



Freezing Temps

from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

It seems like it was just 80° outside - but the weather man predicts freezing temps!

We want you to be prepared for this freezing cold weather. It is time to make sure your pipes are insulated, and that your pump house is clean and warm. If the temp is below freezing for a couple of days we suggest leaving a faucet running at a trickle. There is nothing more frustrating than waking up to no water to make coffee or brush your teeth.

Our qualified staff is ready to help you prepare for winter. If you want some help just give us a call. Most of the time we can be at your doorstep the same day you call. We can check the overall health of your pump system at the same time we get it all ready for the winter. Preventative maintenance prevents disaster.

Don't forget, even though it is light outside the temperatures can be below freezing, so keep that faucet running!!

When you call us, a LIVE person answers the phone. Have an after hours emergency? We have an emergency technician standing by to help!

Water is a geological cocktail so drink MORE water!



WELL PUMP & FILTRATION SERVICE

Call us Mon. - Fri. 8 - 5, you'll have a live person answer the phone that is ready to help you!

Quinn's Well, Pump and Water Filtration is located at 6811 Williams Hwy. We install, maintain and repair complete water pumping systems, and we offer a complete line of water filtration equipment. Contact our professional staff by phone, e-mail, or visit our office. www.quinnswell.com CCB #192047

541-862-9355
541-772-7867



Follow us on Facebook. applegater.newspaper

Cheney Creek: Community outreach and BLM restoration

BY NATHAN GEHRES

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) will be implementing two new projects this year on Cheney Creek, near Wilderville. One project focuses on improving the ecology of a two-mile section of the creek administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The second project focuses on outreach and gathering concerns and needs about the landscape from landowners along Cheney Creek and Little Cheney Creek. We hope to engage the community and provide examples of habitat improvement with these projects.

The Cheney Creek watershed is a high-value system for aquatic and wildlife species. The first project focuses on aquatic species and has been funded through BLM's Secure Rural Schools Title II grant opportunity. This program strives to "make investments in public lands and create additional employment opportunities through projects that improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure, implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems, and restore and improve land health and water quality." The grant has allowed us to partner with the BLM Grants Pass Field Office to plan the habitat project in Cheney Creek.

Recently, while scoping our project site, APWC and BLM staff discovered evidence of a coho redd (spawning ground) and the corpse of a spawned-out adult coho salmon. This discovery is timely and gives us hope that this project and potential future projects can make a difference on the water quality of the stream. Cheney Creek is listed as a water-quality limited stream due to high summer temperatures and low dissolved oxygen levels by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The goals of the Cheney Creek habitat project on BLM-managed lands are twofold. The first objective of this project is to build upon successful large-wood placements installed by the BLM in 2012. These actions will increase the quality of fish habitat, increase macroinvertebrate populations, reduce stream velocity, increase the accrual and retention of spawning gravels, improve riparian health, and reduce sedimentation. An excavator will secure each end of the instream log to the stream bank to prevent movement downstream during high flows.

The second objective of the project is to discourage the use of off-road vehicles in the riparian corridor of the creek and to limit vehicle access in order to reduce illegal dump sites. Currently, the BLM-managed section of Cheney Creek is heavily impacted by these human activities, which also affect downstream private landowners. This work will reduce erosion, increase vegetative cover, and discourage illegal dumping and vandalism to public lands. Before we begin work, we will place signs in the area to notify the public about the project and the importance of the work to public and private lands. This undertaking will improve aquatic habitat through the installation of instream log structures at the upstream and downstream boundaries of the BLM-managed section of Cheney Creek and will create multiple deterrents to illegal dumping and other damage in the creek and adjacent riparian areas.

A Stakeholder Outreach grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) will allow us to gauge the need for landscape improvement projects with private landowners in the Cheney Creek watershed and to assess their interest in participating in potential projects. Possible projects that could be sparked by this

outreach include invasive species removal (blackberries, ivy, etc.), native species planting, irrigation system efficiency improvements, erosion or flooding issues, general fuels reduction, and anything else the community deems important. The Title II project on neighboring BLM land will serve as an example of restoration work that landowners can tour to explore the effectiveness and practicality of the restoration activities and see how those activities might translate to their property. The other benefit of the outreach and BLM restoration efforts being implemented at the same time is the increased opportunity they provide the community and stakeholders to communicate either directly with the BLM or through the APWC.

Landowners along Cheney and Little Cheney Creeks who are interested in learning more about these projects can contact Nathan Gehres by email at nathan.apwc.info or by phone at 541-890-9989.

Nathan Gehres, APWC
Habitat Restoration Program Manager



An improvised off-road vehicle rock-climbing course, set up in the main channel of Cheney Creek. These types of activities will be addressed by the project. This photo was taken in July 2021. Photo: Nathan Gehres.



An abandoned fire that was left burning and was put out by APWC staff. This is one of the hazards that can be addressed by the Title II project, in conjunction with BLM. This photo was taken in May 2021. Photo: Nathan Gehres.



Trash at one of the campsites along Cheney Creek that will be addressed by the project, in conjunction with BLM. This photo was taken in May 2021. Photo: Nathan Gehres.

ADVERTISERS!

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

541 846 8111

bids@excavationoregon.com

www.excavationoregon.com



"The Groundwork for your Dreams"

ROADS - PADS - TERRACES | PROJECT DESIGN & CONSULT
FIRE PREVENTION | DRIVEWAYS - CULVERTS - DITCHES

Local COVID-19 information

For up-to-date case and vaccination information, go to:
Jackson County - jacksoncountyor.org/hhs/COVID-19
Josephine County - bit.ly/jocoorcovid