

LWC Mission:

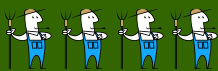
To engage landowners and communities in the voluntary protection, restoration and enhancement of the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

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 January 1 at 9:30 am as we ring in the New Year with a ranger-led America's First Day hike at Luckiamute State Natural Area. Details on page 3.



Burgerville Fundraiser Night on January 14 from 5—8pm! More on page 3.

Luckiamute Watershed Council

www.LuckiamuteLWC.org



We Built It, and They Came: Upper Luckiamute Side Channel Progress Report



July 2014: Upper Luckiamute River Side Channel. Kristen Larson

Even at the start of winter, new life can be seen returning to the site of the LWC's Side Channel Reconnection Project. Last week, LWC staff and volunteer Ryan Wooten, planted some western red cedar, western hemlock, snowberry and salmonberry along the faces of an old railroad berm that had been sliced in two as part of the project. As they navigated the slopes of the berm, they were careful to avoid stepping on the scores of tiny bigleaf maple and Douglas fir seedlings that were poking up through the soil. Below, the newly created side channel surged towards the main channel of the Luckiamute River, swollen with the previous days' heavy rain. From the vantage point of that old berm, it was clear that this remnant of the old Valley-Siletz Railroad was rapidly being reabsorbed into the surrounding ecosystem.

When the Valley-Siletz Railroad was completed around 1917, it provided an efficient way to transport lumber from the North Coast Range to the Willamette Valley. It followed the course of the Luckiamute River

atop an earthen berm that elevated its track above the river's reach. This berm bisected the floodplain in several places, disconnecting the river from some of its meandering channels — and preventing native fish populations from accessing some of their historic range.

Though the railway was completely abandoned by mid-1992, its berm continued to have an impact on the river. Railroad berms present plenty of challenges for fish trying to navigate a waterway. In the Upper Luckiamute River, the construction of the Valley-Siletz Railway berm resulted in this section of the river being straightened, disconnected, and made impassable to juvenile salmonids. Additionally historic use of splash damming in the upper Luckiamute during the 1800's caused the scouring of the channel down to bare bedrock—highly degrading portions of the main channel for fish habitat.

But in 2013, the Luckiamute Watershed Council in partnership with Hancock Timber Resource Group and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), completed the removal of a portion of the Valley-Siletz Railway berm along the main stem of the Upper Luckiamute River near Kings Valley. Located in Hancock-managed industrial timberland, the site created the perfect opportunity to demonstrate how quickly restoration efforts can lead to positive results.

We Built it, and They Came (continued from page 1)

In order to reconnect the river with its meander channel, a portion of the berm (approximately 6,500 cubic yards) was excavated with track hoes. Additionally, large wood from the berm—as well as ten Douglas Fir logs secured from a nearby U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service oak release project—were placed within the newly reconnected side channel. This large wood plays a very important role in stream ecosystems by providing shelter and feeding opportunities for aquatic life, and increasing the complexity of the river channel itself.

This restored section of the Luckiamute now provides excellent off-channel habitat to steelhead, cutthroat, coho salmon, and Pacific and western brook lamprey. Additionally, this side channel creates a “detour” around a bedrock step that acted as a barrier to juvenile steelhead during summer low flows. These juveniles now have access to an additional four

miles of upstream cool water habitat. Once this historic meander was reconnected to the river, the fish wasted no time in utilizing their new habitat. In fact, fish were seen using the side channel the same day after the waterway was re-opened! Ongoing temperature and stream profile monitoring will continue to show us how the area is changing as a result.

Although the side channel project site is on private land and not accessible to the public, you will soon be able to view the changes via a slideshow that will be on our website, at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org. The slideshow features photos from our on-site time lapse camera — giving us a fascinating glimpse of the restoration process in progress. Join our email list or follow us on Facebook to get the latest updates!



Mar. 2012: Pre-project view of railroad berm area to be removed. P. Guillozet



Sep. 2013: Post-project view of berm, showing new side channel. J.P. Zagarola



Dec. 2014: Replanting the berm slope with native vegetation. Ryan Wooten

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.

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.

January 8, 2015: Volunteer Hall, Monmouth

Join us for a brief presentation of 2014 project activities!

February 12, 2015: Volunteer Hall, Monmouth

March 12, 2015: TBD

**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.*

Soil and Water Conservation Districts to Hold Annual Native Plant Sales

Believe it or not, Spring is just around the corner! Now is the time to start planning for the coming planting season. Your local Soil and Water Conservation Districts are also gearing up for the Spring by holding their annual native plant sales. Don't miss out on the opportunity to get native trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs

in the ground for the lowest prices around. Whether you are interested in erosion control, windbreaks, wildlife habitat enhancement, or simply the beautification of your yard, make it one of your priorities for this coming year!

Key Dates	Benton SWCD www.bentonswcd.org	Marion SWCD www.marionswcd.org	Polk SWCD www.polkswcd.org	Yamhill SWCD www.yamhillswcd.org
Pre-order Deadline	Mail: December 31 Online: January 31	N/A	January 16	January 30
Order Pick-up Day	February 21 Eichler Hay Company, Corvallis	N/A	February 6 Polk County Fair Grounds	Feb. 5 & 6: 9am—6pm February 7: 9am—3pm Yamhill SWCD
Native Plant Sale (Overstock Sale)	February 22: 12—3pm Eichler Hay Company, Corvallis	March 13: 10am—6pm March 14: 9am—1pm Bauman Farms, Gervais	February 7: 9am—4pm Polk County Fair Grounds	Feb. 5 & 6: 9am—6pm February 7: 9am—3pm Yamhill SWCD
For more information	Alice Fairfield (541) 766-8083	(503) 391-9927	Liz Graham (503) 623-9680 x107	(503) 472-6403
Link to Native Plant Sale information	http://www.bentonswcd.org/programs/plant-sale/	http://www.marionswcd.net/events/district-events/	http://www.polkswcd.org/native-plant-sale-2/	http://www.yamhillswcd.org/sites/default/files/Events/Plant%20Sales/Flyer%202015.pdf

Save the Date!

Burgerville fundraiser for LWC set for January 14, 2015

Satisfy your cravings and contribute to your local watershed at the same time! Take a break from the kitchen and treat yourself, your friends, or your entire family to some delicious and locally-sourced fare at the **Monmouth Burgerville** on **January 14**. From **5:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, 10% of all sales will go 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!

America's First Day Hike

What better way to kick off the New Year than with a leisurely hike through some of the most beautiful and unique landscapes in the country? All across Oregon, kids and adults will be participating in ranger-led First Day Hikes in 31 of our state parks. Join us in celebrating this nationwide initiative with a First Day Hike in **Luckiamute State Natural Area**. We will meet on **January 1, at 9:30am** at the North Tract trailhead parking lot. This easy 3-mile hike will take you through a rare lowland riparian forest ecosystem and is appropriate for the entire family. Make sure to dress for the weather! See www.LuckiamuteLWC.org for detailed directions.

Happy New Year!

Coordinator's Corner: Making a Difference in Your Watershed

There are lots of ways to make a positive impact in your watershed. Some things you are already doing may have become so routine that you don't even think about them. When you reuse something instead of throwing it away, recycle, plant native trees and shrubs, and properly dispose of hazardous household waste, you are making a direct and positive impact on the health of your watershed. But are you aware of the most pressing issues affecting the health of your watershed? What are the biggest barriers to achieving conservation goals? What are your ideas for improving the watershed and connecting the community with a wider perspective? By becoming involved in your watershed council, your voice and input can have a far greater impact than you might have imagined possible. Individuals can participate in various ways including attending meetings to learn more and share your ideas, volunteering on a standing or short-term committee, or becoming a member of the board.

What makes a watershed council unique in the conservation community is its truly grassroots perspective. The opposite of a top-down approach, the way of a watershed council is to engage the local community at the individual level and then foster collaborative efforts to achieve success. Forming partnerships with local landowners and businesses has been shown to be very effective to engage the community towards holistic and mutually beneficial watershed conservation goals. Watershed councils empower the community to shape and guide long-term solutions to some of the most intractable water quality and conservation concerns.

The impact that our all-volunteer board and committees have on the success of our outreach efforts cannot be overestimated. Committees

and the board are the driving force of the Council and guide the direction of our work. Incorporating the myriad voices of our stakeholders is in both our charter and operating procedures – and is the very reason for our existence. By participating in your local watershed council, you would use your passion and professional expertise to advance our mission to protect and improve the watershed for both people and wildlife. No interest or perspective is unwelcome, as we seek to represent the various interests and perspectives within our watershed. Currently, our board represents interests ranging from farming and forestry to education and water resources. Board membership is open to any stakeholder who lives or works in Polk or Benton counties.

You can learn more about how we operate, the role of a board member, and the areas of representation we are would like to fill on the board by visiting the "Become a Member" portion of our web site: www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/become-a-member.html. The next LWC monthly meeting is 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at Volunteer Hall in Monmouth. Jean-Paul Zagarola will present a brief wrap-up of our 2014 project activities.

For more information and a board member application packet, call 503-837-0237 or send an email to Outreach@LuckiamuteLWC.org.

Burgerville Fundraiser a Success!

Thank you to all who came by the Monmouth Burgerville for our October 22 Fundraiser. Thanks to you, we raised over \$200 to help us achieve our goals for the upcoming year. If you missed us, don't worry—we will be back at Burgerville for another fundraiser on January 14th, from 5 to 8 pm. Sign up to receive our email alerts at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org, or connect with us on Facebook to keep up to date with all the latest LWC events!

The 115th Audubon Christmas Bird Count has officially begun! Find a Christmas Bird Count location near you at <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>

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*Helping people help
their watershed*

www.LuckiamuteLWC.org