

Robin Hartmann takes the helm at Selma's jewel, the Siskiyou Field Institute

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IVN Contributing Writer

"I'm looking forward to meeting people and looking for ways to cooperate on projects," said Robin Hartmann, the new executive director of the Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI). She has been working half-time for the SFI since mid-January of this year. Hartmann said, "I love traveling up and over the passes along I-5 once a week to come to SFI's Deer Creek Center in Selma. I had always hoped to have a reason to work in the Illinois Valley and now that dream is a reality. I also work half-time for Umpqua Valley Habitat for Humanity in Roseburg."

Hartmann's job at the SFI is to make sure that there is adequate funding, planning and staffing to operate the facility and to provide the programs in a way that meets their mission and enriches the community.

"My professional background is in natural resources communication and environmental interpretation," Hartmann said. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from University of Missouri at Columbia in forestry, and her Master of Science degree in wildland recreation from University of Idaho. For the past 10 years she has worked as part of a campaign to establish Oregon's system of marine reserves along our coast, which was accomplished in 2013. Oregon now has five

marine reserves that will serve as protected nursery areas in the ocean to help sustain coastal communities into the future.

Hartmann grew up in Kansas where her father was a fisheries biologist and her mother was a teacher and coach. She came west when working on her master's degree in wildland recreation management at the University of Idaho in the 1980s. "I spent the first half of the '90s in Washington D.C. serving as the natural resources legislative staff for Idaho Congressman Larry LaRocco. Eventually I landed in Roseburg where I have lived since 1995. I've worked for nonprofit conservation organizations since that time, including on local, regional and statewide projects," Hartmann said. "I have a partner of 15 years, Matt, who is a native of Douglas County and loves hiking, fishing and camping. No kids. One big dog and a pair of cats and rabbits."

"I had been looking for an opportunity to connect with Southern Oregon as part of my work, since most of my work projects have taken me to places north of Roseburg Salem, Eugene

and Portland as well as the coast. I originally saw the job listing online and a friend told me about the opportunity," Hartmann continued.

"I love working with the excellent staff and board - and I love the natural beauty that surrounds SFI's Deer Creek Center."



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Siskiyou Field Institute Executive Director Robin Hartmann

Villa Novia Vineyards streamside planting project complete

Over 1,200 native plants have been planted next to Deer Creek over the last two planting seasons at the Villa Novia Vineyard on Deer Creek Road about five miles east of Selma. The riparian (streamside) plantings included a carefully chosen mixture of willow, Oregon ash, cottonwood, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, incense cedar, and other native species that naturally occur in the area. Land use practices can

make it challenging for local streams like Deer Creek to behave in a healthy manner. Streamside plantings can help set things back on a healthier track.

"This and other streamside plantings like this, are a great step toward restoring natural processes and functions for our communities in the Valley" said local Watershed coordinator Kevin O'Brien, who added, "We're very

fortunate and grateful to be able to partner with fantastic landowners who want to not only improve their own property's condition and value, but also the overall health of our watershed."

O'Brien stated that grant funding is usually easy to locate and secure for these types of projects, which significantly reduces or even eliminates out-of-pocket expenses for landowners.

Villa Novia Vineyard

owner Gayle Werden and her managers Mike and Amy Anderson are to be commended for helping improve the watershed health in our Valley with their positive approach in taking action to improve streamside condition along Deer Creek.

Thanks, Gayle, Mike and Amy!

Want to see if your property's health can be improved and value increased? Please consider

taking advantage of our local ater Conservation District's and Watershed Council's free assessment and consultation services by their trained professionals. Amy and Kevin look forward to your call at 541-592-3731, or Kevin may be reached via email at kevin@ivstreamteam.org. Amy's and Kevin's offices are in the County Community Building located at 102 South Redwood Highway in Cave Junction.



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