Long Tom Watershed Council

Watershed news and meeting notice

June 2011

Action Through Understanding

A color version of this newsletter is available at www.longtom.org

Project Tour— Enhancing Rare Oak Woodland & Wet Prairie Habitats

Wednesday, June 15, 5:30 p.m.

Franklin Rd, 1.3 miles east of Territorial Rd

- 5:30 Gather at Johnson project site (*directions on back page*)
- 5:45 Welcome & Introduction
  - *Deborah Saunders Evans, LTWC Board member*
  - *Cindy Thieman, LTWC project manager*
- 5:55 Tour of Johnson site: goals and approach to oak woodland & wet prairie enhancement
  - *Steve Smith, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*
- 6:40 Tour of Erickson site: learn how the Council enhanced rare prairie habitat
  - *Paula Erickson, landowner*
  - *Steve Smith, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*
  - *Josh Harrison, LTWC project manager*

* Directions on back page *

Photos (from left): 1) After thinning oak woodland at Johnson site; 2) native buttercups thriving after thinning at Johnson's; 3) existing wet prairie at Erickson site.

Free, with refreshments!

Donations much appreciated.

Info, Rob: 541-338-7060 or operations@longtom.org

Inside

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.

751 S. Danebo Ave., Eugene, OR 97402 · Phone: (541) 338-7055 · Fax: (541) 338-7062

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Council Meeting/Outdoor Tour Background

Oak Woodland & Wet Prairie Habitat Enhancement At **Johnson's: Project Background & Description**

Wet prairie habitat historically comprised about 85% of the wetlands within the Long Tom Watershed. Similarly, oak savanna and upland prairie has been significantly reduced in extent and quality since the mid-1800s due to clearing for urban and rural settlement, agriculture, timber, and fire suppression. One of the goals of this project was to restore these rare and important habitat types. This project restored 20 acres of oak woodland and wet prairie located north of Fern Ridge Reservoir off Franklin Road. The restored habitat represents some of the best remaining oak woodland, savanna, and wet prairie within the southern Willamette Valley.

The oak woodland had become overgrown with young trees and understory shrubs. This competition was putting many large-diameter, pre-settlement era oaks at risk. In addition, the crowded understory limited light penetration to the forest floor, which limits wildflower growth. In essence, an area that was historically much more open and had more light had become an overgrown thicket. The wet prairie on the site was similarly threatened with encroaching young ash trees. The ash trees had colonized the prairie and were rapidly converting a grassland full of rare, native plants into a low-diversity ash thicket.

Early Summer 2010—Much of the site was covered in a thicket of Oregon ash. The ash was shading out most wildflowers and greatly reducing diversity.

Spring 2011—This post-treatment photo was taken from the same point as the photo above. After this seasonal pool drains, wildflowers form a carpet across the woodland. The ash were crowding out this area.

Restoration Techniques

The woodland restoration consisted of removing many of the younger trees and overgrown shrubs from within the woodland with a skid steer and attached shears. With the skid steer/shears combination we were able to cut the trees and shrubs flush with the ground to make future mowing easier. The cut material was ground-up and removed from the site.

Restoration of the wet prairie was accomplished through mowing the young ash trees that were shading out the native plants.

The response by native wildflowers was very immediate. The spring of 2011 saw a virtual carpet of native wildflowers throughout the woodland and out into the mowed prairie, including a resurgence of the endangered Bradshaw's lomatium plant within the wet prairie. The lomatium had apparently been suppressed by the ash trees that had invaded the prairie. Through removing the ash trees, these rare plants were able to make a strong comeback, thus taking the species one step closer to recovery.

Council Meeting/Outdoor Tour Background

Environmental & Economic Benefits

- Removing competition from around the oaks will increase their longevity and growth. Of particular benefit is the increased growth of oak canopy stimulated through thinning.
- Oak canopy growth will benefit wildlife through increased acorn production, increased invertebrate diversity and abundance, and increased nest and den sites within tree cavities.
- Removing the young ash trees and overgrown shrubs from the woodland and prairie has increased native plant diversity and abundance.
- Contractors from the local area were used for all phases of the project, supporting the local economy.
- Removing the young ash trees and overgrown shrubs from the woodland and prairie has increased native plant diversity and abundance.
- Contractors from the local area were used for all phases of the project supported the local economy.

Lomatium Prairie Enhancement at Erickson's: Project Background & Description

Only about 1% of the historical 40,000 acres of wet prairie remain in the Long Tom Watershed. This project, located about 1/2 mile north of the Fern Ridge dam, is restoring wet prairie and floodplain forest habitats on a site adjacent to the Long Tom River. The site is comprised of 32 acres of wet prairie and 62 acres of hardwood floodplain forest, including some remnant oak savanna and woodlands. This wet prairie contains one of the largest known populations of Bradshaw's lomatium in Lane County. This federally listed species is threatened by habitat loss and encroachment from trees, shrubs, and invasive species. Fire used to play an important ecological function in Willamette Valley prairie and savanna habitats because it created open areas for grasses and forbs by suppressing the growth of tress and shrubs. Lack of fire has altered plant diversity and stand structure, allowing tress like ash to encroach on the oaks and wet prairie. This has altered habitat conditions for birds and other wildlife.

This undersized culvert blocks fish passage on the historic Coyote Creek channel bed and will be removed as part of the project.

This dense ash thicket has limited biodiversity and stand structure. These trees will be removed to allow prairie plant species to grow. In the oak woodland, smaller oaks will be thinned to increase understory plant diversity and benefit wildlife by allowing larger oaks to thrive and increase acorn production.

Council Meeting/Outdoor Tour Background

Restoration Techniques

- Salix Associates surveyed and mapped the Erickson site to determine the distribution of rare native plants and invasive plants, allowing the Council to minimize impact on rare plants and prioritize locations for weed control.
- Mowing, along with prescribed burning and herbicide treatment, will control invasive plants. Blackberry thickets will also be removed and bare areas seeded with native plants.
- Thinning trees within the floodplain forest will reduce the amount of competition the retained oaks face for light and space. This will improve their growth characteristics and acorn production. Existing wet prairie areas are being heavily encroached by ash trees, which will be removed to allow for prairie expansion and to benefit native prairie plant species.
- At the north end of the property, we will remove an undersized culvert across the main historic Coyote Creek channel. This structure creates a barrier to fish attempting to move upstream.

Coyote Project Funding & Support Phase 3

Project Cost:	$149,934
OWEB Funding:	$ 123,084
US Fish & Wildlife Match:	$ 25,000
Landowner Match:	$ 1,850

Partners
Art Johnson, *Landowner*
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
United States Fish and Wildlife

Lomatium Project Funding & Support

Project Cost:	$ 106,602
OWEB Funding:	$ 60,152
Landowner Match:	$ 1,850

Partners
Paula Erickson, *Landowner*
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
Bruce Newhouse, *Salix Associates*
Steve Smith, *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*
Jody Lemmer, *McKenzie River Trust*

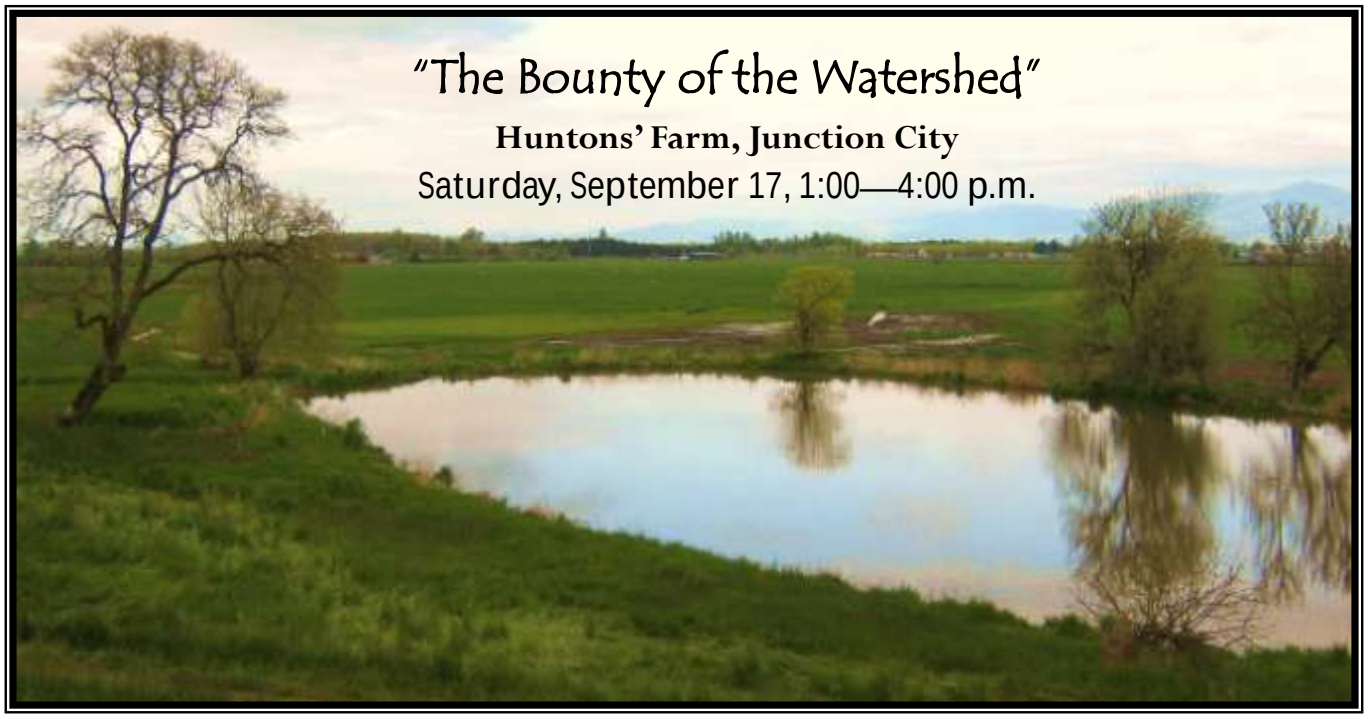
Environmental & Economic Benefits

- Removing encroaching trees and invasive plants from the wet prairie increases native plant diversity and will contribute to the recovery of endangered species such as Bradshaw's lomatium.
- Thinning dense stands of trees and shrubs will increase understory plant diversity in the floodplain forest.
- More plant diversity increases the abundance and diversity of native terrestrial invertebrates and wildlife such as salamanders. This improves habitat and food availability for rare woodland birds.
- Removal of competition increases light availability and oak acorn production, which contributes food for wildlife.
- Contractors from the surrounding area were used for all phases of the project which contributed to the local economy.

The Long Tom Watershed Council thanks our partners and funders!

Long Tom Watershed Council

14th Annual Meeting & Celebration



- Interesting speakers on local food and stewardship.
- Great local foods!
- Raffle prizes!
- Watershed awards & elections!
- Music!
- Family friendly.
- Project tours.
- Enjoy gorgeous late summer panoramas of the Coburg Hills and Coast Range Mountains.
- Celebrate another great year of local watershed work.

Tickets:

* $20/adult
* $10/child (children under 5 free)
* Maximum family charge of $50

RSVP: Rob @ 541-338-7060 or operations@longtom.org

Event sponsorships available!

For event info: Rob, 541-338-7060 or operations@longtom.org

Please support our work!

We're on PAYPAL now! Click the button at www.longtom.org

After 13 years, 50 projects, and 110 events, and counting, the Long Tom Watershed Council has demonstrated just how committed this community is to voluntarily improving water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in our local watershed.

- Over 1,100 families are learning about watershed condition and what kinds of projects neighbors are doing via our newsletter.
- More than 2,500 adults have participated in watershed learning activities.
- In 2009, LTWC won an international award for the "Science and Practice of Ecology and Society" for the community-based approach to watershed restoration.

Help now to buy a $3,500 tracking antenna for the Long Tom River so we can see if our tagged trout are headed that way!

Please support our work!

YES! I'd love to help with a tax-deductible donation to the Long Tom Watershed Council to improve water quality and habitat in my community!

Note: The Council will not release your personal information to other organizations.

DONATE BY MAIL:
Amount Enclosed: $ _____

☐ Check here if you'd like to receive our newsletter via email _____

☐ Check here if we should not list your name as a donor.

Send to:
Long Tom Watershed Council
751 S. Danebo Ave.
Eugene, OR 97402

THANK YOU! from the LTWC Board of Directors

Questions?
Dana Dedrick, Watershed Coordinator, 541-338-7055

DONATE ONLINE

www.longtom.org
On the front page, left sidebar — find the **"Donate" button and click to begin PayPal** donation . Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Council!

Donate

Invasive Species Spotlight: Hawkweeds

(*Hieracium species*) *For color photos, see website version of this newsletter*

Identification:

- There are several hawkweed species, and at least three that could invade the southern Willamette Valley (orange hawkweed, meadow, and mousear).
- All are dandelion-like weeds with an erect, hairy stem rising from a circle of basal (ground-hugging) leaves.
- Stalk will excrete a milky juice when broken or crushed.
- Leaves look like fuzzy dandelion leaves without the lobes and are elongated with points at the tip.
- Flowers also resemble dandelions with many rayed petals, but unlike dandelions, the petals have square ends with rounded teeth.
- Flower color is either yellow to orange or orange-red (depending on the species).
- Flowers bloom at the end of hairy stalk in May.
- Plants can grow 1-3 feet tall.

Orange hawkweed (left) and meadow hawkweed (right) flowers. Note the squared, toothed edges.

Orange Hawkweed courtesy of Jim Schultz, Oregon Department of Agriculture

Meadow Hawkweed courtesy of Elizabeth Bella, USDA Forest Service

Habitat:

- Native to Europe. Introduced as an ornamental.
- Found in a wide variety of habitats, including urban, agricultural, forests, riparian areas, and roadsides.
- Prefers open sunlight or partial shade and well-drained soils.

Ecological Impacts:

- Forms thick mats that can complete with native understory plants.
- Spreads both through seeds and through underground rhizomes. One plant can rapidly start an infestation.
- Out competes native vegetation for light, space, water, and nutrients.
- Hawkweed roots can change the pH (acidity) of the soil.
- Decreases native biodiversity and available forage for wildlife by forming monocultures.

Mouse-ear Hawkweed. Note the similarities in flower shape and design among hawkweeds.

Photo: Dan Tenaglia at Missouriplants.com

Where is it currently found?

- In Oregon, most hawkweed infestations are found in counties of eastern Oregon and near Portland.
- Hawkweeds are not confirmed in the southern Willamette Valley, although they could easily spread here, so early detection is important!

(Continued on bottom of next page)

Nominations Open for Steering Committee until July 15

Please consider how you or someone you know could help guide the Council

Might you, a colleague, or a friend be interested in helping to guide the watershed council for a term of 3-4 years? A few positions on the Council's Steering Committee (Board of Directors) will come open in September. The Nominating Committee is charged with putting together a slate of new committee members that, along with current members, will provide for a diversity of geographic representation and expertise to guide the Council.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please send a letter of nomination to the Nominating Committee at the Council address (751 S. Danebo Ave, Eugene, OR 97402) or email to coordinator@longtom.org by Friday, July 15. The letter should include at a minimum your name, contact information, including phone number, and a statement of interest. The nominee will be sent an application packet.

All those who apply will be included on the ballot for the Steering Committee which is published in the Council newsletter prior to the Annual Meeting. New Steering Committee members will be elected at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 17. Please contact Dana Dedrick for more information: (541) 338-7060.

Invasive Species Spotlight: Hawkweeds *(continued)*

How to Get Rid of It:

- Prevention and early detection is best practice. Barbed seeds can catch on clothing and pets. Clean vehicles, shoes, and clothing after visiting an area to prevent spread of any invasive species.
- Manual removal, such as mowing, will reduce seed production, but increases below-ground vegetative spread. Smaller patches can be pulled or dug out. Make sure to remove all rhizomes and root fibers.
- Herbicide treatment may also be effective. Caution: Always read herbicide labels carefully and follow all directions before applying.

If you find or believe you have found any of the Hawkweed species, please report it at: http://oregoninvasiveshotline.org

Additional Resources:

- Western Invasives Network (www.westerninvasivesnetwork.org)
- Oregon Department of Agriculture (www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/)

Orange hawkweed along roadside.

Photo: Nanna Borcherdt, Sitka Conservation Society

Council News

Many thanks to the Cutthroat Migration Crew!

A volunteer prepares to insert a tracking tag into a live Ferguson Creek cutthroat as part of the Council's Cutthroat Migration Study.

In January, the Council recruited 17 volunteers to help us with our cutthroat trout migration study. The goal is to monitor trout movements in Ferguson Creek and the main Long Tom River. So far, six landowners have participated by allowing the Council to set up hoop traps and antenna stations, and the volunteers have contributed over 250 hours! So far, we've caught and tagged the first ~ 130 of the ~ 1,000 fish planned for this study. These volunteers are helping us understand and prioritize fish passage corrections and habitat improvements for a fish that is beloved by local residents. Many people remember fishing for good-sized cutthroat "back in the day" and want to see this native fish thrive again. Thanks to each person on the volunteer crew for all their hard work—we couldn't have done it without you, and hopefully we'll see many of you back when we resume the study next year!

Winter/Spring 2011 Cutthroat Migration Volunteers

Brandon Bertilsen • *Kenny Binder* • *Mike Brinkley* • *Andy Burke*
• *Michelle Carrigan* • *Brad Johnson* • *Ken King* • *Jonathan LaTour*
• *Noray-Ann Leming* • *Reilly Newman* • *Caitlin O'Quinn* • *Mandy Payne* • *Andy Pirrello*
• *Erik Schmude* • *Seth Webster* • *Kate Widmer* • *Alanna Wong*

Intern Recognition: Shigeki Okada

Shigeki Okada was our Records Management Intern for the Spring Term, beginning at the end of March. He is a post-baccalaureate student studying planning, public policy, and management at the University of Oregon. Shigeki has worked with Council staff to increase the efficiency of our workspace by organizing our physical files. With Shigeki's help, we've been able to reduce our volume of files by about 50% through recycling files that are no longer needed and archiving others electronically. Shigeki has also helped re-organize a good chunk of our existing files.

Many thanks to Shigeki for his assistance with a challenging task! We appreciate his diligence and great attitude, and we wish him the best as he looks to complete his master's degree in urban planning at either Colorado or Japan.

Calendar & Announcements

LTWC Council Meetings & Tours

Outdoor Project Tour/Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 15, 5:30 p.m.
(Note: not May 31 as posted in April newsletter)
Featured in this newsletter

14th Annual Meeting & Celebration

Saturday, September 17, 1:00 p.m.
Hunton's Farm, Junction City

- Local food buffet of hors d'oeuvres
- Key presentations by local food growers/ producers
- Awards and elections
- Project tours
- See page 5 for ticket prices & details!

Watch for more information and registration in the August/September newsletter.

Info for all: Rob Hoshaw, 541-338-7060
operations@longtom.org

facebook *LTWC is on Facebook*
Friend us at:
www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Long-Tom-Watershed-Council-LTWC/133536603372644

Community Announcements

Wetland Wander at Hanson/See-Sil Site
Willamette Resources and Educational Network
Tuesday, July 12, 9:00—10:00 a.m.
Wetland Wanders are casual walks through various West Eugene Wetlands sites on the second Tuesday of every month. This month, the wander will be at the Hanson/ See-Sil site. WREN will provide binoculars.

Free! For more information, call 338-7047 or email info@wewetlands.org.

Contacts for volunteer opportunities:

Long Tom Watershed Council: 338-7060
WREN: 338-7047
Nearby Nature: 687-9699
City of Eugene, Parks Volunteers: 682-4845
City of Eugene Stream Team: 682-4850

Our Watershed & Council

A ction
T hrough
U nderstanding

Steering Committee
Lower Long Tom
Jason Hunton
Jim Pendergrass, *Chair*
Chad Stroda, *Vice Chair*
Upper Long Tom
Sue Kacskos, *Treasurer*
Carl Harrison
Charles Ruff
Amazon
Max Nielsen-Pincus
David Ponder
Therese Walch
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Kim Carson
Steve Cole
David Turner, *Secretary*
Deborah Saunders Evans, *Vice Chair*

Executive Director
Dana Dedrick
(541) 338-7055
Restoration & Monitoring
Cindy Thieman
(541) 338-7033
Jed Kaul & Josh Harrison
(541) 338-7058
Fiscal/Operations
Amanda Wilson &
Rob Hoshaw
(541) 338-7060

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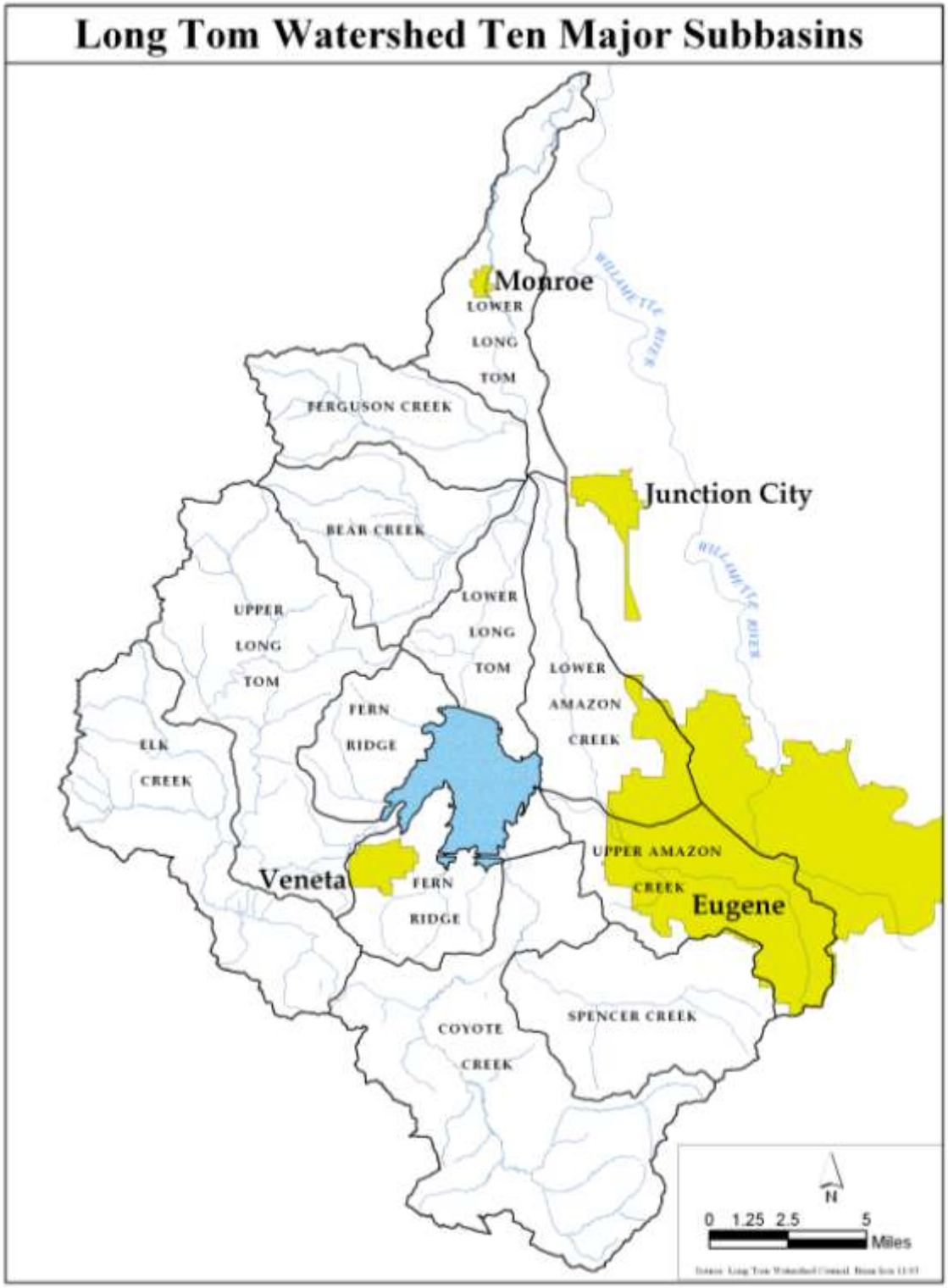

STAFF

Watershed Coordinator / Executive Director: Dana Dedrick 541-338-7055
Restoration & Monitoring: Cindy Thieman 338-7033; Jed Kaul & Josh Harrison 338-7058
Fiscal Manager: Amanda Wilson 338-7060
Operations Manager: Rob Hoshaw 338-7060

Upcoming Meeting: Project how-to: Outdoor tour of prairie and floodplain oak savanna habitat enhancement projects. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 5:30 p.m. —Johnson & Erickson properties, Franklin Rd near Alvadore

Long Tom Watershed Council
Phone: 338-7055
e-mail: coordinator at longtom.org
www.longtom.org
751 S. Danebo Avenue
Eugene, OR 97402

WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING/OUTDOOR TOUR
Wednesday, June 15, 5:30 p.m. — Johnson & Erickson properties

Directions to June Outdoor Project Tour

** Signs will be posted at driveway of Johnson project.*

From Eugene

- Take Hwy. 99 north out of town toward Junction City
- After about 9 miles, take a left onto Meadowview Rd.
- Then take a right onto Alvadore Rd (Meadowview dead ends there).
- After 1/2 mile take a left onto Franklin Rd.
- The project site is 1.2 miles down Franklin Rd. on the left just before the bridge over the Long Tom River.

From Veneta/Monroe

- Take Territorial Rd about 12 miles south of Monroe or 8 miles north of Veneta to Franklin Rd.
- Project site is 1.3 miles east of Territorial Rd on the right side of Franklin Rd just after the bridge over the Long Tom River.