

Jackson County Rural Living Handbook

A Resource for Country Living
and Land Stewardship



89 Alder Street, Central Point OR 97502
(541) 423-6165
www.jswcd.org

Resource Directory

Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District

(541) 423-6165

www.jswcd.org

United States Agencies

Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Agency
www.fsa.usda.gov (541) 776-4270

Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov (541) 776-4270

US Forest Service
www.fs.fed.us (541) 618-2200

Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Medford District
www.or.blm.gov (541) 618-2200

US Fish & Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov (541) 957-3474

Jackson County Depts.

Animal Control (541) 774-6655

Exposition Park (541) 774-8270

Open Burning (541) 776-7007

Planning & Zoning (541) 774-6907

Building and Septic (541) 774-6900

Roads (541) 774-8184

Sheriff (541) 774-6800

Surveyor (541) 774-6191

Vector Control (541) 826-2199

Vegetation Management (541) 774-8184

Watermaster (541) 774-6880

Website www.jacksoncounty.org

Soil maps www.smartmap.org/

Jackson County Fire Depts.

Ashland (541) 488-6009

Butte Falls (541) 865-4383

Central Point (541) 826-7100

Eagle Point (541) 826-7100

Evans Valley (541) 582-0678

Gold Hill (541) 826-7100

Jacksonville (541) 899-7246

Medford (541) 774-2300

Burning Information (541) 776-7007

Phoenix (541) 535-1113

Rogue River Rural (541) 582-4411

Talent (541) 535-4222

White City (541) 826-7100

Wildfire and Smoke Hotline (541) 552-2490

Irrigation Districts

Talent Irrigation District (541) 535-1529

Medford Irrigation District (541) 899-9913

Rogue River Valley

Irrigation District (541) 773-6127

Eagle Point Irrigation District ... (541) 826-3411

Gold Hill Irrigation District (541) 582-1802

Watershed Council

Applegate (541) 899-9982

Bear Creek (541) 840-1810

Upper Rogue (541) 878-1446

Middle Rogue (541) 474-6799

Seven Basins (541) 830-3781

Little Butte Creek (541) 826-2908

Website www.oregonwatershed.com

Oregon State Agencies

Dept. of Agriculture

Natural Resources Division (503) 986-4700

Confined Animal Feeding Ops. .. (503) 986-4700

Agricultural Water Quality (503) 986-4700

Dept. of Environmental Quality. (541) 776-6010

Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (503) 947-6000

Dept. of Forestry (503) 945-7200

Dept. of Transportation (888) 275-6368

Water Resources Dept. (503) 986-0900

Other

Jackson County Recycling

www.jcrecycle.org (541) 608-1023

Rogue Valley Council of Governments

www.rvcog.org (541) 664-6674

Southern Oregon Historical Society

www.sohs.org (541) 899-8123

Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center

extension.oregonstate.edu (541) 776-7371

Chamber of Medford/ Jackson County

www.medfordchamber.com (541) 779-4847

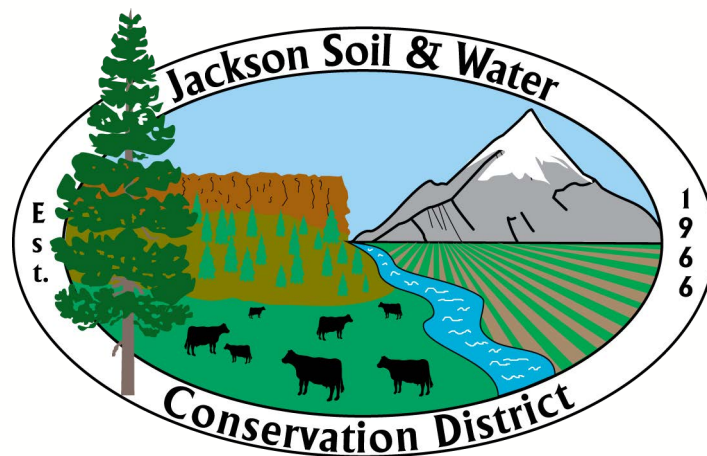
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

landconserve.org (541) 482-3069

Jackson County Rural Living Handbook

Prepared by

Jackson Soil and Water
Conservation District



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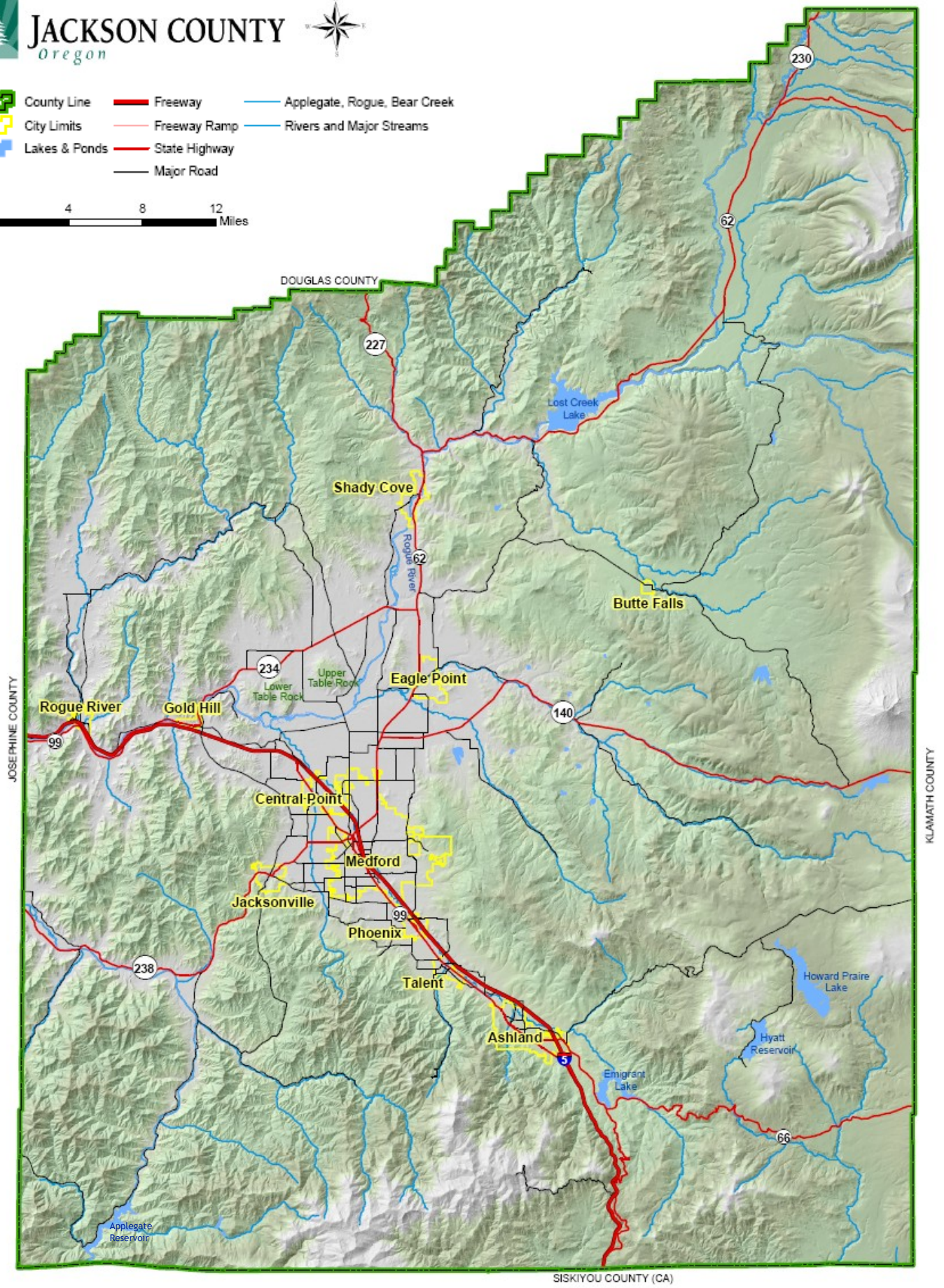
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JACKSON COUNTY *Oregon*



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Introduction

What is the Jackson County Rural Living Handbook?

The Rural Living Handbook introduces current and prospective rural land owners to available resources. The increased independence and self sufficiency of rural life entails a heightened need for self reliance and strong relationships with neighbors. Rural newcomers, accustomed to services provided by urban governments, can be shocked when the hard work required to manage rural property lies in stark contrast to their idyllic images of country living.

This handbook contains a list of agencies and organizations that can assist you in clarifying regulations, policies, rights, and planning decisions as you transition to, or continue, living in rural Jackson County. It will provide answers to questions on land use planning, gardening, livestock management, and wildlife concerns. The Resource Directory on the inside front cover will be helpful in directing you to assistance with the natural resource management of your property.

This handbook was developed and funded by the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) with help from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. JSWCD is currently creating an Urban Living Handbook.

Is rural living for you?

Encountering the unexpected can be disheartening:

- You discover that you don't have rights to the irrigation water that runs through your own land.
- You lose a pet or livestock to a predator.
- You are responsible for a fire that starts on your land and spreads to other properties.
- Minerals or pollutants are in your well water.
- There is no garbage service where you live.
- You are responsible for the quality of the water that leaves your land.
- You are surprised at the cost of building structures that are needed to protect livestock from predators.
- You don't have enough time to mow fields, maintain fences, spray weeds, feed livestock, clean muddy facilities, doctor sick animals, and vaccinate animals, etc.
- Your water source has dried up.
- The deer eat everything you planted.

The increased independence of rural life entails a heightened need for self reliance and strong relationships with neighbors.

- It takes more time and money to drive to town than you ever expected.
- Learning about and maintaining domestic wells and pumps, sewer systems, irrigation pumps, ditches, and hand lines is overwhelming.
- You discover that the access road to your property is not publicly maintained and is your responsibility.
- You learn that the forested land near yours will be logged.
- Your neighbor applies pesticides or herbicides that drift onto your land.

This handbook is intended to help support rural land owners working through some of these and other rural issues.

Resource Directory

On the inside front cover of this handbook is the *Resource Directory*. This directory provides the name and phone number of all agencies listed within the handbook. It is intended to be a starting point for landowners desiring further information about regulations, permits, technical assistance and financial assistance.

The Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District

The Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) is many things to many people. We are a leader in providing scientifically based technical assistance and financial resources that support both rural and urban landowner in implementing best management practices. We strive to enhance the natural environment while protecting Jackson County's cultural, social, and economic values. We also provide education and resources to both students and citizens in Jackson County, helping ensure conservation of our local resources.

Who We Help

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District works directly with individual landowners or managers to plan the best conservation practices suitable for each parcel of land. We take a landscape approach to solving resource management concerns. By looking at the whole picture with individual landowners and managers, we can help turn resource problems into management opportunities that are good for the property owner, the land and water, and the citizens of Jackson County and the State of Oregon.

We partner with Jackson County, the Bureau of Land Management, Resource Conservation and Development, Oregon Department of Forestry, and other state and federal agencies to develop a County Weed Management Area. This groups aims to control the invasion and spread of noxious weeds and to educate the public about helping to keep existing and new weedy species from spreading across the county.

We partner with the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S.D.A. Farm Services Agency to plan, design, get financial assistance, and implement land management practices and programs authorized under the National Farm Bill.

We work with state agencies to implement the Oregon Agricultural Water Quality Management Act through public education and on-site visits with landowners to help correct problems.

We work with local governments and organizations to identify and implement solutions to natural resource uses and conflicts.

How We Work

The Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District maintains an actively involved board, employs a professional staff, and uses volunteers, natural resource experts, interested organizations, and federal, state, and local governments to help rural and urban landowners improve the management of their land. We assist with:

- providing technical support,
- seeking grants and financial assistance,
- providing one-on-one, on-the-ground site visits,
- offering classes,
- and the development of individual management plans and projects.

The Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District employs: a District Manager, an Administrative Secretary, a Senior Planner, a Natural Resources Engineer EIT, an Urban and Community Resource Conservationist, and a Natural Resource Technician.

Enhancing the management of rural and urban lands reduces soil erosion and improves water quality, air quality, and fish and wildlife habitat to improve the quality of life for all Jackson County citizens.

Contact us at (541)423-6165 or online at www.jswcd.org.

The JSWCD can help turn resource problems into management opportunities.



Jackson County Facts

Jackson County includes 2,801 square miles (1,792,640 acres). It extends south to California, west to Josephine County, north to Douglas County, and east to Klamath County.

Jackson County's 2008 population of 201,138 represented a 9.6% increase over 2000.

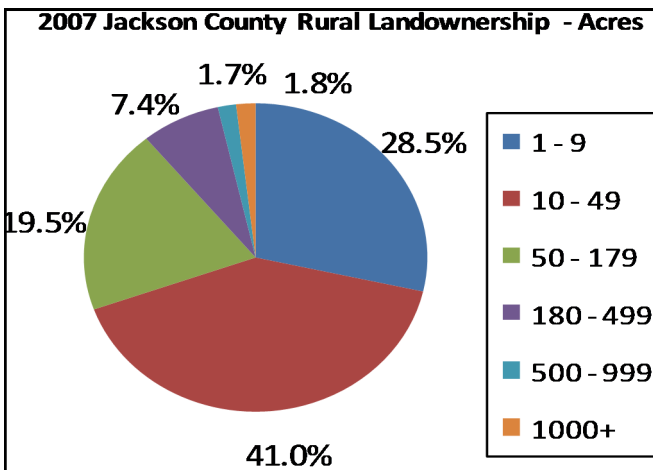
The county's principal industries are lumber, agriculture, manufacturing, and recreation. Its major points of interest include the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the historic town of Jacksonville, Southern Oregon University, the Britt Music Festival, the Rogue River, Lithia Park, and the Crater Lake Highway. Rural landowners with small acreage (nine acres or less) make up 28.5% of the rural landownership in Jackson County; up 1.5% from 2002. Those with 49 acres or less account for 68.5% of the rural landownership. (See the pie chart for more details.)



Jackson County has approximately 5,500 acres of pear orchards and ranks third in the State for fruits, tree nuts, and berry production.



Jackson County's landscape is very diverse as is its economy. Agriculture's "Farm Gate Value" production contributed over \$77,428,000 to the economy of Jackson County in 2008.



Forage production for livestock and hay operations covers over 25,000 acres in Jackson County. Both livestock and hay production rank seventeenth out of 36 Oregon counties.

Jackson County Agriculture 2007

Number of Farms	1976
Average Size of Farm.....	124 Acres
Harvested Crop Land	1010 Farms/33,103 Acres
Crop (Grazed/Pasture).....	757 Farms/25,879 Acres
Gross Sales (All Crops)	\$51,263,000
Animal Products (Sales)	\$27,860,000
Total Sales	\$79,123,000

Jackson County Ranks 16th for gross farm sales of all 36 Oregon counties.

Jackson County History

The natural and cultural history of Jackson County is diverse and fascinating. The landscapes we see today were formed over millions of years by glacial ice migrations, massive floods, and lava flows, and are deeply tied to the cultural history.

Native peoples, including the Modoc, Shasta and Rogue River tribes, lived in the region now defined by Jackson County. They were primarily hunter-gatherers. The men were experts in the use of bow and arrow as well as a fork tipped harpoon for fishing. Women harvested berries, fruit, nuts and roots. Acorns were collected to produce flour used in bread, puddings, and soup.

The discovery of gold in the Rogue and Illinois River valleys lead to an influx of non-native settlers who flooded into the region. Soon a wagon road was completed which connected the remote region to California and Douglas County, Oregon. In the 1850's, tensions over land lead to a period of conflict and war resulting in hundreds of casualties and the removal of the Rogue River tribe to the Siletz Reservation. During the next two years, several small bands of Indians were moved to the Grande Ronde Reservation west of Salem.

Chinese immigration was considerable from 1850 to the 1870's. The Chinese worked in some of the most labor intensive industries. They were scapegoated and faced virulent discrimination.

The agricultural history of Jackson County details how the industry grew to today's value of \$60 million. The first commercial orchards were planted in 1885. They rapidly expanded and included pears, apples, cherries, peaches and prunes. Recently, the number of acres in commercial orchards has declined from about 12,000 acres in the 1930's to fewer than 7,000 acres. However, the region continues to set the standard of quality for Bosc and Comice pears.

The Territorial Legislature created Jackson County—named after President Andrew Jackson—on January 12, 1852, from the southwestern portion of Lane County and the unorganized area south of Douglas and Umpqua Counties. In 1853, Jacksonville became the first county seat. In the 1880's,

the construction of the Oregon and California Railroad bypassed the city. Medford, located five miles east of Jacksonville, benefited with commerce and development following the rail line. In 1927, Medford became the county seat.

The voters of Jackson County approved a home rule charter at the general election, November 7, 1978. The primary change was a governing body consisting of a board of three commissioners, which continues to constitute the legislative and principal policy making agency of the county.



Hanley Farm (Photo courtesy of Southern Oregon Historical Society # 9473.) See the Resource Directory on the inside front cover for Southern Oregon Historical Society contact information.

Since its incorporation into the United States, the region has exhibited an independent nature, trying several times to break ties with Oregon and California and even the United States. The area is geographically, topographically and emotionally a domain unto itself and therefore has seen eruptions toward separation in *The State of Shasta* (1852), *The State of Klamath* (1853), *The Pacific Republic* (early 1860's) and *The State of Siskiyou* (1909). To this day, the area is frequently called the **State of Jefferson** by residents, a reference to the last effort toward carving out a separate State in 1941, only to be thwarted by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and World War II.

Buying Country Property

Living in the country can be very satisfying. Whether you raise crops and livestock or just enjoy cleaner air, open space, and solitude, this section offers some tips to help first time rural property buyers or those new to the Rogue Valley with their acquisition plan.

The first step in buying country property is to understand your expectations of rural living. If you have not lived in the country before, consider renting first before investing in land. What do you want from your land and what do you need from it?

You are likely to work with a realtor. It is best to select a real estate agent who specializes in rural properties. He or she should be familiar with land use restrictions, be aware of water problems, and know where to get answers to your questions. It is generally best to have an agent that represents you as the buyer rather than both buyer and seller. Many rural buyers find it helpful to hire an attorney who is an expert on rural property sales to represent them in the closing process.

Urban areas have water and sewage connections. However, in rural areas you will need to verify that there is a **reliable water** source for home use and farm irrigation. If a well is already in, it should be professionally tested for purity and flow. If there is no well, it may make sense to make the sale of the property contingent on successfully drilling a well. It is less expensive to pay for a dry well, than to buy the property and find out that there is inadequate water. It is also important to fully understand the irrigation rights, if there are any, that apply to the property and the method of irrigation.

If there is a **septic system**, it should be professionally tested to assure that it works. If there is not, percolation tests should be professionally done to assure that a new septic system can be approved and will work. This should be done before you buy the property.

Power hook-ups can be expensive in the country. The ideal home site may require a costly power run. If you are on a tight

budget, check it out prior to making an offer on the property. Remember to include the telephone lines at the same time. Some families try the “off-the-grid” option, generating their own power. See more information at www.homepower.com.

Understand the land use rules that apply to the parcel you are considering and to properties in the vicinity. Things can change. Some properties can be sub-divided into smaller parcels, orchards can be sprayed with pesticides, and forests can be logged. Animals and farm equipment can be noisy. If a property doesn't have a satisfactory home, you will want to verify with the county that you will be allowed to build or remodel.

Understand **easements** that pertain to the property. Utility and access easements allow others some legal use of your property. Not all rural property in Jackson County has been recently surveyed, which means fences and driveways that appear to be on a parcel of land, may not be. If this is important to you, make the sale closure subject to the completion of a survey that satisfies your understanding of the boundaries. If you find that the driveway isn't on the property, you may want sale closure dependent on securing an easement. Have the current owner walk the property line with you and show you the corner survey markers. Successful country living requires cooperation between neighbors. Try to meet some of them and get their take on the neighborhood.

Look at the equipment the current owner uses. If their land use is similar to what yours will be, you will get an idea of what you will need. Sometimes a seller is willing to include some equipment in the negotiated property sale price.

Understand your expectations of rural living. What do you want from your land and what do you need from it?

Resource Management Plans

There is a lot to know about owning and managing land and you'll need to know even more if you're raising livestock. With a little time, some knowledge, and a modest amount of money you can have a place in the country of which you can be proud while also protecting Jackson County's natural resources.

Management Plans

A management plan is the first step to successful land and natural resource management. Plans are easy to design. Start by simply spending time on the property you propose to buy. Look around, making sketches and taking notes on property boundaries, fences and corrals, buildings, wells, septic system, water sources, bare ground, roads and driveways, soil type, weeds, lawns and gardens, pasture and cropland, trees and shrubs, land uses, weeds, and topography.

Next, define your management objectives. Visualize how the land will be used and how it should look. Decide what is important, what to avoid, and what you want from the resources on your property. A management plan will address the objectives that you outline and define.

Be aware of how the plan fits in with other land uses in the neighborhood. Even if your plan does not make many



JSWCD and NRCS can assist you in developing management plans and seeking funding to implement your plan.

alterations to the existing use of the land you will need to plan for long term maintenance. For example, plan to keep weeds from becoming invasive.

Developing Your Management Plan

The Jackson County OSU Extension Office is a great source of information on a variety of things associated with livestock, crops, landscaping, lawns, gardens, buildings, pest management and other subjects.

The Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) have staff that can assist you in developing forestry, range, farm, wildlife, and wetland management plans. In addition, NRCS administers a number of cost share programs to provide assistance with irrigation system improvements, wildlife habitat improvements and forestry improvements. The Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District can assist in acquiring grants to fund improvements identified during the planning process.



Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District staff helps rural landowners develop management plans that are economically viable and environmentally sound. See the Resource Directory on the inside front cover for agency contact information.

Jackson County Planning and Building

You can obtain information such as prior building, zoning, and septic permits issued, sales information, plot maps and tax assessment records, maps of your property with overlays (zoning, flood plain, soils, aerial views etc.), and many other useful tools by using “Front Counter” on the web site at www.jacksoncounty.org From the home page, choose *Front Counter Applications*. You can research using address, map ID, or tax account number. If you don’t have access to the internet in your home, each branch of the Jackson County Library System provides free internet workstations for public use.

One commonly asked question is, “*How do I find setback regulations and allowed uses on a specific property?*” You can find this information in the Jackson County Land Development Ordinances. On our internet site, look at the left side of our home page, then choose “Ordinance Code”.

All proposed building on your property must be reviewed and approved by the Planning Department. However, you may not need a building permit based on the size of the structure or its use for agricultural purposes. You are encouraged to submit complete and accurate information with your application to assist with timely processing. When you are ready to present your proposal to Planning, you will first need to submit an accurate to-scale plot plan showing your proposal. It should include all existing structures, septic drain field and tank, well, and any proposed new structure or addition with distances to property lines. An example of a plot plan can be found on the Jackson County Planning website.

Zoning

There are many different zoning districts throughout the County, each with a list of permitted & conditional uses that outline how the property can be developed.

All proposed building on your property must be reviewed and approved by the Planning Department.

Overlays

Overlays are areas of special concern such as wetlands, vernal pools, flood plain, airport approach, wildlife habitat, city urban growth boundaries, and others. Plan additional time to acquire permits if you are proposing to develop in or near these overlays.

Access

For development purposes, parcels must have legal access in accordance with requirements in effect at the time the parcel was created. Practical physical access to the site must be possible.

Setbacks

Structures must comply with the standard structural setbacks for the zone in which they are located. Additional setbacks may be required if the property is adjacent to or in the vicinity of a resource zone boundary or in a designated fire hazard area.

Fire Safety and Fuelbreak

A 100 foot fuelbreak may be required around each structure in fire hazard areas. Access (driveway) standards, address signs, and steep slopes may be considerations.

Lawful Parcel Creation

To be developed, a parcel must have been lawfully established and existing structures must have been properly permitted if further development is to be allowed.

Once Planning has authorized your proposal, you may apply for your building, electrical, plumbing, and sanitation permits.

The services you need to develop your property are all located at 10 S. Oakdale Ave, Room 100, Medford. Call before you come in to check on current operating hours. You can contact any of the programs by phone at (541) 774-6900. To speak with the Building Division, call 774-6927. To speak with the Planning Division, call 774-6907.

Living on Rural County Roads

Jackson County Roads maintains over 750 miles of surfaced roads and 165 miles of gravel roads. The busiest roads have over 15,000 average daily vehicle trips. Some rural roads are gravel and might only have a couple of vehicles per day. The most time and resources are spent maintaining and providing for a smooth flow of traffic on the busiest roads. Living on a rural paved or gravel road means routine maintenance activities by the county are less frequent.

Rural roads require a higher degree of driving attentiveness due to shorter sightlines, curves, and road width, especially during times of inclement weather. Road crews will be out during inclement times and quickly act on calls of hazardous situations. Please respect flaggers, cautionary signage, and warning beacons.

Snow and Ice

Jackson County road crews average 9000 miles of plowing, 2500 c.y. of sanding and 5000 gal. of de-icing per year. Crews respond to storm conditions 24/7. Most plowing occurs in the upper elevations but occasionally there is a significant storm on the valley floor. When that occurs, resources are stretched. It may take a day or so to get to remote roads. If snow accumulations do not exceed two inches, crews will not plow between 6:00 PM and 6:00 AM. or during overtime hours on normal work days or weekends. In these situations the use of traction devices is recommended. During snowstorms, residents should carry appropriate traction devices and limit driving during evening and early morning hours.

Rain

Road crews regularly schedule cleaning roadside ditches and clearing the ends of culverts. Most are cleaned at least once every three years. Crews averages 150 miles of ditch cleaning per year. During heavy rain, culverts can be plugged by debris or overwhelmed by water. When plugged, water can overwhelm drainage ditch capacity, flowing across, or accumulating in, the road. When driving during heavy rain events decrease your speed and be cautious of water in the road. If you have a driveway with a culvert, a good practice is to clean the ends prior to the rainy season. Your action may prevent the loss of your driveway. On paved roads, accumulation of dust, oil, and film can cause slippery conditions after the first rains in the fall.

Wind

County road crews or private contractors remove dead and dying trees as well as trim trees and clear brush along roadways to maintain sight lines, horizontal and vertical clearance and reduce fire danger. Heavy wind can loosen and knock down limbs or entire trees onto the roadway. Be cautious while driving in heavy wind, especially at night when visibility is limited.

Gravel Roads

County road crews grade, rock, and perform maintenance on gravel roads. Minimally, they grade in the fall after the first rains and in the spring prior to the dry season. They may add more material to get a smooth, even surface.



Gravel roads in Jackson County present special kinds of hazards. They usually don't have posted speed limits and are designed for slower speeds. Driving gravel roads requires a high degree of attention and respect for others traveling and those living along the road. Gravel roads don't have marked centerlines! The driver's judgment is critical. Most gravel roads have enough width for two vehicles to pass safely. However drivers tend to crowd the center of the road resulting in a single lane in the middle which can be hazardous. Please slow down when you approach pedestrians, equestrians, homes, or other cars. Gravel roads are dusty. The County applies a dust control material to some gravel roads and will arrange to apply the material to other roads under a shared cost arrangement.

Contact Jackson County Roads at 774-8184 with questions or see www.jacksoncounty.org.

Things You Should Know When Living Next to an Orchard or Vineyard

Orchards

Orchards are private property on which the orchardist is dependent for making his living. If you have backyard fruit trees, you can do your neighbor a big favor by controlling insects and disease. Access to your neighbor's property is restricted, especially when activities there might be dangerous to your or your pets' health.

Winter (November through February): *Pruning time*. There will be workers throughout the orchard. In early February you will hear the high pitched whine of orchard sprayers as they cover the dormant trees with oil and sulfur to control insects and diseases. Expect to see signs warning about the chemicals being used and entry restrictions. There also may be loud helicopter like sounds of the wind machines as they are tested before frost control season.

Spring (March through June): *Frost control, bloom time, and insect and disease control season*. From dusk until past dawn you will hear the wind machines and possibly feel the blast of air as they turn in circles moving the cold air from the orchard. You may hear the drone of irrigation motors pumping water for added frost protection. In late March to early April you will again hear the whine of the orchard sprayers just before, during, and after bloom, protecting the fruit from insects and disease.

Summer (July & August): *Irrigation, growing and harvest time*. The orchard sprayers will be doing the last sprays for worms and other damaging insects. Harvest of the early pear varieties begins in August. Trucks hauling fruit will be in the orchard, and forklifts will be gathering fruit bins and loading trucks. Trucks will leave dust trails and clouds as they enter and leave the orchards.

Fall (September & October): *Harvest time*. After harvest, you will again hear orchard sprayers applying foliar nutrients (fertilizer chemicals) to the leaves and again applying oil and sulfur to control over-wintering

insects. Other fertilizers are applied to the ground.

Vineyards

Within Southern Oregon (which includes Jackson, Josephine, and Douglas counties), as of 2008, there were over 100 vineyards totaling approximately 2813 acres with product worth roughly \$5,000,000 annually. There are several things that one should know about living next to a vineyard.

First, like other farming operations, vineyards generate noise from field equipment such as tractors, sprayers, wind machines in the spring, and bird control devices (cannons and bird distress calls) near harvest. Homeowners living next to a vineyard should recognize that these are normal operations and are protected by the state *Right to Farm Bill*.

Second, vineyards do spray pesticides. The most common pesticide used in our vineyards is sulfur for control of powdery mildew. It may be applied numerous times during the spring and summer and is only a problem if one has an allergy to it. However, it does omit an odor that many individuals consider offensive.

Last, and most important, if you live next to a vineyard you should know that phenoxy-type herbicides (such as Crossbow) that homeowners may use for poison oak, wild blackberry, and thistle control can be devastating to vineyards. Any phenoxy-type herbicide, *even used in small quantities*, may volatilize during high temperatures and be carried on the wind for miles. If the herbicide application can be traced, the applicator can be fined by the Oregon Department of Agriculture for spray drift and required to pay for all damage and losses incurred by the vineyard.

For more information on vineyard operations in Southern Oregon contact the Jackson County OSU Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center at (541) 776-7371.

Being Neighborly

Though the importance of neighbors is heightened in rural areas, often it can be harder to get along together. Get to know your neighborhood before you move to an area. Conflicts, both real and perceived, between new and existing rural landowners have always existed. By getting a better understanding of the causes of these conflicts, some may be avoided.

Advice on Being a Good Neighbor

- Recognize that being neighbors is a two way street.
- Respect your neighbors' endeavors.
- Cooperatively build and maintain boundary fences to keep livestock from trespassing.
- Control your dogs so that they will not harass or harm your neighbors' livestock or inflame tensions.
- Recognize that some parts of the county are open range where livestock may be on roads or open areas.
- Recognize that moving livestock and farm machinery on country roads is necessary. Be cautious and prepare for delay.
- Understand that some practices, such as burning along irrigation ditches and running machinery after dark are common farming practices and necessary at certain times of the year.
- Prevent noxious weeds from moving from your property to your neighbors' land via wind, water, or other means.
- Remember that it is unlawful to use country roadways as parking areas during yard sales or family gatherings.
- Realize that people who live in rural areas prize their privacy and their space.

Dogs

Dogs must be under control and on your property at all times. Free roaming dogs are a threat to livestock and wildlife. Farmers and ranchers have the right to protect their livestock and in some cases will destroy animals that threaten their herds. If your dog is responsible for the injury or death of livestock you will be held financially responsible and your pet may be euthanized.

It is also your responsibility to license and vaccinate your dogs against rabies. Your pet should have a collar and identification tags.

Fences

Fences and property lines are potentially sites of conflict. Yet by working with your neighbors to maintain these areas, there is an opportunity to improve cooperation and build a relationship with neighbors. It is the duty of each landowner sharing a fence to maintain half the existing fence and equally share in constructing a new fence. Properly maintained fences are important for the protection of livestock and wildlife, which may become entangled, injured and/or killed. Also remember

that fences do not always indicate property lines. Know where your lot pins are!

Recognize that being neighbors is a two way street.



Good neighbors discussing land stewardship opportunities that are economically viable and environmentally sound.

Private Property and Privacy

People are often unaware of private property delineations when first moving to a rural area. Yet it is always the responsibility of the individual to know whose land they are on regardless of whether it is fenced. Always ask permission to be on someone's property.

Soils

Jackson County has extreme variations in soil types. Over 110 different kinds of soil have been sampled from the area. A soil test is essential for determining soil fertility on your rural property.

Soil Basics

Soils are developed over geological time. Climate, water, temperature, organic matter, and parent materials all contribute to soil creation. Parent material can include bedrock, volcanic ash and glacial outwash.

It can take 500 years for natural processes to create one inch of top soil. Soils are fragile. They are susceptible to erosion when not adequately protected. Without productive soils we would not be able to grow plants which provide food, medicine, industrial products, and wildlife habitat.

Soils have different textures classified as silts, sands, and clays. The combination of these textures determines the characteristics of a soil. The depth of the soil to bedrock or the water table is often a factor which determines land use. Steepness of slope or position on the landscape can affect soil stability and sustainability. Some soils contain mixtures of sand, silt and clay that decrease soil productivity. Often, adding organic matter to the soil will help amend it.

Soils of our area have been mapped by resource professionals using field testing and examination. Soil scientists consult with engineers, foresters, agronomists, range managers, and others. Soil characteristics and potential are outlined in a soil survey. The soil survey for Jackson County has been completed. Consulting your soils survey is a great place to start when you want to know the general properties of the soils comprising your land. Soil survey information is available from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) or at www.websoilssurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/. Additional soil information, including maps and free documentation, is also available upon request from the NRCS and the Jackson SWCD or at soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov.

Soils Testing

Soil testing is a good way to determine the nutrient level and pH of your soils and should always be done prior to fertilizing or planting. Common nutrient deficiencies in our area include nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P). Soil testing is available from several laboratories. Be sure to use a certified lab! The Jackson SWCD and OSU Extension office can provide a list of soil testing labs and help you interpret the results when they are returned.

Irrigation

The type and amount of irrigation required on your land is dependent on many factors, including crop, soil type, acreage and land use. Some crops have higher water requirements than others or need more water at different times of the growing season. Fertile soils generally make more efficient use of water. Lack of water frequency and availability can be a limiting factor for productivity. Contact your irrigation district or the county Watermaster for more information.

Erosion Control

Soils are precious and without them life as we know it would be impossible. Our country's topsoils, combined with intensive technological management, are the most productive soils on earth. This has improved our standard of living and made our country thrive in the global economy. Without deep, healthy topsoil we would find ourselves in a wasteland of desert-like conditions. Eroded soils are not able to support desirable plant roots. Without the intricate network of plant roots and life forms below the surface, water and snow would not penetrate and percolate throughout the watershed. Stormwater would flush through the system, removing more soil particles with each storm event. Try planting your garden in subsoil or bedrock!

We can maintain our natural resource base by using sustainable management practices. One simple way to prevent erosion is to simply cover your soil with vegetation. Vegetation will protect the soil from erosion by rain, runoff, and wind. It also increases the uptake of water and holds soils in place on slopes and along streams.

Soil Saving Tips

- Keep all soils on your property well covered with vegetation.
- Cover crops, sod-forming grasses, native plants and ground covers are excellent soil protectors. The Jackson SWCD and OSU Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners can help in selecting native plants suited to your property.
- Reseed immediately with weed-free grass seed after any earth disturbing activity.
- Grade and reshape roads and building sites to direct water to safe outlets and prevent standing water on soils.



Nutrient management, based on soil test results, and irrigation water management are a couple of easy steps that rural landowners can take to improve forage production on pastures in Jackson County. Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA Natural Resource Conservation, and Oregon State University Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center are excellent sources of information about these management activities. See the Resource Directory for contact information on these organizations.

Pasture Plants That Protect Soil

These plant species are commonly used by farmers in Jackson County. An improved pasture will consist of a well balanced mixture of grasses and legumes.

Grasses

- **Orchardgrass** is a highly productive grass suitable for hay or pasture on well drained soils. It is not recommended in combination with tall fescue.
- **Tall Fescue** is a highly productive grass that grows well in a variety of conditions.
- **Perennial Ryegrass** is a “cool season” grass used in pasture or hay production. It is compatible with a wide variety of soil conditions.

Legumes

- **Ladino White Clover** is a long-lived, highly palatable perennial clover well adapted to irrigated pasture production in southwestern Oregon.
- **Birdsfoot Trefoil** is a long-lived, deep-rooted legume suitable for hay or pasture in areas with drainage problems. It is very winter-hardy and tolerant of dry summer conditions.
- **New Zealand White Clover** is a long-lived perennial clover adapted to wet soils and irrigated land. It is not tolerant of acidic soils.

Forage Species Identification Plots

OSU Extension Small Farms and Jackson SWCD have partnered to create a demonstration plot with over 20 different pasture forage species. Please call either of the partners to schedule a time to view the plots.

Further Assistance

The NRCS and Jackson SWCD can provide technical help with your soil and water conservation problems. Financial cost share assistance programs may be available to address your concerns relating to soil erosion or poor irrigations water efficiencies. Contact the NRCS for more information.

Contact the Jackson SWCD or OSU Extension office for information on soil and agronomic research and soil testing tips or natural resource educational programs. For further information on these programs go the NRCS website at www.nrcs.usda.gov or the JSWCD website at www.jswcd.org.

Water Rights Primer

Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD)

A water right is legal authorization to use a quantifiable amount of water, at a specific location, for a particular use. The State of Oregon requires users of public water to obtain approval prior to use of the water. The approval is granted in the following forms: Permit, Certificate, Limited License, or a Registration. The Water Right will indicate the season of use and the maximum diversion rate, the place of use and point of diversion or appropriation (for a well), the use and if for irrigation, the number of acres.

Surface Water Right

A surface water right is necessary to divert any amount of water from surface water such as lakes, streams, rivers and springs.

A few exemptions exist and they include:

- The use of a **natural spring** that under natural conditions arises on a parcel and the waters of that spring do not flow into a well defined channel that flows off that parcel.
- Where **stock watering** occurs directly out of the stream and there is no diversion or modification of the source. Also, use of water for stock watering from a permitted reservoir to a tank or trough, and under certain conditions, use of water piped from a surface source to an off-stream livestock watering tank or trough.
- Water used for fish screens, fishways bypass structures and egg incubation projects under the **Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP)**.
- The withdrawal of water for use in or training for **emergency fire fighting**.
- For certain **forest management** activities such as slash burning and mixing pesticides. To be eligible, a user must notify OWRD and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Department and must comply with any restrictions imposed by OWRD relating to the source of water that may be used.
- In **land management practices** where water use is not the primary intended activity.
- The collection and use of **rainwater** from an impervious surface.

Ground Water Right

A ground water right is necessary for withdrawal of water from a well or sump. Submittal and approval of a transfer application to OWRD may provide changes to a water right. Exempt uses include:

- Stock watering
- Irrigation of less than ½ acre of noncommercial lawn or garden
- Single or group domestic use of less than 15,000 gallons per day
- Single commercial or industrial use of less than 5,000 gallons per day

An irrigation district may deliver water for irrigation in Southern Oregon. The major irrigation districts are listed in the Resource Directory in the front of the Handbook.

Most ponds require a water right to store water and a water right is also required to use the water stored in the pond.

In general, no new water rights are available in Southern Oregon. However, if a landowner has access to the Rogue River or Applegate River an individual can enter into a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation for release of stored water from Lost Creek or Applegate reservoirs and apply for a water right to use that stored water from OWRD.

A water right research can be conducted by local Watermasters or the Oregon Water Resources Department to determine if a parcel has an existing water right. These organizations are listed on the inside front cover of this Handbook.

Agricultural Water Quality Protection Rules and Plans

Non-point Pollution Sources:

Erosion, sediment, and runoff from roadsides, construction sites, and agricultural and forestry lands all contribute to non-point source pollution.

Senate Bill 1010

This bill requires the Oregon Department of Agriculture to reduce water pollution from agricultural sources and to improve overall conditions in the watershed. It asks operators to identify problems, such as erosion, nutrient loss, degraded riparian areas, and to develop approaches to local problems.

Soil Erosion

No erosion is allowed from agricultural lands due to management where sediments have been, or will likely be, delivered to waters of the state and cause pollution. The exception is short-term activity which will eventually enhance long-term soil stability (such as creating contours or pasture renovations). Sedimentation of waterways can occur with any activity that disturbs the soil, including construction, and measures should be taken to avoid runoff and erosion.

Riparian Vegetation Destruction

Agricultural management shall not cause stream banks to slough off more than normal or prevent appropriate vegetation from establishing and reproducing, leaving the riparian area vulnerable to high flow events. Trees, deep rooted shrubs (such as willows, sedges and snowberry), and grasses support soil systems. Bluegrass and clover, conversely, are upland plants that are easily rolled back in even moderate flow events.

Irrigation Management

It's difficult to flood irrigate local soils without some water sheeting over the surface and returning to the ditch or stream. The water at the top of the field must be shut off when there is any surface return flow.

It is possible to irrigate more evenly and beneficially with other delivery methods

such as sprinklers, but poorly managed sprinklers can flood and run off just like a head gate and field check can. No matter the application method, it's best to eliminate or reduce surface irrigation returns.

Crop Nutrient or Animal Waste

To protect our waterways, drinking water, and wildlife it is illegal for any person to cause pollution of any waters, place wastes in a location where they are likely to be carried into the water, or discharge any wastes into the water. You must prevent manure or fertilizers from leaving your property. Stored waste can leave your property if water (either from rain or runoff or a flood plain) runs through them. Pay attention to where you site your manure pile, cover it, and divert clean water away from it. You can also use it right on your property as fertilizer or share with others using the manure exchange at www.jswcd.org.

Water Quality Standards and TMDLs

The Clean Water Act requires states to establish water quality standards for waters by designating specific uses and establishing criteria by which to protect those uses, control pollutant sources, and monitor and assess water quality. These standards are established to assess whether the quality of Oregon's rivers and lakes is adequate for fish and other aquatic life, recreation, drinking, agriculture, industry and other uses.

To meet water quality standards, states develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for impaired waterbodies. A TMDL is a plan, based on monitoring information and scientific modeling, that describes how pollutant loads coming from various sources, both point and non-point sources, must be reduced in order to meet Water Quality Standards. Implementation plans are then developed which outline the actions necessary to reduce pollution loading. DEQ has developed TMDLs for a number of stream segments in Jackson County. For more information contact DEQ or see:

www.deq.state.or.us/WQ/TMDLs/rogue.htm

Riparian Area Management

Riparian areas are the green borders found along streams, lakes and wetlands. They are made up of unique plant communities comprised of alder, willow, cottonwood and sedges. They comprise only 5% of the landscape, but are critical areas of plant and animal diversity.

A Healthy System

A healthy riparian area has lush and diverse vegetation along the water's edge. Vegetation reduces water pollution by filtering out sediments, chemicals and extra nutrients from runoff. In a healthy riparian area, water is retained in the soil and is slowly released, enhancing stream flows and groundwater recharge. When a waterway has a healthy riparian area, its water flows slower, resulting in reduced erosion and property loss. A healthy stream provides habitat, food, and breeding areas for fish, birds, and wildlife as well as keeping water cool in the summer time.



Jackson County landowners take advantage of a hands-on training on "Proper Functioning Condition" of riparian Areas. This type of educational programming is available through the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District and the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center.

Floodplains

Flooding is a natural stream process. A floodplain is the land that is inundated with water during floods. These areas spread out and slow flood waters, reducing their erosive force. This process encourages aquifer recharge as water seeps into the soil. These areas are nutrient rich from accumulated sediment deposits which build fertile soils.

Practices to Enhance Riparian Areas

- Increase buffer width around open water. 50 feet of buffer traps eroded soils, 100 feet filters pollutants and 200-300 feet provides wildlife corridors.
- Fence livestock away from riparian areas or develop riparian pastures.
- Remove noxious weeds using mechanical means or chemical means approved for use near water.
- Plant native plants or other appropriate riparian plants. Plant lists are available with the JSWCD.
- Delay mowing grassy areas until late July when birds are done nesting.



Bear Creek and the surrounding riparian area.

Riparian Enhancement Programs

Check with local agencies for local, state, and federal riparian enhancement programs that may help you with your particular project. See the Resource Directory on the inside front cover for contact information.

Riparian Ordinance

Local county and city ordinances limit what can be done in a riparian area. See the Resource Directory on the inside front cover for contact information.

Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are part of a unique topographic feature in the Agate Desert area of Jackson County, just north of Medford, Oregon.

Vernal pools

Vernal pools are seasonal wetlands that form only in regions where specialized soil and climatic conditions exist. During fall and winter rains typical of Mediterranean climates, water collects in shallow depressions where downward percolation of water is prevented by the presence of a hard layer (duripan) below the soil surface. Later in the spring when rains decrease and the weather warms, the water evaporates and the pools generally disappear by May. The shallow depressions remain relatively dry until late fall and early winter when greater precipitation and cooler temperatures return.



Winter
Wet Phase

Spring
Flower Phase

Summer/Fall
Dry Phase

Vernal pools have three distinct phases. Their wet/dry cycles add to their complexity.

Similar to other wetland areas, vernal pools provide flood control by acting as a sponge to hold runoff, contribute to good water quality and provide habitat for a wide range of local and migratory wildlife. During the spring these areas contribute to the beauty of the area with dazzling displays of wild flowers. Vernal pools provide unusual "flood and drought" habitat conditions to which certain plants and animals have specifically adapted. Vernal pools are an important link in the food chain for migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, birds of prey, frogs, toads, salamanders and pollinating insects. These seasonal wetlands are home to several species

that have adapted to the extremes of this intense Mediterranean climate. Three federally listed species (two plants: large-flowered woolly meadowfoam and Cook's desert parsley, and one animal: the vernal pool fairy shrimp) are associated with vernal pools in Jackson County. The assemblages of plants and animals found in Agate desert are so unique that many of them can only be seen here.

Diminishing Habitat

Only 23 percent of the original vernal pool topography and hydrology in the Agate Desert remains. Residential, commercial, and industrial development and land leveling have claimed nearly 60 percent of the historic range of this landform. The remainder of the habitat is either severely altered by historic and continuing land uses, or occurs along the fringes of the landform where vernal pools are weakly expressed.



For more information regarding vernal pools, check with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson County, or Rogue Valley Council of Governments. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can provide technical and funding assistance for a particular project. Contact them at (541) 957-3474 or online at www.fws.gov or http://rvcog.org/mn.asp?pg=NR_Vernal_Pools.



Raising Livestock In Jackson County

Jackson County has a very diverse, growing, and changing livestock population. An area that was traditionally dominated by cattle, horses, sheep, and swine is increasingly seeing new species such as bison, llamas, and alpacas. There are expanding populations of horses, chickens, goats, and other animals that can be managed on small acreages.

Cattle

The cattle industry contributes almost \$19,000,000 (farm gate value) to the economy of Jackson County annually. Jackson County's cattle industry ranks 10th out of 36 counties in Oregon. The industry is diverse with income from commercial cow/calf operations, stockers (animals grazed on pasture from about 500 lbs. to 850 lbs.), retained ownership through the feedlot, club calf (calves sold for 4-H and FFA projects), and purebred operations, which sell replacement heifers and/or bulls to commercial cattlemen and other purebred breeders.

Cattle typically prefer grass over broad leaf plants which can make grazing cattle with sheep a very good pasture management tool. Proper grazing management on irrigated or dryland pastures reduces weed infestations.

Horses

Early in Jackson County history horses were used mainly as work animals by local ranchers. While this is still a major use, the industry now includes several purebred operations including Quarter horses, Arabians, Thoroughbreds, and various breeds of gaited and draft horses.

From 2002 to 2007 there was a decrease in the number of small horse operations and a slight increase in the number of larger operations. Farm gate value increased from \$787,000.00 to \$1,154,000.00 during the same time period. It has added substantially to the combined farm gate value of Jackson County's economy. Additionally, Jackson County 4-H, FFA and Jr. open horse activities keep youth active all year long.

Sheep and Goats

Jackson County's sheep industry dates back to the mid to late 1800's with flocks of 4000 head or more grazing on the valley floors,

surrounding foothills, and high elevation forest and range. Current interest in niche marketing and group buying of feed and other resources by local sheep producers has had a positive impact for producers. Additionally, sheep are conducive to small landholdings. In 2002 the Southern Oregon Sheep Producers formed to help local sheep enthusiasts with marketing, pasture management, flock health, and group purchasing of needed resources. While the number of operations has dropped by 11 farms the farm gate value rose from \$408,000.00 in 2002 to \$502,000.00 in 2007.

When grazed properly, sheep and goats can be excellent tools to help eliminate yellow starthistle, an invasive weed, and other weeds.



Meat and dairy goat numbers are increasing in Jackson County. In addition to their milk and meat, some goats are prized for their fiber, while others are used for brush and weed control. The Southern Oregon Meat Goat Association is one source of information for landowners interested in learning about goats.

Swine

Hog operations dropped dramatically from 2002 to 2007 by 37 farms. Total farm gate value went from \$107,000.00 to \$71,000.00 for the same time period.

New and Diverse Species

In addition to traditional livestock, new and diverse species are increasing in Jackson County. Llamas, alpaca, rabbits, chickens, and others are all meeting with various degrees of success. These animals are well adapted to small acreage farms.

Various forms of niche marketing are required to insure continued success of some species, while others are more easily adopted to traditional marketing methods.

Managing Livestock Waste- The Manure Exchange!



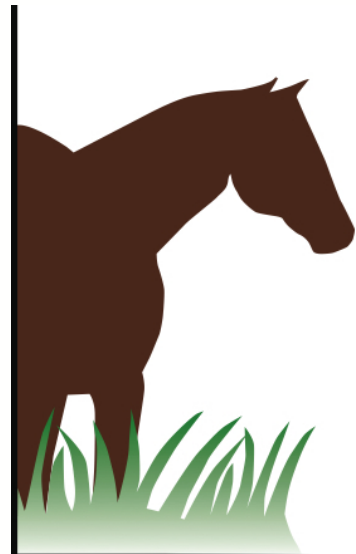
A steer wears a diaper to collect manure for a research trial at UC Davis.

As Jackson County farms get smaller, it is increasingly more difficult to properly dispose of livestock manure and to protect our soil and water resources. The manure exchange offers a great way for livestock owners to dispose of manure and for gardeners, landscapers and other homeowners and farmers to find the black gold that is such a wonderful soil amendment.

To share manure from your livestock or to find a fertilizer source for your yard and garden visit www.jswcd.org. This website also has information on how to store manure as well as how to make and use compost.

The Smart Horse Program

The Smart Horse Stewardship Certification Program is designed to improve horse health and welfare as well as natural resource management. The program provides science-based information on environmentally sound horse ownership, whole farm management, and horse care. Smart Horse can help improve the bottom line for horse owners through improved natural resource management, while helping promote horse, water, and pasture health.



Contact the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District for more information.

Livestock Evacuation Plans

It is recommended that you have a plan for evacuating your animals in the event of a wildfire or other natural disaster. Sheltering in place may be an option for you if you have an area on your property that would be suitable. Jackson County will revise its fire plan to include guidance on this issue in the spring of 2010. For more information, visit the county's website at www.jacksoncounty.org (Popular Sites/fire plan/JACIFP Final Version 9-2007).



Photo by: Jim Craven for the Mail Tribune

Horses near the October 2009 Wildfire near South Ashland. An Evacuation plan can help guide you in the event of a natural disaster.

Grazing as a Pasture Management Tool

Grazing is one of the best tools available for improvement and maintenance of healthy, productive pastures. Increased infiltration rate, water quality, organic matter, rooting structure, plant health, animal production, and decreased weed invasion, soil erosion, and pesticide use are benefits of proper grazing management.

Grazing Methods

Improved grazing management that controls the timing, intensity, and duration of livestock grazing can have a dramatic impact on individual plant health and vigor as well as overall pasture and livestock production. There are two basic types of management.

1) Continuous Grazing

Continuous grazing allows a varying number of animals to graze a certain number of acres for a given length of time. This method of grazing, although less labor intensive than rotational grazing, creates pastures that can be overgrazed and depleted when cattle selectively graze the more desirable plant species.

2) Rotational Grazing

Rotational grazing requires more intensive management. Livestock typically are allowed to start grazing in a paddock when the forage (grass or grass/clover mix) is from 8-10 inches tall. After the forage is eaten down to approximately 4 inches, livestock are removed and the plants are allowed to rest. This leaves adequate plant leaf area and enhances the photosynthetic capability of the plant. The more energy the plant receives from the sun the less energy it needs to extract from root reserves. Quicker re-growth occurs from photosynthetic activity and translates into more vigorous plants with increased production. Rotational grazing also results in more uniform grazing of all plant species to a desirable stubble height (length of leaf blade) which increases per-acre production. Rotational grazing is the first step to a more management intensive grazing system and allows for more efficient harvesting of the sun's energy.

Basic Management Techniques

- Set goals and objectives in a management plan.
- Divide pastures into small units (paddocks). Electric fence can be used, but sure that livestock are trained to the electric fence prior to grazing.
- Move grazing animals between paddocks, allowing recovery time for forage species. (See the soils section for forage species.)
- Following grazing, drag pastures to break up and evenly distribute manure.
- Irrigate after grazing.
- Test your soil and fertilize based on the results.
- Disperse water, salt, and minerals at varying distances to distribute livestock evenly across pasture while keeping them healthy.
- Adjust animal numbers based on pasture production and re-growth.
- Avoid grazing on saturated soils. Soil compaction and plant damage can result from grazing livestock in the late fall, winter or early spring.

Benefits

Good grazing management produces more pounds of product per acre and will reduce overgrazing and the need for other feed sources. Livestock are healthier and will maintain weight on well managed pasture.

Well managed pastures are productive and uniformly covered with desired forage species. Irrigation is also more efficient.

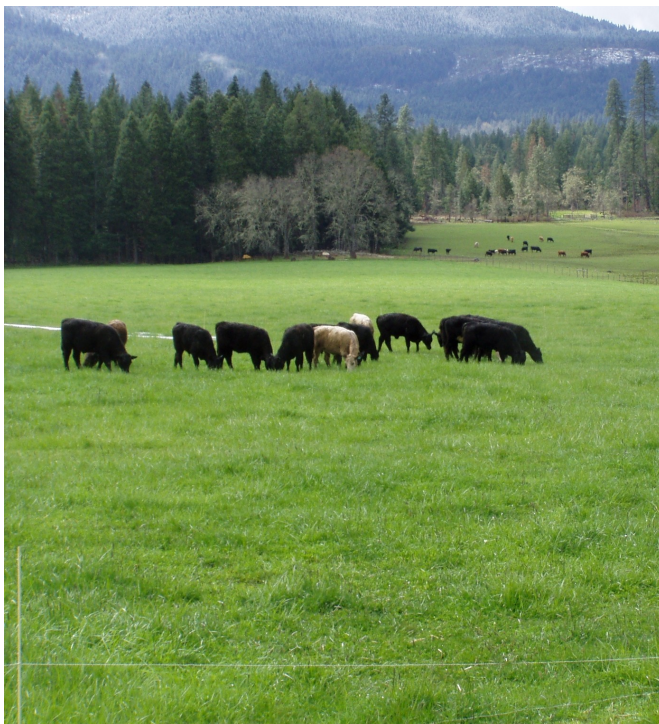
Please contact Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District for more information on "Management Intensive Grazing" and general pasture management questions.

Open Range and Livestock District Information

As a livestock owner it is important to know if the land you own or lease is within a Livestock District or Open Range.

Some definitions:

- **Livestock** are animals of the bovine species, horses, mules, asses, sheep, goats and swine.
- **Class of livestock** is a class, species, genus or sex of livestock, including a class, species or genus of neutered livestock.
- **Livestock District** is an area wherein it is unlawful for livestock or a class of livestock to run at large.
- **Open range** is an area wherein livestock may lawfully be permitted to run at large.
- **Estray** is livestock of any unknown person which is unlawfully running at large or being permitted to do so, or which is found to be trespassing on land enclosed by an adequate fence. Even in open range areas, livestock must be lawfully permitted to run on open range or they will be considered stray and found to be trespassing.



What you need to know- Open Range Areas:

- If you live in an open range area and don't want other people's livestock on your property, it is YOUR responsibility to build fences or other barriers to keep livestock off your property or out of areas where you do not want them to be.
- Livestock may be found on your property or in roadways. It is YOUR responsibility to avoid hitting them on the road. If you do hit them, you must reimburse the owner for the cost of the animal.

What you need to know- Livestock District Areas:

- In livestock districts, the livestock owner is responsible for keeping the animal on their own property.
- A person shall be liable to the owner or lawful possessor of land if the person permits an animal of a class of livestock to run at large upon such land and the land is located in a livestock district in which it is unlawful for such class of livestock to be permitted to run at large.
- If you live in a livestock district and find livestock on your property, try to contact the owner directly. If you do not know who the owner is, try to pen the livestock and then call 503-986-4681 to get the name and phone number of the nearest brand inspector.

Maps that delineate current livestock districts from open range areas and more in-depth information that provides land and animal owners with definitions of legal responsibilities are available at the Jackson County Offices (look under elections).

Regulations for Livestock and Poultry Producers

The Clean Water Act regulations for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) were changed in December 2002. These revised regulations change the permit requirements for some livestock operations. Some facilities that did not need permits are now required to have them. If you have only a few animals for less than 4 months you won't need a permit. However, even if you do not have a permit, you cannot pollute.

Confined Animal Feeding Operations

A Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) is the concentrated, confined feeding or holding of animals or poultry. These include, but are not limited to, horse, cattle, sheep or swine feeding areas, dairy confinement areas, slaughterhouse or shipping terminal holding pens, egg production facilities and fur farms in buildings which the surface has been prepared with concrete, rock, or fibrous material to support animals in wet weather. These facilities have waste water treatment works or a nutrient management plan that prevents the discharge of waste into waters of the state.

Along with the permit, all CAFOs must prepare an animal waste management plan which is a detailed description of the containment, treatment, storage and disposal of waste. The plan describes how compliance will be achieved and maintained. The amount of information required depends on the facility.

Prohibited Activities

Without first obtaining a permit from the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality or the State Department of Agriculture, which shall specify applicable effluent limitations, no person shall:

- Discharge any wastes into the waters of the state from any disposal system.
- Construct, install, modify or operate any disposal system or part, extension or addition of one.
- Increase in volume or strength any wastes in excess of the permissive discharges specified under an existing permit.
- Construct, install, operate or conduct any industrial, commercial, CAFO or modification of one, which would cause an increase

in the discharge of wastes into the waters of the state or otherwise alter the physical, chemical or biological properties of any waters of the state in any manner not already lawfully authorized.

- Construct any new outlet for the discharge of any wastes into the waters of the state.

The regulation states that no person shall "cause pollution of any waters of the state". It is also prohibited to place any wastes in a location where they are likely to escape or be carried into the waters of the state by any means. If a discharge of any wastes reduces the quality of the water of the state below water quality standards defined by the Environmental Quality Commission, then it is prohibited.

Compliance Advice

While all livestock producers must prevent their livestock waste from polluting ground and surface waters, some livestock operations require permit coverage to be in compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act. In 1972, the federal government defined certain animal production operations as "point sources," requiring them to seek coverage under a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit (NPDES). The Oregon Department of Agriculture assumes the responsibility of administering these permits in Oregon. Questions can also be directed to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Division, CAFO program.

Any person operating a CAFO shall pay a fee (except if it operates for four months or less or does not have waste water facilities).

Weed Management

If not managed properly, your property could be a source of weeds causing problems for you and your neighbors!

What is a Weed?

A weed is defined as a plant growing in a place in which it is not wanted. Almost any plant could be classified as a weed if found growing in an unwanted place. However, most plants classified as weeds are called that because they are persistent and hard to keep out of a garden, lawn, or field. Some plants are poisonous to animals and humans and are undesirable because of their toxicity.

Prevention

Prevention is the most effective and least costly form of weed control. Land managers should maintain a desirable vegetative cover by avoiding over grazing. Other sound practices include purchasing weed-free hay, planting certified grass and legume seed and washing your vehicle after being in a weed-infested area. Respond quickly to weed infestations. Finally, work with your neighbors to keep the soil covered with desirable, productive plants.

Weed Control

The best way to combat weeds is to provide strong competition from desirable plants. Having healthy, vigorous perennial plants that provide competition for the space, moisture and nutrients is the best way to keep weeds away.

Annually cropped fields and gardens are difficult to manage because they do not maintain a stable population of plants to compete with weeds. Most weeds can be controlled by either mowing or grazing them before they go to seed.

The use of herbicides to control weeds should be the last resort. This is only a short term solution before the development of a longer term means of management.

The best way to combat weeds is to provide strong competition from desirable plants.

Mulches, cultivation and other methods of management are usually lower cost and often more effective than the use of chemicals. Whenever you have a disturbed site, seed desirable plants before weeds take over. Never leave bare soil.

Landowners are encouraged to learn to identify plants common to the area. Information on weeds and plant identification is available from Jackson County/OSU Cooperative Extension Office, Bureau of Land Management Office, U.S. Forest Service office, and the Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District office.

Yellow Starthistle, an annual, is probably the most common, easily recognized noxious weed in Jackson County. It is also one of the easiest to control with a variety of methods. *Managing Yellow Starthistle in Southwestern Oregon* is available at the OSU Extension Office.



Yellow Starthistle is an invasive annual that is very opportunistic on disturbed sites such as new roads and building sites.

Backyard Wildlife

One of the benefits of living in the country is having an abundance of wildlife. While most wildlife do not pose a threat, some predators can become nuisances. They can destroy property, livestock, and pets. The section below discusses attracting wildlife and how to avoid predator problems.

Wildlife Habitat = Food + Water + Cover

Food requirements will naturally vary by wildlife species, from seeds and berries for birds to the grasses, forbs and shrubs preferred by deer and elk. Water on or near your property in the form of a pond, stream or developed stockwater will increase the variety of wildlife you will attract. Cover is needed for hiding from predators, traveling, nesting and shelter.

Creating Good Wildlife Habitat

Whether you live on a small place or a large ranch, you can help increase the amount of wildlife habitat by making a few simple changes to your backyard environment. By growing a diversity of native vegetation and maintaining a water source you will provide the necessary elements of good wildlife habitat. The type of plants you use to provide food and cover will determine the type of wildlife species that are attracted to your property.

Dead, Dying and Hollow Trees and Logs

Many people are not aware of the value of dead, dying, and hollow trees and logs for wildlife. Dead trees provide homes to over 80 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians in our area. Fish, plants and fungi also benefit from dead and dying trees. Consider leaving snags and downed, woody material on your property unless they pose a safety hazard.

Tips

- Consider planting native species that wildlife prefer.
- Plant a diversity of vegetative types.

- Select plants that flower and bear fruit at different times of the year.
- Leave snags and some downed, woody material for perching, hiding and nesting.
- Plant grains or grasses for wildlife food.
- Develop ponds, stockwater tanks or other watering facilities.
- Bat boxes and bird houses can encourage these species that often feed on insects.

Predators and Pests

Many predators are common in Jackson County including bear, cougar, bobcat, coyote, and fox. Keep in mind that many species have “territory” that you may be moving on to it! While most wild animals will avoid humans, their natural instinct is to kill easy prey, which often includes livestock and pets. Precautions should be taken to minimize conflict.

Livestock

While larger animals are rarely attacked, smaller animals are more vulnerable. All animals need shelter from the elements. Smaller animals

also need protection at night when predators are active. A sturdy enclosure that can't be entered by predators will protect your animals. If you have chickens, remember that skunks and other small predators can enter through small spaces.

Pets

Avoid attracting predators and pests by keeping pet food indoors. Also, keep pets in at night. In some areas, house cats and small dogs can fall prey to predators even during the day. It is best to keep cats indoors for their safety and for the sake of declining

By growing a diversity of native vegetation and maintaining a water source you will provide the necessary elements of good wildlife habitat.

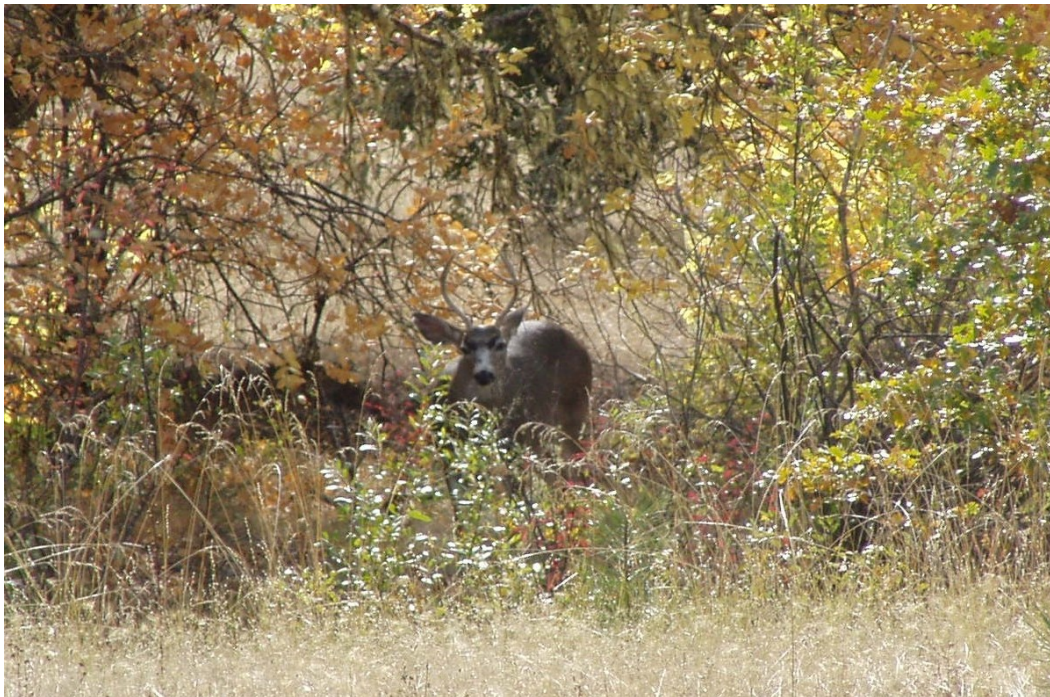
bird populations. Dogs can sometimes become predators, especially if roaming in packs, and can be legally shot if found chasing livestock.

Dealing with Pests

Deer are beautiful to watch but they are attracted to gardens and landscaping. You may wake up to find your prize roses were browsed, or that everything you planted in your garden has disappeared. Netting can be draped over roses and ornamentals, but you can also select landscaping varieties that deer do not prefer (see the *Sunset Western Garden Book* for such varieties). A tall fence around a vegetable garden is recommended.

Ground squirrels and other small animals can also pose a problem. Poison is not recommended as non-target species and pets can die from eating the poisoned animal. Poison is also considered an inhumane method as it causes a slow and painful death.

For tips on avoiding wildlife conflicts, see the book *Wild Neighbors: the Humane Approach to Living with Wildlife*, by John Hadidian, or call the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.



As a rural landowner, you can apply a number of simple practices to enhance the natural habitat and diversity of wildlife on your property. A variety of vegetation, including small grains, tall grasses, shrubs and trees, is important habitat for wildlife. A year round water supply on your property will increase the variety of wildlife on your land. Remember, domestic animals prey upon wildlife. They can also be preyed upon by wildlife. You can get advice from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on measures to take to protect your pets, as well as the wildlife that surrounds you.

Native Pollinators

Photo by: Mace Vaughan, Xerces Society



About 70% of plants need pollinators and 1/3 of our food sources depend on pollination. There are over 4,000 species of native bees in North America. The majority of crop pollination is done by the European Honeybee, a very important but non-native species. Native bees are also efficient pollinators, and can complement the crop pollination service provided by honey bees. If sufficient habitat is available native bees can provide all the pollination that some crops need. You can help native bees by providing nest-

ing sites, choosing plants for your yard that benefit native pollinators, and consider leaving hedgerows or portions of your field for pollinators. For more information contact the Xerces Society, www.xerces.org, or JSWCD, NRCS, or OSU.

Gardens and Landscaping

Many areas of Jackson County have rich, fertile soils that can produce an abundant garden. Gardening has many benefits. Time in the garden can also reduce stress, save money, create an aesthetic environment, and provide wildlife habitat. Research can limit the frustrations of gardening in the region. The Oregon State University Extension Office Master Gardener Program in Jackson County is a resource to answer questions or provide training on gardening.

Climate

The Rogue Valley growing season is mild, with warm days offset by cool nights. The area has a wide range of rainfall, with Medford receiving some 19" average annual rainfall. Other areas receive as low as 11" and others over 30".

In Jackson County temperatures can drop below 10° F but there are microclimates and some years where average low temperatures seldom dip below 20° F.

Native plants are recommended for landscaping since they are suited to the regional climate and are likely to be more tolerant of disease and require less water than non-natives. Some areas of the Rogue Valley lack adequate water in the summer so consider planting drought resistant varieties and installing drip irrigation to conserve water.

Choosing a Garden Spot

Good garden produce comes from good soil. Loamy soil will provide drainage and nutrients for plants. By adding organic matter, sand, or vermiculite, you can improve the texture of a soil. Perhaps the most important thing you can do to maintain healthy soil is to regularly add compost. If you purchase soil or manure for your garden, be sure that it has not been treated with a long-term residual pesticide, and that the manure is sufficiently aged.

Pests

Pests come in all sizes. Insect problems can often be easily addressed with inexpensive homemade solutions. Household agents can be used in controlling insects. The OSU Master Gardener Plant Clinic can provide useful

recipes for do-it-yourself control methods and assist with most gardening problems.

Deer are prevalent in Jackson County. They are even found in suburban gardens. They will treat your vegetable garden like a salad bar. The best defense is a tall fence. For ornamental garden areas that cannot be practically fenced, the *Sunset Western Garden Book* and *Deer in my Garden* by Carolyn Singer will identify plant and flower varieties that deer find less preferential.

Pests can be controlled through a variety of means including natural predation. By working with wildlife rather than against it, unintended consequences can be avoided. Poisons can be harmful to pets and can be absorbed into plants and leach into water supplies. Live traps, for capturing and relocating small animals, can be purchased at a

number of locations. However, be careful to not relocate your problem. In *Wild Neighbors: The Humane Approach to Living with Wildlife*, John Hadidian provides more ideas for working with wildlife.

Fertilizers and Mulches

Over-fertilizing can damage plants and excess nutrients can pollute streams. Lawn chemicals can pose a health hazard to children and pets. Pre-mixed organic fertilizer is a safer but more expensive alternative. A simple recipe for mixing your own organic fertilizer and the benefits of mulches can be found in the *Garden Guide for the Rogue Valley*, a publication of the Master Gardeners Association of Jackson County. Always follow the recommended application rates based on a soil test.

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habitat.

Growing a Healthy Forest

A healthy forest is characterized by vigorous trees that are resistant to disease, insect infestation, and animal damage. They are spaced far enough apart to allow sunlight to reach plants on the ground and are comprised of a diversity of species. Woody material on the ground is scattered rather than piled (unless it is piled for wildlife habitat).

Tips For a Healthy Forest

By maintaining a diversity of trees appropriate to the site, you will encourage the overall health of your forest. Tree species should be selected for the soil conditions and climate of your land. New trees will have a higher survival rate if they are fenced to prevent foraging. The removal of competitive vegetation within a three foot or greater diameter circle around seedlings will also improve their survival rate.

Thinning trees will improve the growth, health and vigor of your forest. Thinning reduces the loss of trees due to pathogens and also allows more light, water, and nutrients to reach the remaining trees. Additionally, thinning will increase forage for livestock and wildlife. Thinning encourages species diversity and improves resistance to wild-fire. Remove heavy accumulations of downed material to reduce fire hazard.



Best Management Practices, including harvesting, thinning, brush and weed control, and erosion control allow for healthy forests.

In many situations, large, healthy trees should be left as seed stock for future trees. In addition some snags, or standing dead trees, should be left except where they pose a risk to falling on a house or other valuable areas. Also, large logs and a few brush piles can be retained to provide habitat for wildlife and facilitate forest nutrient cycling.

When feasible, access roads should be located away from streams. Cut slopes should be reseeded promptly to reduce erosion, water pollution and weed infestations. Continuously grazing livestock on forest land will compact soils and damage trees.

Forest Insects & Diseases of Oregon

Some of the most prevalent threats to trees in southwest Oregon include bark beetles, wood borers, dwarf mistletoe, and a variety of diseases related to stress (such as moisture stress).

Help In Managing Your Forest

Private forestry consultants can help you conduct inventories, set up timber sales and help you achieve your forest management goals. Some consultants have multi-resource specialists on staff. They are usually well versed in federal and state cost-share programs, laws and regulations. A directory of consultants is available from the Oregon Department of Forestry. Additionally, the Oregon Department of Forestry offers both technical assistance and financial programs for forest landowners.

Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center offers landowner assistance and training in conjunction with the Small Woodland Owners Association.

The USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). The Farm Services Agency provides assistance for riparian buffers through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

The Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation and Development Council publishes the *2005 Forest Landowner Resource Guide* which details the resources available to forest landowners.

Small Woodland Management

If you have recently purchased 20 acres or more of forest land, you may be faced with the daunting task of managing these resources. Luckily, unlike seasonal farming or gardening, small woodlands tend to operate over longer time frames of years rather than months.

Developing a Management Plan

The best way to start is to walk your land. Begin to inventory and familiarize yourself with the various resources on the property. You can learn to do this with the help of classes and programs offered through the Oregon State University Cooperative Extension. Also, local small woodlands associations or even a neighbor can assist in identifying these resources. Afterward, begin to formulate and outline a set of objectives. Over time these may change. The decisions you make regarding the management of the property will have short and long term ecological and economic consequences. There is less need to make immediate decisions due to the longer time parameters of managing a small woodland.

Information Sources

At the Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Services a local Extension Forester focuses on education and outreach to property owners. They also have direct contact with faculty at the University. They offer numerous programs and training sessions, including the popular Master Woodland Manager program, for small woodland owners.

The Oregon Department of Forestry administers the Oregon Forest Practices Act, which guides all forest activities in the state. A Notification of Operations from the ODF is required for all owners initiating a forest operation. The ODF also offers technical advice through their Service Forest program, which administers most cost-share subsidies for completing various non-commercial forest and resource management activities.

Other sources of information include the local chapters of the Oregon Small Woodland Association, watershed councils, environmental organizations, trade publications, and federal agencies such as NRCS, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

The Next Step

The natural systems and processes of forestlands do not recognize property lines. Talk with your neighbors; they are often the best source of information and advice. You will also have to work together to address problems such as insects, disease, water, wildlife and fire. Only through cooperative work and collaborative effort will you be able to effectively address these concerns.

Cost-share assistance through ODF can help pay for a forest stewardship plan prepared by a consulting forester. Plans should provide an inventory of the forest resources on your property. Based on the inventory and your objectives, a management plan should include consideration of:

- wildlife management,
- soils protection and erosion control,
- wildfire management and fuels reduction,
- pertinent forest insects and diseases,
- reforestation and stand management,
- management for timber and other marketable resources with long-term site productivity,
- protection of riparian and aquatic biodiversity,
- roads and access concerns,
- and other opportunities and topics.

Delineation of management units and the subsequent prioritization of management activities should be a logical outgrowth of your management plan.

Jackson County Small Woodlands Association holds monthly meetings and tours addressing private land forest management. For more information please contact Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center, Extension Forestry at (541) 776-7371.

Conserving Rural Land

Landowners interested in conserving their rural property have many options in Jackson County. The Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, a regional land trust founded in 1978, assists rural landowners throughout Southern Oregon achieve their conservation goals. Conserving land through a local land trust allows a landowner to have his or her vision for the land they have owned and managed carried out into the future, even beyond their own lifetime. Whether it is to protect important wildlife habitat, retain a hilltop vista, save a family ranch or farm, or restore the banks of a river, conservation is a tool you may want to explore.

How is Land Conserved?

Land trusts use two methods to conserve land depending on many factors including the conservation values present, size, location, and the landowner's goals. These methods include selling the land through a bargain sale to a conservation organization or placing a conservation easement on the property. Whatever method a landowner chooses, it's best to contact a local land conservation organization to learn more about how to conserve your land.

The most common tool used to conserve land is a conservation easement. A conservation easement is a legally binding agreement between a landowner and a land trust that restricts the future use of the property. It is entered into voluntarily, and because it is a significant decision that permanently affects property, it should be made after consulting legal and tax advisors.

A Flexible Mechanism

Conservation easements offer great flexibility to landowners. They can cover all or part of a piece of property. They can allow production or limited development, depending on the conservation values that are being protected. Each conservation easement is written to meet the needs of the landowner and the criteria of the organization that will hold and enforce the agreement.

Permanent Protection

Conservation easements last in perpetuity, that is, when the land sells or passes down to heirs, the new owners must adhere to the restrictions. Those restrictions become part of the deed to the property and do not change over time. In this way, a landowner

is assured that the important conservation values of the land will remain intact.

Owning conserved land is not much different from owning any piece of land. Landowners can manage, lease, sell or pass the property on. The landowner may also be eligible for federal, property, or estate tax benefits.



There are many conserved farm and ranch properties in Jackson County including portions of this ranch near Eagle Point.

Conservation Benefits

A landowner might consider pursuing a conservation easement for several reasons. He or she may want to ensure that the land remains available for similar uses in the future. Or, there may be federal, property and/or estate tax incentives for placing qualified lands into conservation easements.

Conserved land benefits the public by permanently protecting important resources, not only for today, but for future generations.

For more information contact the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy at (541)482-3069 or at www.LandConserve.org.



Your Public Land Neighbors



Bureau of Land Management & Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

What Can You Expect if Your Neighbor is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or the U.S. Forest Service?

These agencies manage the majority of public lands in Jackson County and many of these lands are adjacent to or intermingled with rural private properties.



Management of Public Lands That Surround Rural Communities

Much of the beautiful landscape that adds to the quality of life in southern Oregon is made up of public lands that provide open space, recreation, a clean, healthy environment, and resources that contribute to the local economy.

The BLM and the Forest Service manage public land and natural resources in a variety of ways. If you have not lived in this part of the country before, you may not be aware of land management activities that occur on public lands surrounding your community. Public lands are actively managed to reduce the risk of wildfire, restore and maintain healthy ecosystems, protect endangered plant and animal species, and produce timber to contribute to the economic stability of local communities and industries. Other multiple uses of public land include recreation, grazing, and mining.

Why Do the BLM and Forest Service Manage Forests?

Forests are managed to provide sustained use of water, wood, wildlife, recreation, and domestic grazing. Management allows forests to return to conditions more resilient to fires, droughts and insect infestations, and provide wood products to our community. The need for treatment of our forests to restore vigor and reduce fire hazard stems from our understanding that until the early twentieth century, frequent fires played a critical role in maintaining the structure and health of forest stands. The exclusion of fire over the last 80 years has had profound ecological consequences, resulting in dense, low vigor conifer, hardwood and shrub lands.

THE BLM O&C LANDS

The Oregon & California (O & C) Lands are managed under different laws than any other lands in the country. Prior to World War II, Congress passed the O&C Lands Act of 1937. The Act calls for the management of BLM lands for a sustained yield of forest products needed to contribute to the economic stability of local communities, continuing forest values, and health. It requires 50% of the revenue generated from management of the lands be returned to the counties that contained re-vested lands. The 1994 Northwest Forest Plan combined with the six Western Oregon Resource Management Plans provide management guidance for BLM management of federal forest lands in western Oregon.



What Types of Forest Management Activities Should I Expect?

Prescribed Burning (i.e., controlled fires) or manual treatments are used to remove hazardous fuels and to rejuvenate the remaining vegetation.

Forest thinning, commercial timber cutting, and tree planting are used to improve forest health and provide forest products.

Outdoor Recreation

Many enjoy the area’s outstanding recreational opportunities and the botanical richness of our region. Locally, there are seven wilderness areas and numerous mountain lakes. There is also skiing on Mt. Ashland, world class whitewater rafting along several of the five Wild and Scenic rivers, and backpacking along the Pacific Crest Trail.

Off-Highway Vehicle Use

Ride responsibly! Stay on existing roads and trails and know where it is permitted to ride. Don’t cause resource damage by riding through meadows, up and down streams, or up draws. Know the vehicle use regulations for the area and respect road and area closures and gates.



Be Informed and Get Involved!

Find out what is happening on the public lands in your community. Ask to be included on mailing lists for land use plans; these documents usually have public comment periods. Attend town hall meetings, scoping sessions, and other forums offering public participation and educational opportunities on your public lands.

You May Need a Permit for Activities on Public Land

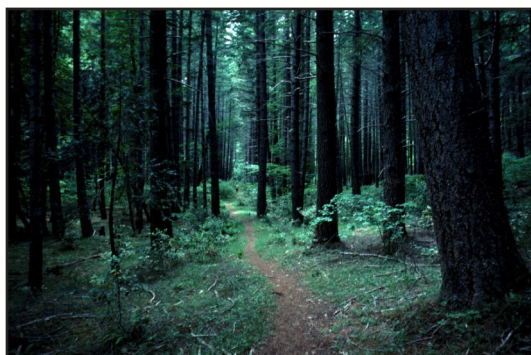
Several activities require a permit. Some of those include building roads and trails across public land, mining, and collection of forest products. Check with your local BLM or Forest Service office for more information.

For More Information

BLM Medford District Office:

(541) 618-2200

www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/index.htm



Fire Prevention

Each year more and more people move into those previously uninhabited, forested rural areas of Jackson County which have dry, hot summer weather and an increased danger of wild-fire. In addition, these remote areas have just as high a risk of structural fires as urban areas, yet longer response times, limited water hydrants, difficult terrain and unpaved roads, all of which increase the risk of losing your home to fire.

Defensible Space

A defensible space area is 30 to 200 feet around your home where firefighters can safely make a stand to protect your house during a fire. If your home and landscape are properly maintained, your home is likely to survive a fire even without fire department intervention. The exact size of your defensible space zone depends on the slope of the land and the type of vegetation around your home.

Simple Fire Prevention Measures

- Maintain 30' of green lawn or fire-resistant plants around your home. Mow grass to less than 6"
- Prune the lower branches of trees within 12' of the ground to remove "ladder fuels" that help ground fires become crown fires.
- Protect large trees by removing fuels under them.
- Trim branches away from your roof and house. Keep gutters clean of debris.
- Trim branches along driveway at least 14' tall and wide.
- Replace wood shake roofs. Screen vents and areas under decks with metal mesh.
- Store firewood away from your house.
- Water and firefighting tools should be available and ready.
- Maintain good access to your home and ensure that your address is visible and easy to read. Your address should be clearly posted at each rural intersection or road fork with an arrow under your address.

For more information see www.firewise.org.

Firebreaks

Creating a firebreak around your home and along your driveway can be one of the most

effective ways to protect your property. Initially this can be a major undertaking, so start small and do a little at a time. Once complete, annual maintenance is much less demanding. Since protecting your home is the primary concern, start there and work outward. Fire burns 16 times faster uphill so start on the downhill side of your home. Firebreaks do not have to sacrifice the scenic beauty or natural setting of your land.

Fire Season Preparation

During fire season both the public and industrial operators are required to follow the Oregon fire prevention laws. Fire season typically begins in mid-June and sometimes as early as mid-May. The end of fire season is more variable, usually ending in mid-October, although it has ended in mid-September to early November. It only takes about one hour for light fuels such as grass to dry out enough to cause an escaped fire.

When fire season is in effect, all open burning is prohibited.

Industrial operators will need to obtain a permit to operate power driven machinery and have their fire tools, extinguishers and water supplies at precaution level. Finally, a Public Regulated Use Closure prohibits or regulates times that the public can perform various activities on forest land. These activities include off road vehicle use, campfires, smoking, dry grass mowing, use of chain saws, fireworks and welding. This regulation is subject to change.

Fire Ecology

Fire is a fundamental component of a healthy forest ecosystem. The forests of Southern Oregon have co-adapted with fire which is an integral part of forest regeneration, cleansing and renewal, and the maintenance of plant and animal diversity.

Away from homes and communities, fire is essential to the health of our forests. Fire removes undergrowth that chokes trees and facilitates disease. Burned trees replenish nutrients to the soil. Standing burned snags and downed trees in streams create habitat for wildlife. A significant number of local plants require fire as part of their life cycle.

Burning on Your Property

Under the laws of the State, a person must have a valid burning permit obtained from the Oregon Department of Forestry or local fire protection district to burn any flammable material on state owned, private forest and range lands in unincorporated Jackson County.

On the day you plan to light a fire, call (541) 776-7007 for air quality information specific to that day and location **before** lighting. See the next page for more open burning information.

Tips to Prevent a Fire in Your Home

- Make sure that the electrical wiring and breakers in your home and out buildings are up to code and in good condition.
- Don't store any flammable liquids or highly flammable material in your home or garage.
- Keep matches and lighters from children.
- Keep the lint filters and vent piping of clothes dryers clean.
- Keep multi-purpose fire extinguishers in areas of fire risk (kitchen, laundry room, garage). Be sure you know how to operate them **before** a fire occurs
- If you must use them, don't leave portable heaters unattended. Keep the area around them clear of flammable materials.
- Be sure that your heating system is properly installed and cleaned regularly. Wood stoves and chimneys for wood stoves must be properly installed and cleaned often.
- Make sure that your driveway can accommodate a fire truck and has a large turnaround space.

- Install at least one smoke detector outside every bedroom and on every level of your home. Install them according to building codes. Follow the instructions to regularly test the detectors.
- If possible, provide access for firefighters to large supplies of water (swimming pools, ponds, streams, or water tanks).

Fire Prevention Agencies and Their Responsibilities

The Oregon Department of Forestry is responsible for wildland fire protection and suppression on all State owned and private forest and range lands in unincorporated Jackson County. These responsibilities include regulating outdoor burning and industrial operations on forest lands and providing landowners assistance by inspecting and offering advice on fire prone rural properties.

The Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest District is responsible for fire protection on national forest lands. They will cooperate to assist other agencies in fire suppression.

The Jackson County Rural Fire Protection Districts provide fire protection within rural county district boundaries. The highly trained volunteer firefighters respond to wildland and structural fires. Their primary responsibility is the protection of lives and improved property. However, they also respond to wildland fires within their respective districts and will assist other agencies.

If a Fire Occurs in Your Home

- Crawl low, under the smoke. Feel closed doors with the back of your hand. If hot, do not open and use another escape route. If not hot, open slowly and check for fire and smoke.
- Except for very few fires, such as one in a frying pan, don't attempt to fight a fire. Fumes and smoke can render you unconscious in just a few minutes.
- Never re-enter a home that is on fire or filled with smoke.
- **Call 911 for all fire emergencies.**

Open Burning

Open burning is tightly regulated in Jackson County. Many fire districts and cities require permits, and limit the days you are allowed to burn.

Open and barrel burning contribute to air pollution in the Rogue Valley, particularly during air stagnation episodes. If you decide to burn, it's important to follow these guidelines:

Please call your local Fire District, or the appropriate phone number below to find out whether it is a burn day in your area, and what restrictions may apply:

Jackson County: 776-7007, or,
Medford office of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality: 776-6010

NOTE: OPEN AND BARREL BURNING IS PROHIBITED IN BOTH JACKSON and JOSEPHINE COUNTY DURING FIRE SEASON.

Open/barrel burning is also prohibited...

- Throughout Jackson County when the Ventilation Index (VI) (the National Weather Service's indicator of the relative degree of air circulation for a specified area and time period. Basically, it is a measurement of the air's ability to "clean" itself) is below 400, or when other conditions exist that may lead to air stagnation.

- Within the Air Quality Maintenance Area (AQMA) during November, December, January and February. Visit www.smartmap.org/files/pdfs/maps/aqma.pdf to view a map of the AQMA.

- Within many incorporated cities in both counties. Call your local fire district to find out if burning is prohibited in your city, or if you need to get a special permit to burn.

- At any time or anywhere in Oregon with the following products rubber products: tires (including burning tires to start an approved agricultural waste fire), plastic, wet garbage, petroleum and petroleum-treated materials, asphalt, industrial waste, or any materials that creates dense smoke or noxious orders.

When considering open/barrel burning, please remember the alternatives listed below.

Alternatives to Open Burning

Chip tree limbs and branches: Wood chips make a great landscape mulch material. Benefits include conserving soil moisture, reducing weeds, and cooling the soil. While wood chips make great pathways, remember they are a source of fuel for fire so intersperse with rock, pavers or gravel.

Compost leaves: Leaves are excellent for composting! If you don't want to compost, but have leaves, sign up with the Leaf Exchange. The Leaf Exchange Program serves to connect people who want leaves for composting with people who need to get rid of leaves. Go to Jackson County Recycling Partnership website at www.jcrecycle.org for more information on composting.

Biomass: Many companies throughout our region now accept woody debris and wood waste for recycling. In many cases, the wood waste is used as primary fuel to generate electricity, essentially recycling the material. Woody yard debris and clippings are mixed with bio-solids and turned into compost. More and more options for woody waste recycling are becoming available. Check your phonebook for a company in your area, or visit the air quality page on your county's website.

Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Options

Many acres of the county are not served by commercial haulers. Ashland Sanitation is the residential and commercial hauler of solid waste in the Ashland area. They provide curbside recycling service for all paper, aluminum, tin cans, phone books, cardboard and glass. Rogue Disposal supplies the same service for the greater Medford area. There are recycling substations in other locations throughout the county. For more information on waste disposal, recycling or composting options and resources, go to www.jcrecycle.org.

Recycling

Rogue Disposal - Table Rock Road

- Cardboard, newspaper, magazines, aluminum cans, tin cans, milk jugs, pop bottles, glass (all colors), plastic bottles, phone books, motor oil, electronics, and fluorescent light bulbs.
- Mon.-Fri. 9 am - 4 pm and Sat. 7 am—4 pm. Cost: free for most items listed above.

Ashland Recycling Depot - Water Street

- Used oil, antifreeze, household batteries, vehicle batteries, cardboard, scrap paper, junk mail, magazines, newspaper, tin cans, aluminum, glass (all colors).
- Sun.-Sat. 9 am - 5 pm (closed Tues.) Cost: free.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Latex Paint Drop- Off and Plastic Roundups are scheduled... see www.jcrecycle.org for dates and locations.

Youth Programs In Jackson County: 4-H and FFA

4-H offers diverse and hands-on programs to Jackson County youth. Programs range from art to natural science to technology. Animal Science projects are some of the largest and most popular of the programs.

Through 4-H, members learn leadership, responsibility, public speaking, meeting etiquette, and people skills.

For more information, call the Jackson County Extension Office at 776-7371 or go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/4h>

FFA provides high school students with a wide variety of activities related to agriculture and related industries. Currently, Jackson County high schools with FFA programs include: Crater, Phoenix, Eagle Point, Rogue River, and Prospect. For information on local FFA programs contact your local high school FFA advisor.



Jackson County Extension is part of the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center and offers various programs for young people and adults. See the Resource Directory on the inside front cover for contact information.

The Chamber of Medford / Jackson County

Business is booming in the Rogue Valley. Medford's location midway between Portland and San Francisco has made it the commercial, medical, and retail hub of southern Oregon. The changing timber industry has led to the diversification of the valley's industry, which is now a mix of tourism, agriculture, senior living, light manufacturing, and timber. Through it all, The Chamber of Medford/Jackson County has been there to support changes in markets, communication technology, public values, regulations, and adjacent urban growth.

Organized in 1895 as the Medford Board of Trade, The Chamber is a group of more than 1,500 businessmen and women dedicated to promoting the region's standards of livability and its civic, commercial, and industrial progress. As a voice for business, The Chamber defends the interests of southern Oregon businesses through legislative advocacy. Through facilitating the exchange of information, The Chamber offers members productive networking opportunities.

The Chamber's support centers on maintaining an environment of success for current business owners while making the area attractive to new business. When a major employer experienced a fire, The Chamber joined a team of agencies and local elected officials to streamline the permit process and care for displaced employees, convincing the company to rebuild its facility. After many years of promoting the annexation of the Rogue Community College District (RCC), RCC opened its Riverside Center in downtown Medford in 1997. A new joint campus with Southern Oregon University, the Higher Education Center opened in downtown in 2008. The Chamber has also supported the expansion of a juvenile detention center in Medford, the county's library system, and the Mount Ashland ski area.

The Medford Visitors and Convention Bureau (VCB) is a particularly exciting Chamber success story. In 1975, The Chamber helped pass the authorization of a transient occupancy tax, which partially funds the Bureau. The VCB protects southern Oregon tourism interests by organizing collective marketing power and promoting events and attractions such as the Medford Jazz Jubilee, the Art in Bloom festival, the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater in downtown Medford, nearby Crater Lake, the Tony Award-winning Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland and the Britt Festival in Jacksonville.

The Chamber of Medford/Jackson County will continue to address the issues affecting its growing community by focusing on infrastructure development, workforce training, information exchange and regional coalitions—measures that will positively impact the viability of the region's business structure while maintaining its quality of life.



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Your Notes

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Photography by Mike Dickinson, Charlie Boyer, Nicola Giardina, Randy White and others as credited.

Note: While every attempt has been made to correctly paraphrase and/or quote laws, codes, and regulations, if any discrepancy between this handbook and the official wording should arise, the official wording should prevail.

Jackson SWCD prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Jackson SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.

Jackson County



Jackson County is governed by a three-member Board of Commissioners, an elected body responsible for many broad issues in the region, such as forest planning, water supply issues, regional land use planning, air quality, transportation, emergency management and economic development.

The board also works with the county's 11 cities on matters of mutual concern, and serves the citizens of Jackson County by resolving complaints and legislating where necessary.

Services under Jackson County jurisdiction include the library system, the airport, the fairgrounds and expo center, county roads and parks, health and human services, voting and voter registration, and the Sheriff and community justice programs.

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District

Vision Statement

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District is a leader in providing scientifically based technical assistance and financial resources in a manner that supports rural landowner abilities to implement best management practices, enhancing the natural environment while protecting Jackson County's cultural, social, and economic values.

Mission Statement

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District will maintain an actively involved board, employ a professional staff, and utilize volunteers, natural resource experts, interested organizations, and federal, state, and local governments to help rural landowners improve the management of their land by

- providing technical support
- seeking grants and other financial assistance
- providing one-on-one, on-the-ground site visits
- developing workshops and classes
- assisting in the development of individual landowner management plans and projects

Enhanced management of rural lands will reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, air quality, and fish and wildlife habitat, and improve the quality of life for all Jackson County citizens.



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Turning natural resource concerns into opportunities