

'Death conversations' coming to Williams Grange

BY HAYRIYA HANSEN

The fact is we are all going to die and we don't know when. Everyone and everything we love will die one day, and we don't know when.

We are now forming an alliance called SOLADA (Southern Oregon Living and Dying Alliance) whose mission is to connect people and promote positive death literacy. Since September 2022, we have been offering "death conversations"—classes, workshops, and rituals to support respectful, nonsectarian conversations about death and dying. All events are free of charge, but donations are welcome.

We're offering a workshop on advanced care planning from 6:30 to 8:30 pm March 7 at the Williams Grange. This event will be led by Angela Franklin, a practicing death midwife and home funeral guide who has a passion for advanced care planning. She is a community educator and organizer and is a founder of Crossroads Community DeathCare. She lives in Takilma with her family of compassionate "coconspirators."

In April there will be a grief writing and collage workshop led by Williams author Laurie Easter and local teacher Corbin Brashear. This will be a full afternoon event. Location and exact date and time

are in the works. Please contact us for more details.

On May 16, our evening death conversation, *Complicated Death: Suicide, Homicide, Infant Death and Missing Persons*, will be facilitated by local psychotherapist Tressi Albee at the Williams Grange from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

All events are free of charge, but donations are greatly appreciated. Please join us.

SOLADA is actively working to create a southern Oregon directory for those who are working in the living, dying, and death fields. The directory will assist people who need to find help, information, or resources at a critical time in their lives or in the lives of those whom they love. Information will be forthcoming on our website.

Those on the SOLADA steering committee are also willing and able to support you in hosting a Death Over Dinner event (Google "death over dinner" for more information).

Please connect with me if you wish to know more about our events or organization by emailing soladaoregon@gmail.com.

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We can help you reach your market!

The *Applegater* is the only newsmagazine covering the entire Applegate Valley. With a circulation of 13,000 and a readership of more than 20,000, the *Applegater* covers Jacksonville, Ruch, Applegate, Williams, Murphy, Wilderville, Wonder, Jerome Prairie, and areas of Medford and Grants Pass.

For more information, contact:

Jackson County. Ron Turpen @ 541-601-1867 or ron.turpen@gmail.com

Josephine County. Max Unger @ 541-373-1445 or imaxunger@gmail.com

Next deadline: May 1

BLM issues Late Mungers decision

BY KYLE SULLIVAN

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued a decision to promote safe wildfire response, develop fire-resilient lands, and create habitat for special status species. The Late Mungers Integrated Vegetation Management Project includes prescribed fire, thinning, and selection harvest actions. The project is located near the communities of Murphy and Williams.

"Forests in southwest Oregon are in dire need of active management to maintain and improve forest health," said Elizabeth Burghard, BLM Medford district manager. "The Late Mungers project is an important step toward promoting and developing complex forest habitats for the northern spotted owl and other sensitive species. This project will make the landscape, including legacy trees, more resilient to wildfire by addressing hazardous wildfire fuels near local communities."

This project aligns with the objectives identified in Executive Order 14072: Strengthening of the Nation's Forests, Communities, and Local Economies, by deploying climate-smart forestry practices to improve the resilience of our lands, waters, wildlife, and communities in the face of increasing disturbances and chronic stress arising from climate impacts. Specifically, the BLM has planned actions to protect and grow large, old trees, including retaining fire-tolerant legacy trees.

Over the next decade, the BLM anticipates fuels reduction work on about 7,500 acres. The work will start at strategic locations where fire managers have the best chance to catch and contain wildfires. The project also includes 830 acres of



Northern spotted owl.
Photo: Kyle Sullivan

proposed harvests divided into two timber sales: Late Mungers and Penn Butte. By using selection harvest methods, these treatments will increase the diversity of the forest stands. This more complex habitat is important for the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and Pacific marten (federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act),

as well as other special-status species.

The Late Mungers Project implements the BLM Medford District's Integrated Vegetation Management for Resilient Lands Programmatic Environmental Assessment (IVM-RL EA). This landscape-level environmental assessment lays out the BLM's vision for creating and maintaining healthy forests in response to past management practices, like intensive logging and fire suppression. By completing the planning for these forest health initiatives at the landscape level, the BLM and partners are better able to secure funding and streamline the implementation of the project.

During the public comment period, people provided more than 100 comments. In addition to reviewing those comments, the BLM project team also hosted a field trip to the project area and held a public webinar to obtain input about the project. The final document, including BLM's response to comments, is available on ePlanning at eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2018484/510.

A 30-day appeal period on the project ends on March 13.

To learn more about how the BLM is implementing forest resilience projects, please visit on.doi.gov/3uERiNp.

Kyle Sullivan • ksullivan@blm.gov

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