Extension District Hearings Now Underway

On June 26, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners held the first of two required public hearings to discuss their vision to form a county services district for the OSU Extension Service. The commissioners decided to form the district more than a year ago. During that time, each of the seventeen incorporated cities in the county had to be approached to support the district—thus, allowing their voters to participate in a ballot vote on the issue this coming November. Every city, except Johnson City, approved resolutions supporting the formation of the Extension district in Clackamas County.

The first hearing included presentations by the county legal staff, an overview about Extension in the county, and four Extension clients sharing their viewpoints about the importance of Extension in the community. The county commissioners voted unanimously to approve the district formation plan and called for the second public hearing on Thursday, July 17 at 10:00 am. It will be held in the Commissioners Hearing Room, 2051 Kaen Road, Oregon City. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate as you wish. Those speaking will need to register. Comments will be limited to three minutes.

(Continued on page 2)
Another opportunity is to send your comments to the Commissioners via letter or email with your thoughts about Extension and a service district to provide county financial support. Your contacts are:

Commissioner Lynn Peterson, Board Chair  
lynnpet@co.clackamas.or.us  
Commissioner Martha Schrader  
MarthaSch@co.clackamas.or.us  
Commissioner Bill Kennemer  
BillKen@co.clackamas.or.us  

Mailed letters, should be addressed for any or all of the three Commissioners at:  
Clackamas County Public Services Building,  
2051 Kaen Road  
Oregon City, OR  97045.

The concept for forming an Extension district in Clackamas County is an attempt to provide a stable and secure source of county local funding for Extension using a permanent property tax rate. The proposed rate for the Extension district would be limited to $0.05 per $1,000 of the assessed value of a property.

Since Extension came into the county in 1917 local funding has always come from the county’s general fund. But recent changes in budgets and the loss of federal timber harvest payments has made funding for Extension much more precarious in Clackamas County, as well as, other major timber counties like Douglas, Lane and Linn counties (see article on page 8 for additional information on these counties).

“A county services district for Extension would be a major shift in the way local funds are provided for us in Clackamas County,” says Mike Bondi, Extension Agent and Staff Chair. According to the Congressional Act forming the Extension Service in the U.S. nearly 100 years ago, federal, state and local funds must be provided for programming to occur. Multnomah County government eliminated their local funding for Extension more than five years ago. “Our Commissioners are trying to find a new way to think about funding Extension here in Clackamas County,” said Bondi.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bondi at the Extension office.

**Did You Know?**

- Extension served more than 50,000 people last year in Clackamas County.
- Clackamas County Extension has the largest 4-H club program in Oregon.
- Clackamas County Extension has the largest Master Gardener program in the state.
- Extension trains & proudly supports more than 1900 dedicated volunteers who contributed 138,357 hours of service this past year in Clackamas County.
Upcoming Program Opportunities and Activities

**Hopkins Community Forestry Day**
Saturdays, July 12 and August 9 (8:00 am-4:00 pm, each day)
Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Beavercreek

Join the team. Work and learning projects throughout the day. Lunch provided, as always. The priority for July will be fireproofing rural buildings and properties. Oregon Department of Forestry staff will be present at Forestry Day for instruction. Trail building and upgrading will be other focus in July and at August Forestry Day, as well as summer maintenance projects and preparing for the Appreciation/Fund Raising Event.

Call ahead to get additional information on tools needed for the Forestry Days and to reserve your spot at the lunch table. Phone is 503-632-2150.

**Diamond “L” Ranch—Twilight Tour**
Tuesday, July 15 (6:30-9:00pm)
Aims

*Note: Tour attendees should meet in Sandy at the Safeway along Highway 26, just west of town—at 6:00pm SHARP. We will carpool from there. Parking on the property is limited. Those traveling from the north should contact the Extension office for directions to the tour location.*

Join us for a tour of the Lockwood family’s Diamond “L” Ranch between Sandy and Corbett. The Lockwoods were one of our Woodland Farmer nominees in 2007. The tour will highlight more than 50 years of ownership and care for the 90 acres of forestland.

The Lockwoods have an excellent forest management plan and will feature a variety of forestry practices, from plantings to thinnings, recent clearcuts and site preparation. The Lockwood story includes a strong family sense to the ownership and keeping this property actively managed for generations to come.

We look forward to seeing you there!
Noble fir Christmas Tree Culturing Field Clinic
An Evening with John Tillman
Wednesday, July 23 (4:30-8:30 pm)
Location to be announced to registrants

Back by popular demand! John Tillman, Washington state tree grower and contractor, known throughout the Pacific Northwest for his tree culturing skills and his interest and ability in teaching others, has graciously agreed to join us again this summer for an in-depth look at how to produce outstanding quality noble fir trees.

The agenda for the evening will include the basic how-to’s, from basal pruning and young tree set up to mid-year and late cycle culturing principles. John will focus on correcting tree form and shape problems and strategies for producing the kind of trees you are interested in growing—based on size and taper.

This educational event will be a how-to demonstration clinic. We will limit the attendance to 35 so attendees can see, hear, and have their questions answered. Pre-registration is REQUIRED use the form at the end of this newsletter. This program includes a $30 registration fee per person to cover program expenses.

Finally, we will take a 30 minute dinner break between 6:00-6:30 pm. Bring your own sack dinner. Beverages will be provided. Questions? Contact the OSU Extension Office in Oregon City at 503-655-8631.

Woodland Farmer of the Year Tour and Summer Picnic
Saturday, August 2 (4:30-8:30 pm)
Les and Shirley Farmer
22150 S Clear Creek Road, Estacada

This year’s Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association’s Summer Picnic and woodland tour will showcase Les and Shirley Farmer’s 126 forest property in the Clear Creek canyon. The Farmers were named 2007 Woodland Farmers of the Year for Clackamas County and received their award at last fall’s Tree Farmer Recognition Banquet. We now have the opportunity to see this fine forest and the excellent work that the Farmers have done over the years.

Les and Shirley have owned their property since 1994. During this time they have planted hundreds of trees including ponderosa pine. Also, they have regenerated a six acre hardwood conversion site and are beginning work on an oak restoration project. The Farmers have a beautiful forest property we are sure you will enjoy seeing and learning about.
The program will begin with a potluck dinner starting at 5:00 pm. Plan to arrive about 4:30 to visit and set up for our meal. The forest tour will start shortly after 6:00 pm. Here’s our plan for the potluck dinner it’s always fun. Everyone is welcome!

**Dinner Arrangements**

- CCFFA will provide meat and the beverages for the dinner.
- Last name starts with A through H please bring a side dish.
- Last name starts with I through Q please bring a dessert.
- Last name starts with R through Z please bring a salad.
- Bring your own plates and silverware and a chair or blanket to sit on during the meal. Cups and napkins will be provided by CCFFA.

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**Grading, Measuring and Tagging Christmas Trees For Sale**

Wednesday, August 20 (6:30-8:30pm)

Helmig Tree Farm (home place)

37087 S Sawtell Rd, Molalla

Gayla Hansen Field Manager for Helmig Tree Farms, Molalla will lead this twilight program cover the business of grading, measuring and tagging Christmas trees. Grade classes will be described for both Douglas-fir and noble fir, as well as how growers use grades when selling their trees. Connections to USDA grading standards will be explained, too. Tree height measurement methods will be demonstrated, including use of height measuring poles. Field tagging methods will be shown.

A sample grading and measuring test area will be set up for comparing results. This program is open to everyone. Bring a friend or neighbor. Plenty of parking.
Forests Forever Appreciation Event and Classroom Raising
Saturday, August 23 (4:15-8:00 pm)
Hopkins Demonstration Forest, Beavercreek

This special evening will recognize significant contributions of individuals and businesses during the past year and serve as a major fundraiser for the new classroom building project at Hopkins. Dinner will be prepared by Lester Helmig and his “crew.” The fundraiser will offer several fundraising opportunities for attendees. All proceeds from the evening will go to the classroom project.

Tickets for this special event are $50 per person.
Please SAVE THIS DATE. Invitations will be going in the mail within the next two weeks.

News You Can Use

FFI Classroom Building Update
Progress continues on the new classroom planned for the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. On July 3, a public hearing will be held to review the conditional use permit for the project. Also, the permit includes the siting and erection of a fire lookout on the property (see below). If successful with the hearing process, the next step will be applying for building permits—a process that takes about 45 days.

“With a little luck, we hope to have everything in place to begin construction as early as September 1—if we have the money in hand or committed to the project,” said Ken Everett, President of Forests Forever.

The total construction budget is approximately $300,000 for the 125-seat classroom and meeting facility. The building will house indoor plumbing and a catering kitchen. Currently, about $115,000 in financial contributions and supplies have been donated to the project. The Board of Directors at Forests Forever, Inc. is looking at what level of funding will need to be “in hand” before construction can begin.

If you’d like more information about the classroom project at Hopkins or would like to explore how you can be involved, contact Ken Everett at 503-655-5524.
Clatskanie Mountain Fire Lookout Coming to Hopkins, too!

As mentioned above, the Hopkins Demonstration Forest could soon be home to a fire lookout tower. The historic Clatskanie Mountain Fire Lookout has been located at the Magness Tree Farm near Wilsonville in recent years. But, Magness has been wanting to see the tower moved. Forests Forever has been looking at this project since last fall and arrangements were finalized earlier this past spring.

The tower has been lowered to the ground, dismantled and trucked to Hopkins and is now stored in the Shop, pending approval of the conditional use permit for its siting. The cabin on the 60’ tower was inhabitable and will need to be rebuilt. Relocation to Hopkins will require the installation of a foundation for the tower, restoration of the tower cabin, raising the tower, and fencing around the base to provide controlled access.

Forests Forever, Inc. President Ken Everett has been busy this past winter and spring securing more than $26,000 in cash donations for the project. A major contributor for the project was Clackamas County who is interested in seeing the tower come to Hopkins.

Be watching for more information about this project and how it will complement the new classroom at Hopkins!

Extension Publications—what’s new?

**EM 8956-E, Understanding Pesticide Fate and Effects for the Protection of Water Resources** (available only online), new April 2008, 14 screens, no charge (audiovisual presentation, requires Adobe Flash Player); Author: Jeff Jenkins
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/em/em8956-e/

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/em/em8964-e.pdf

New Christmas Tree Specialist Named

Chal Landgren, long-time Extension Forestry Agent for the OSU Extension Service in Washington and Columbia Counties, has been named the Christmas Tree Extension Specialist for the Oregon State University Extension Service. Chal’s new position will provide overall leadership for the university’s outreach education and research program serving the Christmas tree industry in the state. Chal began his new assignment on July 1 and will be housed at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center.

It has been more than 25 years since OSU has had a full-time Extension Specialist assigned to Christmas trees. “It’s pretty amazing when you realize that Oregon has been the leading state in the U.S. for Christmas tree production during these past 25 years, but we only had a small amount of faculty time devoted to this crop,” said Mike Bondi, Chair of the Search Committee for the new position. “For this industry to remain a leader we need a world-class research and Extension program to serve the needs of these growers. We hope this position is only the first that will be added in the coming years.”

Plans to refill Landgren’s Extension Forestry Agent position have not been announced yet.
More Changes in Forestry Extension Statewide
The loss of Secure Rural School funding (Title III) is having major impacts in several counties around Oregon. In May’s primary election, Douglas County voters cast ballots to approve the formation of a county services district and a permanent property tax base for their program. The vote was supported with a 65% voter approval. Douglas County became the 17th county in Oregon to form county services districts for Extension that include permanent property tax funding. The effort to move to this secure funding mechanism began in the state in the early 1980s.

The Douglas County Extension Service was eliminated from their county’s budget last July 1, 2007. Since that time Extension has been operating on reserve funds and those dollars were nearly gone. Now programs can continue.

Unfortunately, the situation in Lane County isn’t as positive. On July 1, 2008 the Lane County Extension Service will no longer receive county budget support. Reserve funds will be used to continue a reduced service level in programs through the end of the calendar year. However, immediate program cuts are being made to stretch what budget resources are now available.

As a result, Steve Bowers’ Extension Forestry program has been eliminated. At this time it appears that Steve will be working in Douglas County to fill behind John Punches, Douglas County’s Extension Forestry Agent and Staff Chair. With the Extension District now formed in that county, John will be providing Staff Chair leadership with several southwest Oregon counties and will be dropping his forestry program for at least the next two years.

Linn County is in the process of trying to form a county services district for Extension, too. Their plan is to be on the November ballot, like Clackamas County. Unless a district is formed in Linn County, Extension program reductions or eliminations will result.

TOSAs at Hopkins During July
It’s that time of year, again, for Oregon Teachers on Summer Assignment. Three teachers joined Extension for a six-week practical work experience at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest. This year’s teachers include: Sarah Powers—3rd grade teacher at River Mill Elementary School in Estacada; Linda Brownstein—speech pathologist at Sunset Primary School in West Linn; and Eric Holstrom—a physical education teacher at St. Mary of the Valley Elementary School in Beaverton.

“This program has become a regular feature of the summer,” said Mike Bondi, mentor for the teachers. “We really have a special time of learning together being in the woods every day for six weeks. I do look forward to the time and getting to know the teachers and share what I can with them about the forest and how we manage natural resources.”

This year’s team project is the inventory, mapping and roading for a six-acre parcel of land at Hopkins that has not been touched yet. The teachers spent their first week learning how to survey and run boundary lines to determine where their tract of land was located. Next, they will map and inventory the resources of the site. A road into the unit will be designed and foot trails will be planned to connect an existing road with the proposed one. The final step in the project will be developing a management plan for the project area.
TOSAs at Hopkins During July continued…
“This is a very practical, hands-on project for the teachers. We teach basic skills and finish with a plan of work for the coming years that takes into account the site resources and strategies for management. By the end of July, we should have an operational plan in place.”

County Fair Coming in August
Don’t miss this year’s edition of the Clackamas County Fair, August 12-17 at the County Fairgrounds in Canby. This year’s theme will be: “Hot Fun In The Summertime!” The Extension office will have a booth in the Main Building. Come by and say “hi.”

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Noble Fir Christmas Tree Culturing Tour
Registration Form
Wednesday, July 23 (4:00-8:30pm)

Attendee Name(s) ________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address ________________________________________________________________
Daytime phone ______________________________ Email ______________________________

Registration is required and limited to 35 people. Cost is $30 per person. Make checks payable to “OSU Extension Service.” Mail this form and your payment to OSU Extension Service, 200 Warner-Milne Road, Oregon City OR 97045.
Be sure to bring a brown bag dinner and be prepared for the outdoors. Registration deadline is Friday, July 11.
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