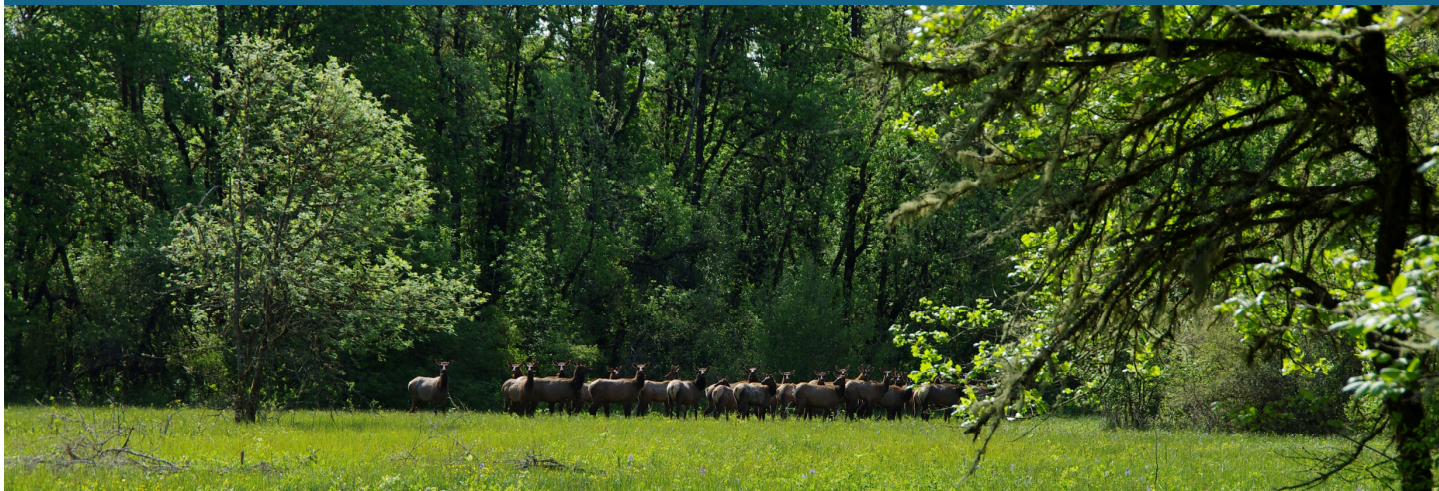


LTWC Welcomes New Staff



LTWC Welcomes New Executive Director

The Board of Directors is pleased to introduce the new executive director of the Long Tom Watershed Council. Darian Lightfoot (she/her) officially joined the staff on February 24. Having served on the LTWC board between 2017 and 2019, Darian returns to the organization with a deep understanding of its culture, history, and purpose. Her most recent position with the City of Olympia helped hone her skills on policy and community development, federal grant management, and relationship building across sectors. In her role as Director of Housing and Homeless Response, she solidified her ethos of public service—knowing better, then doing better. She has a Master of Public Administration degree with a Nonprofit Management Graduate Certificate from the University of Oregon, and her passion for caring for the environment stemmed from her childhood in rural Iowa. In her spare time, she likes to read nonfiction, do karaoke, and spend time with her vast chosen family! Please help us welcome Darian.



Darian Lightfoot

Restoration and Fire Project Manager Hired



Tiffany Perez at a prescribed fire

The LTWC is happy to announce that Tiffany Perez (she/her) has joined the LTWC as the new Restoration & Fire Project Manager. As a part of the Rural Habitats Team, Tiffany will lead all aspects of coordination, planning, and implementation of oak, prairie, and wetland habitat restoration projects including incorporation of prescribed and ecological fire into uplands habitat restoration and stewardship. She will also play a key role in maintaining relationships and supporting Indigenous partners and area Tribes, specifically focusing on Indigenous-led fire initiatives. Tiffany's experience comes from time as a Soil Conservationist for NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service) in Trinity County, Northern California. Her experience spans landowner collaboration, land management practices, field coordination, contract management, forestry, fire science and community and multi-organizational prescribed burning.

Thanks to Abby Andrus Colehour

For the last 6 years, Abby has been on staff at LTWC, first as Restoration Projects Manager and more recently as the Uplands Program Manager. They specialized in oak, prairie, and wetland ecosystem restoration and were involved in a range of collaborative projects including oak woodland thinning, hazardous fuels reduction, reseeding, biochar making, social forestry, vegetation monitoring, targeted animal grazing/browsing prairie conversions, ecological burning, and management plan writing. As a team leader, they supported the rest of the Rural Habitats Team with grant support and project guidance and expertise. Abby finished their master's degree in Forest Ecosystems and Society at Oregon State University College of Forestry and moved to Minnesota where they continue their passion for natural lands management. We will miss Abby but look forward to working with them in a different capacity in the future, as they continue to be involved in Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie restoration as a consultant with LTWC and other regional partners.



Abby Andrus Colehour

Fish Trapping on Nighswander Creek

This winter, in partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish Wildlife, the LTWC has been operating fish traps in Nighswander Creek, a tributary to Coyote Creek that flows along Briggs Hill Road. The land is privately owned and managed for fish and wildlife habitat. The landowners have worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program to create seasonal wetland pools on the property. They also installed a beaver dam analogue in Nighswander Creek and have done work to restore oak savanna in the upland portions of their property. A 90+ head elk herd, many species of ducks, deer, cougars, bobcats, and many other wildlife species have been documented by the landowners on the property. LTWC is exploring a next phase of work on the property that could include restoring prairie habitat,

enhancing instream habitat, and replacing a fish passage barrier culvert on Nighswander Creek with a bridge. To learn more about the aquatic species present in the stream and build our case for being awarded competitive grant funding for the next phase of work, we have been checking seven traps in the stream. So far we have caught coastal cutthroat trout, redbreast shiner, sculpin, rough-skinned newt, and red-legged frogs in the traps, all native species! Native species are adapted to use seasonal streams like Nighswander Creek (it dries up in late summer), and in our years of experience operating traps like these around the watershed we very rarely find any non-native species in seasonal streams, highlighting their importance for our native species.



Trout in Viewing Box



Rough-skinned Newt

Culmination of Green Stormwater Program

In January, the LTWC Urban Waters & Wildlife Program wrapped up the EPA Columbia Basin Toxics Reduction project which provided two years of funding. Over that time, several documents and trainings were developed to further the regional understanding of green stormwater infrastructure design and maintenance best practices. Recently, the City of Springfield's Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Operations & Maintenance (O&M) team engaged in a full day training with LTWC which included an extensive review of stormwater issues, the role of GSI in mitigating those issues, and LTWC lessons learned that elevate the design and reduce maintenance needs over time. The group also visited and assessed facilities workshopping retrofit strategies as a team. LTWC developed an O&M manual for this team with a unique plant spread, specific to those typically used in GSI they maintain. LTWC is continuing to work with Springfield, and other partners to develop strategies for retrofitting existing facilities, and for shifting design details for new GSI with a goal of lower maintenance needs, and increased effectiveness.



City of Springfield's Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Operations & Maintenance (O&M) team and LTWC Staff on recent tour.

Thank you to our Donors—

With gratitude, we acknowledge those who have donated to the Long Tom Watershed Council between November 1 and February 15, 2025

General Unrestricted Donations

Anonymous
 Dave Barta
 Sharon Blick
 Diana Bus
 Café Mam—Royal Blue Organics
 Allison Cardwell
 Julia Cissel
 Paula and Denny Conn
 John Daniel
 Alan Dickman
 Darren & Sandra Faulhaber—
 Riensche Timber LLC
 Roger Hamilton
 Janell Heidenreigh in honor of:
 Alenxandra Hutto and Patricia Atkins
 Lori Holts
 Inar & Debra Ingebretsen
 Sondralee Juve
 Bruce King in honor of Jennifer King
 Kurt & Mary Koehler
 Dennis "Whitey" Lueck
 Karen Leigh & Keith Oldham
 Frasier MacDonald

Stephanie March
 Patricia McDowell
 George & Pat Miller
 Shelly Miller & Dean Walton
 Oregon Community Foundation Redtail Fund
 Organically Grown Company
 Betsy Parry
 Connie Peabody
 William Perch
 Leo & Carole Poole
 Rainbow Valley Design & Construction
 Sonja Rasmussen
 Shirley Raven
 Amani Ridge
 Elisabeth Schmidkunz & Glenn Gibbons
 Courtland Smith
 Steve Soltesz & Ditte Lokon
 Steve & Susan Sertic
 Jill Stein
 Vjera Thompson
 Randall Trox
 Charles & Karen Van Duyn
 David Walp & Sally Jo Bowman
 Phyllis Weare
 Jennifer Wheeler

John & Pem Windquist

Earth Care Interfaith Fund

Betsy Halpern & John Bredesen
 Janell Heidenreigh in honor of Heath Hutto
 Charles & Katharine Hunt
 Randall Trox
 Richard & Ty Zeller

Traditional Ecological Inquiry

Program

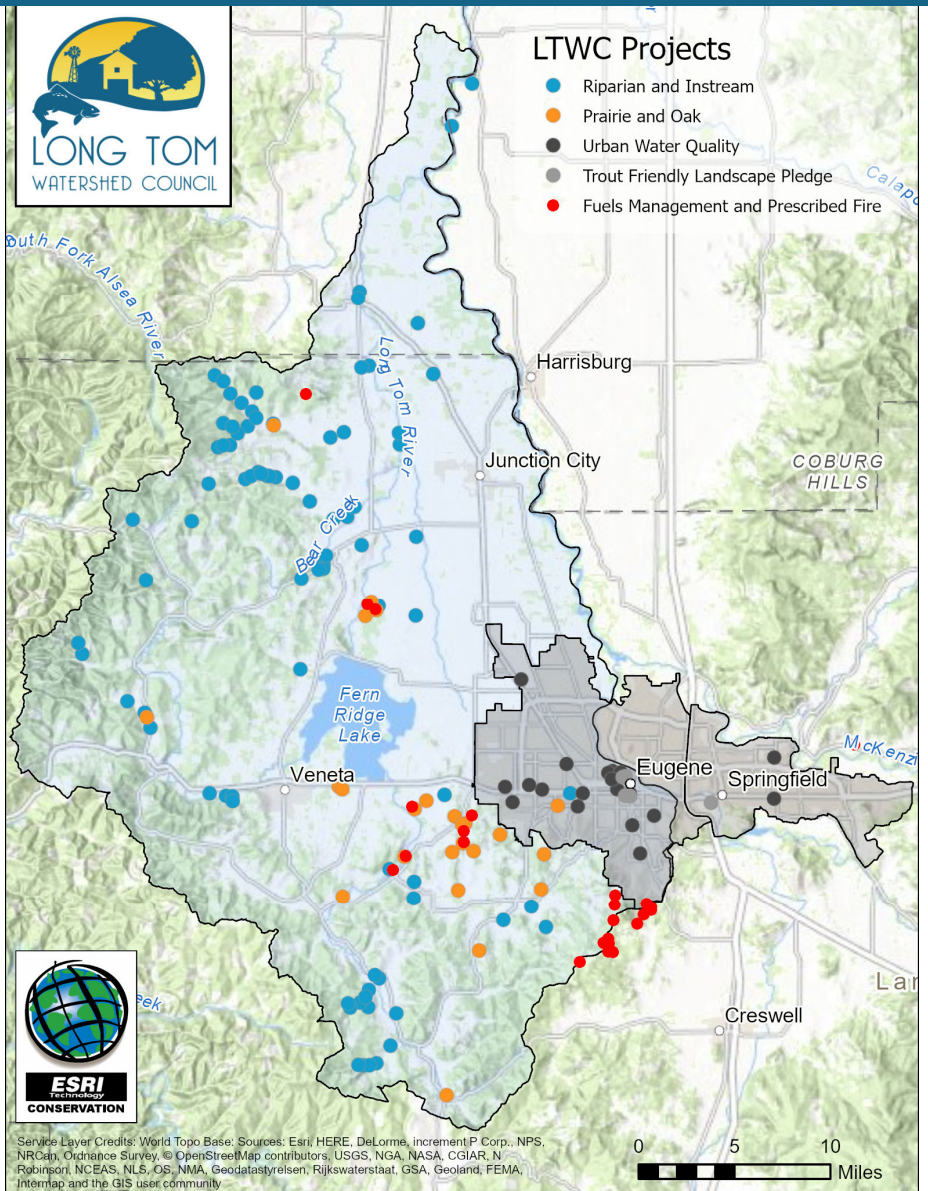
Anonymous—3
 Kristin Anderson
 Megan Fuller
 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Monroe Dam/Lower Long Tom
Project
 Mark & Elsbeth Chapman
 Oregon Community Foundation Towee Fund

Make your donation today at:

longtom.org/donate



WATERSHED MAP & PROJECTS



**11 E 27TH AVE
EUGENE, OR 97405**

541-654-8965, info@longtom.org
Follow us on Instagram & Facebook

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kurt Koehler, Chair
John Deck, Vice-Chair
Connie Peabody, Secretary
Jessica “JJ” Jones – Treasurer
Paulina Whitehat
Taylor Evans
Pat McDowell
Shelly Miller
Jabrila Via

STAFF

Alejandro Meija
Restorations Projects Manager

Amanda Reinholtz
River Scientist & GIS Specialist

Darian Lightfoot
Executive Director

Haley Case-Scott, Upper Willamette
Stewardship Network Tribal Liaison

Jed Kaul
Director of Programs

Kyt Bergstrom
Finance Manager

Lorette Waggoner
Interim Operations Manager

Lucy Walsh
Urban Waters Partnership Coordinator

Miranda Hawkes Landscape
Designer & Stormwater Specialist

Sara Worl
Restoration Projects Manager

Sarah Whitney, Urban Waters
and Wildlife Program Manager

Stasie Maxwell
TEIP Program Associate

Sydney Nilan, Director
Upper Willamette Stewardship Network

Tiffany Perez
Restoration & Fire Projects Manager

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. We are committed to living this commitment by taking action.