

Community Calendar

Applegate Valley Garden Club meets at 1:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month from September through May. For meeting locations and programs, call Sandra King at 541-899-9027 or Betty Lou Smith at 541-846-6817.

Applegate 4-H Swine Club meets on Tuesday following the third Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. For more information contact Charles Elmore at 541-846-6528 or Barbara Niedermeyer at 541-846-7635.

Applegate Christian Fellowship. For service times, call 541-899-8732, 24 hours/day.

Applegate Friends of Fire District #9 meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Fire Station—1095 Upper Applegate Road—at 6:00 pm. New members are welcome. For more information, call Bob Fischer 541-846-6218.

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Monday morning at Applegate Church, 18960 North Applegate Road (at the corner of Hwy. 238 and N. Applegate Road). Weigh-in starts at 8:30 am; the meeting starts at 9:00 am. Come join us!

Josephine County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) meets Thursdays at 6 pm. For meeting information, call 541-474-6840.

Applegate Valley Community Forum (AVCF) meets the third Thursday of each month, location alternating between Applegate and Ruch. For more information, call Pat Gordon at 541-899-7655.

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Grants Pass Branch meets monthly from September through June. Days, times, and locations vary. All those who hold an associate of arts, a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university are welcome to join. Contact Sylvia Rose at snrjrose2@charter.net or 541-479-0277 or Georgia Applegate at gkapple@apbb.net or 541-787-7175.

AA Meeting There is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous every Wednesday at 7:00 am at the Williams Community Church Fellowship Hall on East Fork Road in Williams. This meeting is open to those who have a drinking problem and have a desire to stop drinking, and also to anyone interested in the Alcoholics Anonymous program of recovery from drinking.

Applegate Library Hours

Sunday.....closed
Monday.....closed
Tuesday.....2 pm - 6 pm
Wednesday.....closed
Thursday.....closed
Friday.....2 pm - 6 pm
Saturday.....10 am - 2 pm
(Storytime will be held Tuesdays at 2:30 pm.)

Ruch Branch Library Hours

Sunday.....closed
Monday.....closed
Tuesday.....11 am - 5 pm
Wednesday.....closed
Thursday.....1 pm - 7 pm
Friday.....closed
Saturday.....12 pm - 4 pm
(Storytime will be held Tuesdays at 11 am.)

Friends of Ruch Library Board of Directors meets monthly. Check with the Ruch Library for schedule. 541-899-7438.

Food & Friends Senior Nutrition Program invites local 60+ seniors to enjoy a nutritious, hot meal served at 11:30 am Monday through Friday at the Jacksonville IOOF Hall located at the corner of Main and Oregon Streets. A donation is suggested and appreciated. Volunteers help serve meals or deliver meals to homebound seniors. For information about volunteering (it takes 40 volunteers to keep the Jacksonville program going) or receiving meals, call Food & Friends at 541-664-6674, x246 or x208.

Wonder Neighborhood Watch Meetings: second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm, Wonder Bible Chapel.

Williams Library Hours

Sunday.....closed
Monday.....closed
Tuesday.....1:30 pm - 4 pm
Wednesday.....1:30 pm - 4 pm
Thursday.....closed
Friday.....closed
Saturday.....12 pm - 4 pm

Upper Applegate Grange #239 Business meetings: second Thursday at 7:30 pm. Potluck/Social meetings: fourth Friday at 7:30 pm, open to the public. Join us for informative meetings, fun and involvement in community service. Sponsors of Cub Scout Pack Troop #18. Call 541-899-6987.

Williams Rural Fire Protection District Meetings: fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Williams Fire Department.

Williams Creek Watershed Council Meetings: fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Williams Creek Fire Station. The Public is welcome. For more information, call 541-846-9175.

Williams Grange Pancake Breakfast, second Sunday of each month, 8:30 to 11:00, followed by the Bluegrass Jam, 11:00 to 1:00. Closed July and August. 20100 Williams Hwy, near Tetherow Rd. Information 541-846-6844.

Williams Grange #399 Business Meeting, second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm. 20100 Williams Hwy, near Tetherow Rd. Information 541-846-6844.

Applegate Fire District Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Station 1 - 18489 N. Applegate Rd. at 7:30 pm. Except for the months of March, April and May, which are held at Headquarters - 1095 Upper Applegate Rd. For more information, call 541-899-1050.

Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) meets on the last Wednesday of every month at the Ruch Library. All interested persons are welcome to attend. ANN is a community organization dedicated to protecting, preserving, and restoring the Applegate watershed. For more information about ANN, call Duane Bowman, 541-899-7264.

Women Helping Other Women (WHOW) meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10036 Hwy 238 (Gyda Lane) at 6:30 pm for a potluck meeting to plan work parties at each other's homes. New members are welcome. For more information, call Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-8741 or Sioux Rogers at 541-846-7736.

Applegate Lake Cub Scouts Pack #18 (Ruch Region) Outdoor activity (fishing, rafting, hikes, etc.) the first Friday of each month; regular meeting the third Friday of each month. Upper Applegate Grange from 10 am to 1 pm. All boys in grades first through fifth including homeschoolers, Ruch students, and non-Ruch students are welcome. For more information, contact Cub Leader Vic Agnifili at 541-899-1717.

Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council meets the 4th Thursday of the month at the Applegate Library. For more information call 541-899-9982.

The Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association meets the first Monday of each month, 7:30 pm, at the OSU extension. For more information, please contact sobeekeepers@gmail.com.

Sanctuary One is open to the public for farm tours every Wednesday and Saturday at 11 am. Recommended donation is \$5. Please check out our website for details: www.SanctuaryOne.org and call to reserve a spot. 541-899-8627.

Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm at Applegate Fire District Station 1 on North Applegate Road. For more information, call 541-245-4741 or go to www.gacdc.org.

Ladies Spring Luncheon at Applegate Community Church, April 30 at 10:00 am. All ladies invited to come and enjoy special music, speaker and salad luncheon. Any questions contact: 541-846-6100.

Send your calendar information to gater@applegater.org. Be sure to keep the Gater updated with any changes to these Community Calendar listings.

Progress update on the Middle Applegate Pilot

BY JOHN GERRITSMAS

By the time you read this article, the Environmental Assessment (EA) describing Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) initial Middle Applegate Pilot (Pilot) projects and their environmental effects will be available for your review. The BLM will be assessing and reviewing



the public comments, sharing those concerns with our cooperators, providing additional information, as needed, and moving us toward a decision on the Pilot proposals that can be implemented this fall. The efforts being made by BLM staff, our collaborative partners in the Applegate Partnership and the Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative, interested community members, and our technical experts Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson are helping to bring the Pilot to a reality. Therein lays the more pertinent story of the Pilot, at least until on-the-ground results become a reality.

Part of the Pilot demonstration has been to explore and deepen collaboration. We can debate a long time about how well collaboration over forest management issues has gone. Perhaps, it can simply be said that the Pilot is the culmination of some extraordinary events and opportunities. The puzzle pieces that are allowing a high degree of collaboration and stakeholder involvement have come together.

The road to the Pilot was much like baking a cake. So, what was the occasion for needing to bake that "cake"? The Secretary of the Interior withdrew the decision to implement the revisions of the BLM's District Resource Management Plans (known as the WOPR). A new way forward (a new "cake") for managing BLM lands was needed.

Ingredients were slowly added to the mix. In February 2010, the Applegate Partnership and the Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative wrote the Secretary to request a landscape level project to demonstrate forest restoration principles to be collaboratively developed.

In the meantime, political interests were looking for ways to keep an important wood-products industry alive in Southern Oregon, and began conversations with Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson, highly regarded experts in the ecology and forestry fields. All the while, a series of litigation outcomes and political events resulted in a narrow set of criteria by which timber sales could still be developed on the Medford District. This will likely better align forest management practices and options among the environmental community, interested stakeholders, and the BLM. Then, community interest from across the Applegate and Rogue valleys championed the idea of a conference (held last October 2010) to discuss forest restoration to help inform on alternative approaches to restoring forest health while providing wood products. Finally, the tremendous

local, collaborative capacity was added to the mix to hold all the ingredients together, and with the Secretary of the Interior's declaration, the Middle Applegate Pilot was begun.

To increase collaboration, we (collaborative partners and the BLM) needed to build trust, which meant having transparency and sharing in the development and in the many decisions of the project. To that end, we (the collective "we") provided public involvement early and often in developing the criteria for selecting restoration units; in reviewing and amending marking guidelines; in developing a multi-party monitoring plan; in placing a community member on the Interdisciplinary Team; and in providing project notes and information in near real time on the website (www.blm.gov/or).

What lies ahead? The desire is to continue improving and building on the collaborative aspect. The next big push is creating a monitoring strategy and detailed monitoring plan. A steering group of local citizens, project partners and BLM staff have taken on that task with a goal to have a monitoring plan in place by the end of July. This goal will allow us to set up the necessary baseline information on the ground prior to implementing the first Pilot project.

The next phase of the Pilot is already ongoing. BLM resource specialists are assessing owl habitat and restoration needs of stands in the Thompson Creek drainage, in the vicinity of Cantrall-Buckley Park, and on the remaining lands within the initial Pilot project. In the near future, we will invite the public to participate in a transportation assessment and planning session to take a look at roads and trails in the Middle Applegate Pilot, opportunities for restoration of unneeded or highly impacting roads and trails, and future needs. This fall and winter will provide continual public interaction opportunities.

If you wish to stay informed on the aforementioned and other opportunities related to the Pilot, please use the website comment section, or contact Stephanie_Kellerher@blm.gov, or call 541-618-2205.

John Gerritsma
541-618-2438
Field Manager
Ashland Resource Area
Medford District BLM
John_Gerritsma@blm.gov