

COLESTIN VALLEY BUZZ

July/August 2007



Local Organization Awarded Grant

We have some great news! Well, its great news to us. Our first apprentice has joined the project at One Song and we are delighted! Elias Silvernaile comes to us from multiple spots around the state as he continues to pursue more experience in the world of organic farming. Some of you met this tall drink of water at Indigo's Iris Party in June. All we can say is he is worth his weight in gold as a worker, a friend and a passionate student.

If that weren't enough great news ~ we have become the proud recipients of the Ashland Food Cooperative Community Grant! In the March/April Buzz we told you we were applying for it and we got it! It's just the first step in building a strong foundation for this project to succeed.

To celebrate this and the current growing season, I've included a couple of recipes to brighten any picnic or potluck. I always encourage the use of organic wherever it can be found. Enjoy!

Lisa Fuller
Community Outreach Coordinator
One Song

Almond Rim Pate Makes 2 cups

This has become one of our favorites from Renee Loux Underkoffler's book, "Living Cuisine". I highly recommend doubling it if you like it and using it on crackers, veggies, salads, or just eating it on its own. YUM!

2 cups almonds, soaked
3 Tbls. minced fresh ginger
3 green onions, chopped to the top
1 clove garlic

Qwest DSL a Possibility in Colestin Valley

A neighbor has discovered that if enough people request a DSL line down to the Colestin, the phone company can make it happen.

We need folks to call them at 1-800-244-1111 and ask the operator to fill out a "DSL RESERVATION FORM" in their name. Then it goes in the system, and when there are enough, QWest will run the line down here.

Having faster internet service would be a great boon to many neighbors. Please call the number above and help us make it a reality. Even if you personally aren't interested, those neighbors who would benefit will appreciate your assistance. Thank you.

Bridge to Replace Culvert at Milepost 4.3

Lomakatsi Restoration Project obtained funding to replace the culvert with a bridge on the Colestin Road at Cottonwood Creek (approximate milepost 4.3).

Grants for this project, designed to provide steelhead and resident trout migration, come from US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) Restoration & Enhancement program.

Jackson County Roads Department will perform the construction/work on the ground. One of the first orders of business/work will be putting in a temporary bypass road, to allow access across the site during the stream and bridge work phases. Provisions for fire-fighting water gathering are also in the plan, as the current draw location will be modified.

Folks with Lomakatsi, Jackson County Roads, Fish & Wildlife Service and our engineer, all met for a pre-operations meeting on site Thursday. Now that we have all the details planned out, I'm writing to let you know what I think will be of primary interest to you.

Jackson County Roads will begin locating equipment and materials on site Monday, July 16, in preparation for the start of construction/operations on Wednesday, July 18.

First, a temporary bypass road will be put in, immediately upstream from the current road crossing. Vegetation (blackberries & willows) will be cut back, but not excavated, and the juniper will have a few branches

trimmed, to accommodate the bypass road.

Jackson County Roads will have signs along the road, and don't anticipate traffic delays of any significance. They will have a water truck (or trailer) on site at all times, along with other equipment, parked at the staging area.

They work on site approximately 8am – 5pm, Monday through Thursday. The construction schedule calls for the project to be complete in 6 weeks.

Please feel free to request more information, via email, phone, or on site.

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Kid #1

Paper beats rock, Bam! Your rock is blowed up!

Kid #2

“Bam” doesn’t blow up. “Bam” makes it spicy. Now I got a SPICY rock! You can’t defeat that!

Letters to the Editor

Comments on Thin/Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

About a month ago driving to Ashland I saw a sign leaning in the ditch on Colestin Road just past the 3 mile marker which read, "DANGER! STAY BACK 300 FT. FLYING DEBRIS!" There was a large mysterious machine parked on the embankment. I was curious about what might be going on, because I couldn't figure out how I could stay back 300 feet from whatever debris might be hurling toward me when I was on a road and had no idea how to measure 300 feet when I had no idea where the first foot started. It was dusk when I returned from town. I noticed that the gigantic piece of equipment had progressed a few feet up the hill. The following day I asked a neighbor what was happening on the hill above us. He replied that he thought someone had bought a piece of property there and that they were probably clearing a place to build a house.

A few days passed before I traveled the road again. During the interim I was subjected to the most horrific grinding mechanical noise I have ever heard. It went on for days, audible throughout the north end of Colestin Valley. There were popping noises that sounded like gun shots as well as the constant grinding noise which started before 6:00 a.m. and continued non-stop

except for an hour between 11:00 and 12:00 or so. When I drove up the road on my way to town the next time, I was shocked to see that many acres of the hillside had been stripped of many of its trees and all of its ground cover, and that the forest floor was now thickly blanketed with the chips of what was once the green forest

Later that week I received a phone call from my next door neighbor telling me that there would be some work done on the Forest Service land bordering my sixteen acres of property. In less than 20 minutes I heard the sound of the Star Wars-like machine tracking its way down the road toward my house.

For over three weeks the grinding roar of the forest's destruction caused visceral and emotional pain and stress not unlike what one might imagine a war zone sounding, with trees and ground cover, nesting baby birds, small animals, and insects as its actual victims.

The entire section of beautiful National Forest/BLM land behind my home is now sparsely populated by the trees selected to remain alive. The floor of the section is now white with its splintered remains. Many of the trees left standing were burned by the machine's exhaust, making them vulnerable to insect infestation.

(Some days after the work finally ground to a halt, Forest Service Timber Manager Bill Bailey, hearing of my distress, visited me to apologize for the lack of notification.)

I understand that this contract was carried out to protect the Valley in case of fire. I am grateful for the volunteers who train and dedicate themselves to serving in case this ever-present danger should occur. Some questions that persist for me are: Who is responsible for making these kinds of decisions that are carried out without any public notice? How many other areas might be targeted for, and how many other residents might take exception to, this “economically

viable” (to quote Mr. Bailey) method of fire management?

I am willing to do whatever is necessary to support clear communication with all residents about events and actions that in any way affect us or this Valley. That, to me, is what community is about.

I cordially invite you to stop by my home and take a walk with me to the back of my property to see for yourself what technological advances in “forest protection” might be coming to your neck of the woods.

Mouna Wilson
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Lunar Eclipses Ahead

Adapted from Fred Schaaf's article in Mother Earth news Feb/Mar 2007

The eerie, lovely event called a total eclipse of the moon occurs when there's an exact lineup of the sun, Earth and moon. In the next 6 months, 2 lunar eclipses will be visible in the U.S.

What does a typical total eclipse of the moon look like? First, for more than an hour, you can see the growing dark “bite” of the Earth's shadow on one side of the full moon. This shadow's curved edge is visible proof that our planet is round. If you're out in the country, you'll see extra stars start to come out in droves as the moon fades. And when the shadow's coverage is finally complete (total eclipse), you'll be able to see the moon's face bathed with a beautiful light that can range from dark brown and red to bright orange and yellow.

We have a great opportunity in the west coast for viewing in the wee hours of the night on August 28th (mid eclipse at 3:47 a.m., partial begins at 1:51 a.m.). Following that, everyone can enjoy the show on Feb 20, 2008. Mid-eclipse will take place at 7:26 p.m. on the West Coast (partial begins at 5:43 p.m.). This eclipse offers a once-in-a-lifetime added attraction: the moon being closely flanked by

Saturn and the bright star Regulus, the heart of Leo the Lion. After this, you won't be able to see another total eclipse of the moon until 2010!

Lunar eclipses are completely safe to watch, and you don't even need a telescope. Grab an outdoor seat and enjoy the shows! To learn more about lunar eclipses, visit www.mreclipse.com.

Amazing Ant Fact

Set off by the touch of a prey insect against sensitive trigger hairs, the mandibles of the trap-jaw ant (*Odontomachus hastatus*) snap shut in the fastest reflex ever recorded in the animal kingdom. The ant's jaws accelerate from 0-143 m.p.h. in 0.13 milliseconds, 2300 times faster than the blink of an eye! When sprung against a hard surface of the body of a predator, the explosive thrust of the jaws flings the ant into the air and out of harm's way.

Cost Share Funding Available

From the Woodland News Summer 2007 newsletter edited by Max Bennett, SOU Extension Service

- 1) For **conversion of under-producing forestlands or brushfields to conifer forests**, consider the **Forest Resource Trust Program**. To qualify you must have at least ten acres of under-producing forestlands - lands capable of growing forests but currently in brush, cropland, pasture or very poorly stocked and not subject to a reforestation requirements of the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Land must also be zoned forest or farm use land, and must be part of a private forestland ownership of no more than 5,000 acres. The landowner commits to establishing a healthy "free-to-grow" forest stand and takes responsibility for seeing that the reforestation gets done. If timber is harvested from the forests created with trust monies, participating landowners must repay the trust (up to set amounts) with a portion of the profits. Owners may receive up to 100% of the reforestation cost up to a cap of \$100,000 every two years.
- 2) There is also a **tax credit** available for **reforestation of under-producing forestlands**, including brush fields and pastureland capable of growing a commercial forest. Eligible costs include: site preparation, trees and planting, release from competing vegetation, conservation of soil moisture, animal damage, employed labor and supervision, and equipment operating costs. Personal labor is not an eligible expense. Reasonable costs are determined by the state forester. For more info, contact the **Oregon Dept. of Forestry**, 5286 Table Rock Rd, Central Point, OR 97502, 541-664-3328.
- 3) For those interested in **streamside planting and filter strips**, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) may serve. For eligible properties, the program covers 75% of the cost of the planting as well as a rental payment. For more info, contact the **Farm Service Agency** at 776-4270.
- 4) Through a grant to the **Oregon Dept. of Forestry**, cost share assistance is also available for **pre-commercial thinning and slash treatment designed to mitigate insect and disease problems**. There is a 5 acre minimum project size and the cost share rate is 50%/\$230 per acre. Contact Lee at 664-3328 for more info.
- 5) The **Natural Resources Conservation Service** administers the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Cost share funding is available for a variety of practices including **fuels reduction, thinning, pruning, slash treatment, reforestation, and riparian planting**. A management plan is required to participate in the program. For more info, call NRCS at 776-4267

Colestin Valley Buzz

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