Fall Issue / October 2026

LWC Meanderings

Watershed News & Reflections

About the LWC:
The Luckiamute Watershed Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit comprised of stakeholders who live, work or recreate within the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

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

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LWC Staff:
Jordan Perez, Executive Director

Aubrey Siddiqui-Cloud, Restoration Project Director

Jack Fetters, Monitoring Coordinator

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The Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds are part of the ancestral lands of the Kalapuya Indians, who are represented today by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

More info at www.Luckiamute.org

Restoring North Fork Pedee for Salmon and Lamprey

(L to R) Simplified channel along NF Pedee; fine sediment sampled along the reach, ideal for larval lamprey; adult Pacific lamprey over stream gravel. Planned restoration will reconnect the floodplain and expand these vital habitats.

For more than a century, North Fork Pedee Creek has carried the scars of the region's early logging era. Splash dams, log drives, and streamside clear-cutting stripped away the logs and root wads that slowed the water, caught gravel, and carved out the pools and side channels that fish and other aquatic life rely on. What's left is a simplified, fast-moving channel lacking the natural meanders and complexity of a healthy river system.

The LWC has spent years working towards a strategy to change that for North Fork Pedee Creek. A basin-wide habitat assessment, geospatial modeling, and a decade of stream temperature monitoring pointed to this waterway as one of the watershed's highest restoration priorities. In 2023, a Private Forest Accord grant from ODFW funded the design, surveys, and cultural resource review needed to move the project from concept to shovel-ready. That groundwork paid off this year with a Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative and Bonneville Power Administration grant funding construction of Phase 1: sixteen large wood structures built from roughly 375 logs along the upper 0.71 miles of the creek. Many of those logs are donated from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's Natural Resources Department, with the Bureau of Land Management supplying additional logs and leading much of the permitting. Thanks to these funders and partners, project design, cultural review, and permitting will wrap up by the end of this year, with construction set to begin next summer.

North Fork Pedee Restoration, continued

In addition to providing salmonid habitat, a major focus of this work is on the Pacific lamprey. This remarkable species has no scales, no jaw, a mouth full of gripping teeth and is among the oldest living fish species – essentially unchanged for hundreds of millions of years. Ecologically, lamprey are incredibly important to the systems they inhabit. Their larvae, called ammocoetes, spend 3 to 7 years burrowed in stream sediment filtering the water column before heading out to the ocean. They spend 1 - 3 years attached to a marine host and drawing in nutrients with their suction-like mouths, and then return to freshwater streams for spawning. In addition to carrying marine nutrients back into our rivers and riparian forests, Pacific lamprey also buffer salmon and steelhead from predation by sharing the same runs. Lamprey are also a culturally important species, and continue to be valued as a traditional source of food and medicine by the descendants of the Kalapuya who lived here for thousands of years before Euro-American settlers arrived.

The migratory Pacific lamprey isn't the only native lamprey in the watershed. The Western brook lamprey also calls these streams home. Unlike their larger cousins, brook lamprey spend their entire lives in fresh water and only use their oral disc to hold onto rocks in swift currents and clear stones to build spawning nests. Both species depend on quiet, silt-bottomed pools for burrowing ammocoetes, as well as gravel beds for spawning.

With our 2025 eDNA results confirming the presence of Pacific lamprey in North Fork Pedee Creek, restoring this waterway is a vital step toward keeping these ancient species thriving in the watershed. Beyond the physical logs and native plantings lies a deeper commitment to honoring the cultural heritage and ecological balance of the region. As construction begins next summer, we look forward to showing you the progress of this collaborative effort that will benefit the fish, the forests, and the community that relies on them.

Local Soil & Water Conservation District Native Plant Sales

Fall is here, and it is time to start planning for all of your native garden and landscaping needs! Your local SWCD native plant sales are a great resource for plants that are well adapted to the local soils and climate, and their helpful staff can answer all of your questions about which varieties would work best in your yard!

Key Dates	Polk SWCD www.polkswcd.com	Benton SWCD www.bentonswcd.org	Marion SWCD www.marionswcd.net	Yamhill SWCD www.yamhillswcd.org
Pre-order Deadline	**Fall Native Plant Sale** *Pre-ordering closes soon!*	**Winter Native Plant Sale** *Pre-ordering is open now!*	**Winter Bare Root Sale** *Pre-ordering opens Nov. 2!*	**Harvest Exchange & Plant Sale**
Order Pick-up Day	**October 9 & 10** *order pick-up only* Hamblin's Nursery 4550 Kings Valley Hwy, Dallas	**February 27** *order pick-up only* Benton County Fairgrounds 110 SW 53rd St., Corvallis	**February 6** *order pick-up only* Marion SWCD Office 408 N 3rd Ave., Stayton	*Pre-ordering is closed, come to the in-person sale!*
In-Person Sale (Overstock Sale)	**N/A** *Order online*	**N/A** *Order online*	**N/A** *Order online*	**October 3: 10am—1pm** Miller Woods 15580 Orchard View Rd., McMinnville
For More Information	Morgan Neil morgan.neil@polkswcd.com	Cierra Dawson cierra@bentonswcd.org	Sara Hamilton sara.hamilton@marionswcd.net	YSWCD Main Office (503) 472-6403
Link to Native Plant Sale Information	polkswcd.com/plant-sale.html	bentonswcd.org/annual-winter-native-plant-sale	marionswcd.net *website available on Nov. 2*	yamhillswcd.org/event/harvest-exchange-plant-sale/

Fall / Winter Sips 'n' Science Pub Talks

Salmon and Lamprey: What They've Lost, What They Need
Date: Wednesday, October 14
Time: 6:30 - 8:00pm *(free appetizer buffet starts at 6:00pm!)*
Place: Divine Distillers *(915 N. Main St, Independence)*

Join us for an evening with fish biologist Tony Spitzack exploring some of the iconic fish that call our watershed home. We'll trace how decades of change have reshaped local streams, discuss the challenges these fish face and explore practical ways you can support watershed health on your own land and in your community. RSVP at Luckiamute.org/salmon-lamprey-sips

Hurry! Only a few tickets are left!*

Beyond Salmon: The Other Fish of the Watershed
Date: Wednesday, November 4
Time: 6:30 - 8:00pm *(come early if you plan to order a meal!)*
Place: Divine Distillers *(915 N. Main St, Independence)*

Salmon may grab the headlines, but they aren't the only fish calling our local waters home. Come take a journey with us beneath the surface to learn about the Oregon chub and other vital, lesser-known fish that live in our watershed. Don't miss this deep dive into our aquatic biodiversity! *More info and an RSVP link coming to your inbox soon!*

Understanding and Protecting Our Native Pond Turtles
Date: Wednesday, January 20
Time: 6:30 - 8:00pm *(come early if you plan to order a meal!)*
Place: Divine Distillers *(915 N. Main St, Independence)*

How are our local pond turtle populations faring, and what can we do to safeguard their future? ODFW wildlife biologist Susan Barnes will introduce us to pond turtle ecology across the Willamette Valley and our local watershed. Discover how landowners, community members can work together to help these vital native species survive and flourish. *More info and an RSVP link coming to your inbox later this year!*

Join the Friends of the LWC!

What does it mean to be a *Friend of the LWC?*

- **Monthly "Behind the Scenes" Bulletins**
- **Early access to event registration**
- **Discounts on workshops and our online store**
- ***Knowing that you are helping improve the health of your watershed!***

Find out how to join the *Friends of the LWC* at www.Luckiamute.org/Friends

Upcoming Council Meetings

Join us for our LWC Monthly Meetings, typically held the second Thursday of every even-numbered month. Our meetings are always open to the public and discussion topics include local watershed news and issues, watershed council restoration activities and upcoming events. You can get the agenda, along with driving directions and/or Zoom links at www.Luckiamute.org

October 8 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (Pedee Women's Club)
December 10 @ 6:00 - 8:00pm (Zoom only)

Thank you to our supporters!

We welcome donations* of any amount at www.Luckiamute.org/Donate
If you prefer to donate offline, you can mail a check to: **165 D Street, Independence, OR 97351**

**Your contribution may be tax-deductible. The LWC will provide a letter of documentation early the following year.*

Thank you to Our Most Recent Donors and Volunteers!

We are so grateful to the following donors and volunteers who have contributed their hard-earned dollars and their time and energy to our conservation goals from July 1 to September 30, 2026. Your support of the Luckiamute Watershed Council makes a BIG difference, and helps us achieve our goal of a healthy watershed for all. THANK YOU!

Thank you, Bedrock Society Donors!

A special note of thanks goes to our 27 donors who are opting to make automatic monthly contributions to the Luckiamute Watershed Council! Find out how you can become a part of our Bedrock Society at https://www.luckiamute.org/donate.html

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CONSUMERS POWER INC

A HUGE thank you to **Consumer Powers, Inc. Charitable Trust** and **Central Lions Club** for their generosity in funding a complimentary appetizer buffet at our **October 14 Sips 'n' Science pub talk**!

Thank you, Business Circle Donors!

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