



Annual Maintenance
from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

Murphy's Law for well & pump systems is - they will cease to function when you need them the most.

This law also applies to the family car, and if you think it makes you crazy to be without transportation, you don't even want to know how it feels not to be able to get a drink of water, a shower, or (worse) flush the toilet. An annual maintenance check and service for your well's pump system can save you a lot of unhappiness.

Similar to the annual tune-up for your vehicle or regular oil changes, the annual pump maintenance helps to ensure the smooth functioning of your water system. A qualified service technician should examine the pump, check to see that it is functioning properly, make certain that the amperage is neither too high or low, and check the points on the motor. Such annual maintenance can help avoid future problems and should also reveal whether the pressure tank is waterlogged.

Water is a geological cocktail so DRINK MORE WATER!

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Outreach and opportunities for Williams Creek landowners

BY NATHAN GEHRES

Applegate Partnership and Williams Creek watershed councils are collaborating on outreach efforts to landowners along Williams Creek to gain insights on the current status of the stream and the valuable habitat that it provides. We would also like to hear directly from those landowners about any concerns they may have regarding the overall health of Williams Creek and what types of restoration activities the landowners and community would support.

Williams Creek is a refuge for local wildlife, especially during these extremely dry times. Many of the streams in our region dry up in the summer, but Williams Creek tends to hold water late into the year. This reliable source of water has been a boon to the water users, the community at large, and, of course, the native flora and fauna. It acts as a cold-water refuge for fish during the summer's extreme heat, helping us avoid the devastating fish kills that have afflicted other regions. Many types of wildlife use this crucial creek habitat as a sanctuary, taking a break from the high temperatures and dry conditions. Locals also enjoy escaping the heat with cool dips in the creek.

Drought and fire are two constant threats in our area. The Almeda and Obenchain fires of last year and this

year's extremely low water are warnings that the green forests and rushing, salmon-filled rivers we are used to aren't guaranteed. Those fires demonstrated the risk posed by the uncontrolled growth of invasive species such as blackberries.

We can make efforts to reduce the hazards posed by these overly dry times. As this year has demonstrated, water is our area's most precious natural resource, and we need to protect and preserve it. In response to these pressing issues, the two watershed councils are seeking input from the community about ways to add resiliency to the watershed.

There are strong connections between the Williams community and the creek after which it's named. By working together with supportive landowners, the watershed councils can increase the positive impact of restoration efforts that will reinforce this strong relationship between the community and its landscape.

Williams is also a community undergoing rapid transitions. Our outreach efforts have revealed a lot of changes of land ownership bordering Williams Creek over the past year. The real estate boom that has washed over the country has also swept through southern Oregon. These new locals should add their voice to what can be done to help improve the health of Williams Creek. We are endeavoring to



Side channels of Williams Creek, near Provolt, meander away from the main creek, providing unique habitats and holding more water higher up in the system, keeping water on the landscape longer, providing water for irrigation and water for natural resources.
Photo: Jay Doyno/APWC.

The tinder-dry blackberry canes, like these along the banks of Williams Creek near Provolt, built up over decades of unchecked growth and are primed to carry fires right through the heart of communities.
Photo: Jay Doyno/APWC.



engage everyone who owns land along the creek so we can hear their ideas and listen to their concerns.


These outreach efforts are just the start of a long process, and the feedback that we get from landowners will determine the direction of future efforts. It's very important to us that the voices of the community are heard loudly and clearly, as no project would be successful without that input. Together, we can protect and improve Williams Creek for the future and for us all to enjoy.

For more information, please contact Nathan Gehres at the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (nathan@apwc.info) or Chas Rogers at the Williams Creek Watershed Council (chasrogers360@gmail.com).

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