

Watershed council receives \$1.7 million to support ag producer conservation projects

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

The South Fork John Day Watershed Council and the Natural Resource Conservation Service were awarded a \$1,714,286 grant to provide financial assistance to private landowners to increase beneficial habitat.

South Fork Watershed Council Coordinator Amy Stiner said the funding would help by thinning overstocked forests, removing Western juniper trees, promoting native and useful vegetation over annual grasses and noxious weeds, conifer removal for Quaking Aspen and providing reliable off-channel upland water.

She said the council would also work with agricultural producers to improve the health and productivity of their range and forest lands by assisting in strategic planning of restoration actions and comprehensive grazing planning.

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand the collective ability to address on-farm, watershed and regional natural resource concerns.

Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address.

Stiner said what made the proposal strong was the input



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The funding received by the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, which will be available in 2021, will help ag producers access reliable upland, off-channel water.



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South Fork John Day Watershed Council Coordinator Amy Stiner said the \$1.7 million grant request, the first of its kind for the watershed, required a lot of planning and input from landowners.

from the private landowners in the South Fork John Day watershed.

“The landowners put together in-depth inventory of all of the improvements they would like to do. Their wish list came to an estimated \$4 million,” Stiner said.

Stiner said, in order to qualify for the grant, they had to match 50% of the total cost. She said the South Fork John Day Watershed Council, along with private landowners, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Oregon Department of Fish

and Wildlife and Grant Soil and Water Conservation District were able to put together \$1.7 million in active funds in the watershed and were able to request \$1.7 million from the RCPP grant.

“We really hope that this funding can ease some of the economic stresses for landowners, creating an increase in more favorable forage and water availability, and improve efficiencies of their ag production,” Stiner said. “It is really an amazing opportunity for the South Fork John Day Watershed.”

Third REAL Oregon class graduates

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Resource Education and Agricultural Leadership Program (REAL Oregon) recently announced the successful completion of Class 3.

The final in person session of this cohort, scheduled for March 17 -19 in Boardman, was canceled due to the pandemic and the governor’s stay-in-place order, according to a press release. However, despite this and other logistical challenges, Class 3 wrapped up their formal training with a virtual fifth and final session.

REAL Oregon Board Chair Jake Gibbs commented on the challenges.

“The preference would have been meeting in person in Boardman, that wasn’t possible,” he said. “We did, however, deliver great online presentations and had excellent class participation in our virtual session.”

REAL Oregon Executive Director Greg Addington noted that, while the formality of an actual class graduation will have to wait, the program is happy to welcome the following outstanding individuals into our growing alumni network: Randi Bural, Northwest Farm Credit Services; Tricia Chastain, Northwest Farm Credit Services; Allison Cloo, Oregon Aglink; Dave Coates, PCC Airfoils; Jackson Coleman, Coleman Agriculture (pending); Matthew Cook, Cook Family Farms; Betsy Earls, Weyerhaeuser (pending); Jeremy Felty, Oregon Small Woodlands Assoc.; Jason Flowers, Flowers Farms; Brennan Garrelts, Lone Rock Resources; Kelley Hamby, Central Oregon Irrigation District; Rob Hamlin, Riddell Farms/Ash Creek Oregon; Matt Hegerberg, Heron Timber (pending); Gordon Jones, OSU Southern Oregon Extension; Katie Kissler, Hancock Forest Management; Catherine Kiyokawa, Kiyokawa Family Orchards; Brent Klumph, OSU Research Forests; Heidi Leib, Boise Cascade Wood Products; Nathan Miller, Oregon Department of Agriculture; Jolene Moxon, Modoc Co. (California) Ag Department; Sean Naumes, Naumes, Inc.; Lisa Patrick, SAGE Center/Port of Morrow; Nicole Ruggiero, Tualatin SWCD; Whitney Henneman, Silver Butte Timber Co.; Susan Schmidlin, Schmidlin Angus Farms; Andrea Sonnen, Oregon Department of Agriculture; Nicole Sullivan, TU/Owyhee Watershed Council; Diann Washburn, Oregonians for Food and Shelter; and Alexa Weathers, Kerr Supply Company.

If a participant misses one or more sessions for any reason, their graduation status is pending, and they are given up to two years to complete the session they missed with another class.

REAL Oregon is a collaboration of industry and other groups throughout the state that have recognized the importance of developing and grooming natural resource leaders now and in the future. In addition to one-of-a-kind networking opportunities and learning more about the state, the program will bring current and future leaders together from agriculture, fishing and forestry sectors in a series of five statewide sessions starting this fall.

The annual leadership development program will expose this cross-section of representatives to the diversity of Oregon’s geography, economy and cultures through training in board governance, communication skills, conflict resolution, government interaction, public policy work, critical thinking, media relations, professional presentations, public speaking, relationship building and other areas.

Planning for Class 4 – November 2020

To adjust for the COVID-19 situation, some changes have been made to the schedule and policies related to Class 4. REAL Oregon board member and curriculum chair Lauren Lucht said these changes will not take away from the programming or this distinctive opportunity.

“The COVID situation has created challenges to be sure, but it has also created opportunities and could, in fact, make for an even more unique and rewarding experience for participants,” Lucht said.

Lucht noted that the application deadline is July 24, and interested candidates should visit realoregon.net for more information.

Addington said the program’s directors will continually monitor the situation and will follow appropriate guidelines from the CDC, OHA and the State of Oregon. The program has adopted changes:

- 25 participants will be the target for Class 4
- Participants will be responsible for their own lodging costs
- Participant tuition for Class 4 will be \$2,000 (tuition assistance may be available)
- Participants may be responsible for their own travel to tour sites

Additional changes may be implemented to align with state and local county COVID-19-related health and safety recommendations or requirements

For more information, visit realoregon.net, or contact Greg Addington at 541-892-1409 or greg@addingtonconsulting.net.

Prairie Baptist Church
238 N. McHaley St., Prairie City
541-820-3696
www.prairie-baptist-church.com
Pastor David Hoeffner
Pastor Keith DeHart

Sunday School (all ages) 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship. 10:30 a.m.
Awana (Oct.-Apr.) 3:00 p.m.
Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

John Day Valley Mennonite Church
Meeting every Sunday at Mt. Vernon Grange Hall

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship..... 10:50 a.m.
Pastor Leland Smucker
Everyone Welcome • 541-932-2861

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Join us on Facebook
live Sunday 10am

Like us on Facebook!

JOHN DAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Worship • 9AM
(541) 575-1326
johndayUMC@gmail.com
126 NW Canton, John Day
Food Pantry Friday 3-4PM

Like us on Facebook!

New Life Bible Church

2 Corinthians 5:17

Every Sunday in the L.C. Community Center
(Corner of Second & Allen)
Contact Paster Ed Studtmann at 541-421-3888 • Begins at 4:00pm

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church
Corner of S Canyon Blvd and SW 2nd

Mon. - Fri. Mass - 12:05 pm
Saturday Mass - 5:00 pm
Sunday Mass - 9:00 & 10:30 am
Holy Days Mass: Noon & 6 pm

Confession: Saturday 4:00-4:45 pm
Anytime by appointment
541-974-8638

St. Anne
Monument -
2nd & 4th Sundays at 1:00 pm

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 9 am - 12 Noon

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.. 10:50 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.. 10:50 a.m.
No Mid-week Services
Pastor Jesse Gosnell
300 W. Main, John Day
541-575-1355

3ABN
Three Angels Broadcasting Network

24/7 Inspirational Christian Broadcasting

Tune into KSPJ 98.1 FM

For more information, call 541 620-0340

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Come Worship with us at
627 SE Hillcrest, John Day

1st Sunday Worship/Communion 10am
3rd Sunday Worship/Communion/Potluck... 4:30pm
2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday Worship..... 10am
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6pm

For information: 541-575-2348

MT. VERNON PRESBYTERIAN Community Church

SUNDAY SERVICE 9 am

541-932-4800
EVERYONE WELCOME

Seventh-Day Adventist Church

SATURDAY SERVICES

JOHN DAY
110 Valley View Dr.
541-575-1216

Head Elder 541-575-2914
Bible Classes (all ages)..... 9:30 am
Worship 11 am

LONG CREEK
E. Main Street
541-421-3033

Head Elder 421-3468
Bible Classes (all ages)..... 2 pm
Worship 3 pm

Living Word Christian Center

Hwy 26 Mt. Vernon

Celebration of Worship
Sundays 5:30pm
Youth: 0-6th Grade

Midweek Service
Thursdays 6:30pm
Youth: 0-6th Grade

Jr./Sr. High Youth Connection
Contact the office for current schedule

Overcomer's Outreach
Fridays 6:30pm

House on the Lawn
A Christ-Centered, 12-Step Recovery Support Group

Pastor Sharon Miller
541-932-4910
www.livingwordcc.com

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service..... 10:45 am
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm

Children & Teen Activities
SMALL GROUPS CALL FOR MORE INFO
Weekdays: Sunshine Christian School

Pastor Randy Johnson
521 E. Main • John Day • 541-575-1895
www.johndaynazarene.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Worship 11 am
Fox Community Church..... 3 pm
Sunday Evening Bible Talk..... 6 pm
Saturday Men's Study 6 pm

Full Gospel- Come Grow With Us
541-575-1202 Church
311 NE Dayton St, John Day
Pastor Al Altnow

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship

139 N.E. DAYTON STREET, JOHN DAY

541-575-2180

Sunday Worship Service 10 am
Sunday Youth Group 3 pm
Thursday Celebrate Recovery 6 pm

Pastor Levi Manitas
cornerstonejohnday@gmail.com
ccfd.org