

# LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## Neighbors Working Together for a Healthier Watershed Community



Prescribed burn at Greenhill restoration project, October 2022

### Return of Ecocultural Fire in the Long Tom and Willamette Valley!

**This fall saw the momentous return of ecocultural fire on rare, fire-adapted ecosystems!** This comes after years of capacity building by LTWC staff and partners and the centering of Tribal values and priorities. Approximately 130 acres of upland prairie, wet prairie, and oak habitat was burned on four restoration sites. Burns were coordinated and staffed by Ecostudies Institute with numerous partners, including Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, ODFW, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Woods, and others. In July, long-time LTWC staff Katie MacKendrick transitioned to become the Willamette Valley fire collaboration manager at Ecostudies, realizing a years-long vision. With funding support from the US Forest Service and Oregon Conservation Corps, **there is now a dedicated Willamette Valley ecocultural burn program, including a 5-person, all-Native burn crew and a cross-cultural coordination team.** These are no small feats for a very new program and team!



Aerial view of Long Tom River at Monroe in winter

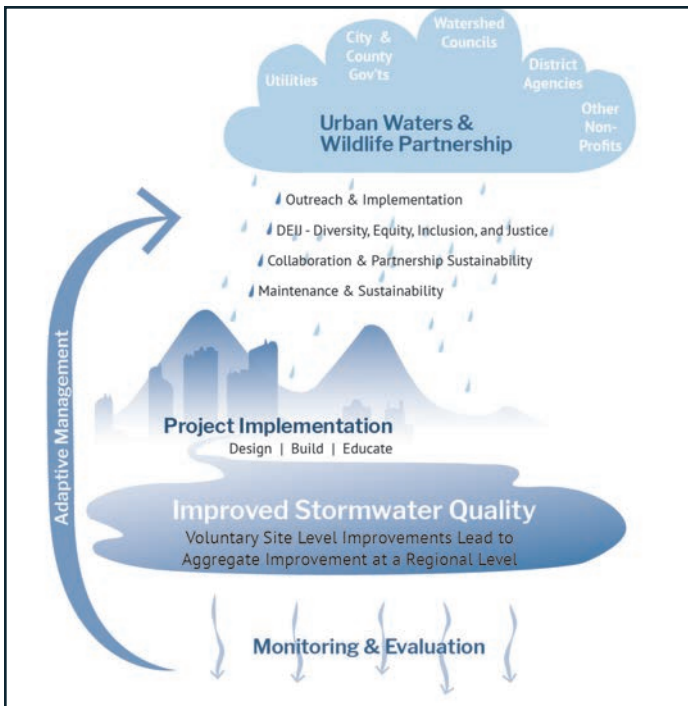
### Important Progress on Monroe Dam Project

We are hoping the turtle wins the day for slow and **steady progress on restoring fish passage and community safety at the site of the drop structure/dam on the Long Tom River at Monroe.** The draft recommended alternatives are being worked up by the Army Corps for presentation to the public and an invitation to review and comment on this Feasibility Study will be announced soon. **Enormous thanks to the citizens of Monroe for incorporating healthy river function into their River District Master Planning, to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians for vision and meaningful communication, and to our funders and supporters.** Project info available on our website ([longtom.org/lowerlongtom/](https://www.longtom.org/lowerlongtom/)) and at the [Army Corp's website](#). Imagine trout, Chinook, and lamprey free to swim upstream!



### Community at Work!

**Thank you to the amazing volunteers who helped with watershed stewardship activities this year!** Volunteer events included planting trees and shrubs along Coyote Creek at Little Red Fox Farm, planting a new population of rare suncups (*Taraxia ovata*) at Coyote Spencer Wetlands, and even an eBird citizen science volunteer monitoring training at the Fern Ridge Wildlife Management Area.



*Urban Waters & Wildlife Partnership's Programmatic Workflow Model. The Partnership's goals are to reduce or eliminate pollution and runoff, improve water quality, and protect habitat while promoting citizen engagement.*

## Urban Waters Collaboration & Progress!

The Urban Waters & Wildlife Partnership's collaborative approach to serving the entire Eugene-Springfield metro area continued to take shape! Partners include the cities of Eugene and Springfield, EWEB and SUB, the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network, Willamalane, LTWC, and others. With significant funding from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Partnership accomplished a lot! We established a marketing framework, a funding model, prioritized success indicators, and developed plans for monitoring stormwater facilities and evaluating progress. **The Partnership is working on four large-scale collaborative Trout Friendly Landscape projects, with 13 additional projects in development.** Two urban projects have been funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board this year; **installation is underway at the Willamette Christian Center to retrofit a parking lot with four rain gardens and 30 trees that will treat 94,000 square feet of impervious surface!**



*Site visit at historic Mims House*



## Restoring Oak & Prairie Ecosystems

Oak and prairie are rare and declining habitats that are ecoculturally vital to Indigenous people, and native plants and wildlife. At McKenzie River Trust's Coyote Spencer Wetlands, we thinned encroaching trees and understory brush from 61 acres of oak woodland and 11 acres of wet prairie. **The site hosts several rare and genetically unique wetland, prairie, and open oak woodland plants, and numerous species of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.** We also thinned 6.5 acres of oak woodland on the private property off Hazel Dell Road. **Funding for these projects was made possible by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's EQIP Program.** The USDA also funded an exciting program to explore prescribed grazing to help manage oak & prairie projects with smaller livestock like sheep and goats.



*Families planting food after a cultural burn*

## Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program

Since 2017, LTWC has provided administrative support for TEIP, which is a Tribal-led program supporting Native youth in the exploration of Traditional Ecological Science during seasonal learning cohorts. The Program continues to provide a whole-community approach where Indigenous people can meaningfully connect with the living landscape. We're enormously grateful for the support of these grantors: Gray Family Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, Oregon Community Foundation, Roundhouse Foundation, Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, and Spirit Mountain Community Fund. TEIP also relies on the support of community members - people like you! **See the Program's Portfolio and how to support TEIP at [longtom.org/teip](http://longtom.org/teip).**





## Michaels Creek Culvert Replacement

In October 2022 we worked with the Siuslaw Field office of the Bureau of Land Management to **replace a perched and undersized culvert under a BLM road that blocked access to a mile of headwater spawning habitat** for native coastal cutthroat trout and western brook lamprey in Michaels Creek, just west of Low Pass. The culvert was replaced with a 14' wide pipe-arch stream-simulation culvert that will provide year-round passage for native aquatic species. **This is the first phase of a package of fish passage and instream habitat enhancement projects that the Council will be implementing over the next few years.** This part of the watershed has some impressive old-growth coast range Douglas-fir western hemlock forest that provides habitat for marbled murrelet and helps create cool, clear waters for native aquatic species.



## Floodplain Reforestation at Snag Boat Bend

In 2022 we planted 24,200 bareroot native trees and shrubs, 12,000 willow live-stakes, and 150 pounds of native grass seed across 25 acres of low-elevation floodplain adjacent to the Willamette River at Snag Boat Bend. The area we planted is mostly shaded by majestic gallery cottonwood trees up to four feet in diameter, but the understory was nearly 100% non-native blackberry and reed canarygrass prior to our site preparations over the last two years. **After our understory plantings are established they will provide habitat for many native fish and wildlife species, including juvenile Chinook salmon, cutthroat trout, neo-tropical migratory songbirds, and bald eagles,** which nest closeby. This work is the first installment of our final large-scale floodplain reforestation effort at Snag Boat Bend, which we will wrap up in early 2023.



## Community Learning Events

**This year we celebrated our 25th Anniversary** and delivered presentations on topics including the impacts of climate change on agriculture, waterfowl, Tribal history and cultural fire, and more. We also secured funding for Integrated Pest Management for both English & Spanish-speaking landscapers.



## Water Quality Monitoring

**Three water quality monitoring projects are underway!** We collected our 12th straight year of pesticide samples at 5 locations in Amazon Creek. Long-term water temperature data collection also continued in Bear and Ferguson Creeks to measure changes in the rate of warming. We were also awarded a grant by the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality to measure the concentrations of *E. coli* bacteria in Ferguson Creek.



*Habitat Contracting hand pulling ludwigia*

## Controlling Invasive Weeds

**Our efforts to control invasive Uruguayan water primrose hit a big milestone in 2022!** Our success in dramatically reducing plant populations (and project costs!) has enabled us to move away from annual grants. Local partners now fully support the project, including the Junction City Water Control District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and City of Eugene. With stable, long-term funding, we hope to be able to maintain our hard-earned successes far into the future. A huge thank-you to Habitat Contracting!

# THANK YOU, DONORS & PARTNERS!

## *Gifts up to \$500*

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Honsanna White in honor of TEIP and the iron rich stones & soils of this land  
Sarah Whitney  
Michael & Jan Whitty  
Eric Williams  
Joan Wozniak  
Peg Wyse  
Bev Youngman  
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## Gifts up to \$1,000

Bauman Tree Farm (**Business League**)  
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Karen Leigh & Keith Oldham in honor  
of Angel & Tatiana Montes & Bennet Krupka  
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Kevin Shanley  
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## Gifts up to \$2,500

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Derek Johnson & Lynette Williams  
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Oregon Beverage Recycling  
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Organically Grown Co. (**Business League**)  
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## Gifts up to \$5,500

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St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
Sierra Pacific Industries (**Business League**)  
John & Patricia Winquist  
Unitarian Universalist Church

## Project Match Funding

Don & Janet Blair  
Linda & Doug Carnine  
Peter Karlik & Sarah Hocken  
Val & Ken Kime

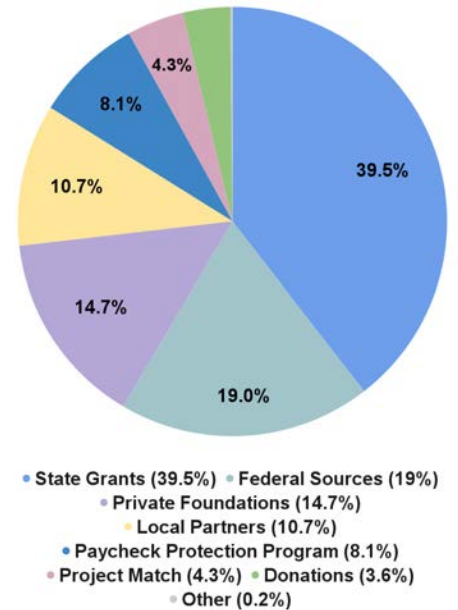
## Funding Partners

Benton SWCD  
Bonneville Environmental Foundation  
Bonneville Power Administration  
Bureau of Land Management  
City of Eugene  
City of Monroe  
City of Springfield  
City of Veneta  
Coast Fork Willamette WSC  
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians  
Ducks Unlimited & Pacific Birds  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Eugene Water & Electric Board  
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Middle Fork Willamette WSC  
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One Tree Planted  
Oregon Community Foundation  
Oregon Dept. of Agriculture  
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Pacific Corrugated Pipe  
Roundhouse Foundation  
Siletz Tribal Charitable Contrib. Fund  
Small Business Association (federal)  
Springfield Utility Board  
Spirit Mountain Community Fund  
The Collins Foundation  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation  
Service  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
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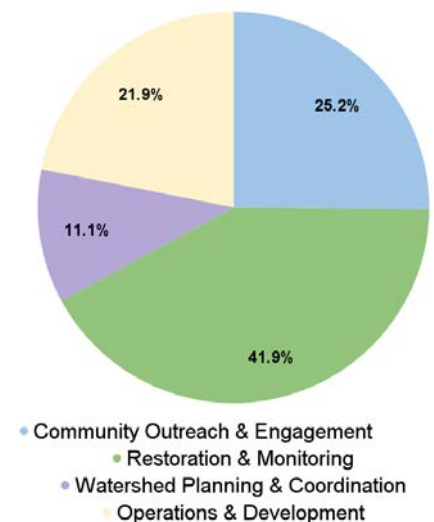
## Financial Information

(July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)

### Funding Sources (\$1,522,426)



### Dollars Invested in Your Watershed (\$1,606,097)

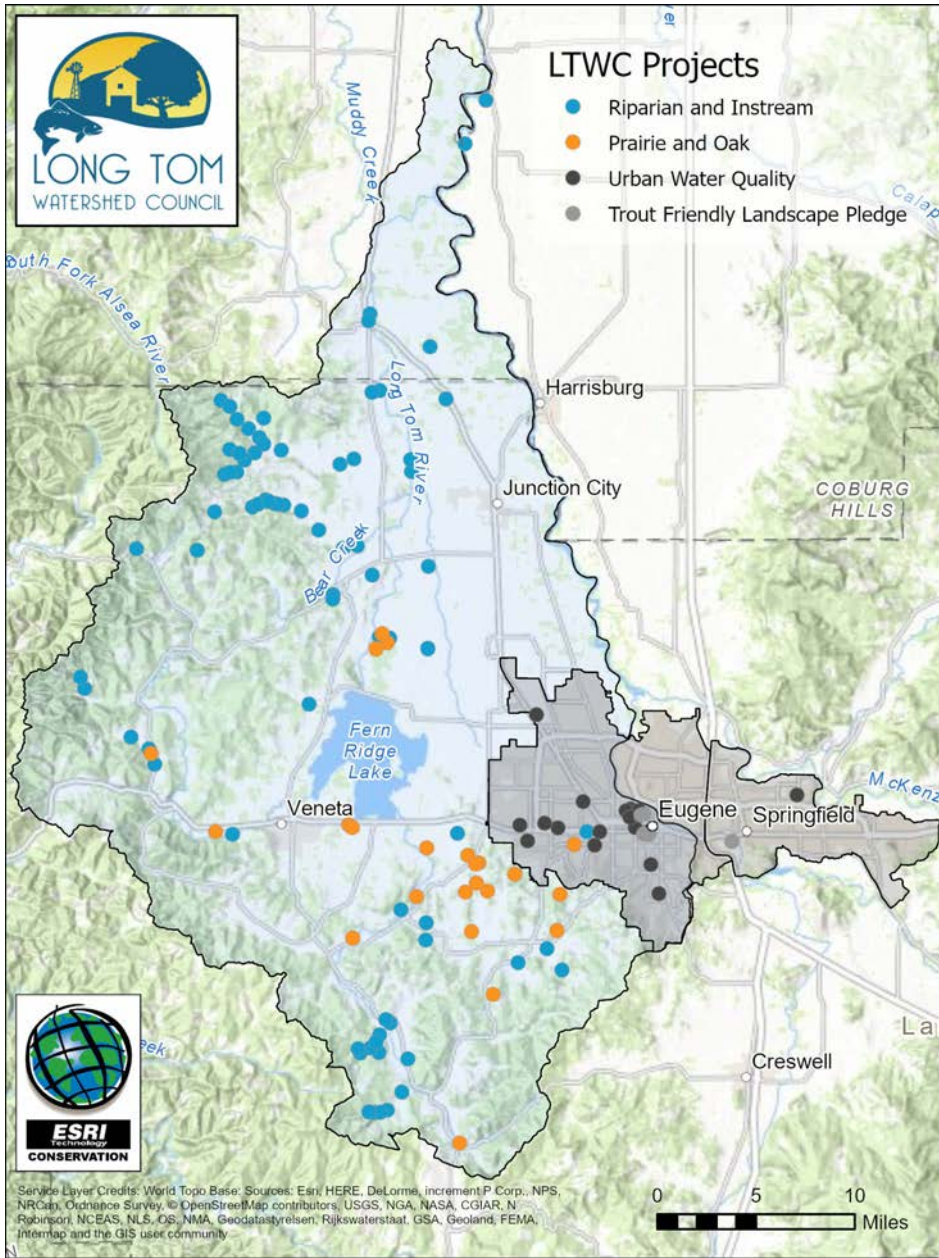


## Mission Statement

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.



# WATERSHED MAP & PROJECTS



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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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.