

# MAKING TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE TUALATIN RIVER NWR

JOYFULLY CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE WONDER OF THE REFUGE



## PRESIDENT'S PERCH

By Mark Newell, President of the Board

Snow, it makes me contemplative. It reminds me that there are four seasons, and how Mother Nature is a powerful force. There is good news in all this snow though. The snow-pack in the state is now above normal. The fish say thank you. That snow in the mountains means that the water in the creeks and rivers will flow stronger a little longer, remain cooler, and allow spawning fish to reach the grounds where they were born.

And as long as we are talking about fish, here's something that I think is incredible. Rainbow trout, did you know that a single rainbow trout can lay up to 1000 eggs in a season? They dig a redd (that is a shallow depression (think nest) in the gravel at the bottom of a stream) and lay the eggs in the depression.

When those eggs hatch, some of the young fish might feel like the habitat is unbecoming to an up and coming respectable fish and decide to vacate the premises. They start swimming downstream and eventually arrive at the Pacific Ocean. At this point they have just become Steelhead. That's right, genetically these fish are identical to a rainbow trout but because their environment is so much larger and food opportunities are more diverse these fish can get big, 15-30+ pounds big.

They spend a couple of years in the ocean and then follow that same river, stream, or creek back to where they were born and make their own redd. They lay their eggs amongst the other rainbow trout and then return to the ocean. When these eggs hatch, they may all decide that the habitat they were born into is pretty darn respectable and decide to stay and become resident rainbow trout. Or some may decide to become steelhead themselves and travel to the ocean. And some of those returning steelhead may decide that the river really is a nice place to live and decide not to go back to the ocean. Unlike salmon, they do not die after spawning. A single steelhead can make that trip upstream to spawn multiple times. Nature is an expert at diversity. These fish need clean, cool water to survive. So that snow pack is important.

*We are looking for people who are interested in writing for the Friends Newsletter; have a desire to write about something you are interested in, a creative writing itch, or skills as an editor?*

Contact Bonnie at: [Info@FriendsOfTualatinRefuge.org](mailto:Info@FriendsOfTualatinRefuge.org)



Hoodoo and her person Mark

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

[Second Saturday Restoration Work Party \(session 3 of 11\)](#)

March 09, 2019 9:00 AM

[Nature Ambassadors at Tigard Public Library](#)

March 09, 2019 1:30 PM

Tigard Public Library

[Puddle Stompers- Eagles](#)

March 13, 2019 1:00 PM

[Nature Ambassadors at Sherwood Library](#)

March 13, 2019 3:30 PM

Sherwood Public Library

[Drop in Science Exploration Day: Birds and Nests](#)

March 17, 2019 12:00 PM

[Puddle Stompers-Eagles](#)

March 19, 2019 10:00 AM

[History of the Tualatin River](#)

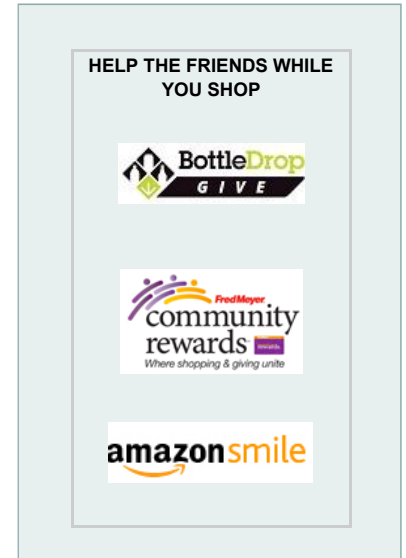
March 23, 2019 12:00 PM

[Drop in Exploration Day: Animal Tracking](#)

March 25, 2019 12:00 PM

### SOCIAL MEDIA





## Dear Friends of National Wildlife Refuges,

We're writing to you from Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges because we need your help!

Submit public comments to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas development by March 13th, 2019!

Like you and your Friends organization, we know and value of the National Refuge system. Like you, we work to conserve these lands and support the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Together, we face an assault on one of America's most iconic Refuges as well as the underpinnings of the entire System.

As you may already know, the Federal Government is pressing hard and fast to lease the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development. The 19.6 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge provides irreplaceable habitat for wildlife species already stressed by a warming and more crowded planet. The Refuge is home to more three-dozen land mammal, eight marine mammal, and more than 200 migratory and resident bird species. Many of these populations, including polar bears and the porcupine caribou herd, depend on the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain for their survival. The current threat we face as supporters of the National Wildlife System extends beyond these species and the Arctic Refuge's boundary. Today the integrity of the entire system is being tested.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's mission for the National Wildlife Refuge System is "to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans." In 1960, President Eisenhower established the Arctic National Wildlife Range. In 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) re-designated the Range as part of the larger Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and provided four purposes that guide management of the entire Refuge. They include:

- to conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity;
- to fulfill the international fish and wildlife treaty obligations of the United States;
- to provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses by local residents; and
- to ensure water quality and necessary water quantity within the refuge.

Today, the rules of the game have changed. Hidden in the 2017 Tax Act, our government altered the purpose of a Refuge! Now, the purpose of the Arctic Refuge has been amended to "provide for an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain." This arbitrary change through tax legislation and without public process is an affront to those who have played by the rules to protect the Refuge and an unacceptable precedence that threatens the integrity of our public lands system, the lands we work to conserve, and our national heritage.

The clock is ticking, and we need your protecting Arctic Refuge as well as the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge system. Please help us protect the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge system and the Arctic Refuge.

Here's what you can do:

1. Submit Public Comment by March 13th! The Bureau of Land Management's Draft Environmental Impact Statement is our last chance to directly voice concern over the impacts of oil and gas drilling in the pristine Arctic Refuge. ([https://alaskarefugefriends.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Resources\\_-\\_Arctic-Public-Comment-3.pdf?fbclid=IwAR39xYsenEHyu9Vxr9FydO3ZdsocC5C-NcdSemaDwXUspqiC1qhSlorwhTY](https://alaskarefugefriends.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Resources_-_Arctic-Public-Comment-3.pdf?fbclid=IwAR39xYsenEHyu9Vxr9FydO3ZdsocC5C-NcdSemaDwXUspqiC1qhSlorwhTY))
2. Contact Congress: Forward your public comments to your Representative and your Senator to show your concern for the Arctic; insist on Congressional Oversight Hearings to bring transparency to the oil leasing process in the Arctic; ask your Representatives to support The Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act (H.R. 5911) to restore protection to the Arctic Refuge.
3. Spread the Word: Write a letter to the editor of your local paper; share our posts on Facebook; talk to your friends; share this email!

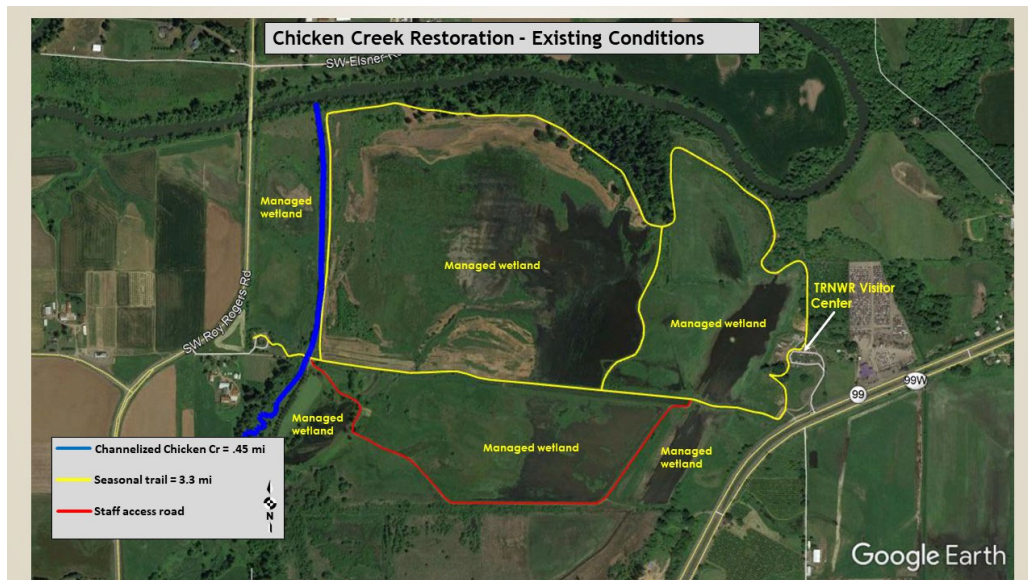
Thank you for your support,  
David C. Raskin, Ph.D.  
President  
Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges



## Friends Board Approves \$250,000 Restoration Funding

Funding for a major restoration project that will return Chicken Creek to its historical channel was approved by the Friends Board of Directors at the February meeting. The Willamette Water Supply Program <http://www.ourreliablewater.org/> has awarded the Friends \$250,000 to augment funds from other project partner that includes Clean Water Services, Ducks Unlimited, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Friends.

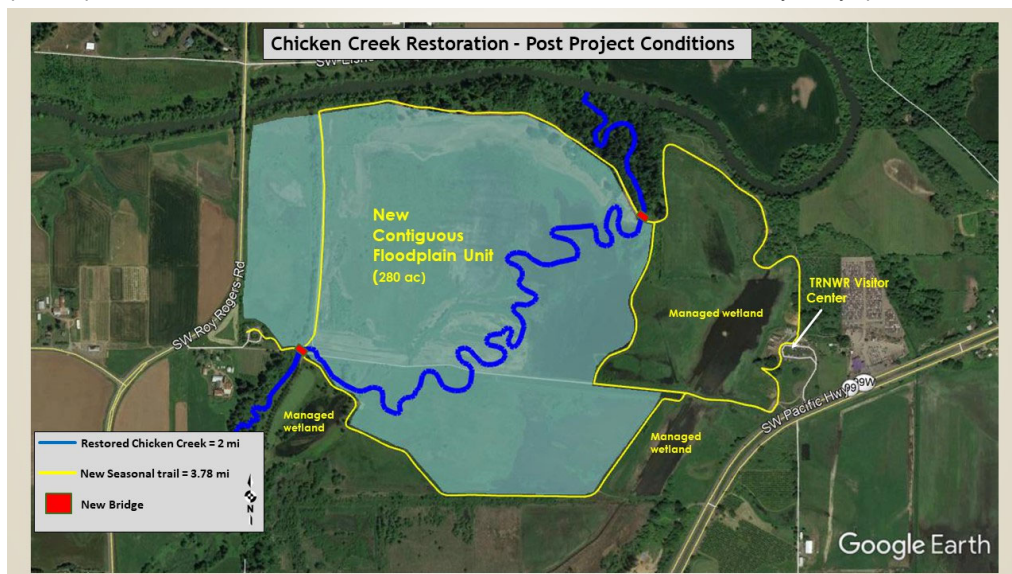
Before the refuge was established, the land was managed for agriculture and the original Chicken Creek channel was blocked and the water re-routed into straight ditches so the fields could be dried up and used for livestock. This was a common practice in the day.



When the refuge was first established the goals for management favored reestablishment of ponds and wetlands which was achieved by moving the water in Chicken Creek in a different manner and different seasonal uses. The idea of moving Chicken Creek into its original channel has evolved in recent years as the recognition of the loss of riparian habitat associated with meandering streams, better fish passage, and better habitat for a host of other species became a management objective.

The Chicken Creek restoration project will be a large effort that will take a couple of years to complete and will begin this summer. People visiting the refuge will see heavy equipment in areas where they would least expect it. The project will involve blocking and filling the straight channels that were developed to redirect Chicken Creek and physically forming the historical channel with heavy equipment. Also included will be the placement of new bridges in a couple locations and removal of water control structures on the outlet end where the channel will more naturally replicate a stream to provide for better fish passage.

Native fish species most likely to benefit from the restoration include cutthroat trout, coho, and western brook lamprey; as well as less known species such as sculpin, redbreast shiner and largescale sucker. The restored Chicken Creek will meander for about two miles through what is now either a seasonal wetland or dry "prairie" dependent on season. The meandering channel will create a continuous line of riparian habitat that will support a host of avian species, provide wetted shoreline, and a braided stream channel, habitat favored by many species of wildlife, including beaver.



For refuge visitors, there will be new trails, new bridges and the possibility of other additions as the restoration is completed. There is a plan for public information and interpretation on site for those who visit the refuge.

## Membership Matters

Michelle Scholz, Membership Chair



We are seeking to increase our membership and I am appealing to you to consider joining the Friends' group if you are not currently a member. The membership committee is currently working on putting together some exciting "meet ups" and fieldtrips for our members. When it is time to sign up, we will post the information here in the newsletter and on our website. If you would like to join the membership development committee, please let Michelle know. We plan to meet in the Visitor Center on March 20th at 1 PM.

This year will see many changes taking place on the refuge and we aim to support the mission of USFWS in this endeavor.

Please visit our website: <http://friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/> and click on GET INVOLVED>JOIN THE FRIENDS.

For \$25 you can make a huge difference!

Thank you for your consideration,

Questions? [M\\_Scholz@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org](mailto:M_Scholz@friendsoftualatinrefuge.org)

Thanks,  
Michelle

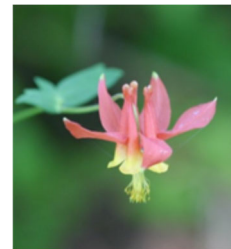
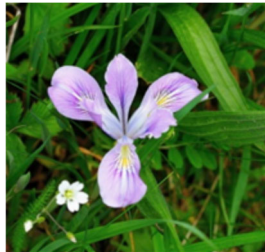
## Save the Date for our Annual Native Plant Sale

April 26th—Friends Members Pre Sale—4pm-5:30pm



Open to the Public Sale  
April 26th—5:30pm-6:30pm

April 27th—9am-3pm





## NATURE'S OVERLOOK STORE

### Wear In The World



Mike Smith is enjoying the sunshine of Florida at the J.N. Ding Darling NWR and staying cool in his Friends of the Refuge t-shirt. Mike and his wife Judy are long time Friends members who are currently exploring and volunteering across the United States.



Linda Waltmire is enjoying the sunshine in Kauai, Hawaii

## Tualatin River Photo Society

Please join us for a Photo Society meeting on March 7 at 7 PM in the TRNWR Visitor Center. Al Baker will entertain us with his photos and stories from a photo trip to Alaska, followed by the usual sharing of photos, so bring in your .jpg files on USB drives or bring in your prints (max 5 files or prints please).

## History of the Tualatin River Presentation

**Saturday, March 23rd**

**12:00 - 1:00 PM**

**Visitor Center Riparian Room**

Come join Tualatin Riverkeepers archivist, John Fervia, for his multimedia presentation on the History of the Tualatin River. John tells the story of the Tualatin from the geographic features that created it, to the 24 Atfalati villages that once populated the river banks, and the time when steamboats paddled its waters.

He tells of a time when the Tualatin was declared Oregon's most polluted river, and ends with a wonderful effort by the Riverkeepers and partners such as Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge to restore this amazing river to its natural state.

### CONTACT US

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