

SWCD, Watershed Council explain strategies for salmon programs

A joint meeting of the Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council, will be held Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7:00 p.m., at the Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Station, to provide information regarding programs to assist landowners in complying with the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

The Columbia SWCD, in conjunction with the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assists landowners with conservation programs designed to protect riparian

areas, while meeting needs of farmers, ranchers and other owners of land adjacent to streams used for spawning by salmon, steelhead, sea-run trout or other anadromous species. Participants will remove land from agricultural production and then plant that land to trees and shrubs.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is available for lands bordering streams in cropped fields or grazed pastures. Buffer widths range from 35 to 180 feet in width, depending on the topography and the owner's

preference.

Initially, the landowner plants trees or shrubs in the set-aside area and fences livestock out of the streamside zone. CREP will provide cost sharing in amounts up to 75 percent of the cost of the fence and plantings (cost limits apply), and assist with developing alternative water sources for livestock, if necessary. Property owners agree to maintain the practices for 10 to 15 year periods to assure that the riparian plantings are well established.

What does this do for the fish?

Cattle in a stream can damage spawning beds by trampling the nests of fish eggs and by polluting the stream with their waste. Keeping cattle out of spawning streams allows the fish to reproduce unhindered. Preventing cattle waste from entering the streams keeps nutrients at levels tolerable to fish.

What's in it for the landowner?

Landowners will be reimbursed for 75 percent of the cost of installing the set-aside area. There is also a practice

incentive payment of 40 percent of the cost of installation (cost limits apply). A landowner can potentially be reimbursed for 115 percent of the cost of installing the fence and establishing alternate water sources.

Landowners receive annual rental payments in the amount of \$66 an acre for pastureland within the fenced buffer boundaries. They receive an additional 50 percent incentive (\$33 an acre) for buffers planted to trees and shrubs.

In addition to these payments, the landowner receives up to \$10 an acre for maintaining plantings, fences and water developments. Potential annual payments add up to \$109 per acre per year of the contract.

There is also a one time incentive payment for signing up for the CREP program. This is calculated by taking \$10 an acre of land in the buffer area times the contract length. On 10 acres of buffer that is signed up for 15 years, the incentive payment is \$1,500.

An additional cumulative payment is available in some circumstances. The cumulative

bonus impact incentive is designed to encourage adjoining landowners to enter larger stretches of stream into this program. If landowners join together to apply buffers on at least 50 percent of a five-mile segment of river, they all qualify for the incentive.

For more information, call the CSWD/NRCS office at 503-397-4555, extension 104 or 105, or Maggie Peyton at the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council at 503-429-2401.

OLCC okays Nesmith

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission has appointed a new agent to the existing store in Vernonia.

Jay Nesmith of Rainier is the new agent of the store located inside Vernonia Hardware at 1026 Bridge Street in Vernonia. Nesmith owns Vernonia Hardware. He has been the temporary agent for five months, replacing Agent William Fisher, who retired.

Nesmith is a graduate of Seaside High School and attended Utah Technical and Clatsop Community colleges.

Leonetti's Pizza & Grill



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Community Calendar

FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	627 Adams Ave./ 503-429-4000
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Boosters	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., Leonetti's Grill
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	Noon, Lew's Place
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-0188
Doll Club	4th Tuesday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Lew's Place
Nehalem Valley Car Club		For Info Call 503-429-4074
Preschool Story Hour	Mondays	10:30 a.m., City Library
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	4th Thursday	For location call 429-2401
Vernonia Airport Committee	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Cares Directors		For location call 503-429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Comm. Dev. Corp.	2nd Tuesday	Noon, City Hall
Vernonia Grange	2nd Friday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Pride		For Info Call, 503-429-5201
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	8:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	1st Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC

MIST-BIRKENFELD

M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Assoc.	1st & 2nd Thurs.	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Firefighters Assoc.	1st & 2nd Wed.	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Rescue	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Wednesday	10:00 am, 755-2346 for info.
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Grange Hall
T.O.P.S.	Sundays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station

BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	8:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Brown Derby
Citizen Participation Org.	3rd Monday, odd months	7:15 p.m., City Hall
Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.
Tri-City RFPD Board	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
COLCO Transportation	2nd Friday	10:30 a.m., Courthouse
County Council of Seniors	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Courthouse
County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Emergency Comm. Dist. (9-1-1)	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Courthouse
Historical Society	4th Wednesday	Noon, location call 429-3713

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.