

Community Calendar

Applegate Valley Garden Club meets at 1:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month from September through May. For meeting locations and programs, call Sandra King at 541-899-9027 or Betty Lou Smith at 541-846-6817.

Applegate 4-H Swine Club meets on Tuesday following the third Wednesday of every month at 7 pm. For more information contact Charles Elmore at 541-846-6528 or Barbara Niedermeyer at 541-846-7635.

Applegate Christian Fellowship. For service times, call 541-899-8732, 24 hours/day.

Applegate Friends of Fire District #9 meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Fire Station—1095 Upper Applegate Road—at 6:00 pm. New members are welcome. For more information, call Bob Fischer 541-846-6218.

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Monday morning at Applegate Church, 18960 North Applegate Road (at the corner of Hwy. 238 and N. Applegate Road). Weigh-in starts at 8:30 am; the meeting starts at 9:00 am. Come join us!

Josephine County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) meets Thursdays at 6 pm. For meeting information, call Connie Young at 541-846-6051.

Applegate Valley Community Forum (AVCF) meets the third Thursday of each month, location alternating between Applegate and Ruch. For more information, call Pat Gordon at 541-899-7655.

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Grants Pass Branch meets monthly from September through June. Days, times, and locations vary. All those who hold an associate of arts, a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university are welcome to join. Contact Sylvia Rose at snrjrose2@charter.net or 541-479-0277 or Georgia Applegate at gkapple@apbb.net or 541-787-7175.

AA Meeting There is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous every Wednesday at 7:00 AM at the Williams Community Church Fellowship Hall on East Fork Road in Williams. This meeting is open to those who have a drinking problem and have a desire to stop drinking, and also to anyone interested in the Alcoholics Anonymous program of recovery from drinking.

Applegate Library Hours
 Sunday..... closed
 Monday..... closed
 Tuesday..... 2 pm - 6 pm
 Wednesday..... closed
 Thursday..... closed
 Friday..... 2 pm - 6 pm
 Saturday..... 10 am - 2 pm
 (Storytime will be held Tuesdays at 2:30 pm.)

Ruch Branch Library Hours
 Sunday..... closed
 Monday..... closed
 Tuesday..... 11 am - 5 pm
 Wednesday..... closed
 Thursday..... 1 pm - 7 pm
 Friday..... closed
 Saturday..... 12 pm - 4 pm
 (Storytime will be held Tuesdays at 11 am.)

Friends of Ruch Library Board of Directors meets monthly. Check with the Ruch Library for schedule. 541-899-7438.

Food & Friends Senior Nutrition Program invites local 60+ seniors to enjoy a nutritious, hot meal served at 11:30 am Monday through Friday at the Jacksonville IOOF Hall located at the corner of Main and Oregon Streets. A donation is suggested and appreciated. Volunteers help serve meals or deliver meals to homebound seniors. For information about volunteering (it takes 40 volunteers to keep the Jacksonville program going) or receiving meals, call Food & Friends at 541-664-6674, x246 or x208.

Wonder Neighborhood Watch Meetings: second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm, Wonder Bible Chapel.

Josephine County Farm Bureau. For meeting information, call Connie Young at 541-846-6051.

Williams Library Hours
 Sunday..... closed
 Monday..... closed
 Tuesday..... 1:30 pm - 4 pm
 Wednesday..... 1:30 pm - 4 pm
 Thursday..... closed
 Friday..... closed
 Saturday..... 12 pm - 4 pm

Upper Applegate Grange #239 Business meetings: second Thursday at 7:30 pm. Potluck/Social meetings: fourth Friday at 7:30 pm, open to the public. Join us for informative meetings, fun and involvement in community service. Sponsors of Cub Scout Pack Troop #18. Call 541-899-6987.

Williams Rural Fire Protection District Meetings: fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Williams Fire Department.

Williams Creek Watershed Council Meetings: fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Williams Creek Fire Station. The Public is welcome. For more information, call 541-846-9175.

Williams Grange Pancake Breakfast, second Sunday of each month, 8:30 to 11:00, followed by the Bluegrass Jam, 11:00 to 1:00. Closed July and August. 20100 Williams Hwy, near Tetherow Rd. Information 541-846-6844.

Williams Grange #399 Business Meeting, second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. 20100 Williams Hwy, near Tetherow Rd. Information 541-846-6844.

Applegate Fire District Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Station 1—18489 N. Applegate Rd. at 7:30 pm. Except for the months of March, April and May, which are held at Headquarters—1095 Upper Applegate Rd. For more information, call 541-899-1050.

Applegate Neighborhood Network (ANN) meets on the last Wednesday of every month at the Ruch Library. All interested persons are welcome to attend. ANN is a community organization dedicated to protecting, preserving, and restoring the Applegate watershed. For more information about ANN, call Duane Bowman, 541-899-7264.

Women Helping Other Women (WHOW) meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10036 Hwy 238 (Gyda Lane) at 6:30 pm for a potluck meeting to plan work parties at each other's homes. New members are welcome. For more information, call Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-8741 or Sioux Rogers at 541-846-7736.

Applegate Lake Cub Scouts Pack #18 (Ruch Region) Outdoor activity (fishing, rafting, hikes, etc.) the first Friday of each month; regular meeting the third Friday of each month. Upper Applegate Grange from 10 am to 1 pm. All boys in grades first through fifth including homeschoolers, Ruch students, and non-Ruch students are welcome. For more information, contact Cub Leader Vic Agnifili at 541-899-1717.

Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council meets the 4th Thursday of the month at the Applegate Library. For more information call 541-899-9982.

The Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association meet the first Monday of each month, 7:30 pm, at the OSU extension. For more information, please contact sobeekeepers@gmail.com

Sanctuary One is open to the public for farm tours every Wednesday and Saturday at 11 am. Recommended donation is \$5. Please check out our website for details: www.SanctuaryOne.org and call to reserve a spot. 541-899-8627.

Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm at Applegate Fire District Station 1 on North Applegate Road. For more information, call 541-245-4741 or go to www.gacdc.org.

Ladies Spring Luncheon at Applegate Community Church, April 30 at 10:00 A.M. All ladies invited to come and enjoy special music, speaker and salad luncheon. Any questions contact: 846-6100.

Email calendar information to
 gater@applegater.org.

Understanding the Middle Applegate Pilot

BY JOHN GERRITSMAS

The birth of the Middle Applegate Pilot is the culmination of community, political, and scientific interests wanting to find a more ecologically and socially acceptable forest management approach. To that end, the Secretary of Agriculture embraced the ecological restoration approach for the dry forests of the Applegate developed by forest scientists Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson and designated a Pilot to demonstrate those principles. With long-standing community partners in the Applegate Partnership and the Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative, the Medford District BLM has embarked on a collaborative process to implement this Pilot. It is the Secretary's hope that a forest management approach that restores forest structure and processes will also produce a substantive amount of timber as an important byproduct. In addition, the Pilot may provide information to the Secretary about a future 20-year forest management plan for the BLM lands in southern Oregon.

The Pilot is about forest ecology. The Pilot seeks to reduce the uncharacteristically dense and homogenous forest conditions abundantly present. All trees over 150 years of age will be retained, with an emphasis to provide those old veterans of the forest less competitive access to nutrients and water. Part of the treatment includes restoring the "gaps" where sun-loving species such as the black and white oaks, the ponderosa pine and the sugar pine can thrive. Gaps will allow the herbaceous layers on the forest floor to become more diverse and robust. Equally important is to provide dense patches of forest for those species whose survival depends on such habitat, including the Northern Spotted Owl. In the end, the Pilot's approach will result in a less uniform and more diverse forest benefitting all species. Forest trees' resistance to insects, disease, wildfire, and other natural disturbances is increased, providing a better balance between life and death in the forest. And through all of this, tree stem reduction will result in the production of timber that sustains the industry necessary to implement restoration projects. This also provides much needed jobs in southern Oregon, thereby benefiting both rural Oregon and the State. And of course, an important benefit of reducing tree density is a reduced threat of catastrophic wildfire to our Applegate communities.

This Pilot needs collaboration to be successful. At the heart of the long-running debate over forest management are people's core values. The forest management debate is a social question about the proper balance between our environment and the use of resources it provides. There is such an extraordinary collaborative capacity in and around the Applegate that it would be foolish to ignore such a powerful force in shaping the future of our forests. In fact, the Applegate Partnership and the Collabor-



Pilot Project meeting on March 2 at the Upper Applegate Grange Hall

ative were actively seeking an ecological landscape approach for the Applegate well before the Secretary announced the Pilot. In addition, numerous Rogue Valley partners, along with the BLM and the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forests, were involved in the effort that resulted in last October's *Solutions for Forest Conference*, a precursor to the Pilot. Collaboration means the BLM is partnering with interested stakeholders in the development of a solution. This includes cooperative development of criteria to select stands for restoration, the treatment priority of those stands, within-stand application of skips and gaps, and monitoring of both the collaborative process and the effectiveness of the project design. The Pilot is a demonstration of an ecological restoration approach using the collaborative vehicle to fuel its success.

The Pilot is about achieving results. The first Pilot project will occur on an estimated 300-800 acres as early as September of 2011. An assessment of the restoration needs for these acres will occur by the end of March, sufficient to develop this first Pilot project. It is imperative that the principles of the Pilot be visually displayed on the ground, so that we can all see what it means. Learning from what we see, later this year a detailed assessment will cover about 5,000 more acres to determine restoration needs for subsequent projects in 2012 and beyond. And, at some point in the near future, an assessment of restoration needs for the entire Middle Applegate Watershed will be undertaken; however, there will be no Pilot project in roadless areas.

Some things have not changed. The Pilot project will follow the standards and guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan. The Pilot will meet the Endangered Species Act, including meeting any stipulations in the Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl. The Pilot will follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process that requires public review of decisions made about Pilot projects. The Pilot will follow the Secretary's recent Order for managing wildlands. Additional information on the Pilot is available on the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council and the Medford District BLM websites.

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 http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/forestrypilot/