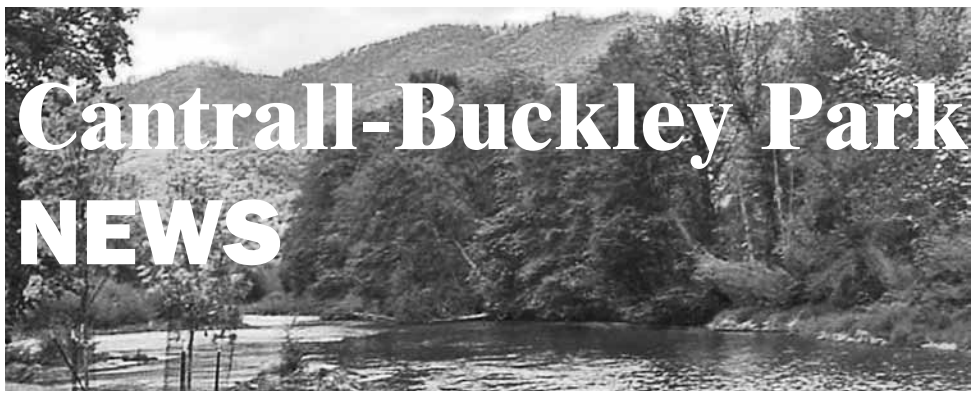

Sizeable grant received from BLM

BY DAVID LAANANEN

This fall Cantrall-Buckley Park received an $8,700 grant from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for design of the electrical component of the RV sites. With this money we are closing in on the final phase of the Campground Improvement Project.

There have been so many small steps since the completion of Phase 2 that it's worth reviewing the progress.

Project in review

The project began early in 2004 with a public meeting held at the Ruch Library to discuss the future of Cantrall-Buckley Park. The conclusion was that the park's cash flow could best be improved in the long term by upgrading the campground for current RVs.

With the support of grants from BLM and the US Forest Service, a master plan for park improvements was completed and subsequently approved by Jackson County.

The Campground Improvement Plan was conceived in three phases:

1. Wastewater treatment system
2. Shower/restroom building (replacing the pit toilets)
3. Reconfiguration for longer RVs, including RV hook-ups

With two grants totaling $253,225 from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and matching funds from Jackson County and other agencies, as well as significant in-kind support, a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment system and a shower/restroom building were completed in 2008.

The wastewater treatment system includes a vegetated submerged bed (VSB)—a lined, shallow pool of native water plants. The five septic tanks in the park, including the new one in the campground, all pump to the VSB. The plants cleanse the effluent to make it suitable for irrigation in the previously dry campground.

Phase 3

Phase 3 will include some modifications to the campground road and campsite pull-ins for longer RVs and the addition of seven new tent campsites. Utility developments will include a dump station and installation of hookups at the RV sites.

The nonprofit Greater Applegate Community Development Corporation (GACDC) will work with Jackson County to secure funding for the project, which will cost more than $300,000. Meanwhile, several smaller projects are being completed to prepare for it. In 2010-11, using BLM Title II funds, a new, higher-capacity water supply line to the campground was installed, and in 2012 the entry road was repaved.

Design for water and sewer connections was done as part of the wastewater treatment system installation. However, the electrical design remains to be done prior to determining a viable estimate of cost. The current project will complete the electrical design for the RV hookups, including construction specifications, a preservation plan for existing vegetation, and an estimate of cost for the installation.

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pest, having become so widespread, could be completely eradicated. Some of the factors that make eradication a real possibility are the limited host range of the pest (mainly grapes), the availability of very effective control measures (such as insecticides and mating disruption), and a good method for monitoring the population spread.

Eradication not possible

Closer to home, our newest exotic pest of concern is the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB). Eradication is not a possibility in this case. This insect has an extremely wide host range. It can attack hundreds of different kinds of plants. There are very few methods for controlling this insect other than broad-spectrum insecticides, which are often not entirely effective, and there is currently no good trapping method for monitoring the population spread. Unfortunately, this new stink bug is here to stay.

Back story

The back story to this pest is that it was first found in the United States sometime in the mid to late 1990s in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where it was noticed as a nuisance pest, occasionally getting into garages and houses to overwinter, similar to the way box elder (aka maple) bugs behave locally. The first specimen to be positively identified was collected in 1998, but the correct identification did not occur until a specialist at Cornell University made the determination in 2001. By then, the population was growing and spreading and the nuisance level was increasing as well. Because these stink bugs were occurring in urban and residential areas, they were not yet infesting agricultural crops. However, this stink bug is native to China, Korea and Japan, and it is considered one of a number of stink bug species that can cause damage to crops, primarily by attacking fruits.

In 2010 a major stink-bug infestation occurred in tree fruit. In particular, peach and apple orchards in the Mid-Atlantic states sustained significant fruit damage; crop loss in the millions of dollars was recorded. Suddenly the urban nuisance had become a serious agricultural pest, and Congress allocated research dollars to begin studying the insect in earnest.

In 2004 Jim LaBonte, an entomologist at the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), found a brown marmorated stink bug in one of the traps he used to monitor invasive bark beetles in Portland. An astute entomologist, he was aware of the reports from back east concerning the stink bug and recognized it quickly.

It is vital to recognize an exotic pest as early as possible. In the case of the European grapevine moth in Napa mentioned above, earlier detection would have made the eradication effort much easier and less costly. After the stink bug was found in Portland, surveys were conducted by the ODA and breeding populations were found. However, due to the factors listed above, eradication was not considered to be possible; besides, at that time, the stink bug was just a nuisance pest and had not yet become a significant agricultural pest.

With the 2010 outbreak of BMSB back east, more intensive surveys were launched, particularly here in Oregon where BMSB had become well-established in Portland. The first BMSB found in Jackson County was discovered in Phoenix in June 2012 by an Oregon State University (OSU) researcher; about 10 more BMSB were subsequently found in the county. In 2013 the numbers have exploded: a large breeding population is located in downtown Ashland, and individual insects are found in Talent, Phoenix, Medford, Central Point and Jacksonville. The threat to agriculture is very real, but research dollars are tight. The OSU Research and Extension office is working with growers to protect their crops; this continuing effort will be the subject of another article.

A new stink bug pest has arrived in southern Oregon and this story is only beginning.

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Photos, left to right: A population of Japanese beetles was recently discovered in Cave Junction and successfully eradicated. Photo: vittracker.com. European grapevine moths are the subject of an ongoing eradication effort in Northern California. Photo: entomology.wisc.edu.