



The Conservationist

JSWCD Newsletter

Winter 2011 Volume 8 Issue 3

www.jswcd.org

Turning Natural Resource Concerns into Opportunities

Pasture Management — This class is for YOU!

Whether you own private land, just purchased rural property, manage public lands, or are part of a family that has ranched for generations, this unique class will help you identify and manage your resources better.



This course is based on the research and practice of several grazing management experts:

- Bill Murphy (University of Vermont)
 - Andre Voisin (France)
 - Allan Savory (Center for Holistic Management)
 - Jim Gerrish (University of Missouri Forage Systems Research Center)
- as well as the instructors' own experiences with managing grazing animals.



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District Presents

—PASTURE MANAGEMENT— An In-Depth Course on Optimizing Pasture and Animal Health & Productivity

February 23rd — April 12th, 2012

Enroll by February 9th



Increasing Profit and Animal Health

Grass-based livestock production is growing in popularity with consumers AND farmers. The market is ripe for grass-based product. Farmers who have switched to grass-based systems report increased profits due to reduced costs, improved quality of life, and improved animal health.

Protect and Enhance Natural Resources

Properly managed pastures have less (if any) run-off from irrigation, support highly functioning nutrient cycles, provide feed for wildlife, and maximize sunlight capture and conversion, among other benefits. These same qualities help ensure that landowners are in compliance with the Inland Rogue Agricultural Water Quality Rules (ORS 68.9)

For more information see www.jswcd.org
Pasture Management Course
Or call 541-776-4270 Ext. 3

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

Jackson

Soil and Water Conservation District

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Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Board Meetings: All are welcome to attend!
 October-March 4 PM April-September 7 PM

USDA

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Staff:

Erin Kurtz, District Conservationist
 Peter Winnick, Soil Conservationist
 Bill Cronin, Irrigation Water Management Specialist

Farm Service Agency

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Joe Hess, County Executive Director
 Diane Rabbe, Program Technician
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County Committee members:

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

Tax Deductibility for Donations / Contributions

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

Your help is greatly appreciated.

Contact: Markie Germer

markie.germer@jswcd.org

573 Parsons Drive, Suite 102, Medford, OR

541-776-4270 Ext. 3 FAX: 541-776-4295

Web site: www.jswcd.org

Living on Your Land

A Land Stewardship Conference

Saturday, March 24th, 2012
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

One-day educational conference offering a unique opportunity to learn land management practices from area experts.

Subjects:
 Forest
 Pasture
 Crops
 Water

16 available sessions including conservation, legal aspects, management and hands-on activities for each subject area.

OSU
 Oregon State University
 Extension Service
 Jackson County

Information

Resources

Skills

Strategies

Sponsored by:
 The Land Steward Program

Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

See Website for Early Registration Discount.

Location:
 OSU Extension Service,
 Jackson County

For more information, class descriptions and registration brochure

Call: 541-776-7731 Internet Search: "Land Steward OSU"
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/land-steward-program>

Living on the Land

Come meet with former Land Steward Graduates and Agency Professionals — learn more about Natural Resource Challenges and Opportunities.

Be sure to check the website:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec/land-steward-program>



Around the Stump — new seedlings grow!

By Allan Campbell —JSWCD Board Chair

Accomplishing the Mission

The Mission of JSWCD, as quoted in the 2010-2011 Annual Report is to “Conserve, protect, and develop natural resources for the economic, social, and environmental benefit of the residents of Jackson County.”

To accomplish this mission, numerous activities, programs, and projects are being carried out by the ambitious, hard-working JSWCD Staff. Eleven pages of the Annual Report were used to enumerate and describe many of these endeavors. Nine of the pages were filled with colorful pictures of the various “happenings”. JSWCD endeavors are orchestrated to provide technical and financial assistance, opportunities to visit successful management operations and demonstration sites, and up-to-date information on current research efforts. JSWCD is in the business of helping landowners/managers to implement appropriate stewardship practices.

All that having been said, how does/can JSWCD share the importance of stewardship (i.e., wise use) of our natural resources with people in our Southern Oregon communities who are not owners and/or managers of agriculture or forestland? Many are apparently unaware of the rapidly growing need for stewardship on these lands. In fact, human injury to our agriculture/forest environments is not uncommon and can be divided into two primary categories: (1.) voluntary (willful) and (2.) involuntary.

Voluntary injury, either active or passive, occurs when people engage in activities they know will or could damage natural resource values. An incendiary forest fire (set intentionally to inflict damage) is an extreme example of the active role some people have played in causing harm to forest values.

A lack of proper consideration to potential consequences of a recreational activity might be termed passive injury. An example of this kind of “permitted damage” would be piloting a “four-wheeler” down the middle of Little Butte Creek during the summer months.

Involuntary injury, on the other hand, can occur when people are truly unaware of the likely result of their activities. Examples include the introduction of invasive plants (i.e., yellow star thistle) and damaging insects (e.g., gypsy moth).

Understanding the values of Oregon’s natural resources and respecting the need to promote and facilitate stewardship are of prime importance throughout all our communities. The JSWCD Staff has provided leadership in a variety of ways. Here are four of them:

1. The Urban Living Handbook
2. Natural Resources Day Camp (see page 6)
3. Natural Resource Adventure Tour (see page 8)
4. The Land Stewards Program (a cooperative effort with the OSU Extension Service) (see page 2)

If you would like to know more about these and other projects or would like to participate in JSWCD activities, like the Camp or Tour, please contact us. JSWCD Office: 541-776-4270 Ext. 3 or look for us on the web at: www.jswcd.org



Opportunities for Youth & Teachers in Conservation Education



2012 RAP CAMP

With summer right around the corner, it's time for students to sign up for the Annual Resources and People (RAP) Camp held the week of **June 17, 2012** at Camp Esther Applegate at Lake of the Woods in southern Oregon.

Students between the ages of 13 and 18 from rural and urban areas in Oregon can apply by contacting the Klamath Falls Office of the Fremont-Winema National Forest at: skerns@fs.fed.us

Students attending the camp will have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and make new friends.

**RAP CAMP lets you —
DISCOVER
INTERACT
HAVE FUN**

The camp experience is designed to educate students about natural resource management by providing them an opportunity to take part in natural resource hands-on sessions, outdoor recreation, educational field trips and fun activities. A talent show is one of the highlights of the weeks schedule.

The camp allows kids to learn more about resources like fire ecology, wildlife, forestry, fisheries, archeology, recreation, wetlands and botany. Resource specialists share information about a variety of careers and possible summer jobs. It also engages students in many outdoor activities including hiking, birding, swimming and canoeing.

A trip to Crater Lake, a barbecue at a working ranch, a cultural presentation by Klamath Tribe members, and a career fair are all part of the learning experience.

Oregon State Department of Education endorses the program and allows students to receive science credit. The instructors come from a variety of agencies as well as the private sector. Volunteer counselors are

provided with lodging and meals.

RAP CAMP for TEACHERS

Southern Oregon University offers a graduate credit program where teachers write natural resource curriculum to use in their classrooms.

Visit: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/fremont-winema/> for more information or call: 541-883-6716.



Environmental Education

Competition May 4, 2012

Team Registration Deadline April 1, 2012

Envirothon is a hands-on environmental problem-solving competition for high school-age students. Participating teams complete training and testing in the following areas.

four natural resource categories

- aquatic ecology
- soils/land use,
- forestry
- wildlife including

one current environmental issue

**'Non-point Source Pollution/
Low Impact Development'**

The teams consist of five high school-aged students. Teams from schools, as well as 4-H or home school groups are eligible. Crater High School FFA team will be competing again this year.

The Envirothon works in partnership with local conservation districts, forestry associations, educators, and cooperating natural resource agencies to organize and conduct competitions on the local and state level.

Winning teams from each state will advance to the Canon Envirothon for the opportunity to receive recognition, scholarships and prizes. In Oregon, the state competition also qualifies the highest scoring FFA team to compete at their national level event.

The state competition will be held at the Oregon Garden in Silverton. For more detailed information go to: <http://oregonenvirothon.org> or

Contact the JSWCD office:
541-776-4270 Ext.3

2012 Youth Poster Contest



Poster entries should be submitted by October 1st.

Attention youth in grades K to 12!

Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District would like to see local youth represented at this years National Poster Contest. A poster must first compete at the State OACD Convention in November to be eligible for the national level. Now is the time to start planning.

A poster can be entered in each grade category: K-1; 2-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12. Go to www.nacdnet.org/education/contests/poster/ or call JSWCD office: 541-776-4270 Ext. 3

*Where does our food come from?
Explore this question and the connection to the soil.*

Natural Resources Day Camp

For kids with an interest in the natural world!

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District offers a week-long educational day camp for youth entering grades 5-7.

June 25-29, 2012

\$50.00/student fee grade 5-7

Don't Miss Out!

At the Natural Resources Day Camp you will:

- Meet new friends
- Learn about soil and water
- Play and learn outdoors
- Get muddy (if you want)
- Learn about our local natural resources and resource management
- Have a great time!



Registration closes

May 15th

Register your kids by calling:
541-776-4270 Ext. 3



2009
OACD
Winner



The Poster Contest is co-sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts and the NACD Auxiliary. <http://www.nacdnet.org/education/contests/>

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is a non-profit organization representing the United States' 3,000 conservation districts. Established under state laws, conservation districts are local units working with local landowners and operators to help carry out natural resource management programs to protect land and water resources.



Spring Programs for Organic Farmers & Small-Scale Producers

The Natural Resource Conservation Service helps private land owners address natural resource concerns by providing technical and financial programs to landowners who request assistance. This spring, two programs are available that may interest vegetable producers and other smaller-scale producers in Jackson and Josephine counties. These programs target organic production and seasonal high tunnel production.

Organic (EQIP)

2012 Environmental Quality Incentives Program

This program is designed to help those who are transitioning to organic production or expanding their current certified operations. Organic producers are often interested in implementing conservation practices such as cover cropping, crop rotation, nutrient management, pest management, hedgerows and other specialized practices. The natural resource benefits of some of these practices may include boosting pollinator habitats, increasing biodiversity including soilborne organisms, enhancing water quality, or controlling invasive species.

How to get involved

You are in the driver’s seat; assistance is based on your individual goals. Implementation plans are worked out in a collaborative approach between the landowner and NRCS staff through field visits and discussions.

The financial assistance typically covers only a portion of the cost of implementing the conservation practices, with the landowner contributing the balance needed.

To learn more about this program please go the Oregon NRCS website at www.or.nrcs.usda.gov and look under the programs tab.

Applications for both of these programs are taken throughout the spring —deadline is **June 1, 2012** to be considered for assistance available this year. Please come in early to learn more or to sign up—don’t wait until the last minute!

NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Seasonal High Tunnels

This program helps land owners invest in a seasonal high tunnel system to extend the growing season. The program helps offset the cost of a seasonal polyethylene covered structure with no mechanical heating or ventilation systems, where crops are grown in the ground; in other words: not a greenhouse. In addition to the structure itself, associated practices landowners might want to consider include dealing with nutrient management, runoff, pest management, irrigation management or crop rotation.



If you have questions or would like to apply, please contact:

- **Erin Kurtz, District Conservationist**, Medford, OR erin.kurtz@or.usda.gov 541-776-4270 ext 108
- **Peter Winnick, Soil Conservationist**, Medford OR peter.winnick@or.usda.gov (541) 776-4270 ext. 109



"Weed of Distinction"

PESKY PLANT ATTACHES STICKY BUR SEEDS TO SOCKS!!!

Common Hedge Parsley

You may not recognize this plant by its common or scientific name, but if you have crossed a dry field, or hiked through woodlands, you have met up with it. It doesn't appear only in these locations, its habitat includes any disturbed site like roadsides, urban lots, railroad rights-of-way, and it often appears in your own backyard landscape.

Meet *Torilis arvensis*! It has many common names—common hedge parsley, field hedge parsley or spreading hedge parsley.



However, names like Beggar's lice, Velcro® weed, and hitchhiker seem to describe its sticky bur seed more accurately.

Hedge parsley is a species of flowering plant in the Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)— carrot or parsley family. Plants of the carrot family are annual or biennial with a taproot and tend to be aromatic. The carrot and parsnip are cultivated for their roots; other species are cultivated for their seed (caraway, coriander) or used fresh as flavorful aromatics herbs in cooking (cilantro, dill). Queen Anne's Lace and poisonous hemlock, two common plants in this family and easily recognized, grow in our area and are very invasive.

Common hedge parsley is an annual plant, producing a slender, branching stem covered with minute white hairs, growing up to three feet tall depending on the habitat. The alternately arranged leaves are each divided into several pairs of lance-shaped leaflets. The leaflets are toothed.



The flower head is a wide-open compound umbel with small, white to a pinkish or reddish-tinged flower, arranged in clusters. The seeds are covered with straight and curved prickles. It likes dry soil conditions, growing quickly to maturity leaving the dried seed clusters behind to catch onto any socks passing by.



Some weeds fall into the category of 'bad weeds' because they are extremely invasive and noxious. These bad guys tend to be introduced species, are aggressive and out-compete local native plants, and have no natural predators or diseases to keep them in check. Noxious weeds are determined by a weed's potential threat ecologically, socially or economically. The common hedge parsley is not quite in the previous described categories, but it is very invasive and generally a 'pesky' plant to control. It can take over-- reducing habitat, threatening diversity of wildlands, and spoiling pastures and rangelands.

Common hedge parsley spreads easily due to the Velcro® like hairs on the seeds, which attach to clothing and fur— readily dispersing to new locations. It also spreads by reseeding itself, often inundating an area, unfortunately making it hard to control.



Common hedge parsley

Recognizing the plant and pulling or mowing it before it goes to seed is workable in some cases. In large areas, repeat inspection and treatment are necessary. Sometimes a combination of treating foliage

with herbicides (glyphosate or triclopyr) is effective if done early in the spring or on re-sprouts after cutting.

A similar look-alike 'sticky stem' plant is *Galium aparine* or catchweed bedstraw. In different parts of the country it is called sticky-willy, cleavers and goosegrass. The long, square stems are weak and tend to tangle making it difficult to mow, especially if it becomes infested in hay or grain crops. The leaves of bedstraw species are arranged in whorls, a key characteristic.



Catchweed bedstraw

Bur chervil (*Anthriscus caucalis*) is often mistaken in its appearance



Bur chervil, 2006 Keir Morse, CalPhotos

for spreading hedge parsley. Also in the carrot family, it is an annual up to 3 feet tall, but does not have hairy stems and has a very strong odor when the plant is crushed. It prefers more moist and shady sites.

Now you know the name – common hedge parsley (*Torilis arvensis*). As you pluck the burs from your socks, remember to dispose of them responsibly in order to stop this pesky plant from spreading!



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Conservation District**

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Fax: 541-776-4295
On the web at: www.jswcd.org

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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

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.



**Interested in our local
natural resources ?**

**If you are a
High School Student or High School Teacher the
Natural Resource Adventure Tour
will be of special interest to you!**

What is a Natural Resource Adventure Tour?

It is a one-day, hands-on event that focuses on introducing high school aged students and their teachers to the local natural resources in an outdoor classroom setting.

A group of local agencies, organizations, and individuals, with the knowledge and experience to manage different natural resources for our community, wish to share some of that expertise with the next generation. Tours of this nature have always been valued. It is a way of experiencing first hand what seems to be working and how challenges can be overcome.

The Natural Resource Adventure offers opportunities for sharing and learning--by seeing and doing.

Call 541-776-4270 Ext. 3 for more details.

Rain Gardens and More!

- ▶ With spring right around the corner, join us for an exploration of landscape design ideas that enhance the beauty, function and sustainability of your yard and property.
- ▶ With a special focus on Rain Gardens, we will explore low impact designs that protect the environment, improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat.

Place: Coyote Trails' Jefferson Nature Center, Medford

Day: Thursday, Feb 9th

Time: 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15

Instructors:

Lori Tella: Urban Conservationist, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District

Rachel Werling: OSU SOREC—Coyote Trails School of Nature Guest Instructor

<http://www.coyotetrails.org>

Call Lori: 541-776-4270 Ext. 120