

# Monroe's Long Tom River: Its History and Potential

By E. R. Lee

Tribune News

Did you know that the Long Tom River in Monroe once hosted steam paddle-wheelers to convey grain to market? Are you captivated by the information potential of aerial mapping? Would you be surprised to learn that juvenile spring chinook, cutthroat trout, and lamprays rely on our river for part of their annual life cycle? Does the intersecting history of the Long Tom River, the City of Monroe, and the Army Corps of Engineers hold fascination for you? If so, then you missed a fabulous opportunity to learn more at the regular public meeting of the Long Tom Watershed Council on Tuesday, Nov. 27, at the Monroe Community Library.

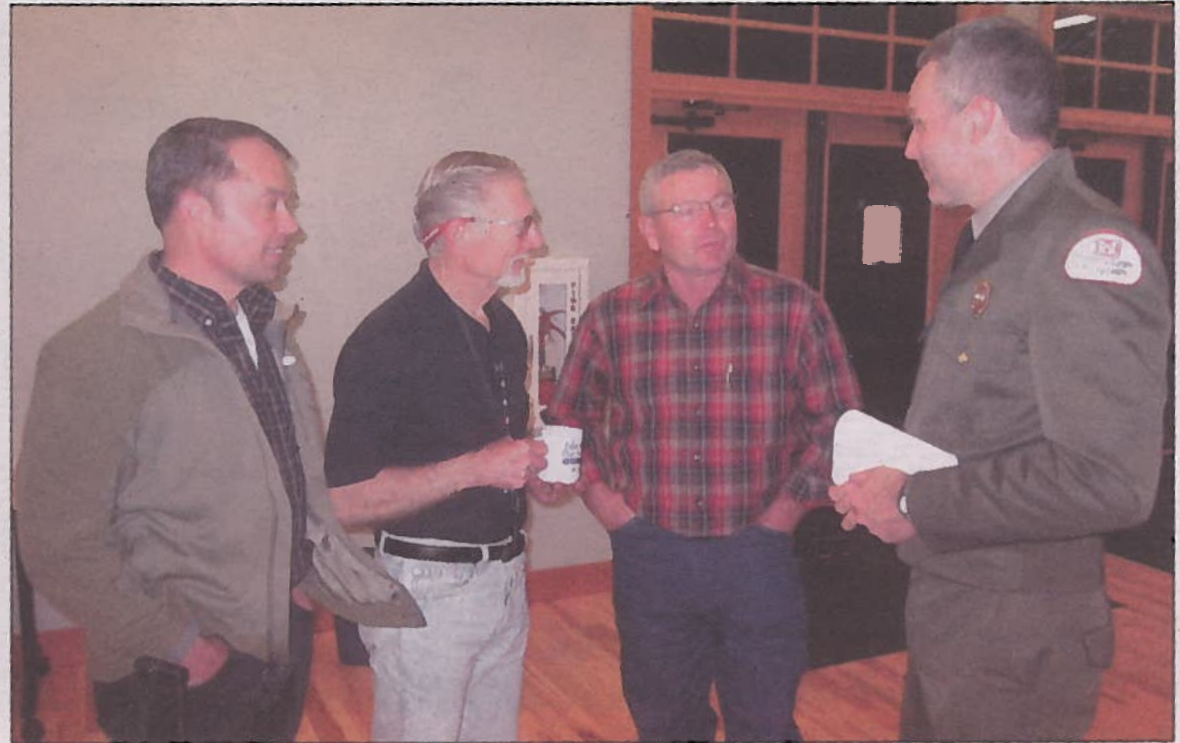
The Long Tom Watershed Council enjoys a well-deserved reputation for interesting and informative public meetings as well as successful projects that improve water quality and watershed condition in the Long Tom River basin. A standing-room-only audience applauded the Council presentations Tuesday evening.

Several speakers were on hand to describe a new project and seek public involvement. The Council's new project will be driven by public participation and voluntary

collaboration. It will explore ideas and opportunities to increase the river's ability to handle high flows, improve habitat conditions for native fish and wildlife, improve upstream fish migration, and consider the needs and perspectives of local residents and the watershed community. For residents of the City of Monroe, that includes the status of the Long Tom River as a source of drinking water and recreation opportunities.

The Council collaborates with volunteer private landowners to improve water quality and watershed condition in the Long Tom River basin. Tony Stroda, a fourth-generation farmer in the Monroe area, was among the speakers who drew applause on Tuesday. He reminisced about his grandfather's ability to catch cutthroat trout "by the sack-full" on the Long Tom in the 1940's and his own limited success these days. Stroda, has been a local leader on the Council and a strong voice for good stewardship of the land and river. He encouraged local landowners to participate in the Council's new project. "The Long Tom Watershed Council is not a government body. Everything they propose is voluntary," noted Stroda. "Give it a try. There is no pressure."

Cameron Bishop, U.S. Army



Graham Hilson, Rann Millar, Tony Stroda, and Cameron Bishop enjoy the opportunity to visit during a break at the Long Tom Watershed Council public meeting on Tuesday, November 27 at Monroe Community Library.

Corps of Engineers Natural Resource Specialist from Eugene, was another of Tuesday evening's lively presenters. He gave a brief but fascinating illustrated history of the Army Corp of Engineers leading up to its present role in managing the risks associated with flooding along the Long Tom. Using photos and stories, Bishop gave the audience a taste of Mon-

roe's historic past and the role of the Army Corps in present conditions along the length of the Long Tom River. He also clarified the role of the Army Corp in managing the river.

On the technical side, Chris Smith, a Senior Project Engineer at River Design Group, described how the latest mapping technology is providing information for

the Council's new project. Using examples from other locations in the nearby Willamette River basin, Smith explained how aerial maps and flood inundation models have been used in other locations. In the new Long Tom River project, these tools will aid the project by revealing where small changes

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DECEMBER 8, 2016



# Remembering Pearl Harbor

By Scottie Barnes

*Tribune News*

“Dec. 7, 1941. A date which will live in infamy.”

Spoken just one day after Japan’s surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s words...

U.S. soil as a result of a hostile action.

Dec. 7, 2016, marks the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and Oahu. It will be marked by weeks of observances around the world to honor the dead and the living. Unfortunately...

VFW Post for a Pearl Harbor Remembrance, during which a 102-year-old WWII veteran will receive an honorary VFW lifetime membership.

And, in accordance with a 1994 Act of Congress designating Dec. 7 of each year as National...

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along the river might yield big and beneficial results. Smith noted in his beautifully illustrated presentation that the results he is able to achieve using the latest mapping technology rely on the availability of imagery from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries lidar data collection efforts. Lidar (light detection and ranging) is a new tool in use by the State of Oregon to provide very precise, accurate, and high-resolution images of the surface of the earth, vegetation, and the built environment. The availability of this data for the Long Tom River basin means that the mapping effort is quick and efficient.

Council members Dana Dedrick, Jed Kaul, and Clinton Begley were on hand to clarify the goals and outcomes of the new project. “The outcome of this project is to identify opportunities for improving fish passage, habitat, and channel improvement,” noted Dedrick, the Project Leader. “This will result in a plan of opportunities, not a plan of actions.” Begley, the Executive Director for Long Tom Watershed Council summed it up this way. “Like all of the council’s work, this process depends upon community engagement and support. The council’s activities are a reflection of the values of the community, and we were excited to have a well-received first meeting with strong attendance and engagement at the Monroe Library this week.”

You can learn more about the Long Tom Watershed Council, its meetings, and this project at: [www.longtom.org](http://www.longtom.org) or [www.facebook.com/LongTomWatershedCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/LongTomWatershedCouncil).

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