

Business Notes

ODF panel to hear proposed rules changes

The Committee for Family Forestlands will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10, at the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to hear proposed changes to Oregon's Forest Practices Act rules relative to streamside and water protection.

Proposed rule changes would increase the number of trees that a landowner must leave along small fish bearing streams, and increase by about 1/3 the number of trees left along streams classified as medium fish bearing streams. (For example, along the Coast Range the current rule requires that 35 14-inch trees per acre be retained. The proposed rule would increase this number to approximately 70 14-inch trees per acre.) Recent monitoring by the Department of Forestry has shown that current rules are not providing as much wood to streams from fallen trees as

was assumed would be provided. Historically, fallen trees have helped create important fish habitat.

Other proposed changes would require landowners to leave trees along areas where shallow, rapidly moving landslides may occur to create a better chance that large wood from fallen trees will be transported to streams, and that more trees be left along small non-fish bearing streams above artificial fish passage barriers, such as road crossings, to improve the likelihood that fish would find it desirable to migrate upstream when such barriers are eventually removed.

There will be updates on two additional projects, also. One is on work done since the passage of House Bill 3616, which directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture and ODF to create stewardship agreements

that reward landowners who are taking measures to protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, etc., beyond what is required by law.

The second regards a study on the feasibility of providing speculatively-grown seedlings using a state/private nursery cooperative and leasing state-owned D.L. Phipps Forest Nursery to a private nursery grower. Increased capacity at private nurseries and concerns that the state may be competing with private nurseries has prompted a look at possible alternatives.

The Committee for Family Forestlands serves as an advisory group to the Oregon Board of Forestry regarding issues that affect family forestland owners. The meeting will be held on the ODF campus in Administration Bldg. C, Tillamook Conference Room, 2600 State Street, Salem.

The meeting is open to the public. Anyone needing special accommodations should contact Gail Barnhart at least two working days in advance at 503-945-7378, by text telephone 503-45-7213, or by e-mail at <gbarnhart@odf.state.or.us>.

Popular Holiday Bucks program will start Nov. 18

The Holiday Bucks program, sponsored by the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce, will start at participating local businesses on Friday, November 18, and continue through December 17.

The program will be very much as it was last year: Each time a shopper fills a card with \$50 in purchases, they will have a chance to win a "Cash Gift Certificate" that can be used at any of the participating businesses.

An extra bonus this year is that every Saturday during the program will be DOUBLE stamp day. Another added bonus will be that on the last two days of the program, Thursday, December 15 and Friday, December 16, you will be able to bring all of your "partially" filled cards to the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce office to be combined into filled cards. This way everyone can maximize their chances to win.

On three Saturdays, November 26, December 3 and December 10, there will be drawings from all the filled cards for a \$25 Cash Certificate. On Saturday, December 17, the final draw for \$25, \$50 and \$100 Cash Certificates will be held.

Please check the ad in *The Independent* on November 17 for a complete list of participating businesses and rules. Then, watch for the stores with the "buck" poster in the window and have fun shopping and getting your card stamped in Vernonia.



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