



Luckiamute Watershed Council

Luckiamute Watershed Facts

- The Luckiamute River watershed drains 315 square miles (201,668 acres), and is bounded by the Willamette River to the east, the crest of the Coast Range to the west, Green Mountain and Marys River to the south, and the Rickreall Creek Watershed to the north.
- Fanno Ridge separates the watershed into two rivers, with the Little Luckiamute to the north (Falls City) and the main stem of the Luckiamute to the south (Kings Valley). Lower-order tributaries include Waymire, Vincent, Plunkett, Maxfield, and Soap Creeks.
- The main stem of the Luckiamute River is about 82 miles long, but due to the abundance of creeks and streams, there are hundreds of stream miles in the Luckiamute Basin.
- In the Luckiamute River watershed, 87% of the land is privately owned. The main land uses are forestry (57%) and agriculture (30%).



Image by Philip Bayles, RaptorViews.com, psb@efn.org

Ash Creek Watershed Facts

- The Ash Creek basin is a 36 square mile sub-watershed that lies between the Rickreall Creek and Luckiamute River watersheds.
- Ash Creek starts in the Polk County community of Dallas, travels through Monmouth and Independence, and drains into the Willamette River.
- Before the 1800's, this entire area resembled a boggy, "braided" marsh with many small creeks spilling into Ash Creek and eventually the Willamette River. Over the past century, residents have drained and leveled wetlands and riparian areas for agriculture, logging, homes and cities.

Conservation Priorities

Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) Restoration

This project aims to re-establish native riparian habitat and restore floodplain/river connections of the Willamette River and the lower reaches of one of its major tributaries. Located south of Buena Vista, LSNA spans about 1.5 mi² of land near the mouth of the Luckiamute River. It provides habitat for aquatic, semi-aquatic and terrestrial species of concern.

Ash Creek Restoration Project

The LWC is partnering with local landowners, Central School District, Ash Creek Water Control District, and the Cities of Monmouth and Independence to improve the riparian zone along Ash Creek. The project includes controlling invasive weeds and planting native vegetation along the stream corridor from Monmouth Public Works at Hogan Road to the Willamette River.

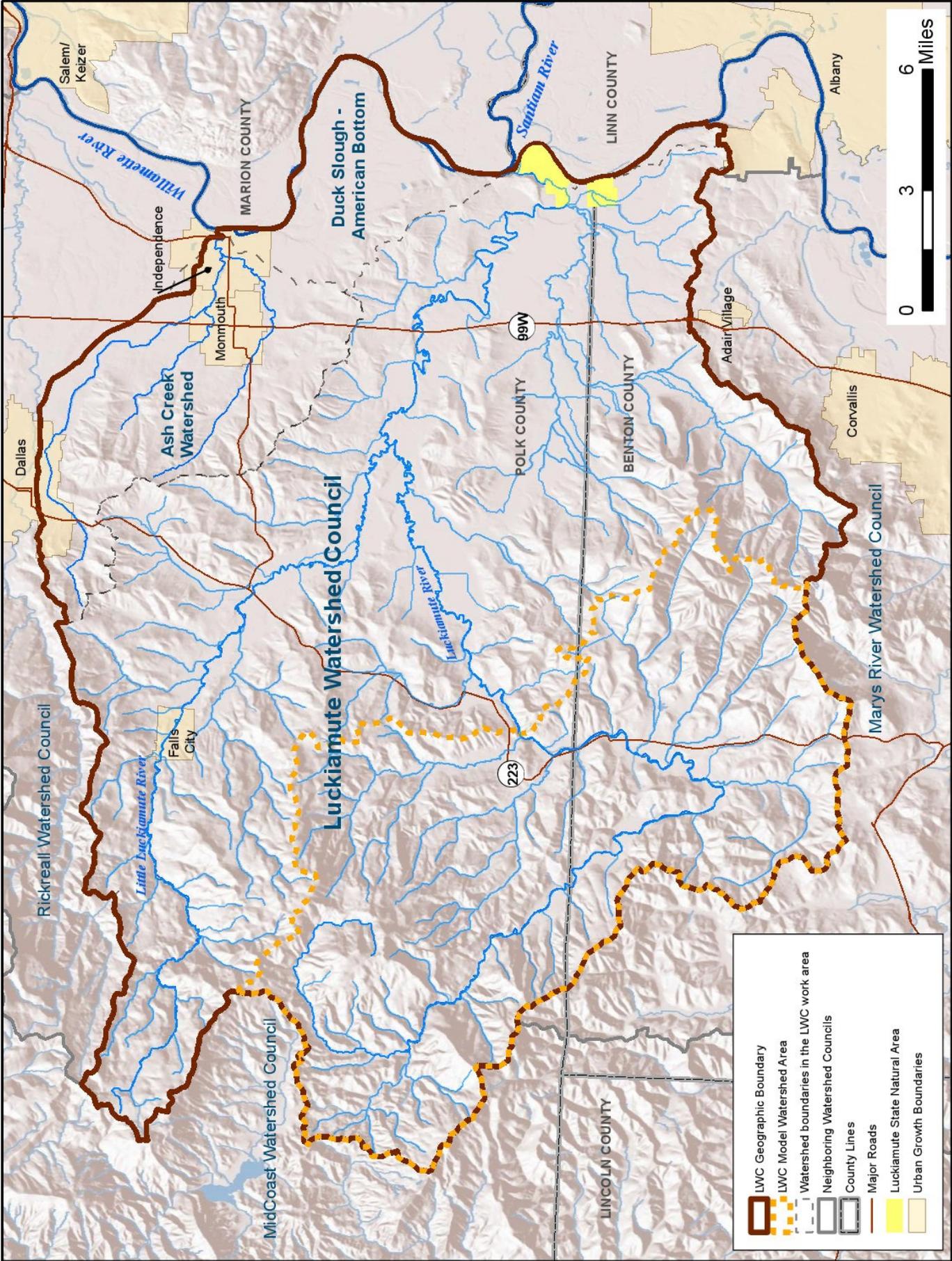
Model Watershed

In 2010, the LWC was named a Model Watershed by Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) and Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT). The Model Watershed Program commits annual capacity funding for ten years to improve select areas in the Willamette basin. The focal area for the LWC is the Upper Luckiamute River basin, encompassing the Hoskins, Kings Valley and Pedee areas. Work so far has focused on knotweed control and riparian revegetation.



About the LWC

The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) is a volunteer, nongovernmental advisory group composed of landowners living and/or working in the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds. The LWC covers 13 sub-watersheds totaling about 366 mi², including the Luckiamute watershed, the Ash Creek watershed, American Bottom and several small sloughs that drain into the Willamette River. Mainly agricultural, with forested areas in the uplands, the LWC work area includes four urban areas (Dallas, Independence, Monmouth, and Falls City) and serves a population of about 60,000 people. This network of waterways is also home to several threatened and endangered species, including steelhead and Chinook salmon. The LWC works on a broad range of watershed projects involving outreach, fish passage barrier removal, invasive species control, riparian revegetation, and in-stream complexity improvements.



-  LWC Geographic Boundary
-  LWC Model Watershed Area
-  Watershed boundaries in the LWC work area
-  Neighboring Watershed Councils
-  County Lines
-  Major Roads
-  Luckiamute State Natural Area
-  Urban Growth Boundaries

