



CURRY CURRENTS

SUMMER 2007

Lower Rogue Watershed Council, South Coast Watershed Councils
and Curry Soil and Water Conservation District

The Changing Face of Forestry By Chris John



Photo courtesy of Ecotrust

The forests in our backyard were just beginning to hit their prime 20 million years ago. They are among the most productive on earth, producing more wood fiber per annum than anywhere else in the world. With 90% of Curry County comprised of these amazing forests, we are clearly sitting on one of the most abundant natural resources on earth. It only makes sense that we should want to use this resource to our benefit.

The forests of Curry County have played a central role in the way of life here for ages. It has driven Oregon's economy and is still the biggest generator of agricultural revenue in the County. The timber industry has often been the area's largest employer. The trees in our backyard can even claim to having built San Francisco – twice. And that was a relatively small order. These forests provide the building blocks for our homes, furniture, paper products, railroads, works of art, etc, etc, ad infinitum.

With this great resource comes great responsibility. As entrusted stewards of this gift, we are charged with taking the steps to ensure that these forests will be around for another 20 million years. Just as our economic well-being is bound to the wood fiber grown in the forest, it is also dependant on the

Continued on page 02

CONTENTS:

- 01 The Changing Face of Forestry
- 03 The Exotic Wrinkled Dune
Snail: Link to the Past
- 04 Forages Course Offered
- 05 The Stream Trailer
- 07 Noxious Weed Spotlight:
Gorse
- 08 Who We Are/Put A Salmon on
Your Plate!

The Changing Face of Forestry—continued from page 1

ecological functions these forests provide. From the commercial and recreational fishers who rely on spawning salmon, to the visitors who travel great lengths to glimpse the area's unparalleled beauty, to all of us dependant on clean water and air, these forests offer a wealth of resources that are being increasingly recognized and accounted for in the economic bottom line.

Consumers are increasingly demanding sound ecological practices behind the products they buy – and are willing to pay for it. The 'green' housing market is booming. Lumber retailers are scrambling to meet the demand for wood products that have been 'certified' as being sustainably harvested. Furniture makers and artisans are seeing their certified products fly out of the showroom. The paper products industry has recently launched a product line of certified office paper. Large corporations from media conglomerates to big-box retailers are recognizing this consumer demand and are responding to meet that demand. All this movement adds up to a great opportunity for our area's timber operators to embrace and capitalize on conservation-based forestry methods.

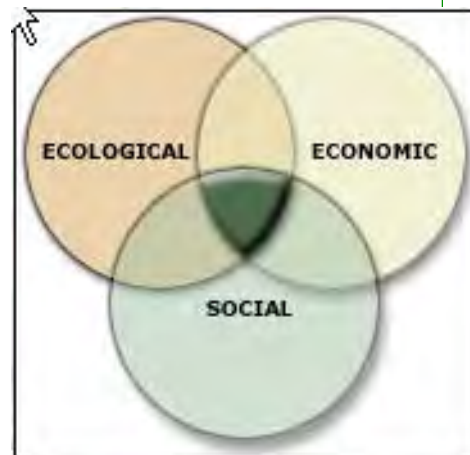


Image courtesy of Healthy Forests Healthy Communities



Photo courtesy of Ecotrust

Emerging markets also pose unique opportunities for the small woodland owner and the ranching community. Small, community-based forestry and timber producing operations are popping up all over the nation. These small-scale operations selectively harvest logs from their land. Then, instead of selling and shipping these logs to large mills and supply chains, they process the wood themselves. By retaining control of their wood from forest to finished product, these producers realize the full economic value of their forest. Clusters of these small producers are forming in the Pacific Northwest. By pooling their resources these cluster groups gain greater market access, acceptance, and leverage.

The world of forestry in Curry County has been responsible for great triumphs and prosperity. It has also been at the center of great heartache and economic depression. But as the face of our Nation, County, culture, and marketplace alter, arising opportunities in forestry will, once again, abound. They will just look a bit different than they used to. By being creative, unique, and versatile, we can take advantage of these new opportunities. It is our aim to assist in these endeavors.

Continued on page 3

The emerging forestry program at the South Coast and Lower Rogue Watershed Councils seeks to promote the balance of economic well-being and ecological health. The goals of this program are to:

- 1) Promote and educate landowners about sustainable forestry practices.
- 2) Provide a forestry consulting resource to woodland owners
- 3) Link local wood producers to emerging markets
- 4) Facilitate community-based forestry projects
- 5) Explore woody biomass utilization opportunities
- 6) Promote and assist in fire fuels reduction efforts
- 8) Assist landowners in exploring opportunities in ecosystem services (carbon sequestration, conservation easements, etc.)

The Watershed Council would like your input. If you have any thoughts you'd like to share on these subjects, would like to be involved, or are interested in the services provided by this program, please contact the Watershed Council office at (541) 247-2755 or email: chris.john@oacd.org.

The Exotic Wrinkled Dune Snail—A Link to the Past

By Dana Hicks

In 2006 the Exotic Mollusk Survey came to the South Coast searching for new infestations of mollusk pests before their populations become widespread in Oregon. Many species of exotic snails are intercepted through routine cargo inspection of maritime containers arriving at the Port of Portland. Curry County was one of 15 counties in Oregon where surveys were conducted.

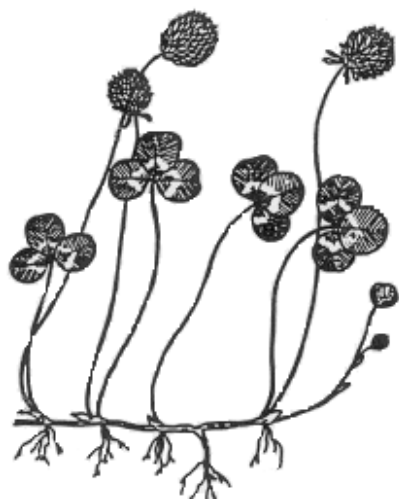
Several specimens of *Candidula intersecta* were collected from seven sites in Oregon, including four sites in Coos Bay and one site each in Frankport, Port Orford, and Gold Beach. Researchers were initially confused by the sites in Curry County because they were found areas where there were no ports. The mystery was solved by the Curry Historical Society. It seems that each of the sites in the county had been port sites in the past, mostly for loading timber shipments. The snails have been established for several years at each of the sites, and while their distribution areas have not been established yet, preliminary estimates of the area at Port Orford totals at least 8.5 acres.

The wrinkled dune is considered by the US Department of Agriculture to be a potential agriculture pest. In Europe it is a pest of apples, pears, plums and peaches. It also causes damage to seeds, seedlings and young plants of spring grain. When populations are high the snails may climb and enter a dormant state on plants or other structures, and can contaminate grain fields during harvest.

The project is led by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. For more information or to report a location, please contact Mark Hitchcox at Mark.E.Hitchcox@aphis.usda.gov.



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For Further Information: **Liesl Coleman — Curry SWCD**
541-247-2755 / fax: 247-0408
email: liesl.coleman@oacd.org

Or

Woody Lane — instructor
voice: 541-440-1926
email: woody@woodylane.com

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This is a practical course on forages, grazing, pasture, hay, and silage! We'll cover plant growth, grazing techniques, nutritional value, fencing, storage, and much more. You'll learn how to identify different grasses and legumes, read soil tests, & choose fertilizers. Topics also include new forage varieties, pasture renovation, intensive grazing, unusual forages, toxic plants, weed control, economic tips, etc. There will be review sessions, hands-on activities, and a field trip. Open to all producers – with beef cattle, sheep, goats, horses, alpacas, dairy, etc. – beginner or veteran graziers, seed industry and feed suppliers, veterinarians, and anyone else interested in forages.

About the Instructor:

Woody Lane is a livestock nutritionist & forage specialist from Roseburg who has taught many popular forage and nutrition workshops in Oregon and around the US. He earned a Ph.D. in livestock nutrition from Cornell University and works with ranchers in the US, Canada, and New Zealand. In the 1980s, he was the Extension Beef Cattle & Sheep Specialist in Wisconsin. He moved to Oregon in 1990 and runs his own livestock consulting business in Roseburg.

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Mail-in Registration Form

Name _____

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Zip _____

☎ Telephone Number _____

Email _____

Send in your registration in advance! Space is limited!
Detailed information will be sent to you upon registration.

Make \$75 check payable to: Curry SWCD

Mail this to: Curry Soil & Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 666
Gold Beach, OR 97444

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Story by Statia Ryder

The South Coast & Lower Rogue Watershed Council ran a very active booth this year at the Curry County Fair, displaying an educational watershed model also known as “The Stream Trailer”. Having the booth set up next to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s large fish aquarium with a 45 pound salmon and a green sturgeon in it, one might think that *they* would have gotten all the attention, but that simply wasn’t the case at all.

All who approached the 16 foot long Stream Trailer had very different, but very reactive responses to its miniature life-like quality and uniqueness. It certainly stimulated different parts of the mind in the many different types of folks that experienced it. Many were amazed at the detail of the upper 8 feet of the watershed model with water flowing through it constantly, which is designed to demonstrate a watershed starting from snow covered mountains and headwater streams all the way down to a wide river valley, with the water passing through a dam, by houses, a town, a golf course, a farm, a wetland, a construction area and even under bridges and through culverts. As one gazed upon this “mini-watershed”, a leading question was asked on a display board mounted on the model:

Continued on page 6

The Stream Trailer, continued from page 5

“Can you identify the *potential* pollution sources in this watershed model?” This stimulated many conversations with the general public about how pollutants may enter our waterways, and in turn affect the water quality that our 45 pound salmon neighbor called home; which also led to common and simple tasks of things we can do to prevent these pollutants from becoming a problem.

While the upper model is full of virtue and stimulus, the bottom 8 feet is a treasure in itself also. The running water flows off of the upper contoured watershed model onto the lower flat table, which is covered with a sandy material where it makes its final and ever-changing and meandering journey to the “ocean”. With little trees planted on the banks of the river and erosion, deposition and trees falling in the river being a constant source of entertainment, people would stand and observe or even manipulate the river channel to see what would happen next. Truly, it was a mini-river system in action with pools forming around the woody matter that had fallen in the stream, and other features like eddies, riffles, alluvial fans, point bars and even sorting of the different size particles, all in action. To keep excitement generated in the audience, flooding was a common occurrence where one really gets to watch things change.

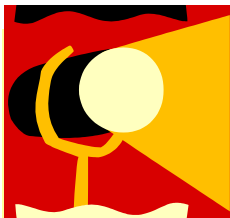
To really appreciate what this Stream Trailer represents and displays one must spend a little time with it experimenting and in simplest terms, playing with it. Overall, an estimated number of around 900-1000 people got to “play” during the 4-day course of the fair. There is a very good chance many of them learned something without even realizing it.

Resources were available on The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds which spelled out what different types of watershed users can do to improve watershed health, including water conservation pamphlets.

Handouts for youth were especially popular with a myriad of educational stickers and Watershed Protection and Conservation activity books. For more information on the Stream Trailer or the South Coast & Lower Rogue Education projects,

please contact Statia Ryder at (541)247-6604x329 or email statia@currywatersheds.org.





Curry County Weed Advisory Board

Noxious Weed Species Spotlight

Gorse (Ulex europeas) By Kean Fleming

Gorse (*Ulex*) comprises a genus of about 20 species of evergreen shrubs in the subfamily Faboideae of the pea family Fabaceae. It is native to Western Europe and Northwest Africa, with the majority of species in Iberia. Over the last 200 years gorse has been exported (both intentionally and accidentally) from its native habitats to over 25 countries across the globe. In New Zealand and the U.S. gorse was introduced because of its ability to colonize poor soils and provide forage for livestock, its potential as a hedge plant, as a wind-break, and as a reminder of people's heritage (Blood, Kate. 2001). Many of the qualities that originally made gorse seem appealing have since been identified as reasons for classifying it as a "Noxious Weed".



Gorse and Bell Heather are native to the coastlines of Britain, Ireland and Scotland. In this region gorse and a variety of other plants are able to live in unison.

Gorse is a successful invasive species because it can: (1) fix nitrogen; (2) acidify and (at least temporarily) impoverish soils by taking up bases; (3) survive on a variety of soil types; (4) produce copious amounts of heat-tolerant seeds with long-term viability; and (5) regenerate rapidly from seeds and stumps after disturbances such as brush clearing or fires (Hoshovsky, 1989).



In Bandon, Oregon (unlike Bandon, Ireland) gorse crowds out all other coastal vegetation, forming an impenetrable and highly flammable monoculture.

It is gorse's ability to fix nitrogen that enables it to colonize and dominate Oregon's steep, sparsely vegetated hillsides and serpentine soils. But gorse plants also extract and retain plant nutrients such as calcium, magnesium, and sodium, changing nutrient dynamics and damaging soil quality (IPM, 2000). Thus, although gorse originally seemed promising for land reclamation projects (e.g., mine tailings, bank stabilization), and useful as a nitrogen fixer (legume), it has more often demonstrated its capacity to injure soil and habitat complexity through relentless self propagation. Gorse's tenacious behavior has led to severe ecologic and economic losses in Curry County and Oregon at large. As a result, the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Curry County Weed Board have identified gorse as a high-priority weed that is in need of long-term management.

Controlling gorse is difficult. In order to eradicate any patch where plants have gone to seed, long-term management is a must. An effective control strategy will integrate a variety of control methods, which include mechanical (machine removal), cultural (tilling, grazing, burning), chemical (herbicides), and manual (using your hands!) techniques. First, existing plants must be killed or removed (mechanical / manual / chemical). Second, emerging seeds and regenerating stumps must be controlled before they reach maturity. This can be accomplished through intensive grazing, mowing, tilling, spot spraying with herbicides, or repeat burnings. After follow-up treatment has taken place for a number of years, and the seed bank has been exhausted, restoring the site with native conifers will ensure long-term gorse suppression. Establishing a closed canopy will prevent gorse from getting the light it needs to grow and produce seed. Because seeds remain viable for as long as 50 years in the seed bank, harvesting trees in less than 50 years – and disturbing the land in the process – will allow seeds still on the ground to germinate and an infestation to return.

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Displaced Fishers Program—Pictured left to right are Wilbur Moore, Brenda Burkhaw, Tiffany Burkhaw and Jacquelyn Aiello during a gorse clearing project in Sixes River.

Watershed Councils

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Peter Aspinwall, Chair Lower Rogue Watershed Council

Bill Yokum, Chair - Chetco Watershed Council

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Kean Fleming - Noxious Weeds Coordinator

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Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds
website: www.oregon-plan.org