



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

Watershed news and meeting notice

JANUARY 2012

Action
Through
Understanding

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

January Public Meeting

Tuesday, January 31 — 5:30 p.m.

Petersen Barn, 870 Berntzen Rd, Eugene

Free, with refreshments!
Donations much appreciated.

Amazon Creek: Water Quality in Your Community

Host: Lindsay Reaves, LTWC Board member

- 5:30 Gather, share information
- 5:45 Welcome & Introductions
- 6:00 What LTWC is doing to understand Amazon Creek and what we are providing to improve water quality and habitat—Jason Schmidt, LTWC
- 6:30 The state of water quality in the urban portion of Amazon Creek—Tom Mendes, City of Eugene
- 6:55 ~ Break ~
- 7:05 Business and agricultural perspectives of Amazon Creek and what opportunities exist to improve water quality & habitat—Amazon Creek Initiative Partners Jason Hunton, Therese Walch, and Rusty Rexius (invited) or Josh Skov
- 7:25 Ways to be Involved!
- 7:30 Q&A with the Amazon Initiative Partners
- 7:45 Adjourn



Raptorviews
Philip Bayles
psb@efn.org

Amazon Creek flows from commercial and industrial areas into the West Eugene Wetlands.
(Photo looking east; West 11th Ave & Target visible)

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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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Public Meeting Background

Amazon Creek: Water Quality in Your Community

On Tuesday, January 31st the Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC) will host a public meeting on the Council's newest program: The Amazon Creek Initiative. Emerging from its headwaters just east of Spencer Butte, Amazon Creek is Eugene's urban stream that seems to hide in plain sight. Amazon Creek is unique in that it truly marks a connection between the urban and agricultural character of the Long Tom Watershed – flowing through

downtown Eugene, two-thirds of the flow splits off west of town to Fern Ridge, and one-third flows in the original channel toward Junction City, joining the Long Tom River which then flows into the Willamette River. People should attend if they live, work, or play in Eugene and the Amazon Creek area.

The creek, as it's managed today, primarily serves a very important function: stormwater and flood control for Eugene. As a community, we have an opportunity to enhance Amazon Creek as a valuable natural asset. With improved water quality and habitat, it is possible for Amazon Creek to not only provide the basics but also increase support for native species such as American beaver, river otter, and cutthroat trout, as well as provide increased recreational opportunities.

The Long Tom Watershed Council began the Amazon Creek Initiative to monitor water quality and pesticides in the creek, assess current behavior and management practices, and work with interested parties in a voluntary and positive way



Raptorviews
Philip Bayles
psb@efn.org

Hidden in plain sight, Amazon Creek provides a vital habitat corridor for wildlife as well as recreational opportunities on the Amazon Bike Path.
(This photo looks southeast with Amazon Creek flowing alongside West 11th Ave.)

How is LTWC going to do this?

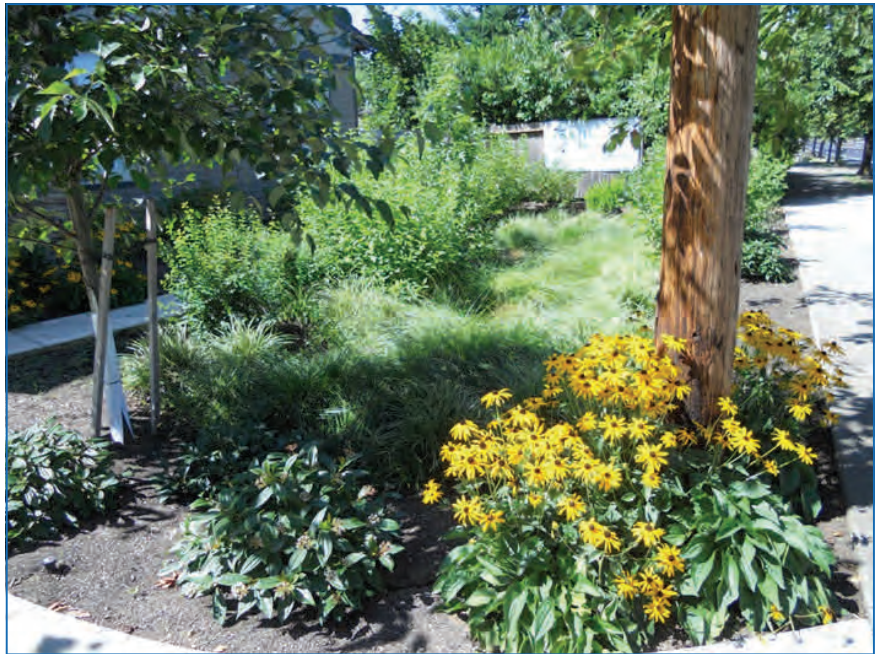
We can accomplish an enhanced Amazon Creek through improved management of our landscapes and hardscapes. Key components are:

- ◆ Pesticide Stewardship Partnership— This monitoring & improvement program is the 7th in Oregon and the 1st to include a *major urban land-use*. We are sampling 4-5 sites capturing the *complexity of land-uses*. This, and existing monitoring data, will be excellent information.
- ◆ Partners include SureCrop Farm Service, City of Eugene, DEQ, and others.
- ◆ Stormwater management ideas such as Low Impact Development (LID), rain-gardens & other retrofits that can also beautify commercial property.
- ◆ Retail customers learning appropriate pesticide product selection & use.
- ◆ Volunteers that leverage staff time.



Public Meeting Background (continued)

to develop best management practices to reduce pollutants from entering Amazon Creek. This project leverages the inherent strengths of the watershed council in stakeholder diversity, collaboration, and over 14 years of experience in habitat projects and education. The engagement of key urban businesses will be crucial to project success. Eugene businesses and farmers along Amazon Creek will benefit from the technical expertise of the watershed council and its partners and be able to celebrate their progress with the community. Ordinary citizens will benefit from participating in many ways such as monitoring, volunteering, and donating time and funds to the project.



A rain garden beautifies a landscape, while also removing pollutants from entering our local streams.

Photo by Jason Schmidt, LTWC

During the evening's meeting, you will get a chance to hear from LTWC and its partners, and how they are working together to improve Amazon Creek. The City of Eugene Stormwater program will present results of their water quality monitoring, and describe the trends of improving water quality through the implementation of its own best management practices. The Long Tom Watershed Council will provide a framework and vision of how private voluntary action can leverage these improvements and bring us closer to a rehabilitated urban creek that provides multiple benefits to the community. Lastly, our business and farm partners will describe action opportunities for the creek from their perspective.

The Long Tom Watershed Council is positioned to assist businesses, farmers, and other interested parties in taking actions to make Amazon Creek more fun and functional – more valuable to our community. We're here to help those who want to "do the right thing" but just need technical advice and assistance. By attending this public meeting, you can learn and can help form ideas for implementation.

Contact:

Jason Schmidt

LTWC Urban Watershed Restoration Specialist

(541) 653-0991, jschmidt@longtom.org



Action Through Understanding



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Long Tom Watershed Council Inaugural Fund Campaign

January 2012

Join our efforts to improve water quality and habitat in the Long Tom watershed basin.

Contributions to the 2012 annual fund of the Long Tom Watershed Council will help advance our mission directly. It's needed now because the grant funding landscape is changing such that some targeted community support will enable us to continue our good work.

Mission: 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.

Your contribution supports our work....

- ◆ **Educating citizens about** the importance of the watershed and how to care for our local land, water and wildlife resources.
- ◆ **Gathering valuable data** on which to base our work and measure results, such as taking fish migration and habitat surveys, monitoring water quality, and inventorying barriers to fish migration.
- ◆ **Taking care of local habitats and waterways** by removing invasive weeds for native plants, building habitat for animals, and improving rivers for fish.

The watershed is a community resource that we need to take care of today—for the future.

The Long Tom River flows to the Willamette River. The Long Tom River watershed encompasses approximately 262,000 acres:

- ◆ Long Tom River and its tributaries—such as Amazon, Coyote, and Bear Creek,
- ◆ Fern Ridge Reservoir,
- ◆ Cities of Monroe, Veneta, Eugene, and Junction City.

The watershed is home to important habitats and species including:

- ◆ Wetlands, prairie, and oak savanna,
- ◆ Cutthroat trout, bald eagle, Fender's blue butterfly, American beaver and camas.

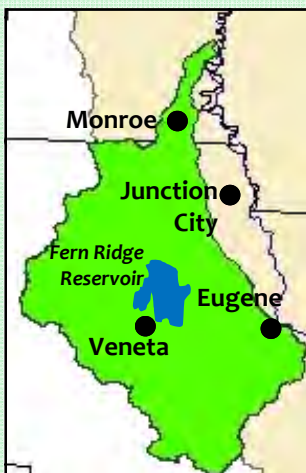


Isaac Mattson helps plant native trees and shrubs at the Mattson's project on Polyrock Ranch. LTWC has restored 18 miles of stream habitat to date!



Project Landowners

Paul Atkinson, Al & Wanda Bartlett, Dale Bergey, Don & Janet Blair, Will & Kathy Bondioli, Jim & Maria Bradshaw, Bureau of Land Management, City of Eugene, Ryan Collay, John & Christine Deck, Ron & Pam Detering, Paula Erickson, Scott Gibson, Jack Gray, Kent Hansen, Glen & Genie Harden, Dave & Marta Heidt, Gary Holm, Gary & Jo Holzbauer, Tom Hunton, Rick Huhtanen & Nancy Scholler, Derek Jaros, Art & Anita Johnson, Val & Ken Kime, Lane County, Rick & Patti Little, Deborah & Alan Mattson, Joe McFadden, Cary Moffett, Rick Movsky, Cary Moffett, Ron & Janice Murphy, John & Gwen Neumeister, Hal Noble, Kathy Noble, Steve Sertic, Heather & Tad Sogge, Linda Stork, Stroda Family, Andy & Maryrae Thomson, Dave Turner &, Suzanne Linquist, Dave & Isabel Watkins, Mark Westphal



Stewards of the Long Tom Watershed Since 1997

1. Providing unbiased, scientific, and technical expertise to private landowners and public interests using the collective wisdom of the community in a cooperative, unified and non-regulatory manner.
2. Strong community leadership, excellent technical work, careful strategies and a large base of volunteers have led to several merit awards including top-tier designation in Oregon, and
3. The international award for The Science and Practice of Ecology and Society, 2009.
4. Over the last 14 years, LTWC has won numerous private and public grants to invest \$3.2 million in the community for conducting restoration, science, and education projects.

Your Contribution helps:

- ◆ Improve water quality for drinking, irrigation, recreation, and fish.
- ◆ Increase the number of fish, turtles and wildlife and acres of habitat.
- ◆ Protect restored land by conducting maintenance and stewardship.

Here are some examples of how your gift can make a difference.

\$100 -----Purchases 100 protective tubes for 100 native trees.

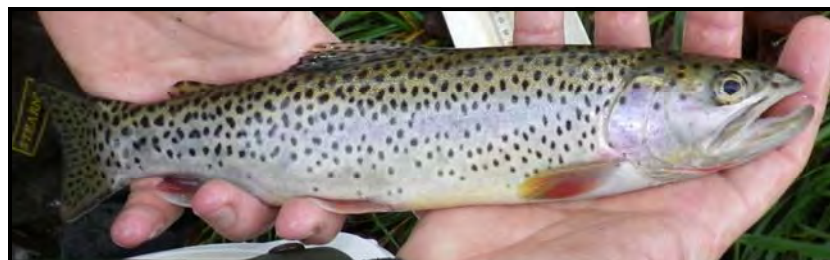
\$250 -----Funds the surveying of 1/4 mile of stream.

\$500 -----Supports a day of volunteers planting over 1,000 trees.

\$1,000----Pays for 1/3 of a fish detection antenna for a local stream.

Unrestricted inaugural fund gifts supports all our programs.

*Your donation also helps leverage grants and other contributions.
The LTWC is a 501(c)3 organization and all gifts are usually tax deductible.*



(Above) 40 volunteers have tagged 300 trout in the watershed to help us understand how and when trout move, as well as how passage barriers and water quality conditions impact this beloved native fish.



(Right) Restoration projects to improve prairie habitat allow native plants like camas to thrive.

**Thank you to everyone who has supported the work of the
Long Tom Watershed Council by giving to our
2011-12 Annual Fundraising Campaign so far!**

Lead Gifts

**The Hunton Family & SureCrop Farm Service
Art & Anita Johnson**



Major Donors

**Mike Brinkley
Charles Ruff**



Campaign Supporters

Rolf Anderson
Brandon Bertilsen
Benton-Lane Winery
Tom Bauman & Lindsay Reaves
Bruce Campbell
Steve Cole
Rich & Jenny Coleman
Ron & Karen Gilson
Jack Gray & Mary Jo Wade
Karma's Forest Wholesale Nursery
Beth Krisko
Laughing Stock Farm
Colton, Pearl, and Sylvia Nielsen-Pincus
Deborah Saunders Evans
Steve Sertic
Court Smith
David & Suzanne Turner
Mary Ellen West

Winter 2002 Native Tree & Shrub Planting Projects

Over the next two months, the Council will plant approximately 70,000 native trees and shrubs along stream side habitat at five high priority sites within the watershed. The purpose of the plantings are to improve riparian habitat to more natural conditions. Many of the sites lack sufficient canopy cover on the stream. This causes stream temperatures to rise during the summer, which has negative effects on native fish and other aquatic species. Also, a healthy riparian area provides habitat for native birds, mammals, amphibians, and insects that are important pieces of our ecosystems.

Before we improved these locations with the projects, invasive species including blackberry and reed canarygrass had invaded stream side habitat and made it tough for native plants to grow. Over the last few months we have been working hard to remove these undesirable plants in order to make room for native species that provide better habitat. Heavy duty mowing equipment is used to remove invasives when possible, and chainsaws and weed wackers are utilized at sites larger equipment can't access.

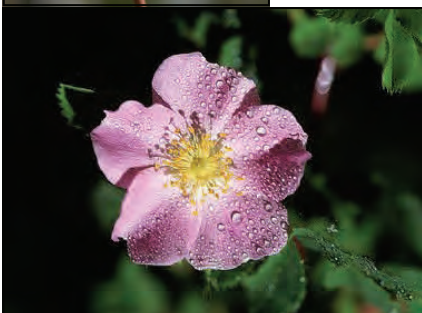
During the upcoming two months, when most of our native plants are dormant, crews will hand-plant 2,700 trees and shrubs per acre at our project sites. Plants will generally be placed two feet apart in rows that are eight feet apart. This high density planting plan is a departure from our previous efforts in which we planted trees and shrubs about ten feet apart. Other organizations have had great success with this denser planting which features a large proportion of shrubs (85%) compared to trees (15%). This planting design results in nearly 100% shrub ground cover after 3-5 years, which means that there is no space for invasive species to take root. The large number of shrubs per acre also allow for use or loss caused by beavers, deer, or elk.



Photos: Douglas spirea (top); Oregon grape (bottom)

Species are chosen based on the soil, moisture, and sunlight conditions at each site. For example, at wet sites with clay soil in valley floor locations we plant species such as Oregon ash, Oregon white oak, Willamette Valley ponderosa pine, nootka rose, snowberry, Douglas spirea, Indian plum (osoberry), and serviceberry. At sites further west in the Coast Range foothills, western redcedar, grand fir, bigleaf maple, vine maple, cascara, Oregon grape, and salmonberry are selected.

Follow up stewardship is vital to the long-term success of our planting projects. Tractors or hand equipment will be used to mow competing vegetation in the space between planting rows. At dry sites, plants will be watered one or two times in each of the first two summers to make sure they don't get dried out. After 2-3 years of maintenance, our plants should be "free-to-grow," meaning that they are well on their way to providing a multitude of benefits for all of the residents of the Long Tom Watershed – fish, wildlife, and humans!



Photos: Salmonberry flowers (top left); nootka rose flower (left)

Council News

Thank you, Josh Harrison!

Stewardship Technician Josh Harrison ended his work with the Council in October 2011 to travel and prepare for applying to graduate school. Josh's contributions were significant to the success of several oak, prairie, and stream habitat enhancement projects. In particular, he helped design and implement two oak woodland and savanna restoration projects at the Kime and Sogge properties, and he helped develop a recently funded native prairie restoration project south of Fern Ridge Reservoir. Josh brought a wealth of knowledge about native plant communities, as well as the impacts of invasive weeds, that contributed greatly to the Council's development and care of these projects. During his tenure, Josh continued the success of existing projects by overseeing ongoing stewardship and maintenance, and improved the tracking and analysis systems for LTWC's restoration projects. In addition to his work with habitat restoration and stewardship, Josh brought skills in community outreach, website management, and photography to benefit the Council. Josh's friendly, easy-going nature made him a pleasure to work with, and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.



Josh strikes a pose in his beloved mountains.

Volunteer Receives ODFW Award for Trout Conservation

Long Tom Watershed Council volunteer Kate Widmer has received the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) Volunteer Award. The program recognizes volunteers who have contributed to the conservation of native fish species such as our local cutthroat trout. Kate has lent her talents to LTWC's Cutthroat Migration Study since staff biologist Jed Kaul started the program two years ago. Forty volunteers are helping us tag and track the first 300 cutthroat trout (of 700 planned) in Bear and Ferguson Creek. Kate and others are collecting valuable data to help us understand how and when cutthroat trout move as well as how fish passage barriers and water quality conditions impact this beloved native fish. Kate brings a steadying influence to the program by helping to mentor new volunteers and is great at communicating field happenings back to Jed. Kate lives in Eugene with her family and appreciates flexing her scientific mind with LTWC when not busy monitoring her young children.



Kate's award recognizes her commitment to our local native trout.

*ODFW fisheries biologist Karen Hans, who is a member of the Council's Technical Team of scientific advisors and also assists with the Cutthroat Migration Study, nominated Kate for the STEP award. **Way to go, Kate!***

Invasive Species Spotlight: Spanish Heath

(*Erica lusitanica*) For color photos, see website version of this newsletter

Identification:

- ◆ Grows as an **erect, woody perennial shrub**.
- ◆ Plants can grow up to **10 feet** tall.
- ◆ Leaves are **light green** and **needle like**, and are tightly arranged in **groups of 3-4** around the stem.
- ◆ Flowers grow in **prominent clusters**, are **bell-shaped**, and **whitish** or **pinkish** in color.
- ◆ Flower clusters are also usually in **groups of 3-4**
- ◆ Flowers bloom in **winter**, usually between **December** and **April**.
- ◆ Fruit is a **tiny, smooth capsule** with very **fine pepper-sized seeds**.



Photo: Ken French, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

Habitat:

- ◆ Native to Spain, Portugal, and France.
- ◆ Pasture and rangeland, disturbed areas, roadsides; also along streams, forest land.
- ◆ Best adapted to wet and acidic soils, but also has shown some drought tolerance.

Ecological Impacts & Control:

- ◆ **Grows quickly** and can form **dense thickets**.
- ◆ Seeds are easily spread by **wind, water, animals, or people** — one plant can produce up to **9 million seeds!**
- ◆ **Out competes native vegetation**, particularly tree seedlings, and reduces overall plant diversity.
- ◆ If it continues to spread in Oregon, it could **impact productivity** of edible plants in **pasture land**, prove detrimental to the regrowth of **forest land**, and **increase maintenance costs** of public right-of-ways.
- ◆ Removal difficult; often requires multiple attempts; removal most successful from infestations of 2 acres or less
- ◆ **Mowing** Spanish Heath has **little success**
- ◆ Best control method is **prevention and early detection**.

Where is it currently found?

- ◆ So far, Spanish Heath is rare in Oregon, and is limited to south-western Oregon, mainly in Coos and Curry County; first appeared in Oregon in the 1970s.
- ◆ Also a problem species in northern California, particularly around Humboldt.
- ◆ Not confirmed in Lane County or the southern Willamette Valley, although **seeds spread easily** via a variety of means, so **they could easily spread here**, making **prevention and early detection important!**



Photo: Ken French, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

If you find or believe you have found Spanish Heath, please report it at:

<http://oregoninvasiveshotline.org>

Additional Resources:

- ◆ **Oregon Department of Agriculture:** <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/>

Calendar & Announcements

LTWC Public Meetings & Tours

Public Meeting: Amazon Creek Initiative—Water Quality in Your Community

Tuesday, January 31 at 5:30 p.m., Petersen Barn, Eugene (agenda on page 1, directions on page 12)

- ◆ How the City of Eugene is addressing water quality.
- ◆ How LTWC is working to understand and improve conditions in Amazon Creek.
- ◆ Hear the perspective of a local business owner and farmer.
- ◆ How local businesses and farmers can participate.
- ◆ How anyone can be involved.

No cost, donations appreciated. Refreshments served.

Public Meeting: Harkins Lake and Monroe area conservation

Tuesday, March 27, 5:30 p.m., Monroe High School Commons. Special field tour of area at 4:00 p.m.

- ◆ Floodplain areas and large scale conservation on the Willamette & Lower Long Tom Rivers.
- ◆ Why floodplain areas are important to water quality, fish & wildlife habitat, and farmland.
- ◆ Landowner values & why a landowner chose to preserve their land.

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

facebook

LTWC is on Facebook

Go to Facebook & search for "LTWC"

Community Announcements

WREN Wander on the Tsanchiffin Trail

**Willamette Resources and Educational Network
Tuesday, February 14, 9:00 — 10:00 a.m.**

WREN Wanders are casual walks through various West Eugene Wetlands sites each 2nd Tuesday of every month. Checkermallow Named after the local group of Kalapuya Indians that lived in this area, this 0.5 mile walk on the Tsanchiffin Trail provides an opportunity to view wildlife and restored wetlands. This wander will be led by WREN staff and volunteers.

Participants are asked to meet at the yurt adjacent to the WREN office/Red House at 751 S. Danebo Ave. in Eugene. WREN will provide binoculars. For more information call 541.338.7047 or email info@wewetlands.org FREE!

Stay tuned for these WREN events:

- ◆ WREN Wander – Tuesday, February 14th 2012 along the Tsanchiffin Trail (9—10 a.m.)
- ◆ Family Exploration Day Spring 2012 series – April and May 2012

Contacts for volunteer opportunities:

Long Tom Watershed Council: 338-7060
WREN: 338-7047

Nearby Nature: 687-9699
City of Eugene, Parks Volunteers: 682-4845

The Long Tom Watershed Council, a local nonprofit, counts on participation from many people and organizations. The local office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) donates postage for our mailings. They have a requirement to include the following disclaimer, which is now standard procedure for all BLM partnerships.

BLM Disclaimer: "The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government."

The Long Tom Watershed Council is still a local nonprofit (since 1998) with no government affiliation or authority. We partner with local people, businesses, and agencies in the interest of finding local solutions and bringing grant funding from private and public sources to do restoration, education, and monitoring work in the Long Tom River basin. We're thankful for the donation of postage expenses!

Our Watershed & Council



Action Through Understanding



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Jason Hunton
Jim Pendergrass, *Past Chair*
Chad Stroda, *Vice Chair*

Upper Long Tom

Sue Kacskos, *Co-Treasurer*
Lindsay Reaves
Charles Ruff

Amazon

Max Nielsen-Pincus, *Chair*
David Ponder
Therese Walch

At Large

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Long Tom Watershed Ten Major Subbasins



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Urban Watershed Restoration Specialist: Jason Schmidt 541-653-0991
Restoration & Monitoring: Cindy Thieman 338-7033; Jed Kaul 338-7058
Fiscal Manager: Amanda Wilson / **Operations Manager:** Rob Hoshaw 338-7060

January Public Meeting: Amazon Creek Initiative: Learn about water quality, habitat and some new efforts by LTWC and partners to enhance the creek!



Long Tom Watershed Council
Phone: 338-7055
e-mail: coordinator@longtom.org
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Eugene, OR 97402

January Public Meeting Tuesday, January 31, 5:30 p.m. — Petersen Barn Community Center

Directions to Petersen Barn

Petersen Barn, 870 Berntzen Rd, Eugene

From Eugene:

1. Take Hwy 99 north and turn left at Royal Ave.
2. Go about 1.25 miles on Royal Ave and turn right onto Berntzen Rd.

From Monroe/Junction City:

1. Take Hwy 99 south and turn left at Royal Ave.
2. Go about 1.25 miles on Royal Ave and turn right onto Berntzen Rd.

From Veneta:

1. Take Hwy 126 east & turn left at Green Hill Rd.
2. Turn right at Royal Ave and go about 2.5 miles, past Bertilsen Rd, and turn left at Berntzen Rd.

Parking & main entrance off Berntzen Rd.

