



Luckiamute Watershed Council

www.luckiamutelwc.org

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 every month at 7 p.m., often at Volunteer Hall in Monmouth at 144 S. Warren St. Meetings are open to the public. Please join us!



Events:

America's State Parks First Day Hikes: Luckiamute State Natural Area (North Parking Lot) **January 1st at 10:00 a.m.** Bring water bottle, snacks, rain boots/waterproof boots, rain jacket.

Upper Luckiamute Side Channel Reconnection Project Completed

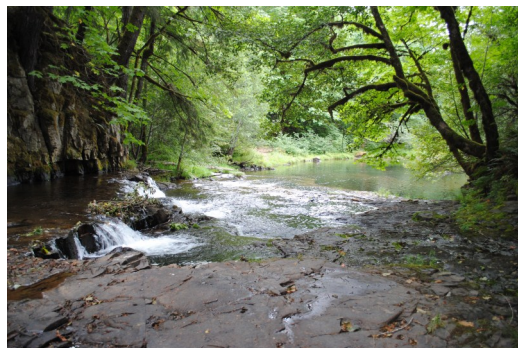
The Luckiamute Watershed Council completed the Side Channel Reconnection Project along the Upper Luckiamute River in summer 2013. By removing a section of the now defunct Siletz Railroad berm (photo, right), a meander bend previously connected to the Luckiamute River was reconnected. This side channel will provide excellent off-channel habitat for steelhead, cutthroat and other native fish. By opening this "detour", the side channel also provides passage around a bedrock step that was likely created by blasting during construction of the railroad (c. 1917) and was creating a barrier to juvenile steelhead during summer low flows (photo, below). Juvenile steelhead will now be able to access additional miles of cool waters in the upper Luckiamute River previously inaccessible. The project was completed with funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Meyer Memorial Trust, and invaluable contributions from Hancock Forest Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Pre-project, in-tact railroad berm



0 25 50 100 Feet Upper Luckiamute Side Channel Reconnection Project



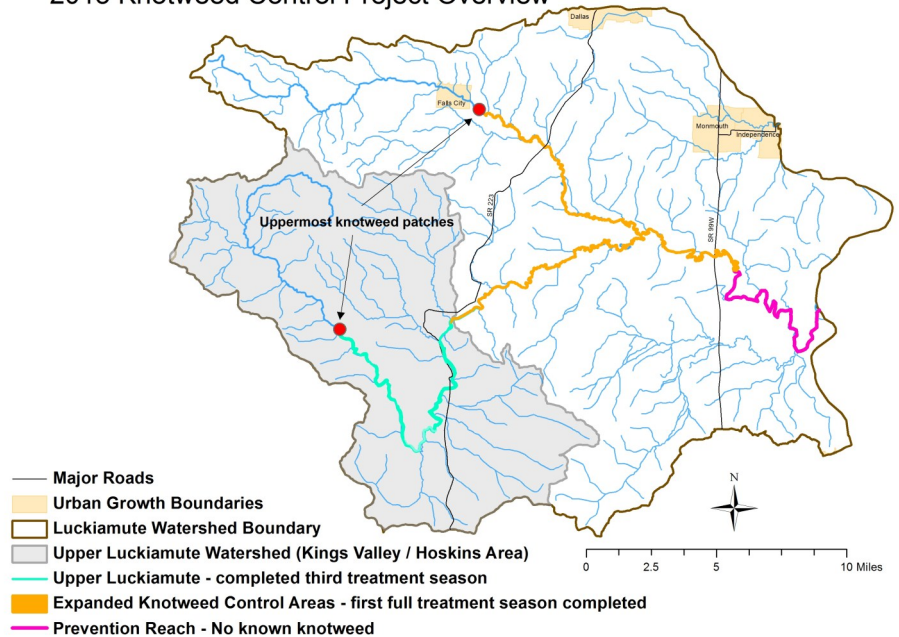
Left: Bedrock step that can now be passed through the side channel; Right: Newly opened side channel

Photos: Jean-Paul Zagarola

Knotweed Control Project Now Spans Entire Extent of Knotweed

With newly awarded four-year funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and help from many project partners, the LWC is now working with landowners to control knotweed along its entire extent in the watershed. With over 88% landowner participation along the Luckiamute and Little Luckiamute Rivers where knotweed exists, we will treat once per year to continue to battle this devastating noxious weed. We will continue to reach out to landowners for full participation. As funding permits, we will attempt to follow with willow cuttings and revegetation in priority areas along river banks.

2013 Knotweed Control Project Overview



Newly Awarded Funding Expands Current Project, Adds New Work Area

The Luckiamute Watershed Council operates entirely on grant funding from public and private entities and from contributions and donations from local organizations and individuals. While not all grant proposals are successful, the LWC was awarded two important grants in 2013 for projects to begin in 2014. Phase III of riparian and floodplain forest revegetation at Luckiamute State Natural Area (LSNA) will complete our restoration efforts at this beautiful Oregon Parks and Recreation property on Buena Vista Road. Join us January 1 at 10 a.m. for America's First Day Hikes to see the progress we've made at this site (see page 1). The LWC was also awarded an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant for riparian restoration along the main stem of Ash Creek in Monmouth and Independence. Work with project partners will begin in 2014 with planting slated for 2015. Stay tuned for more details!

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.



LSNA North Tract, Phase I area planted in 2012. Photo: Jean-Paul Zagarola

If you are interested, please join us at the Council meetings held the second Thursday of every month or call 503-837-0237. Visit our web site: www.luckiamutelwc.org

We also welcome donations to support the work of the council, an Oregon non-profit organization. Please send checks to: 226 S. Main St. Suite L, Independence, OR 97351

Thank you!

Soil and Water Conservation Districts to Hold Annual Native Plant Sales

It's that time of year! Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in and around our watershed are gearing up for their annual native plant sales. Polk SWCD will *not* be holding a 2014 plant sale, but Benton, Marion, and Yamhill SWCDs will. See the table below for ordering deadlines and sale dates.

Native plants are available in all shapes, sizes, colors, and prices. Unlike non-native plants, natives are adapted to our climate and weather patterns, require less maintenance, and provide food and habitat to native wildlife. The Luckiamute Watershed Council is happy to provide assistance planning a planting strategy for your property.

Key Dates	Benton SWCD www.bentonswcd.org	Marion SWCD www.marionswcd.net	Yamhill SWCD www.yamhillswcd.org
Pre-order deadline	Mail: January 3, 2014 Online: January 31, 2014	N/A	January 31, 2014
Order Pick-up Day	February 22 (<i>for pre-ordered plants only, pick-up</i>)	N/A	February 6 & 7 (9 am to 6 pm) and February 8 (9am
Native Plant Sale (overstock sale)	February 23 (12 pm to 3 pm)	March 7 (10 am to 6 pm) and March 8 (9 am to 1 pm)	February 6 & 7 (9 am to 6 pm) and February 8 (9am to 3 pm)
For more info.	541-753-7208	503-391-9927	503-472-6403 (Julie)

Upcoming Council Meetings and Speakers

Join us in 2014 for Council Monthly Meetings, held the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are often at Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. See our web site for details—www.luckiamutelwc.org.

January 9, 2014, Volunteer Hall, Monmouth: LWC Co-Project Manager, Jean-Paul Zagarola, will give a summary of LWC project work completed in 2013.

February 13, 2014, Volunteer Hall, Monmouth: Tom Gallagher, former director of the Ford Institute for Community Building, will speak on communities and the role of the watershed council in the community.

March 13, 2014, Location TBD: No speaker is planned, but a regular monthly meeting will be held.

Calling All Birders (and aspiring birders)!

The Oregon Birding Association will be conducting its annual Christmas Bird Count for the Airlie / Albany area on Sunday, January 5. There are 2 ways to participate:

- 1) **Join the count!** Birding skills are helpful but not required. A group will meet at 7 a.m. near the E.E. Wilson Wildlife Refuge, call the contact below for directions to the exact meeting site.
- 2) **Provide access** to your property to counters. One to two people will count birds on your property for about one to two hours. Call the contact below give access permission and have your property be a part of the Christmas Bird Count.

Contact Paul Adamus, compiler, for more information, to participate and get directions. 541-745-7092 or adamus7@comcast.net For more information, see: <http://audubonportland.org/local-birding/cbc>

Coordinator's Corner: The Year in Review

Happy New Year! I've been at the LWC for a little over a year now and 2013 was a whirlwind of a year. I apologize for the long stretch between newsletters, but with the recent hiring of our new Outreach Assistant, I have high hopes for more predictable quarterly newsletters. Suzanne Teller joined the LWC in December in a part-time position to help with outreach on the Ash Creek, Knotweed Control, LSNA, and Model Watershed projects and future projects as we develop them. In July, Jean-Paul Zagarola joined with Peter Guillozet as our co-project manager and has been doing a great job managing the various projects and all the details that go into to successful implementation. Here are some other highlights from 2013 since the Spring edition:

April: The LWC holds a successful fundraiser at the Monmouth Burgerville, raising almost \$300 in general funds. Look for more of these events in the future.

July—October: The LWC contractors work on over 99 miles of river bank to control knotweed, working with 152 different landowners. Jean-Paul joins Third-Stream Consulting as LWC co-project manager.

August: The LWC is awarded OWEB Special Investment funds to install almost 4 miles of livestock exclusion fencing and conduct riparian enhancement on the Luckiamute River. Side Channel Reconnection Project is completed.



Kristen Larson, LWC Council Coordinator, stands under the now defunct Siletz railroad berm—showing how tall it is—near the side channel reconnection project on the Upper Luckiamute River. (Photo: Jean-Paul Zagarola)

September: The LWC is awarded funds for the Main Stem Ash Creek Riparian Revegetation.

September—November: Upper Luckiamute livestock exclusion fencing is almost completely installed.

December: Suzanne Teller joins the LWC as our Outreach Assistant; LSNA Phase III funding is awarded.



Japanese knotweed (pictured) is a noxious species that grows in dense thickets, takes over stream banks and outcompetes native vegetation. Contact the LWC to for more information and to participate in our knotweed control program. Help us knock out knotweed!



*Helping people help
their watershed*

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Luckiamute Watershed Council

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