

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Thursday, Mar 23

Showers

High -- 51 Low -- 35

Friday, Mar 24

Showers

High -- 58 Low -- 46

Saturday, Mar 25

Rain

High -- 52 Low -- 42

Sunday, Mar 26

Showers

High -- 51 Low -- 38

Monday, Mar 27

Rain

High -- 59 Low -- 44

Tuesday, Mar 28

Mostly Cloudy

High -- 55 Low -- 40

Wednesday, Mar 29

Chance of Rain

High -- 63 Low -- 36

Following are the high & low temperatures, and rainfall recorded at The End of the Road in O'Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson:

O'Brien

Weather was not available at press time.

ROSTIE'S

INFERNO

WOOD FIRED PIZZA

TRY

ROSIE'S

PIZZA

BY-THE-SLICE

TODAY

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M & TH 11-6

FRIDAY 11-7

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SATURDAY 9-1

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Talking woods:

by Joél Palacios

The vast amount of public woodlands that surround our communities is our common inheritance and responsibility. All woods support pure water, clean air and diverse ecosystems, but the proximity of those woods and hills that are near us makes them a special part of our community. They are accessible for use and enjoyment on a regular basis. They can be part of our daily life in the form of firewood, hunting, and the gathering of a diversity of other nontimber products. Even more importantly, they provide a beautiful place to find peace in nature, with hiking, picnicking, or simple solitude by a creek.

Unfortunately, all too often, the public lands that are nearest to the community are the hardest hit by human use. In the public woods surrounding the Illinois Valley, this begins with trash along the BLM roads and toxic dump piles just off the roads. Day-users (or night-users) often come to the woods to party (you can tell by the trash left behind), go mudding, shoot guns at TVs and trees, or stash stolen vehicles. Some even come just to drive as fast as they can on a curvy gravel road, and then drive right back, their interaction with the woods only a blur. All of these activities show no appreciation for the woods itself, except as cover to keep the activity out of sight.

One large impact to the public woods, which seems to be growing larger every week, is squatters that set up camp and claim a space to live in the woods. It seems possible that responsible squatters who work hard to minimize their impact on the woods and know how to care for an

area might exist. However, repeated observance show that many, many squatters are fleeing from town and from prying eyes, with no clue or care for responsible use of the woods. While they squat, they claim and defend an area of woods that used to belong to all of us. Each camp is eventually abandoned, with trash, buckets of feces, broken-down vehicles and trailers, and even small meth labs, left as a legacy.

So how can we change this? First, we must all have respect and reverence for our woods and an appreciation for what they give us. Second, we need to take responsibility for stewardship. The woods cannot survive alone, and everyone who relies on them (which IS everyone) must participate. Even if you don't physically interact with the woods, you might interact by purchasing firewood, buying lumber, using paper products or breathing air. You can participate consciously by knowing how these products come to you and supporting those woods-workers who most carefully steward the woods. When in the woods yourself, use care to avoid damaging trees and the forest floor, clean up after yourself, and be cognizant of your noise and its impact on the quiet, open space. These individual actions are a starting point: forming a bond between self and woods.

Organized community efforts are equally necessary for enabling us to effectively protect the woods. Community woodland stewardship groups might be formed to tackle discrete tasks like the cleanup of trash piles in favorite recreational areas, or development/improvement of a picnic area in an inviting location. The immediate goal

will be a community woods that is more inviting for recreation and for enjoyable, responsible use. The presence and interest of more people in the woods will make it a much less comfortable place for irresponsible uses.

The next level of organization for a community group would go deeper, seeking a new paradigm for managing the woods. Extractive logging that takes resources without giving in return is unsustainable by any definition, and must be changed. But this is a much larger topic and beyond the scope of this article.

Some of us in the Holland Loop area have been forming a plan for beginning the community woodland process, in the foothills just above the Holland Store. If you would like to get involved, the inaugural cleanup work party will be held Saturday, April 1 at 10 a.m. We will clean up one major trash dump and one abandoned squatters camp. Also, we will build a

fire pit to consecrate an old homestead as a place for the community to gather, and then at 5 p.m. we will gather around it to grill hamburgers (from local beef, of course). Our hope is that the old homestead and ponds can be reawakened with the sounds, past and present, of humans happily enjoying and being nourished by the woods. This is what I believe the woods wants and will embrace. Please contact me at 541-592-9254 if you would like to help with the cleanup or if you would like to discuss ideas about a community stewardship group.

Joél Palacios is working on a model for an alternative to extraction at Talking Woods, a working family woodland. The foundation of this model is that they hold the woods as sacred and their work in the woods as spiritual. They use only hand tools, to create reverence and give devotion. The trees feel this. The details flow from the gracious spirits of the trees.



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Oregon Mix

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WSDA Composted Chicken Manure

ROCK'N SOIL

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BY THE BAG/TOTE:

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