



APPLEGATE PARTNERSHIP & WATERSHED COUNCIL

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REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5/24/18 APPLEGATE LIBRARY, 6:30 P.M.

4th Thursday of the Month

AGENDA

Call meeting to order, confirm quorum, financial statements, review agenda and notes.

Agency Reports:

(Please provide update via email if you can)

USFS: Introduction to new USFS Forest Supervisor, Merv George

BLM: Updates from the BLM: Middle Applegate Vegetation Management Project (BLM)

New Business:

APWC Board Member recruitment: Cathy Rodgers

Old Business/Updates:

Discussion: Comments for Provolt Seed Orchard Special Recreational Management Area Transformation (See included comment letter and Provolt Seed Orchard SRMA Information)

Reminder, Cantrall Buckley 50th Jubilee, 7/14/18, tabling and volunteers

Set Committee Date for Discussion on Office Building/Space, Yard Maintenance

Lecture Series:

- Summer 5th Annual Film, 8/8/18 @ Red Lily
 - Before the Flood a Martin Scorsese Film w/Leonardo DiCaprio

Committee Reports: (15 minutes)

Aquatic/Riparian:

Agriculture Committee:

Executive Committee

JUNE Committee, Executive & Board Meetings:

6/14/18 A&R Committee Meeting 3-5p (2nd Wednesday @ Ruch Library)

6/21/18 APWC Board Meeting, 6:30p (Applegate Library)

Provolt Seed Orchard Special Recreation Management Area

Status:

Proposed for Development –New Opportunity

- Develop implementation level Recreation Management Area Plan
- Develop implementation level Travel Management Plan (including completing route designations for non-motorized use) during district-wide TMP
- Develop additional recreational facilities or features

RMA Description

This 294 acre SRMA is located on the Grants Pass Resource Area. This timber seed orchard is slated for eventual decommission, and potential conversion for recreational uses and public access. The SRMA will be managed to provide rare public land access to the Applegate River. A network of trails, river access or a campground are envisioned for the future of this location. Additionally, the SRMA has unique qualities ideally suited for managing in partnership with local municipalities or non-profit organizations.

Important Recreation Values

The Provolt Seed Orchard SRMA designation could provide development opportunities, such as river access, non-motorized trails, a campground, or an interpretive education facility.

Type of Visitors

The Provolt Seed Orchard SRMA has potential to draw hikers, campers, and river rafters seeking developed recreation opportunities.

Outcome Objectives

Participants in visitor assessments report an average 4.0 realization of the targeted experience and benefit outcomes listed below. (4.0 on a probability scale where: 1 = Not at all realized to 5 = Fully realized).

Visitor Activities	Visitor Experiences	Visitor Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking • Camping • Picnicking • Day use • Swimming • Environmental education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoying getting some needed physical exercise • Enjoying having access to outdoor amenities close to home • Enjoying teaching others about the outdoors • Enjoying the closeness of family and friends • Enjoying in participating in group outdoor events • Enjoying having access to hands on environmental learning 	<p>Personal Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better mental health and health maintenance • Improved mental well being • Stronger ties with my family and friends • Enhanced awareness and understanding of nature • Better sense of my place within my community • Improved capacity for outdoor physical exercise <p>Community/Social Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions • Improved community integrations • More informed citizenry about where to go for different kinds of recreation experiences

Visitor Activities	Visitor Experiences	Visitor Benefits
		and benefits Environmental Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved maintenance of physical facilities • Greater community ownership and stewardship of park, recreation, and natural resources Economic Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More positive contributions to local-regional economy • Increased desirability as a place to live or retire • Increased local tourism revenue • Maintenance of community's distinctive recreation-tourism market niche or setting character • Enhanced ability for visitors to find areas providing wanted recreation experiences and benefits

Supporting Management Actions and Allowable Use Decisions

Proposed Recreation Setting Characteristics Designation: Rural

Management Actions and Allowable Use Restrictions:

Camping Restrictions:

- Closed to overnight use unless a developed, designated facility is designed.

Special Recreation Permits:

- Allow SRPs within RMA boundaries

Trails and Travel Management:

- Open to all non-motorized trail uses (hike/bike/equestrian)
- Designate area as *closed* for OHV

Firearm Use Restriction:

- Closed to shooting

Lands and Realty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROW avoidance area • Allow land use authorizations through leases, permits, and easements (such as FLPMA ROW grants and Recreation Public Purposes Leases) if compatible with meeting recreation objectives, not interfering with recreation opportunities, and maintaining setting characteristics. • Close to Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) right-of-way grants.

Forest Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to firewood cutting and special forest product harvest. • Allow timber harvest to address catastrophic events. • Allow timber harvest if compatible with meeting recreation objectives, not interfering with recreation opportunities, and maintaining setting characteristics. • Allow sale of hazard trees if compatible with meeting recreation objectives, not interfering with recreation opportunities, and maintaining setting characteristics. • Allow fuel treatments or other vegetation modifications if compatible with meeting recreation

Forest Management
objectives, not interfering with recreation opportunities, and maintaining setting characteristics.
Mineral Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leasable: Open NSO • Salable: Open to existing quarries • Locatable: Recommend for withdrawal



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May 21, 2018

To the Bureau of Land Management,

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council welcomes the community dialogue with the BLM on the future management of the Provolt Seed Orchard, Special Recreation Management Area (SMRA). We are excited to build upon our collaborative relationship that has been hugely successful. The historic partnership of the BLM and APWC on projects has led to significant benefits for riparian areas, water quality, ESA-listed species, and wildlife habitat that would not have been possible without our collaborative efforts. We appreciate past discussions on potential multiple uses of this land for the benefit of the greater Applegate Valley, its residents and its natural resources and are excited to see the discussion moving forward.

The inherent value of this recreation area is based upon its natural resource values including essential riverine and riparian areas along the Applegate River and Williams Creek. These riverine areas contain essential ESA-listed SONCC Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, Klamath Mountain Provenance steelhead, cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey habitat. The adjacent riparian buffer zones provide critical watershed function as well as wildlife habitat and retain their value if left intact. Restoration of these areas should be ongoing in order to maintain their health and function.

In order to preserve these sensitive habitats, the travel management plan should include restrictions for parking areas. These parking areas should be located adjacent to Williams Highway not adjacent to the Applegate River or Williams Creek. These parking areas should have well defined boundaries. Access to the River should be restricted to foot traffic with restrictions on bicycle and equestrian traffic. Trails would need to be established in order to concentrate use and prevent additional trails. We request that fencing be wildlife friendly fencing. Avoid using sheep fencing. Allow for movement of wildlife.

The ideal management of this area would be day use with hiking, picnicking, swimming, birdwatching, fishing, and educational opportunities. Interpretive sites could allow for educational activities about riparian restoration, salmon, birding, beavers, otters, and invasive species. Hiking trails, covered picnic tables, handicapped access, restrooms, and sources of drinking water would enhance visitor experiences. A reservable group site would allow for hosting events. It would be essential to provide a location for disposing garbage. An example site to consider and improve upon would be the Touvelle State Park and adjacent Denman Wildlife Area on the Upper Rogue River and Little Butte Creek or Cantrall Buckley County Park in the Applegate which has had a long time partnership between the Applegate Community and Jackson County.

We strongly recommend setting up a management format that will include community members and representatives from non-profit organizations who would meet on a regular basis. This committee could serve as an advisory body that would work closely with BLM staff on various issues concerning this transition from a commodity to a SRMA.

Angler access via public lands on the Applegate River has been a long term issue in the Applegate River Valley. This site will provide a long stretch of river access for all angling activities. We strongly recommend utilizing the above listed trails for angler access and investigating other means of angler access. We understand that access to the river by boat is a very in depth conversation because of the surrounding private lands and the potential for trespass. We recommend that this be an activity not lightly entered into and rather fully evaluated and vetted.

We do not support camping activities on the north side of Highway 238. If camping were allowed in the SMRA, it would be need to be in designated sites with an onsite camp host. Locations should not be near Williams Creek or the Applegate River, as well as near irrigation ditches that enter these streams.

We suggest that the seed orchard be replaced with vegetation that is natural, native species that are typified by the ecosite. Oak woodland habitat requires significant time to become established as mature trees and oaks could be planted early on while the orchard trees are beginning to die off. We request that orchard trees or rootwads that are removed or planned to be removed be available for restoration projects on or offsite. We request that non-native species continue to be managed. Continue to manage blackberries and noxious weeds. Manage wild grape in order to maintain overstory species that take decades to become established.

In summary the APWC comments regarding the Provolt Seed Orchard include:

Management Practices:

- Management practices on natural resource values
- Restricted parking areas
- River access restricted to foot traffic with restrictions on bicycle and equestrian traffic
- Development of established and marked trails
- Wildlife friendly fencing
- Continued invasive and noxious weed control
- Day use area (see community space & recreation uses below)
- Focus on native species regeneration
- Utilize current vegetation (trees) for habitat restoration projects
- Restrict camping (if even considered) from Williams Creek, Applegate River and the on-site irrigation ditches
- Hands on demonstrations of riparian restoration methods, sustainable agricultural practices, trees 101, and beaver and otter habitats (These could be one-time or periodic offerings).

A community space for:

- Educational workshops and seminars on specific environmental concerns such as identification and control of invasive species,
- Fire watches (information center during fire season)
- Neighborhood sharing of concerns with the various agencies
- Growers' markets
- Weather station
- Bird surveys

Recreational uses:

- River access for anglers
- Guided nature trails
- Birdwatching
- Wildlife Viewing
- Hiking
- Picnicking

We look forward to the unfolding of this large "recycling" project and the addition of publicly owned lands that can and will be utilized by the public. With our fervent hope for continuing collaborative efforts between the agencies and the community,

Sincerely,

Jack Shipley, President, Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council