

COLESTIN VALLEY BUZZ

Sept/Oct 2004

PUBLIC MEETING

for

COMMUNITY FIRE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

EVERY RESIDENT in the Colestin & Hilt Fire Districts is encouraged to attend the Planning Meeting for the Community Safety Fire Plan. This is your opportunity to shape the Fire Plan. The Fire Plan will serve to bring money into our Districts and to direct how that money is spent. Your concerns, your goals, your ideas for improving our fire safety and readiness - these are the meat and potatoes of the Fire Plan. Please attend and share your thoughts. This promises to be a fun, dynamic, and interesting meeting. We have a succinct agenda and promise that the meeting will be efficient and well worth your while.

AGENDA

1. Why a Fire Plan?
2. Where Are We Headed? Introduction of Fire Plan Outline
3. What do we value that is at risk?
4. List and Prioritize Hazards
5. How Do We Address the Hazards?
6. Introduce Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams
7. What's Next?

Thursday October 14th, 7 PM, Hilt Church

Great New Book

Bob Claypole has written the *Klamath River Bird Finder in California from Irongate Lake to Weitchpec.* This guidebook features 16 driving/birding "Tours" - including a Colestin-Siskiyou Crest drive. Other drives include Collier Rest Area to Beaver Creek, Lake Mountain Lookout, Happy Camp and Vicinity and so on. Each Tour has an easy-to-read map, detailed directions, and a full account of bird species one might encounter, both common and seasonal. There are descriptions of each species - if you are curious for more information about a particular bird - and pertinent notes on local geography, flora, fauna, and lore. Even if you aren't the hottest birder, this book offers a neat way to explore the beauty of the greater Klamath River region. It can be had at MacKenzie River Outfitters in Medford at a discount for Colestin area residents, thanks to our neighbor Scott Keith, store manager.

Colestin Fire District Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams NERTs

Many of the residents of the Colestin Valley, including the Siskiyou Summit area and Hilt, have informal arrangements with their close neighbors to look after each other's property and assist each other in emergencies. In order to make these arrangements more effective, the Colestin Rural Fire District (CRFD) is establishing a program to assist in their creation and provide coordination between them and the firefighters in large-scale emergencies.

The neighborhood teams can be as formal and organized, or informal and disorganized, as their participants wish. For coordination with the firefighters, though, each neighborhood team should have at least one or more people who can serve as a point of contact with the fire officials both for development of the program and in emergencies. In this description of the program, this person or these people will be termed the Team Leader, without implying any hierarchy.

Fire and heavy snowfall are emergencies that have been important in the past, so these will be our focus.

What do the teams do?

BEFORE AN EMERGENCY, team members become acquainted with each other and with the rest of their neighbors, decide how they will respond to an emergency, and learn how to work together during an emergency with each other and with the firefighters. The Colestin firefighters will assist with training and information as needed. This training can be as extensive or limited as desired.

DURING AN EMERGENCY, the team checks the status of all the residents of the neighborhood, takes necessary actions, and coordinates with the fire district personnel.

What is required of a Neighborhood Team Leader?

A team leader contacts his neighbors to determine their special needs and or ability to assist in emergencies. The leader organizes neighborhood meetings to plan their preparation and response to emergencies. The team should organize and practice so that any member can assume leadership during an emergency because we can never be sure who will be available at such a time.

More detail on what the Teams do

The teams can do as much or as little as they want. Here are some ideas that come from other similar programs, adapted for our community, in no particular order of application, priority, or difficulty. They are described in terms of a fire emergency, but many apply as well to heavy snow that blocks our roads.

Preparation

- **MAKE AND INSTALL HOME ADDRESS/DRIVEWAY AND ROAD SIGNS.**
 - Think about an emergency responder not very familiar with your area (maybe from another agency) trying to find your house in the dark, under the stress of a fire or medical emergency. The signs must be easy to read (4" reflective letters) and lead a driver in without confusion.
 - All the main roads off the Colestin have locally recognized names. Check with CRFD to see if there are names with which you may be unfamiliar. The Emergency Response Address or E.R.A. system is used by CRFD to describe home locations. It combines your house number with the name of the road you actually live on. Knowing your ERA is important, and the Fire Dept can tell you if your E.R.A. differs from your mailing or county-recognized address. Signing the main roads off the Colestin is an important measure to take for emergency preparation. CRFD is hoping the Fire Plan might provide financial assistance in meeting this goal.
- **PLAN FOR EFFICIENT TWO-WAY FLOW OF INFORMATION**, from CRFD or other Emergency Officials to Neighborhood Teams and also from the neighborhoods back to the emergency coordination center.
 - Establish a means for distributing information from the fire officials to District residents. One team member may monitor the fire district radio frequency, and relay information to the rest of the neighbors.

A phone tree is simple to establish and operate, but depends on the phones working and takes time. Short-range radio is more effective because everyone on the channel hears the message at once, but requires purchasing some equipment. For most groups of neighbors, the simple FRS/GMRS radios available at COSTCO work well. Fire district personnel can help you evaluate your options. If there is enough interest, we can explore the possibilities of establishing a dedicated radio system for two-way communication between the fire district and the team leaders.

- Another part of the “emergency information” task is to detect spot fires or other emergent problems in your neighborhood and report them to both your neighbors and the fire officials. This might involve planning for team members to “patrol” the neighborhood or observe the area systematically if the houses are suitably placed. Radios are especially helpful in this process.
- IDENTIFY A SAFETY ZONE FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. This is an area where you and your neighbors can assemble and be safe in any fire condition. It should either be free of vegetation or be very well irrigated lawn at least 100 feet in all directions and not near heavy concentrated fuel. It could be a very fire-safe structure. Your neighborhood may or may not have such a space. If not, decide on the nearest or most practical one and do any coordination necessary to use it.
- PLAN TO COORDINATE EVACUATION. Some people may prefer, or decide at the last minute, simply to leave the area in the event of a nearby fire. It is very helpful to fire personnel if there is an organized, reliable way for them to be informed of such actions so that they do not waste time and endanger themselves looking for people who are not there. An important task for a neighborhood team is to inform the fire officials of who has left the area, who is at the safety zone, and who is remaining at his/her property.
- PLAN FOR PROTECTION OF CRITICAL PROPERTY, PETS, AND LIVESTOCK. For example, one neighborhood group has exchanged house keys, and informed each other of specially marked satchels containing critical documents, mementos etc. for removal in case of an evacuation order in the owner’s absence.

Emergency Response

- In an emergency, the team members first gather or otherwise make contact with each other and then assess the situation and plan their response. The team should contact the Fire District, advise them of the team’s mobilization and initial plan, and learn of CRFD’s plan and needs.
- The team will then execute the initial plan, including determining the status of all the neighbors and the physical situation in its area. New information will in turn be communicated back to CRFD, as it is important in planning an overall response. The more complete the pre-plans suggested above, the more effective, and safe, can be the response.

“NATURALLY, THE COMMON people don’t want war, but after all, it is the leaders of a country who determine the policy, and it is always a simple matter to drag people along whether it is democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. This is easy. All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in every country.”

HERMAN GÖRING, *Nazi leader, recorded by psychologist Gustave Gilbert, who interviewed German defendants at the Nuremberg Trials, published in his book Nuremberg Diary (1947)*

Reference Material for Herbs and Supplements

“Dietary-supplement information is available from *The Natural Pharmacist* (TNP), a database that explains the uses and safety of nearly 500 supplements. TNP is prepared by physicians and pharmacists and is available for free at the on-line supplement site www.iherb.com/health.html.

David Schardt, MS, senior nutritionist, *Nutrition Action Healthletter*, reprinted in *Bottom Line Personal* newsletter.”

This site may be helpful to some folks. As always, use information wisely.

Western Pine Beetle

For more info, credits, references, and photos see http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/we_pine_beetle/wpb.htm
The following is an abridged version of the website article.

The western pine beetle, *Dendroctonus brevicomis* LeConte, can aggressively attack and kill ponderosa and Coulter pine trees of all ages and vigor classes, including apparently healthy trees. Group killing of trees is common in dense, overstocked stands of pure, even-aged, young sawtimber, but also occurs among dense clumps of pine in stagnating mixed-conifer stands. An outbreak can have many deleterious effects including increasing forest fire danger by adding to available fuels.

Usually, the beetles breed in and kill scattered, overmature, slow-growing, decadent, or diseased trees and trees weakened by stand stagnation, lightning, fire, or mechanical injury. This tree mortality need not be a loss, but may be considered part of the normal ecological process of succession through which a forest matures and replaces itself.

The western pine beetle is most damaging in California, but its range extends northward into Oregon, and into other states as well. It is commonly found in forests with a mid-elevation level between 2,000 and 6,000 feet (600 to 1,800 m).

HOSTS, DAMAGE, AND EVIDENCE OF ATTACK

Normal attack and development occur only in ponderosa and Coulter pine. Pitch tubes, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, formed on the tree trunk around entry holes made by attacking female beetles, are usually the first evidence of infestation. The pitch tubes are white to red-brown masses of resin and boring dust found in the crevices between the bark plates. Relatively few, widely scattered, white pitch tubes, 1 inch or larger in diameter, usually indicate that the attacks were not successful and that the tree will survive. Close examination of successfully attacked trees, however, reveals small, reddish-brown pitch tubes and dry, reddish-brown boring dust in the bark crevices and around the base of the tree.

The western pine beetle initially attacks midway up the tree, but the first sign of attack may often be predaceous checkered beetles seen at eye level scurrying over the bark in search of western pine beetle prey.

Attacking adult beetles carry spores of a blue-staining fungus in special pouch-like structures in their heads. As the beetles chew their way through the bark, the spores of this wilt-causing fungus dislodge and begin to germinate. In trees attacked in early or midsummer, it takes only a few weeks for the fungus to invade and block the conductive vessels of the inner bark and sapwood. Once the vessels are blocked, the foliage begins to fade, first to a pale green and then to yellow, straw, and sorrel. Finally, perhaps after a year, the foliage may turn red brown. This fading is the first evidence of damage to the tree that is visible at a distance.

In trees attacked in late summer or fall, the fungus develops more slowly, and many infested trees do not fade until the next spring. These green trees are often first seen to be infested when woodpeckers flake off the outer bark as they search for and feed on developing beetle larvae. This flaking exposes the bright-orange inner bark, making these trees visible from as far away as 300 feet.

Western pine beetle infestation of a dying pine can be confirmed by removing the bark to expose the winding, crisscrossing egg galleries in the inner bark and on the surface of the sapwood. The egg

galleries are slightly wider than the adult beetles that construct them and are usually tightly packed with boring dust. The western pine beetle is the only bark beetle that makes this particular type of egg gallery in ponderosa and Coulter pines.

LIFE STAGES AND DEVELOPMENT

Western pine beetles pass through the egg, larval, pupal, and adult stages during a life cycle that varies in length from about 2 months in warm weather to 10 months in cool weather. All stages are completed beneath or in the bark of infested trees, except for a brief period when the adults fly to find new trees to attack.

In the northern part of their range and at higher elevations, the beetles produce two generations each year, with attacks in early June and late August. In the South and at lower elevations, the beetles produce three and sometimes four generations each year, with attacks as early as March and as late as November.

During an attack period, which may last 3 weeks, each female lays about 60 tiny pearl-white eggs individually in niches cut into the sides of the egg gallery. Some of these parent females may emerge and reattack to establish additional galleries elsewhere in the same tree or in other host trees. After incubating from 1 to 2 weeks, the eggs hatch.

The larvae are small white grubs that feed first in the phloem, where they construct a short gallery. They then mine into the middle bark where most of their development takes place. After completing four larval stages, they transform into pupae and then into adults, feeding on middle and outer bark. The adult insects emerge, ready to renew the attack-infestation cycle in living trees.

When the female beetles successfully attack a tree, they release minute amounts of behavioral chemicals (pheromones) which attract males and other females to the tree, causing a mass attack that tends to overcome the tree's natural resistance. If numerous beetles are flying and fair weather persists, adjacent trees may be attacked, resulting in a group of infested trees. Usually, an insufficient number of beetles are flying, or bad weather delays the arrival of more beetles to the vicinity of the newly attacked tree. Either of these conditions will usually result in the typically isolated dead tree.

Besides attracting western pine beetles themselves, the pheromones also attract their natural enemies, such as predaceous checkered and ostomid beetles. The ability of these beetles to sense the pheromones makes them effective predators during the critical attack phase.

CONDITIONS AFFECTING OUTBREAKS

Several conditions often work together to influence the number of beetles and the beetle-caused tree mortality in a given area. The significant conditions follow.

Food supply. - The availability of suitable host material - phloem and inner bark - is a key condition influencing western pine beetle outbreaks. Most trees are either too healthy or too weak to provide material in which beetle numbers can increase. Healthy trees can withstand many attacks before the beetles are successful, the brood is established, and new adult beetles are produced. Weak trees, such

as those that have been smog damaged, diseased, or suppressed by competition, although easily killed, also produce relatively few beetles.

The thick, nutritious phloem and inner bark of healthy trees become host material for attacking western pine beetles when these trees undergo sudden and severe moisture stress. Healthy trees ordinarily produce abundant amounts of resin, which pitch out or eject attacking beetles. But, when suddenly deprived of moisture, stressed trees cannot produce sufficient resin flow to resist attack, and their nutritious food supply becomes available to beetles. In these trees, almost all attacking beetles can succeed and reproduce many times their number of offspring, increasing the beetle population to outbreak levels.

Any condition that results in excessive demand for moisture, such as tree crowding, competing vegetation, or sudden exposure to severe sunlight; or any condition that reduces the ability of the roots to supply water to the tree, such as mechanical root damage, root disease, soil compaction, or drought, can cause moisture stress and increase susceptibility to attack by the western pine beetle.

Loss of attacking beetles. - Flying adult beetles may fail to locate a suitable host tree or may fail to initiate attack once they arrive.

Tree resistance. - Healthy pines produce sufficient resin flow at the attack site to (1) pitch out (eject) the beetles or (2) soak the phloem tissue surrounding the egg galleries with resin. The trees thereby inhibit larval and fungal development.

Natural enemies. - More than 80 species of predaceous and parasitic insects have been found in bark infested by the western pine beetle, but the nature of the relationships among them is largely unknown. Two important species of checkered beetles known to prey on the western pine beetle are *Enoclerus lecontei* and *Enoclerus sphegus* Fabricius. The blue-green ostomid *Temnochila chlorodia* Mannerheim and the fly *Medetera aldrichii* Wheeler are also important predators of the western pine beetle. Common parasites are *Roptrocerus xylophagorum* Ratzeburg, *Dinotiscus burkei* Crawford, and *Coeloides* sp. nr. *brunneri* Vierick.

Woodpeckers remove the outer bark from infested trees to feed on the larvae. Larvae that are not eaten are left with only a thin layer of protective bark, increasing their susceptibility to desiccation and parasitism.

Woodpeckers, predators, and parasites play a significant role in reducing the number of the developing brood within a tree. Although they help stabilize conditions at low beetle population levels, their action alone cannot control outbreaks.

Cold temperatures. - Winter temperatures below - 20°F (-27°C) and persisting for several days can cause heavy brood mortality in those portions of the tree above the snow-line. Effects are only temporary, however, and after a few generations, the population usually recovers.

CONTROL

Landowners have two basic alternatives when choosing the control strategy most appropriate for their needs: beetle population suppression and damage prevention.

Suppression. - Methods have included the removal of infested trees by logging, felling infested trees and peeling off and burning the bark, and felling infested trees and applying toxic residual sprays to kill emerging beetles. Because adult beetles can fly many miles and produce many offspring, effective suppression methods require the location (spotting) and treatment of all, or nearly all, infested trees over extensive areas in a short period of time.

Timely spotting and treatment are difficult and expensive tasks that require cooperation among many landowners. Consequently, the results have often been unsatisfactory. Also, these projects have failed because the basic underlying cause for the population outbreak - an abundance of stressed trees - has not changed. Typically, if a habitat favorable to high-level western pine beetle populations persists, suppression - by whatever means - will probably fail to reduce tree mortality significantly.

Prevention. - Landowners can prevent unacceptable damage on their land by maintaining thrifty, vigorous trees or stands that do not afford a suitable food supply for the beetle.

Trees with a high risk of damage by beetles characteristically have poor vigor and can be recognized by crown symptoms such as dead tops, branches, and twigs and short, sparse, poorly colored foliage. Also, they may be older, slow-growing trees that are heavily infected with dwarf mistletoe, that are root diseased, or that have been struck by lightning. Removal of such trees through sanitation cutting can salvage valuable timber that might otherwise be lost if the trees were to die gradually.

The thinning of dense, 70- to 80-year-old sawtimber stands is an effective silvicultural method for managers of both small and large holdings. Reducing stand stocking to 55 to 70 percent of the basal area needed for full site utilization will relieve the competitive stress among the remaining trees, improve their vigor, and make them less prone to successful bark beetle attack.

Prevention can also take the form of minimizing injury or disturbance to individual trees or sites. Careful logging practices and care in developing urban forest land are simple, yet effective, ways to prevent damage by western pine beetles.

Individual trees of particularly high value that are predisposed to beetle attack by temporary injury or disturbance may be given a protective residual bark spray to prevent successful attack. If protection for 1 or 2 years would allow the tree to regain its normal vigor, such spraying may be viable. The sprays are costly, however, and should not be considered if trees have a severe root disease, are badly injured by construction, or are seriously damaged in other ways.

Insecticide use is governed by the provisions of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended. This act is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency. Persons contemplating insecticide use should obtain the names of materials currently registered. Private landowners can get information from a Cooperative Extension agent.

THANK YOU !

The Hilt Volunteer Fire Company Board of Directors wishes to thank all Colestin and Hilt volunteers who helped staff the Hornbrook CDF Station this summer. The proceeds from that effort enabled Hilt Department to procure the Hilt Rescue Vehicle 4441. THANK YOU for your time and dedication!

DIRT ROADS

What's mainly wrong with society today is that too many Dirt Roads have been paved. There's not a problem in America today: crime, drugs, education, divorce, delinquency that wouldn't be remedied, if we just had more Dirt Roads, because Dirt Roads give character.

People that live at the end of Dirt Roads learn early on that life is a bumpy ride. That it can jar you right down to your teeth sometimes, but it's worth it, if at the end is home...a loving spouse, happy kids and a dog. We wouldn't have near the trouble with our educational system if our kids got their exercise walking a Dirt Road with other kids, from whom they learn how to get along. There was less crime in our streets before they were paved.

Criminals didn't walk two dusty miles to rob or rape, if they knew they'd be welcomed by 5 barking dogs and a double barrel shotgun. And there were no drive by shootings. Our values were better when our roads were worse! People did not worship their cars more than their kids, and motorists were more courteous, they didn't tailgate by riding the bumper! or the guy in front would choke you with dust & bust your windshield with rocks. Dirt Roads taught patience.

Dirt Roads were environmentally friendly, you didn't hop in your car for a quart of milk you walked to the barn for your milk. For your mail, you walked to the mail box. What if it rained and the Dirt Road got washed out? That was the best part, then you stayed home and had some family time, roasted marshmallows and popped popcorn and pony rides on Daddy's shoulders and learned how to make prettier quilts than anybody. At the end of Dirt Roads, you soon learned that bad words tasted like soap.

Most paved roads lead to trouble, Dirt Roads more likely lead to a fishing creek or a swimming hole. At the end of a Dirt Road, the only time we even locked our car was in August, because if we didn't some neighbor would fill it with too much zucchini. At the end of a Dirt Road, there was always extra springtime income, from when city dudes would get stuck, you'd have to hitch up a team and pull them out. Usually you got a dollar...always you got a new friend...at the end of a Dirt Road!

-Author Unknown. www.geocities.com/charletteswriting/dirtroads.html Thanks to Scott Keith

Hello Fellow Valley Buzzers,

We are an adventurous, outgoing family in the Colestin area looking for a few like-minded souls. A few things we enjoy are mountain bike riding, hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, mountain climbing, alpine and Nordic skiing. Sometimes we even enjoy just sitting and shooting the bull. All ages and experience is welcome! We can take a stroll to take in the view or "put the hurt on". No pressures, just fun!!

As well, we have an 8-year-old son (an only child) who is looking for playmates. He enjoys catching lizards, creek walking and most everything else young boys like to do. Was also wondering if anyone was interested in carpooling to Bellview Elementary. We usually take him to school in the mornings and pick-up after school a few days a week at the bus stop.

If you are interested in getting together for some fun and adventure, you can reach Brian at 210-7105 or Karen at 210-7106.

Hilt Community Center Fire

Lightning struck the evening of July 24th and within hours the Community Center would live only in memory. Although fire crews arrived at the scene almost immediately, the building could not be saved. Fortunately, there were no human lives lost nor any injuries and all 5 dogs on the premises were moved to safety by quick-thinking Kirby Rooker and Terry Lehman. Tom Shorey, who lived in the Center, lost everything to the fire. The community responded with donations totaling nearly \$1200, and Fruit Grower's contributed as well. Thanks to everyone who helped out.

Tom would love to be back living in Hilt. If anyone has a place to rent or sell, please leave a message for him at Fruit Grower's, 530-475-3453.

In upcoming issues, we hope to feature stories about historical Hilt, so that we all can enjoy a richer understanding of the people and the town that held the Center as the social heart of their community.

Upcoming Events

PUBLIC MEETING for COMMUNITY FIRE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

THURSDAY OCTOBER 14TH 7 PM HILT CHURCH

Wanted

- Old Cd's (for an art project so old AOL junk, software discs, anything will do)
- # 10 cans Call Lisa at 821-5479, I'll pick 'em up.

For Sale

POTABLE WATER TANK – Like new, 1000 gallon, underground, extra heavy duty. Originally \$1000, sell to best offer. Call 488-6921

Professional Resources

Photography – Wedding, Portrait, Commercial, Aerial – Brian Dwyer 210-1105

Jungian Analysis – Specializing in Dream Analysis – Taylor Sloan, Ph.D.
530-475-3726

Tree & Brush Thinning/Fire Breaks – 10 years experience – Chris “Madhu”
Coats 488-0997

Real Estate Services - Offering 30+ years of personal, detail oriented experience in tending to all your real estate needs. Referrals too.
Rioh Heigh Real Estate 488-6921

Mountain Oasis Spa - Professional and affordable, offering Swedish, Deep Tissue & Thai Massage, Pre-Natal & Foot Reflexology. Shower & Sauna also available.
Karen Scheer, LMT, 541-301-4911. Practicing since 1996. OR Lic #10286

F. Y. I.

FOR RENT: Beautiful Mountain Studio/Cottage

\$600/month including utilities call Karen Scheer 541-301-4911

TRADE: We are looking for someone to help provide in-home childcare for our toddler in exchange for a portion of the rent (5-10 hours a week).

- Spectacular views in a quiet setting
- Spacious and light with a loft bedroom
- Wood stove
- Partially furnished
- Space to garden and private deck
- 8 Miles to Mt. Ashland Ski Area

A TREAT YOUR FEET SPECIAL FOR FALL

As you are busily getting ready for Winter, pause a moment to appreciate your feet. Come up to the Mountain Oasis for a warm aromatherapy foot bath followed by either a full body massage with a 15 minute foot focus or a full hour foot reflexology session. Either way, you will leave refreshed and revitalized. \$55 until October 15th.

Call Karen Scheer LMT at 541-301-4911

Colestin Valley Buzz

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Cost for Buzz Year July 2003-July 2004 is \$8 for bi-monthly issues. Any additional donations are very much appreciated and help to ensure that everyone in the valley receives the Buzz. Snip the subscription strip below and send it along with your cash or check to:

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(not "The Buzz" per "The Bank")
1211 Colestin Rd
Ashland, OR 97520
Buzz Submissions/Info/Questions:
541-821-5479, lbuttrey@starband.net

Name _____

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JUNGLE WARFARE

by Nancy Bringham

I find them creeping across the floor -
greedy, engorged parasites.
Where do they think they're going?
I run my hand through thick, black and white hair
on my Border Collie and grit my teeth.
Three more headless blood-sucking blobs.
With bare fingers I yank these rude, witless diners
from their host's table,
flush them down the drain
with satisfaction and steaming hot water.

But now I dream about them.
They huddle in the ell of the pipe
waiting, counting their numbers until
they have an army large enough
to take their revenge. They wait
until I'm sound asleep some moonlit night
and then they come -
a terrifying column of ticks winding their way up
out of the sink and, with vicious intent,
stealthily ascend the stairs.

They send a scout forth to find the bed,
move en masse up the legs,
divide their rank strategically and attack.
I shriek, squirm, squash and smack.
But it's useless.

We want to know, they ask,
why have I not put them gently outside
along with the flies, the spiders and the moths,
and yes, they want to know, even the scorpions?

But I have no answer for them.

Fire Plan Survey Update

Of approximately 180 property owners, the Fire Plan Committee has received 27 returned surveys, or 15%. Super Thanks to all of you who have returned your surveys, and a reminder to others to please set aside 15-20 minutes to fill out and mail your surveys to us. If you have lost your copy, you may download another at www.crfd.org or you can call Lisa Buttrey at 821-5479 to have a replacement copy mailed to you.

We have had very positive feedback from folks and thank you for your comments in the survey.

The Survey is the first step in the process of developing a Fire Plan for the Colestin and Hilt Fire Districts. The Plan will describe our current situation and provide future actions to reduce fire hazard and improve preparedness in the event of catastrophic fire or other emergency. It is also a powerful tool in seeking grant monies to help offset the costs of fire hazard reduction. Completion of all or a portion of the survey is entirely voluntary. We hope that you find it in your best interest to participate. All information that you provide in the survey will be used only by emergency personnel and by the Committee for Fire Plan Development.

Thanks to everyone who has subscribed for the Buzz year July 04-July 05. Muchas Gracias to everyone who is submitting material for the Buzz - it's wonderful, and a great help to me. Please continue to think of the Buzz when you see interesting stuff that you think others would enjoy sharing. I feel blessed to live in such a beautiful and vibrant community.

