

Wolf Creek in state plans for salmon habitat restoration projects

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council in partnership with the Oregon Department of Forestry will be restoring thirteen sites on Wolf Creek this summer thanks, in part, to a recent grant of nearly \$10,000 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB).

The grant will fund the placement of 44 whole conifers, including branches and root wads, in ten sites on the mainstem of North Fork Wolf Creek, a major tributary of the upper Nehalem River. An additional 16 chunks of large wood will be placed in three sites in a tributary of North Fork Wolf Creek.

According to the council, salmon habitat quality is limited in Wolf Creek by a lack of large wood, an important natural component of stream structure and habitat functions for summer chinook, winter steelhead

and coho salmon.

Some of the restoration site is viewable from Highway 26, so motorists may get an opportunity to see watershed restoration work in action. Work is expected to take place between July 15 and August 30. ODF will be responsible for placing the large woody debris instream, under the direction of Dave Plauman, ODF biologist.

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board met Thursday and Friday, January 4-5, in Bend and awarded nearly \$10 million in watershed improvement grants to watershed action groups around the state. The Board reviewed 203 applications and awarded 110 grants, statewide.

The funds for these grants come from a voter-approved ballot measure which designates 7.5 percent of lottery proceeds for watershed restoration and protection. The grants help fund the assessment and restoration of Oregon's watersheds through local groups, including soil and water conservation districts and watershed councils.

The Board consists of six citizen members, one tribal representative, five representatives from other state natural resource boards and commis-

sions, five representatives from federal natural resource agencies and one representative of the Oregon State University Extension Service. Members come from across the state and represent a variety of backgrounds.

For information about the OWEB grant process, call Ken Bierly at 503-986-0182. For local information, call Maggie Peyton at 503-429-2401.

Feral cat clinic

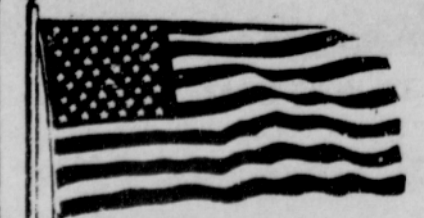
The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon (FCCO) will bring their mobile veterinary clinic to St. Helens on Sunday, February 18, to conduct a spay/neuter clinic for feral cats. Reservations are necessary and may be obtained by contacting Barb at Columbia Humane Society on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon is a non-profit group of veterinarians and other volunteers dedicated to humanely reducing feral cat populations by spaying and neutering colonies of feral cats. The Coalition is also dedicated to reducing the suffering of these animals by providing them with basic medical care and vaccinations against rabies and distemper. This will be the first clinic held in Columbia County.

Feral cats are cats that have been abandoned or lost, as well as their offspring. The clinic is available to people who care for and feed feral cats in their yard or barn, as well as those who manage feral cat colonies. Only feral cats that have someone regularly providing food and care for them can be treated at the clinic.

Columbia Humane Society is a non-profit, no-kill animal shelter receiving no governmental funding. The shelter is located at 2084 Oregon Street, St. Helens.

For further information, call Barb Calnon at 503-397-4353.



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