



The Doctor Is In!

from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

We are your water doctor. We are here to diagnose the health of your plumbing and fixtures.

Ever noticed that the shower head has one little stream that sprays sideways? Does your faucet "drip"? Is there a blue/green stain in the sink? Have low pressure at your kitchen faucet? Do your whites come out of the laundry with an orange color to them? (Maybe that's ok if you are a Beaver Believer.) These are classic symptoms of minerals in your well water!

Calcium hardness in your water is like having cholesterol in your arteries. The hard water calcifies inside your pipes and fixtures, and eventually coats the inside of the pipe. The build up can completely plug your pipes or fixtures!!

On the opposite end of the spectrum, if you have a Low PH level in your water it can eat away at your copper pipes and eventually the copper will spring a leak.

If you want to know about your water health, call your favorite Water Care Filtration Supplier. My advice: drink two glasses of water and call us in the morning!

Water is a geological cocktail, so DRINK MORE WATER!

WELL PUMP & FILTRATION SERVICE

Call us Mon. - Fri. 8 - 5, you'll have a live person answer the phone that is ready to help you!

Quinn's Well, Pump and Water Filtration is located at 6811 Williams Hwy. We install, maintain and repair complete water pumping systems, and we offer a complete line of water filtration equipment. Contact our professional staff by phone, e-mail, or visit our office. www.quinnswell.com CCB #192047

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Updates: Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District - Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

BY DONNA MICKLEY

2019 fire season

The northwest was blessed with a much cooler summer and minimal fire activity, giving the communities in southwest Oregon a much-needed reprieve from smoke. In the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, 60 fires burned 364 acres, and the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District had 12 fire starts that burned only two acres. The reduced fire activity can be attributed to higher amounts of precipitation with lightning storms and an abundance of available resources that allowed us to increase staffing ahead of anticipated lightning events.

Prescribed burning

In October we began implementing prescribed fire, which includes pile burning and under-burning, across the forest. By mid-October, 1,300 acres had been treated, including 230 acres in the Upper Applegate Roads project near Applegate Lake. We planned a 350-acre helicopter aerial ignition unit near the edge of the dam, but conditions were not commensurate with the prescription for burning, so we will attempt this unit later.

These units are unique because the wildland urban interface (WUI) is adjacent to large roadless areas, so treatments are very important both for the protection of the surrounding community and for enhancing forage for wildlife. Prescribed fires provide a buffer if large wildfires were to approach from the roadless areas during the summer. We understand

that smoke from prescribed fires can be problematic for sensitive groups in our area, and we want to thank the community for their support while we work toward reducing fire risk and enhancing habitats throughout the Applegate Valley.

New firewood policy

Soon Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District will approve a new firewood policy. This policy will provide gathering opportunities along designated roads having dead trees within 50 feet of the road that are under 20 inches in diameter. The district is hoping this greatly improves the availability of firewood for the public. Please check with our front desk staff at 541-899-3800 for more information on how to obtain a permit.

Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project

On September 25, Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District published a Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impacts for the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project, which is a collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Following an objection and resolution period, the district should release a final decision in January. BLM plans to issue decisions and begin working during a similar time frame. We thank all who participated in this process and continue to encourage public involvement. We are excited to be nearing the end of the planning process and to begin implementation of a variety of projects.

PROVOLT PARK

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spawning salmon from the riverbanks and black bears, eagles, ospreys, and herons fishing in the river. River otters and beavers are active. The slough and pond host western pond turtles. Even a herd of migrating elk has been spotted enjoying the meadows.

And the birds! The magnificent tall trees provide a haven for a variety of avian species, including a great blue heron rookery. If you're lucky you'll spot one of three species of owls that inhabit the park. Birders are free to romp all over the site.

APWC has already contributed a lot of science and labor to this project. The group has been active in removing blackberries, planting native trees and shrubs, and restoring the riparian area. They also

plan to remove barriers to fish passage in Williams Creek.

Only about a third of the site is open. Over time, BLM will develop the rest, with help from the community.

If you come, we will build it!

Todd Neville says that BLM will be monitoring use of the site over the next year. Here are the highlights of what could be in store.

- A much larger equestrian area across the highway
- An interpretive center with the possibility of guided interpretive programs
- Improved parking areas
- Many more miles of walking and biking trails
- 1.5 miles of paved wheelchair-accessible paths
- Six vault toilets

Ongoing data collection

Throughout the fall and winter, we'll be doing timber inventory and layout work within the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project area. Lomakatsi Restoration Project, a nonprofit ecological restoration organization, is currently collecting stand data for the US Forest Service silviculturist to use in developing prescriptions for both commercial and noncommercial treatments. This data will also serve as a baseline of current conditions and help us monitor treatment effectiveness in the future.

You may start to see some flagging and boundary marking throughout the project area. Once prescriptions have been completed and units identified, we will host a public field visit to share what's being proposed. Portions of this work are being funded through our partnership with Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership (RFRP), which has received grant funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) for dry forest restoration work. [See "Future of fire in the Applegate" on page 16 for more information about RFRP.]

Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District held a meeting on November 6 to involve the community in the development of an Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration monitoring plan. RFRP is also developing monitoring protocols associated with the OWEB grant funding. We see these efforts as complementary and important to the collaborative process and would like to encourage those interested to participate in these ongoing efforts.

For more information on the Upper Applegate Watershed Restoration Project, contact Brett Brown at 541-899-3823.

Donna Mickley

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Provolt Park Information

- Admission is free.
- The park is open to nonmotorized recreation every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from sunrise to sunset. (Hours will be expanded over time.)
- Picnickers, hikers, bikers, anglers, swimmers, paddlers, wildlife enthusiasts, and equestrians are all welcome.
- Dogs are welcome, too, but must be kept on a leash.
- The park is closed to overnight use, campfires, shooting, off-highway vehicles, motorized boats, mining, and firewood cutting.

Questions? Contact Todd Neville, Grants Pass BLM, at 541-471-6614 or cneville@blm.gov.

Volunteers Welcome!

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) is forming a committee of volunteers to assist BLM as the agency continues to make improvements to the site. For now we're calling it the Provolt Community Support Committee. Nonprofit groups, hands-on workers, trailblazers, wildlife lovers, creative thinkers, and grant writers are all welcome! If you're interested in helping out from time to time, please contact committee cochairs Jennifer Payne, APWC education and outreach program director, at outreach@apwc.info or Tom Carstens at provoltcommittee@apwc.info.



Meet your Park Hosts

The site boasts two full-time park hosts, Teri and Tim Kervella (pictured above with Todd Neville on the right). Tim is a retired New York City police officer and Teri hails from Glendale, California. They have previously hosted two other BLM recreation sites in Oregon: Sharps Creek, near Dorena, and Shotgun Creek, near Marcola. They both enjoy wildlife and are pleased at the natural look of the site. They're glad that the park is finally open to the public and love interacting with people. Since their May arrival, they've been fascinated with a pair of ospreys that have been raising four fledglings.