country and testing the effectiveness of various strains of *P. violaceum* on these plants. Extensive research will also need to be conducted on native plants and commercial varieties of blackberries to ensure no negative impact to these species. Mr. Issacson estimated that in the best-case scenario *P. violaceum* could legally be released in this country in 10 years. It would probably take an additional 10 years for a substantial effect to be seen. Some of the ranchers present at the workshop commented that they would probably be dead before they saw the tides turn in the war on non-native blackberry! What this means is that we need to make a concerted effort for many years to come using other control methods. With education and refinement of existing control measures, we may be able to stave off this plant until a safe and effective biological control is legalized.

Watershed Events

Calendar of Events
(Details on following pages)

Wednesday, May 26th, 7:00pm

Western Pond Turtle Talk

Join Kat Beal from the Army Corp of Engineers for an informational talk in the West Eugene Wetlands yurt.

Saturday, May 29th, 1:00pm

Butterfly Walk

Learn and observe the butterflies of the West Eugene Wetlands.

Saturday, May 28th through June

Wetlands Photo Exhibit

Fifth Street Public Market

Hangs through the end of June

Tuesday, May 25th 6:30-9:00pm

Monthly Council Meeting

Four Oaks Grange, Amazon Subbasin

West Nile Virus panel discussion

Tuesday, May 25th 3:00-6:00pm

Native Plant Nursery Open House

Wastewater treatment plant

410 River Ave, Eugene

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.

NATIVE SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

The Fender's blue butterfly is endemic to Willamette Valley prairies. Now listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, the Fender's blue has been the impetus behind much of the ecological studies and management actions in the Willamette Valley. Kincaid's lupine is the preferred host of Fender's blue butterfly, although its caterpillars have been observed on alternate food sources such as the Sickle keeled lupine (*Lupinus albicaulis*) and the Spurred lupine (*Lupinus laxiflorus*). Kincaid's lupine co-occurs in 27 out of the 32 sites where Fender's blue is found (EPA Federal Register Document, January 25,2000).

For more information visit

http://oregonstate.edu/~wilsomar/Persp_FBB.htm

OR

http://www.pacificbio.org/ESIN/Butterflies/Fender-Blue/Fender_Website_allframes/fender.htm

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.

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.

West Eugene Wetland Photography Exhibit
The show will be held at the 5th Street Public Market from May 28th through the month of June. Anyone interested in submitting work to the exhibit please contact: Diantha Hull, Exhibit Coordinator, 345-1632, djhull@rio.com.

EUGENE Parks and Open Space

The Eugene Stream Team has several summer time volunteer opportunities, many of which will directly improve the water quality and wildlife habitat in the Amazon Subbasin of the Long Tom Watershed. Great for students, families or groups looking for a way to serve their community.

- **Storm drain stenciling** is definitely a dry weather activity and can be done by small groups or even families in their own neighborhoods. We supply all the supplies and instructions and you paint the storm drains and distribute the educational door hangers.

- **Native seed collection** has started. Tuesday and Thursday mornings are our regular days but other times may work as well. Visit remote sites or parks within the City with a botanist and learn native plants at the end of their cycle.

- **Plant salvage** is ongoing as sites scheduled for development are identified. We dig up plants and take them to the Native Plant Nursery for use in restoration projects throughout the City.

- This summer a second **Native Plant Nursery** will be built in Alton Baker Park and we are looking for all types of skills to help with this project. We will also need help tending the plants at both sites all summer. An open house at the Native Plant Nursery inside the wastewater treatment plant at 410 River Avenue will be held on Tuesday, May 25th from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer please contact Lorna Baldwin at 682-4850 or lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us

April Council Meeting Notes by Duane Zetner

Intro by Mike Keisling, - Facilitation by John Moriarty, Mediation and Facilitation Services
Brian Issa announcement about volunteer forms

A lively panel presentation on ORV **(off road vehicle)** use ensued.

Dale Claassen, Swanson Superior LLC - Dale has observed most damage in the Low Pass and High Pass areas, usually on older roads used in the 40's and 50's. One area looked like a segment of an extensive and unauthorized 30-mile racetrack. Erosion, sedimentation, and tree damage are usually associated with ORV use. Fire ignition, directly or indirectly from ORV use is a concern. Slide pictures of overuse and damage were presented. State police patrol and enforce Swanson property for illegal ORV users.

Drum Evans, Emerald Trail Riders - Drum has been an avid trail rider, mostly motorcycles, since a kid. ORV use can be a responsible activity and is in most cases. Trail riding is an outdoor activity that lots of people enjoy and a good way to spend time with family and friends, teach responsibility and meet challenges. Drum currently spends much of his time maintaining trails, educating and interacting with land agencies to maintain privileges of trail riding.

Paul Clements, ODF, Veneta - From Paul's perspective, he has to enforce laws to protect waters of the State from degradation, regardless of cause, and that includes ORV's. Paul also concurs with potential for fire ignition with use. He also knows of an actual case where an unauthorized user got injured on someone else's land then later sued the landowner.

Sara Leiman, Small Woodland Owner - Sara has seen various problems with ORV use including erosion, tree damage, garbage, and logging equipment damage.

Beth Ayer - Junction City Jeepers 4x4 club Beth has been a member since 2000. She doesn't appreciate users. Club members know where the authorized places to drive but places are limited, (Dunes, Horton, Tillimook, Shotgun Creek.) She gets very involved in work parties with the State and BLM to repair damage and maintain roads. Currently, only 5% of users are club members. She sees education as one solution, both by recruiting more members and outreach. She mentioned a beneficial poster program in Klamath Falls. Most schools won't allow club members to enter schools as presenters; more likely to let landowners in.

Discussion: Agencies can't enforce ORV use themselves; need club assistance. Most agencies have a recreation rep. that deals with ORV's. BLM and has only 1 fully designated ORV rep for all of WA and OR and the Forest Service only one. State Parks puts lots of emphasis on ORV's, has 40 designated sites and is better managed than in past. They have 2 reps.

Overall, not that much education taking place. ATV funds available from gas tax and this has funded a lot of good projects. There is a push to use some of funds for safety ed. and more literature in general. Suggest that higher fines be implemented to discourage ORV misuse. Also suggest that violators need to be put on probation with club members. Education could be instituted with MSF (motorcycle safety foundation) to promote responsible use. Starker Forests has good relationship with clubs, can ride on their property 2-3 months of year in spring and fall with permit and work on trails. Several trail maintenance. techniques on slides were shown, small log ditches or a series of slightly elevated logs to trap dirt.

Other announcements: Mercury was found in the Coast Fork Willamette, source appears to be from mines above Dorena and Cottage Grove Reservoirs. Meeting tomorrow night.

Steering Report from Ryan: processes for council report were discussed and will be presented to general council for approval soon. Concerns about aerial spraying were discussed. Advocacy and handling complaints is not part of our mission but some focus on education will take place. Lane County has periodical collection days for unwanted or unused chemicals; don't put in garbage.

Coordinators Report:OWEB Executive has resigned under pressure from special interests. In the next legislative session, it will be important to support watershed work.

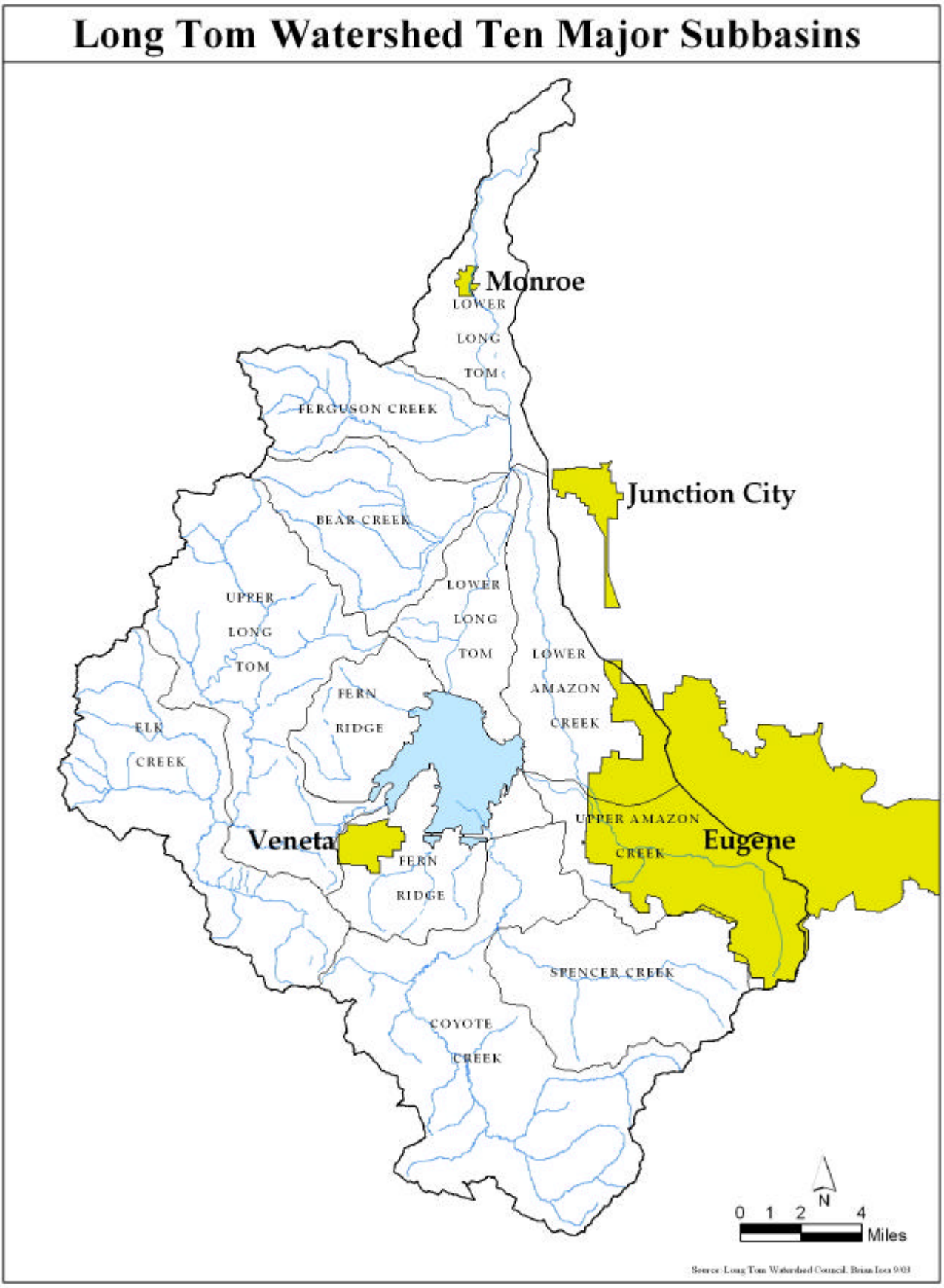
Thanks!!

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

"The cure for anything is salt water - sweat, tears, or the sea."

Tagore - a Bengali poet and novelist

Watershed Map



INSIDE: West Nile Virus Panel Discussion. Small Grants Available.

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

Four Oaks Grange, 2360 Bailey Hill Rd. Eugene **6:30 p.m. Tuesday**