

Re-vegetation project aims to improve habitat, irrigation

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

The South Fork John Day Watershed Council received \$114,279 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for rapid riparian re-vegetation of the Upper South Fork John Day River, according to a watershed council press release.

The five-year project is located along 4 miles of private land on the Upper South Fork John Day River, near Izee, and is planned to begin in April 2017.

The primary objective of the rapid riparian re-vegetation planting approach is to achieve canopy cover as quickly as possible through the use of woody plants and beaver dam analogues. The project intends to plant 2,300-2,500 plants/acre and fight invasive vegetation that impede native plant growth and regeneration.

The rapid riparian re-vegetation technique is regularly



Contributed photo

This stretch of the Upper South Fork John Day River is scheduled for rapid riparian re-vegetation after the South Fork John Day Watershed Council received an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant.

used west of the Cascades in wetter climates, according to council coordinator Amy Stiner, but this will be the first time the technique has been used in the area.

The council is working with ecologist Kendra Smith, who is confident the technique will work for this area.

"If it does work, we will

be able to vegetate all these streams so much quicker and make the water quality and temperature so much better," Stiner said.

The project will also raise the water table, allowing irrigation fields to have water longer into the summer.

Projects goals include improving aquatic, terrestrial

riparian habitat, and wildlife forage, by focusing on vegetation structure and species diversity. Other desired outcomes include the improvement in water quality through increased shade and buffering of sediment and other pollutants from entering the water column, and improvement in nutrient cycling.

"This project can add powerful additional insight in addressing re-vegetation challenges in very dry conditions," Stiner said in an email. "We view this project as a thoughtful 'experiment' but based in a well-grounded understanding of ecological processes."

Project partners include the St. Clair Ranch, the IZ Ranch LLC, Cascade Pacific RC&D, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners For Fish and Wildlife and consulting ecologist Kendra Smith.

John Day residents will see increase in water, sewer bills

Council approves agreements to provide water, sewer services to Canyon City

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

John Day residents will see small increases in their water and sewer bills in 2017.

The John Day City Council voted unanimously to approve resolutions increasing the cost of both services by \$1 each to combat inflation and depreciation of the infrastructure during a Dec. 13 meeting. At previous meetings, councilors discussed solutions to the problem that the amount currently charged is too low for the city to qualify for state grants, or even loans, to make needed repairs or improvements.

One of the resolutions also contained an agreement to establish a rate of \$6 per 1,000 gallons of water provided to Canyon City.

At the meeting, John Day City Manager Nick Green said declining population is one of the biggest problems facing John Day and surrounding cities. He suggested the city research utilizing unused water rights and infrastructure to attract growth. Green said the city could "use water to attract thirsty industries." The councilors reached a consensus to begin researching options.

The council also discussed partnering with



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

Kent J. Bailey of Guyer and Associates explains the 2016 audit to the John Day City Council Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Oregon Solutions to work towards a community-enhancing project. The partnership would include a two-day meeting between community leaders and Oregon Solutions to choose a project benefiting the community. The cost of consultation would be \$9,800, a cost which Green proposed splitting between the city, county and school district.

The council also:

- approved five-year interagency agreements to provide water and sewage treatment services to Canyon City.
- adopted a resolution to authorize expenditure of a FEMA assistance to firefighters grant.
- accepted the 2016 audit for the city of John Day done by Guyer and Associates that showed no major problems.
- approved a motion to allow the city manager to live outside of John Day city limits.

Electors cast votes for Clinton as party chairman objects to process

By Claire Withycombe
Capital Bureau

Oregon's seven Electoral College members cast their votes Monday morning at the Oregon State Capitol for Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Frank J. Dixon, an elector and chairman of the Democratic Party of Oregon, said during Monday's vote on the Oregon Senate floor that he spoke for all the electors when he voiced objection to the electoral process.

"I just want to, on behalf of the entire elector group here today, object to this process to preserve the record to allow further inquiry of the electoral process given the interference by the Russian government in our election process," Dixon said.

Amid cheering from the gallery, Atkins called public attendees to order.

Dixon then added, "And to preserve for the record our objection, this process does not honor the principle of

one person, one vote."

Under the U.S. Constitution, the winner of the presidential election is the candidate who wins the majority of electoral votes, not the winner of the popular vote. Each state has a number of electors that corresponds to the number of members in its Congressional delegation, and it is those electors who are chosen by the popular vote.

Generally, the winner of the popular vote in any state is awarded all of the state's electors. All of Oregon's seven votes went to Clinton.

Groups gathered in state capitols across the country Monday to urge Republican Party electors to not cast votes for Donald J. Trump, who was expected to win 306 of the 538 Electoral College votes, but lost the popular vote Nov. 8 by about 2 million votes. That effort was largely unsuccessful, with only two Texas electors bolting Trump. Four electors in Washington and

four in the District of Columbia pledged to Clinton voted instead for other candidates.

Democrats and others on the left have since criticized the Electoral College system, saying it undermines the principle of one vote for each individual and that the system, laid out by the U.S. Constitution, is antiquated.

In remarks before votes were cast, Oregon Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins said this year's election was "historic" and that the election process came under "unprecedented challenge and criticism."

"This has continued into the post-election period," Atkins said. "The nation has been roiled by a significantly greater debate than usual over the appropriateness of the Electoral College process in our modern age and over the obligations of those chosen as electors."

Atkins voiced confidence in the state's voting system

and Oregon's election results.

Dixon said after the ceremony that he and the party intended to "get their foot in the door" to preserve the possibility of further inquiry when it came to possible Russian interference in the election, and to take a closer look at "legal issues involved" in the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection clause.

"I'm not a Constitutional scholar," Dixon said. "I don't know what the outcome would be of any legal challenge, but it's simply, if we can preserve the record rather than remaining silent, and just say, state our objection, it may be a way to allow further inquiry ... it's nothing more than that at this stage."

Despite Trump's likely victory and the Democratic Party of Oregon's objections, Dixon said that he hoped that he and his fellow electors were "preserving democracy" by participating in the Electoral College process.

Balance Today with Retiring Tomorrow

No matter where you're starting from, COUNTRY can help you achieve financial security in retirement. It starts with listening to your situation. Then we help you build a straightforward plan with step-by-step guidance. Call me to get started today.

Debbie Ausmus
245 South Canyon Blvd.
John Day, OR 97845
OPEN WED. & THUR.
9 am - 5 pm
541-575-1113
24 hrs/7 days wk

debbie.ausmus@countryfinancial.com

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:

Did you know Grant County Veterans Services Officer is available to assist YOU in applying for all VA benefits you may be entitled to?

See your Grant County Veteran Services Officer today for more information, located at Grant County Court House.

Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 10 am - 4 pm, by appointment.
Call 541-575-1631

There's No Place Like Home For The Holidays

Country Preferred REALTORS

We'd like to deliver our sincere best wishes to your door this holiday. May the season bring much happiness, health and good fortune to you and your loved ones.

If you're looking for a home for the holidays and beyond, please keep us in mind. We've been helping area residents find the perfect place to call home for over 10 years.

331 W. Main, John Day
541-575-2710
1-800-575-2710
Fax 541-575-2610

www.RMLS.com
eastoregonrealstate.com
cbjohnday@centurytel.net

Amy Denman
Principal Broker
503-577-7029

Mike Moore
541-620-1645

Al Denman
503-709-0425

Fred Winegar
541-820-3589

The magic of Christmas is not in the presents, but in his presence.

Merry Christmas from Boyd Britton Welding

Michael Rushton, DPM
Podiatric Physician & Surgeon

po.di.a.try
n. The study and treatment of foot ailments (po-di'a.trist. n)

Treatment and Surgery of the Foot and Ankle
In-grown Nails • Bunions • Warts • Gout
Corns & Callouses • Diabetic Foot Screening
Foot Odor • Athletes Foot

Treatment for pain in
Feet • Shins • Heels
Knees • Lower Back

Custom-molded Orthotics

Dr. Rushton is a Medicare participant
All Insurances Accepted

Baker City
2830 10th St.
541-524-0122

Every other Monday in John Day at Blue Mountain Hospital
170 Ford Rd.
541-575-1311

The doctor speaks Spanish - el doctor habla Espan-ol.

John Day Video Shoppe

YOUR SONY ELECTRONICS STORE

SONY ELECTRONICS

We are selling: TV's, Bluray Players, Surround Sound System Soundbars, Speakers, Audio Shelf Systems, Blue Tooth Speakers, Headphones, Tablets, Game Systems and Accessories.

WATCH FOR BLACK JANUARY SALES!

OPEN Tuesday thru Saturday 11am to 9pm • 541-575-1387 • 417 W. Main • John Day