Land Use Timeline of the Luckiamute/Ash Creek/American Bottom Study Area

Native American Landscape (11,000 BP-late 1700s)

11,000 BP  Around 11,000 years ago, people begin moving into the Willamette Valley (http://www.eugene.com/history/brief_history.shtml).

9000 BP  The climate of the Willamette Valley shifts from cool and wet to warmer and drier. Trees which thrive in cool, wet conditions, such as Sitka spruce and white pine, decline in number. The Kalapuya arrive circa 9,000 years ago (http://www.eugene.com/history/brief_history.shtml). Indigenous peoples of the Luckiamute Valley live in small, independent groups, but belong to the larger Kalapuyan family of peoples who occupied the Willamette Valley. In the Luckiamute Valley, there were probably six different bands (Ruby 1992) who are speakers of Central Kalapuyan, one of the three Kalapuyan languages (Aikens 1992).

6,000 BP  Around 6,000 years ago, the Valley becomes dry enough to inhabit and people descend to the valley floor from the foothills. The Willamette Valley is a landscape of large meadows interspersed with oak woodlands when the Kalapuya live there (Boag 1992).

4,000 BP  By 4,000 years BP, there is an even greater decrease in the abundance of cool-climate species, and an increase in the abundance of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine, which thrive in warmer, drier conditions. White Oak, which does best in drier conditions, increases greatly in abundance during this period (~4,000 BP). After 4,000 BP, the climate becomes slightly cooler and wetter again, leading to the establishment of forest conditions like those seen today, with Douglas-fir forests and some ponderosa pine on the surrounding hills, and oak and other deciduous species on the valley floor (Aikens, 1986).

2500 BP  Hager’s grove, near Salem has artifacts associated with charcoal-filled fire hearths and earth ovens. Artifacts include narrow-pointed arrowheads from around 2500 BP, and charred camas bulbs, hazelnuts and acorns (Aikens, 1992). Archeologists conclude that this site was used as a seasonal hunting site, probably used during midsummer or fall, where game was hunted and plants were collected (Aikens, 1992).

1543  The Oregon coast, near the Rogue River, is sighted by Spanish explorers (http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/echoes/chronology.html, 9/4/03).

European Exploration (Late 1700s-1800)

1778  Captain James Cook of Britain trades with native peoples along the Oregon coast (http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/echoes/chronology.html, 9/4/03).

1782-1783  The first epidemic of the Northwest is smallpox, moving westward from the Midwest (Boag 1992).


Early Euro-American Settlement (1800-1840)

1813  The British gain control of Fort Astoria and rename it Fort George (http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/echoes/chronology.html).

1830-1833  A malaria epidemic, originating from European ships, strikes Oregon. Up to 6,000 Kalapuya and Chinook Indians die along the lower Columbia River and along the lower 100 miles of the Willamette River (Boag 1992).

1837  The cooperative Willamette Cattle Company is formed and 600 head of cattle are brought to Oregon (http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/echoes/history.html, 9/4/03).
The Great Migration (1840-1859)

1841  Only about 600 Kalapuya Indians survive in the Willamette Valley (Boag 1992). Americans living in the Willamette Valley attempt to form a government, but it fails due to lack of support from the Canadian population (http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/echoes/history.html, 9/3/03).

1842  Americans migrate to the Willamette Valley. Between Euro-Americans and French-Canadian fur traders, the total American and Canadian populations number about 500 white settlers (http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/echoes/history.html, 9/4/03). The emigrants included not only Euro-Americans and French-Canadians, but also English and Scotch Canadians, Europeans, Iroquois and Ojibway Native Americans, Hawaiians, and a few ship-wrecked Russians, Japanese, and Aleuts reported along the Columbia River (http://www.usgennet.org/alhnorus/ahorclak/census.html, 9/4/03).

1843  On July 5th, 1843, the Americans vote to create a government, but it is later found ineffective (http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/echoes/history.html, 9/3/03).

1844  In 1844, a working government is formed (http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/echoes/history.html, 9/3/03). The first sheep are introduced (to Oregon or the Willamette Valley?) by settlers (Dicken and Dicken 1979).

1845  The community of Suver is named for the pioneer Joseph W. Suver who was born in Virginia in 1819 and settled on a donation land claim in the area in 1845 (McArthur 1992).

1846  The vote in Congress regarding territorial status for Oregon is delayed due to debate about slavery (http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/echoes/history.html, 9/4/03)

The search begins to find a safer route to Oregon than the current path of the Oregon Trail through the Columbia river. The party leaves from La Creole Creek, now Rickreall, in pursuit of the route that would come to be known as the Applegate Trail (http://www.webtrail.com/applegate/, accessed 9/4/03).

1848  On August 13th, Oregon becomes a territory (http://bluebook.state.or.us/cultural/history/history12.htm). Section 12 of the Territorial Constitution states that “rivers and streams supporting salmon shall not be dammed or otherwise obstructed unless fish passage is provided” (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1848.html).

Pedee creek was named by Colonel Cornelius Gilliam who came to Oregon in 1848 from North Carolina, home of its own famous Pedee River. The Pedee community is near the mouth of Pedee Creek, a tributary to the Luckiamute River (McArthur 1992).

1850  As recorded in a BLM spatial data set describing the fire history of the northwestern Oregon forests at 30-40 year intervals from 1850 to 1940, an area 20,200 acres in size in the Luckiamute watershed study area had been burned prior to 1850 and had not been reforested as of 1850. Between 1850 and 1890, three areas sized 290, 600, and 1,120 acres in the Luckiamute watershed study area were burned and had not been reforested as of 1890 (U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 1996).

The land for the community of Buena Vista was donated from the land claim of Reason B. Hall. Buena Vista received its name in 1850, and was named thus because one of Hall’s relatives fought in the battle of Buena Vista in Mexico (McArthur 1992).

1852  Monmouth was settled by a group of pioneers from Monmouth, Illinois who arrived in 1852. The same party gave 640 acres of land on which to establish a town and college. This college, originally known as Monmouth University, later became Christian College. In 1883, the Oregon Legislature passed a bill creating the Oregon State Normal School, which was later renamed the Oregon College of Education, then Western Oregon State College, and today is known as Western Oregon University (McArthur 1992).

1853  From 1853 to 1868, the Yaquina Fire burns 480,000 between Yaquina Bay and Corvallis (Gannett
The community of Kings Valley was named for the pioneer Nahum King who arrived in Oregon in 1845. A flourmill was built at this site by Rowland Chambers in 1853. Kings Valley post office was established on April 13, 1855 (McArthur 1992).

1856 The town of Hoskins was named after Fort Hoskins. The Fort was established on July 26, 1856 by the federal government. The Fort was originally established to oversee the “resettlement” of western Oregon native peoples to the newly established Siletz Indian Reservation. The fort was an important military post, but never a major military establishment. The location of the fort was on the Luckiamute River near the mouth of what is now Bonner Creek, on land that was probably owned by Rowland Chambers. The fort stayed at the original location until its closure on April 13, 1865. The present community of Hoskins is close to the site of this fort. The property is now largely wooded and undeveloped, with an old farmhouse (circa 1870) and the ruins of several farm buildings and a schoolhouse (McArthur 1992).

Oregon as a Young State (1859-1900)

1859 On February 14th, Oregon becomes the 33rd state to join the Union (http://bluebook.state.or.us/cultural/history/historyact.htm, 9/3/03).

1861 The largest flood recorded on the Willamette River follows two weeks of rain and snow melt. Every town on the Willamette is flooded, if not totally washed away. The river is 19 feet over its banks at Albany (http://www.ocs.orst.edu/reports/wm/wm_000109.html, 9/4/03).

1864 A large amount of rain on snow-covered ground causes flooding all over the Northwest, as well as hundreds of landslides (http://www.ocs.orst.edu/reports/wm/wm_000109.html, 9/4/03).

1872 The first game laws are put into place. They relate to seasons for elk, deer, waterfowl, and upland game birds. These laws prohibit use of explosives and poisons in taking fish and require fishways over dams. No money is appropriated to enforce these laws (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1866.html)

1873 Locks and a canal are built at Oregon City (http://www.endoftheoregontrail.org/lox.html, 9/4/03).

1877 Oregon’s first fish hatchery is built on the Clackamas River (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1877.html).

1878 The first State Fish Commission is created, but not legally recognized until 1887 (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1877.html).

1885 The town of Falls City was named for the falls in the Little Luckiamute River, on the western edge of this community. The place originally served as a post office named Syracuse, which was established in February 1885. The name of the post office was changed to Falls City in October 1889 (McArthur 1992).

1887 Three person State Board of Fish Commissioners created by the State Legislature with a budget of $1,000 to use for operation of a fish hatchery for two years and enforce the created fish and game laws. In the second year, the fish hatchery was turned over to the U.S. Fish Commission due to a lack of funds (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1887.html).

1890 As recorded in a BLM spatial data set describing the fire history of the northwestern Oregon forests at 30-40 year intervals from 1850 to 1940 (U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 1996), between 1890 and 1920 there were two areas in the Luckiamute watershed study area that had not recovered from a fire. Because these two areas are the 290 and 1,120 acre areas that were burned prior to 1890, it is possible that either they were the same areas burned prior to 1890 and had not yet been reforested, or they were both burned twice.

1893 Oregon creates its first fish and game commission. A adipose fin-clipping program is started to
estimate return rates of hatchery fish (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1893.html).

1898  Fish and game program split into two separate entities by the State Legislature.

Hollister McGuire, State Fish and Game Protector makes recommendations to the Legislature that result in fishing prohibitions in spawning tributaries to the Columbia, authorized the removal of fish passage barriers, provided enforcement through gear registration, required screening of irrigation ditches, prohibited planting of non-native species, and required an annual report from the Fish Commissioner, among other things (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1898_2.html).

Elk hunting is prohibited through 1910, but the closure is eventually extended (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1898_3.html).

1899  For the first time, commercial fishing licenses are required (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1899.html).

The Early Twentieth Century (1900-1930)

1901  The first bag limit for trout is instituted at 125 fish a day. The limit is 50 a day/100 a week for duck (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1901.html).

1903  Deputy Warden Webster expresses concern about water quality when he files a complaint about the Rainier Mill & Lumber Co. permitting sawdust to enter the Columbia River (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1903.html).

1905  The State Game Fund is established, the selling of game is prohibited, and hunting licenses for residents are required and cost $1 (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1903.html).

1907  The first fishway is completed over Willamette Falls in Oregon City, but the upper portion proves to be too steep to allow fish passage (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1907.html).

1909  The Oregon Conservation Commission is adopted by the State Legislature (Smith 1973).

Angler’s licenses for residents are imposed. The licenses cost $1 (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1909.html).

A law passes forcing ditches and mill races intakes to be screened to prevent fish passage (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1909.html).

The first buck law was passed (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1909.html).

1911  Fish and game activities once again merged, this time into the State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1911.html).

The Legislature established one and a half million acres of refuges (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1911.html)

1914  A roads survey shows that there are 37,000 miles of roads in Oregon. Of the 37,000 miles, 25 miles are paved, 32,000 are unimproved (Dicken and Dicken 1979).

1915  The Board of Fish and Game Commissioners is replaced by the Fish and Game Commission (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1912.html).

1917  Dramatically increased hatchery returns are caused the change in hatchery methods of releasing fingerlings rather than planting yolk sac fry (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1917.html).

1919  The Columbia River is frozen, closing navigation from the confluence with the Willamette and upstream, due to the coldest December since records began in 1890. For a period in January, the

1920 The state fish and game organization, the Fish and Game Commission, is split once again into two separate entities, this time the Fish Commission and the Game Commission (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1920.html).

As recorded in a BLM spatial data set describing the fire history of the northwestern Oregon forests at 30-40 year intervals from 1850 to 1940, between 1920 and 1940, the data set showed no burned areas in the Luckiamute watershed study area (U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 1996).

The Great Depression (1929-1939)

1925 The Game Commission’s annual report expressed concerns regarding water shortages, increased pressure due to the automobile, and the demands for more fish, game, and protection (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1925.html).

1931 The season is closed on beaver (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1928.html).

1933 For the first time since 1898, elk season reopens (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1933.html).

The Civilian Conservation Corps was created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt (http://www.cccalumni.org/history1.html)

1936 The Flood Control Act reorients the federal government’s focus from navigation of rivers to flood control by controlling the flow of water in the country’s major rivers. (http://www-geology.ucdavis.edu/~GEL242/polecon.html).

1937 The Pittman-Robertson Act is passed providing funding for state fish and wildlife programs through an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1933.html).

1938 The State Sanitary Authority is created by initiative petition and later evolves into the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (http://www.deq.state.or.us/about/).

World War II (1940-1949)

1941 The ODFW stream and lake survey program begins (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1941.html).

The Oregon Forest Conservation Act was created to “require the reforestation of logged lands” by fining those who did not comply and using the revenue generated toward reforestation efforts (http://www.fao.org/docrep/w3646e/w3646e07.htm#history%20and%20origins).

1942 Camp Adair is created on 50,000 acres north of Corvallis in Benton and Polk counties. It was created as a cantonment and training area for Triangular Divisions during WWII. Eventually, it acted as a prisoner of war camp (http://home.teleport.com/~eewilson/campadair.html).

1948 The breaching of a dike on the Columbia River destroys the town on Vanport (http://www.ccrh.org/comm/slough/vpflood.htm).

1949 The sheep population in the Willamette Valley grows as sheep herding shifts from eastern Oregon, due in part to the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 which was written to prevent overgrazing in the east. Irrigation increases in the valley (Dicken and Dicken 1979).

Post WWII (1950-1969)
1950 Dingell-Johnson Act passes creating an excise tax on fishing tackle to fund sport fishing programs (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1946.html).

The Basins Investigation Section in the Game Commission was created out of environmental concerns (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1946.html).

Dissolved oxygen level in Portland Harbor found to be at zero (http://www.environmentaleducationohio.org/Case%20Studies/willamette.html#Looking%20back).

1956 Commercial fishing in coastal rivers was prohibited by initiative petition (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1954.html).

1961 Wild turkeys are introduced to Oregon (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1961.html).

1962 The most destructive wind storm ever in Oregon recorded history (if measured by deaths and damages), known as the Columbus Day Storm, causes severe and widespread destruction in the mid-Willamette Valley (http://www.ocs.orst.edu/reports/wm/wm_000109.html, 9/4/03).

1969 The Sanitary Authority became the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and became an independent state agency (http://www.deq.state.or.us/about/index.htm).

**Suburbanization (1970-1989)**

1973 Endangered Species Act. The purpose of the act is “to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to achieve the purposes of the treaties and conventions set forth in subsection (a) of this section” (ESA 1973). (http://endangered.fws.gov/ESA.html, accessed 8/21/03)

The Game Commission renamed the Wildlife Commission by the Legislature, which delegated responsibility for 235 non-game species of wildlife to the group in 1971 (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1971.html).

1975 The Fish Commission and Wildlife Commission are reunited to become the Department of Fish and Wildlife (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1975.html).

1976 Although short lived, the most intense drought of the century occurs, with Corvallis receiving 52% of its normal rainfall during a 10 month period (http://www.ocs.orst.edu/reports/wm/wm_000109.html, 9/4/03).


The “Five Year Plan” was agreed to by Oregon, Washington, and the four treaty Indian Nations (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1976.html).

The bobcat was designated a furbearer species and received legal protection (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1976.html).


STEP, the Salmon-Trout Enhancement Program, was created with the blessing of the Legislature (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1979.html).

1982 An El Nino event caused severe complications with salmon and other ocean fish populations (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1981.html).

1984 The first U.S. and Canada treaty for the management of Pacific salmon was ratified by both countries (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1983.html).

The first French red legged partridge eggs were shipped from Canada to the department game farm, beginning great changes in the state’s game bird propagation program (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1983.html).

1985 An angling license is required for all fish rather than just game fish (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1985.html).

1987 The Legislature passed the Fish Restoration and Enhancement Act which charged extra fees on sport and commercial licenses to raise money for aging hatchery restoration, to improve natural fish production, and increase angling access (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/springfield/1987.html).

1989 The Oregon Fisheries Restoration and Enhancement Act becomes a law. The Act permits ODFW to begin a comprehensive program to restore state-owned fish hatcheries, enhance natural fish production, expand hatchery production, and provide additional public access to fishing waters. By placing a surcharge on all sport fishing licenses and commercial salmon fishing licenses and poundage fees (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/odfwhtml/infocntrfish/rneprogram/r&ehistory2.html, 9/4/03).


1991 The National Water Quality Assessment program begins studying the Willamette basin. The NWQA listed many issues in the Willamette basin, including biological degradation, erosion of soils due to changes in land use, evaluation of surface water and ground water flow, eutrophication, trace organic compounds and trace elements in surface and ground water from agricultural and urban runoff (U.S. Geological Survey Water Fact Sheet 1991).

1992 Aquatic habitat inventories take place along portions of Soap Creek (AHI dataset).

1993 Northwest Forest Plan was initiated to “end the impasse over management of Federal forest lands in the Pacific Northwest within the range of the northern spotted owl” (Revised MOU for Northwest Forest Management) to balance multiple land uses within federally owned lands such as logging and endangered species protection. (http://www.reo.gov/library/agreements/mou_revised.htm, accessed 8/21/03).

1994 Aquatic habitat inventories take place along the a portion of the mainstem of the Little Luckiamute River and along portions of two tributaries- Camp Creek and Lost Creek (AHI dataset).

1995 Aquatic habitat inventories take place along the a portion of the mainstem of the Luckiamute River and along portions of several tributaries, including two unnamed Luckiamute River tributaries, Beaver Creek, Boulder Creek, Cougar Creek, Miller Creek, two tributaries of Miller Creek, Rock Pit Creek, Slick Creek, and Wolf Creek (AHI dataset).

1996 In February, a combination of heavy snow pack, warm weather, and record-breaking rains causes a massive flood event (http://www.ocs.orst.edu/reports/wm/wm_000109.html, 9/4/03).

Again in November, heavy rains cause a flood event, with Port Orford reporting the highest one day precipitation total at an Oregon NOAA station (http://www.ocs.orst.edu/reports/wm/wm_000109.html, 9/4/03).

2001 Aquatic habitat inventories take place along the a portion of Pedee Creek and along portions of several tributaries, including North Fork Pedee Creek, South Fork Pedee Creek, and an unnamed tributary of Pedee Creek. (AHI dataset).
Need to add these citations to the database

http://www.environmentaleducationohio.org/Case%20Studies/willamette.html#Looking%20back
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/odfwhtml/infoctrfish/meprogram/r&ehistory2.html
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AHI dataset

Other Citation information


