



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Nov 3rd: Monroe Dam Public Scoping Meeting Hosted by Corps



Sept 28th Tour at Snag Boat Bend

THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING WITH US!

We'd like to share our deepest gratitude to this incredible watershed community for a successful 2021 Annual Celebration & Fundraiser. During our week of celebration folks from across the watershed were able to connect at three tours representing a range of the Council's projects and program areas. We want to thank our project partners and landowner hosts at Winter Green Farm, HIV Alliance, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at Snag Boat Bend.

If you weren't able to attend our **live virtual event on September 30th**, that video is now available and posted to our [YouTube page \(youtube.com/longtomwsc\)](https://www.youtube.com/longtomwsc).

Thank you again to our event sponsors - Bauman Tree Farm and Roseburg Forest Products. This event was also made possible in part with a grant from **Benton County Soil & Water Conservation District.** We had 37 individuals, businesses, and families **give nearly \$7,000 toward this fundraiser.** We're humbled by and grateful for the community's generosity! Last but not least, we also want to thank the people and businesses who

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donated gifts for our awardees and prizes for this event: David Turner, Café Mam, GloryBee, Sanity Chocolate, and Eclectic Nectar Farmstead.

So much of LTWC's work centers on community connections – through conversations on the landscape, building relationships, learning from one another, and working across lived experiences to innovate and plan for a healthier future for our watershed and its people. We couldn't do that without your support, so truly, thank you!

ANNUAL CELEBRATION IN PICTURES



Thank You for Giving to LIWC!

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2021 GIVING

William Allison

Amazon Smile

Rolf Anderson & Susie Sieloff

Paul Atkinson & Sid Baum

Jamila Baig

Bauman Tree Farm (*sponsor*)

Phillip Begley - In Memory of
Leonard Elwood

Diana Bus

Robin Cochran

Paula Conn

Marci Cutler

Chanda, Michael, Lief & Tallin
Diekotto

Foxbound Flowers - Kelsey
Ruhland

Matthew Goslin

Al & Donna Hrynyshyn

Ruth Kanagy

Sara Kaul

Ron & Anita Larson

Rick Meisser

Shelly Miller

In Memory of Robert F. Olson

Michele Peniakoff & Robert
Consentino

In Memory of James
Richardson

Anami Ridge

Roseburg Forest Products
(*sponsor*)

Kevin Shanley

Court Smith

Steven Soltesz

Lisa Stump

Jon Texter

Jabrila & Wali Via

Michael & Jan Whitty

Anonymous

CORPS & PARTNERS HOST MONROE DAM PUBLIC MEETING SCOPING SESSION

NOV 3,4 P.M., ONLINE ONLY (MEETING LINK ON NEXT PAGE)

Hello watershed friends and interested folks – After many years we have finally made it to the point in the effort for fish passage at Monroe where the public scoping meeting on the Monroe drop structure will be held. The meeting will be hosted online by the Corps of Engineers and partners for the Long Tom River Ecosystem Restoration Project.

Our request now is that you attend that public meeting virtually on Wednesday, November 3rd at 4 p.m. to learn and ask questions. **There is a further invitation to submit comments in writing within 30 days of the meeting.** We hope you can support the project for the health of the Long Tom River, especially fish passage, and especially a solution that brings the river back to the most natural state possible, for fish passage at the widest set of conditions, and with the lowest ongoing costs for the sponsors.

Thank Yous

Thank you to the **Corps of Engineers Willamette Valley Operations staff** – many of you know Erik Petersen and Wendy Jones, and have worked with Cam Bishop and other great staff previously.

Thank you to the **Portland District team** that is specific to and leading this 1135 project – you will meet Sarah Knowles and Kat Herzog on the virtual public meeting.

Thank you to the **City of Monroe** for their co-sponsorship, leadership and consistent support for this project for more than five years (and partnership on other projects!).

Thank you to the **Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians** for being an essential, valuable and generous co-sponsor for this project and a consistent guide and partner for many years.



This photo from April 2019 during high flows (~4800 cfs) shows how the drop structure (“dam”) at Monroe slows water briefly but does not store water. It’s called a run-of-river or low-head dam. These dams create drowning hydraulics such that many states are actively removing them, and the one at Monroe is a fish passage barrier under almost all conditions to some of our most iconic and valuable fish. This great shot by Clinton Begley’s drone also highlights the side channels and slough habitat. Thanks to the many landowners and community members continuing to work to reconnect and restore habitat throughout the watershed.



A volunteer holds an adult coastal cutthroat trout during Long Tom River fish tagging study. (Credit: LTWC)

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MONROE DAM PUBLIC MEETING SCOPING SESSION

HOSTED BY THE ARMY CORPS

NOV 3RD, 4- 5 P.M. ONLINE VIA WEBEX

All Info [Here at the Corps' Website](#)

****Meeting Link - Join Here****

OR click link on our website

Call: 1-844-800-2712 (US) (Call-in toll-free number)

Access Code: 2762 496 5934 #

Password: jaSHTZa\$633

Virtual Meeting tips

WebEx is a secure platform used by the Corps. Be early if you can (virtual room opens ~15 minutes early). Use the link and have the meeting ID from the invitation. Using a screen is best to see the presentation but there is a call-in option. You can download the WebEx app or join in browser. Either way you'll sign in as a guest. Please make sure to mute yourself. You'll be able to ask questions in the chat. Perhaps make sure your browser is updated, and computer updated and restarted, to lessen potential technical issues.

If you can't make it, slides will be posted afterward, likely at the same Corps website. LTWC and the City of Monroe will also post them.

Please submit any comments on the project in writing. Ideally, submit them to the Corps directly although LTWC or the City can also forward them for you.

Email: NWP-LongTom-EcoRes@usace.army.mil

[Corps Fern Ridge and Long Tom River Website](#)

All questions can only be answered "officially" by the Corps for this project. The sponsors and LTWC can offer perspective and discussion, and sometimes will know the official answer because it's been discussed.

Corps, 503-808-4510

Dana @ LTWC office, 541-654-8965



Pacific lamprey are an essential fish in the ecosystem, and culturally vital to the people of the Native American Tribes that live and work here. (Credit: Jeremy Monroe, Freshwaters Illustrated, via ODFW)

More on next page

MONROE DAM: REMINDER OF BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Addressing barriers to fish passage was identified as a priority in LTWC's Watershed Assessment in 2000. Addressing the barriers of the Corps' structures has been an effort of many partners in the watershed, culminating in a letter from the City of Monroe to the Corps in 2016 to request a look at the Monroe drop structure under the 1135 CAP funding authority for ecosystem restoration. LTWC received grants from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Open Rivers Fund – a fund of the Resources Legacy Fund supported by The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation – and many watershed donors to look at mainstem river fish barriers, habitat reconnection, and improved maintenance practices. LTWC hosted public meetings, tours, and surveys in the Monroe area from 2015-18 with the help of a project steering committee of landowners, City officials, and watershed residents while simultaneously working with key partners at a technical level. Due to the incredible collaboration and wide community support for fish passage at Monroe, two successive Corps Colonels supported the project and we were thrilled to get one of only two project-starts in the nation when it was approved in 2019.

There are many measures we can take to address the fish passage barrier this drop structure at Monroe presents. Importantly, we can do so without increasing flooding, where it is not wanted by the City or landowners, because this is a run-of-river dam (not a water storage dam). We can also improve fish passage without negatively affecting the City water intake upstream. There will even be opportunities, mainly alongside the project, to improve conditions for City water quality, habitat in the City park area, and access to recreation, cultural knowledge, and views and engagement with the river.

The project connects with multiple existing plans for conservation, City of Monroe parks, Riverside District, and the City's water system. It also fits with the vision and goals for an increasingly well-functioning river system from a natural and

cultural perspective. This project complements other efforts of the City, LTWC and multiple Tribes and Tribal Nations in this area.

We hope to see you at the virtual meeting, and hear from you in comments to the Corps!



Adult coastal cutthroat in Long Tom River - we hope to increase passage and habitat and see many more of these fish thriving here!



These juvenile Chinook migrate in winter during high flows and need calmer water to rest and feed. They try to move upriver but cannot get past the dam unless some lucky flow movement happens. If we open passage at the Monroe dam site the Chinook population could thrive here.

ANNUAL WORK PLAN PUBLISHED ONLINE!

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

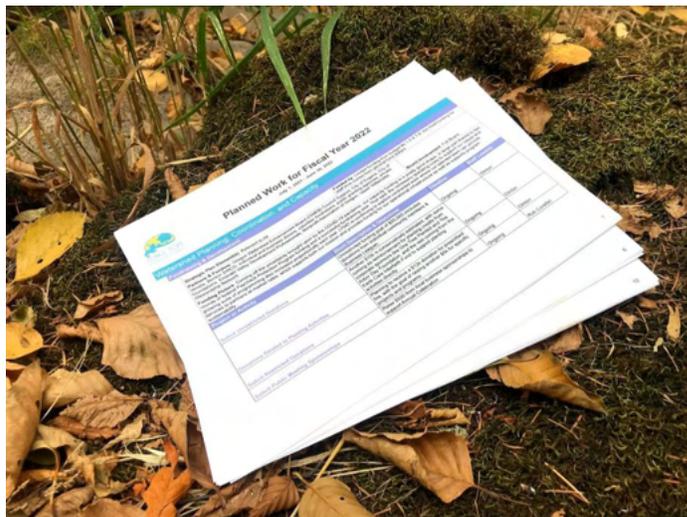
Each year the watershed council undergoes an extensive work-planning process wherein the staff and board develop a detailed report of the work underway, and what to expect in the coming year.

We have three temporal views of the Council's work that guide us:

- Our 30-year Conservation Strategy guides our restoration and enhancement activities on the ground over the "Long Term in the Long Tom."
- Our Strategic Plan provides a 3-5 year view of how key priorities within that Conservation Strategy should be expressed in the medium term.
- Our annual one-year Work Plans are the tactics and activities on a 12-month view in direct service to our mission, as guided by the Strategic Plan and Conservation Strategy.

We're proud to [share our Annual Work Plan \(online at longtom.org\)](https://www.longtom.org) as a way to give our watershed community a window into all the amazing work underway, and as an act of transparency so you can see exactly what kind of activities your generous gifts of time, energy, and dollars support.

As you review the plan, I hope you'll get a sense of how diverse the Council's work truly is as we conduct projects in rural and urban spaces, in streams and on ridge tops, and everything in between. Importantly, I hope you'll get a sense of how sincerely we value and prioritize working with folks from all walks of life and connections to the lands and waters we share. We put a lot of energy and care into listening, learning, and asking questions to ensure that the collective wisdom that influences our work includes a diversity of lived experiences. Increasingly, that energy and care is concretely reflected in our Annual Work Plan as the awareness we cultivate through relationships we build find their way into action on the ground. We still have a lot of work to do, but are buoyed by the progress we see.



[This year's annual work-plan](#) is over 19 pages! We have 12 staff working in service to this watershed and our 24 year mission for a healthier Long Tom. Each year this hard-working and creative team accomplishes a lot. And, none of it happens without a community ready to engage, give, and act. As you look through the tables and boxes of this year's plan – I hope you'll reflect upon the people in your community behind those boxes, and the important contributions you and folks just like you are making all across this watershed to make this work happen.

And, I hope you'll keep the words of our mission, and our commitment to marginalized communities in mind when reviewing this plan. Ask us questions, keep us accountable, and most importantly keep us grounded in what matters most to you and the health of your communities.

Mission (since 1998): *"The Long Tom Watershed Council serves to improve water quality and watershed condition in the Long Tom River Basin and surrounding drainages through education and collaboration among all interests, using the collective wisdom and voluntary action of our community members."*

Continued on next page

Commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (Since 2019): *“The health of the watershed is dependent upon the contributions of all people. LTWC recognizes the disproportionate impacts systems of oppression on People of Color and Indigenous People. We believe the organization’s strength depends on breaking down implicit, systemic inequities. We strive to create an inclusive and welcoming environment that grows our collective wisdom.”*

Please reach out if you have any questions or would like to learn more about our work this coming year. And, stay tuned for later this fall when we publish our 2021 Annual Report to reflect on the work completed on behalf of you and the finned, and four, and six legged watershed neighbors we all share it with.

- Clinton Begley, Executive Director: 541-654-8965 | coordinator@longtomorg



BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION

Abby Colehour, LTWC’s Restoration Projects Manager, led a biochar demonstration and orientation for the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission earlier this month.

Biochar is a soil amendment that is produced in specialized kilns when organic material is partially combusted in the presence of limited oxygen. Reducing organic slash from brush and trees into biochar on restoration projects presents a couple exciting opportunities. The biochar can be returned to the soil to store carbon and promote soil health through enhanced water and nutrient storage. It’s also an alternative to traditional slash pile burning that minimizes air quality concerns.

Thanks to Kelpie Wilson of Wilson Biochar Associates who also came with her biochar kiln and lent her many years of expertise to the discussion!

If you’d like to learn more about biochar and how the Council is exploring its use in ours and our partners’ habitat restoration work, check out our website at longtom.org/biochar.



Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: LONGTOM.ORG

October 2021 Newsletter

WWW.LONGTOM.ORG

INDIGENOUS FIRE TRAINEES CARRY OUT PRESCRIBED BURN

This October, a cohort of Indigenous fire practitioners, their families, partners, and community members from throughout the Northwest convened at Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve to conduct a controlled burn.

Though small, the burn is a significant step for local and regional Indigenous practitioners to reconnect with the land and traditional ecological practices. Return of good fire to these habitats is essential for the health of numerous species that co-evolved in relationship with Indigenous people and their culture of burning since time immemorial.

[You can learn more in this great article from KLCC](#) Stay tuned for more news and photos about this project in the coming weeks! **Thanks to [KLCC](#) and [Brian Bull](#) for shining a spotlight on this important, regional partnership behind returning cultural fire to the landscape!**

We'd like to extend a special thank you to [McKenzie River Trust](#) and their generous donors for supporting this work with proceeds from last year's Upstream event with Robin Wall Kimmerer! We're also grateful for support from the Landowners Doug and Linda Carnine, our partners at [Ecostudies Institute](#), [Oregon Prescribed Fire Council](#), [The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde](#), [Lane Regional Air Protection Agency](#), [Rivers to Ridges Partnership](#), the [Oregon Department of Forestry](#), [The Nature Conservancy in Oregon](#), and [Oregon State University Extension – Lane County](#).

Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve is located on Chelamela & Chemapho Kalapuyan homelands in Lumtumbuff (Long Tom Watershed).



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Logos include: SYRCL's, Friends of the Willamette, McKenzie River Trust, Coast Fork Willamette, Long Tom Watershed, Cafe Mami, Wildcraft, and others.

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival comes to Eugene on Tuesday, November 16th! Join the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network (UWSN) in celebration of our environment and the people working to care for it across the globe. This year's film festival will be adapted to keep our community safe from COVID-19.

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival works with nonprofits across the globe to host the film festival as a way to reach out to communities and bring together a diverse audience.

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW AT upperwillamette.org.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

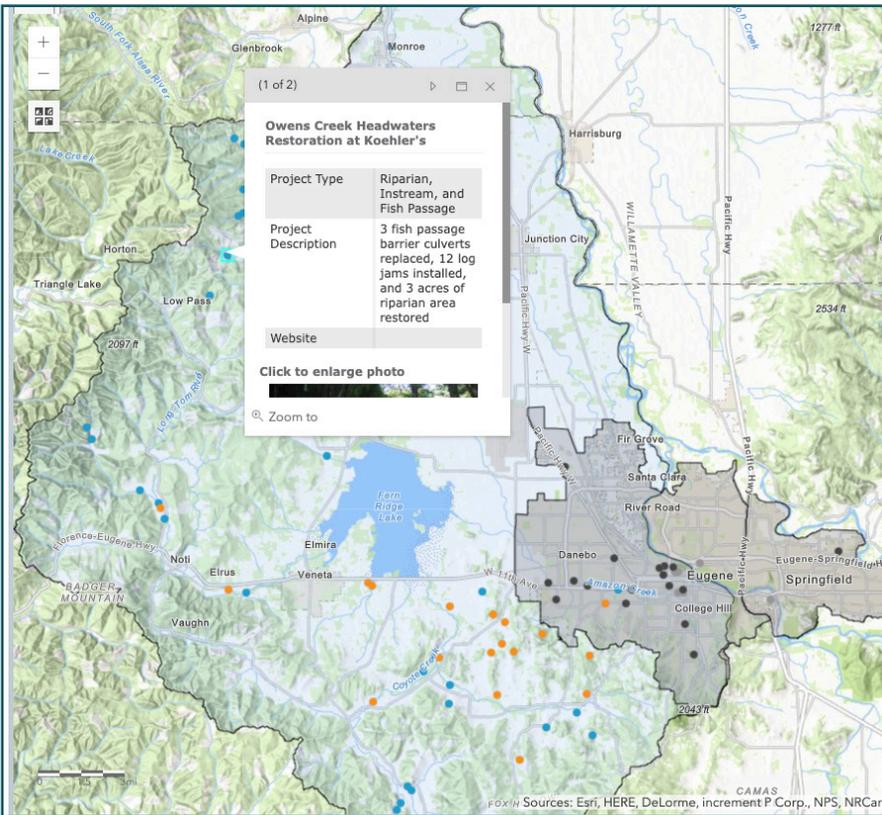
The Long Tom Watershed lies within the traditional homelands of the Tribes and Bands of the Kalapuyan peoples. Following treaties in the 1850s, the Kalapuya people were dispossessed of and forcibly removed from their Indigenous homeland by the United States government. Today, many descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. We acknowledge that we are on occupied lands, and express our respect for Kalapuya and all Tribal Nations of Oregon, and the important contributions they continue to make to their communities, including to the stewardship of this watershed.



PROJECTS EXPLORER MAP NOW LIVE!

Our new project explorer map is now live on our website! Our resident River Scientist & GIS Specialist Amanda Reinholtz took up the mantle to bring this dream to life! Check out the map here, and click on the dots to learn a little about each of our 134 projects shown! Some projects have photos and a web page of statistics and more info you can dive deeper into. In the coming year more photos and project profiles will come online and be included.

LTWC has a long history of helping neighbors care for land and water right in their own back yards. The Long Tom Watershed is just over 90% privately owned. That means most of these projects have a local resident, family, or small business to thank for doing the right thing in their corner of the watershed. We also partner with many public landowners in public/private partnership in stewardship of our local watershed.



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Mission Statement

The Long Tom Watershed Council serves to improve water quality and watershed condition in the Long Tom River basin and surrounding drainages through *education and collaboration* among all interests, using the *collective wisdom and voluntary action* of our community members.