

on the property owner to prove they have been affected.”

Even if landowners have documented declines in their wells, the process for remediation is difficult. Jarvis says that watermasters, local officials responsible for mediating water disputes, are overburdened in their workload.

However, Jarvis says that if the community is willing to ask for help, his institute along with students and researchers at OSU would like to provide technical assistance to help the community cope with water storage issues. Jarvis says programs aimed at artificially recharging wells through the capture and diversion of water in the rainy season could help keep water flowing all year long in Alpine.

Jarvis recommends that citizens form an “aquifer community” to organize, educate and solve water issues in their community.

“Water is important to everyone,” Jarvis says, who adds that organizing an aquifer community is an opportunity for Alpine residents “to set their differences aside and come together to protect this essential resource.”

In the case of the Davidson Hill development, it’s unlikely that participants will set their differences aside and find a mutually agreeable solution. A proposed lot line adjustment on the property, that would only reconfigure the existing five lots, is in an open comment period before the Benton County Planning Commission until May 23.

Not everyone in the community is against the development. Davidson’s daughter, Carmen Keyser, lives on a property adjacent to the proposed development. She says the developers have done a good job with the development so far. Keyser points out that having more nice houses in the neighborhood could improve the property value of surrounding homes, including her own.

Balsly, however, remains dedicated to fighting the development and is currently challenging the latest lot line adjustment proposal before the Benton County Planning Commission.

Representatives for the McDougals dismissed his ongoing challenges to the development. At a public hearing on April 18, Bill Kloos, a Eugene attorney representing the McDougals, referred to the current objections to the lot line adjustments as a waste of time and said that is was just a part of the game that Lane County LandWatch plays to stop development.

“It might be a game for them because they are already rich,” Balsly says. “For them, it’s just another drop in the bucket; for me, this is about having access to water where I live.”



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## LANE COUNTY AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

Giustina Land & Timber, 541-345-2301, plans to hire Northwest Reforestation Services, 541-520-6215, to ground spray 48.9 acres south of Hamm Road with hexazinone, clopyralid, sulfometuron methyl and Crop Oil Concentrate. See ODF notification 2017-781-04828, call Brian Peterson at 541-935-2283 with questions.

Larry Kirner, 541-206-7187, working for Doug Carnine, 541-485-3781, plans to spray 271.8 acres at the Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Refuge between Lorane Highway and Sarvis

Berry Road with Garlon 3A, Gly Star 5 Extra, MSO Concentrate, High-Light Blue. See ODF notification 2017-781-04588, call Brian Peterson at 541-935-2283 with questions.

Ed Thompson, 541-683-1900, plans to hire Shiloh Forestry, 541-451-0854, to spray 12.5 acres with Roundup Pro Concentrate. See ODF notification 2017-781-04760, call Brian Peterson at 541-935-2283 with questions.

Compiled by Gary Hale, Forestland Dwellers: 541-342-8332, forestlanddwellers.org

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