McKenzie Valley Customer Appreciation Dinner

Eugene Water & Electric Board

Leaburg Hydroelectric Project Decommissioning Action Plan

EWEB hired McMillan, Inc. to support planning efforts to decommission the Leaburg project. This fall, EWEB and McMillan plan to evaluate the costs, benefits, and social and environmental impacts of pursuing another FERC license for the Walterville Hydroelectric Project.

EWEB is collaborating with Lane County to study how to connect Leaburg Dam Road to Hwy. 126 after the dam is removed. Engineering firm DOWL has calculated baseline cost estimates for various options. To learn more, go to eweb.org/leaburgbridge and provide feedback to LeaburgInfo@eweb.org.

Carmen-Smith License Deployment

EWEB continues working on license-required improvements to the generation equipment, recreation sites and habitats of the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project.

Projects for 2025 include:

- Installing second new turbine at the Carmen powerhouse.
- Placing large logs, tipped trees, and spawning gravel in Lower Carmen Bypass Reach (McKenzie River above Trail Bridge Reservoir) for the benefit of Chinook salmon and bull trout.
- Completing recreation improvements at the Carmen Diversion Reservoir.

Recreation areas are scheduled to open in 2026.

Septic System Grants Available

There are still grant funds available to repair or replace septic systems on McKenzie properties impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire. Grant funds can now also be used for site evaluations and construction of septic systems on commercial properties as well. All funds must be obligated by Sept. 1, 2026.

Learn more: eweb.org/septic

Electric Resiliency Ensures Reliability

The increasing frequency of extreme weather events and threat of natural disasters have prompted EWEB to modify operational practices and make strategic investments to mitigate wildfire risk and improve electric system resiliency. A resilient system can adapt, withstand, and recover more quickly from a catastrophic event.

Learn more: eweb.org/electricreliability

Walterville Canal Outage

EWEB dewatered the Walterville Canal in February 2024 following an unexpected increase of water seeping through the canal forebay. EWEB needs regulatory approval to repair the issue. Prior to the current outage, studies into dam safety concerns for the proposed repair plan found that a portion of the forebay could be unstable during a large earthquake and that extreme flooding within tributaries to the canal could result in overtopping. EWEB is continuing to study the issue and will not be able to rewater the canal until at least fall of 2026.

Learn more: eweb.org/waltervillecanal