

East Fork Lewis River Partnership for clean water

Facilitated Discussion - Notes from February 26, 2019

During the February 26, 2019, East Fork Lewis River Partnership meeting, a short facilitated discussion enabled Partners to share some of their public education and outreach, and monitoring activities.

The following notes were translated from the facilitated discussion portion of the agenda. Unfortunately, there was not much time to talk in depth about public education, outreach, and monitoring. Further discussion is needed before the final public education, outreach, and monitoring strategies are developed. Please complete the [Survey on Public Education, Outreach, and Monitoring](#) to inform the development of implementation strategies for East Fork Lewis River watershed.

Public Education and Outreach – Upcoming Events activities

- Clark County Public Works Clean Water Division is working to develop an interactive watershed map for public education purposes. They are also planning to revitalize educational signs throughout different watersheds in the county. If you are interested in this effort, contact [Eric Lambert](#) from Clark County to learn more.
- [Washington State University Extension's Small Acreage Program](#) is hosting the following events in 2019.
 - Small Acreage Expo (April 13, 2019).
 - Well and Septic Workshops (March 13, June 26, July 24, and December 11, 2019).
 - Living on the Land Series.
 - BMP Workshop.
- Clark Public Utility District's (PUD) Stream Team is hosting an [Earth Day Fest on April 20, 2019](#). Other [Clark PUD Events](#) are all available online.
- Washington State's Recreation and Conservation Office is hosting a [Salmon Recovery Conference](#) on April 8 and 9, 2019.
- Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington is expanding the [Backyard Habitat](#) program throughout Clark County in Spring 2019, and is also hosting three [Don't Drip and Drive](#) events in July and August, 2019. All of the [Watershed Alliance's public education and outreach efforts](#) are on their website.
- Clark Conservation District is hosting watershed health classes and amphibian stormwater classes in 2019.
- Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group is conducting outreach in Little Washougal River.
- Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership is hosting three volunteer events in March 2019. Information on all of [LCEP's Education Programs](#) are on their website.

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Monitoring

- Clark County Clean Water has a Wadeable Streams Status Monitoring Program underway to support the development of the Clark County Stream Health Report in 2020. The last [Stream Health Report](#) was published in 2010. Sampling schedules are based on the water year, and sampling occurs in rotating watersheds. Samples are collected monthly and the parameters measured include temperature, conductivity, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, and macroinvertebrates. Currently, there are multiple Clark County sampling locations in the East Fork Lewis on McCormick, Brezee, Jenny, Lockwood, Dean, and Manley creeks. On February 28, 2019, Clark County and Ecology conducted a monitoring field tour to visit various monitoring locations in the watershed.
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has completed temperature and fish monitoring in the East Fork Lewis River. These monitoring efforts were highlighted in a [WDFW presentation](#) at the February 2019 Partnership meeting.
- Friends of the East Fork has collected temperature data for multiple projects in the East Fork Lewis River.
- Clark County Legacy Lands program and Clark Public Utilities District are conducting effectiveness monitoring to determine how riparian planting and restoration projects have effected temperature in the East Fork Lewis River watershed.
- Washington Department of Transportation has collected stormwater runoff data, BMP effectiveness data, information on stormwater retrofits, culverts, and illicit discharge detection and elimination work.
- Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) has been monitoring mainstem temperatures on the East Fork Lewis River for the last 5 years between Mason Creek and La Center. LCEP is also conducting a temperature study from river mile (RM) 7.3 to RM 10 to develop restoration alternatives and designs for salmon and steelhead habitat. LCEP worked with Clark County to deploy twenty monitoring probes in summer 2018. This monitoring is looking at differences in mainstem river temperatures at the Ridgefield pits. Results of the data collection and monitoring should be available in summer 2019. LCEP is also interested in future work to investigate cold water refuge areas in the East Fork Lewis River watershed.

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Parking Lot

The following topics were placed in the “Parking lot” for future discussion.

1. Habitat Conservation Plans in the watershed.
2. Dissolved oxygen levels in the East Fork Lewis River and the relationship to bacteria.
3. Implementation of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) in the watershed and how stormwater BMPs effect water quality.
4. The need for septic system inspection enforcement programs and septic system correction work in Clark County.
5. Bridge infrastructure challenges in Mason Creek.
6. Interest in having Ecology Grant Application Workshops available via webinar.
7. Need for more temperature monitoring equipment (HOBOS) in the watershed.

Please note, not all of these topics will be covered by the East Fork Lewis River Partnership or the East Fork Lewis River Water Cleanup Plan. The Partnership and Water Cleanup Plan are primarily focused on implementation activities to address bacteria and temperature challenges.