

# McKENZIE MEANDERINGS

A Newsletter of the McKenzie Watershed Council

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



Summer 2003

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

## WATERSHED PARTNERSHIPS GET WORK DONE



The McKenzie Watershed Council's method of operation is to form partnerships to accomplish watershed work. Why form partnerships? Because there is so much that needs to be cared for, built, maintained, and monitored. And, there is usually not enough resources from a single entity to accomplish the work. Through creating partnerships and adding in a good dose of planning, amazing things can take place.



In this newsletter, you will see many articles highlighting watershed work being accomplished. This work is largely done through partnerships working together, collaboratively, to address a need. In addressing a need, resources are leverage among the entities - where everyone gives a little and receives something in return.



Here's a partial listing of some of the ongoing project-partnerships the Council is associated with, in addition to the ones on the following pages:

- Hazardous Waste Roundup: McKenzie Fire and Rescue and Lane County
- Arts Works Projects: Lane Arts Council, McKenzie Arts Forum, McKenzie River RD, & others
- Boat Landing signage: McKenzie Maintenance Partnership (8 organizations)
- McKenzie Water Quality Monitoring - five different organizations chaired by MWC
- Landowner Workshops (2/yr) - Soil & Water Conservation District, & OSU Extension
- Private Landowner fish & wildlife habitat projects (7/yr) - Many landowners and partners



For folks engaged in encouraging citizens and organizations to participate actively in getting work done, true partnerships are successful when they are alliances. Partnerships start with a conversation. Then, it is a willingness to invest time and energy to do work that builds relationships that will have the capacity to continue to give back in the future. All sides must benefit and at their best, partnerships should enrich society at large.



# Who is the McKenzie Watershed Council?



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## 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.."



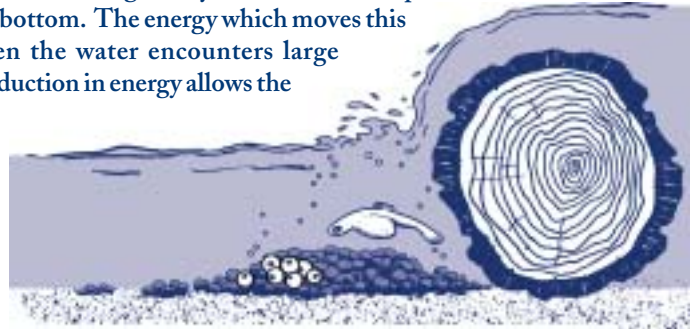
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## This Month Sammy Salmon Spotlights: Large Woody Material, The Backbone of a Stream

Large Woody Material is the Backbone of a Stream and River. Large woody material defines and strengthens the character of a stream much like the backbone gives definition and stability to the human body. Large wood does the following:

**Gravel:** When stream flows are high, they erode banks and pick gravel from the stream bottom. The energy which moves this gravel is reduced when the water encounters large woody material. The reduction in energy allows the gravel to be dropped to the stream bed above and below the wood structures. At the right time of the year and flow level, fish use the gravel as spawning beds.



**Islands:** Islands form as small material is trapped by large wood. This finer matter filters sediment from the water and eventually supports water loving plants. Islands are important for waterfowl nesting and provide fish habitat with shade and homes for insects.

**Nutrients:** Large woody material provides nutrients to the streams. Studies have shown that large woody material supplies five times more insect habitat per square foot than many other forms of structure in a water body.

**Side Channels:** Large wood helps to protect banks where channels enter and leave a main stream and keeps side channels open. This important nursery area protects young fish from predators and provides food (insects).



# COOPERATION AT THE CONFLUENCE

A collaborative approach to address the needs of fish, wildlife, water quality, the aggregate industry, and other private landowners, is occurring at the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers. Thanks to funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, BPA, and a bunch of local match contributions, habitat is being improved for fish and wildlife, including spring chinook salmon and the western pond turtle.



The MWC in cooperation with Delta Sand and Gravel recently completed construction of an alcove, which is like a side channel but, doesn't have an upstream connection to the river. Alcoves are the nurseries for many native fish that breed, rear and live in these quiet waters. When the river flows fast in the winter, many

fish find refuge in these alcoves. Turtles also like to nest near and use alcove logs to bask on.

This fall, trees and native grasses will be planted to help control the invasion of exotic plant species. Willows will help provide shade to the water to keep it cool. We will monitor the success of fish and turtles over the next five years.

The alcove project is on Delta's land; Delta is one of the many diverse Partners on the MWC sponsored McKenzie-Willamette Confluence Committee. The committee works collaboratively to develop habitat projects and solutions to the complex issues that exist in the confluence.

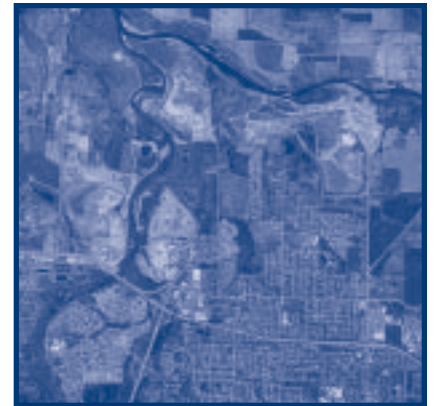


## OCAPA ACKNOWLEDGES CONFLUENCE WORK



*Steve Wildish presenting the award to the McKenzie Watershed Council*

In June 2003, the Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers (OCAPA) presented the McKenzie Watershed Council and the work of McKenzie-Willamette Confluence Committee Project Manager, John Runyon, OCAPA's Environmental Stewardship Award. The OCAPA Award provides recognition to an individual or organization in or involved with the aggregate industry who have made superior and substantial contributions to achieve environmentally sound operating practices. The efforts of the McKenzie Watershed Council and industry producers Delta Sand and Gravel, Egge Sand and Gravel, Eugene Sand and Gravel and Wildish Land Company are recognized in this along with the many other stakeholder groups participating in the Council's sponsored McKenzie-Willamette Confluence Committee. The Committee's role is to enhance dialogue and create partnerships among stakeholders and implement conservation practices in the confluence area. Established in 1967, OCAPA represents over 150 producer and associate members.





Rhythmic drumbeats and chanting filled the evening air. Young butterfly dancers gracefully stepped one way then the other, showing off their beautiful, brightly colored costumes. Doug firs towered above and a lush understory provided the backdrop for the grassy stage. In between dances, Nick Sixkiller of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, shared some of the culture and history of Native American people.

This inspirational show and sharing of cultures took place at the Mohawk Watershed Partnership's Annual Meeting/BBQ held on June 3. It was a time for people to meet their neighbors, to share thoughts about our own culture and to be moved by the Native American culture. It was also a time to celebrate the work that the Partnership has done in the past year to improve the health of the Mohawk Watershed. Above all, it provided an opportunity to look to the future and ways that we can all work together as a community to care for the water that flows through our valley.



Special thanks to all the volunteers that made this event possible and the following businesses for their gracious donations: Mohawk General Store, Tomahawk Restaurant, Marcola Community Market, Elite Car Wash, Discount Depot and the Bureau of Land Management.

If you would like to learn more about the Mohawk Watershed Partnership, please visit our web site at [www.mckenziewatershedcouncil.org/mohawkWSP.html](http://www.mckenziewatershedcouncil.org/mohawkWSP.html), email us at [MWP@epud.net](mailto:MWP@epud.net) or call 687-9076.

## *Restoration Partnerships: Green Island*

The McKenzie River Trust's (MRT) recent purchase of Green Island provides several benefits to the area. This acquisition meets the desires of the Green Family to see the property and its resource values protected for the future. The purchase also provides an unprecedented opportunity to return a landscape to conditions that will benefit 130 bird species and several fish species including spring Chinook salmon and bull trout.

A major challenge to restoring the landscape is that a greater understanding of the physical processes that shaped the land decades ago need to be better understood. With a primary question being, can we restore the land given the current hydrologic regimes of today? That is, while the goal would be to restore the land to pre-farming, this may be unrealistic given that dams upstream are now in place and have significantly altered the natural processes. Before any large scale and long-term restoration can occur, a number of planning steps and data collection are needed.

Many partnerships have been formed to implement restoration on the Island. The partnerships have resulted in hydrologic, pond turtle, bird and plant data (current and historic) collected. Partnerships have also yielded collaboration on restoration planning and implementation grants. Collaboration on this project is essential and includes: McKenzie Watershed Council, East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District, US Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, ODFW, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Army Corps of Engineers, City of Eugene, Legislators, City and County officials, McKenzie Flyfishers, McKenzie River Guides, Native Plant Society, and the Green Family. Thanks to all for playing an integral role in making this project happen. Stay tuned for updates.





Doug Caven with a "boatload" of debris

## ANNUAL RIVER CLEANUP

A drill, bed, bucket seat, and exercise equipment were just a few of the items cleaned from the McKenzie River during the McKenzie River Annual Cleanup, held on June 28th. Several dozen volunteers in drift boats, walking boat landings and disbursed recreations sites from Ollalie Campground to Bellinger Landing - over 50 river miles - filled many trash bags. "It is our way of giving back to the river," said Aaron Helfrich, President of the McKenzie River Guides Association. The McKenzie Watershed Council and the McKenzie River Guides Association coordinated the event. The event - Keep it clear - Don't leave it here! was successful due to the following donors: Lane County Parks, Lane County Waste Management, McKenzie Disposal, McKenzie Mist, McKenzie Deli, Oregon Community Credit Union, McKenzie River Shuttle Service, Swartz Brothers Market, Walterville Feed and Tackle, Kingsford, Albertson's Walterville Flyshop, McKenzie and Cascadia Flyfishers, SOLV, private donors and many volunteers. Thanks to All!



## How is the McKenzie Watershed Council Funded?

The McKenzie Watershed Council is a voluntary public/private partnership (page 2), including hundreds of volunteers, collaborating to improve resource stewardship in the McKenzie watershed. Each year, the Council adopts by consensus, a work plan that guides the Council's activities in implementing watershed education and outreach, water quality monitoring, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, and other program areas. Please see the Council's website for the annual work plans.



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Implementation of the Council's work plan and staffing is dependent on the Council's ability to secure grant funds. Throughout the year, the Council submits grants to various public and private organizations and foundations. These are all competitive processes, with the following list of Council grant success for 2003.

- Bonneville Power Administration
  - council coordination and administrative support
- Contributions from seven Partner Organizations
  - outreach, monitoring and specific projects
- Eugene BLM Resource Advisory Committee
  - removal of fish passage barriers

- Willamette-Mt. Hood Advisory Committee (2 grants) - fish passage barrier prioritization and removal
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (2 grants) - formal education and outreach
- USFWS Private Lands Stewardship Program - private landowner projects
- Weyerhaeuser Foundation - formal education
- EWEB Partners in Education - formal education and monitoring
- Multiple private donors for specific projects - river cleanup, common signage, scholarships, boat landing security
- Private Foundations (2 grants)

These investments are matched with in-kind contributions of nearly 3:1 by landowners and organizations. These investments



stay with the watershed, benefitting water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and our communities. The Council sends its sincere appreciation to all of the funders and volunteers involved in watershed work.



## Students, Projects and DC

Students from McKenzie Schools, looking for fund raising opportunities for their education trip to Washington, DC, assisted the Council with watershed projects. In return, the Council donated funds to the student's DC fund. Over a dozen students and parents assisted with native landscaping of the Council's office. If that wasn't enough, students also re-potted over 500 trees to be used for future stream restoration projects on private lands in 2004. There were lots of dirty hands at the end of the day!

# McKenzie Boat Landings Receive Increased Security

Over 20 boat landings and parks along the McKenzie River will receive an increased security presence this recreation season. Security patrols will occur on a frequent and random basis from June 14th through mid September 2003.

“The increased security presence is in response to vandalism and theft that occurs to property and vehicles at the landings, which seems to rise during the recreation season,” says Loralyn Osborne, Marketing & Volunteer Coordinator for Lane County Parks. Due to this behavior, a partnership was formed among organizations and agencies that have an interest in the McKenzie River to find a solution.”

Funding for the increased security presence was made possible

through a partnership between Lane County Parks and the McKenzie Watershed Council along with donations received from McKenzie River Guides Association, City of Eugene Outdoor Program, Oregon Park and Recreation, Willamalane Parks and Recreation District, McKenzie Flyfishers, Eugene Water and Electric Board, Weyerhaeuser Company and several other donors.

Lane County Parks has contracted with Advanced Security, Incorporated to conduct the patrols. ASI will coordinate with Lane County Sheriff’s office to provide a more comprehensive presence at the landings and parks. Please contact Lane County Parks if you would like more information, 682-2000.

Drownings on the McKenzie River are preventable thanks to the Life Jacket Lending Program sponsored by the McKenzie Fire and Rescue Department and the McKenzie River Guides. The life jackets are kept at the various business along the river, and using the honor system, river users can borrow jackets and return them at the end of the day. “It has been an amazingly successful program”, says Dana Burwell with the Fire Department and Guides. “In addition to likely preventing drownings, we have lost less than a dozen jackets to



non-returns in the past three years. “ Started in 2000, the McKenzie River Guides received a generous donation from the McKenzie Masters to purchase the first 100 life jackets. In 2001, the program received an Award of Recognition for “Most Innovative Program” from the Special Districts of Oregon Association. “Most merchants have been incredibly cooperative with Loan Program and it would not be as successful without their participation,” says Burwell. Please call McKenzie Fire & Rescue for more information at 746-6312.

## SPILL RESPONSE PLAN

Folks from McKenzie Fire & Rescue, Eugene Water & Electric Board, and the McKenzie Watershed Council are near completion of a geographic information system (GIS) based emergency response plan for the watershed, expected in September 2003. The response plan includes critical resources to protect, provides equipment for first responders, and lists availability and location of spill equipment. Partner agencies have been training together to increase skills with specific response strategies. This effort involves the participation and cooperation of 27 different



*Tanker truck accident in January 2001 along Hwy 20 spilled 6,000 gallons to the Yaquina River.*

federal, state, and local agencies.

Recent vehicle accidents have resulted in gas and oil spills along the Santiam River and near Coos Bay. With the recent increase in large truck traffic along the Highway 126, chances for spills are increased in the McKenzie Watershed. Several years ago, the McKenzie Watershed Council identified that major spills were a threat to the McKenzie and that a coordinated effort needed to be developed to address this threat. Several grants have been awarded to fund the effort. Please contact Karl Morgenstern with EWEB, 341-8552 for more information.

## Spaghetti and River Talk

You won’t find two people more passionate about the McKenzie River than Andy Whipple and Carl Oslund. So passionate in fact, that their desire to write and publish a book about the McKenzie is becoming a reality. The publication will be about the natural and social history of the McKenzie River watershed. A primary feature of the book will include the tremendous photographs of the watershed taken by Mr. Whipple. Collecting the social history for the book will

include river conversations with residents over spaghetti potlucks. Please mark your calendar for the evening of October 25 for the first potluck. The authors and the MWC express their appreciation to the Samuel S. Johnson Foundation and the Mancini Foundation for their contributions toward recording and preserving the history of this special place. Please contact the MWC if you would like more information.

## Council Awards Natural Resources Scholarships

Tara Stark and Sarah Svejcar, both of Thurston High School, have each been awarded \$500.00 scholarships from the McKenzie Watershed Council. The scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who will be attending college and entering the Natural Resources profession. Tara Stark plans to major in biology and is interested in becoming a marine research scientist. Sarah Svejcar plans to major in wildlife and animal



Scholarship winners Tara Stark and Sarah Svejcar

science and pursue a career in wildlife rehabilitation.

The McKenzie Watershed Council Natural Resources Scholarships are awarded annually to graduating seniors from McKenzie, Mohawk or Thurston High Schools. Funds for the scholarships come from donations from Council partner organizations, including the McKenzie River Guides, McKenzie Flyfishers, and several other donors.

## Stained Glass Artwork by McKenzie Youth



McKenzie teens are producing a stained glass "light quilt." The McKenzie River Light Quilt will be a stained glass tryptic, highlighting the natural history of the McKenzie landscape. The teens are designing three panels after studying the landscape and meeting with resource specialists. The art work will be dedicated this fall at the McKenzie River Ranger Station and will tour various other ranger districts. The project, developed by YouthArts, a program of Lane Arts Council, teaches teens about public art and the environment. The project is a partnership with the McKenzie Arts Forum, McKenzie Watershed Council, McKenzie School District, and McKenzie River Ranger District.



## McKenzie Students Win River Honors!

Five students from McKenzie Elementary were announced as winners in this year's publication, *Honoring Our River: A Student Anthology*. Each year, Willamette Basin students of all ages submit literature to the *Honoring Our River* contest. The program is designed to nurture respect and appreciation for the Willamette River system and provide a showcase for creative student writing. Congratulations to following winners:

By Kaila Hiddleston (1st grade)

The river is cold and you can get purple lips.

By Ben Swetland (4th grade)

Starting from a glacier, spring, or rain.

It quickly flows, winding through a valley towards

The ocean blue, or the sea.

Cascading down mountainsides.

Rocky, sandy, and muddy bottoms full of rocks with algae and moss.

Logs and sticks float with the current.

Flowing, shining, splashing, as it runs to meet the ocean.

Housing fish, salamanders, aquatic insects and more.

Amazing plant life living near.

Bluish, greenish, purplish, clear like thin air.

When it falls off a ledge, it whirls white and bubbling as if falls.

Crashing, splashing.

A landing run for a heron.

The River

By Stormy Joy (3rd grade)

As quiet as a mouse

As fast as a cheetah

As cold as ice

The river

By Dalton Rux (3rd grade)

At midnight,

If you looks closely at the river,

You will see the moon shining on it.

It will have ripples moving in the black waters

By Conrad Neil (4th grade)

The river moves swiftly and quickly helping things grow.

Wildlife, trees, rainforests and plants need the river.

Rapidly, quickly, calmly, swiftly fish live in me.

I flow to the ocean swiftly and calmly.

Crashing, roaring dangerously all the way in.

I am clean, I am dirty.

I mostly wish to be clean, so I can help things live.

I start out shallow, but soon go deep.

I wouldn't want to get stuck in a heap.

Some people fish from me.

Some people drink from me.

I make people cry.

I make people die, even though I don't mean to.



## **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:*

- McKenzie Watershed Council -----541 687-9076*
- Mohawk Watershed Partnership -----541 744-9614*
- East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District -----541 465-6443*
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife -----541 726-3515*
- Bureau of Land Management, Eugene District -----541 686-6600*
- McKenzie River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest -----541 822-3381*
- McKenzie River Trust -----541 345-2799*
- Division of State Lands -----503 378-3805 x232*

*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!*



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

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