



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



ANNUAL KALAPUYA ILLAHEE CAMAS BAKE

8th annual TEIP first foods tradition!

Thanks to the amazing work of our Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program interns, families, The Long Tom Watershed Council, and other allies, the 2025 Camas Bake was a great one! In the spirit of inquiry, this year's event built on the successes and challenges of past bakes and featured two separate ground ovens cooking simultaneously. One modern Niimipu-style Nez Perce oven was prepared and tended by Intern Family members Sam and Margaret Bull, as well as a community-tended traditional Kalapuya – style bake.



New TEIP intern Asher Coburn helped with the firewood, and Daniel Morris used his new digging stick to help gather three pounds of camas bulbs; in addition, Zeph Mullins from the Siletz Farm brought a basket full of bulbs. That is a lot of camas! The fires were lit, and the ovens loaded, and after 24

hours of careful monitoring, Sunday's grand reveal produced plenty of deliciously prepared smoky-sweet camas from both ovens. Attendees had plenty to try and take home – a success!

Brian Bull from the Buffalo's Fire Podcast produced a beautiful video of the entire process - from gathering the skunk cabbage leaves, camas bulbs, and cooking stones, to Sunday's celebration potluck. (Thank you, Brian!) Special thanks to Grand Ronde's Chris Rempel and Heron Brae for all their hard work and insight through the overnight process; to Amanda Gonzales



Photo above by Margaret Bull, top and left by Alejandro Meija

and Alejandro Meija for the water, fire, and logistics, and all the stewardship allies who make these times on the land together possible. We're all looking forward to Camas Bake 2026.

See Brian's excellent video coverage of the event here:

<https://www.buffalosfire.com/ready-the-skunk-cabbage-its-the-great-camas-bake-off>



PACIFIC LAMPREY RELEASE

Main photo by Elizabeth Goward, top/bottom by Alejandro Mejia

...it's hard to ignore the contrast between the modern highway and the ancient fish being carefully moved from tank to barrel. Pulled over on a narrow shoulder next to the Oregon Country Fair site on Highway 126, a group of fisheries scientists from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and the Nez Perce Tribe are busy collecting DNA samples from Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*). Just a few hundred yards downstream, these fish will be released into the Long Tom River, where they haven't been seen in nearly a century. Pacific lamprey being transferred from Willamette Falls to the Long Tom River.

Standing in the bed of a large white truck equipped with a special transfer tank, Jerrid Weaskus (Nez Perce Tribe) dips a long-handled net into the water and slowly draws it forward and backward. Suddenly, half a dozen squirming bodies lift through the air and are transferred into a 35-gallon barrel

where they can be counted and sampled for DNA before being released.

These fish are part of a decades-long effort to restore Pacific lamprey populations in the greater Columbia River watershed. Spearheaded by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, which was established in 1977 to unify fish protection efforts of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe, today's lamprey release marks an important moment for the expansion of Tribal-led lamprey restoration efforts into the Long Tom watershed...

Read the entire article co-written by UWSN Members here: <https://mckenzieiver.org/longtom-lamprey/>

SNAG BOAT BEND TOUR



Aerial photo, SWCA Environmental Consultants

and are close to acquiring the permits for the project, and there is a chance that the project will happen at the end of this summer or early fall, or at latest early next summer. Join us to learn more about this exciting project. Please check our website for driving directions at www.longtom.org. We will meet at the main parking lot for Snag Boat Bend and our tour will involve hiking 1.75 miles on flat grassy trails or gravel roads.

LTWC will be hosting a project tour at Snag Boat Bend on the Willamette River on August 27th at 6:00pm, join us to see how our floodplain and side channel habitat restoration work is looking! With funding and support from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Bonneville Power Administration, and Meyer Memorial Trust we have worked at this unit of William L. Finley Wildlife Refuge for the last 10 years to reconnect the river to its floodplain and restore floodplain forest. Snag Boat Bend is owned by you and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for wildlife habitat and compatible human recreation. We are close to completing a capstone project at the site that has been in development since 2018 - the partial removal of a large revetment built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1964. We will be removing a portion of the revetment to restore flow into a 1+ mile long historical channel segment that has been choked out by non-native aquatic plants to make it more friendly for native aquatic species like juvenile spring Chinook salmon, Pacific lamprey, and coastal cutthroat trout. We have worked closely with engineers, the Army Corps and other agencies to ensure that the project will not have any negative impacts to other people on the dynamic Willamette River. We have finalized the designs

Please Join Us!

For more information, scan the code or visit:

<https://www.longtom.org/2025-annual-celebration-registration/>

- » *Dinner*
- » *Music*
- » *Wine*
- » *Awards*
- » *Presentation*
- » *Tour*
- » *Board Elections*



2025



Annual Meeting



Celebration

Bennett Vineyard & Wine Co.

September 25
6PM - 8PM

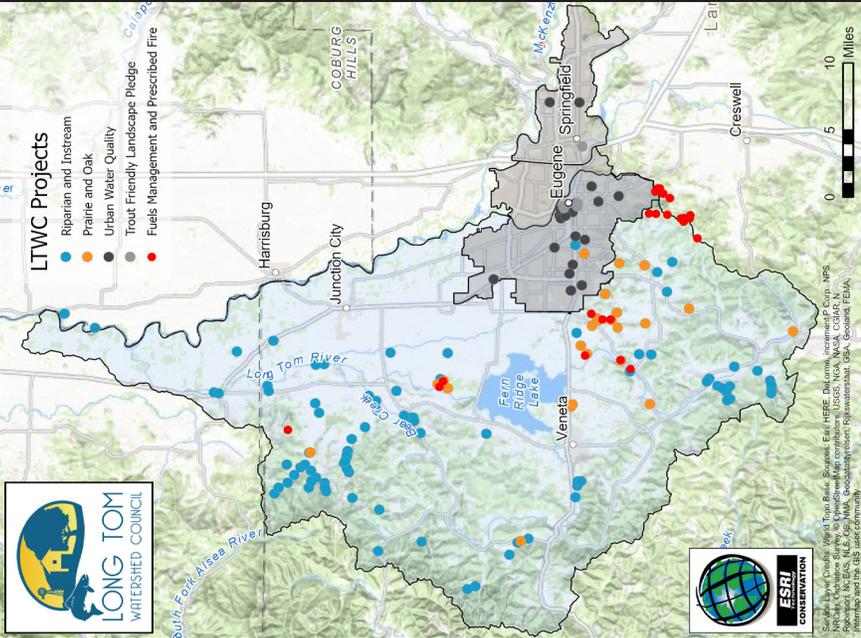


WATER QUALITY MONITORING UPDATE

Good news! LTWC received Oregon Department of Agriculture funding to continue two water quality monitoring efforts through 2027 - stream temperature monitoring in the Bear and Ferguson Creek subwatersheds, and pesticide monitoring in the Amazon Creek subwatershed. The ODA's long-term temperature monitoring program was designed to help us understand the long-term effectiveness of riparian plantings at reducing stream temperature. Pesticide monitoring through the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership program over the years has allowed us to identify and focus outreach on specific pesticide problems, such as our current top pesticide of concern, diuron (trade name Karmex). A big thank you to the ODA for their ongoing support!



Watershed Map & Projects



LTWC Calendar of Events

	August 27th, 6:00pm	Snag Boat Bend Tour
	September 25th, 6:00pm	Annual Celebration
	October/November	Working Lands Showcase
	December	Beaver Science Workshop

*Please visit our website for more information.
We hope to see you at our next event!*



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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



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