



“Restoration of the Lower Shannon SAC (Mulkear River) for Sea Lamprey, Atlantic Salmon and the European Otter”

Press Release

26th November 2012

Beauty of the Clare Glens Enhanced By the Work of the MCV

The beautiful Clare Glens on the border between counties Limerick and Tipperary was the location of the most recent outing of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers on Saturday last, 24th November 2012. This was the third major outing by the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers to this high amenity value, high nature value site over the past three years following a site specific management plan.

A large grouping of MCV members, some on their first outing, braved the cold icy conditions to undertake a very considerable body of work. The outing focused on a range of practical conservation activities, with a particular emphasis on riparian management, the planting of native broadleaf trees of Irish provenance trees, path repair work and a river clean-up.

The litter removal and general cleanup was focused on the car park area on the Tipperary side and along the Clare Glens looped walk trail on both sides of the Clare River. The stairs leading down to the river from the car park area and at the Clare Bridge were also tidied up.

Interestingly, on an extremely positive note, the litter removal and cleanup work this November resulted in the removal of only 5 bags of rubbish in contrast to upwards of 30 bags in 2010 and 12 bags in 2011. This is testament to the hard work on the MCV members and to other groups and individuals who have undertaken clean-ups in the area over the past number of years. One would also hope that the message of Leave No Trace is getting through to a great number of people which is also a great positive for the area and the Mulkear Catchment as whole.

The backbreaking path repair work utilised local sourced rock to undertake significant repairs to paths and access points. Many of these paths, and access points down to the river, had been severely damaged over the summer and autumn months through the erosional impact of severe downpours and due to flooding on the Clare River.

The Clare Glens is one of the most beautiful parts of the Mulkear catchment and great credit is due to the work of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers for helping to keep it beautiful.

A Big Thank You To All.

The next outing of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers is planned for early December. Full details will be posted in the next number of days. It will take the form of a workshop and will focus on a review of 2012 and the planning of the schedule of activities for 2013. It will also review the options for the establishing a trust or a similar entity to take forward the work of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers in the years ahead. All welcome.

The Mulkear Conservation Volunteers are helping to enhance biodiversity through volunteer participation in practical conservation activities linked to MulkearLIFE's work programme. They are assisting in the conservation efforts of local community groups in maintaining the natural environment of the Mulkear Catchment. The work includes the removal of the invasive plant 'Himalayan Balsam' and helping to organise outings, talks, workshops, training, on biodiversity in the Mulkear. New members are always welcome.

Notes for Editors

1. High Resolution Digital Images are available to accompany this Press Release.
2. Interviews can be arranged with the Project Manager by using the contact details below.
3. MulkearLIFE is a new €1.75 million European Commission funded LIFE Nature project working on the restoration of the Lower Shannon Special Area of Conservation (with a focus on the Mulkear River catchment) for Atlantic Salmon, Sea Lamprey and European Otter. Further details may be viewed on the project website www.mulkearlifeproject.com
4. Inland Fisheries Ireland (Limerick) is lead partner together with the OPW and Limerick County Council. Additional funding support comes from National Parks and Wildlife Service. Other supporters include Teagasc, IFA, ICMSA, and local angling groups.
5. The project is one of the first and most important integrated catchment management projects in Ireland. It is a flagship EU LIFE Nature project –covering some 650 sq km which contain a variety of habitats and protected species. Much of the area is designated as a Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the EU Habitats Directive and forms part of the Natura 2000 Network.

Issued by:

Ruairí Ó Conchúir, Project Manager – MulkearLIFE
Inland Fisheries Ireland (Limerick Office)
Ashbourne Business Park, Dock Road, Limerick
Tel: 061 300 238 / Fax: 061 300 308 / Mob: 087 062 5582
E-mail: info@mulkearlifeproject.com
Web: www.mulkearlifeproject.com / www.inlandfisheries.ie

