



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

Press Release

31st January 2011

Another Great Outing - Mulkear Conservation Volunteers

Another Great Outing of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers took place last Saturday, 29th January 2011 when 26 volunteers gathered at the Mill Bar in Annacotty, Co. Limerick. After a discussion on health & safety issues and a quick cup of coffee it was off to work.

The actual fieldwork took place upstream from Annacotty weir below Ballyclogh weir on the main Mulkear River. The work involved re-opening the path up to Ballyclogh weir, habitat creation, general path repair work and tree planting. The outing also included a practical discussion on the dangers of invasives and in particular the danger of the Giant Hogweed stands on site.

The Mulkear Conservation Volunteers also discussed the need for riparian management on important sites like this given the importance of mature native broadleaf riparian habitat.

The Mulkear Conservation Volunteers planted well in excess of 150 native broadleaf trees on site including Irish Oak, Holly, Birch, Alder, Willow and Ash. All trees were Irish sourced and of Irish providence.

As with all previous outings a great day was had by all. Volunteers left the site with tired arms and feet but also feeling greatly uplifted having contributed significantly to enhancing the conservation status of this important Special Area of Conservation.

The next outing of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers takes place on Saturday 26th February in the Community Centre in Newport. Full details will be posted on the MulkearLIFE website.

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.mulkearlife.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:

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