



# MARYS RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL NEWS

## MARCH 2007

Note: April 4th Council Meeting will be at Alpine Community Center (see below)

### Highlights of March 7, 2007 Marys River Watershed Council Meeting

Visit [www.mrwc.net](http://www.mrwc.net) for full minutes.

#### Impacts of Measure 37

**Todd Jarvis, OSU Institute of Water & Watersheds,** spoke about Ballot Measure 37 and groundwater resources. The State of Oregon maintains test-wells which are periodically monitored; they show that water levels are declining (some by as much as 60 feet in 40 years). Measure 37 may potentially double or triple the state's current domestic water use. Most of the Measure 37 claims are near groundwater-limited areas (Washington Co. and Marion Co.). He pointed out the need for hydro-geologic analyses, at least every 25 years and encouraged us to consider an updated analysis for the Marys River Watershed.

#### Greg Verret, Benton County Development Dept.

Current Measure 37 claims in our county affect 10,000 acres, with claims of about \$268 million in lost values. Applicants can request compensation for lost value or waiver or modification of regulations. The County, like many other jurisdictions, is hesitant to challenge the values - they can't afford to compensate. There are 76 claims on Exclusive Farm Use lands (7529 acres) with potential for 44 subdivisions (5961 acres). 18 claims are on Forest Conservation lands (1357 acres) with potential for 8 subdivisions (945 acres). Grounds on which claims could be denied include public health and safety issues, federal rules or nuisance. Claimant must maintain ownership throughout the development.

#### Prairie Species Habitat Conservation Plan

**Carolyn Menke, Institute of Applied Ecology.**

The goal of the HCP is to balance conservation of rare species and their habitats with economic growth and development in Benton County. Stakeholder and technical advisory teams have been formed and a public meeting held. Visit the HCP website: <http://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/hcp/index.php> for minutes. Surveys will continue this spring, primarily on public lands. Private land surveys will focus on Kincaid's Lupine and Fender's Blue, with select surveys for Taylor's Checkerspot - landowners can request a survey through the HCP website. Cheryl Schultz and Dina Roberts of Washington State University have been funded to do research on Fenders Blue butterfly dispersal behavior in hilly, partially wooded habitats, lookint at how far the butterflies will move, what barriers they will cross, and what habitats they will use. We will learn how Cardwell Hill populations fit in to the big picture for Fender's blue. They will work with MRWC to invite landowners' participation with site visits. An informative meeting will be held at Wren Community Hall on April 19<sup>th</sup> as well as a butterfly ID workshop later in the spring.

#### Newton Creek Riparian Planting

by Philomath High School students March 19-23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Funding Approved

**Newton Creek Wetlands** Technical Assistance: Conservation Plans for 3 adjacent properties-175 acres.

**Cardwell Hills** Pond improvements and construction on 3 properties. Conservation plans for 11 additional landowners-300 acres.

**Mercer/Powell Creeks** Replacement of 2 culverts to improve fish passage.

**Education & Outreach** - partially funded.

#### Cardwell Hill News Highlights

**Pacific Wildlife Research** will begin efforts to track turtle nest sites with telemetry techniques this spring. **USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program** will work with landowners, providing consultation and permitting for conservation activities, including the recently funded ODFW oak restoration project. **Conservation Plans**, funded by OWEB have been completed for 6 landowners - 298 acres. **Fenders Blue Butterfly** research on dispersal behavior to begin in April.

Visit [www.mrwc.net](http://www.mrwc.net) for full minutes of March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

## MUDDY CREEK WATERSHED

LANDOWNER CONCERNS – CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Marys River Watershed Council invites local landowners to help guide conservation activities in the Muddy Creek watershed. Join in discussing local resource concerns and looking at recent efforts and new opportunities to conserve the unique ecological values of the Watershed.

STREAM FLOW    BUFFER STRIPS    AGRICULTURE    WETLANDS

**Keynote Speaker: Steve Smith, Private Lands Biologist,  
Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex**

**WEDNESDAY - APRIL 4, 2007  
7PM – 9PM**

**ALPINE COMMUNITY CENTER**

FROM THE NORTH - BELLFOUNTAIN RD OR HWY 99 SOUTH TO ALPINE RD - WEST TO 25114 ALPINE RD.

For more information, contact 758-7597 or [outreach@mrwc.net](mailto:outreach@mrwc.net)

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