

Inside this issue:

RC&D's Energy Efficiency Program	2
SWCD's Resource fair	2
Map of NFJDWC	2
Board & Staff	3
Economic Summit <i>(cont. from page 1)</i>	3
Charitable Donations	3
Our Mission	4

The North Fork Currents

North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Inc.

Council Updates

This fall the Watershed Council received funding to implement four projects within the watershed over the next year. These projects include a pushup dam removal on the lower North Fork John Day River, riparian fencing on Kelsay Creek, riparian fencing and upland water developments on Meadowbrook Creek, as well as phase 1 of a project designed to utilize upland forage and restore Camas Creek's channel complexity and riparian area.

Additionally, we are hoping to receive funding early next year for pro-

jects involving the replacement of culverts on Desolation Creek and an assessment of the conditions in Fox Creek.

The next deadline for projects funded through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is April 20th, 2009. Please give us a call or stop by the office to see what the Council can do for you. We will have shorter office hours during the winter months, but would be happy to talk with you about any concerns you have regarding your natural resources.

Our next monthly meeting is January 20th, 2009 at 6:00 pm; we welcome public input and participation.

We hope you have a healthy and happy holiday season!

Economic Summit

Through our projects and programs, the Council strives to improve the long term economic stability of the people and communities that rely on the watershed's natural resources. Watershed staff and board members

who attended the Grant County Economic Summit in October learned there are many other groups and individuals also working toward this goal.

Now, thanks to the sum-
(cont. on page 3)

Weed Profile: Houndstongue

Houndstongue (also known as beggar's lice) is a state-listed noxious weed in Oregon. Houndstongue is a biennial growing 1 to 4 feet tall and reproducing by seed. Leaves are alternate, 1 to 12 inches long, 1 to 3 inches wide, rough, and hairy. Flowers are reddish-purple.

Houndstongue was introduced from Europe. It forms a rosette the first year and sends up a flowering stalk the second year. In the second year it

produces an abundant amount of seeds that cling to clothing or animals. The leaves are rough and resemble a hounds' tongue (hence the name). It may be found in pastures, along roadsides, and in disturbed habitat. Houndstongue is toxic. Animals may survive for 6 months or longer after they have consumed a lethal amount. Sheep are more resistant to houndstongue poisoning.

Rosettes tolerate mowing,

grazing, and drought stress. Mowing flowering stems before nutlets develop greatly reduces seed production. Maintaining pasture and rangeland health by preventing overgrazing and minimizing disturbance can help limit houndstongue spread and establishment.



Below left: Houndstongue seeds. Seeds are about 5mm in size.

Below: Houndstongue plant in second year.



The North Fork Currents

RC&D's Energy Efficiency Program

As energy prices climb, farmers and ranchers like you are watching their bottom line shrink. Those who want to identify, develop and complete projects to save energy and money on the farm or ranch (or need help sorting through government programs) can find assistance through the Columbia-Blue Mountain Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) office.

The Columbia-Blue Mountain RC&D office is offering services to help producers conduct a comprehensive on-farm energy audit, identify improvements to energy efficiency, and seek grants

and other funding for upgrades.

RC&D representatives will work with you to meet your energy goals and target funding for energy efficient upgrades on your farm or ranch. You will learn about opportunities for grants and loans (such as the Section 9006 program) as well as other assistance. In addition, your RC&D contact can arrange an energy audit to help you identify and evaluate the energy efficiency improvements right for your operation.

An energy audit is a detailed analysis of your farm or ranch's energy use with recommended actions to increase effi-

ciency. You will learn how much energy and money you can save with more efficient equipment, which upgrades will result in the greatest savings, and how long before these items pay for themselves with the money saved on energy. This valuable information can help you run your facility more efficiently and gain a competitive edge for your business. In addition, having a professional energy audit can improve your grant or program applications as they compete for funding.

The Resource Conservation and Development program (RC&D) receives funding and administra-

tive support through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. RC&D's motto: working with citizens of rural communities to enhance their quality of life through social, economic, and environmental improvements.

For more information about this program, contact Kathy Ferge at the Columbia-Blue Mountain RC&D office at (541) 278-8049 ext. 140 or via email at Kathy.ferge@or.usda.gov.

"Find the help you need to cut costs, improve your operation, and start saving money today"

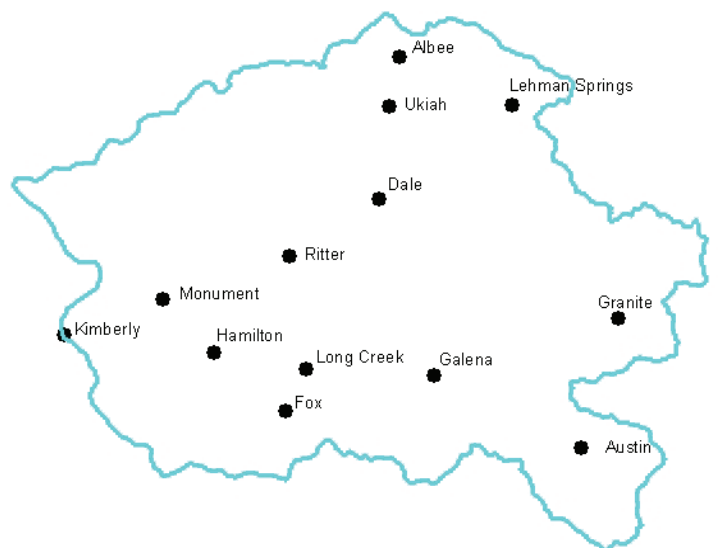
SWCD's Resource Fair

The Monument SWCD is holding their 8th annual resource fair on January 21st, 2009 from 10am to 2pm at the Monument Senior Center. The Resource Fair is a great opportunity for the local ranchers, farmers, landowners, and agencies to come together and share ideas, information, and funding opportunities. Come join us and learn what help and funding may be available for you.

Some agencies will also be giving presentations. Guaranteed to be very informative. A table for local contractors will be available! Bring your business cards, etc.

Tri-Tip Steak lunch (with all the trimmings) will be available at a minimal cost. Please let Julie at Monument SWCD know if you plan on attending so we can have an accurate count for lunch or at least close (541)-934-2141.

Map of the NFJDWC



The North Fork Currents

Board of Directors

Rick Henslee, President, Long Creek

Ed Farren, Vice President, Ukiah

Jeff Fields, Sec/Tres., Mt. Vernon

Reiba Smith, Long Creek

Destry Brown, Monument Soil and Water Conservation District

Mark Rietman, Morrow County

Steph Charette, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

John Zakrajsek, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Staff

Amy Charette, Coordinator

Amanda Born, Project Manager

Patti Hudson, Fiscal Administrator

Charitable Donations

The North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJWC) is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit organization devoted to protecting the ecology and economy of a watershed encompassing approximately 1.7 million acres in Grant, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, and Wheeler counties. The John Day River is the longest un-dammed river in the Columbia River Basin. It is also the last remaining major tributary of the Columbia River managed exclusively for wild anadromous fish (no fish hatcheries).

The NFJWC brings divergent interests together to undertake projects that benefit the long-term economic and ecological health of the watershed and its communities. These projects include, but are not limited to, the development of upland livestock watering sources, irrigation diversions, riparian improvement projects, water quality monitoring, and noxious weed control. Because we are not-for-profit we rely on charitable donations and grants to fund our organization. We

Economic Summit *(cont. from page 1)*

mit, there is a place for everyone to come together and share information. It's an electronic economic newsletter called ESquared. This community bulletin board of news, ideas and meetings notices pertaining to Grant County's economy is put out by the newly formed Grant County Economic Council, an informal group of residents working for a better economic future. The latest issue discussed Made In Grant County gift baskets, the possibility of steam-heated greenhouses and the status of grazing litigation.

Anyone is welcome to participate. To get on the email distribution list or to submit items, contact Les Zaitz at zaitzbcr@starband.net or call 421-3031. The newsletter also is posted on the website of the Blue Mountain Eagle www.bluemountaineagle.com. There is also an online blog for discussions about economic development efforts around the county. Join in at <http://gcore-gonlive2.blogspot.com>

ask for your support to help us continue with our efforts to strengthen the economic stability of the individuals and communities that rely on the watershed's natural resources.

Your support will help us be more successful in our grant-seeking efforts and charitable donations can be used as "match funds" when we apply for grants that benefit the watershed. Cash donations are always greatly appreciated. However, we are in need of some non-cash items such as a used 4x4

pickup and ATV for our weed program. If you have an item you would like to donate, but are unsure if we have a need for it, feel free to contact us.

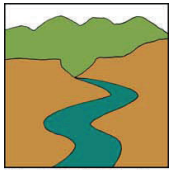
Please remember that donations are tax-deductible. Checks or money orders can be made payable to NFJWC and mailed to our office at PO Box 444, Long Creek, OR 97856. Feel free to use the form on the back of this newsletter. Thank you!

To subscribe or unsubscribe to *The North Fork Currents* contact us at info@nfjdw.org or call (541) 421-3018.
To receive this newsletter by email please email us at info@nfjdw.org.

Our Mission

The North Fork John Day Watershed Council's mission is to plan, fund, and implement actions that enhance and sustain the health of the watershed, honor tribal treaty rights, and maintain the long term economic stability of individuals and communities that rely on the watershed's natural resources.

Now you can download *The North Fork Currents* online!!!
Visit www.nfjdw.org for more information.



North Fork John Day
Watershed Council

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—CUT HERE—

NFJDWC Charitable Donation Form

You can detach and submit this form with your charitable donation.

Dollar Amount Enclosed:

- \$10
 \$20
 Other _____

Please Indicate the program that you would like your contribution to go to:

- General Council Operating Expenses
 Weed Program
 Vehicle Fund
 Education & Outreach
 No Preference
 Other _____



Please make checks payable to "NFJDWC".

NFJDWC is a 501(C)3 organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Comments:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (optional) _____