

OSU EXTENSION



Photo by Jason Pettigrew

PRESCRIBED BURNS are an important part of wildfire management.

OSU Extension builds partnerships with new fire program

By **KIM POKORNY AND GLENN AHRENS**
OSU Extension

In a time of increasing wildfire activity, Oregon State University Extension Service has implemented a new statewide fire program to facilitate forest and range management plans for reducing fire risk. The program will also promote increased understanding of fire risk and methods for managing risk through local education and outreach efforts.

The program, led by the OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Program and the College of Forestry, focuses on creating opportunities for landowners by building partnerships.

“You can think of the fire program team as ‘boundary spanners,’” said Carrie Berger, associate program leader for the Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Program. “The team will work to build those important partnerships that are so crucial to mitigating Oregon’s risk of catastrophic wildfire.”

With funding allocated by the Oregon Legislature, the fire program will hire a director, a state fire specialist, and six regional fire specialists. The specialists will be strategically placed in areas of greatest risk and need as the growing program expands the impact of current efforts and builds on existing partnerships.

“Over the last year, advances in the fire program have assisted landscape-scale progress in Lake and Klamath counties, where OSU Extension is working with partners to create consistent land management plans for private landowners and creating an economy of scale to make a positive difference on the ground,” Berger said. “As a result, 60,000 to 70,000 acres on both private and public lands have been treated to lessen fire risk by reducing fuel loads, improving forest health and restoring wildlife habitat. Other efforts have focused on defensible space treatments across ownership boundaries. Benefits are being realized for ecosystems, communities and economies.”

“If we can prioritize where need is the greatest in the state and come up with a diagnosis of what needs to be done, we can come up with a prescription of management treatments. That’s where we’re headed,” said Daniel Leavell, OSU’s Extension for-ester who has over 40 years of fire experience.

While Oregon didn’t see much fire last year, in 2018, Oregon’s cost to fight wildfires hit a record high of \$514 million with over 800,000 acres burned. Fuels in forests, woodlands and ranges have built up in the last 100 years due to fire suppression, Leavell noted. Fires start sooner and burn hotter with drier weather. More homes are located on the edges and middle of forests and woodlands that used to be remote areas. Homes are built in greater numbers and higher densities than ever before. These boxes of fuel are filled with synthetic materials that also burn hotter.

“We used to have 30 minutes to respond to a house fire,” Leavell said. “Now with synthetics, laminates and artificial composites throughout homes, we have three minutes. We need to be prepared for that.

“In addition to partnership building, education is essential to prepare landowners, land managers, emergency responders, policy makers, educators and the public to work together to plan for wildfire as the threat continues to climb,” Leavell said. “We’re trying to shift attitudes to be more proactive than reactive.

OSU Extension has been offering education programs and resources on Wildfire Preparedness out of the Hood River Extension office and other County Extension offices across the state. The new Extension Fire Program will provide a much-needed boost, scaling up to enable large scale planning and treatment to reduce fire severity and damage at the landscape level.

For more information, see the research-based educational materials about wildfire, online at catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/topic/forestry-and-wood-processing/wildfire and knowyourforest.org/learning-library/reducing-fire-hazard.

If you are interested in getting involved with the OSU Extension fire education program, contact Glenn Ahrens at 503-655-8631 or glenn.ahrens@oregonstate.edu.

About OSU Extension Service

The Oregon State University Extension Service shares research-based knowledge with people and communities in Oregon’s 36 counties. OSU Extension addresses issues that matter to urban and rural Oregonians. OSU Extension’s partnerships and programs contribute to a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future for Oregon.

Kim Pokorny is with OSU Extension and Experiment Station Communications, and Glenn Ahrens is an OSU Extension Forester, Clackamas, Hood River, and Marion counties.

CLASS NOTES

Locals make dean, president lists

Muhlenberg College: Eme-
lia Gendreau of Hood River
was named to the Dean’s List
at Muhlenberg College for the
Fall 2019 semester.

Students with a term GPA of
3.50 or higher were recognized
for this academic achievement.
Founded in 1848, Muhlenberg
is a private, four-year residen-
tial, liberal arts college located
in Allentown, Pa.

Gonzaga University: Mor-
gan Elizabeth Graves, Simon

Adlir Harsanyi, Mireya Jimenez
Magana and Abigail Rose
Walker of Hood River, and
Katherine Drew Perkins of Mt.
Hood-Parkdale, earned place-
ment on the Gonzaga Uni-
versity President’s List for fall
semester 2019. Students must
earn a 3.85 to 4.0 grade-point
average to be listed. Gonzaga
University is a humanistic,
private Catholic University
providing a Jesuit education to
more than 7,500 students.

YESTERYEARS

Shutdown caused by ice floe in 1930

1910 — 110 YEARS AGO

G.Y. Edwards & Co. report a sale of interest at a good figure consisting of 16 and a half acres in the Willow Flat district belonging to D.L. Davidson. This was bought by W.A. Melville, a native of Edinburg, Scotland. It is partly set to orchard, the balance being uncleared which will be improved as soon as possible. Melville is now attending the winter horticultural course at the Oregon Agricultural College.

1920 — 100 YEARS AGO

With the incorporation of the Mt. Hood Motor Com-pany with E.E. Brett as presi-
dent, Harry DeWitt has given the word to commence con-
struction of a fine new garage
between Second and Third on
Oak Street. With the change,
several unsightly shacks in
the business section will pass
into oblivion, as also hap-
pened when DeWitt built the
Ford garage here. When the
new garage is completed,
DeWitt will lease it to the new
company. The building will
cover an area of 100x100 and
will consist of one story and a
basement.

1930 — 90 YEARS AGO

Enormous quantities of ice floes coming down Hood River from the Dee section caused a complete shutdown of the Pacific Power & Light Co.’s generating station at Powerdale on Saturday. So complete was the ice jam above the intake that water practically ceased to turn over the big turbines and after the switches had been thrown and Hood River city and valley was drawing juice form the Northwestern and White River plants, the Powerdale plant was shut down. Up till Tuesday and before the latest ice jam had shut down the plant, the company had spent \$3,172 on ice removal and had employed as high as 92 men in one day.

1940 — 80 YEARS AGO

An unexpected snowstorm in the early hours of Friday morning of last week, while it brought the snow level in town and valley up to about 14 inches on the level, only held up traffic on the Colum-
bia River Highway for about an hour, thanks to main-
tenance crews, with their
plows being on the job before
daybreak. The temperature
was around 22 degrees, but,
later in the day, it rose, and
by nightfall, rain was falling
to freeze and create silver thaw
conditions on all roads.

1950 — 70 YEARS AGO

With winter’s grip still par-
alyzing life in general and
with a siege of winter weather
verging on all-time propor-
tions, Hood River County
this week witnessed three
new records. Unofficially,
Parkdale ha a new all-time
record low on Monday, when
the mercury dropped to 23
degrees below zero, accord-
ing to Ralph Davies, Parkdale
observer. Snow records for
the month of January went
a-smashing both in upper



Hood River News archives

FEBRUARY 3, 1950

Snow surveying Crag Rats found nearly two feet more snow at Tilly Jane guard station last weekend than they had measured at the same time the year before. Snow depths averaged around 10 feet. In the foreground with the measuring tube is Glenn Mash. Recording the snow data in the background is Rob Hukari. A party of 10 Crag Rats went into the Legion camp area for the survey. Photo by Bill’s Photo Service.

and lower valley. Davies fig-
ures show 120 inches of snow
during January at Parkdale; the
previous record was 72 inches
in 1937. W.A. Meyle, official
weather observer at the Hood
River Experiment Station, re-
ports a total snowfall for the
lower valley as 92.8 inches.
Ellison’s figure for lower Hood
River Valley, compiled since
1889, reveal the heaviest of the
heaviest snowfall for January
was 80 inches in 1895.

1960 — 60 YEARS AGO

Early in his banquet speech,
Governor Hatfield delighted
Hood River listeners with some
personal testimonials to the
town’s products. “As served
in our home, the recipe calls
for equal parts of Hood River
apple juice and one-half ginger
ale ... it makes a most delight-
ful drink.” Laughingly, the Gov-
ernor then observed that this,
his favorite drink, was not on
the all-apple banquet menu.

1970 — 50 YEARS AGO

Young Dr. Alan Beardsley
will soon be getting a good look
at a world few men know. He
descends in April to the ocean
floor for a two-week stay in an
underwater research vehicle
called Tekitte II. Beardsley has
been named an Aquanaut and
as such is part of an exten-
sive oceanographic research
program sponsored by the
Department of the Interior and
the Smithsonian Institution.
The multi-million dollar pro-
gram aims at sending scientists
to the ocean bottom for truly
firsthand research.

1980 — 40 YEARS AGO

There’s almost always a pen-
ance to pay in the Mid-Colum-
bia for relief from the snow
and sub-zero weather, and
January’s storm brought no
exception. Penance came in
the form of freezing rain, the
harbinger of warmer tempera-
tures arriving from the west.
For a time on Jan. 31, it looked
as if the Hood River Valley
might escape the transitional
glazing rain. Reports of a silver
thaw in the Portland area and
frozen rain to the east came

VERBATIM

Is it warming? Check the evidence

Anyone looking for evi-
dence to support the “green-
house effect” theory of plan-
et warming wouldn’t do bad
to look at Hood River.

Comparing Hood River’s
relatively balmy weather
that greeted February —
spring bulbs were already
up, and some were bloom-
ing — with the same scene
exactly 10 years ago would
provide a dramatic contrast.

In January 1980, four feet
of snow fell virtually over-
night, bringing activity al-
most to a standstill. The
freeway was closed, thor-
oughfares were blocked,
and emergency housing had
to be set up for hundreds of
stranded travelers.

Then it started getting
cold. The thermometer
dropped to six below zero in
the lower valley toward the

end of January, and it was
even colder in the upper val-
ley. Growers were happy for
the insulating effect of the
snow coating by that time.

Then came the “silver
thaw,” with warming winds
bringing thick ice coating to
the trees and streets.

That was exactly 10 years
ago. Where there was ice
in February to greet Hood
River in 1980, there wasn’t
even a crust on the puddles
in 1990. The comparison is
striking, since the low tem-
perature on the same win-
ter date was more than 40
degrees lower in 1980 than
it was this year! Most local
observers would feel more
at ease if it weren’t quite so
mild at the start of February.

— *Hood River News, Feb-
ruary 7, 1990*

through that day. But skies
were overcast but dry over the
Hood River Valley.

1990 — 30 YEARS AGO

Lured to Hood River from
Sausalito, Calif., in 1989, HI-
TECH International plans to
move from temporary quarters
into a new building by October.
The sailboard manufacturer
was attracted to Hood River
by the joint efforts of Pacific
Power and Light, the Port
of Hood River and the Ore-
gon Economic Development
Department. Lottery dollars
sweetened the move. HI-TECH
is now located in temporary
space at the Waterfront Center
on the port’s waterfront indus-
trial site. They hope to located
on 1.9 acres of land situated
between Clark Door and the
United Telephone port.

2000 — 20 YEARS AGO

Come mid-February, mo-
torists will need to have some
change handy to park on Oak
Avenue. The city hopes to
have meters up and operating
within two weeks, weather per-

mitting. Last month the Hood
River City Council gave the
go-ahead for the new plan, the
latest of a number of strategies
tried by the city as it attempts
to find the best way to control
parking in the downtown dis-
trict. The meters will charge 50
cents per hour, and motorists
can pay for up to three hours
at a time. On State, Cascade
and other surrounding streets,
parking will be free and with
no time limits.

2010 — 10 YEARS AGO

House Republican Leader
John Boehner, R-Ohio, an-
nounced on Thursday that
he had appointed Rep. Greg
Walden, R-Oregon, to serve as
Chairman of the Republican
Leadership Team, a position
previously held by former GOP
Reps. Bob Walker, R-Pa., Bill
Paxon, R-N.Y., and Rob Port-
man, R-Ohio. “I am humbled
by Leader Boehner’s trust to
serve in this leadership capaci-
ty,” said Walden.

■
*Compiled by Trisha Walker
and Emily Fitzgerald, News
staff writers*

COMMUNITY NOTES

All Animal Care Clinic
hosts fundraiser

All Animal Care Clinic will
host its fifth anniversary Si-
lent Auction Fundraiser on
Friday, March 6 from 6:30-8
p.m. at Marcessi Vineyards
and Winery, 3955 Belmont
Drive.

The fundraiser is in support
of the clinic’s Angel Fund,
an in-house charitable fund
for homeless, abandoned or
relinquished pets. Ad-
vanced tickets are \$25 at All
Animal Care Clinic, or by
calling 541-386-5753. Tickets
are \$35 at the door and in-
clude Marchesi wine and hors
d’oeuvres.

Radio Amateurs
host review, exam

W7RAGS — Radio Amateurs
of the Gorge — hosts its next
technician license test review
and exam on March 6-7 at the
Hood River Fire Department
Training Room, 1785 Meyer
Parkway, from 5:30-9 p.m. on
Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on
Saturday.

The class is free, but there
is a \$15 examination fee. The
class is open to all.

The class is limited to 25
and registration is required; for
more information or to regis-
ter, contact Kevin Widener at
kevin.widener@gmail.com or
509-528-9565.

Good Neighbor
Saturday

Would you like to make a
difference in the life of an elder
or someone with a long-term
health concern? Sign up to vol-
unteer for Good Neighbor Sat-
urday, organized by Volunteers

in Action, by March 30.

Volunteers will wash outside
windows, clean gutters or do
yard work for a community
member on May 9 from 8 a.m.
to noon. For more information
or to register, contact Britta
Willson at 541-387-6404.

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