

# Mist-Birkenfeld Reservoir *continued from front page*

wetland mitigation feature that is being constructed as part of the project. A natural stream bed runs through the site and is being removed due to construction of the reservoir. A new 1.2 acre wetland is required to be constructed to mitigate for the loss of the stream bed area. The UNWC has been on site almost from the beginning, offering recommendations on the excavation of the new wetland. "We're going to make sure it gets properly planted, we'll maintain it and see it through until it is free to grow," says UNWC Director

Maggie Peyton.

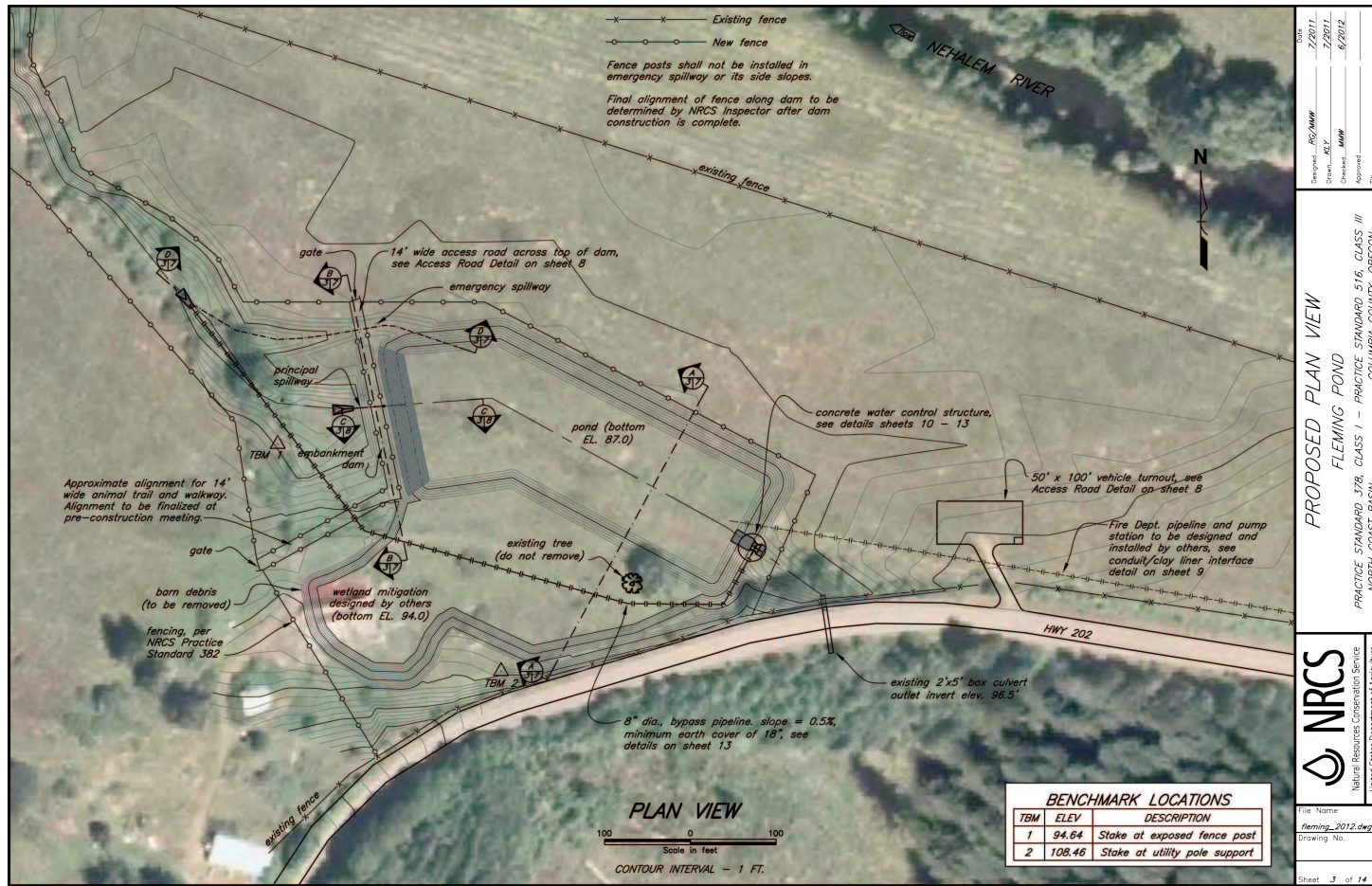
Property owner Fleming originally wanted to build his pond to provide water for cattle and to help keep the cattle out of the Nehalem River, stopping the damage they cause to the watershed. Fleming was unable to acquire the permits needed for his project until a partnership with the Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD was established. "The addition of water committed to an emergency supply opened some doors," says Chief Crawford.

The property remains in Fleming's control and Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD will have a perpetual easement to access the water. "Everybody wins," adds Crawford.

One of the reasons Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD needs this reservoir, and why NW Natural is involved in providing funding, is because of a requirement to provide fire suppression to natural gas wells in the area. "The amount of water that we need was specified by Wild Well Control for NW Natural," says Chief Crawford. "We need 1 million to 1.5 million gallons of water able to be delivered to any of the well sites within about sixty hours." According to Crawford, a 4 million gallon pond, naturally filled during winter, should provide the needed amount throughout the summer.

In addition to providing the required ability to fight a well fire, the reservoir also obviously improves the Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD's ability to provide service to all of their area. "Because the water is here and because it is readily available, we can actually deliver a lot more water to a scene quickly," says Chief Crawford. "Our fire rating should go down and our ability to fight fire should go up."

Chief Crawford says that in addition to the new reservoir, he is also working out the final details to organize a mobile water supply group that could serve Clatsop and Columbia Counties and possibly beyond. According to Crawford, participating fire districts would calculate the amount of water that might be needed to fight a structure fire at any address in their service area, and then water tenders would be automatically dispatched from the closest available resources.



# Meet Your Police: Brent Thompson *continued from page 8*

then moved in with Mike and Kathi Fetch, who he knew through school in Vernonia. He lived with them through his senior year and considers them his "family." "Mike and Kathi have done a lot for me," says Thompson. "They're who I call Mom and Dad—that's where I spend holidays."

Thompson says he believes

he has learned a lot already during the short time he has been working in Vernonia. "Some of the incidents have been pretty serious," says Thompson. "For the size of our agency we have a lot more going on than I think people realize. I have done everything from writing traffic citations to a major death and a lot in between. We can

stay pretty busy and it's not just radio calls coming in—it's self-initiated stuff, which we've been able to do more of since we're back to full staffing. Before it was more reactive, now it's more proactive. I've had a wide range of experience so far, which I feel pretty fortunate about."

Thompson says he is not sure about his long term plans. "Right now I'm just trying to get my feet underneath me and learn the job I'm doing now before I think about really long term goals," says Thompson. "I feel like I owe this department and Chief Conner for giving me an opportunity."

# Enhanced Marine Patrols Pay Off on Labor Day Weekend

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office committed extra manpower and boats to the Columbia River over the Labor Day Weekend. The extra resources helped ease the burden on marine deputies as the weather favored a large turnout on the water.

Deputies put three boats on the river during peak hours and logged 152 man hours and 86 boat hours over the three-day weekend. Deputies responded to three Boating Under the Influence of Intoxicant calls. One culminated in the drowning death of a SeaDoo operator adjacent to Collins Beach on Sauvie Island, while the other two resulted in BUII arrests.

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**Where Do You Read the Voice?**

DeAnna Pearl took a vacation to southern Oregon this summer and of course, she took along her copy of Vernonia's Voice. Here is DeAnna, relaxing and reading at the Hog Creek Boat Landing on the Rogue River.