LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

Watershed news and meeting notice

FEBRUARY 2011

Action Through Understanding

February Council Meeting

Host: Deborah Saunders Evans

Tuesday, February 22 — 5:30 p.m.

Veneta Community Center

25192 East Broadway Ave, Veneta

Free and open to everyone—refreshments served!

Projects in Detail: Deck Family Farm & Winter Green Farm

- Culvert replacement techniques
- Bridge choices
- Riparian and pond enhancement
- Invasive species removal
- Working with grant funds and CREP program

Speakers:

- *Jack Gray, landowner at Winter Green Farm*
- *Cindy Thieman, Long Tom Watershed Council*

Photos

Top left: Invasive species were removed from this small pond on Winter Green Farm and replanted with native trees & shrubs.

Center: Landowner Jack Gray plants a ponderosa pine on the banks of Poodle Creek.

Top Right: An excavator removes the undersized culvert from Owens Creek at Deck Family Farm.

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

www.longtom.org

Fish Passage & Riparian Enhancement at Deck Family Farm

Project Background & Description

This project focused on improving water quality, riparian condition, and fish passage. Located at Deck Family Farm, the site is approximately seven miles west of Junction City on Owens & Turnbow Creeks—tributaries to Bear Creek. The 320-acre farm is certified organic for beef, poultry, and the land they raise it on.

An undersized culvert on the south side of the property on Owens Creek created a passage barrier for cutthroat trout and other native aquatic species. During winter, high water velocity through the culvert created a passage barrier. The culvert was also perched about six inches above the stream bed. Cutthroat trout, especially juveniles, often cannot maneuver through excessive water velocities or navigate culverts that are perched more than six inches.

High water temperature in the summer and lack of spawning habitat are currently limiting cutthroat productivity in the Long Tom Watershed. This makes it particularly important for fish to access the upper stream reaches that have cooler summer stream temperatures and spawning gravels.

The project also included constructing a fence to separate grazing pastures from the riparian area adjacent to Turnbow Creek. Livestock manure can lead to high levels of bacteria such as *E. coli* in the stream. Grazing of native riparian vegetation can lead to bank erosion and invasion from non-native species such as Himalayan blackberry. Fencing allows livestock to utilize the same pastures while improving water quality conditions.

Before the project: Undersized culvert on Owens Creek that will be replaced with a bridge to accommodate crossing vehicle and livestock **traffic. Note that the culvert's outlet is perched** above the stream, and its diameter is much **smaller than the stream's winter width.**

Implementation: This new bridge replaced the undersized culvert at Deck Family Farm.

Restoration Techniques

- Removed an undersized culvert, approximately six feet in diameter. Replaced culvert with a bridge constructed of metal I-beams and wood decking. The foundation for the bridge is concrete footings. This crossing will accommodate year-round vehicle and livestock traffic.
- Installed a "fish-friendly" screen that prevents juvenile fish & amphibians from being sucked up into irrigation intake devices.
- Installed riparian fencing along the edge of a pasture adjacent to Turnbow Creek.
- Planted native trees and shrubs along the riparian area of Turnbow Creek.

Project Funding & Support

Project Cost:	$ 86,410
OWEB funding:	$ 64,592
CREP funding:	$ 11,818
BLM RAC funding:	$ 10,000
Landowner Match:	$ 6,750

Partners
John & Christine Deck, *Landowners*
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Deck Family Farm (continued)

Environmental & Economic Benefits

- Approximately 6.5 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat were opened up for cutthroat trout and other aquatic species.
- Improved water quality by reducing *E. coli* levels and nutrient concentrations are expected in Turnbow Creek.
- Improved riparian conditions on over 3,000 feet of Turnbow Creek.
- Newly planted native trees & shrubs will stabilize the stream banks, reduce erosion and stream turbidity, and provide habitat for native wildlife. When mature, these trees will also shade the stream and reduce water temperature.
- Improving the intake screening of the existing irrigation system decreases mortality of juvenile fish and amphibians.

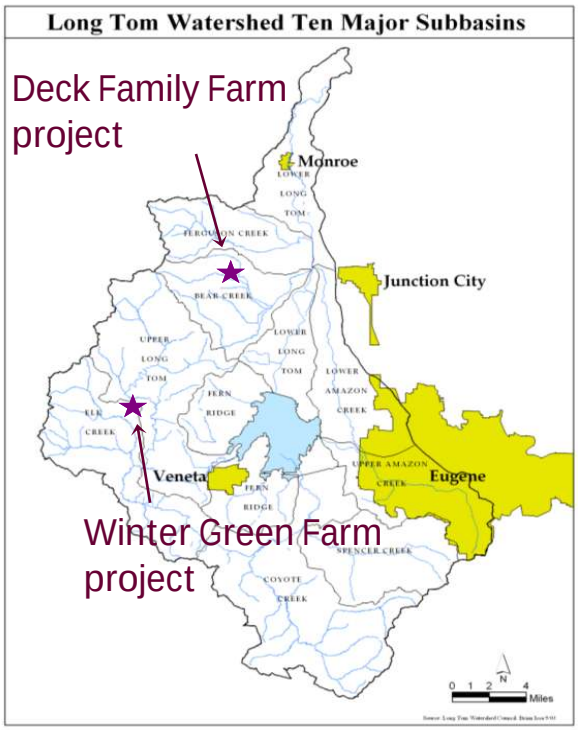
Before the project: Livestock such as these sheep had access to this area of Turnbow Creek. Note the narrow riparian area and lack of vegetation. These factors contribute to erosion, high bacteria and nutrient levels instream, and high water temperatures.

Winter Green Farm Riparian Enhancement & Oak Savanna Restoration

Project Background

This project is located at Winter Green Farm, a180-acre organic farm on Poodle Creek, a major tributary to Elk Creek. Both water temperatures and *E. coli* levels are high on Poodle Creek, presenting less than ideal conditions for native fish like cutthroat trout. The first and second phases of this project addressed both of these water quality issues. We installed wire fencing between the pasture and riparian area along Evans and Poodle Creek to allow livestock to graze away from the stream. Native trees and shrubs were planted in the riparian area to establish a canopy for shade and wildlife habitat.

The third phase focused on enhancing the quality of wildlife habitat on an eight-acre portion of the property that includes a one-acre pond, a small stream, and several acres of former oak savanna. The pond was already an attractive site for migrating waterfowl, and pre-project monitoring indicated that the pond could potentially provide habitat for western pond turtles as well as for native amphibians such as the red-legged frog. However, the pond's steep slopes left no shallow areas for breeding. Additionally, Reed canarygrass dominated the riparian area around the pond and the stream tributary, and non-native blackberry had invaded a section of the oak savanna.



Winter Green Farm (continued)

Restoration Techniques

During the first two phases, we installed 1,440 feet of five-strand barbed-wire fencing along Evans Creek and Poodle Creek to separate livestock from the riparian areas. Two 300-gallon off-channel watering stations were constructed to provide off-stream water. We also eradicated non-native species such as black-berry and scotch broom and replanted the riparian area with native trees and shrubs.

The third phase of the project included the excavation of two shallow pools adjacent to the existing pond designed for use by amphibians. The excavated areas were planted with native wetland species. The oak savanna was restored by mowing blackberry and grading steeper slopes and the mounds left by prior agricultural activities to allow for future mowing of blackberry re-growth.

Ecological & Economic Benefits

- Riparian fencing diminishes the impact of livestock on water quality and riparian vegetation.
- Increasing the amount of native trees & shrubs provides wildlife habitat. As the trees grow, this will shade the stream and reduce water temperatures.
- Eradication of invasive species in the upland and oak savanna areas allows the growth of native vegetation.
- Planting native grasses & forbs in the wetland area provides food & habitat for native wildlife.
- The shallow water of the excavated pools create breeding habitat for native amphibians.
- The excavation of two ponds for wildlife habitat utilized the services a local contractor.

Project Funding & Partners

Partners
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Jack Gray, *Landowner*
Steve Smith, *US Fish & Wildlife Service*
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

Project Cost:	$ 34,144
Funding:OWEB Grants:	$ 25,114
In-kind / Cash Match:	$ 9,030

Before the project: Blackberry had invaded the oak savanna area.

Implementation: Blackberry is mowed in the oak savanna to allow the growth of native vegetation.

After the project: The riparian area was fenced and an off-channel watering station was installed.

The Long Tom Watershed Council thanks our partners and funders!

Please support our work!

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

The Board of Directors is working on a fundraising plan to support the Council's projects and education programs in the watershed. Please check the website homepage for our new PayPal button—an easy way to make a contribution.

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

- Over 1,000 families are directly connected to learning about watershed condi-tions and what kinds of projects neighbors are doing via our newsletter.
- More than 2,500 adults have participated in watershed learning through the Council - these are the people with the power to do projects or actions on their property, or help others to do so.
- In 2009, LTWC won an international award for the "Science and Practice of Ecology and Society" for the community-based approach to watershed restoration.
- Also in 2009, LTWC become a **"model watershed"** with funding and support from two private foundations - with a challenge to increase the pace, scope, and effectiveness of our work by utilizing and expanding the community participation and commitment that got us here.

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 _____

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

THANK YOU!
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

Thank you for donating!

Direct support is invaluable to the watershed council helps us show community interest when we apply for state, federal and private foundation grant dollars for this community. In January, we applied for a Council Support grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. We received 19 tax-deductible donations for that effort totaling $2,320. We're very grateful for their support of this watershed council and its work.

Businesses

Benton-Lane Winery
Cole Resource Management Co., LLC
Karma's Forest Wholesale Nursery
Laughing Stock Farm

Individuals

Ed Alverson
Andy Burke & Jeanette Kessler
Bruce Campbell
Rich & Jenny Coleman
Jack Gray & Mary Jo Wade
Cliff & Kari Herbert
Gary & Jo Holzbauer
Arthur Johnson
Max & Nicole Nielsen-Pincus
John Reerslev
Steve & Susan Sertic
Kendra Smith
In memory of John Aagaard and in honor of the Council's work
In memory of Jim & Rollin Evans
"In honor of the work you do"

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 new 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!

Results of 2010 LTWC Self-Evaluation

On September 23, LTWC Steering Committee Board of Directors members met at Our Daily Bread in Veneta to discuss the successes and areas for possible improvement of the Long Tom Watershed Council. Incoming Steering member Max Nielsen-Pincus moderated the event, and staff members were took notes and answered questions.

The Board identified these areas as successes:

- Implementing meaningful projects from securing grant funding to responsible project and fiscal management.
- A diverse and inclusive membership representing a variety of stakeholders from across the watershed.
- Outreach and relationships with rural watershed residents—particularly farmers, ranchers, and foresters.

One of the main points of the evening was that the Council can do something well while also looking to keep getting better. Steering members felt that "doing better" means setting goals. A leading topic was broadening awareness of LTWC and citizen involvement among urban residents. Steering recognized the Council's success in cultivating relationships with rural residents and felt we could do more to engage people in Upper Amazon Creek. This might involve working with local community groups and reaching out to local homeowners and business owners to increase our visibility. The group discussed ways to engage a wider variety of people in general, and wanted to communicate our successes to those who are already active in the Council. Steering members also felt they could learn more about existing grant contracts through updates at Board meetings. Finally, the group recognized the continued importance of doing business with local contractors and companies, but it was suggested that we review our procedures for awarding contracts and base our selection on a contractor's knowledge and experience as well as the price.

Thanks to those Steering Committee members who participated and offered their valuable insight—and thanks to Max Nielsen-Pincus for moderating!

Volunteer Positions Available!

Do you or someone you know enjoy building websites or coming up with a plan to keep things organized? The Long Tom Watershed Council is currently soliciting volunteer opportunities for two volunteer positions. Deadline to apply is Wednesday March 2.

- Website Development—help us revamp our website and post more content!
- Records Management—help us implement a more efficient and organized filing strategy

Each position will require approximately 8-12 hours per week for 10 weeks this spring. Volunteers will start no later than the last week of March. For more information and to see the full volunteer position descriptions, visit our website at www.longtom.org/volunteer.html

or

Rob Hoshaw at 541-338-7060 or operations@longtom.org

Meet the Cutthroat Migration Study Volunteers

Brandon Bertilsen - Studying Fisheries & Wildlife at OSU.

Kenny Binder - Senior at OSU studying Marine Biology with a minor in Fisheries & Wildlife. Originally from Oregon City.

Mike Brinkley - Worked on Golden Trout Project in CA. Currently the Treasurer for Wild Trout Symposium. Now retired, Mike volunteers for many watershed projects.

Andy Burke - Junior studying Ecological Engineering at OSU. Resident of rural Eugene.

Michelle Carrigan - Junior at OSU studying Fisheries & Wildlife.

Brad Johnson - Studying environmental law at UO. Hopes to get hands-on experience in waterways & fisheries.

Ken King - Senior at OSU studying Fisheries & Wildlife. Originally from Roseburg.

Noray-Ann Leming - Eugene local and UO graduate in Environmental Science. Interested in learning about the Long Tom Watershed.

Jonathan LaTour - Graduate of OSU in Fisheries & Wildlife. Interested in more varied fish survey techniques.

Reilly Newman - Senior at OSU studying Fisheries & Wildlife; specializing in wildlife ecology. Has a soft spot for fish.

Caitlin O'Quinn - Graduate of Fisheries & Wildlife program at OSU. Master's in Education from Eastern Oregon Univ. Taught middle & high school for past five years.

Mandy Payne - Background in Environmental Science from OSU; law degree from Colorado. Currently lives in Eugene.

Andy Pirrello - Studying Fisheries & Wildlife at OSU. Enjoys fishing and long walks on the beach.

Erik Schmude - Post-bach student studying Fisheries & Wildlife at OSU.

Seth Webster - Junior at OSU studying Fisheries & Wildlife. Originally from Oregon City.

Kate Widmer - OSU graduate and former LTWC employee. Currently a stay at home mom and regular LTWC volunteer.

Alanna Wong - Studying Fisheries & Wildlife and Zoology at OSU .

** Not pictured: Aaron Ikemoto*

Thanks to all of the volunteers who are helping the Council track cutthroat trout migration in the Long Tom Watershed!

Invasive Species Spotlight: Lesser Celandine

For color photos, see website version of this newsletter

Identification:

- Perennial plant forms spreading carpet over the ground
- Two forms: smaller grows up to 6" tall; larger up to 1.5'
- Dark green, shiny, heart-shaped leaves
- Leaves will appear as early as late Jan. and plant dies back by late spring—invisible for much of the year
- Flowers are yellow with 5-8 petals; rise from single stalks above the leaves
- Flowers generally bloom from March to April
- Pale bulbs will appear at the base of the stems
- Large infestations look like a green carpet with yellow dots

Yellow flowers bloom in spring on single stem above dark green, heart-shaped leaves

Photo: Bruce Newhouse

Habitat:

- Native to Europe, Asia, and northern Africa
- Thrives in moist areas along streams, ditches, and lakes
- Prefers some shade, but can survive in full sun. Also found in oak woodlands, deciduous forest, and orchards

Ecological Impacts:

- Lesser celandine begins growing in late winter and out-completes native perennials that don't start growing until spring
- Decreases native biodiversity by forming monocultures
- Causes local elimination of native plants and the native insects and fungi that depend on them
- Resilient; reproduces with large numbers of tiny bulbs on root system. These bulbs can survive for years and can be spread by contaminated soil or water.

Extensive "carpet" of a large lesser celandine infestation

Photo: Bruce Newhouse

Where is it known currently in the Watershed?

- Upper Amazon Creek in Eugene—scattered and common from Amazon Park to Frank Kinney Park
- Several other locations within Eugene and just outside the watershed, including Mt. Pisgah Arboretum and Hendricks Park
- Seeds will spread by ornamental planting via waterways or other means; it may be present elsewhere in watershed.

Lesser celandine along the riparian area of a stream. *Photo: Bruce Newhouse*

How to Get Rid of It:

- Prevention is best practice: avoid planting invasive ornamentals
- You can dig it up in small patches if you remove all the bulb fragments and throw into the garbage.
- Be very careful on how you dispose of it so it does not spread. *Do not compost!* It is easy to miss bulb fragments left behind
- Use of herbicide when flowers are blooming can work well for larger patches, although herbicides, especially along waterways, should always be used with caution.

** Reporting & resources on bottom of next page **

Calendar & Announcements

LTWC Council Meetings & Tours

Council Meeting:
Tuesday, February 22 at 5:30 p.m.

- *Project results—culvert replacement & riparian enhancement at Deck Family Farm*
- *Riparian enhancement and invasive species removal at Winter Green Farm*
- *Working with grant funding and CREP program*

Veneta Community Center
25192 East Broadway Ave, Veneta
Free and open to everyone! Refreshments served.

Council Meeting:
Tuesday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m.
"10 Years of Forest Management in the Long Tom Watershed"

- *BLM*
- *Cary Hart, Giustina Land & Timber*

Monroe High School Commons

Council Meeting:
Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m.—noon
Invasive Species Workshop
Coffee & doughnuts provided!
Veneta Community Center

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

facebook *LTWC is on Facebook check us out at:*

www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Long-Tom-Watershed-Council-LTWC/133536603372644

Community Announcements

Wetland Wander
Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN)
Tuesday, March 8, 9:00—10:00 a.m.
Wetland Wanders are casual walks through various West Eugene Wetlands sites on the second Tuesday of every month. WREN will provide binoculars. For more information, call 338-7047 or email info@wewetlands.org.

Comic Pizza Family Night
WREN
Wednesday, February 23, 6:00—8:00 p.m.
Join WREN at Cosmic Pizza for food, fun, and learning as they present about our Wonderful Wetlands. Meals range from $4.50—$6.75. 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

Lesser Celandine (continued)

If you find or believe you have found lesser celandine, please report it at: www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org

Additional Resources:

- Western Invasives Network (http://www.westerninvasivesnetwork.org/wordpress/?p=31)
- Oregon Department of Agriculture (http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_lessercelandine.shtml)
- List of invasive ornamental plants: Emerald Chapter Native Plant Society (http://emerald.npsoregon.org/index.htm)

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
At Large
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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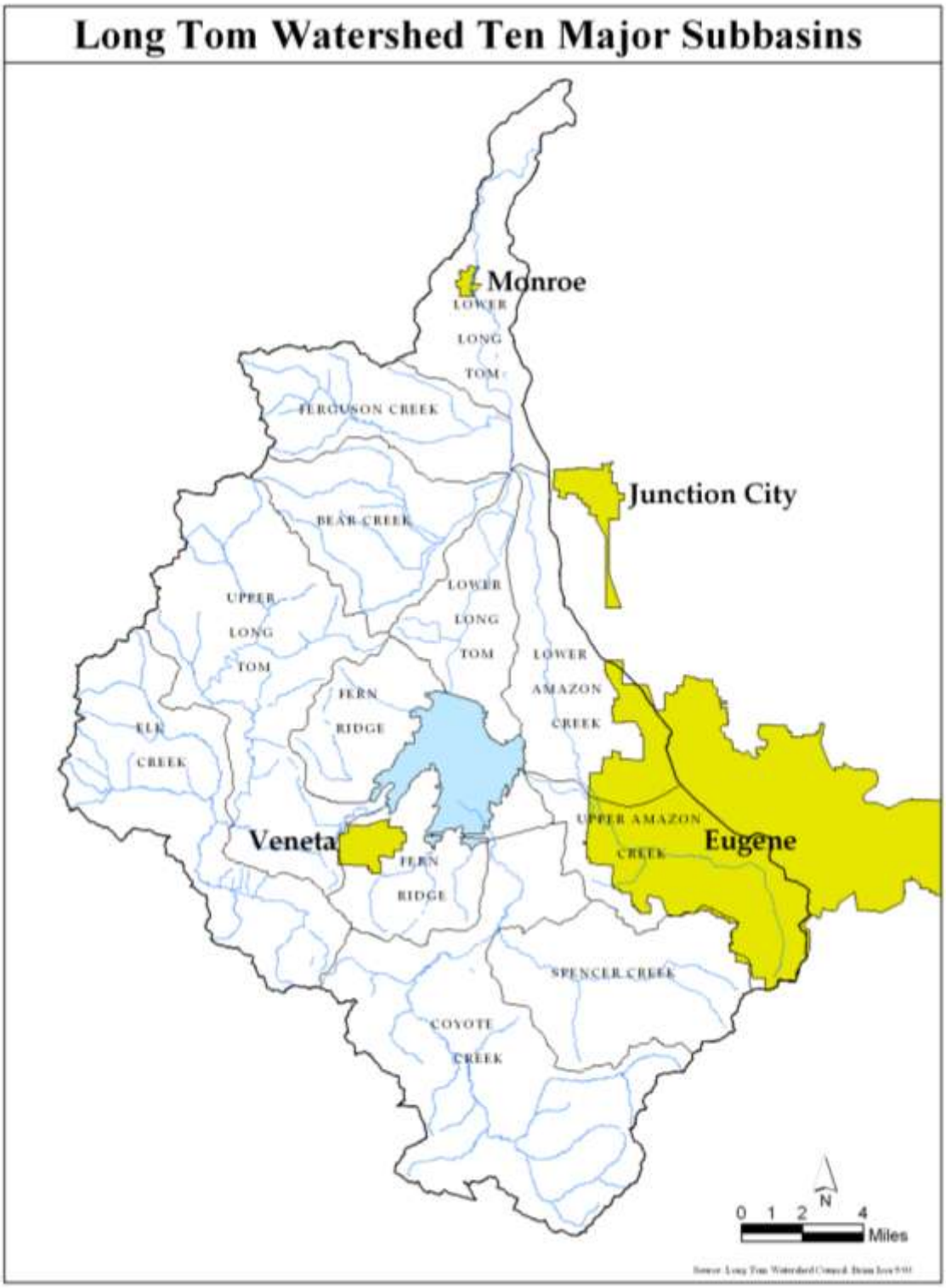

STAFF

Watershed Coordinator / Executive Director: Dana Dedrick 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: Projects in Detail: Culvert replacement, bridge choices, riparian enhancement, invasive species removal, grants, and CREP Program
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 5:30 p.m. — VENETA COMMUNITY CENTER

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

FEBRUARY WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, February 22, 5:30 p.m. — Veneta Community Center

Directions to Veneta Community Center

25192 East Broadway Ave, Veneta

From Eugene, head west on West 11th/Hwy 126 to Veneta.

At the traffic signal at Hwy 126 and Territorial Rd, head south/left on Territorial Rd.

After about 1/2 mile, turn left/east onto East Broadway Ave.

The Veneta Community Center is on the right side of the road.