



The Conservationist

JSWCD Newsletter

Turning Natural Resource Concerns into Opportunities

Summer 2011 Volume 8 Issue 1

Grazing Management by the Numbers

By Charlie Boyer

Many livestock producers have opportunities to increase their animal numbers and pounds of sellable product per acre of land by improving the management of their grazing lands. This in turn means more income to the operation.

Let's set the stage for this discussion by establishing some baseline assumptions. One animal unit is a 1000 pound cow or five 180 pound ewes. It takes 12 animal unit months of forage to feed one animal unit for one year. An average lactating beef cow needs about 3% of her body weight, or about 30 pounds of dry forage matter per day (1000 lbs. X .03 = 30 lbs per day).

So what would happen if we could increase the forage production by one ounce on each square foot of each acre of our grazing lands for the year? What would that mean to our bottom line?

Each acre has 43,560 square feet in it and by increasing the dry matter forage production by one ounce on each of those square feet we would get 43,560 ounces of additional livestock feed.

To take this even further, 43,500 ounces divided by 16 ounces gives us 2722.5 pounds per acre of additional forage. This amounts to 1.36 tons per acre of additional dry matter to feed our animals.



One ounce of dry forage

Now, if we take the 2722.5 pounds per acre additional forage we grew and divide it by 30 pounds of dry matter per day our cow needs, we find that we gained 90.75 additional animal grazing days per acre. This is equivalent to 3 animal unit months additional grazing for one cow or five sheep on each acre of grazing land we have.

What this means is if we could increase the dry matter production on each square foot of our grazing lands

we would be able to run one additional 1000 pound cow or five 180 pound ewes on each four acres of grazing land we have.

These numbers apply regardless of whether we are managing irrigated or dry land pastures.

The only difference between irrigated and dry land pastures is that it is probably much easier to produce an additional one ounce of dry matter per square foot on irrigated

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

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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.

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Meet JSWCD's Associate Director Ed Vaughn



Ed and wife Nancy are owner/operators of Vaughn Farms. He is a retired professional forester with a Masters Degree from Duke University in 1960. Ed served two years with the U.S. Army in Washington State and in Germany, then spent 25 years working in the forest and managing people and programs for the U.S. Forest Service from 1960 until 1985.

Ed also spent 12 years building personal computers, part time, for Microsphere, Inc., a business in Bend, Oregon. He has a lifetime hobby of Amateur Radio since high school.

Beginning in 1994, he began development of a successful pear orchard project here in Jackson County and has continued to manage and produce outstanding pears since 1998. He has a substantial direct marketing operation for his pears.

Ed is a member of the Inland Rogue Local Advisory Committee. He is also member of Thrive, Friends of Family Farmers, and serves as Alternate Grower Representative to the Fresh Pear Committee of the Pear Bureau Northwest.

In order to manage an orchard, he hires as many as 10 temporary laborers for seasonal jobs during the year and takes responsibility for their supervision and training. He has a pesticide application license, handles

the chemicals, and manages the applications.

Ed has had to learn the skills of orchard layout, buried irrigation system construction, fruit tree planting, tree training, disease and insect control, irrigation scheduling, soil fertility management, weed control, harvest, grading, fruit transport and storage, Federal and State employment requirements, and marketing. In addition he has had to learn equipment maintenance and repair, including welding and fabrication. These skills are normal requirements of a farmer/orchardist with a 24/7 job.

“Being associated with JSWCD has meant a lot to me. I have been able to participate in the planning for the effort to gain a tax base for the district. I am able to keep up on the local efforts to aid local land owners in good management practices and make contacts with many people who provide help and expertise toward my farming success. Sometimes I can help clarify and add to the deliberations of the board when I am able to attend.”

Editors Note: The District is fortunate to have several volunteers who attend board meetings and offer input to District business. These individuals are not elected and do not have voting privileges.



A Special Thank You

To all those who helped in making a Successful Natural Resources Day Camp

Jackson SWCD is able to offer the Natural Resource Camp at such a great value only because of the donated time and resources of the following businesses, agencies and individuals.

Sponsors and Volunteers

Bill and Marion Collins—Farm in Gold Hill, hosts for this year's camp!

Janelle Lane—volunteered her time to coordinate this year's camp. She did an amazing job!

Siskiyou Chapter of the Society of American Forester—for their financial support for campers!

Grange Co-op—for sponsoring snacks!

Marsha McCormack—for helping with the BBQ on Friday, making sure we are all happy and healthy!

Allen Campbell—JSWCD Board Chair, helps coordinate camp every year and volunteers his week to be with the campers!

Rogue Valley Mall—for allowing us to use their parking lot!

Volunteers — Speakers — Group Leaders

Brock Adams, Group Leader
 Rachel Bedsole, Assistant Group Leader
 Teresa Burkhardt, Oregon Department of Forestry
 Ed Chapman, tree & shrub ID
 Craig Crawford, Southern Oregon Tree Care
 Jack Decker, sheep shearing
 Ashley Dubrey, Oregon Department of Forestry
 Ammon Ebert, wilderness survival
 Will Gingg, Southern Oregon Tree Care
 Craig Harper, Rogue Valley Council of Governments
 Spencer Higginson, NOAA-National Weather Service
 Paul Kangas, Private Consultant
 Susan Kendle, ranch/relay
 Cyndee Maunu, Wildlife Images
 Rick Mori, Beekeeper and owner of Southern Oregon Greenhouse
 Emily Morris, ranch/relay
 Barbara Mumblo, U. S. Forest Service
 Vince Oredson, Oregon Department Fish & Wildlife
 Francis Oyung, Bear Creek Watershed Council
 Maddie Robinson, Assistant Group Leader
 Ern Russell, goat demonstration
 Kathy Schaepli, ranch/relay
 Jay Stockton, NOAA-National Weather Service
 Rachel Werling, urban watershed health
 Eugene Wier, Rogue Valley Council of Governments
 Garret White, Group Leader
 Jan vanLienden, Group Leader



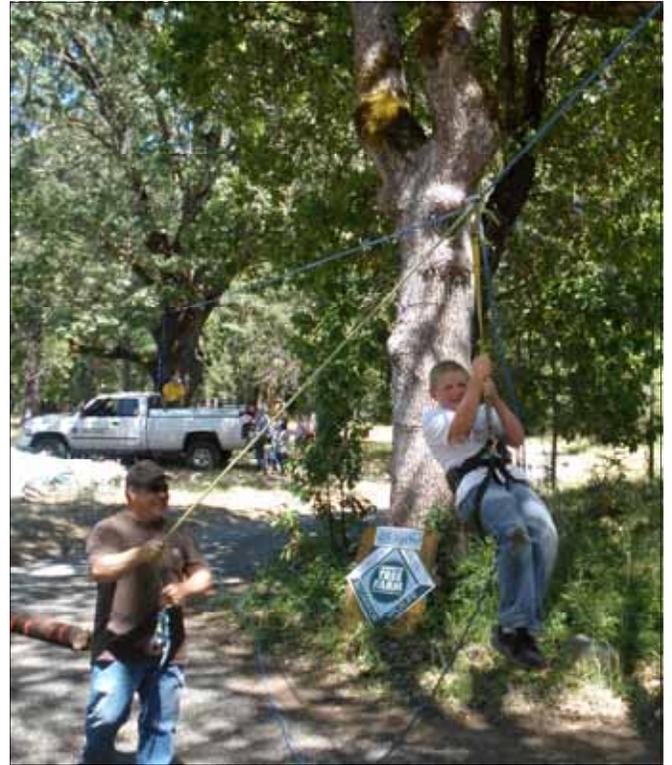


Learning forest management and using 'goats' as a tool!

Summer Fun at
Natural Resources Day Camp



Roping —This isn't so hard to learn!



Flying through the air on a Zip-Line!



Bug Talk — What was that insect?



That sheep was sheared in no time flat!

Natural Resources Day Camp — A Success!

Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District would like to thank everyone who participated in the recent Day Camp. A special thank you to Bill and Marian Collins for letting us gather and explore their place up Sardine Creek. It would not have been a success and a fun learning experience for the young people who attended without the support from the following:

Ern Russell of Eagle Point loaned his goats for a demo on low impact, controlled brush removal. Portable "electrified" netting was used to define the browse area.

Paul Kangas, Forester, shared his knowledge with the students about forest management.

Southern Oregon Tree Care provided a special treat by setting up a Zip Line ride between two old oak trees.

Rick Mori, a local bee keeper discussed the challenges and rewards of keeping bees and shared honey with the students.

Jack Decker — the 'Sheep Shearer' has been doing it since he was a child.

Grazing Management by the Numbers

(Continued from page 1)

pastures.

By increasing your forage production by one ounce dry matter per square foot you have created an opportunity for producing one 500 pound calf (plus or minus) or eight to ten 100 pound lambs (plus or minus) or 5.4 tons of hay for every four acres you have in production. If calves are selling at \$1.50 per pound then that 500 pound calf is worth \$750.00, the eight lambs at \$1.00 per pound are worth \$800.00, and the 5.4 tons of hay at \$150.00 per ton are worth \$810.00.

If you would like to see if you can increase the production on your property by one ounce of dry matter per acre, call the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District to set up an appointment to talk with one of the staff for free assistance with developing a plan.

*Have you Picked Up your
Free Copy?
Stop by the
Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District's Office*

The image shows two book covers side-by-side. The left cover is blue and titled 'Urban Living Handbook'. It features a photograph of a residential neighborhood with houses and a mountain in the background. The right cover is green and titled 'Jackson County Rural Living Handbook'. It features a photograph of a rural landscape with a field, trees, and a mountain. Both covers include the text 'A Resource for Jackson County Living and Stewardship' and 'Prepared and distributed by the Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District (541) 776-4270 ext. 3 www.jswcd.org'.

2011 Oregon Envirothon

Crater FFA Team Brings Home 3rd Place Banner



Crater High School FFA
Oregon Envirothon Team

For the 4th year a Crater FFA Team has received the 3rd place Banner for FFA. Accepting the banner, this years team members are: (l. to r.) Nate Tegtman, Claire Gladman, Lane Augustson, Mitch Garvin, and Jacquelyn Brown. Also, attending, but not pictured was alternate Sarah Howell.

Congratulation to the 2011 Crater High School FFA Envirothon Team.

The State Competition was held on May 6th at the Oregon Gardens in Silverton. The five member Crater High School team placed 6th overall—competing against 31 Oregon teams. Teams compete in the areas of Aquatic Ecology, Forest Ecology, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife Ecology, and a current environmental issues relating to particular ecosystems. The Oregon Envirothon seeks to develop knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated citizens who are willing to work towards achieving and maintaining a natural balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

South Salem High School will represent Oregon at the North American Envirothon Competition in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada. The top FFA Team qualifies for the Natural Resources Event which is held during the National FFA Convention which will be on October 19-22 in Indianapolis.

A special thank you goes to Marilyn Rice, JSWCD Board Director for her timeless dedication in encouraging and organizing teams representing the southern Oregon area.



NRCS— Technical & Financial Assistance available for Landowners



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Jackson County has technical and financial assistance available for *landowners* on private non-industrial forestlands.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2012 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for forest health and fuels reduction projects in the Applegate and Seven Basins Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) areas.

Cost-share is available for 50% to 90% of eligible practices including thinning, pruning, and slash treatments. Program incentives are also available for development of a Forest Management Plan.

If you have questions regarding this program 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

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NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS AND RANCHERS

If you believe you were improperly denied farm loan benefits by USDA between 1981 and 2000, because you are Hispanic or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov



Across the City Fence

By Lori Tella, Urban & Community Conservationist

New Rain Garden Demo at OSU Extension

JSWCD and OSU Master Gardeners teamed up this spring to create a rain garden demonstration at OSU Extension off Hanley Road in Central Point.

Rain gardens are a beautiful and efficient way to slow and filter stormwater runoff. The contaminated water from roof tops, parking lots and roads is diverted to a gentle depression where specially selected plants and soil microorganisms filter the water. This type of garden is being used nationwide to prevent flooding, control erosion, recharge groundwater supplies and improve water quality.

The project also shows features of rainwater harvest and filtration—including rain barrels; a First Flush system—that removes large debris from the roof; and several of our region’s native plants. Stop by the site to learn how you can begin cleaning water runoff while you garden!

The JSWCD’s Urban Conservationist Intern, Melanie Dupuis, used the hands-on experience of helping to develop and implement the garden project as part of her Environmental Studies (ES) Honors Capstone for Southern Oregon University. In recognition of her work, she was honored with the “Outstanding Studies Capstone for 2010-2011 Achievement Award.” Ms. Dupuis graduated this Spring with her Bachelors of Science in E. S.- Ecology & Conservation. JSWCD would like to acknowledge her dedication to protecting our water quality, and wish her the best in her career.



Melanie Dupuis—JSWCD’s Urban Conservationist Intern

The Rain Garden demonstration was made possible with the time and effort of many individuals. JSWCD’s Urban Conservationist Lori Tella and OSU Extension’s Land Stewardship Coordinator Rhianna Simes worked with volunteers and donors including Shooting Star Nursery, Rogue Water and Commercial Sign Design.

JSWCD would also like to extend a special thanks to Master Gardener and designer, Michael Flaherty, for his generous contributions and vision for the project.

For more information and technical support to build your own rain garden, contact JSWCD today. lori@jswcd.org



◀ First Flush system— filters water from the roof.

▶ OSU Demonstration- Rain Garden on Hanley Road in Central Point. Visit and learn how to clean water runoff while gardening.



Let's Pull Together to Stop Invasive Species

The Jackson County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) had its fourth annual —Let's Pull Together—invasive weed event on Saturday June 18th at Denman Wildlife Area co-sponsored by Jackson SWCD. Volunteers removed invasive cutleaf teasel and other target weeds and then gathered for a special volunteer “weed warrior” appreciation celebration. Participants were thanked with a free BBQ picnic, commemorative t-shirt, raffle prizes and educational displays following the morning activity.

Denman Wildlife Area provides habitat for migrating and nesting waterfowl, as well as, for upland birds. The efforts behind the Let's Pull Together event at Denman was to help promote a healthy ecosystem and control the cutleaf teasel from invading high quality grassland habitat.

This event was an excellent educational opportunity. Volunteers learned from the experts on how to control this invasive weed. Volunteering for such events is a great way of learning how to identify, report and control invasive species.



▲Photo by Teresa Fernandez

If you would like to become involved and are interested in future volunteer events or weed management on your property, contact the District at: 541-776-4270 ext.3 or Lori Tella -Urban & Community Conservationist lori@jswcd.org



◀▲Photos by Molly Morison





DISCOVER
INTERACT
HAVE FUN



RAP Camp 2011
20th Resources and People Camp
Lake of the Woods - Camp Ester Applegate





RAP CAMP

This is the 20th year for RAP Camp—giving area youth an opportunity to learn about the diverse natural resources that make up an ecosystem and have a lot of fun.

Students between the ages of 13 and 18 spend a week at Camp Esther Applegate, on Lake of the Woods near Klamath Falls, Oregon.

During the day, they explored on field trips and participated in hands-on outdoor activities learning about natural resource disciplines, such as forestry, fisheries, wildlife, range, riparian, geology, recreation, fire, wetlands, wilderness, and cultural resources.

There was also time for outdoor recreation activities and special evening programs.

Students attending from Southern Oregon area high schools included:

Michael Garcia, Rogue River
Nathan Case, South Medford
Skyler Black, North Medford
Christian Inkley, Crater
Gavin Borgais, Ashland
Claire Adams, South Medford
Blaine Cloney, Eagle Point
Erika Adams, South Medford
Nate Heard, Crater
Gray Lunn, Ashland

"Weed of Distinction"

Mayweed Chamomile

Mayweed chamomile (*Anthemis cotula* L.) is a small bushy annual with leaves divided several times into narrow segments. The daisy-like flower with bright yellow centers and white petal-like ray flowers is in the sunflower family and looks attractive until you crush the leaves-- releasing an ill-smelling odor. Thus, common names for Mayweed chamomile include dog fennel, stinkweed, dill weed, stinking chamomile, stinking daisy, or white stinkweed.

This Mediterranean native occurs worldwide and is common throughout the Pacific Northwest. Two states, Nevada and Colorado have put it on the invasive list because it has taken over large areas. It will grow just about anywhere—barnyards, waste areas, along the roadside, cultivated fields, and overgrazed pastures. Each flower head produces numerous (thousands per plant) single, smooth seeds. Typically it blooms from May to October and the seeds remain viable in the soil for many years. If it contaminates seed crops, control is required, as well as costly seed cleaning.

Mayweed has no beneficial uses, is competitive and is damaging to neighboring plants by slowing down their growth. Along with the unpleasant odor, contact with the plant can cause skin rashes. In fields with a high density of plants, grazing livestock can develop irritated mucous membranes and blistered noses and mouth. The milk of dairy animals grazing on Mayweed will have a strong flavor.

Mayweed has no beneficial uses!

An identical plant to Mayweed chamomile, but without the odor is Corn chamomile (*Anthemis arvensis* L.) Another similar looking plant at a young seedling stage is Pineapple-weed (*Matricaria matricarioides*). However, the flower heads lack the white ray flowers and if the stems and leaves are crushed, the scent is akin to sweet pineapple. Pineapple-weed is a smaller plant growing up to 8 inches tall while Mayweed can grow to 18 inches.



Photo: Richard Old, XID Services, Inc., Bugwood.ORG

Weed Management Options

Prevention is a key component in controlling Mayweed. Seed moves easily by water in ditches and streams, is often found in crop seed, and is easily carried by animals and equipment from one field to another. Prevent new infested areas from establishing by sowing weed-free seed in crops, managing animal movement, and feeding with certified weed-free forage. Clean equipment when it is moved from an infested area. Identifying and eliminating new weed introductions early will save time and money. Consider establishing competitive grasses that will overtake the Mayweed.

Hand pulling or digging isolated plants can control small infestations, but is not practical for large infestations. Cultivation is most successful if done when the plant is in the seedling stage, before an extensive root system develops and before the plant flowers and produces seeds.

Mowing or flailing mayweed chamomile is not very effective. If mowed too early, the plant grows more prostrate and can produce flowers below the height of a mower blade. However, some success maybe achieved if mowed immediately before the plant flowers. A second mowing may still be necessary.

Manage livestock grazing to improve the competition of desirable grasses and legumes--avoid overgrazing. Maintaining a vigorous pasture with proper irrigation and fertilizer applications will discourage Mayweed chamomile growth. There are currently no biological control methods available.

There are several selective herbicides available to be used with grasses or on small grain crops. Herbicides should be combined with other control methods. A growth regulator herbicide is sometimes used for non-crop sites and roadsides. This herbicide causes abnormal growth by disrupting nutrient flow and preventing energy movement into the root system, eventually killing the plant.



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JSWCD
Recognized for
Educating the
Public on Natural
Resource Issues



On June 23, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation district was honored by Oregon State University for educating the public on Natural Resource issues. David Sugar of OSU Extension presented the award to Board members (l. to r.) Charlie Boyer, Barbara Niedermeyer and Marilyn Rice. JSWCD was one of a number of award recipients around the State of Oregon to receive the award.