

# Public input sought for Indian Creek restoration

MAPLETON — The Siuslaw National Forest is soliciting input on a proposed restoration project within the 30,800-acre Indian Creek Watershed, about 14 miles northeast of Florence.

The public is invited to learn about the project and provide comments at a meeting from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21, at the Mapleton Grange, 10880 E. Mapleton Road.

The Indian Creek Landscape Management Project would address the need to diversify habitat within younger stands of trees, accelerate old-growth forest habitat characteristics across the project area, and improve aquatic habitat for salmon and other riparian species.

For more information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/siulsaw](http://www.fs.usda.gov/siulsaw).

**Wyden** from 1A

“I tell them I get their frustration, but I also want to be clear. The next step from that understandable frustration with economics and politics should not be being misled off a cliff by some outsiders who are willing to take the law into their own hands,” he said.

The economy was a common topic for the questions. Wyden spent a portion of the presentation talking about the Trans-Pacific Partnership,

trade laws and the current market trend for Oregon-made goods.

He addressed the students at several points.

“Whether it’s the actual materials, or agricultural products, beer, wine, bicycles or drones, I want you guys to be able to be partners in producing those things that people all over the world want to buy, whether you live in Florence or anywhere else in Oregon,” he said.

He also said that Oregon’s graduation rate — the fourth lowest in the nation — was unacceptable. He urged the assembled students to work with him in a project to increase graduation rates in the coming years.

The students asked Wyden questions about President Obama’s executive order on gun control, the legalization of marijuana, free tuition for community colleges, logging issues and religion in schools.

Wyden took time to provide background information on each of the topics, including laws and recent legislative motions, before giving his answers.

One of his statements on the issue of gun control received applause.

“I’m very much in favor of closing the loopholes in back-

ground checks,” Wyden said.

“After the horrible tragedy in Roseburg, a big group of senators went out on the Capitol steps and discussed gun violence. Are we just going to wait for the next tragedy, and the next and the next, and just shrug our shoulders and say, ‘that’s the way it is’? I want you to know that that is not good enough for me. It’s not good enough for Oregon, and it’s not good enough for America.”

He said that as a parent of three small children, it concerns him that parents worry when they send a child to school.

“We can do better than that,” he said.

Community member Becky Goehring, who is with the Ford Family Foundation Pathways Vision Action Team, said, “Looking to the future and resiliency of our community, people are concerned with healthcare, rural transportation, affordable housing and economic development. We work really well as a community in trying to develop those things. I wonder how you perceive helping our small rural communities?”

Wyden responded by saying economic development and the rural economy has to come from both the “top down” and

the “bottom up.”

Goehring also asked if there was a way for Wyden to bring the area’s bipartisan practices in working together back to Washington with him.

Wyden agreed that he spends most of his time in the senate trying to get people to work together. He said some of his most successful bills have been bipartisan.

One man brought up the Siuslaw National Forest and its success rate.

“It’s extraordinary,” Wyden said in agreement. “The Siuslaw is a wonderful model that lays out multiple uses. It really makes it possible for a community to come together. Most of the lessons of the Siuslaw could apply to other national parks. It relates to how a rural area has to have trust.”

Also in attendance was Dunes City Mayor Rebecca Ruede, who invited Wyden to enter a team in the Dunes City Triathlon. Wyden did not definitively respond, though his staff expressed interest.

Other topics discussed included the state of the jetties and access to high speed internet, transportation and housing for rural communities.

For more information about Wyden’s Town Hall program, go to [www.wyden.senate.gov](http://www.wyden.senate.gov).



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**Crash** from 1A

The 16 firefighters remained at the site until 7:15 p.m.

Central Lincoln PUD Public Information Officer Chris Chandler began immediately informing people of the crash on Twitter.

“Bad news,” Chandler tweeted. “Car hit pole tonight. Must be replaced as soon as possible.”

The PUD shut off power along Highway 101 from 13th to 23rd streets at 8:30 p.m.

“Not only was that the residential districts west of 101, it was also the commercial district east of 101,” Chandler said in an interview.

She estimated that 100 people were without power for most of the night.

PUD employees went to Grocery Outlet, McDonald’s, Pizza Hut, City Lights Cinemas and other businesses to inform them of the outage.

“The power was eventually shut down in our entire complex by 8:20 p.m. or so, necessitating the cancellation of ‘Labyrinth’,” said City Lights owner Michael Falter in a letter to subscribers. “Labyrinth” was set to air as a memorial to actor/musician David Bowie, who passed away last week.

The theater provided movie passes to those currently watching films and to those who had purchased tickets ahead of time. It also held another showing of Bowie’s film.

“I have to say, Florence, you were all amazing and gracious when accepting passes for a future showing,” Falter said.

A PUD employee also spoke to Regency Florence Rehabilitation Center, a senior care facility, to make sure they were prepared for loss of power.

According to Chandler, Coast Radio aired a message to listeners about the outage five times an hour until midnight.

“Everyone was supportive, and we really appreciate it. Things were beyond our control,” she said.

The repair had to be done in the dark.

“It was pretty dramatic and extremely unsafe,” Chandler said.

PUD crews completed the repairs and restored power for most customers at 11:44 p.m. The outage completely ended at 1:22 a.m.

According to Larisa Denney of Mary Ann’s Natural Pet, the

business was closed for the weekend and no people were inside when the power pole crashed through the wall.

“Mary Ann was there feeding our office foster cat, but she had left 30 minutes before it happened,” Denney said.

“The cat was shaken, but we had her purring before we left that night,” she added.

The pet store’s staff was able to get a start cleaning up debris before Central Lincoln shut down the power. Cleanup was completed Sunday, with a temporary repair placed on the damaged wall, and the store opened as usual Monday.

Chandler said that PUD crews were already active in the Florence and Mapleton areas the previous week.

Saturday’s brief storm brought tree limbs down along the coast.

“Mother Nature has gotten our attention — and yours,” Chandler tweeted. “Multiple outages at this hour.”

A large maple tree fell on power lines in Mapleton on Jan. 11. The damage was so excessive that Lane County Road Maintenance crews had to assist.

Full power was restored early morning Jan. 12.

Chandler said she was impressed with the PUD’s crews’ speed and efficiency in restoring power.

“I think things went well, or as best they could in these circumstances,” she said. “The best circumstances are when no one gets hurt.”

Central Lincoln PUD provides updates on power outages at their website, [www.clpud.org](http://www.clpud.org), and on Twitter.

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American Cancer Society’s

Relay For Life of Florence

Kick-off Party!

Chili Cook-off, Dessert Auction, live music, cash bar, and more!

2016 Relay Theme: Lights! Camera! Action!

Florence Elks Lodge

Sat., Jan. 30th, 4:00– 7:00 pm



- LIVE music!
- Chili tasting (donations accepted) and bowls of chili for sale \$3
- Dessert Silent Auction~ Desserts welcome!
- Bring your family and friends for a fun evening!
- Learn more about Relay and register a FREE team at:

[www.RelayForLife.org/FlorenceOR](http://www.RelayForLife.org/FlorenceOR)

For more information or to enter a chili or bring a dessert, please contact:

Bonnie Ell, #971.219.9949, [bonnie.ell@cancer.org](mailto:bonnie.ell@cancer.org)

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