

Summer 2006

Horizons

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SERVING BENTON COUNTY OREGON SINCE 1956



A Plan for Restoration

by Donna Schmitz

Defined by the Society for Ecological Resotration, "Restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed." While complete native wildlife habitat restoration can be quite costly to implement and maintain, start slowly by providing some structural components that will encourage native plant species to come in on their own. Some examples of structural components may be to remove invasive plant species, conduct some forest thinning/release practices or spray out pasture grasses.

The next step in restoration planning is to develop a working map of your property. You can make a quick sketch on a piece of paper or, if you are adventurous, the left side bar gives several sources of free software available to help assess and document your property.

Some landowners use Google Earth to develop maps with satellite imagery. You can download the software here: <http://earth.google.com>.

For those willing to experiment with Geographic Information Systems, you can download free ArcExplorer software to view GIS data and make simple maps: <http://www.esri.com/software/arcexplorer/index.html>

At Benton County's website, you can download recent ortho-photos, taxlot information, topography and natural features (soils, wetlands, streams) for use with GIS software. Explore the County's mapping resources at <http://ww2.co.benton.or.us/irm/gis/GISdata>.

Visit http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/pnw_soil/or_data.html to make a map of soil types and generate a soils report that will give you information on what type of vegetation will grow on a particular soil.

Next you want to write down your objectives and goals for the management of your property. Of prime importance is to identify potential problem areas, such as soil erosion or weed infestation areas. Identifying current habitat types on your map and opportunities for restoration on your property, such as oak woodland/savannah, upland and wet prairies, wetlands, and riparian forests may help you to outline your restoration goals. To get an idea of pre-settlement vegetation that existed in the Willamette Valley near your home, visit this site to view or download a map: <http://www.fsl.orst.edu/pnwerc/wrb/access.html>

A useful guide for descriptions of most Willamette Valley habitats, site preparation and suggestions on types of native plants to incorporate at your particular site is the "RESTORING RARE NATIVE HABITATS IN THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY, A Landowner's Guide for Restoring Oak Woodlands, Wetlands, Prairies, and Bottomland Hardwood and Riparian Forests", By Bruce H. Campbell. It is available online at: <http://willametteexplorer.info/publications/pdf/Landownerguide.pdf>

If you are planning to plant trees and shrubs this winter, don't forget our Annual Native Tree and Shrub sale in February. As you plan for winter planting, scan our 2005-2006 winter issue of Horizons, http://www.benton-swcd.org/publications/Newsletter_20052006_Winter.pdf, to see the native plants we offered last year. We may add or delete a few species from the list, but it will be a close approximation of the natives we will peddle next year. A complementary approach to growing native plants includes purchasing and planting native forb and grass seeds for upland and wet prairies. Visit this site for native seed guidelines, http://pnn.dtonline.us/html/body_contact_us.html.

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The Chair's Perspective

by Tom Bedell



Control of invasive weeds was ranked as a high priority on an informal survey conducted three years ago to determine natural resource concerns in Benton County

Summer is an excellent time to develop your methods of control or eradication. Prior to killing those invasive weeds, a restoration plan should be developed to identify plants that will replace them. In this summer issue, we include information to help you key out and control those invasives - see page 4.

If you have horses or other livestock, summer is also a good time to prepare facilities to minimize the mud problems that occur during our winters. Regardless of the size of the agricultural operation, all livestock owners must comply with the Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan and Rules for our area. One rule, in particular relates to our responsibility to prevent polluted runoff, including manure, from entering state water bodies. During rainfall events, runoff from a non-covered manure pile can easily contribute to pollution of a stream.

SWCD Directors are elected volunteer officials representing various zones in Benton Co. Three of the seven board member four year positions are up for re-election on the November 7, 2006 ballot. Zone directors must live in that geographic zone and own or manage 10 acres or more in that zone. Zone 1 is the area west and north of Philomath; zone 4 is the part of the district west of the Coast Range summit, i.e. Alsea area; zone 5 is the area south of Greenberry Road and east of the Coast Range summit Call our office for information if you are interested in becoming a zone director.



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Education Grant funds BSWCD Making Ripples Program

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board has awarded Benton SWCD a \$38,785 Education Grant to support our Making Ripples: Community Building for Water Quality Program. These funds will support collaboration with conservation partners, such as OSU Extension 4-H and Corvallis Environmental Center, to provide Benton County residents with educational opportunities that improve watershed knowledge while building community pride and cohesion. Funded activities include:

- teacher and volunteer workshops
- watershed education curriculum materials
- hands-on service learning projects
- Naturescaping Courses
- Keepers of the Creek Guidebook publication.

Matching funds for this grant are partially provided by the Nickel for Conservation tax rate passed by Benton County residents in November 2004. Thanks for your support!

2006 Conservation Poster Contest Winners

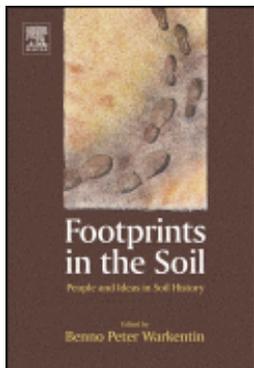
This year, all of our Conservation Poster Contest participants were winners! Congratulations to the following artists for applying their hand to the promotion of the 2006 water conservation theme **WATER WISE**:

Place	Grade	Name	School
1st	4th	Mikayla Crystal	Wilson Elem
1st	4th	Madison Gonzales	Wilson Elem
1st	9th	Angel Riley	Corvallis High
1st	10th	Molly Whitney	Corvallis High
2nd	4th	Alana Chaplin	Jefferson Elem
3rd	4th	Cienna Gulstram	Jefferson Elem
3rd	4th	Abbey Martin	Jefferson Elem

Thank You to Poster Contest Sponsors!!!

Please help extend our appreciation to the following Poster Contest sponsors for their generous donations of services and prizes:

- Sam's Station - poster display through June
- Day Dreamers Bead Store & Gallery
- Happy Trails New & Used Records, Tapes & CDs
- Highland Bowl
- Karate for Kids
- Papa's Pizza



New Release by Benno Warkentin, OSU Emeritus Professor of Soil Science

Footprints in the Soil: People and Ideas in Soil History

http://elsevier.com/wps/find/book-description.cws_home/707729/description#description

Conservation Calendar - Summer 2006

Date & Time Location	Event	For more information contact:	
July 10 7:00 PM <i>Alsea Library Meeting Room</i>	Benton SWCD July Board Meeting meet the Benton SWCD Board and Staff learn about unique landowner project opportunities through the Alsea Stewardship Group	Benton SWCD - Teresa Matteson (541) 753-7208 teresa.matteson@oacd.org <i>All Benton SWCD meetings are free and open to the public. We encourage your participation!</i>	
August 5 8 AM - Noon <i>Mid-Willamette in Dallas</i>	Volunteer to Teach Tomorrow's Leaders BECOME A SALMON WATCH VOLUNTEER	Oregon Trout - Karen Wegner 541.753.4280 karen@ortrout.org	
August 12 8 AM - Noon <i>Eugene</i>	Attend one of two volunteer training sessions near Benton County		
August 28 - Sept. 1	Paddle Oregon 2006 - 6th annual canoe and kayak adventure on the Willamette River from Marshall Island Access north of Eugene to Rodgers Landing in Newberg. That'll be 5 days of glorious paddling. <i>Paddle Oregon is suitable for most any paddler, with a little experience. Registration is \$575 per person.</i>	Willamette Riverkeepers 503-223-6418 info@willamette-riverkeeper.org http://paddleoregon.org	
September 8, 9 & 10 <i>William F. Finley Wildlife Refuge</i>	Kalapuya-Amin (Land of the Kalapuya): Symposium on Land Management and Resource Use Technologies of the Willamette Valley, Oregon, in 1450 and 1750	Bob Zybach ZybachB@ORWW.org 541-766-8118	
Starting September 12 <i>Tuesday evenings 7 - 9 pm</i>	Naturescaping Your Yard - 8-week course led by instructor Beth Young - <i>co-sponsored by Benton SWCD, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, City of Corvallis Parks and Rec and Corvallis Environmental Center</i>	Corvallis Environmental Center (541) 753-9211 http://www.corvallisenvironmentalcenter.org <i>pre-registration required \$49</i>	
September 16 10AM - 4PM <i>Benton County Fairgrounds</i>	4th Annual Kids Day for Conservation - build a bird house, climb a rock wall, pet a snake, and more. <i>Over 40 FUN hands-on activities for kids of all ages!</i>	Benton SWCD - Teresa Matteson (541) 753-7208 teresa.matteson@oacd.org	
September 17, Sunday <i>Corvallis area</i>	NWEI Passport to Healthy Garden Organic & Sustainable Living Tour Includes the Solar Corvallis tour Fundraiser for NWEI and Oregon Natural Step Network	Northwest Earth Institute - Maureen Beezhold 752-3517 Tickets, \$7 advanced, \$9 day of event, available at: Grass Roots Books, First Alternative Co-op, Garland's Nursery, Shonnard's Nursery, Home Grown Garden Nursery, Insideout Garden Visions, Nichols Garden Nursery <i>or contact Maureen</i>	
November 8 - 9	Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management Options: Practices and Tools to Protect Water Quality and Crop Yields - <i>\$150 early registration, \$175 after October 25</i>	Mary Staben, OSU Integrated Plant Protection Center email mary.staben@oregonstate.edu or call 541-737-2683 Online brochures and registration http://isnap.oregonstate.edu	
Fall 2006 TBA	Conservation Planning Workshop - this workshop will help landowners identify conservation concerns, set objectives, research resources and define best management practices for their site	Benton SWCD and Natural Resource Conservation Services will co-host this event - stay tuned!	



Restoration in

The Silent Invasion

by Donna Schmitz

In western Oregon, our moderate temperatures and abundant rainfall are supporting a plethora of exotic plants. While some remain contained in manicured gardens, exotic plants that have escaped into the wild have silently invaded our landscapes and suppressed and sometimes, replaced healthy native wildlife habitats.

If you've ever battled Himalayan blackberries or English Ivy on your property, you recognize how resilient they can be and if you don't consistently manage or control these invaders, they will soon take over your fence line, your pasture, or that unused corner of your property. The first step of any native wildlife habitat restoration project is the control of invasive plants to make room for planting native species.

Visit this great website for help identifying invasive and noxious weeds

<http://www.weedmapper.org>

This site has links to pictures and descriptions of weeds, generates a map displaying the extent of invasive plant species and provides an opportunity for you to report new weed locations. It also has a link to the Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook, which provides a comprehensive guide to manage most weeds encountered in Oregon.

Very useful!!!

Here is another informative restoration link...

from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to access the National Marine Fisheries Service's Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund database

http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/MONITOR/data_monrep.shtml

This database contains project, fiscal, and habitat restoration information and a interactive mapping tool for Oregon projects implemented from 1999 to present.

Saving Dixon Creek

by Teresa Matteson

This spring, 22 Corvallis High School students invested over 300 hours chopping, digging, hacking and hauling blackberry brambles and other invasive plants in the first phase of a hands-on service learning partnership with Benton SWCD, local landowners and Corvallis Public Works.

This pilot project evolved after a year of anticipation by Brian Wake, CHS science instructor. Brian's goal was to involve students in real world opportunities that enhance community cohesion and boost local pride.

Brian, Diana and I met months prior to the actual work days to define site criteria and project objectives:

- The streamside site must have restoration potential.
- The site must be walking distance of Corvallis High School.
- Students will work with natural resource professionals to eradicate blackberries and other invasive weeds using best management practices.
- Students will replant with native vegetation for soil erosion control, riparian restoration and wildlife habitat enhancement.
- A site with high public visibility will showcase restoration work and may inspire other businesses and private property owners to become involved in creek restoration projects.

Corvallis Department of Public Works Water Resource Specialists, Diana Sharps and Mark Taratoot, contributed tools, drinking water with bottles, and debris disposal. Diana and I joined most of the sessions, working with the students on laborious blackberry management. Students thinking beyond the first phase questioned Diana, "How DO we improve the water quality of Dixon Creek?"

Watch our progress where Dixon Creek crosses under 9th Street near The Sleep Center.

Benton County



Marys River Watershed Council

A List of Current Restoration Projects

by Karen Fleck Harding

Cardwell Hills: 25 landowners exploring opportunities to improve and conserve habitat in the watershed - Many of the landowners are located in the riparian area of the Marys River or have critical habitat for Fenders blue butterfly - MRWC, funded by OWEB, is developing management plans for 8 landowners that will address both landowner management objectives and conservation objectives.

Woods Creek - Benton Co., Starker Forests and Thompson Timber are working with MRWC, with OWEB support, to replace 7 culverts this summer that are currently fish passage barriers. This cooperative project will open 4 miles of Cutthroat trout habitat in Woods Creek.

Newton Creek - This fall, working with Andrew Martin, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to remove a dam that is currently a fish passage barrier on Newton Creek. Also, Philomath High School Ecology and Forestry students will take the lead on planning and implementing a riparian restoration project in conjunction with the dam removal. Colby Davidson, PHS Junior, completed monitoring this spring that showed Cutthroat trout, as well as several other native fish species, are present in Newton Creek, just downstream from the dam.

For more information on these MRWC projects, contact Sandra Coveny phone (541) 758-7597 or email coordinator@mrwc.net



Photo by Karen Fleck Harding

Cardwell Hill landowners identify local opportunities for conservation projects.

Luckiamute River Watershed Council

Restoration Plans by Michael Cairns

Planning: The Council is seeking OWEB funding for a comprehensive restoration of upper Maxfield Creek, a tributary of the Luckiamute River that has been identified as critical habitat for upper Willamette winter steelhead.

Short-term goals: This project will reduce fine sediment input by realigning the stream-side road in two places and increasing the riparian buffer, installing cross drains to control water flow, eliminating two stream crossings, and replacing one culvert to provide better fish passage. The project will also place trees with extensive attached branches in Maxfield Creek to enhance winter steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.

Group vision: The Luckiamute Watershed Council is working with the Salem District of the Bureau of Land Management, Rosboro Lumber, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Benton Fish Passage Improvement Program on this restoration plan.

Long-term goals: In 10 years, winter steelhead will have access to 3 miles of spawning and rearing habitat. Approximately 80 key pieces of large wood per mile on public, industrial forestry, and private non-industrial forest lands will collect coarse and fine organic material to create both summer and rearing habitat. The collection of wood will also change the velocity, trapping gravel and sediment in some places and scouring pools in other locations. The trapped bed-load material will increase the frequency of floodplain interaction, creating additional winter refuge habitat. The increased habitat complexity will improve the fish population in this stream and will improve both the quality and quantity of spawning and rearing habitat available to steelhead, as well as cutthroat trout, coho salmon and other aquatic organisms.

Interested in learning more about Luckiamute Watershed Council activities? Visit <http://luckiamute.watershedcouncils.net> or email Michael Cairns at michael.cairns@yahoo.com

Japanese Knotweed Inventory and Control Project Update

by Donna Schmitz

In the fall 2005 issue of Horizons page 6, http://www.benton-swcd.org/publications/Newsletter_2005_Fall.pdf, we described a Japanese knotweed inventory and control project that we were conducting in the Benton County portion of the Luckiamute Watershed. Project description letters were sent out and permission to access property forms were mailed back to us voluntarily by landowners who were interested in being a part of the project. Since then, we discovered that this invasive weed is a much greater problem than we had anticipated. We quickly realized that funds allocated are not sufficient to tackle such an extensive infestation on a watershed scale.

Along with our partners, the Northwest Oregon Weed Management Partnership, the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District and the Luckiamute River Watershed Council, we are seeking a grant to fully fund a large-scale inventory and control project for the whole Luckiamute River watershed. To find out more about controlling this invasive weed, visit these websites:

<http://www.co.clark.wa.us/weed/documents/2005-crockett.pdf>

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/weeds/aqua015.html>

Team Up to Improved Fish Passage

Below are six basic requirements for Benton Fish Passage Improvement Program volunteers:

1. Comfortable with computers
2. Commit to three consecutive Saturday or Sundays for initial training.
3. After training, commit to two 8-hour days a month - these might be weekdays or weekend days.
4. Commit a minimum of 6 continuous months.
5. Work hard outdoors.
6. Must have a valid driver's license.

Interested in joining the team?
Contact Chris Stebbins - call 766-6821 ext. 4532 or email Chris.W.STEBBINS@Co.Benton.OR.US



Explore the Willamette River Water Trail

The Willamette River is now mapped from River Mile 204 to 72 in two Guides that will steer your boating voyage from Coast and Middle Fork sites to Wheatland Ferry.

Packed full of handy information including landings, camp sites, paddling safety tips and river etiquette, The Willamette River Water Trail Guides are available online at <http://www.willamettewatertrail.org>. Get waterproof hard copies by calling Willamette Riverkeeper at 503-223-6418, or email info@willamette-riverkeeper.org.

The third guide, covering the Willamette River Wheatland Ferry to Columbia River section, is scheduled to be published spring 2007.

GET INVOLVED in WATER QUALITY!!!

OSU Extension Services' Community Well Water Testing Program

The OSU Extension Service Well Water Program is launching a new groundwater monitoring program to learn more about nitrate in the Southern Willamette Valley, and **they are looking for citizen participation.**

This is a unique opportunity for homeowners with wells to learn more about their drinking water while contributing to research that will aid in insuring the safety of local groundwater resources. **Rural residents are invited to become well water monitors and offer their well to be included in the monitoring network.** Training is provided to all participants and all expenses are covered.

Get involved in your neighborhood and **become part of the Community Well Water Testing Program.** Wells and volunteer monitors will be accepted throughout the summer. For more information or to volunteer, contact Laura Moscovitz at moscowil@onid.orst.edu or call (541) 207-7472.



Pesticide Use Reporting System

an ODA Update by Sunny Jones

*PURS defines the following pesticide use **site categories**. Specific sites in categories are bulleted below:*

Agriculture

- Field Crops
- Fruits/Nuts
- Livestock/Poultry
- Nursery/Christmas Trees
- Oil Crops
- Pasture/Forage/Hay
- Seed Crops
- Vegetables
- Other



Aquatic

Forestry

Public Health and Regulatory Pests

Research

Right-of-way

Urban/General Indoor

- Dwelling/Residence
- Site with Non-public Access
- Site with Public Access
- Other

Urban/General Outdoor

- Site associated with Dwelling or Residence
- Site with Non-public Access
- Site with Public Access
- Other

Other

The Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS) passed by the 1999 Oregon Legislature (Chapter 1059, Oregon Laws 1999) requires all pesticide users to report pesticide use. Defined in statute, a pesticide user is “any person who uses or applies a pesticide in the course of business or any other for-profit enterprise, or for a government entity, or in a location intended for public use or access.” Starting January 2007, pesticide users will be required to report applications to the Oregon Department of Agriculture by computer via Internet.

Development of the computer system for the Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS) is well underway. This system was in development when funding was removed in October 2002. Many changes to the previous development are required due to additional confidentiality requirements of SB 290 (passed by 2005 Oregon Legislature). Reporting the site of pesticide use and location has changed. Amendments to Oregon Administrative Rules 603-057-0405 through 0425, dealing with PURS, were finalized in early April 2006. The location of pesticide use to Urban/General Indoor and Urban/General Outdoor sites is to be reported by five-digit ZIP code. The location of pesticide use to all other sites is to be reported by water basin.

In addition to the computer reporting, a specially designed Household Pesticide Use Survey, including a phone survey and three-month “use diary,” is being utilized to obtain information from 250 households from across the entire state each quarter. Oregon has been divided into nine different regions that are not based on population. This allows the surveys to be representative of household use throughout Oregon rather than just the large metro areas.

*Find more information at the PURS website
http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/purs_index.shtml
 or call Sunny Jones, ODA Pesticides Division
 503-986-6466*

The PURS web site contains worksheets for each site category which further explains reporting requirements.



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A Special Note of Appreciation to

Justin Colbert

for 60 hours of volunteer work as a Corvallis High School Compete Program intern. Justin managed our spring education supplies, designed spreadsheets for documenting various projects, provided graphic design skills and administered conservation mini grant reports from April through June.

Thanks Justin!!!

THE BENTON SWCD MISSION *is to provide leadership to Benton County residents through education and technical assistance for conservation and responsible use of soil, water and related resources through a balanced, cooperative program that protects, restores, and improves these resources.*

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 Jennifer Floro, Office Manager
 Donna Schmitz, Resource Conservationist
 Chris Stebbins, Fish Passage Program Coordinator
 Teresa Matteson, Education and Outreach Director

You are invited to attend the
Benton Soil and Water Conservation District
July Board Meeting
Monday, July 10, 2006 at 7p.m.
in the Alsea Library Meeting Room

- Meet your Benton SWCD Directors and Staff
- Learn about unique project opportunities for Alsea landowners through the Alsea Stewardship Group

*for more information call 753-7208
or email office@benton-swcd.org*

The Benton SWCD is an equal opportunity employer, providing services to the public without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.