

DECEMBER 2023 | WINTER ISSUE

Cultivating

HEALTHY FARMS, FORESTS, FOOD,
AND FAMILIES IN POLK COUNTY

DALLAS TREE FARMERS HONORED
BY LOCAL CHAPTER | **PG. 4**

WHO WE ARE



Oregon State University Extension Service Polk County

The Polk County Office of the Oregon State University Extension Service provides research-based educational information and programs in Agriculture, Forestry, 4-H/Youth and Family and Community Development for the citizens of Polk County.

OSU Extension's mission is to convey research-based knowledge in a way that is useful for people to improve their lives, their homes, and their communities.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Go to extension.oregonstate.edu/events to see and register for OSU Extension events and polkswcd.com for event details

DECEMBER

19 - 4-H "Let's Make Christmas Ornaments!" Class, 4pm - 5pm @ Polk County Extension

13 - Polk SWCD Board Meeting, 6pm

14 - Before You Buy Rural Land Workshop, 12pm - 1:30pm Online

15 - Info Session: Polk Co Master Gardener Training Program, 10am @ Inspiration Garden, Independence

19 - 4-H Open Art Studio: Christmas Ornaments, 4pm at Polk County Extension

25-29 - OSU Extension Closed for Holiday

JANUARY

1 - OSU Extension Closed for Holiday

9 - Deadline to apply for OSU Extension Master Gardener Training Program

10 - Polk SWCD Board Meeting, 6pm

10 - Living With Your Domestic Well Workshop, 12pm - 1:30pm Online

11 - Living With Your Septic System Workshop, 12pm - 1:15pm Online

15 - OSU Extension Closed for MLK Jr Day

16 - 4-H Cloverbuds: Dragons and Damsels, 10am, 4pm or 6pm @ Polk County Extension

18 - Living With Your Domestic Water Well & Septic System, 6:15pm-8:15pm Online

26 - Polk County Local Work Group Meeting, 9am-12pm, Chemeketa Eola

27 - LIVING WITH YOUR DOMESTIC WATER WELL & SEPTIC SYSTEM, 9AM - 11:15am Online

FEBRUARY

2/3 - Polk SWCD Winter Native Plant Sale

14 - Polk SWCD Board Meeting, 6pm

17 - Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop, 10am @ Inspiration Garden, Independence

17 - Spring Seed and Plant Swap, 12pm-2pm, Inspiration Garden, Independence

20 - 4-H Cloverbuds: Learning by Doing, 10am, 4pm or 6pm @ Polk County Extension

MARCH

13 - Polk SWCD Board Meeting, 6pm

19 - 4-H Cloverbuds: Saving for what?, 10am, 4pm or 6pm @ Polk County Extension

WHO WE ARE



POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Nearly 3,000 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) across the United States are helping local people conserve land, water, forest, wildlife, and related natural resources. SWCDs are charged with directing programs to protect local renewable natural resources.

Polk SWCD was formed in April 1966, and promotes erosion control, reduction of invasive species, improvements to farms and forests, control of animal waste, as well as improving wildlife habitat and water quality/quantity issues in Polk County. The Polk SWCD is administered by 7 locally elected volunteer directors representing 5 zones and 2 at-large positions within the county. The Polk SWCD is a source of information and education on natural resources.

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PHOTO BY MITCH LIES

Jock and Pam Dalton on their tree farm just outside of Dallas were named Tree Farmer of the Year for 2023 by the Marion-Polk Chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association.

DALLAS TREE FARMERS HONORED BY **Local Chapter**

By Mitch Lies
Cultivating Editor

Most days, if you want to find John (Jock) Dalton, it would be wise to start by looking in Shady Place, a 740-acre tree farm about 13 miles south of Dallas. Dalton is up there most

days making improvements to the land.

“We are lucky to have him on that property,” said Dalton’s wife, Pam, who co-owns the tree farm with her husband.

For much of its history, many parts of the tree farm were inaccessible, said Pam, who grew up on the property. Today, a wind-

ing gravel-road system that Jock constructed with rock from an abandoned borrow pit traverses the forested acreage from its gated entrance to its far corners. The construction involved clearing land, grading slopes, shoring up sections and at many points, carving the road out of hillsides.

“There were hundreds of acres

that didn't have any access," Pam said. "I hadn't even been on some of that property."

The road has enabled the couple to manage stands previously inaccessible. And the nearly two dozen culverts Jock has had installed on the property protect water quality in its two fish-bearing creeks, Pedee Creek and Mill Creek.

"It is pretty amazing what he's done," Pam said. "He put in two stream crossings, a rail-car bridge and a cement bridge with minimal assistance. He does all his own repairs on his equipment. My family made a park near the creek when I was growing up that had fallen into disrepair, and we restored that and now use it for family gatherings, campouts and barbecues. And last year he brought water from a spring on the property down there, so we now have running water to the campgrounds."

The Daltons, who started working on the tree farm in earnest six years ago, were recognized as Tree Farmer of the Year for the Marion-Polk Chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association earlier this year. They and four other tree farms are now up for the state award.

The couple, who are both in their 70s, brought considerable knowledge of woodlands into their marriage when they tied the knot 26 years ago, both having grown up on tree farms. Jock has further immersed himself in forest management through his service with the Oregon Small Woodlands Association and the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District.

Jock is one of eight directors of

the Marion-Polk Chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association and is a long-time board member on the Polk SWCD. The participation helps him stay abreast of the latest in forest management. "You interact and you learn from each other," he said.

Jock also has done his share of research, starting as a youth when he studied a ring binder that Oregon State University put out on woodland management. "It was the Woodland Workbook, and it had all these articles on how to thin and how to manage this and that," he said. And he continues to research forest management today. "You come up against something and you just start researching it."

But it is his "can-do" attitude more than anything that most serves him when it comes to improving Shady Place, Pam said. "There isn't any problem he's come across that he hasn't been able to solve. That is pretty much it in a nutshell," she said.

Much of the work Jock has done is based on prescriptions from a management plan the couple developed with the help of a forester a few years back. The plan serves as a management outline and is expected to provide a reference for the next generation when they take over the property.

Among management practices they employ, the Daltons encourage species diversity by promoting the growth of oak, maple and other deciduous trees along with the fir trees that dominate the property. And as they thin, harvest and plant trees, they incorporate species best suited

for different areas. For example, they recently planted Coast Redwood in an area of wet soils after the Douglas-fir trees that were growing there came down with root rot; the premise being that the Redwood trees outperform Douglas-fir in wet soil and are immune to the laminated root rot fungus.

The Daltons also promote wildlife habitat for cougar, black bear and elk, among other species that can be seen on the property. And the tree farm has two large ponds that provide habitat as well as water for fighting forest fires. Other conservation elements in place on the tree farm include the growth of native plants in a buffer area near Pedee Creek. And the Daltons are donating large logs and root wads for stream enhancement projects organized by the Luckiamute Watershed Council.

The Daltons had hoped to conduct a tour of Shady Place this year for their local chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, but circumstances have delayed that. They said to look for the tour, which will be sponsored by the Marion-Polk Chapter, sometime next year.

In the meantime, the Daltons are expected to learn in June whether they are the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year. Regardless of whether the couple claims the state honor, you can bet that most days you'll continue to find Jock making improvements to Shady Place.

COLLABORATIONS EXPAND REACH OF 4-H

By Rachel Brandon

OSU Extension

4-H Program Coordinator

Engaging our youth and community in positive ways remains Polk County 4-H's primary goal. Often it is thought that 4-H's programming is limited to club activities and in-school education, but contrary to this misconception, 4-H is FAR more!

In the last several months, Polk County 4-H Faculty have sought partnerships with Polk County community businesses, clubs, and interest groups to engage local youth in new and exciting ways. The support from these new community partnerships have been incredible, resulting in many new collaborations being developed over the past six months. New classes such as self-defense and dance are just a couple of the new and exciting classes that have been offered as a result of our new partnerships. Businesses, such as West Salem Kempo, Central Martial Arts, the Dallas Garden Club, and Lora Michelle Dance Studios, are partnering with 4-H to bring classes never seen before to our Polk County youth. These businesses are not only providing education in their area of expertise, but they are also doing it as a service to the youth in the community – meaning they are donating their time and resources and not charging the youth or 4-H program a penny.

The gracious gift of providing free education to youth in our community cannot be emphasized enough! Many families



PHOTO BY RACHEL BRANDON, OSU EXTENSION 4-H

Polk County youth learn baking skills at Indy Commons kitchen in Independence.

are stretched tight for money right now, and while a class with a cost of \$5 may not seem like much to some, for many it's a deterrent especially those with multiple children. Our partnered businesses are allowing community youth to experience something new that they likely would never have tried before and discover talents that may remained hidden without these opportunities.

New partnerships are forming not only with businesses who can teach, but also with local libraries and organizations who can provide new locations to offer classes, enabling easily accessible facilities to families within the community. Prime examples include The Indy Commons in Independence, the Dallas Event Center, the Gate Youth Center, and the public libraries in Polk

County. Collaborations with these new partners are allowing 4-H to interact with youth just a mile or two from their schools or homes which helps eliminate the need to find transportation, especially for those who might already be struggling in this area.

We cannot thank our new partners enough! If you have an opportunity drop in on these businesses and thank them for their support, please do!

4-H is always looking for new partners. Do you have a hobby you enjoy? Know of a business who would love to teach a skill to our youth? Do you own a business and have a class idea you would love to demonstrate? Reach out to Rachel Brandon, Polk County 4-H Program Coordinator, and let her know! Polk County 4-H would love to engage even more with our community.

NEW EXTENSION FORESTER Hits the Ground Running

By Mitch Lies

Cultivating Editor

If you are a small woodland owner in Polk, Linn or Benton counties, you may have already seen her around.

In her first three months as Oregon State University's Extension Forester for the three counties, Lorelle Sherman has been a regular at woodland meetings.

"I've gone to all of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association chapter events in my counties and introduced myself to as many landowners as possible," Sherman said. "My strategy is to meet as many people as I can in the beginning while I still have the time to do that."

Sherman, who holds a master's degree in Forest Ecosystems and Society from Oregon State University (2019), spent most of the past four years working with the U.S. Forest Service on a landscape-scale thinning and fuels-reduction study in the Pringle Falls Experimental Forest in Deschutes County. While there, she realized that she wanted to work more with communities and small woodland owners.

"I'm a people person," Sherman said. "I like building connections, and I think that is why I am into helping people with their woodlands at a local scale.



PHOTO COURTESY LORELLE SHERMAN

Lorelle Sherman is the new Extension Forester for Polk, Linn and Benton counties.

"My passion is working with private landowners and bridging that gap between university research and private landowners so they can utilize the science on their land," Sherman said.

She said that her goal when she started with Extension on Sept. 18 was to hit the ground running, and in addition to attending Oregon Small Woodlands Association chapter events, Sherman has visited individual woodlots, talked one-on-one with woodland managers and participated in forestry tours.

Once she gets more settled in her position, Sherman said she plans to host forestry educational events and work closely with the OSU Master Woodland

Manager program, in addition to continuing to meet one-on-one with woodlot owners. She is also planning to lead forest foraging workshops and mushroom forays.

"I've been doing that for the past ten years, so I'm trying to bring that knowledge into my job and help people get the most out of their land," she said.

As for her first impressions of the small woodland community in her tri-county area, Sherman said it has been outstanding.

"Everyone has been incredibly welcoming and enthusiastic and I'm excited to collaborate with them and with Extension folks," she said.

OSU Extension Service | Small Farms

Before You Buy Rural Land

FREE WEBINAR DECEMBER 14, 12 - 1:30 PM

Topics covered:

- Soil Capability
- Water Rights
- Wells & Septic Systems
- Farmland Zoning

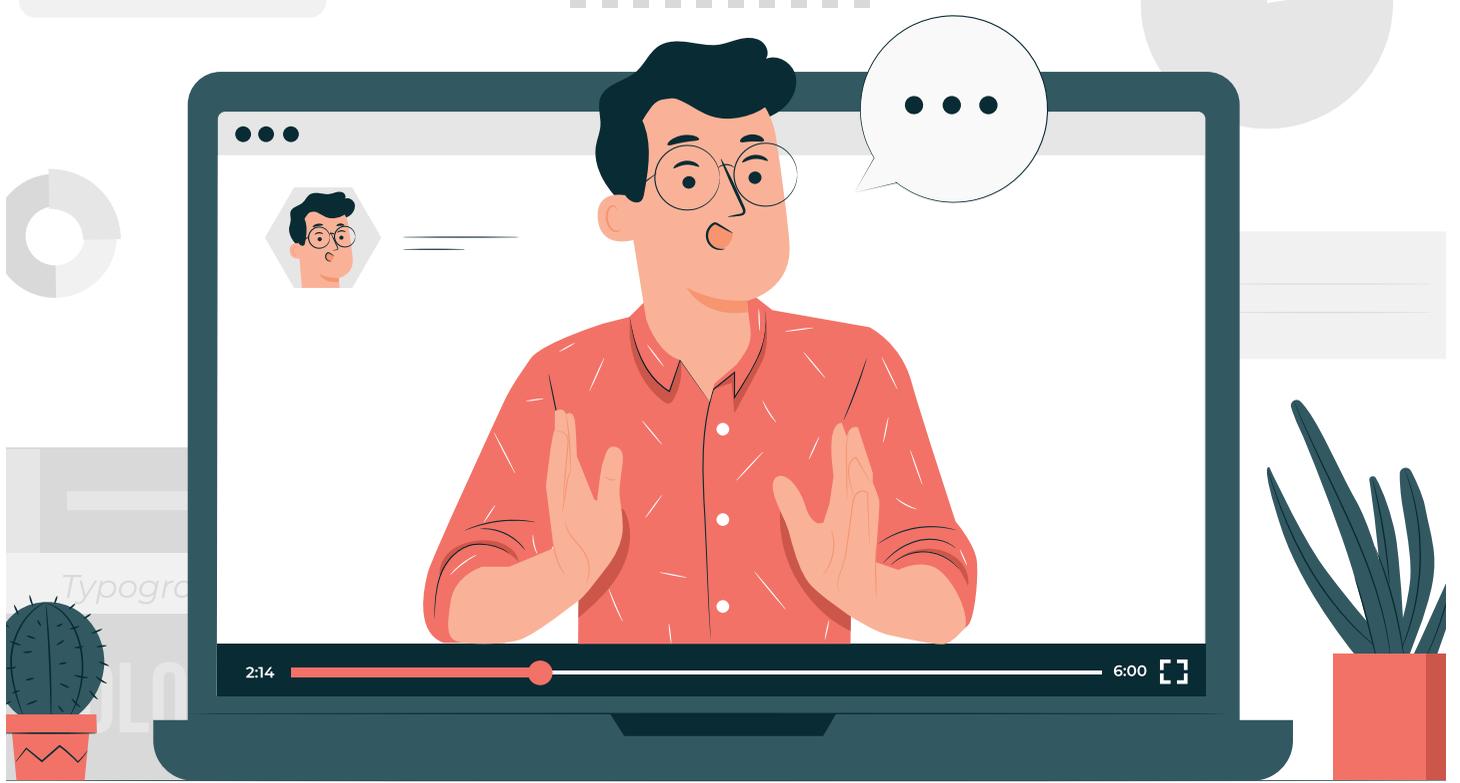
For future landowners, those who have recently purchased land and real estate agents.

Register: beav.es/qNW

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Oregon State University
Extension Service



LIVING WITH YOUR WATER WELL AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Winter Webinars

By **Chrissy Lucas-Woodruff**

OSU Extension

Groundwater Education

Did you know there are possible contaminants in your well water that you cannot see, taste, or smell? Municipal water is regulated by the EPA so consumers can be quite confident that the quality of the water coming from their tap is sufficient. However, well water does not face such stringent regulations and contamination testing often only occurs when the well is first installed or in some locations when property ownership changes.

It is so important that well water users understand when and how to monitor their water quality and the associated benefits of doing so. Proper maintenance and monitoring of your septic systems ensures proper treatment of the effluent and a longer life of the system.

Learn steps to protect the health of your family, neighbors and animals, your property investment, and the safety of groundwater resources during these FREE webinars.

- January 10, 2024 12:00pm-1:15pm Living with your domestic water well
- January 10, 2024 12:00pm-1:15pm Living with your septic system
- January 18, 2024 6:15pm-8:15pm Living with your well and septic system
- January 27, 2024 9:00am-11:15am Living with your well and septic system

Register at <https://beav.es/qiT> (case sensitive)

Registration for the webinar is required to receive the zoom link ahead of time. For additional questions you can email Chrissy.Lucas@oregonstate.edu or leave a message at 541-713-5009

NEW OSU PUB.

New OSU Publication about Nitrate in Drinking Water

The OSU Extension Service has released EM 9400 Nitrate in Drinking Water. The concept for this publication started with our education and outreach program within the Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area. Written for domestic well users, this publication covers what nitrate is, where it may come from, what levels are concerning and appropriate treatment options. With brand new visuals and graphic elements. Peer reviewed and pilot tested we are so excited to share this resource with all of you. You can find the publication at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/em-9400-nitrate-your-drinking-water> in both pdf and html formats. We recommend the pdf version if you are sharing with others. A Spanish version is also available, along with sister publications Arsenic in Drinking Water and Lead in Drinking Water.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

GIVE YOUR INPUT ON NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERNS FOR POLK COUNTY

By Morgan Neil

Outreach Coordinator, Polk SWCD

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Polk Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) are asking for your participation and input about local resource concerns in Polk County. There are two ways that you can help. You can fill out the survey and/or attend our Local Work Group meeting.

WHAT IS A LOCAL WORK GROUP (LWG)?

We invite you to attend our 2024 Local Work Group meeting. These annual meetings are a valuable part of our planning process, providing an opportunity to be part of the collaborative effort to improve natural resources within our county.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

The Local Work Group is a collaboration of local landowners and land stewards, agricultural and livestock producers, natural resource professionals and other invested stakeholders. Anybody and everybody who has stake in the future of Polk County can participate in the Local Work Group meeting.

WHY BE PART OF THE LWG?

Your voice matters. Because you're the ones on the ground, we want to hear your concerns and get your input to guide locally-led conservation programs. The feedback you provide in this process will help all of us work towards a stronger, healthier, more economically viable community and agricultural industry in Polk County.



HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE LWG?

Join us at our Local Work Group meeting in-person at the Chemeketa Eola campus or on zoom on January 26th, 9am-12:30pm. Visit PolkSWCD.com to register.

Polk SWCD and NRCS will review current priorities for natural resource concerns and give funding updates. We will then break up into small groups to discuss these concerns to give group input.

Participate in Our Natural Resource Concerns Questionnaire

Even if you cannot attend the meeting, we want to hear from you. We are seeking public input through our questionnaire on natural resource concerns particular to Polk County, including: forest health, soil health, water quality, air quality and wildlife habitat. Your answers will not only structure the LWG

meeting, but will also guide our work going forward.

We strive to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage fully in our programming. To request accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please do so by January 17th and contact Morgan Neil, morgan.neil@polkswcd.com, 503-623-9680.

Give input on
Natural Resource Concerns
for Polk County
(or visit PolkSWCD.com)





PolkSWCD.com

PRE-ORDER NOW!

Native Plant Sale

32 SPECIES OF
TREES & SHRUBS

Polk Soil & Water
Conservation District

Your purchase supports native habitat. All proceeds go toward oak woodland and prairie restoration at our properties. These 275 acres preserve our natural landscape, attracting sensitive and native pollinators, birds and wildlife in Polk County.

Volunteer and get a 25% discount.

LOOKING FOR NATIVE SEED GROWERS

By Beth Thiel

Resource Conservationist
Farm/Forest, Polk SWCD

The demand for native plant seed is increasing with an expanding number of projects aiming to restore ecosystems degraded by human activities, invasive plant competition and wildfire. Efforts to produce native seed that is well adapted to local conditions received a boost in 2012 when the Willamette Valley Native Plant Partnership (WVNPP) was formed to increase the availability and affordability of native seed in the Willamette Valley. The Partnership allows the pooling of knowledge and resources, and central coordination is accomplished by the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE). Multiple entities involved in the Partnership include Soil and Water Conservations Districts, state and federal governmental entities, tribal entities, and private plant nurseries and seed producers.

One goal of the Partnership is to support the native seed market in the Willamette Valley, and some species are not available or sell out quickly, indicating that the market can't always meet the demand. Therefore, the Partnership is actively looking for new growers because they need more seed produced for current restoration projects.

Kate Wellons is the NW Native Seed Partnerships Coordinator with IAE, and she organizes native seed collection and production to meet partner needs for medium-large scale restoration projects. She works with 36 partners, which is anyone with a stake in ecosystem

restoration or seed production in the Willamette Valley. The partnership's overall goal is to increase the availability of genetically diverse native seeds appropriate for local ecosystem restoration.

This includes partnering with farmers to grow out native seed under contract. Some plots under contract are as small as 800 square feet, but most plots are larger. Because the WVNPP receives government funding, contracted growers must register with the government payment management system (SAM.gov), to receive compensation and need to carry liability insurance with IAE named as an insured party. To help ensure seed purity, the ground needs to be weed-free for two years prior to growing native seed, but no certification is required. IAE will provide support in determining which seeds will be suited to the growing conditions, provide the seed itself, clean harvested seed, and provide any troubleshooting advice needed while growing. Each contract is individually tailored and goes through a bidding process.

Producers are matched with a native plant species needed for restoration projects based on available field size, growing conditions, experience and equipment.

While some seeds can be machine-harvested, many are harvested by hand because they ripen at different times. After a field is established with an annual native plant, it can be harvested for a maximum of three years to avoid an accidental selection for seeds that like to grow in the pampered farm



PHOTO BY BETH THIEL

Tolmie's Mariposa Lily nicknamed cat's ear because of the hairiness inside the petals. Growing at the IAE farm outside Corvallis.



PHOTO BY IAE

Willamette Daisy, a perennial native to the prairies in the Willamette Valley and recently planted at the Polk SWCD Cornerstone Property

conditions. An established field with a perennial native plant can be harvested for 2 plus years depending on the species.

Restoring and maintaining native plant diversity in our region benefits the native insects, birds, and animals, including all of us. If you are interested in becoming a partner in repairing our local landscapes by growing native plant seeds, contact Kate Wellons at the Institute for Applied Ecology (katewellons@appliedeco.org).

AN UPDATE AT CORNERSTONE, a win for Willamette Daisy

By Marc Bel

Senior Resource Conservationist,
Polk SWCD

As many of you readers know, the Willamette Valley prairie habitat type is one of the rarest in the nation. Cited literature often estimates only one percent of the habitat remains undeveloped or converted. The consequence of this habitat type becoming incredibly rare is the threat of extinction for both countless animal and plant species. Three of the highest priority species of those threatened by the loss of this habitat are Willamette Daisy (*Erigeron decumbens*) and the paired Kincaid's lupine (*Lupinus oregonus*) and Fender's blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides fenderi*). Kincaid's lupine is the host plant for Fender's blue butterfly; as the lupine population suffers or expands, the butterfly's does as well. Each of these species exists only in small numbers, mainly in Polk, Yamhill and Benton counties. Numbers of individual populations are small and often isolated, leading to additional long-term genetic problems besides the physical limitations. Recovery will take more than increased number at known locations; populations must be established within the range of each other to fully sustain the species.

The Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) and many other partners throughout western Oregon and southwest Washington have been collaborating to enhance prairie habitat and recover Willamette daisy, Kincaid's lupine and Fender's blue butterfly, including with the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District. The Cornerstone property is managed by the Polk SWCD for oak woodland and prairie habitat. It is pro-



PHOTO BY ZADE CLARK-HENRY, IAE

IAE and Polk SWCD staff, AmeriCorps crew and volunteers plant Willamette Daisy at Cornerstone



PHOTO BY MARC BELL

30 species of native plants being drilled into the soil

tected from development and its proximity to known populations made it an ideal location geographically. Nearly 15 acres of Cornerstone have been dedicated to these planting projects with IAE since 2020.

Just this fall and winter, after three years of field preparation, the upper fields of Cornerstone's prairie were seeded with a massive mix of over 30 annual and perennial native grasses and forbs. The annuals will quickly establish cover, hold the soil and push out invasive species seed that may make their way into the field this winter. The perennials will develop and crowd out successive year's annual seed, establishing a cover of native

grasses and forbs producing nectar resources for critical species like Fender's blue butterfly.

Five weeks after the seed was drilled into the field, just as the first seeds showed signs of germination and growth, IAE's contracted AmeriCorps crew, IAE and Polk SWCD staff and a few volunteers, spent a beautiful day hand-planting over 3,000 plugs of Willamette Daisy. Clusters were planted in several plots, filling at least 4 acres of area. Cornerstone is only one of 11 sites across the valley to have listed vegetation installed through this partnership. More updates to come as the establishment of these critical plant communities are monitored.

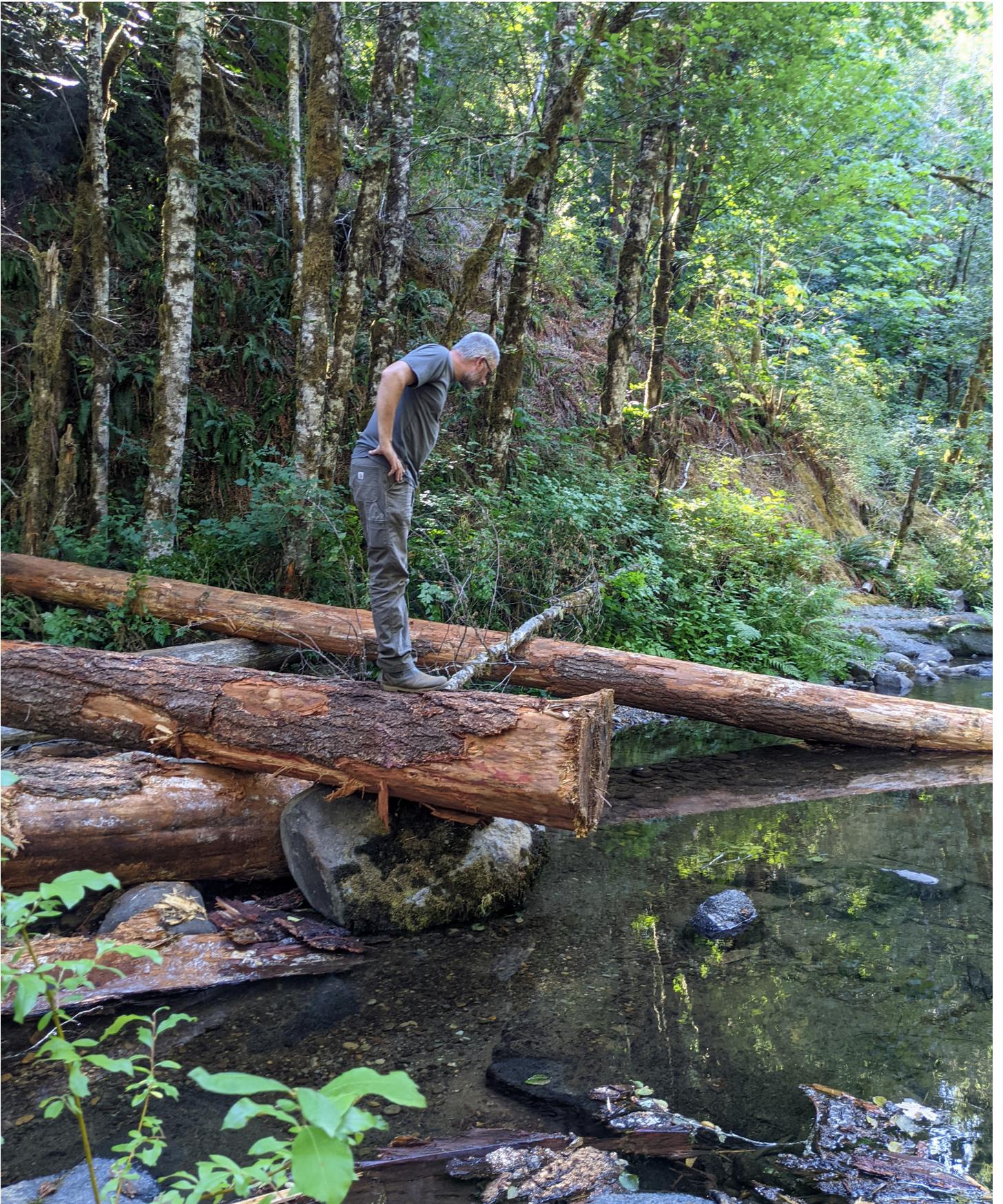


PHOTO BY MORGAN NEIL

Kevin Porter deep in thought about all the possibilities for projects in Polk County

PRIVATE FOREST ACCORD AND THE POLK SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By Kevin Porter

District Manager, Polk SWCD

If you don't already know, the new Private Forest Accord (PFA) rules for forestry management took effect for large commercial forestry July 1st of this year, and small forestry January 1st of 2024. As part of these new regulations, a PFA Mitigation Fund and Grant Program were created by the 2022 Legislature. This grant program looks to be an exciting opportunity for Polk SWCD to provide assistance to landowners and land managers with conservation and habitat restoration projects.

Currently, ODF has a pending Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that prioritizes listed species and practices that may best support them. The following list of potential projects will be highly recommended for action in the new grant program. This list is only the highlights, other projects that show benefit for the species listed in the HCP will also be implemented.

RESTORATION OF DEGRADED HABITAT TO NATURAL CONDITION/FUNCTION, OR TO A CONDITION LIKELY TO BE RESILIENT TO PROJECTED CHANGES

Examples (but not limited to):

- Aquatic organism passage
- Wood augmentation in stream
- Beaver conservation and reintroduction
- Wildfire resiliency
- Restoration treatments in riparian conservation areas
- Riparian thinning to enhance species diversity

LAND, WATER, AND HABITAT PRESERVATION

Examples:

- Conservation easements, fee title acquisitions, leases or transfers that prevent the impacts of development threats to covered species and their habitats on a particular property

THREAT REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION

Examples (but not limited to):

- In-stream flow protections

- Reduction of livestock grazing impacts on riparian areas, including fencing off or exclusion as well as installation of off-stream stockwater systems or hardened watering gaps

- Invasive species removal or suppression

Individual landowners are not eligible to directly apply for these funds. Polk SWCD, Tribes, Watershed Councils and other eligible entities can apply for funds in partnership with landowners. The District will also apply for area-wide funding that can benefit many landowners or land managers. The application window for the first round of funding (up to \$10 million available) closes Dec 31st. If you would like to know more about the PFA Conservation Fund and grant program, please contact us here at the District or go to https://www.dfw.state.or.us/habitat/PFA/grant_program.html#Focus for more information. Please follow our social media, website, and other information sources for future meetings or events related to this exciting opportunity.

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM™



Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener volunteers are neighbors, friends and family who you can go to for garden advice that is grounded in science and locally relevant.

Let's talk plants!



Applications now open!

In-person class each Tuesday from 10 am-12:30 pm
February 13-April 9 at the Inspiration Garden in Independence
+ online gardening modules
+ 40 hours of volunteering

Cost: \$150 (partial scholarships available)

Apply by January 9th

Polk County: <https://beav.es/USC>



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