

ODF asks public comment on proposed rule changes

Hearings sponsored by the Oregon Department of Forestry will give the public an opportunity to provide input about Forest Practices Act (FPA) rule changes being proposed to protect certain stream habitats in Oregon. They will be held in Roseburg, Salem and Prineville.

The proposed rule changes include:

- Adding a statement that encourages landowners to take voluntary actions to protect and restore forest resources
- Clarifying the role of riparian (streamside) management areas in protecting streams.
- Deleting rules which have become obsolete and are no longer needed
- Classifying stream segments above artificial barriers as fish-use streams (physical stream conditions, such as stream gradient or the presence of waterfalls, would be

considered when making fish use determinations) and

- Adopting a rule that requires landowners to retain trees along the lower portions of steep, non-fish streams to increase the likelihood that debris torrents would move wood into fish-use streams, which would help provide good habitat for fish. The rule would not require landowners to leave more trees than is required by current regulations, but would require trees to be left in specific locations.

The proposed changes are based on recommendations provided in 2000 by a Forest Practices Advisory Committee which reviewed the FPA rules to see if changes were needed to protect salmon and water quality; a 2002 statewide evaluation of the effectiveness of the FPA in protecting water quality; and a 1999 report by an independent multi-disciplinary sci-

ence team on the recovery of salmon in western Oregon forests.

Hearing are scheduled for Roseburg on March 21, Salem On March 22 and Prineville on March 23. Those who are unable to attend a hearing may submit comments in writing or by phone to the Oregon Department of Forestry. Contact: Gayle Birch, Rules Coordina-

tor, 2600 State Street, Salem, OR 97310, <gbirch@odf.state.or.us >, phone: 503-954-7210. The deadline for submission is March 31, 2006. Anyone requiring a sign language interpreter, listening device, large print material or other accommodations at the hearings should contact Gayle Birch at least two working days in advance of the hearings.

Swiss needle cast is speaker topic at Watershed Council March 23 meeting

The next meeting of the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council will be Thursday, March 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the Mist/Birkenfeld Fire Station.

There will be two speakers. Chal Landgren, Oregon State University Extension Forester for Columbia and Washington Counties, will speak on research and strategy for dealing with Swiss needle cast disease

in Coast Range Douglas fir.

Dan Clough, Watershed Assessment Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Forestry, will present an overview of the Upper Nehalem Watershed analysis process and findings.

All forestry and watershed related questions are welcome. The public is invited to attend.

Vernonia Council will put bond on May 16th ballot

The Vernonia City Council meeting on March 6, saw the council approve a resolution calling for contracting general obligation bonded indebtedness in the amount of \$8.6 million to fund the city's waste water upgrades. This bond measure will go to voters in the May primary election for a decision. The bond measure would add an estimated \$4.00 per \$1,000 of property value (or \$399.96 on a home assessed at \$100,000) to Vernonia residents' property taxes for the next 20 years. Measures on the May ballot require a 50 percent voter turnout to be adopted. City Administrator Robyn Bassett said she still hopes to reduce the cost to residents by finding other grant

Please see page 5

Community Calendar													
MARCH 2006							APRIL 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						
							MAY 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
								1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31				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 Avenue
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., Leonetti's Grill
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6033
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-8133
Doll Club	4th Tuesday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
Hands On Art Committee	1st & 3rd Thursdays	4:00 p.m., City Hall
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
Nehalem Valley Car Club		For Info Call 503-429-4074
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713
Preschool Story Hour	Mondays	10:30 a.m., City Library
Upper Nehalem C.P.A.C.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Venturing Crew 201	1st & 3rd Thursdays	5:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
Vernonia Airport Committee	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Cares Directors		For Info call 503-429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Community PTA	3rd Thursday	7:00 p.m., WGS Library
Vernonia Grange	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Pride	3rd Thursday	1:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	3rd Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia Transfer Station	2nd & 4th Saturdays	8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Behind VHS
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 Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
T.O.P.S.	Mondays	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station

BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	7:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13
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., Fire District Office
CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Brown Derby
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.

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
Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS , 2514 Sykes
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.
Mental Health Advisory Comm.	3rd Tuesday	10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30
Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	2nd Tuesday	3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse

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.