

# THE CONSERVATIONIST

JACKSON SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
NEWSLETTER

FALL 2009 VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2

## Jackson Soil & Water District Helps Reseed Summer Burned Areas

By Angela Boudro —  
Natural Resource Conservationist

On Monday, September 21st two nearly simultaneous fires burned approximately 800 acres in Jackson County. Remarkably, only one structure burned, a barn outside of Ashland that is believed to be the origination of the Siskiyou Complex Fire. Although fire is a natural part of the landscape, and can be very beneficial, it is also an incredibly destructive force. When a fire occurs this late in the year, and on steep erodible slopes, natural resource professionals are concerned.

In many areas of the Siskiyou Complex Fire, shrubs and grass crowns were consumed, leaving only the ghostly, black silhouette of ash-covered tree trunks. Many of these trees will not survive. In the Deer Ridge Complex fire east of Medford, however, the crowns of grass plants can still be seen throughout much of the landscape, lending hope that even some grasses may survive. Between the higher clay content of the soil and the amount of vegetation remaining, the Medford fire has a lower erosion risk than the Siskiyou Complex Fire.



Regardless, the fires occurred in mid-September, leaving insufficient time for plants and trees to recover, and little time to get seed on the ground to reduce erosion. Generally, seeding after November 1<sup>st</sup> is considered risky. Actual success depends on yearly weather patterns including rainfall and temperatures, but every day that passed was one less day for new seed to get established.

Several agencies pooled their resources to provide seed as well as seeding. Their rapid coordination resulted in seed being planted on approximately 300 acres of private land between the two fires.

From the time of the meeting with Deer Ridge landowners to the time the seed was planted was just 9 days, a very fast response time considering the amount of coordination that had to occur.

“We see this project as a great success. Coordinating so many agencies and landowners as well as seed providers and seeding contractors is very difficult and there wasn’t much time,” said Lee Winslow of the Oregon Department of Forestry.

At the table for the planning meetings were representatives of the Bureau of Land Management, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District. Seed supplier DLF International Seeds and

*(Continued on page 6)*

*Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District is your gateway to natural resource assistance. Board members and staff work with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to ensure educational and on-the-ground technical assistance opportunities take place which help the landowners of Jackson County.*

**Jackson  
Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Staff:**

Randy White, NRS/District Manager  
 Angie Boudro, Natural Resource Conservationist  
 Vickie Simpson, Urban & Community Conservationist  
 Dan Scalas, Natural Resource Engineer, EIT  
 Paul Showalter, Natural Resource Technician  
 Markie Germer, Bookkeeper/Office Assistant  
 Heidi Wacker, Webmaster  
 Margaret Meierhenry, Newsletter Editor

**Board of Directors:**

Charlie Boyer, Chair, Zone 4  
 Barbara Niedermeyer, Vice Chair, Zone 2  
 Keith Emerson, Secretary/Treasurer, Zone 1  
 Marilyn Rice, Director, at Large  
 Brian Gebhard, Director, Zone 3  
 Keith Corp, Director, Zone 5  
 Allan Campbell III, Director, At Large

**Associate Directors:**

Ed Vaughn Martha Straube  
 Bob Lozano Margaret Meierhenry

**Office Hours:**

Monday—Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

**Board Meetings:** All are welcome to attend!  
 November—April 4 PM May—October 7 PM

**USDA**

**Natural Resource Conservation Service**

**Staff:**

Nicola Giardina, District Conservationist  
 Peter Winnick, Soil Conservationist  
 Bill Cronin, Irrigation Engineer

**Farm Service Agency**

**Staff:**

Joe Hess, County Executive Director  
 Diane Rabbe, Program Technician  
 Donna Finch, Program Technician

**County Committee members:**

LAA 1 - Suzanne Ginet, Chair  
 LAA 2 - Charlie Boyer, Member  
 LAA 3 - Lori Mefford, Vice Chair

**Tax Deductibility for  
Donations / Contributions**

Please think of Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) if you are interested in donating, gifting, granting, and/or bequeathing items, real or personal property, or monetary contributions for soil and water conservation efforts. Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government. IRS Code, **Section 170(c)** (1) states: Contributions or gifts to a state or any of its political subdivisions, i.e., conservation districts, are “charitable” contributions for tax purposes, and are, therefore, **tax deductible.** (See IRS Publication 526: *Charitable Contributions*).

Your help is greatly appreciated.

**Contact: Markie Germer 541-776-4270**

**markie.germer@jswcd.org**

**573 Parsons Drive, Suite 102, Medford, OR**

**541-776-4270 x3 FAX: 541-776-4295**

*Paul Showalter  
Joins Jackson SWCD  
Staff*

In early November, Jackson SWCD hired Paul Showalter to assist staff on a part time basis. Paul is currently an employee for Josephine SWCD and is able to help both Jackson and Illinois Valley SWCD’s through a unique partnership and agreement.

He has lived, worked, and played in the region for over 30 years and enjoys spending time with his family and friends. He graduated from Southern Oregon University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources with a strong emphasis in Geology/Hydrology. At times, he takes a break from observing bedrock and visualizing water to focus on the health of trees and shrubs in a special small canyon near Selma, Oregon.

An avid “salsa” gardener, he feels he has mastered the dish, not the dance, though has been seen



“getting the boogie on” in his backyard from time to time. His wife Rachel, a botanist, graphic designer and local author, has found it rewarding also to take on the role of “Time Management Consultant”, ensuring that a healthy balance of work, and “work” work is maintained.

It is not uncommon to find Paul climbing on a ridge somewhere above 5000 feet during the winter months, forever testing the laws of physics and friction while still respecting the realities of gravity and weather.

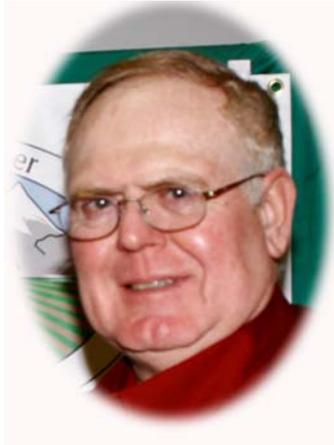


**JSW CD  
Annual Dinner &  
Conservation Awards  
January 15, 2010  
Friday, 6 pm  
Eagle Point High School  
Cafeteria**

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## Chair's Corner

By Charlie Boyer



## *A Serious Look at "Bare Ground" Problems*

Over the past several weeks I have traveled across Oregon, Nevada, Utah, and Colorado. Everywhere I went common scenes kept flashing across my windshield. In every state there were efforts to implement "conservation projects" to repair environmental concerns and to improve the landscape. There was one thing that seemed a common factor leading to the environmental damage and the need for expensive restoration projects – bare ground.

In every case, whether in a rural environment or an urban setting, there were large expanses of bare ground in the region surrounding the conservation projects. In the urban setting bare ground was evident in poorly vegetated vacant lots, large expanses of impervious pavement, and roof tops. Each of these surfaces worked to reduce infiltration of rain-water into the soils. This in turn caused the water to concentrate in ever greater volumes leading to increased chances for erosion or flooding. The larger volumes of water caused increased soil movement from the areas with bare ground, put the eroded soil into storm drains and eventually into nearby lakes and streams. This resulted in a loss of fish and wildlife habitat and overall water quality leading to the need for "conservation projects" to repair the damage.

In the rural landscapes, the problem was much the same except there were few paved areas and no storm drains to carry the water away from the immediate area before resource damage could occur. In the rural areas, often due to steeper un-vegetated or unpaved landscapes, the soil movement was immediate, in the forms of rill and sheet erosion. Soil deposition in lakes and streams or stream bank erosion was often visible closer to the initial point of impact of the raindrops that started the whole process. Again, as in the urban areas, a loss of fish and wildlife habitat and other resource damage created a need for "conservation projects" to repair the

damage.

So how do we stop this cycle of damage to and repair of resources that are so valuable to our society? The first thing we need to do is become aware of how much bare ground exists in our local environment. Then we need to determine if this is a natural phenomenon or something that we can do something about. Vacant lots in urban areas with bare ground are unnecessary and can be easily reclaimed with vegetation that will hold the soil in place and allow for water to infiltrate into the soil and reduce the volume of surface runoff after storm events. The water entering the soil profiles can help replenish underground aquifers to improve ground water reserves and help maintain our springs and streams during dry seasons. We can also begin using porous paving instead of traditional concrete and asphalt pavement in parking lots and highways. This would allow storm water to percolate in to the ground and reduce the volumes entering the storm drains and causing erosion and flood damage to our lands.

On our rural lands we can take every opportunity to reduce the amount of bare ground by either increasing plant density or by putting more vegetative material on the ground's surface. Both of these actions can be accomplished by improved management practices, particularly on lands where we can use livestock as a tool. Contrary to a lot of popular opinion, total rest of our landscapes from animal use

### *CONGRATULATIONS*

*Charlie Boyer  
Chair of the JSWCD has  
been elected as Chair of  
the Oregon Association  
of Conservation Districts  
(OACD)*

*Barbara Niedermeyer  
former Chair of JSWCD  
has been elected as  
Secretary of the Oregon  
Association of  
Conservation Districts  
(OACD)*

*(Continued on page 6)*



## Across the City Fence

By Vicki Simpson, Urban & Community Conservationist

### How to Make a Rainwater Harvest Site Plan

**If you were offered something that you wanted and needed, and it would be of the highest quality and would be delivered to your home, all absolutely free of charge, you would probably say, "Sign me up! I'll take it!"**

Well, that is the deal with rainwater; it is free and it is pure. We receive about 19 inches of it out of the sky onto our properties in Jackson County each year. Some locations in the county receive more.

Since rainwater does not contain the dissolved minerals present in the surface and ground water, which now supply most of our water needs, rainwater soaks into our soil and helps rinse out these accumulated mineral salts. Plants love this and thrive on rainwater. Instead of letting rainwater drain quickly off our property during a storm, how much better it would be to collect and store as much as we can in barrels and tanks, and especially store it in the soil itself.

In the summer issue of *The Conservationist*, we looked at rain gardens as a great way to slow down rainwater, spread it out and let it soak in. This time we are going to look at how to develop an overall site plan of your property for harvesting rainwater.

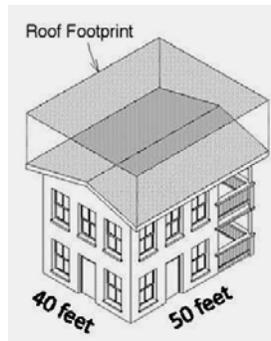
Your land is a small watershed

and the slopes, hills, and flat places within your land are even smaller watersheds.

#### Your Site Plan

To see how your watershed works you will want to make a site plan. Start with a sheet of paper lined with a ½ inch grid, or a ¼ inch grid if you have a larger piece of property. Let each square represent 10 feet.

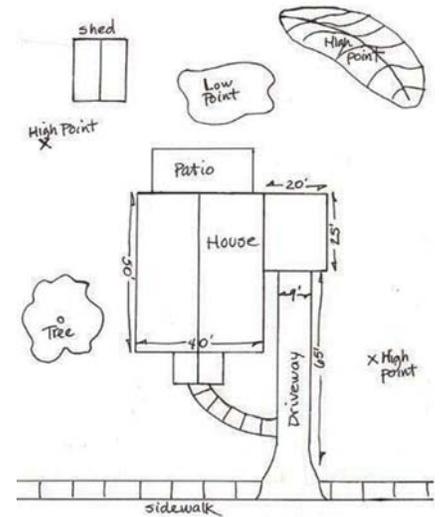
**First**, go outside and draw your home outline where it sits on the property. If you don't know the dimensions of your home (and some are more complex than others) measure the outside length and width including eave overhangs. (see illustration # 1) Mark these measurements on your plan. Place any other buildings such as a garage, barn or sheds on the grid in relation to your house and property boundaries. Put in their dimensions also.



# 1 dimensions of house

**Second**, look for any paved areas on your property such as cement walkways, asphalt or concrete driveways, and sidewalks out front, as well as hardened earth walkways. Draw each of these on your site map.

**Third**, walk around your property and notice where you have any slopes or rises and any low spots. Put these areas on the site map. You can lightly shade these areas to indicate shape. You can draw in an outline of any large trees also. (see illustration # 2)



# 2 Site Map with physical features

#### Water Flow Arrows

Now that you have a basic site map, it is time to record on your plan which way water runs off your (1) roofs, (2) paved or hardened surfaces, and (3) each of the slopes, hills, or dips on your land by drawing arrows on your site map to indicate the direction of water flow.

Take your time with this process: no need to hurry. On a rainy day you can look at one or all of the different roofs to see where they are sending water from each side. Mark your downspouts on the site map and notice whether they drain to the storm drain by way of

(Continued on page 5)

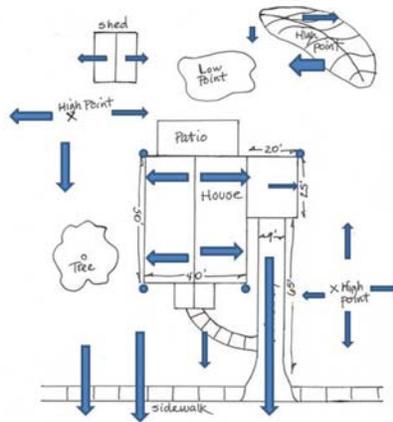
**Rainwater Harvest Site Plan**

(Continued from page 4)

an underground pipe or if they send water out into the yard. Draw arrows to indicate direction.

On another day, if it's not raining, you can use a hose to find out how paved driveways, sidewalks and hardened areas shed their water. Put arrows on the site map to indicate the directions of flow for each paved area. Use arrows to show how rain runs off each of the slopes and hills or into each low spot. Mark any areas, which stay wet or muddy. (see illustration # 3)

Once you have your site map finished and have observed what is working well and what needs attention, you are ready to look at ways to store rainwater for summer watering on your property and ways to redirect water for more infiltration and storage in the soil. Remember a rain garden is just one great technique used to soak in rainwater.



# 3 Site Map showing water pathways

Next issue will feature more information and techniques on keeping rain where it falls instead of letting it drain quickly off site and into a storm drain. You can make your yard a better functioning watershed by sending rainwater where it can deeply water plant roots and recharge ground water.

Keep your site plan handy!

**Rainwater can indeed work magic — especially here in the hot summers of the Rogue Valley and with a little help from all of us we can make a big difference.**

***Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District is here to help!***

**Sherman Lynch**

*In Remembrance*

**John Billings**

Died — August 5, 2009

Died — September 23, 2009

In 1994, Mr. Lynch was appointed JSWCD Associate Director, filling his wife's position as a Director due to her poor health. On January 1, 1995, he was elected Director and retired with Emeritus status on January 1, 2003. Sherman was a retired Naval Officer in aviation electronics and a retired teacher. He was also a farmer in the Butler Creek area near Ashland raising sheep, cattle, and hay. He faithfully attended all of the local District meetings, Southwest Oregon Basin meeting and attended Oregon Legislative meeting, reporting information to the District. Although Sherman was a quiet man, when he had a contribution, he stepped up and gave his opinion. He was a faithful member of Jackson SWCD. Sherman was dedicated to family, community, God, and country, but always had time for coffee with his friends and neighbors.

Mr. Billings was appointed JSWCD Associate Director in November of 1976 and elected as a full Director starting January 1, 1977. For the next twenty-seven years, John held the position of Chair for Jackson SWCD. He also held the Chair position for the Southwest Oregon Basin a number of years. He often represented the District at other agency meetings and conservation groups, encouraging everyone to work together for the common good in solving conservation problems. He was an active member of Resource and Development (RC&D) for several years. He was a farmer raising dairy, beef cattle, and hay on his Century Farm near Ashland. John was a strong proponent of conservation and retired with Emeritus status on January 1, 2005. John was involved in a creek restoration project on the farm in the past three years working with the City of Ashland, Fish & Wildlife, JSWCD, and more agencies.

**"Bare Ground" Problems***(Continued from page 3)*

does little, if anything, to increase plant density or put plant material onto the ground's surface. To increase plant density we need to plant more seeds. Nearly all seeds require direct contact with mineral soil before they can germinate and become seedlings. Animal hooves are wonderful tools to shatter and plant seeds from older plants. The hooves can actually push the seeds into the soil's surface like planting a seed in a garden. With a little luck, the hoof will leave a small indentation to impound rain water or snow-melt to help the new seedling get a jumpstart on its new life.

The second thing hooped herding animals do very well is to take standing dead plant materials and put it on the ground to serve as mulch. Vertical dead herbaceous plant materials usually just oxidize away and add very little in the way of nutrients back into the site the plant occupied. Grazing animals can be used as a tool to place this standing plant material down on the ground's surface. Trampling by hooped animals can mix the dead and decaying plant materials with the soil's surface, thereby reducing water's ability to easily move soil particles. The decaying plant material improves the soil's nutrient level allowing it to support more vegetation. Plant material that is not mixed into the soil's surface, but only lays on top of the soil, provides shade for the soil and any new plant seedlings that have germinated. This shade keeps the soil surface cool and reduces the amount of water lost through evaporation. It keeps the relative humidity of the soil surface higher than bare ground and aids in the decay of plant and animal material thus increasing the soil's fertility. Increased and prolonged availability of soil moisture and the increase in soil fertility improves the chances of plant seedling survival. This in turn leads to more plants per square foot and less bare ground.

So if we really want to make a significant contribution to "conservation" in our community, we look around

our neighborhoods, urban or rural and do something about reducing the amount of bare ground. This is far cheaper and better than designing and building more conservation protection structures along a stream bank or repairing flood damage that resulted from high flashy runoffs after rain and snow events.



**New Phone Number  
for  
JSWCD District  
Office  
541-776-4270 Ext. 3**

Staff Extension No.

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| <b>Markie</b> | <b>Ext. 101</b> |
| <b>Randy</b>  | <b>Ext. 111</b> |
| <b>Dan</b>    | <b>Ext. 114</b> |
| <b>Paul</b>   | <b>Ext. 115</b> |
| <b>Vicki</b>  | <b>Ext. 120</b> |
| <b>Angie</b>  | <b>Ext. 121</b> |

**Office Hours  
8 -12 am 1- 4:30 pm  
Monday—Friday**

**Reminder**

**The staff at JSWCD have started a flex work schedule. This schedule still allows the District Office to be open five days a week, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm as usual. However, staff will have every other Friday off, on an alternating basis. Consequently, there are fewer staff in the office on Fridays.**

**Reseed Summer Burn Area***(Continued from page 1)*

Jay Raymond Forestry were also involved.

Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District coordinated the seeding with the seeding contractor and landowners and put \$16,000 towards the cost of purchasing seed and paying for the seeding labor through their Landowner Assistance Program. The NRCS, BLM and Jackson SWCD worked together to develop specifications for seeding the burned areas. ODFW donated their "Wildlife Mix Seed", and BLM provided native seed at half of their production cost. ODF helped coordinate the landowner meetings, and provided outreach to the landowners. Oregon State University Extension Service also helped with educational materials for the landowners.

Jerome Magnusson, representing DLF International Seeds, feels confident in the ability of the annual rye to germinate and grow enough to hold the soil in place over the winter. Even though we have experienced some cold nights, he says that the soil temperature should still be high enough, and our days still warm enough to help the seed germinate. Many of the other seeds, particularly the native grasses, may not have a chance to germinate until spring.

Real success will depend on nature and what she throws at us this fall. Hopefully we'll be able to look up at the hills and see the fresh green color of the newly germinating grasses, and all the hope it brings.

*Join us for the  
Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District  
Annual Dinner & Conservation Awards*

**Friday January 15, 2010 6 PM Eagle Point High School Cafeteria  
Catered Buffet Dinner (Cost \$10.00)**

Speakers

Barbara Boyer (Yamhill, OR) "Local Foods Farm to School Program"  
Mark Maelich Bon Appetite at Willamette University  
"Food Services for a Sustainable Future"

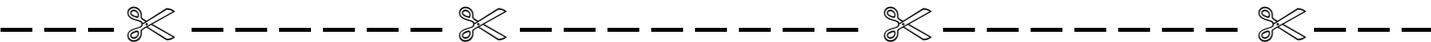
Fred Straube Memorial Scholarship  
Oral Auction

Awards Ceremony

Conservationist of the Year  
Volunteer(s) of the Year  
JSWCD Managers Award  
Poster Contest Winners

**Must  
RSVP by January 5, 2010**

**Please fill out the registration form below, cut along the dashed line. Mail or bring into the office.  
Call Markie at 541-776-4270 Ext. 101 for more information.**



**RSVP Registration Form — JSWCD Annual Dinner & Conservation Awards  
Return this portion by January 5th, 2010**

| Name(s) of Attendees | Phone Number | \$10.00/person |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| _____                | _____        | _____          |
| _____                | _____        | _____          |
| _____                | _____        | _____          |
| _____                | _____        | _____          |
| _____                | _____        | _____          |
| _____                | _____        | _____          |
| _____                | _____        | _____          |
| _____                | _____        | _____          |
| _____                | _____        | _____          |

**Total Number Attending** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Jackson SWCD**

**Please fill out the registration form, cut along the dashed line. Please enclose check and mail or bring into the office. For more information — call Markie at 541-776-4270 Ext. 101**

# Happy Holidays



*Treat your family this holiday with Pecan Tassies!  
The Germer Family shared this special recipe*

**Dough:**

6 oz. cream cheese  
1 C. margarine or butter  
2 C. flour

Mix the above ingredients into a large ball divide into 48 small balls. Press each ball into a tart cup forming a cup for the filling. (Candy cups or mini muffin cups will work also)

**Filling:**

Finely chopped pecans  
2 eggs  
1-1/2 C brown sugar  
2 Tbs. melted butter or margarine  
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix the above ingredients except the nuts. Sprinkle nuts in each cup. Pour filling over nuts to fill each little cup.

**Bake @ 325° for 25 minutes.**



Please place your registration form in an envelope along with your check made out to Jackson SWCD and mail to:

**Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District  
573 Parsons Drive, Suite 102  
Medford, Oregon 97501**

You're welcome to bring the registration and check into the office as well.

# Conservation Financial Incentive Programs

By Nicola Giardina—District Conservationist

The USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service is taking applications for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).

The EQIP and WHIP are both voluntary programs. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. The natural resource priorities we address in Jackson County are:

## Improving Irrigation Efficiency & Conserving Water



Monitoring moisture levels & managing water application

## Fuels Reduction, Reforestation After Fires & Improving Health



Thinning, pruning, treating slash, preparing sites for tree planting

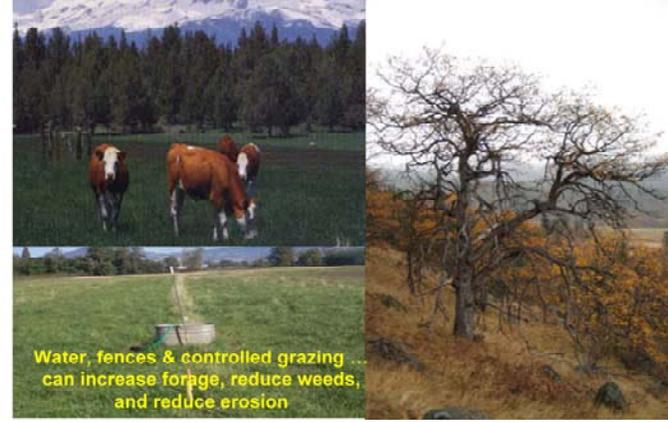
Release and thin overstocked forest stands

## Improving Water Quality



Proper pest, nutrient, and irrigation water management can improve production and help protect water quality along with other practices such as cover crops and crop rotations.

## Improving Grazing Land Health



Water, fences & controlled grazing ... can increase forage, reduce weeds, and reduce erosion

The **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** is a voluntary program that provides both technical and financial assistance to non-federal landowners and tribes to create, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife habitats. The emphasis of the WHIP is to:



Improving Oak Savannah Habitat

- Promote the restoration of declining or important native fish and wildlife habitats such as oak savannah woodlands;
- Protect, restore, develop or enhance fish and wildlife habitat to benefit at-risk species;
- Reduce the impacts of invasive species on fish and wildlife habitats and;
- Protect, restore, develop or enhance declining or important aquatic wildlife species habitats.

For more information about EQIP and WHIP or other NRCS programs, visit us at 573 Parsons Drive, Suite 102, Medford, OR 97501. Contact us at (541) 776-4267 ext. 3 or Nicola Giardina (x108) or Peter Winnick (X109). Our program website is: <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>

## Links to the Past

### Rader - Stanley Ranch "Eagle Point Ranching Tradition"

By Susan Stanley Kendle

Most people have no idea where Rader Hills are located and the significance they might hold. If you follow the signs on Hwy 140 to the VA Cemetery, you will first turn north on to Riley Road located southeast of Eagle Point. As you travel, passing Alta Vista Road on the left, you will go up a hill taking you over Rader Hills.

As to their significance, they may not mean anything to most people, but to our family Rader Hills stand for the beginning of a long time of ranching tradition. It began in 1852 when a young man by the name of Jackson Rader

took up a donation claim in the Jacksonville area under the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850. A few years later, he and his wife Clara moved

to the Eagle Point area, homesteading on the South Fork of Little Butte Creek. Two boys and two girls were born. The oldest son, John (our great-grandfather), was born in 1861 and Joseph was born 3 years later. Joseph eventually becomes sheriff of Jackson County in 1902.

When John was ten years old, his father left for Salem to serve as State Senator. He contracted smallpox at the capital and died. In an effort to not spread the dread disease, he was buried in

Salem in a grave that the family was never able to locate.

At age 26, John married Emma Severance. They had met at school in Eagle Point. Emma's family had originally come from California and lived in Butte Falls before moving to Eagle Point. The couple's new home was the homestead and the beginning of Rader Hills Ranch. It is now commonly known as the Stanley Ranch. John and Emma had two daughters. Donna was born in 1888 and our grandmother, Ina was born in 1893.



Rader Homestead--South Fork-Little Butte Creek

Donna finished her schooling and went to work in a hardware store in Eagle Point. She eventually married Roy Ashpole who was the owner of the hardware business. Ina married John Harvey Stanley when she was 21 years old. Harve (as he was known) had worked on various ranches up to his time of marrying Ina, so it was natural for him to settle into ranching with Ina on the Rader's ranch. Harve and Ina had one child, Darrel, who was born in 1921. As time passed, Emma and John Rader moved to Eagle Point

and left the ranch to Ina, Harve, and Darrel.

During the time that Darrel was learning the ropes of ranching, a young lady by the name of Lois Simon was training to be a nurse at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Lois came to Oregon to visit her family, who had moved here from Ohio in 1948. Her brother was working for the Stanley's and that's how they met each other. Darrel and Lois were married in 1952. It wasn't long before my brother Eugene and I came into the picture. Just as our Dad took over the ranch operations when his Dad died, Eugene has now taken over after Darrel died in 1993. Eugene and his wife Connie live on the ranch, as well as their daughter Jenny and her husband Jeremy. I live in Medford, but still help out on the ranch most days. My husband has a trucking company, so time is spent helping there too.

Our Mother Lois, who still lives on the ranch in a new home she and Darrel built, has always kept a diary of ranch activities and the weather since she and Dad were married. It is a valuable resource for ranch operations and family history. The main crops have always been cattle and hay. In the earlier years, grain hay and dry land alfalfa were grown, as well as field corn. Historically, haying was done with horse drawn equipment and the corn was chopped and stored in a silo.

(Continued on page 11)

**Links to the Past**

*(Continued from page 10)*

They operated a certified all Jersey cow dairy and sold the milk to Jorgensen's Creamery until 1962. Our Dad never liked the dairy side of things, so when Grandma Stanley passed away, the dairy did too. Chickens were raised commercially for their eggs and turkeys were raised during the hard times as a cash crop for a



From the top of Rader Hills you can look northwest and see signs of change with the addition of a golf course surrounded by new homes, to Wal-Mart in the distance. Looking the opposite direction you see change too, but maybe if our great-grandparents were to come back, they would be pleased to see that the home they lived in and the barns they built are still being used for feeding cattle and stacking hay. The tradition they started has been carried on for five generations and we are hopeful this way of life can continue for another generation.



company in San Francisco. The original homestead house is still in use. In addition to private land, the ranch has used public land for grazing the cattle for almost 100 years. Cattle drives from the Lake Creek area up to the summer grazing areas have now been replaced with trucks, pick-ups and trailers.



Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District  
 Motto  
 Turning Natural Resource Concerns into  
 Management Opportunities



NONPROFIT ORG  
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**Jackson Soil & Water  
Conservation District**  
573 Parsons Drive, Suite 102,  
Medford, Oregon 97501  
Telephone: (541) 776-4270 Ext. 3  
Fax: (541) 776-4295  
On the web at: [www.jswcd.org](http://www.jswcd.org)

If your mailing address has changed,  
please call us at (541) 776-4270 Ext. 3  
or e-mail [markie.germer@jswcd.org](mailto:markie.germer@jswcd.org)

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## *Forage Resource Management Course*

### *Enrollment Open Now!*

**Class meets Thursdays March 4 through April 22**  
With 3 Saturday Field Trips

Course Fee: \$150

Learn how to:

- Increase vegetative health and vigor in your pastures
  - Reduce soil movement in your fields
  - Improve water quality on your property
    - Improve wildlife habitat
  - Improve livestock health and production
    - Improve your bottom line
- Comply with Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Act

**Call JSWCD at 541-776-4270 Ext. 101 for more information**