

IONE SCHOOL BOARD

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and has ordered \$1,471 in state Title grants and \$8,248 in ARRA IDEA grants; received \$38,203 from the Morrow County Unified Recreation district for the extracurricular fund; and learned that federal stimulus grants from the state have been ordered.

-learned that interviews for science and fourth grade teaching positions are underway.

-heard a construction update including the HVAC heating system, the solar project, the fire alarm system and bond status.

-set July 6 at 4 p.m. for the boiler RFP hearing.

Public invited to forest collaborative listening tour

The public is invited to attend a forest collaborative listening tour on the Umatilla National Forest, Saturday July 16 near Heppner.

Transportation for the tour is provided and includes field stops on the Heppner Ranger District that have both dry and moist upland forest characteristics.

The group will depart from the Heppner Ranger District office on July 16, at 9 a.m. Participants should pack a lunch and be prepared to walk short distances. Appropriate clothing includes long pants, sturdy footwear and weather-appropriate clothing. The tour will end back at the district office in Heppner around 4:30 p.m.

The tour, hosted by the Morrow County Court, the Columbia-Blue Mountains RC&D, and Oregon Solutions, will give participants an opportunity to share and discuss their hopes and concerns related to forest management goals and practices on the Umatilla National Forest, and to discuss opportunities to use collaborative process to identify common ground and reduce conflict.

Umatilla National Forest supervisor Kevin Martin has expressed interest in the development of a forest stakeholder's group to foster dialog between the Forest Service, other federal agency staffs, environmental and industry

groups, local civic leaders, and interested members of the public.

"Our vision is a multi-stakeholder group that would work collaboratively with the Forest to help resolve forest vegetation management issues, develop consensus regarding land management goals and practices at the landscape scale, and help define the national forest's contribution to local economic stability," said Martin.

To coordinate adequate transportation for the tour, confirm attendance with Myrna Neil at 541-278-3720 or mneil@fs.fed.us by July 8. For more information about the tour, contact Scott Aycock at (541) 390-4653.

Pesticide permit bill approved by senate ag committee

The Senate agriculture committee voted to advance a bill that would overturn new permitting requirements for pesticide applications.

The bill, H.R. 872, will amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Clean Water Act to clarify Congressional intent and eliminate the requirement for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for applications of pesticides approved for use under FIFRA. The bill was approved by the House of Representatives in late March.

A January 2009 Sixth Circuit Court decision said pesticide discharge is a point source of pollution

subject to additional regulation under the Clean Water Act, necessitating the new permits.

The decision has been stayed twice to allow time for government agencies to implement it. It is now set to go into effect in October, though most departments at the federal and local levels remain unprepared for the massive paperwork required.

The Environmental Protection Agency has estimated the ruling will affect approximately 365,000 pesticide applicators that perform 5.6 million pesticide applications annually.

If a legislative solution is not achieved when the new requirement goes into effect, farmers running afoul of it could be subject to fines of up to \$37,500 per day.

"We are happy to see the Senate taking action on this important legislation," said Wayne Hurst, National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) president and a wheat producer from the Burley, Idaho, area, in a NAWG press release following the Senate committee's vote. "Wheat farmers work hard to comply with the extensive processes in place to ensure the products we use on our farms are safe. New requirements added by the Sixth Circuit Court would only create paperwork for us and government officials without adding any additional measure of safety for the public. We urge quick completion of this bill."

H.R. 872 has achieved widespread bipartisan and bicameral support from Congressional leaders concerned about increasing regulation without environmental benefit and burdening government officials and farmers with new and complicated requirements in a time of tighter budgets.

Campground host wanted at Jubilee Lake

The Umatilla National Forest is looking for a volunteer to spend the summer as a campground host at Jubilee Lake Campground from July through September 15.

"A camp host helps by providing information on the area and making other campers feel at home," said Jeff Bloom, recreation specialist on the Walla Walla Ranger District.

Hosts will visit with other campers and day-use visitors, clean and maintain restrooms, restock supplies, occasionally clean up after a messy camper and carry out a few other tasks.

"They keep an eye on things and set a good example for others in the campground," Bloom said.

Individuals or couples can apply to be hosts.

Hosts need to be friendly, flexible and responsible. Host applicants may be subject to a criminal background check.

Those who apply will need to supply their own trailer, camper, or motor home. Camp hosts will be provided a campsite, usually near the main entryway to the campground. Though the host program is a volunteer program, a food allowance is offered and hosts will be given a mileage allowance for personal vehicle use within the campground.

For more information or to obtain an application, contact Jeff Bloom at the Walla Walla Ranger District at 1415 West Rose, Walla Walla or call (509) 522-6290.

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