Upcoming Classes

April 24 – May 18  Basic Forestry Short Course, Managing Your Woodlands. Myrtle Point. Evening classes 6-8pm, Wednesdays, April 24–May 15th, Saturday field trip, May 18, see page 5 for details.

May 31  Cost Share Applications due. See page 6 for more information.

June 26  Cost Share Mandatory training and payment due. See page 6 for more information.

2019/2020  Citizen Science Workshops to help prevent the spread of Sudden Oak Death. Various locations in Curry County. Contact Norma Kline at norma.kline@oregonstate.edu for more information.

Visit us at extension.oregonstate.edu/coos
Fuel Reduction and Defensible Space – Your Spring Checklist

Last summer’s stories of wildfires impacting communities and destroying homes throughout the west inspired many small woodland owners on the south coast to learn more about reducing fuels around their homes and woodlands. Some woodland owners have already implemented defensible space strategies and are now in maintenance mode, if this is you, pat yourself on the back, and then check over the Spring Checklist (located at the end of this article). For others, creating the recommended defensible space might seem overwhelming or even impossible. Like everything else, breaking a big project into smaller chunks and creating task lists will help make it more manageable. Another important aspect to consider is that creating defensible space does not mean removing all the vegetation on your property. Fire behavior research has given us a practical approach with defined distances, zones and actions.

Defensible space is broken into three zones around your home. A simple way to start thinking about your next tasks is to step outside with a tape measure, measure out the zones and get a sense of the areas needing attention.

- **Zone 1** is your home (and any attachments such as decks or fences) plus 30 feet. There is a good chance you have already accomplished some defensible space actions in this zone if you have a lawn, walkways, or driveway in this area. This is the lean, clean and green area near your home.
- **Zone 2** starts at 30 feet and continues out 100-200 feet depending on topography and the surrounding landscape. For example, if your home sits above a slope maintaining a greater distance on the downhill side of your home is advisable as fire tends to travel rapidly uphill by pre-heating the vegetation in front of the flames. Actions in Zone 2 involve removing accumulations of dead vegetation, thinning, pruning branches, and removing invasive plants like gorse, blackberry and Scotch broom (you always wanted to get rid of those anyway, right?).

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Here is your Spring Checklist (from page 12 of EM9184):

- Have leaves or pine needles accumulated on your roof, in gutters, on or under decks, or on the ground right next to your home? Time to get out the ladder, leaf blower, or rake!
- Have you moved firewood piles left over from winter at least 30 feet from your home? Cover them if possible.
- Have you replaced flammable groundcover near your home with fire-resistant landscaping?
- Have grasses and weeds grown up tall over the spring? Keep them mowed to 4 inches or less.
- Have weeds or grass grown up around electrical fences? Clear all flammable material away from the fence to prevent a ground fire from igniting.
- Is your line tester functioning on your electric fence? Help avoid a grass fire by inspecting the tester and all fence connections often for shorts in the line.
- Are flammable household items such as patio furniture pads, door mats, and mops sitting out on your deck or elsewhere near the home? Cover or move these items inside when your home is unattended or if a wildfire is near.
- Will you be prepared if a fire comes? Make sure you have a family emergency preparedness plan and emergency evacuation kit. Discuss home evacuation plans and routes with all family members. Include pets and livestock in the plan. Practice the plan with all family members.
Forestry & Natural Resource Publications

EC 1129, Tools for Measuring Your Forest
Francisca Belart, Lauren Grand
Revised. Describes tools that woodland owners need to measure property acreage, boundaries, and characteristics of standing timber, including individual log volumes.
https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1129

PNW 719, Manage Wildlife conflicts in Your Home and Garden
D. Sanchez
New. Our homes and gardens often overlap with spaces and resources used by wild animals, both native and non-native. A "shared habitat" situation can pose some challenges when the animals' day-to-day activities come into conflict with ours. This publication gives an overview of how and why human-wildlife conflicts happen, then offers some general tips and strategies to help you handle wildlife problems safely and legally.
https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw719/html

EM 9228, Fire FAQs—Who owns Oregon's forests, and how does that matter when it comes to fire?
Lauren Grand, Carrie Berger, Stephen A. Fitzgerald, Daniel Leavell
New. Oregon's wildfire landscape is clouded by the mix of public and private interests that control more than 30 million acres. Forests make up nearly half of Oregon, and most forests fall under federal management. Forest ownership factors into both the number of fires and the size to which they grow.
https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9228

EM 8980 Managing Insects and Diseases of Oregon Conifers
Paul T. Oester, David C. Shaw, Gregory M. Filip
Discusses options for managing major insect pests and diseases of conifers in Oregon forests: bark beetles, wood borers, and ambrosia beetles; defoliators; aphids, adelgids, and scale insects; terminal and branch insects and pitch moths; root diseases; stem decays; foliage diseases; canker diseases and canker-causing rust diseases; and mistletoes. Extensive references section. Full color. Revised January 2019
https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em8980
Red Alder Eats Rocks

Story by Chris Branam. By tapping nutrients from bedrock, red alder trees play a key role in healthy forest ecosystems, according to a new study.

The study published today in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Researchers from Oregon State University and the U.S. Geological Survey determined red alder, through its symbiotic relationship with nitrogen-fixing bacteria, taps nutrients that are locked in bedrock, such as calcium and phosphorus. This process accelerates rock dissolution, releasing more mineral nutrients that allow plants and trees to grow.

The study addresses the long-term implications of how nutrients make their way into ecosystems, which sustain their long-term growth and productivity and ultimately store carbon, said Julie Pett-Ridge, a geochemist in OSU’s College of Agricultural Sciences and a co-author on the study.

Read the entire article here: https://today.oregonstate.edu/news/nitrogen-fixing-trees-%E2%80%9Ceat%E2%80%9D-rocks-play-pivotal-role-forest-health

Woodland Management: A Basic Forestry Short Course.
This five-session course is ideal for anyone who is just starting out taking care of a woodland property. Topics covered include: Assessing your property and your site, What’s going on in your woods? Understanding tree biology and forest ecology, Tree planting, care for an established forest, weed control, safety, timber sale logistics, laws and regulations, and a field trip to see real examples of things learned in class. Instructor Norma Kline. Evening classes on April 24, May 1, May 8, May 15 from 6—8 pm and field trip on May 18 from 10 am—3 pm.

Classes held at the Coos County Extension building, Myrtle Point. Cost is $50 per person or $60 per family when sharing materials.

To register for this workshop, call Shawna at 541-572-5263 ext 25292 or email shawna.horner@oregonstate.edu

If you have a disability that requires accommodations, please call Shawna at 541-572-5263 or email shawna.horner@oregonstate.edu to make arrangements at least one week prior to the event.
The Coos County Noxious Weed Advisory Board is offering the Herbicide Cost Share Program again in 2019! Qualified applicants will receive 40% off their herbicide cost. Like 2018, the 2019 Cost Share Program will only be offered once during the year. Also, like 2018, the goal of the program is to target Coos County “T-list” weeds, which are those the County is focusing on this year.

Applications will be ready to be picked up and filled out April 15, 2019. You can also download applications online at the Coos County website (either Google “Coos County Weed Board” or go to http:// www.co.coos.or.us/departments/boardofcommissioners/countyboardsandcommittees/weedboard.aspx Applications are due May 31, 2019.

April 15, 2019 Applications available on the website or for pickup
May 21, 6-8pm Optional Cost Share help session (if you need help filling out your application)
May 31 Applications due
June 10 Postcards with your total due
June 26, 6-8pm Mandatory pesticide training and payment due date
Mid- to late-August Product distribution/pick up (target date is August 17, 2019)

Yes, there is a mandatory pesticide training that is part of the requirement of participation in the herbicide cost-share program. Don’t let that put you off ... a little review on safe and effective pesticide use is always time well-spent! If you have an applicators license you are not required to take the training but must submit your license with your payment prior to June 26, 2019.

These are priority noxious weeds designated by the County T-list:

- Creeping buttercup
- Gorse
- Ivy spp.
- Knotweed spp.
- Milk thistle
- Yellow flag iris
- Himalayan blackberry
- Old Man’s Beard

If you have these weeds on your property, please consider applying to participate in the herbicide cost-share program.

Armyworm

I will continue to monitor armyworm populations at identified locations in Coos and Curry counties again this year. I don’t have the capacity to add more locations, but from what I observed last year, the data I collect should be sufficient to provide you all with the information needed in case 2019 is an outbreak year.

If you currently do NOT receive email updates from me and would like to be on my pest alert email list, please send me a message at cassie.bouska@oregonstate.edu.
When the flood waters recede.
Cassie Bouska, OSU Extension Faculty

This winter, like most winters, much of the bottom ground in the area turns into a big lake. Flooded pastures aren’t a new thing for producers here; we deal with them on an annual basis, sometimes multiple times during the winter.

It’s pretty obvious that winter flooding creates hassles for livestock owners on the valley floors, especially if the waters rise quickly and you don’t get much warning before the tributaries overflow. I’m sure there’s nothing quite like the mad dash in the dark to rescue animals before they’re stranded or overcome by floodwaters … moving animals in the middle of a downpour (or the middle of the night!) is almost like a rite of passage around here, or so it seems.

Now, though, the floodwaters are here and the wait begins. Being at the lower end of a watershed means that we are all too familiar with the accumulation of flood waters and the slow, slow, SLOW drainage out of the system. It seems like all that water just sits there for days. And there you are, feeding your livestock, watching your stores of hay deplete, and thinking about how much it’s going to cost to keep feeding everybody. I’d imagine the itch to just get them back on the pasture gets more intense by the day, especially as the water goes down and you can see the grass emerging.

My two cents: Wait. Don’t let your livestock back onto those pastures until the soil is completely desaturated. If you can walk out and 1) leave footprints, and 2) easily pull up whole grass plants, it’s much too soon to put your animals back out. If you just wait a few more days for the soil to dry, avoiding soil compaction and uprooted plants, you’ll end up with more feed in the long run.

So, here’s the list of things to be thinking about after a flood event:
- When you walk on the field, do your boots leave imprints on the ground? If the answer is yes, it will benefit you and your pasture to wait a few more days. The soil is still saturated and livestock will only cause damage to the pasture soil and forages. Any money you will save in not feeding stored hay will be lost in slower/reduced forage growth this spring.

- Check your fences for damage and make any necessary repairs.

- Clean your pasture of debris that could be damaging/dangerous to livestock.

- Evaluate the amount of silt that was deposited. The more silt there is, the longer it will take your grasses and other forage species to recover. Ideally, you’ll have an upland pasture where you can keep your livestock while the bottom ground recovers adequately. If not, it’s best to use your winter sacrifice area and continue to provide winter feed.

- Depending on the severity of the flood event and the amount of time the water sat on the pasture, the existing stand of forage may have thinned or become less productive. Both of these situations provide opportunity for invasion by weeds. In addition, floodwaters provide a fantastic system for transporting weed seeds to your farm. Scout for weeds as the season progresses and consider overseeding the pasture to fortify it.
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