



The Quail

News from Lane County Audubon Society

Please consider receiving The Quail electronically

From Our President

Maeve Sowles, 541.343.8664, audubon@laneaudubon.org

Are You Ready to Change Your Quail Format?



I would like to ask for your consideration on a topic that is a product of our changing times.

Our wonderful newsletter, *The Quail*, is printed 9 times per year and sent out via snail mail. It is also provided as an electronic version to those of you who request it. Our total number of household memberships is

1,351 and the number of printed *Quail* issues that we snail mail is 1,085. This is 80 percent of members! We do have 266 members requesting the electronic copies, which are emailed to them as a link to our website. Feedback is that they LOVE it!!

Please look at this QR code or link to see the wonderful online, full-color version of *The Quail* if you have not seen it before!



laneaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/feb24-Quail_web-compressed.pdf

The online *Quail* layout is striking! The photos are full color, the articles are easy to read, and it is both esthetically pleasing and fun to explore!

The reason I am pointing this out is that the printing and mailing costs are quite high, a \$15,000 annual budget item. The physical work required is also significant, to transport, label and then transport again to the Post Office for mailing. It is not just the money, but the amount of paper and resources utilized for these functions that I want you to consider. I recognize that for some people, the electronic version may not be feasible.

If you are willing to give it a try, just send an email to audubon@laneaudubon.org and we will put you on the list to receive the *eQuail!* Help us lower costs and reduce our footprint. You can enjoy the same wonderful content with the added enjoyment of color photos and crisp layout of our articles.

New Year's resolution??

Lane County Audubon Society

541.485.BIRD

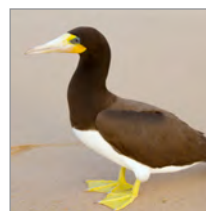
laneaudubon.org

P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405

[facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/](https://www.facebook.com/Lane-County-Audubon-Society-330177413824/)



Conservation..... 2



Field Notes..... 3



Program Meeting 5



Bird Outings..... 8

Conservation

Debbie Schlenoff, 541.685.0610, debschlenoff@gmail.com

Three Wildlife Bills Worthy of Your Support

The 2024 Oregon legislative session has just convened. Three wildlife bills that Lane Audubon is supporting are up for hearing this week. Please let your legislators know that you support these bills. Find your legislator: gov.oregonlive.com/legislators/

Or use the OLIS links below to “submit testimony” (upper right at each site).

HB 4132 Marine Reserves Program

The Oregon Marine Reserves Program established about a decade ago has been a great success. It has protected wildlife and their habitat, provided study areas so that we can learn more about this wondrous environment and how to conserve it, improved coastal community economies, and provided connection and education to hundreds of thousands of people. This bill would reinstate funding for ODFW’s Marine Reserves Program in order to continue to protect vital habitat, increase community engagement, continue ecosystem monitoring, and better understand resilience in the face of climate change.

olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2024R1/Measures/Overview/HB4132

HB 4014 Landowners Living with Beavers Grant Program

Beavers act as environmental engineers and keystone species that provide habitat in the form of meadows, wetlands, and riparian



photo: Wikimedia Commons, Steve

vegetation offering resources that may be difficult to find elsewhere. Beaver activity allows for water storage, clean water, and climate change mitigation through carbon capture and storage. Beaver activity provides barriers to wildfire spread and refuges for animals when wildfires occur. It is difficult for an effective management plan to succeed without the means to inform landowners about the importance of beavers and how to manage them for coexistence without resorting to lethal removal. This program will provide outreach, technical know-how, and funds for tools such as flood protection devices to allow landowners to live with beavers.

olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2024R1/Measures/Overview/HB4014

HB 4148 Wildlife Package

This bill would support and fund a multitude of important work. The components are:

1. **Wildlife and zoonotic disease prevention and response.** The

bill provides for equipment and capacity to research and respond to highly contagious disease threats, which both decimate wildlife and carry the risk of infecting humans.

2. **Invasive species prevention and response.** Invasive species are not native to Oregon and reproduce so prolifically that they threaten our native species. It’s a lot more efficient and less expensive to deal with them before they are well established in numbers that will destroy native species So the time to act is now.
3. **Wildlife coexistence and conflict reduction.** We have long sought species management plans that don’t involve killing them. The Wildlife Coexistence bill would provide funding for five ODFW Wildlife Coexistence Biologists, an ODFW Coexistence Campaign Outreach Coordinator and a Coexistence/ Living with Wildlife Campaign, as well as small grants for Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers. The goal is to educate people on living alongside wildlife, and advance humane solutions when conflicts arise.
4. **Wildlife corridors and road crossings.** Safe road crossings can be effective solutions to reduce vehicle collisions with wildlife, harmful to both people and the animals that are hit. Habitat connectivity is important to healthy wildlife populations for genetic reasons as well as for their ability to find resources. This bill provides guidance to ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) on how to successfully work toward this goal.

olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2024R1/Measures/Overview/HB4148

Questions? Contact debschlenoff@gmail.com

Field Notes: January 2024

Tom and Allison Mickel, atmickel@gmail.com

Brown Booby, Pine Grosbeak, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak, Mountain Chickadee

What can we say about the month! It started off normally—rainy and cool. Then our freezing rain event brought everything to a standstill for about a week in the middle of the month. After that, the weather was warmer and drier. It will be interesting to see what effect the ice had on some of the less hardy wintering species. One that comes to mind is Black Phoebe. After the last ice storm their numbers dropped substantially, but rebounded fairly quickly over the next couple of years.

Abbreviations:

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR)

Brant	Jan 19	FRR – Royal Ave	KD	Rarely found away from the coast
Costa's Hummingbird	Jan	Chambers St area	M.ob.	Still around after showing up in late Dec
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird	Jan 29	River Road area	TM	A rare Jan record
Glaucous Gull	Jan 11	NJSR	AC,DP	Winters in small numbers along coast
Brown Booby	Jan 11	Siltcoos River mouth	LH	Fourth report for Lane Co.
Brown Pelican	Jan 16	Strawberry Hill	LL	Very late sighting
Snowy Egret	Jan	FRR area	M.ob.	Still being found – wintering
Green Heron	Jan	Willamette Valley	M.ob.	Small numbers winter some years
Osprey	Jan	Coast & Valley	M.ob.	Small numbers winter – especially on coast
Golden Eagle	Jan 5-10	Junction City area	M.ob.	Occasionally found during the winter
Short-tailed Shearwater	Jan 11	Strawberry Hill	AC,DP	Small numbers found along coast in winter
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	Jan 11	NJSR	AC,DP	Rarely seen from shore
Canada Jay	Jan 16	Westmoreland area	NB	Not normally found in the valley
Tree Swallow	Jan	Coast & Valley	M.ob.	Still being found in small numbers
Barn Swallow	Jan	Coast & Valley	M.ob.	Still being found in small numbers
Mountain Chickadee	Jan 17	Glen Oak Park	M.ob.	Normally only found in the high Cascades
Pygmy Nuthatch	Jan 15	Glen Oak Park	TJ,M.ob.	Small numbers in W Oregon fall/winter
Pine Grosbeak	Jan 14	Hendricks Park area	JG	Rarely found in Lane, especially in the Valley
Chipping Sparrow	Jan 14	Springfield	SM	Rare wintering species
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Jan 27	KR Nielsen Rd	SH	Rare wintering species
Tricolored Blackbird	Jan 27	KR Nielsen Rd	SH	Rare wintering species
Orange-crowned Warbler	Jan	Eugene/Springfield	M.ob.	Small numbers winter most years
Common Yellowthroat (photo)	Jan 5	Alton Baker Park	SD	Rare wintering species
Western Tanager	Jan 31	UofO area	BN	Same bird as seen in Dec?
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Jan 1 & 11	Lost Creek area	RP	Rare wintering species! Photo
Black-headed Grosbeak	Jan 15 & 16	Cottage Grove area	SS	Rare wintering species! Photo

AC Alan Contreras, BN Bruce Newhouse DP Diane Pettey, JG Joshua Galpern, KD Katie Donnelly, LH Lars Hovde, LL Libby Lawrence, NB Neil Bjorklund, RP Ritch Pope, SD Steve Dignam, SH Sally Hill, SM Sylvia Maulding, SS Susan Sheppard, TJ Tye Jeske, TM Thomas Meinzen. M.ob. signifies many observers.



Brown Booby



Pine Grosbeak

Photo: Danilo da Castro, Wikimedia Commons

Photo: By blondinikard, Wikimedia Commons

Education

Audubon Adventures, Cecelia Hagen, audadv@laneaudubon.org
Audubon in the Schools, Barb Pope, aitsbirds@gmail.com

Audubon in the Schools Update

Audubon in the Schools (AITS) volunteers are making plans to offer sessions to schools and students this year. Our program depends on in-classroom drawing sessions using bird feathers and specimens that the students use as models for their drawing exercises. This is accompanied by educational instruction on bird biology and anatomy, as well as ecosystems in which birds thrive. The AITS group also plans to offer Outdoor School sessions on Beginning Birding and Bird ID, using binoculars and bird models to help the students learn these skills.

If you have teaching experience or know a teacher who might be interested in joining our volunteer teaching team, please contact Barb Pope at aitsbirds@gmail.com. We would be happy to discuss the program!

Good job, AITS Team, for doing this important work!

Audubon Adventures Spreads Its Wings

Thanks to support from many Lane Audubon members (listed in the November *Quail*), 36 Lane County classrooms are receiving Audubon Adventure kits. That means that three times during the school year, 843 elementary-school students get their own copies of Audubon's newsletter. Also, their teachers have special access to curriculum about birds, their habits, and habitats.

This year we were able to reach our largest number of schools (20) and districts (9) yet. The districts are Fern Ridge, Siuslaw, Bethel, Eugene 4J, Springfield, Crow-Applegate-Lorane, Lowell, McKenzie, and South Lane.

The schools (and number of classrooms participating) are: Adams Elementary (3); Applegate Elementary (1); Awbrey Park Elementary (2); César Chávez Elementary (1); Charlemagne School (2); Dorena School (1); Edison Elementary (3); Elizabeth Page Elementary (1); Howard Elementary (3); London School (1); Lundy Elementary (1); McCornack Elementary (2); McKenzie River School (1); Mt. Vernon Elementary (1); Prairie Mountain School (6); Riverbend Elementary (2); Siuslaw Elementary (1); Thurston Elementary (1); Veneta Elementary (2); and Yolanda Elementary (1).

In addition, special thanks go to Lane Audubon member **Lee Mann**, who donated a scope for Veneta Elementary to use and share with other Veneta schools.



photo: American Bird Conservancy

Birds and Cats – A Lethal Combination

Many of us who love birds and wildlife also love cats. Unfortunately, our cats do serious damage when they roam freely. Both the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) have found that bird and mammal mortality caused by outdoor cats is much higher than has been widely reported, with **annual bird mortality now estimated to be 1.3 to 4.0 billion and mammal mortality likely 6.3 to 22.3 billion individuals**. The very high credibility of this study should finally put to rest the misguided notions that outdoor cats represent some harmless, new component to the natural environment.

Because humans fairly recently introduced cats to our outdoor environment, our native species have not yet had time to develop natural defenses to these predators. One author of the study says, “The carnage that outdoor cats inflict is staggering and can no longer be ignored or dismissed. **Native species make up the majority of the birds preyed upon by cats.**”

Solutions: The best solution is to keep our beloved cats safe inside. Some families build a “catio” for their cat. It’s an enclosed outdoor area, ideally accessible from inside. The cat can spend time outdoors without injuring wildlife, or being injured by larger wildlife, cars, dogs, or raccoons. Nor can the cat get lost.

FMI: laneaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/cats_indoors.pdf.

LCAS Program—In Person and Zoom Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 7:00 pm

Dennis Arendt, 541.221.3691, dennisarendt@gmail.com



Drawing on Nature



Ram Papish

Join the Lane County Audubon Society on March 26, Tuesday, for an enlightening program by artist Ram Papish. He will describe his journey from his early days painting birds at South Eugene High School to his current professional work. He specializes in illustration of interpretive signs, books, and posters.

This program will display many of his illustrations and explore his techniques for creating a wide variety of wildlife art. His art can be found in many places along the Oregon coast. He has also illustrated several bird books, including two children's books.

He has done wonderful ceramics and marvelous sculptures. This Audubon program will give us a peek behind the process that brings so much information to our understanding of nature and birds.

Ram Papish, a professional bird enthusiast, combines his education in fine art with his experiences working as a field biologist to create artistic and accurate wildlife images.

For 20+ field seasons, Ram studied birds and other wildlife in Panama, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Florida, Texas, and remote islands in Alaska. In 2012 he retired from the “bio bum” lifestyle to concentrate on his first love: wildlife art. His illustrations appear in many other books and publications, including the Handbook of Oregon Birds. His work is featured in the Kelp Forest Gallery in Depoe Bay and North by Northwest Gallery in Cannon Beach.

Ram also enjoys writing mysteries, acting in Shakespeare plays, international travel, fantasy football,

and watching musicals. His major achievements include appearing in the 2024 “Chicken Daddies” calendar. He lives in Toledo, Oregon, on six wooded acres with his fabulous wife, eight bird feeders, eight nest boxes, eight chickens, and one chia pet.

This program will be presented on Tuesday, March 26, at the Campbell Center (155 High Street near Skinner Butte Park). Doors open at 6:30 for social time. The program begins promptly at 7:00.

A Zoom link will also be available, appearing on the LCAS website about a week before the program. Past programs are posted there too, about a week after.



Artwork: Ram Papish



Artwork: Ram Papish

Catch of the Day in Yaquina Bay

White-Winged Scoter
punches up muscle sheds with its powerful gizzard

Harlequin Duck is named for its distinctive pattern of colorful spots of black, white, and red on its back and wings.

Surf Scoter has a funny nickname to match its bill—“wreck-headed duck”

Can You Find Me?
Which seabird preys mainly from the rocky bottom? What bird is famous for its laughing call on inland lakes?

Snap! A loon clamps its bill on a herring and kicks back up to the surface. People aren't the only anglers in Yaquina Bay, one of Oregon's largest estuaries. Here, fresh and saltwater whip up nutrients to connect one of our planet's richest soups.

Double-crested Cormorants, Western Gulls and Pigeon Guillemots feed at nature's giant soup bowl in every season. Others, like Harlequin Ducks and Common Loons, arrive in winter from inland waters where they breed. What birds are fishing in the bay today?

Keystone Fish
Like the keystone that locks a central arch together to prevent collapse, Pacific herring are essential to the Pacific's ecosystem. Diving seabirds and commercial fisheries would be impoverished without them. Oregon is committed to protecting and restoring its herring fishery.

A Frenzy of Herring
Pacific herring swims into the bay to spawn in late winter. One female can lay 20,000 eggs and only two might survive. The water churns with predators chasing the silvery fish—from bigger fish to seabirds, seals and sea lions. Even whales scoop eggs off the bottom. The spectacle comes in a few short bursts lasting a few days each.

Common Loon comes after herring, aided by heavy bones and webbed feet set far back on its body.

This poster was created by the following agencies and relies on their collection. Thank from the 1998 Lane County of Art.

Lane County Audubon Society



The Quail is the newsletter of Lane County Audubon Society, a chartered chapter of National Audubon Society. Local members of National Audubon Society receive a free subscription to *The Quail* but are encouraged to voluntarily join Lane County Audubon Society.

The Quail Subscriptions

Contact Tim Godsil at 541.915.8852 or tgodsil@gmail.com

The Quail Upcoming Content Deadlines

April: March 1
May-June: April 1

Submit material to Karen Irmischer at quailkaren1@gmail.com

Nine issues published per year (Feb., Mar., Apr., May-June, July-Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec.-Jan.)

Printed on postconsumer waste paper.
Layout by Kerry Lutz.

©2024 Lane County Audubon Society. All rights reserved.

Lane County Audubon Society Officers & Board Members

President	Maeve Sowles.....541.343.8664..... audubon@laneaudubon.org
Treasurer	Ron Renchler.....541.345.0834..... christyandron2@gmail.com
Members	Ramiro Aragon..... aragon.nw@gmail.com
	Ash Berry..... ashb@uoregon.edu
	Barbara Bryson..... bbryson150@gmail.com
	Cecelia Hagen..... audadv@laneaudubon.org
	Debbie Schlenoff.....541.685.0610..... debschlenoff@gmail.com
	Isaac Scott..... isaacscott3764@gmail.com
	Kirstin Waldkoenig..... kirsinw@uoregon.edu

Lane County Audubon Society Committee Chairs

Audubon Phone	Dick Lamster.....541.485.BIRD
Audubon Adventures	Cecelia Hagen..... audadv@laneaudubon.org
Audubon in the Schools	Barb Pope..... aitsbirds@gmail.com
Booth	Ron Renchler.....541.345.0834..... christyandron2@gmail.com
Conservation	Debbie Schlenoff.....541.685.0610..... debschlenoff@gmail.com
Education	Volunteer Opportunity
Field Notes	Allison & Tom Mickel..... atmickel@gmail.com
Field Trips	Lalla Pudewell..... tolalla@gmail.com
Membership Data	Tim Godsil.....541.915.8852..... tgodsil@gmail.com
Program Coordinator	Dennis Arendt.....541.221.3691..... dennisarendt@gmail.com
Quail Editor	Karen Irmischer..... quailkaren1@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Kirstin Waldkoenig..... kirsinw@uoregon.edu
Webmaster	Hilary Dearborn..... hcdearborn@gmail.com

Lane County Audubon Society Welcomes You—Join or Renew Today!

We ask you to become a local member of Lane County Audubon Society and support our grassroots efforts in the local community. Your membership dues for National Audubon Society no longer fully cover the costs of a membership in your local chapter. Your local dues stay here to help us work on local education projects and conservation issues related to birds and their habitats. With your support, we will continue to do the things you expect from us. We welcome your suggestions—this is your Audubon! We appreciate your support. — *Maeve Sowles, President*

Lane Audubon Membership Benefits

- *The Quail*—9 issues/yr.
- Field trips and bird walks
- Program meetings
- Educational publications
- Conservation issue representation
- Answers to questions: 541.485.BIRD
- Website: laneaudubon.org

Lane County Audubon Society Yearly Membership

- Individual \$20.....\$ _____
- Students and Seniors (65 and over) \$15.....\$ _____
- Family \$25.....\$ _____
- Lifetime Membership \$400.....\$ _____
- I want to do more. Here's my tax-deductible contribution for\$ _____
- Total Enclosed (check payable to Lane County Audubon Society).....\$ _____

To pay by PayPal, go to laneaudubon.org/support/join

I am a Current National Audubon member Don't know

Please contact me regarding

Gift memberships Lane Audubon's Living Legacy program

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

I would prefer to receive the e-Quail newsletter by e-mail.

I would like to receive e-mail alerts about conservation issues.

I would like to volunteer for Lane County Audubon activities.

Lane Audubon will not release your personal information to other organizations. We will use it only for Lane County Audubon Society communications.

Mail this form and your payment to: Lane County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5086, Eugene, OR 97405



Delta Ponds Loop Trail Gets a Bridge

Crews with the city installed a new 100-foot-long bridge over some of the Delta Ponds wetlands on January 25. Philip Richardson, a landscape architect with the city's Parks and Open Space Department, noted that it is just one part of an effort to improve and open up the natural space.

"The loop trail project itself is upwards of I think four years—it was pre-pandemic, and that was one of the reasons why it's taken a while," he said. "But Delta Ponds, itself, this is a kind of a culmination of about 30 years' worth of planning and implementation. So it's a big deal, we're very excited about it."

The bridge is part of a project to create a continuous loop around Delta Ponds, including a boardwalk, some retaining walls, and a trail. Funding for the bridge came from the city's 2018 parks and recreation bond, system development charges, and a \$350,000 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Richardson said Delta Ponds is "maybe our biggest habitat improvement effort that the city's done. The project also consisted of other work to improve the space for wildlife. It's well-known for people coming out and looking at birds—and there's turtles and beaver. But it's right in the middle of Eugene, and it's within walking distance of a ton of people—so we're very excited about it."

While the bridge may have been put into place, the other side of the trail is still under construction. Richardson said it will be a while before the entire project is complete and open to parkgoers. Although the bridge is in, the boardwalk that it connects to on the east side is not done yet, so the bridge will be closed off until the completion of that boardwalk. He expects the complete loop will open by summer.

Condensed and lightly edited from a news report by KEZI reporter/producer/anchor Albert James with photos by Billy Hanning.

Thanks for Helping!

Thank you to **Cecelia Hagen, Ash Berry, and Barbara Bryson** for setting up and staffing the Lane County Audubon table at the Willamette Valley Bird Symposium on Saturday, February 3. LCAS was a sponsor of the symposium and had several members attend the event in Corvallis.

If you have an interest in staffing the LCAS table/booth in the future and aren't currently on the email list for this purpose, send an email message to Ron Renchler, LCAS booth coordinator, christyandron2@gmail.com. Training and orientation will be provided.

Let's Give Back to a Favorite Birding Place!

Volunteers needed to improve habitat! Saturday, March 2, 9 am-1 pm, Delta Ponds.

If you've got some extra time and energy you'd be willing to donate to the maintenance of these often bird-rich Eugene ponds, please join us. Partnering with the City of Eugene Habitat and Waterways staff, you can help by removing invasive weeds, clearing paths, and whatever else needs to be done.

Details to be announced on our social media sites and our website.

Attention Birders!

Black and Latinx Birders Scholarship Available

Amplify the Future is an organization that envisions a system in which higher education is free, equitable, and accessible in the United States. Until that dream comes true, the organization intends to fill some of the gaps by supporting and increasing the number of Black and Latinx Birders in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). Scholarship awards range from a minimum of \$2,500 to a maximum of \$5,000, based on the funding available for the current year.

If you are an undergraduate student (or know of one) in a STEAM field and identify as Black and/or Latinx residing in the United States or Puerto Rico, apply for the Black and Latinx Birder's Scholarship today. **Deadline: March 15, 2024!** Scholarships also available for BIPOC Birder Grad Students.

FMI: [Amplifythefuture.org](https://amplifythefuture.org)



Check your mailing label. Has
your *Quail* subscription expired?
See page 6 to renew!



LCAS Saturday Bird Outings & Events

Lalla Pudewell, tolalla@gmail.com

First Saturday Bird Outing, March 2

Our First Saturday Bird Outings, created in celebration of the Lane Audubon Inclusivity and Diversity Statement, are meant to hold intentional space for women, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ birders. Birders of all levels and backgrounds are welcome to join, particularly those who may have felt intimidated at the thought of birding alone or on other guided walks. Location and leader TBA.

FMI or to sign up, contact Sarah: 1stsatbirdwalks@laneaudubon.org



photo: Alex Promos, Wikimedia

Third Saturday Bird Outing, March 16, 8 am - 10:30 am

McKenzie River Trust staff members Charlie Quinn and Sarah Merkle have volunteered to lead this outing to explore the confluence of the Middle and Coast Forks of the Willamette River, west and north of Mt. Pisgah. **Please arrive before 8 am** at the gated driveway immediately east of 33995 Seavey Loop Rd, Eugene, OR 97405. Find this location on: maps.app.goo.gl/sGmFQc8JseshkooK8.

Because this McKenzie River Trust site is closed to the public, those wishing to join us need to be on time to drive a few miles to the internal parking area. **The gate will be locked at 8:05 am.** Anyone attempting to enter after that will be trespassing illegally. Thank you for being respectful, not trespassing, and giving our wildlife space to be wild!

Sarah also leads our First Saturday Inclusive Bird Outings, and we hope we'll be able to get regulars from both Saturdays to attend! Most walking will be on relatively flat gravel roads except for one gradual rise. There are a few larger logs and rocks, but no benches. A large accessible porta potty is located at the internal parking area. Third Saturday Bird Outings continue to be open to all who wish to participate.

FMI: tolalla@gmail.com or charlie@mckenzie river.org