



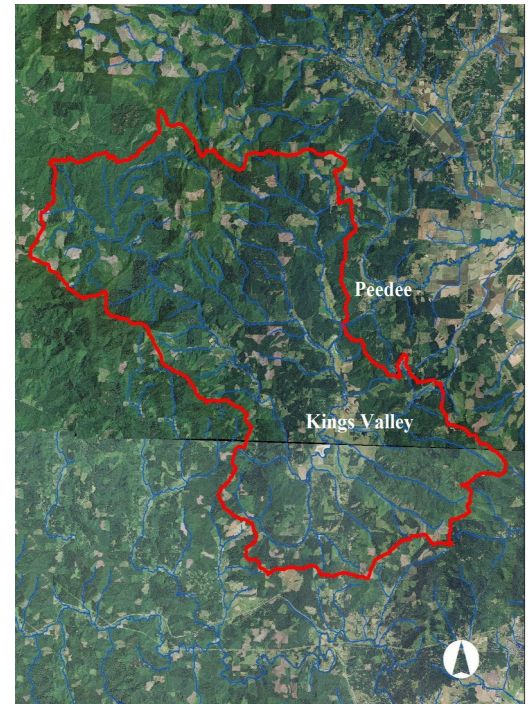
Luckiamute Watershed Council
www.luckiamutelwc.org

Luckiamute Model Watershed 10-year project

The Model Watershed Project on the Upper Luckiamute encompasses 115 square miles in Polk and Benton Counties. It is located in the heart of Kings Valley. Early logging employing splash damming as well as conversion of forests and wetlands to agriculture led to major changes in channel form and function. As a result the reach lacks much of its historic habitat complexity and cover. A significant Japanese knotweed infestation and generally degraded riparian conditions further limit the river's potential for recovery.

The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) is supported by Meyer Memorial Trust, Bonneville Environmental Foundation and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in this 10-year project to enhance instream and riparian conditions. LWC is one of a selected group of councils in the program.

Currently over 80 percent of streamside landowners in the area have joined with us and agreed to long-term collaboration on the project. To date, we have planted 15 acres in the riparian area and treated all accessible knotweed along 20 miles of riparian frontage.



Model Watershed Boundary

Japanese Knotweed is an invasive plant first discovered in Lane County in 1965.

Knotweed affects rivers by replacing native forest cover. It can reduce bank stability and results in the loss of canopy trees that keep water temperatures cool.

It has bamboo-like stems and smooth-edged heart shaped leaves. It produces spikes of small white flowers in the summer and can grow to 12 feet tall.

Without prompt and vigorous action, knotweed will take over entire riverbanks, displace native habitat, and damage the scenic and recreation quality of the river.

If you see Japanese Knotweed please call 503-837-0237

LWC Mission:

Working together to help people help their watersheds.

What we are: The Luckiamute Watershed Council is a volunteer, non-governmental, advisory group composed of stakeholders living or working in the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

Council meetings:

held the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Volunteer Hall in Monmouth on Warren St. Meetings are open to the public. Please join us!

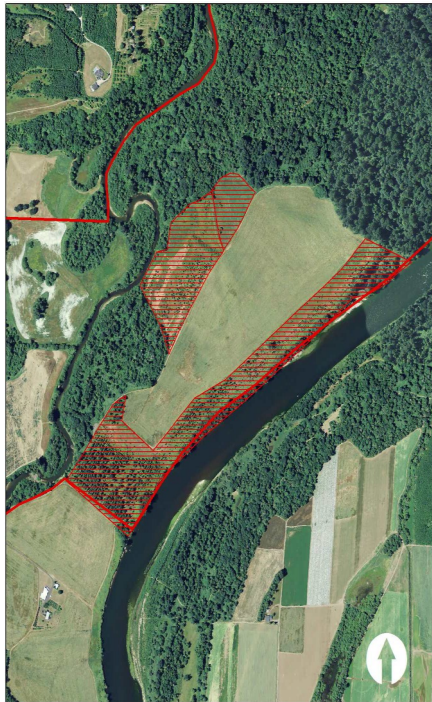
Events

- ◆ Planting party for demonstration prairie in Luckiamute State Natural Area **March 24th— 9:30 a.m.— 12:00 p.m.** Bring work gloves, trowels and kneeling pad.
- ◆ Buena Vista Road Clean-up April 5th at 10 a.m.

Check our website calendar for updates



Knotweed stems cut by beaver and spreading



Luckiamute State Natural Area is a project to restore native plant communities, enhance wildlife habitat and build community interest and involvement

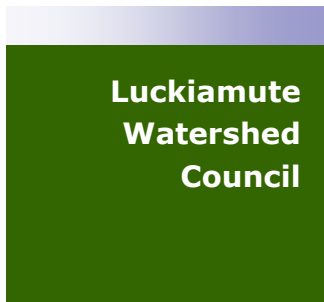
The Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) encompasses approximately 925 acres of state owned land that borders the Willamette and Luckiamute Rivers. The LWC has partnered with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to perform revegetation work over 80 acres of

wetland and riparian lands. In 2010, non-native species such as reed canary grass, Himalayan blackberry, river tansy and common teasel dominated 80 percent of the work area. Since then, machine and hand cutting, repeated targeted weed treatments and the recent installation of over 122,000 native woody plant seedlings have launched the area into a distinctly different trajectory; one that will bring enhanced

wildlife habitat, opportunities for recreation and support for improved water quality.

A volunteer group has adopted an area of the LSNA to restore to prairie like conditions. A work party of over 20 people in November planted native wildflower seed and bulbets from local seed sources. Another work party will be held March 26th.

Current LWC work area at LSNA



Luckiamute Watershed Council members (top left to right): John Westall, Phil Larsen, Kelly Gordon—Vice Chair, Hollis Fishelson-Holstine—Treasurer, Suzanne Moellendorf—Chair, Robert Burns, Peter Guillozet (project manager), Ron Nestlerode, Gail Oberst—Secretary and Jenniffer Bakke .



Lower Luckiamute/Kirk Lewis

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 recreation.

The Council is recruiting new

board members and seeks representatives from the following:

- Education
- State
- Local Government
- Environment

- Water Resources
- Recreation
- Business

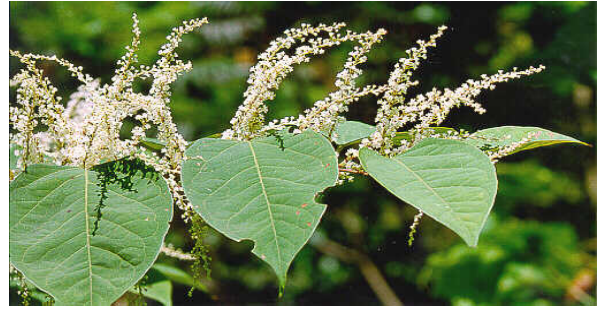
If you are interested please join us at the Council meetings held the 2nd Thursday of the month or call 503-837-0237

Model Watershed Landowner Celebration

Carol and Ivan Vierra graciously allowed LWC to use the Happy Workers Club in Hoskins to host an event celebrating our landowner partners who are working with us to eradicate Japanese knotweed and enhance riparian forests in the Model Watershed.

The Happy Workers Club is a one-room schoolhouse built in 1915. It is now used occasionally as a Kings Valley community center. Local school cook, Diana Barnhart provided the yummy food and Angela Davis, newsletter editor of the Hos-Kings Happenings, helped announce and organize the event.

Project Manager for the LWC, Peter Guillozet, gave an update on the project and stressed the importance of landowner participation. Japanese knotweed is a highly invasive plant from Asia that spreads downstream both by seed and via floating stem fragments. Along rivers where Japanese knotweed is well established, it takes over stream banks, floodplains and gravel bars, and replaces the native vegetation that maintains stable banks. Landowners complain of lost river access, eroding banks, and reduced property values where knotweed is well established.



Japanese knotweed

Others express a very real sense of loss at the discovery that Japanese knotweed has ruined their favorite place for swimming, fishing or wildlife viewing. Full control of the knotweed infestation in the Kings Valley area is a multi-year process which requires broad participation of landowners. The more landowners who join with us, the better we can prevent future infestations.

Approximately 25 resident landowners from the Model Watershed project attended the February event and expressed positive comments regarding the project and the people doing the work on the ground.



Happy Workers Club Event

Landowner Blogs about Event

We were invited out to the charmingly named Happy Workers Club yesterday, an old one room school on Luckiamute Road, to meet our neighboring landowners and hear about efforts to eradicate this fast spreading weed (Japanese knotweed). Peter gave a talk about this plant and showed frightening comparison maps of its spread in the UK and Ireland between 1900, when it was starting to be deliberately planted as a garden ornamental and 2006, by which time it had pretty much taken over the whole island. We're talking old growth knotweed over there! Seriously, Peter said, the roots of this stuff could eventually eat your house. It could ruin the streams for fish.

But here in Oregon, we're not going to let that happen. I just loved this meeting—a bunch of like-minded people getting together to figure out how to do the right thing. Few issues in life seem this straightforward: Japanese Knotweed is bad and we must get rid of it. Nobody disagrees. Everybody seems to just want to take care of their forests and be good stewards of the land. Linda Crew.

Read more at: <http://www.lindacrew.com/blog.htm?post=840172>

Flooding of 2012 a near record

Flood waters in January on the Luckiamute River came close to reaching the all time high of 34.5 feet, which occurred in 1964 according to the [Polk County Itemizer-Observer](#).

Living near rivers brings both benefits and risks to landowners. While natural beauty and tranquility are just a couple of the benefits, recent high waters reminded many who live in low lying areas of one of the major risks. In

large measure this risk stems from the conversion of forests and wetlands and the subsequent development of floodplain areas. While this has provided many of the benefits we currently enjoy, the formerly extensive wetlands in the Luckiamute watershed provided holding areas for water and allowed for gradual release through native vegetation and soils.

Today heavy rains flow more quickly into rivers. For some

this means property damage and for others, disruption of daily activities. Although the LWC's ongoing work to restore riparian and wetland areas through revegetation and invasive species control can help make river banks more resilient and provide for greater interception of rainfall, these efforts represent only small improvements.

The LWC welcomes the chance to assist and collaborate with interested landowners.



Road flooding in North tract of LSNA - Kirk Lewis



Floodwaters crossed Buena Vista Road near the Benton Polk counties border in January. Soap Creek and the Luckiamute River backed up as the Willamette River peaked.



Rob and Erin Burns took these photos as they made their way home. The water was so deep and current so strong that they had to use a motor boat to get home.



Helping people help their watershed

www.luckiamutelwc.org

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