



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING OUR WATERSHED COMMUNITY



As 2024 draws to a close, we, at the Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC), have much to celebrate.

We added new team members including Lucy Walsh (Urban Waters Partnership Coordinator) and Kyt Bergstrom (Finance Manager), and will soon hire our first Restoration & Fire Projects Manager and our next executive director. We were able to entice former Operations Manager, Lorette Waggoner, out of retirement to help us through transition.

We are celebrating that after 8 years of hard work building support and addressing concerns of the Monroe Community in late September, the City Council signed two agreements—one with the Army Corps of Engineers and one with us—to take a giant leap forward in dam removal plans. We still need to raise money for this, so feel free to donate [here](#).

Our engagement with the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network (UWSN) continues to grow. Two significant federal grants were received that will support collaborative work in watershed restoration and stewardship. \$8.5 million from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will support floodplain restoration across the Upper Willamette (eight priority projects designed to improve fish passage and restore floodplain habitat). And, a \$9.2 million Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant awarded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will support conservation easements on agricultural lands, restoration, and cultural access in partnership with Oregon Agricultural Trust (OAT) and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. The award includes ~\$4 million to support oak habitat restoration and prescribed burning.



Kyt Bergstrom and Lucy Walsh at the Staff Bio-charcucue

Planning	Cultural Burning	Easements	Cultural Access
Create 18 forest management plans for landowners with oak habitat	Manage prescribed, cultural burns on 2,200 acres on 15 sites	Permanently protect 1,200 acres on 6 agricultural properties with oak	Landowners will be encouraged to sign contracts granting property access to Tribal members for cultural ceremonial, harvest, and stewardship purposes.

URBAN WATER AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Completed projects included a voluntary stormwater retrofit at the Eugene Friends Meeting House where landscape underwent a complete overhaul from one that was predominantly lawn to a space that manages 100% of the stormwater generated on site. Strategies implemented included permeable paving, an in-ground planter, raingardens, a gravel trench drain, and improved soils and native planting. To experience the work, drop by at 2274 Onyx Street in Eugene.



Eugene Friends Meeting House before (left) and after (right).

In 2004, the Bob Keefer Center was one of the first parking lots in Springfield to integrate stormwater management. Over the years, turf grass was introduced and sedimentation reduced the facility's capacity to hold and treat stormwater. A collaboration between Willamalane, Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council, and the LTWC, coupled with an OWEB grant, allowed the retrofit of a swale to integrate permeable sediment drops and replace the soil and plants to meet best practices.

Springfield Stormwater Maintenance Trainings included work with WPRD (Willamalane Parks & Recreation District) and the City Stormwater Department. Topics included *Why Urban Stormwater Management Matters*, *How Best to Manage Stormwater*, and *Successful Maintenance Strategies*. These trainings represent some of the meaningful impacts that the Urban Waters Partnership (UWP) is having on regional water quality, along with UWP providing input to Eugene's Stormwater management manual updates, support for Lane County's Storm Drain Cleaning Assistance Program (SCAP), and the upcoming regional GSI maintenance training program.



Willamalane staff and LTWC employees at the site.

The Urban Waters Partnership (UWP), led by the LTWC, is celebrating year two of a 5-year EPA grant, funded at \$5.54 million. Funding supports efforts to design and install priority Green Stormwater Retrofit Projects in Eugene and Springfield, expand education, and community outreach, launch a pilot monitoring study, address barriers to long-term maintenance of GSI facilities, and expand protection into rural communities in the Upper Willamette Watershed which will help increase water quality for the sub-basin. For UWP information visit <https://urbanwatersandwildlife.org/>



Members of the Urban Waters Partnership and EPA Region 10 tour stop at the Eugene Friends Meeting House.

RURAL HABITATS PROGRAM

Exciting activities happened throughout the year within the Rural Habitats Program. We hosted our first annual Carp Fest at Kirk Park in early June. It was a great success with a diverse group of 100+ people, including families –many who were new to LTWC. The goals were to bring people together to celebrate recreation opportunities in the Long Tom Watershed and bring awareness to fish populations in the Watershed. The collaborative partner event highlighted art, fishing lessons, and education about watersheds. Funding was provided by a 2022 MTN DEW Outdoor Program grant and the day-long event was led by the LTWC and supported by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Angler Education Program, and their awesome volunteers, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and Bruce Koike, owner of Little Pond Nature Prints who taught Gyotaku Art Printing.



ODFW loaned fish gear & gave lessons.



Gyotaku art prints drying.



Fishing for all!

This year, LTWC completed a two-year targeted goat and sheep herbivory demonstration. This project, a focus of a USDA Conservation Innovation Grant, aimed to develop a better understanding of the applications of targeted small ruminant herbivory for brush management in Willamette Valley oak and prairie landscapes. Two contract grazing outfits brought their "fherds" (mixed flock of sheep and herd of goats) to reduce tree and shrub growth and increase native plant diversity. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde hosted the *Results Partners* animals at their Noble Oaks site near Sheridan, OR, and the *Bad Ass Hooves* animals were put to work at McKenzie River Trust's Coyote Spencer Wetlands site and the City of Eugene's Townsend Woods site. Vegetation monitoring will assess the changes to the plant community after two seasons.



Janelle McCoy with one of the Bad Ass Hooves fherd taking a break from ash resprout clearing in a wetland restoration area of Coyote Spencer Wetlands.

In collaboration with OSU Extension Small Farms program, we interviewed five contract grazers and private landowners utilizing goats and sheep for brush management. These videos will help folks interested in trying out this strategy. Find them on the OSU Small Farms program YouTube channel at : <https://bit.ly/3AHYKgB>

It was another great year of collaborative beneficial fire in the Watershed. With support from partners, we conducted burns at two ongoing restoration sites: Chaalamali and Coyote Spencer wetlands. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians also had burns on tribally-owned properties. A collaborative OWEB grant supported the burns and post burn plantings. Cultural burning and prescribed fires benefit fire-adapted prairie and oak habitats and reduce wildfire risk, and it is an honor to continue engage with our local and regional fire partners. These burns are possible because of the collaborative efforts with the Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program (TEIP), our Tribal partners, Oregon Department of Forestry, Lane Fire Authority, McKenzie River Trust, EcoStudies Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Woods, Oregon State University Extension, Friends of Buford Park and Mount Pisgah, Lane County, Willamalane, the Bureau of Land Management, and the City of Eugene.



Prescribed fire at Coyote Spencer Wetlands.
Photo credit: Whitney Randall, McKenzie River Trust.

TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL INQUIRY PROGRAM (TEIP)

TEIP Interns and their families learn about careers in prescribed fire and talk about how to support cultural burning at Chaa-lamali.



TEIP Intern Sam Bull poses inside an ancient fire-scarred oak. The oak is adopted by an Intern learning about Oak Release and working with prescribed fire practitioners to clear encroaching brush and conifers..



Learning about traditional fire-starting tools used in cultural burns - throwing pitch soaked flaming pine cones!



TEIP Interns learn about some traditional tools used in cultural fire practice; a traditional mussel shell fire carrier.



TEIP is unique, it recognizes and honors the unique ecological knowledge and traditions of its Tribally diverse participants and is guided by the passion of our interns and their families. We seek support and guidance from the Tribes and Tribal people. We cultivate living relationships with our partners, neighbors, and communities. We support teaching and learning crafted by the teachers and learners themselves. We come to understand our sovereign right to live happy and healthy lives in service to ourselves, our people, and our places. We share this across time and on to our descendants who will know us as the stewards and practitioners who made them. We learn that we are our place, and our place is us. For more discovery of this program click here: www.longtom.org/community/teip/

TEIP Mentor Savannah Holliday's new greenhouse, a community hub for Tribal youth in Warm Springs who are learning about traditional ecological science.



TEIP Intern family showing off their oak release work - ecological inquiry projects and restoration on a landscape scale.



TEIP community gather around the traditional camas oven to prepare hot rocks for the three-day camas bake, a tradition now in its 7th year.



A night under the stars... The Perseid meteor shower and summertime sky stories.



GENERAL UPDATES AND WHAT'S TO COME IN 2025

Growth for the Long Tom Watershed Council

Our team will expand in 2025 as we hire our first Restoration & Fire Projects Manager by January and our new executive director in the first quarter. We look forward to a new Operations Manager and, eventually, a part-time events/communications position to round out our team. Keep an eye on our website, our Facebook page, and your email for updates.

Lower Long Tom Fish Passage Restoration/Monroe Dam Removal Momentum

Years of hard work building relationships with citizens and stakeholders in Monroe have started to pay big dividends for the Monroe Drop Structure Fish Passage Restoration Project. The project goal is to improve Long Tom River fish passage at the nine-foot-high low head dam at river mile 6.7. This effort will open up almost 10 miles of habitat and restore over a mile of river to free-flowing conditions.

In 2024, we hit some major milestones. The first was finalizing a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) feasibility assessment of a fish passage improvement project. LTWC teamed up with the City of Monroe and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians—the two official co-sponsors of the project—to work with the USACE to look at site options. The study indicated removal of the dam offered the most ecological benefit at a reasonable price. The next significant milestone in Fall 2024 was the signed agreement with the City of Monroe to be the official sponsor of the next phase of the project moving it into design and construction. The design work will be completed Fall 2025. The project will go out for bid and construction will occur in Summer 2026.

One of the special aspects of this project is the close partnership between the LTWC and the City of Monroe. Conversations over the last six years have led to a significant level of trust coupled with an agreement that the LTWC will raise the required 25% cost share that the City must contribute toward the project. We have already secured most of these cost-share funds through competitive grants from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement. In addition, the LTWC agreed to provide some flexible funds to the city for long-term operations and maintenance of the project, including the replacement of the drinking water intake. **We still need to raise these funds**, so keep an eye out for a Monroe Dam fundraising campaign. You can give today by visiting <https://www.longtom.org/donate/> and noting that your gift should support the Monroe Dam project.

Long Tom River Renewal

Future Vision — Below Dam (View Upstream)

BEFORE:



AFTER:



Dam removed;
new dry-season
water channel

Pedestrian bridge at
old dam location to
connect to park*

Improved river
access for public

Park benches and
scenic viewpoints

* Army Corps project scope does not include pedestrian bridge. It will account for eventual bridge construction during dam removal phase.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 DONORS

*With gratitude, we acknowledge those who have donated to the
Long Tom Watershed Council between July 1, 2023 and October 31, 2024.*

General Unrestricted Donations

Gifts Up to \$500

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Project Matches

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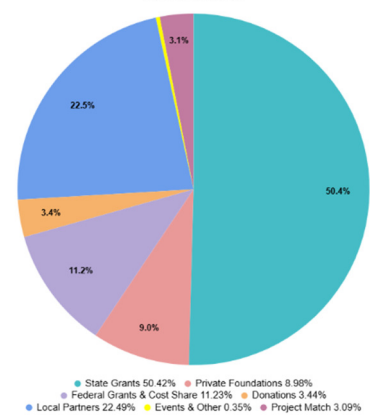
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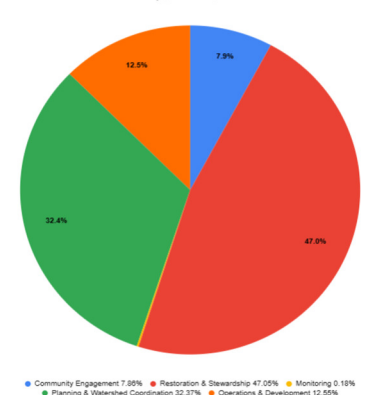
Funding Sources \$2,087,866

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

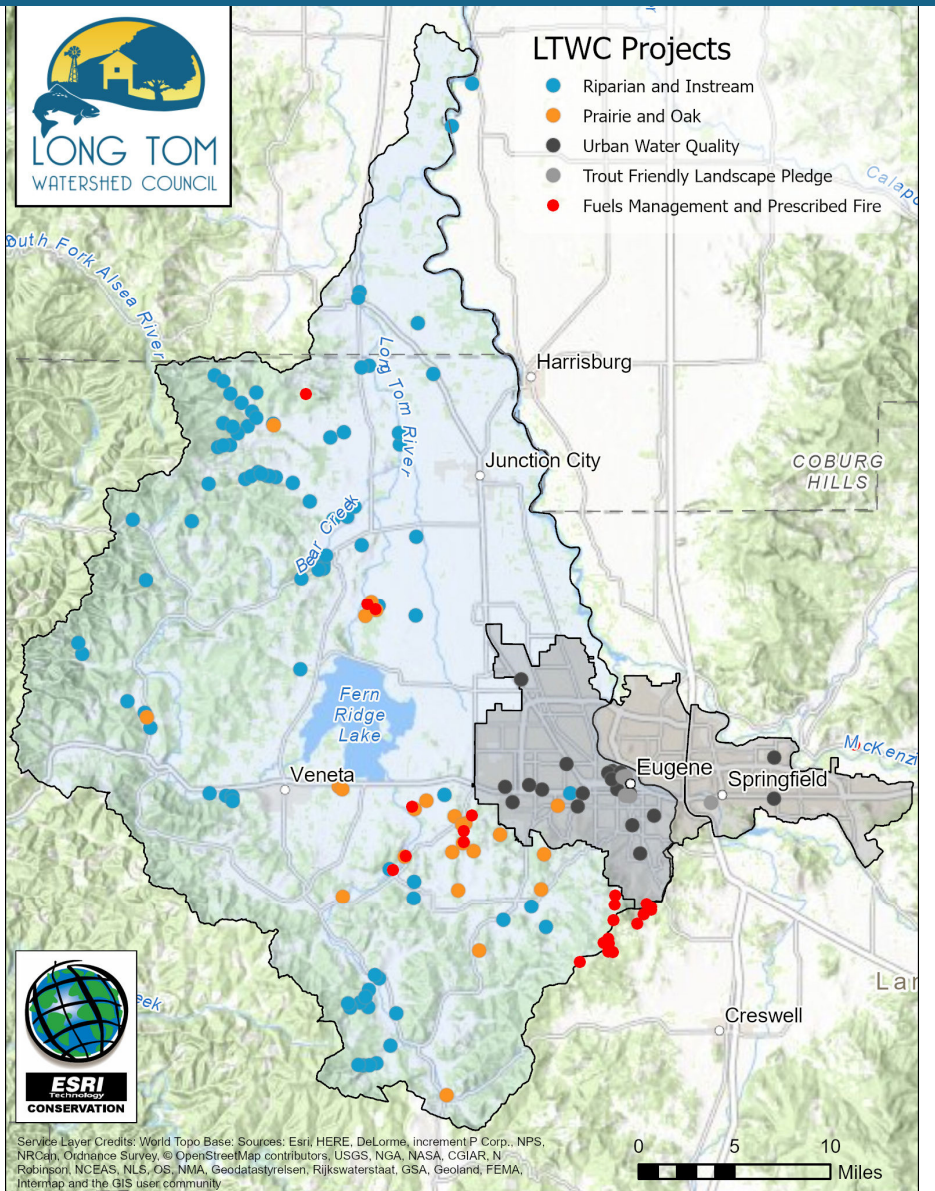


Dollars Invested in the Watershed

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



WATERSHED MAP & PROJECTS 2024



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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.

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.