

Fuel treatment priorities being planned for Applegate federal forests: Public demonstration on Saturday, October 17

BY DIANE VOSICK, APRIL WHITTEN, AND TOM CARSTENS

The Applegate Watershed is known nationally for citizen collaboration and efforts to restore some of the most biologically rich forests in the United States. The Applegate Partnership was one of the earliest attempts to break through the conflict of the timber wars by encouraging public land management that is transparent and aligns with the values and concerns of diverse stakeholders.

Significant progress is underway in the watershed by private landowners, valley businesses and organizations, and local, state and federal agencies to reduce the risk of unnatural fire to the forests and communities of the Applegate. However, to achieve the vision of a restored forest, citizens want more restoration and fuels reduction at a faster pace. The sense of urgency is not only based on safety concerns, but on the ecological need to preserve healthy forest ecosystems. In addition, a healthy economy also depends on stemming the loss of harvest infrastructure and jobs in the community.

In 2006, the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, The Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service, along with other agencies established the Applegate Fire Learning Network (AFLN) to build from and accelerate the work already begun in the watershed. The AFLN is a part of the Fire Learning Network—a national program designed to bring together stakeholders in order to plan and put into practice restoration treatments to restore degraded forest ecosystems. The goal of the AFLN was to create a landscape assessment to prioritize restoration treatments based on community values. The theory behind this is that if the community identifies the public

land areas that are most important to restore and protect from unnatural fire, conflict will be reduced and more work accomplished.

The AFLN worked for two years to gather social and biological data to help inform management decisions and assist citizens and public agencies to establish priorities for treatment. In March 2009, a representative group of community stakeholders was assembled to identify the most important places to actively restore public lands in the watershed in order to advance the ecological, social, and economic desires of the community. Over a six-month period, stakeholders discussed and identified the places with the highest level of support for action. Taken together these places create a treatment priority map for the Applegate Watershed that will help inform planning at the BLM and Forest Service for the next five years. The final prioritization map is still in development but should be available on line in October at <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/nw.fln.workspace>.

The Applegate Partnership, in conjunction with the AFLN, would like to invite Applegate Valley residents to attend a public demonstration of how this process can reduce wildfire risk while contributing to healthy forest ecosystems. Some local forest plots that have successfully undergone different stages of fuels reduction treatment have been selected for public inspection. The tour will take place on October 17 at 10:00 am and begin at the Star Ranger Station at 6941 Upper Applegate Road. Participants should bring a sack lunch and expect to spend two to four hours touring the areas that are accessible by private auto.

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Applegater commuters can connect with bus service in Jacksonville

As of September 8, Rogue Valley Transportation District buses are departing Jacksonville earlier in the morning to serve commuters from Jacksonville and the Applegate Valley. The new Route 30 schedule has the first bus leaving Medford's Front Street station for Jacksonville at 6:15 am and returning to Medford at 6:52 am. A second bus leaves at 7:00 am and returns at 7:37 am. Former 7:30 am and 8:15 am trips have been discontinued. The new schedule lets commuters transfer buses if necessary and still reach points as far as White City and Ashland before 8 am.

Riders who don't live near a Jacksonville bus stop can access the Jacksonville Park & Ride lot by bicycle or automobile. There is covered bicycle parking at the

main bus stop between the post office and library, and reserved Park & Ride spaces in the City lot just across the Jackson Creek Bridge from this stop.

RVTD buses operate Monday through Friday. The fare is \$2 per ride, and includes a 90-minute transfer to other buses. Full details are available at www.rvtd.org or by calling 541-779-2877.

The complete schedule leaving Front Street station for Jacksonville is as follows: 6:15 am / 7:00 am / 11:30 am / 12:15 pm / 3:00 pm / 3:45 pm / 4:30 pm / 5:15 pm / 6:00 pm

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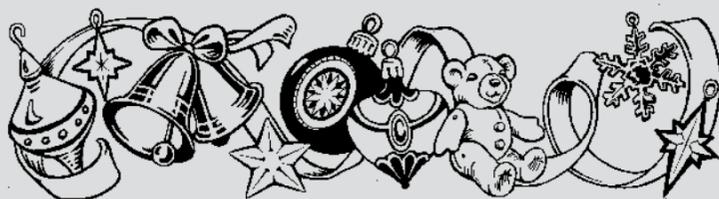


Park and Ride from Jacksonville to Transfer Station in downtown Medford
Designated P&R spaces in the main Britt Parking Lot ~ C St.

Bus Stop is near Post Office.

Service M-F at the following times:
6:32 / 7:17 / 11:47 / 12:32 / 3:17 / 4:02 /
4:47 / 5:32 / 6:17 (arrive early)

More Information at 779-2877 or
www.rvtd.org



WINTER ARTS FESTIVAL AT PACIFICA

*Pacifica Arts Guild presents the 11th Annual Winter Arts Festival
Saturday December 5 on the grounds of Pacifica
A Garden in the Siskiyou — 14615 Watergap Road, Williams*

Begin your holiday festivities under the twinkling lights of the Great Hall at Pacifica, surrounded by the sights and sounds of the season: decorated trees, resin-scented holiday swags and the homey smells of freshly baked goods. Live music, always a treat, will be supplied throughout the day by a talented variety of fine local musicians and singers.

Distinctive one-of-a-kind gift items from 30 local artists will be available for sale: fine art, ceramics, textiles, jewelry, hand made soaps, mouth-blown glass, masks, unique hand-made holiday cards, live evergreen trees, hand-made wreaths and a variety of paintings and photography. Wine from our local vineyards and delicious home

made food and baked goods will be available for sale. Children (of any age) are invited to make their own holiday decorations in the Pacifica Craft Caterpillar!

Doors open at 10 am until 5 pm there's plenty of parking and admission is FREE! So gather the family, friends and neighbors and join us for this bustling, warm and beautiful Winter Arts Festival at Pacifica!

Directions: From highway 238 (at the 90 degree turn near the fire station) take Watergap Road. Two to three miles south to Pacifica and watch for the signs!

For more information please call 541 846-1100.

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