

MAXIMIZE YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT!

In early 2019, the council will begin an exciting campaign to propel our ongoing work for a Lower Long Tom River Habitat Enhancement Strategy.



Each winter, juvenile spring Chinook salmon leave the high flows of the Willamette and swim up the Long Tom to Monroe, Oregon. In downtown Monroe a small dam owned by the Army Corps blocks their upstream passage to over 100 miles of important rearing habitat in the Long Tom and its tributaries. The council is working with local partners including the City of Monroe and the Army Corps of Engineers to find a fish passage solution that benefits these tiny salmon, the growth aspirations of the city of Monroe, and the health of the entire watershed.

Your Holiday Gift will give us a strong start in meeting our goal of raising \$160,000 this Spring to support the council's involvement in projects of this large scale.

We have already secured a total of \$107,400 in combined grants and donations from local donors toward this goal! **Will you help us close this final gap?**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE LONG TOM!



DEAR SUPPORTER ,

WHAT IS A WATERSHED COMMUNITY?

Where does a community begin and end? I wake up in Springfield, drive to work in Eugene, and on weekends play near Alvadore, Veneta, and Monroe. So what is my "community?"

I don't believe that a community begins and ends at city limits; our watershed community is bigger than the cities, towns and tributaries that comprise it. The watershed-wide vision of the council's members and partners has always been our unique strength.

Over two decades ago, residents from all over the Long Tom made a commitment to focus on what they could improve in their own backyards.

Twenty-one years later, that commitment is expressed on the living-landscape in the form of dozens of diverse projects. The Spencer Creek and Upper and Lower Coyote Creek sub-basin residents have been anchoring the watershed's Oak, Prairie and Wet Prairie habitat enhancement projects and making significant contributions to increased biodiversity and better connected habitats.

The City of Veneta and forestry interests in the Upper Long Tom continue to be strong supporters of the council's outreach and education mission basin-wide. The residents of Bear and Ferguson Creek near Cheshire have been doing incredible work to enhance aquatic and riparian habitat and passage for native fish moving into and out of the coast range from the mainstem Long Tom. The Amazon sub-basin in Eugene has jumped in with both feet to improve water quality and address the impacts of urban storm water on the Long Tom for those who drink its waters downstream. And now in the Lower Long Tom, residents of Monroe are embracing a conversation around how to connect juvenile Chinook salmon migrating from the Willamette River, to this strong legacy of work upstream of a small dam in the middle of their growing town.



Amazon Water Quality Monitoring



Last Owens Creek Fish Barrier Removal



Katie MacKendrick tends a biochar kiln
[photo by Marcus Kauffman]



Volunteer Invasive Species Removal in
Monroe, Oregon

EVERY SO OFTEN I GET ASKED SOME VERSION OF THE SAME QUESTION: “WHY DO WATERSHEDS MATTER?”

It might be tempting to reach for an answer rooted in geography or ecology, but **I believe watersheds matter because of the people within them.**

Because none of the projects in those sub-basins I listed happen there without people willing to make a change for the better. Despite differences of habitats between sub-basins, or identities around zip codes, professions, or politics, we are all part of the Long Tom Watershed, and we are connected by more than just topography and a name.

We are connected by a culture and practice of helping each other to make our home healthier. The choices we make to improve where we live, work and play, ripple through the watershed we share. In that way, we are a community because of a shared value to care for this landscape of natural and human connections. **That is why watersheds matter - because of you and the culture of caring you are a part of.**

In addition to the gifts of voice, time, and energy you have given to your watershed community this year - **please consider a generous financial gift to The Council this holiday season to keep us working hard for you, your watershed, and your neighbors who share it.**

Thank you for being a valuable part of this incredible community. I wish you a safe and happy holiday season with those you hold dear.

Sincerely,

Clinton Begley

Watershed Coordinator/ Executive Director

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PS: Please Join us on December 18th at Oregon Wine Lab for A Holiday Party to Celebrate the passing of another beautiful year in the Long Tom. 10% of All Sales will go directly to this important work! Come raise a glass to your amazing watershed community!