

Resetting the conversation between BLM and the Applegate community

BY KRISTI MASTROFINI

Southwest Oregon residents and stakeholders place a wide variety of values on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This range of values can lead to conflict among community members and between the community and BLM. That is why BLM's Ashland Field Office has been working with local stakeholders to reset the conversation regarding public land management in the Applegate Valley. Over the past few years, relationships with the community have been challenged as a result of trying to work through collaborative efforts on contentious projects, such as Nedsbar, without the proper skill sets that could help us to be more successful.

With the rollout of BLM's new Resource Management Plan (RMP), public lands in the Applegate Watershed previously designated as the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA) were not carried forward. The Applegate AMA was incorporated in BLM's 1995 RMP as an area to develop and test new approaches to forest management that

integrated ecological, economic, and social objectives reflecting the needs of the land and communities. Applegate residents who valued the AMA designation are now concerned that BLM no longer values a collaborative process that was a hallmark to agency and community interaction under the AMA.

Collaborative action

The Ashland Field Office sought support from BLM's Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) Program to assist us in rebuilding trust with the community and to help move our engagement with the community in a more positive direction. In 2016, we began working with Kevin Preister, of the Center for Social Ecology and Public Policy, as a subcontractor of Kerns and West, Inc. Kevin, along with his staff, conducted listening sessions throughout the community, asking residents four key questions:

1. How do you use public lands?
2. What's important about these lands for you?

3. What's working well and not working well about the management of public lands?
4. What ideas do you have for making things better?

Kevin's work led to a series of neighborhood meetings as BLM began to conduct outreach for the upcoming Middle Applegate Vegetation Management Project. Kevin's work generated good information about the concerns and ideas of those who live and work in the Applegate community and identified opportunities for the BLM to foster more positive community relations and collaboration.

In autumn of 2017, the BLM began working with Diane Groves of Whole System Performance, also a subcontractor of Kerns and West, Inc., to begin preparing for a consensus-based workshop. Diane engaged approximately 55 diverse stakeholders in a series of conversations; most were face-to-face and some by phone. BLM staff were present as listeners for many of the conversations.

Two-day workshop

Information gathered from these conversations was used to customize a two-day consensus-based workshop. The workshop that convened in November 2017 was valuable in beginning to reset the conversation between the Ashland Field Office staff and public land stakeholders. We learned a variety of tools to help

build more cooperative and collaborative relationships. One of the most helpful tools we learned at this workshop was the Grounding Circle, which allows everyone a chance to speak uninterrupted while others listen with respect. The value of learning these tools and processes together with our stakeholders will be to help build capacity in collaborative process both within the agency and within the community. Conflict will likely always be present to some degree; however, through learning and building capacity, we hope to become more self-sufficient and effective in our conflict resolution.

As we continue outreach for the Middle Applegate Project, we hope all participants will utilize lessons learned from this important workshop to improve our relationships in working together more collaboratively throughout all aspects of project development and planning. We welcome anyone interested to join us in learning more about this work.

If you are interested in being on the notification list for upcoming meetings and field trips or would like to receive Ashland update letters, please contact Brian Lawatch at 541-618-2316 or blawatch@blm.gov.

Kristi Mastrofini • 541-618-2438
Bureau of Land Management
Ashland Field Manager
Medford District Office
kmastrof@blm.gov

Let our advertisers know that you saw their ad in the *Applegater*.

KT Reich Cleaning
Free estimates and \$25.00 off your second cleaning.



ENJOY LIFE Leave the cleaning to us

Office (541) 899-4497 sales@ktreich.com
nomorecleaning.com
PO Box 292 Jacksonville, OR 97530

Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner Microbrews on tap Pizza



181 Upper Applegate Jacksonville, OR 97530 (541) 702-2220

899-1113
Call or Text
RuchHardware.com

Hardware Grow Supplies Feed Sporting Goods
Ruch Hardware | Check Us Out On Instagram & Facebook!
181 Upper Applegate Rd Ruch, OR 97530
Your Friendly "Savin' MORE Trips to Town" Store!

Business for Sale: Sidewalk Fliers
Pedal airplanes for kids of all ages
Price reduced to \$5,500



Sale of this fun mail-order business includes:
• Inventory: plans (10 models), parts, decals, shipping boxes, one complete ride-in triplane, one complete pedal plane, and more.
• Documents and digital history, including a computer with CAD software and digital plans, plus client and supplier information.
• Option to purchase shop equipment in Medford.

Contact Carla Myers at 530-949-7426 or cre8ivecarla@gmail.com or Glynda Myers at 458-225-9497.

Rural Security Solutions



We are Locally Owned and Operated
Commercial & Residential
Affordable OLCC Compliant Systems
Instant Alerts to your Phone
Remote Access by Phone or Computer
24 Hour Monitoring Service Available
Customized Solutions to your needs

Enjoy the peace of mind knowing what is going on around your property.

541-846-1248
Applegate Valley, OR
CCB # 166059

alhua
STATE OF THE ART EQUIPMENT
www.SiskiyouSecurity.com


INSURED CERTIFIED
CHIM-CHIMNEY SWEEPERS



SOOT YOURSELF OR PHONE 476-0941
MIKE KOHN BRIAN STIVERS
A CURE FOR THE FLUE
Cleaning, Relining, Installing, Advice Gladly

CLEAN MODERN EQUIPMENT
GOOD OLD FASHIONED SERVICE

(541) 846-0540
APPLEGATE PLUMBING LLC



David Kennedy
applegateplumbing@apbb.net CCB# 175451

541-772-3389 541-479-6935
A-Affordable

Septic Pumping Installation & Repair Portable Restrooms RV's & Holding Tanks



Royal Flush
AAFFORDABLEROYALFLUSH.COM
A ROYAL FLUSH BEATS A FULL HOUSE ANYTIME

Mobile Automotive Windshield and Glass Repair and Replacement



APPLEGATE AUTO GLASS
Efficient, Dependable Automotive Glass Repair & Replacement
Call for a FREE QUOTE
541-621-1889
ApplegateAutoGlass@outlook.com

- Local Family Owned
- Mobile Convenience
- OEM Glass
- All Vehicles
- Classic Automobiles
- RV Windshields
- All Insurance Companies
- Competitive Cash Prices
- Licensed & Insured

David Snook
General Contractor LLC



4x4 Tractor Services & Contractor Services
CCB License # 190405 **541-218-3995** Bonded and Insured

GORILLA ACUPUNCTURE
Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Therapy



Sang Ly Montage L.Ac.
541.708.3953

Now located in Grants Pass and The Applegate!
House calls and In-office visits available.
www.gorillacupuncture.com

Ramsay Realty



(541) 899-1184 Ext. 229
CELL: (541) 621-2480
Jeanne Schattler, Realtor®
Broker

7604 Hwy 238 • Jacksonville, OR 97530
Fax: (541) 899-1772 • E-Mail: Jeanne@ramsayrealty.com
Web Site: http://jschattler.com