



Luckiamute Watershed Council

www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

LWC Mission:

To engage and assist landowners and communities in the voluntary protection, restoration and enhancement of the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

What we are:

The Luckiamute Watershed Council is a volunteer, nongovernmental, advisory group composed of stakeholders living or working in the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

Council meetings:

Held the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m., Visit our website at: www.LuckiamuteLWC.org for location and details. Meetings are open to the public. Please join us!



Events:

Join us on October 25 at Monmouth Burgerville from 5 to 8pm, for a Partnership Night event!



LWC Community Science Series are coming to a venue near you! These educational and interactive events are a perfect way to get to know your watershed!

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Making Way for Fish



Young steelhead (uppermost fish) and cutthroat trout in Price Creek will benefit from the removal of passage barriers. —photo by Steve Trask

— by Suzanne Teller, Outreach Coordinator

Water quality is not the only factor that determines whether fish can thrive. At every stage of life, a fish faces challenges that may be nearly invisible to the untrained eye. To meet those challenges, the Luckiamute Watershed Council and its partners have been working to make life easier for native fish in Price Creek, a tributary to the Luckiamute River.

The Upper Price Creek Restoration Project begins on a private gravel road that meanders beside Price Creek. There the riparian—or streamside—vegetation is lush and green, almost spilling over into the roadway. Healthy riparian vegetation is essential to maintaining the cool, clean waters that native anadromous (migratory) fish need to survive. However, even a stream that looks pristine hides barriers to salmon and trout migration.

At the Price Creek project site, two undersized culverts have concentrated the flow of a portion of the creek into a fast-moving

torrent that has eroded the riverbanks downstream and gouged out the gravel beds needed for spawning. A triad of stakeholders has joined the Council to correct years of this scouring action—including the landowner, *Sustainable Growth, LLC*; its fund manager, *Forest Investment Associates*; and its land manager, *Green Crow Corporation*. The scouring has left the culverts perched about two feet above the streambed and blocked spawning fish trying to reach the colder water and the rearing habitat upstream. Correcting the scouring action will also increase floodplain habitat for young fish, which need slower waters. Scouring causes the channel to deepen so that high winter flows no longer spill out of the channel onto surrounding land. In those slower floodwaters, there are nutrients and safety from predators and fast-moving currents for young fish.

How do they fix these challenges?

The joint effort to improve stream conditions and fish habitat in Price Creek begins, as all Council projects do, with a willing landowner—in this case, *Sustainable Growth* and its land manager for the past eight years, *Green Crow*. Both managers and owners say they have a commitment to sustainable environments and communities—

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Making Way for Fish, continued from page 1

including abiding by Oregon Forest Practices guidelines that prohibit logging in riparian areas. Despite modern care, in some areas historical logging had removed large conifers right up to the water's edge. As a result, the banks of Price Creek are now dominated by alders and young trees. This has eliminated an important piece of a healthy stream system, where huge and ancient trees fall into the creek over time to create log jams and provide pools for habitat and cover to native fish. The solution for this comes in the form of 180 logs, placed in the creek to slow down stream flows. The logs were donated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of a nearby oak habitat restoration project. What about those undersized culverts? Those have been replaced with larger, fish-friendly culverts that were sunk into the streambed to allow the passage of both fish and streambed gravel.

The \$232,000 project -- one of several directed by the Council -- was a group effort. The landowner and land manager contributed culverts and other materials. Additional funds for the project came from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Bio-Surveys LLC and Trask Design and Construction provided the expertise needed to oversee and implement the design and construction of the culvert replacement and large wood installment parts of the project. Meyer Memorial Trust provided funds to conduct project monitoring and to

plant conifers along the creek side. Some day far in the future, those grown trees will fall into Price Creek, restoring the natural cycle.

For now, however, it took a community of landowners, a timber company, public and private funders, restoration contractors, and a local watershed council working hand-in-hand to help bring a little piece of Benton County's wild natural heritage back to health.

To learn more about the Council's Upper Price Creek Restoration Project, visit <http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/upper-price-creek-restoration-project.html>.



Undersized culverts on Price Creek presented a barrier to native salmon and trout trying to access prime upstream habitat.



The new culverts are much bigger and embedded into the stream bed, allowing fish—including coho, lamprey, steelhead and cutthroat trout—to migrate further up the creek.

Save the Date!

Join the LWC at Burgerville on Oct. 25!

Come out and support local agriculture, a home-grown Oregon business, and your watershed all at once! On **October 25**, join us at the **Monmouth Burgerville** from **5pm to 8pm** for some delicious and locally-sourced fare. Burgerville will donate 10% of all sales to support the work of the Luckiamute Watershed Council. Plus you will have an opportunity to participate in a raffle for fun prizes!

Hope to see you there!

New LWC Community Science Series Coming to a Venue Near You!

Starting this month, the Luckiamute Watershed Council and its partners are bringing some educational and interactive workshops to different venues in and around our community. During these events led by local experts, you will explore topics like native plant propagation techniques, succession planning for your estate, and ethnobotany. Get details at <http://www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/lwc-science-series.html>



Date: Tuesday, October 11
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Place: Independence Event Center
Sponsors: Marion, Yamhill and Polk Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)



Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Place: OSU Extension Office
Sponsors: Polk SWCD and Oregon State University Extension Office



Successional Planning Workshop (Part 2a): Conservation Easements 101
More details coming soon!



Successional Planning Workshop (Part 2b): Farm/Forestry
More details coming soon!

About the LWC

The Luckiamute Watershed Council is comprised of volunteer watershed residents who care about the health of the watershed. Current members represent interests ranging from farming and forestry to education and water resources.

The Council is recruiting new board members and seeks individuals who work, live, or play in the watershed—you are a watershed stakeholder! Click [here](#) for details. We also welcome donations to support the work of the Council. All charitable donations will be used towards building the organizational resources needed to address our goals of water quality enhancement, habitat restoration and community education.

To donate, go to www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/donate or you can send a check to: **226 S. Main St. Suite L, Independence, OR 97351**

Thank you to our supporters!

Upcoming Council Meetings

Join us for Council Monthly Meetings, held the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Our meetings are always open to the public and discussion topics include local watershed issues and actions. For details, please visit our web site at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org.

October 13, 2016: Volunteer Hall, Monmouth (this meeting will go into Executive Session)
 —*Sue Reams, NRCS, will be giving an overview of the new Forestry Initiative (see page 4 for details).*

November 10, 2016: Volunteer Hall, Monmouth
****There will be no monthly meeting in December. Have a happy holiday season, and we'll see you in January!****

**Your contribution may be tax-deductible. The Marys River Watershed Council will provide a letter of documentation early next year, following your donation.*

***As our fiscal sponsor, the Marys River Watershed Council maintains the right to redirect funds if the LWC does not comply with our agreement or applicable laws.*

FORESTRY management



USDA Lower Willamette Structural Diversity in Forests Initiative for Polk County

Technical and Financial Assistance Available

THE USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) in Oregon continues its successful forest health funding with a **new initiative in 2017 to encourage diversity in forest land.** Forest diversity maintains or increases productivity while increasing habitat and soil quality, and reduces wildfire danger and disease . **In 2017 the priority area will be the Luckiamute Watershed.**

NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to private non-industrial forest landowners and producers interested in conserving natural resources on the land. Assistance may be available to help you implement the following conservation activities on your forestland:

- Pre-commercial thinning
- Pruning
- Slash treatment
- Reforestation
- Wildlife habitat improvement
- And more...

Contact the local Dallas NRCS field office to learn more about how NRCS may benefit you and your land.

**Deadline for
2017 Program
TBA**

(Approx 12/1/2016)

**Contact
Sue Reams
Acting District
Conservationist
503-837-3693**

Find the Natural Resources Conservation Service online at
www.or.nrcs.usda.gov



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*Your Land. Your Rivers. Your
Community. Your Watershed.*

Luckiamute Watershed Council

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