

McKENZIE MEANDERINGS

A Newsletter of the McKenzie Watershed Council

"...fostering better stewardship of the McKenzie Watershed resources through partnerships and collaboration..."



Spring 2003

Visit us on the web at <http://www.mckenziewatershedcouncil.org>

Watershed Improvements Benefit Our Economy



Did you know that for every dollar spent on watershed improvement projects, there is a \$1.65 multiplier effect to our local economy (University of Oregon 2002). The McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC) works collaboratively with willing landowners and

annually expends large sums of money on activities related to watershed improvement and best management practices. These investments are matched with in-kind contributions of nearly 4:1 by landowners and organizations. These investments stay within the watershed, benefitting water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and our communities.



Each year, the MWC applies for and receives numerous grants to fund watershed improvement projects. For example, say a private landowner wants to improve their streamside area by removing invasive weeds, plant native trees, and remove cattle from watering in the stream. Council funds can assist the landowner by: providing technical assistance, hiring contractors to remove weeds, hiring tree planting crews, and the purchase

and installation of fencing and off-water devices for livestock. The landowner in return provides matching expenses such as time, labor and maintenance to the project.



Our watersheds, and the people, fish and wildlife that depend on them, face numerous challenges. Our challenge isn't simply to save salmon. Our challenge is to conserve watersheds because healthy watersheds support our economy, industry, recreation, tourism, culture, our spirits and future. The MWC works to conserve the McKenzie by conducting watershed improvement projects through voluntary, non-regulatory, and locally-led partnerships. These partnerships include a diverse array of stakeholders, including, farmers, loggers, fishers, businesses, and urban and rural interests. Emerging from these partnerships is a "restoration economy" which is translating into local business dollars.

Certainly, restoration work in our watersheds will not cure the economic woes currently facing Oregon. The MWC will continue to pursue and create opportunities in the restoration economy. However, continued progress will only move forward through a local process that continues to build trust among the diverse partners involved in the watershed improvements.

MWC Source of Funds 2002:

- MWC Partner Organizations (6)
- Bonneville Power Administration (1 grant)
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (2 grants)
- Private Foundations (2 grants)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (1 grant)
- NOAA Fisheries (1 grant)
- Bonneville Environmental Foundation (1 grant)
- Donations (multiple donors)



Who is the McKenzie Watershed Council?



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Visit our web site at:
<http://www.mckenziewatershedcouncil.org>

Partner Organizations

At-large (2)

City of Eugene

City of Springfield

East Lane Soil and Water

Conservation District

Eugene Water & Electric Board

HYNIX Semiconductor America

Lane County

McKenzie Flyfishers

McKenzie Valley Residents
Association

McKenzie Guides Association

McKenzie River Trust

McKenzie Schools

Mohawk Community Council

Oregon Department of Fish
and Wildlife

Oregon Division of State Lands

Springfield Utility Board

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Forest Service

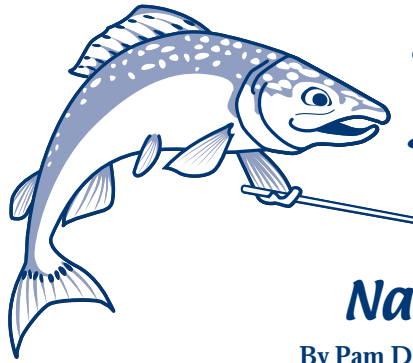
Weyerhaeuser Company

Council's Mission:

"..fostering better stewardship of
the McKenzie Watershed
resources through voluntary
partnerships and collaboration.."



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This Month Sammy Salmon Spotlights: Municipal Water Runs Deep in Our National Forests

By Pam Druliner

Contrary to popular belief, most summer stream flows out of the high Cascades is not due to snowmelt. Instead, the high Cascades form a vast hydrologic sponge that stores many decades worth of water as deep groundwater, says Gordon Grant a Research Hydrologist with the US Forest Service. Grant's research shows that the McKenzie River is a prime example of this type of hydrologic system where large underground aquifers in the high Cascades keep the river supplied year-round. Both the constancy and relatively cool temperatures this affords has positive benefits to the entire Willamette basin and its residents (both bi-pedal and finned), particularly during the dry season. "In fact, prior to construction of the dams and reservoirs on the Willamette tributaries, 60 percent of the late summer stream flow of the Willamette in Portland came from the McKenzie drainage" adds Grant. Since placement of dams in the system, Grant surmises that the McKenzie still supplies most of the dry season stream flow demonstrating the McKenzie's value in terms of water quantity and quality.



For more information about Grant's findings, go to: www.fs.fed.us/pnw/science/scifi49.pdf Gordon will also be giving a short presentation about his findings at the June 12th McKenzie Watershed Council meeting from 6:30-7:15pm. For more information, contact the Council at 687-9076.

Looking for guidance on native trees or shrubs? How about managing small acreage?

The McKenzie Watershed Council has a resource library available for use. Below is a list of some of the reference materials on hand. Please contact the Council to receive or checkout material of interest.

- Go Native! A Landowners Guide for Using Native Trees and Shrubs in the McKenzie Watershed
- Oregon Small Acreages Conservation Tool Box
- Caring for Streamside Areas in the McKenzie Watershed: A Landowners Guide
- Western Pond Turtles Need Your Help: McKenzies' Landowners Guide for Creating Pond Turtle Habitat
- Naturescaping - A Landscaping Partnership with Nature
- Watershed Stewardship - A Learning Guide

AND MANY OTHER PUBLICATIONS!

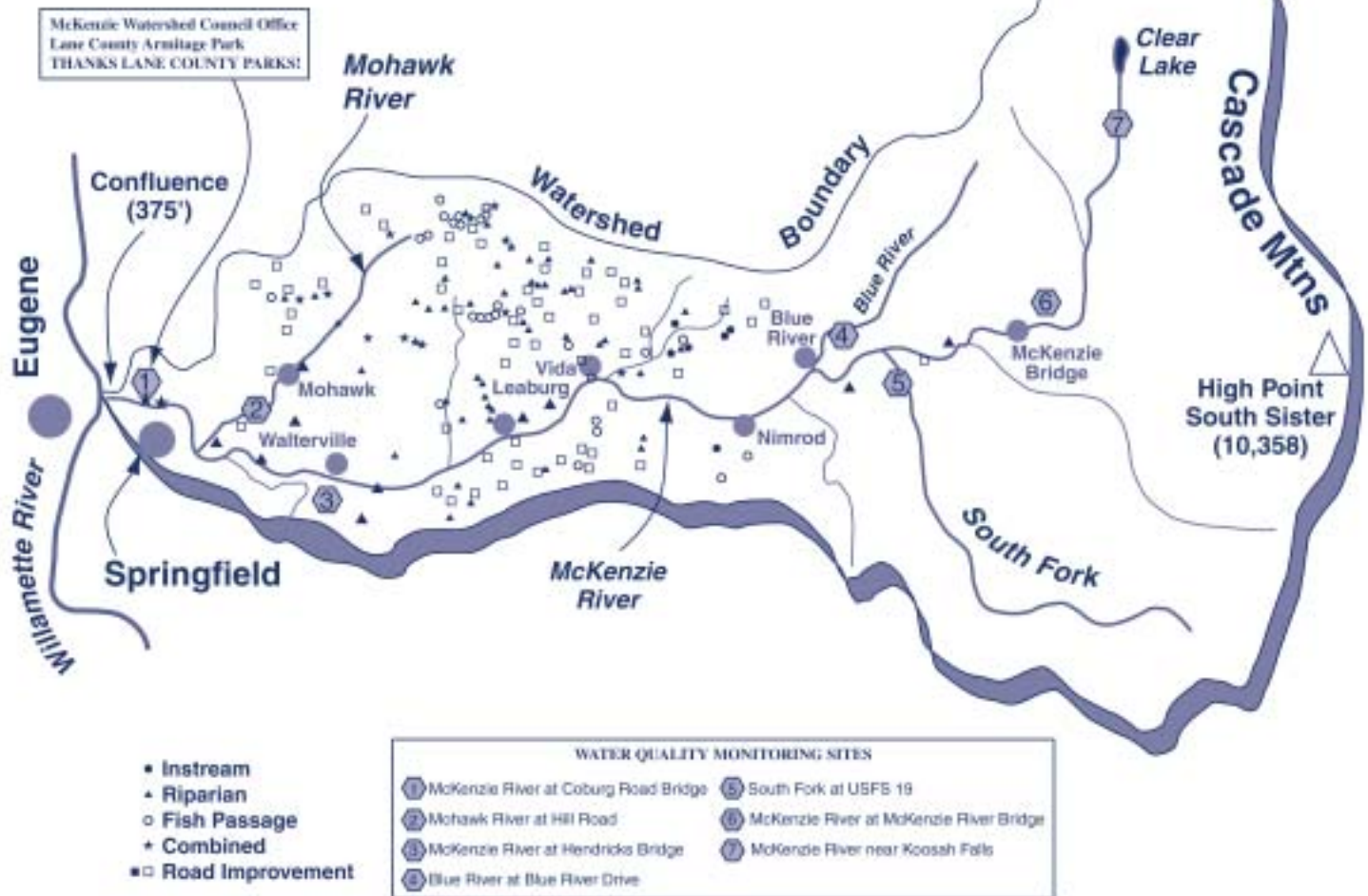
Frequently asked questions about Salmon

If I don't live on a stream or river, will I affect salmon recovery?

Salmon habitat really includes the entire watershed, which is all of the land that drains to the stream or river that salmon live in. Because streams are sensitive to changes in the land throughout the watershed, our individual actions may affect the stream and its salmon even if you live miles away from the nearest stream.

Fertilizers, weed killer, and motor oil can wash off in the rain and enter local streams. If you remove trees or increase the amount of land covered by asphalt and concrete, that means that less water will soak into the ground and more water will flood into local streams when it rains, causing flooding and erosion. So, no matter where you live, your activities may affect water quality and salmon.

Projects Supporting the Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds, 1999-2002



Looking For Money To Complete That Watershed Project You've Been Putting Off?

A new program is available to help you get a jumpstart on your project. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board has created a new locally administered "Small Grant" program from its Watershed Improvement Grant Fund.

A "Small Grant" is awarded for an eligible watershed project for up to 75% of the project cost. Grants may not exceed \$10,000. The "Small Grant Team" for this area includes

representatives from East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District, Watershed Groups for the McKenzie, Mohawk, Coast Fork Willamette, Mid Fork Willamette and Lost Creek. Project types include: streamside planting, invasive plant species removal, off-watering devices for cattle, fencing and many others. For more details, please contact the McKenzie Watershed Council at 687-9076.



Spring is bringing with it some changes to the Mohawk Watershed Partnership staff. Polly Kohl, who has been the part-time coordinator for the Partnership for the last 3 years, has passed on most of her responsibilities to her replacement, Lauri Mullen. Lauri's interests in watersheds is extensive. She currently works part time with the Eugene Stream Team. Prior to moving to area, she spent four years working with the Tualatin Riverkeepers in the Portland area. Lauri's time with the Riverkeepers included a wide range of duties - everything from office management, newsletter publication, and maintaining volunteer records, to coordinating educational workshops, river clean-ups, and community restoration projects. Polly's shoes will be hard to fill, but Lauri is committed to helping this great community group continue their voluntary work to improve the health of the Mohawk Watershed.

Polly will continue her work with the MWP, but as manager of the focus sub-basin project, which is being funded by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Polly and Lauri will work

closely with Juan Welsh, McKenzie Watershed Projects Manager. Juan, working on behalf of the MWP and MWC, is primarily responsible for development of private landowner projects in the watershed.



For information about the Mohawk Watershed Partnership or to contact Lauri Mullen, please call 687-9076 or email mwp@epud.net. To reach Polly Kohl, please call 744-9614 or send her an email at kohl@pacinfo.com. Juan Welsh can be reached at 687-9076 or (jwelsh@pacinfo.com).

Give Your Land a Health Exam

How much of these do you have on your property?

1	2	3
A lot	Some	A little
A little	Some	A lot
A little	Some	A lot

Healthy ground cover (forest, shrubs, grass, or cropland)

Weeds or plants that hold the soil poorly (dandelion, knapweed, thistle)

Bare or muddy ground

If all of your answers are in the first column, your land earns an "A" for health. If most of your answers are in the second column, it is in average condition. If you have any responses in the third column, your land likely needs some help; contact the SWCD or MWC for assistance.

Local Conservation Workshops a Hit!

Contributed by East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District

In February, over 100 landowners attended Small Acreage Management Workshops held in the McKenzie Watershed (Walterville and Marcola). Landowners learned how their voluntary actions can add value to their land and home. For example, landowners learned how to identify and control noxious weed, stabilize streambanks, manage grazing and sustain livestock health. A variety of resources, such as technical support, project funding, and publications were also presented.



The workshops were sponsored by East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the McKenzie Watershed Council. Due to the excellent reviews by the participants and the strong support for them, future workshops are being planned. Already, several of the landowners have contacted the McKenzie Watershed Council and SWCD for technical support and to secure funding for their projects!

What the Watershed Reveals

Monitoring McKenzie's Water Quality



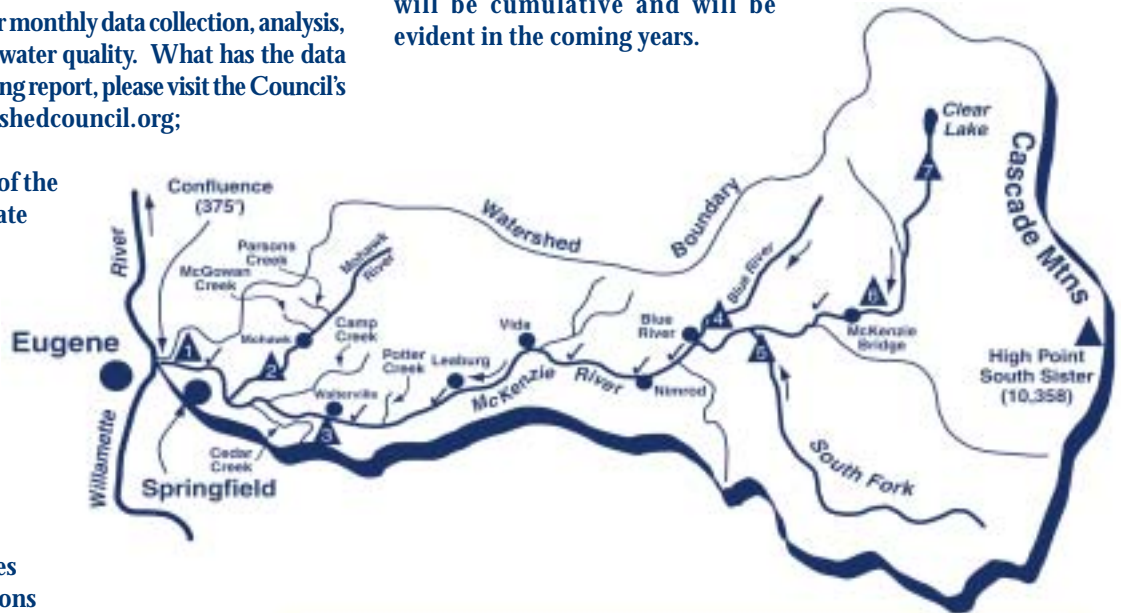
How do we know our investments (map on page 3) are making a difference? The general, long-term monitoring described above sheds some light on this question. However, more localized monitoring in the project areas increases our ability to determine if we are making difference. For example, in the past few years, the MWC, working with private landowners, local schools and other organizations, are conducting water quality monitoring on Cedar, Camp, Potter, McGowan, and Parsons Creeks, along with the Mohawk River. Pre and post project data is collected on riparian and fish passage projects to assess the effectiveness of the projects.

The MWC's monitoring program will, over time, continue to paint a picture of the watershed's water quality. In some cases, the fruits of the improvement efforts are born immediately, like culvert replacement. In most cases though, the net result of our actions will be cumulative and will be evident in the coming years.

How is the overall condition of McKenzie River water quality? Since 1995, a unique partnership among several watershed organizations, under the coordination of the McKenzie Watershed Council, have provided funding for monthly data collection, analysis, and reporting of the McKenzie's water quality. What has the data revealed? To see the latest monitoring report, please visit the Council's web site at www.mckenziewaterhedcouncil.org;

here's a few of the highlights:

- The watershed contains some of the highest quality streams in the state
- Oregon's Water Quality Index indicates that water quality is generally excellent throughout the year
- Trends indicate a decrease in quality from upstream to downstream
- Trends are mixed with reduction in water quality at two of the stations
- Trends are mixed with increases in water quality at two of the stations
- Although water temperatures are generally cool, temperature is the primary water quality issue as it relates to Bull Trout and Spring Chinook Salmon
- The partnership includes: Eugene Water and Electric Board, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, Willamette N.F., Eugene District Bureau of Land Management, Department of Environmental Quality, and U.S. Geological Survey



WATER QUALITY MONITORING SITES	
▲ McKenzie River at Coburg Road Bridge	▲ South Fork at USFS 19
▲ Mohawk River at Hill Road	▲ McKenzie River at McKenzie River Bridge
▲ McKenzie River at Hendricks Bridge	▲ McKenzie River near Koosah Falls
▲ Blue River at Blue River Drive	

MWC Program Goes International

The MWC was recently asked by the Governor's office to make a presentation of the Council's monitoring program to an Indonesian delegation (provincial and county executives) from East Kalimantan (formerly Borneo). East Kalimantan is partnered with Oregon to help implement their new

democratic and local autonomy initiatives through river basin planning for the Mahakam River. Over the past two years, the Council has also briefed delegations from Beijing, China and Tokyo, Japan.



Weed Eating Goats!

There are a number of tools available to get rid of those prolific, nasty weeds, such as: ivy, reed canary grass, knot weed, blackberries, etc. These tools include: herbicides, mechanical, integrated pest management, and goats! The natural eating habits of goats to control unwanted vegetation has been around for centuries and is taking on new life in watershed improvements. Goats can be useful in areas where herbicides and other treatments are not recommended. For example, say you have acres of blackberries along a stream with irrigation pipe, fencing and other items buried in the weeds and you can't see or don't remember where this stuff is! Goats are ideal for this situation. Goats eat away the weeds and expose these items. From here, you can use mechanical means for continued treatment. The MWC has successfully used goats on two projects with these conditions. Please contact the Council if you'd like more information.

FISH ON!

FIN, the 25 foot migrating salmon was on display at the McKenzie Arts Festival (Oct. 2002). FIN is an educational display where kids of all ages can climb inside and see watershed educational murals. The USFS and MWC collaborated with the McKenzie Arts Forum to display FIN. Contact the Council if you'd like more information.



Photo by Ken Engelman

Household Hazardous Waste Roundup

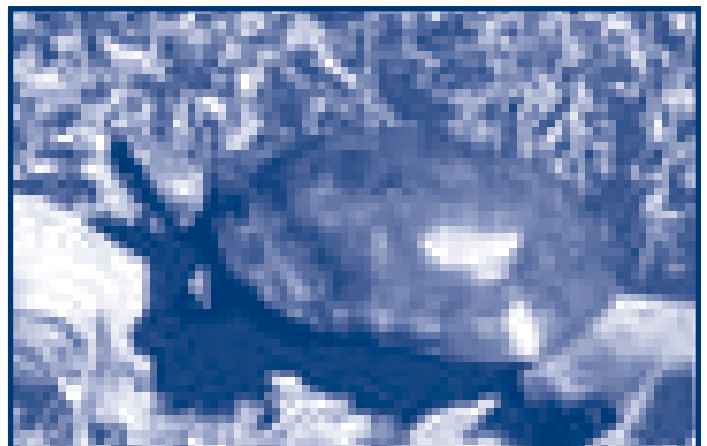
On Saturday, October 26th 2002, a "Household Hazardous Waste Roundup" was held at the Leaburg Fire Station. During the event, approximately 100 households disposed of 9,260 pounds of waste. The most common item received was paint - 3,020 pounds of latex paint and 4,200 pounds of oil-based paint were collected. Other items collected included: poisons (750 lbs.), flammable liquids/solvents (665 lbs.), acids (190 lbs.), caustic items (60 lbs.), flammable aerosols (125 lbs.), poison aerosols (40 lbs.), oxidizers (60 lbs.), motor oil (125 lbs.), and antifreeze (25 lbs.). This is material that otherwise would have entered our landfills. Good riddance! This event was sponsored by the McKenzie Watershed Council, McKenzie Fire & Rescue, and Lane County Public Works. If you would like information about disposing hazardous wastes, call the Lane County Waste Management Division at 682-4120.

Seen any turtles lately?

The Western Pond Turtle Working Group (a consortium of natural resource agencies) is updating a database of turtle locations in the Willamette Basin including the McKenzie. Please send turtle location information and how you can be contacted in case clarification is needed. Locations will be kept confidential. Even if you haven't seen turtles, please contact us if your property contains a slough or large pond and you would like it checked for turtles, for free, this summer.

Contact :

Paul Adamus - Consulting Wildlife Biologist,
6028 NW Burgundy Dr. Corvallis, OR 97330.
Telephone (541) 745-7092 Email: adamus7@attbi.com





By **Kate Ferschweiler**,
Education Coordinator,
McKenzie Watershed Council

Potter Creek - Learning through Inquiry

Potter Creek runs along behind of Walterville Elementary School. For over two years, 5th grade students have used hands-on study in determining Potter Creek's water quality. This learning starts with the basic inquiry of: How is the water quality of Potter Creek? To answer this, students have been collecting information on: flow rate, temperature, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, pH, and turbidity. The students track their results and learn about the health and best management practices for the stream.



As part of this learning process, Walterville 4th and 5th grade teachers, their students, in collaboration with the MWC, developed a phased, 3-year approach, to improve the creek's riparian functions,

therefore, its water quality. The phased improvements include multiple plantings of native trees and shrubs along the creek. In doing this, students have learned about the benefits of riparian function, with 5th grade students developing the landscape pattern along the bank to match the growing conditions to the plants. The riparian area will also be incorporated into a plant identification study unit for the classes. Monitoring of the plants (growth and survival) along with the water will be conducted by future students. It is through this learning process that students are challenged to think and draw there own conclusions.

Need Money for College? Announcing the McKenzie Watershed Council's Natural Resources Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to help students enter the professional fields of Natural Resources. The scholarship is sponsored by the Council, with \$1,000.00 being award for 2003.

Eligibility (needs to be one of the two):

1. Currently a graduating senior from either McKenzie, Mohawk, or Thurston High Schools interested in pursuing education in a Natural Resource related field (forestry, biology, range, recreation, etc); or #2.
2. Currently enrolled college student majoring in a Natural Resource field.

Scholarship recipients may also re-apply for this scholarship as eligible in # 2.

The scholarship application includes a cover page, and a short questionnaire focusing on the applicant's interest in natural resources. The application period closes May 8, 2003. To receive an application form, call the Council (687-9076), check the website (<http://www.mckenziewaterhedcouncil.org>), or check your high school counseling office.

Hey Parents!

Here's a game to play with your kids and teach them about how pollution can diminish our water quality. All of these things can cause polluted runoff, which can harm fish and wildlife and our drinking water. Can you find them in the word-search?

soapsuds chemicals pet waste oil litter

DLKYERTUNDHPMG
 ZTWOILHIKWCTOL
 RTGUIBSOAPSUDS
 CHEMICALSYJOPO
 PETWASTEETHVIC
 NALJKMLITTERAL

What Can I Do?....

Community and Watershed Activities:

- Lead your neighborhood in voluntary conservation actions! The Council can help you get this started.
- Do you have financial planning skills? The Council is developing a financial plan for nonprofit status and could use some assistance.
- Want watershed friendly products? Contact the Council for information.
- McKenzie Watershed Council meets 2nd Thursday of each month.
May agenda: USFS forest management and City of Eugene salmon recovery efforts.
June agenda: ODFW "wilderness fish and frogs" OSU-PNW- National Forests and Municipal water.
- Do you have organizational and office skills? A small amount of time to volunteer? The Council has several projects that would benefit from your skills.

Did You Know? McKenzie Factoids

Will you be travelling? The Green Hotels Association lists on its Web site (www.greenhotels.com) hotels, bed and breakfast inns, and conference centers that promote "green" practices. The organizers of the site explain that "Green Hotels" are properties whose management is eager to institute programs that save water and energy and reduce solid waste.



Who You Gonna' Call? For Your Watershed Questions

If you would like more information about any of the organizations listed in this newsletter, please call the following numbers:

<i>McKenzie Watershed Council</i>	<i>-----541 687-9076</i>
<i>Mohawk Watershed Partnership</i>	<i>-----541 687-9076</i>
<i>East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District</i>	<i>-----541 465-6443</i>
<i>Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife</i>	<i>-----541 726-3515</i>
<i>Bureau of Land Management, Eugene District</i>	<i>-----541 686-6600</i>
<i>McKenzie River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest</i>	<i>-----541 822-3381</i>
<i>McKenzie River Trust</i>	<i>-----541 345-2799</i>
<i>Division of State Lands</i>	<i>-----503 378-3805 x232</i>

Do you have a community-based project? Would you like to plant native trees and shrubs in your streamside? Do you have a fence that's in need of repair for pasture rotation? The McKenzie Watershed Council may be able to help you!



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**P.O.Box 53
Springfield, Or 97477-0003**