

Advisory committee continues study of improvements to Forest Resource Trust

The Forest Resource Trust Advisory Committee will meet November 6, in Salem, to continue work on ways to improve and implement the trust, which is designed to assist landowners to improve under-producing forestlands. These are lands that once had forests or are capable of growing forests, but currently do not support a manageable stand of trees or seedlings.

The meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Santiam Room, Building D, at the Oregon Department of Forestry headquarters, 2600 State St., Salem. The public is invited to attend.

On Sept. 6, the Board of Forestry approved the committee's recommendations to amend the administrative rules written to implement the trust after it was established by the Oregon Legislature in 1993.

The board also approved the committee's proposal to restructure the statutes that authorize the trust. The framework of a bill will be submitted to the Legislature when it convenes next year.

The purpose of the trust is to provide "financial and technical assistance to non-industrial private forest landowners to foster forest establishment and improve stewardship of forestlands for timber, wildlife, water quality and other environmental purposes."

Interest in the trust has been limited since its inception. This led the board to form the advisory committee to find ways to make it more attractive to forestland owners. The committee has recommended a better financial arrangement to simplify the process for non-industrial forestland owners to obtain 100 percent funding from the trust

to establish forest on under-producing forestland.

The committee recommended easing the financial repayment terms which, with its compound interest stipulation, is thought to deter many forestland owners from participating.

The committee has also suggested broadening the eligibility criteria so that large ranches with soils that have low forest productivity could take part.

To provide financial protection to the state for the loan program, a timber lien described in the rules would be applied whenever lending criteria establish a landowner as a risk for repaying funds.

Legislative Concept 879 would fully implement the original statutes that created the trust and expand the scope of eligibility. Subsequent revisions to the statutes have created new opportunities for forestland

owners throughout the state, including an expanded loan program and new cost-share and environmental services programs. The restructured trust would allow projects to address invasive plants and improve forest health conditions.

The new cost-share program will provide financial and technical assistance to non-industrial forestland owners for forest stewardship practices. The cost of a project is split between the landowner and the trust.

The new environmental services program provides financial and technical assistance for projects on non-federal forestlands when the landowner has exceeded the environmental protections required by the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

Accommodations for people with disabilities, and special materials, services or assis-

tance can be arranged by calling Linda Ellis, Oregon Department of Forestry, at least 48 hours before the meeting; 503-945-7502, text telephone, 503-945-7213 (in Salem).

Jobless rate again shows little change

Columbia County's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 5.7 percent in September, near the statewide rate of 5.4 percent but higher than the national rate of 4.6 percent. Total employment in the county dropped by 155 from the previous month but the number of unemployed people also decreased by 145. Total employment was 22,019 in September and 1,191 people were unemployed.

Rates for other counties can be found at <http://www.quality-info.org/olmisj/AllRates>.

Community Calendar

NOVEMBER 2006							DECEMBER 2006							JANUARY 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	6	7	1	2	3	4	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
							31													

VERNONIA

Al-Anon	Fridays	7:00 p.m.	Grange Hall
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 503-429-3018
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
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
Public Works Committee	2nd & 4th Wednesday	7:00 p.m.,	City Hall
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 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 Learning Center	1st & Last Wednesdays	7:00 p.m.,	City Hall
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Tuesday	6:30 p.m.,	City Hall
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	2nd 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 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.