

Forestry Program at VHS Takes Root *continued from front page*

works and what doesn't."

The VHS forestry program will not just be about logging and cutting down trees, the program intends to take an overall view of the ecology of the forest. "It's really about forest management and how do we help promote effective practices like replanting and stream restoration," says Miller.

Brown agrees. "To be affective at forest man-

agement you have to understand how everything fits together. It's all connected."

Brown says he expects students to begin working with the UNWC on stream restoration projects and removal of invasive species. Brown recently attended a four day workshop at Portland State that taught watershed enhancement techniques, including how to perform scientific studies and collect data, so that information the class collects can actually be used by organizations like the UNWC and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Miller sees great value in providing a forestry program for local students. "Forestry is a very hands on type class," says Miller. "There are a lot of kids who don't necessarily fit in the academic box that we have in our school and I think this is a good option to help them bridge that gap and find a niche for themselves in school. There are different aspects to our economy and different occupations and we have to prepare our kids for what they are ready for."

Miller hopes that the school district is able to build and expand the program to include a



The Vernonia High School Forestry class is learning practical and hand-on skills that could lead to a career related to natural resources.



Vernonia High School Forestry instructor, Byron Brown works in the field with some of his eighteen students.

broad range of topics related to the career opportunities in the pacific northwest region—topics like water quality, salmon, wildlife and other ecology based fields. "There are lots of jobs related to these fields and I believe the economy is headed in that direction," says Miller. "It is definitely a sector that can expand and has need."

Wauna FCU Announces Management Change, Ten Year Anniversary

Debi Smiley, Executive Vice President & Chief Operations Officer, has announced that the responsibilities of Pam Weller, Manager for the Vernonia Branch since June 2005, now include management for both the Vernonia and Clatskanie Branches. This change is a continuance of a management restructuring which now includes three branch managers overseeing dual branches.

"Pam has demonstrated effective organization, supervisory, and community outreach skills that have contributed to solid growth at our Vernonia Branch," reports Smiley. "As part of our branch manager restructure, Pam's skills and enthusiasm will be valuable to continue the success at our Clatskanie Branch." Susan Harkleroad, Clatskanie Branch Manager, has transferred to become manager for the Warrenton Branch.

Weller has been with Wauna FCU since January 2005. She was previously employed with U.S. Bank in Vernonia. Pam Weller can be contacted at 800-773-33236, or at pam.weller@waunafcu.org.

Heidi Burch, Member Services Officer (MSO) at the Vernonia Branch of Wauna Federal Credit Union, has been recognized for ten years of service.

Burch began her career as an employee with Vernonia Federal Credit Union in 2001. Following a merger of the two credit unions in 2003, she became an employee of Wauna Federal Credit Union and has remained a valuable and popular member of the Vernonia Branch team. Congratulations to Heidi Burch for ten outstanding years of service.

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Pam Weller



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