

The Woodlands

Newsletter of the
**Jacksonville
Woodlands Association**

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If your group or club is interested in taking part in a guided hike of the Rich Gulch Historic Mining District give Larry Smith a call at: 541 899-7402



Hiking on the Dr. Woods Property. After several years of hard negotiations, along with the support skills of the Trust for Public Land and a \$350,000 Federal Grant, plus \$35,000 supplied by the JWA, the property is in the process of being conveyed to the City of Jacksonville for use as a public park.

clip and use if there is no envelope

Yes, I want to help!

Thank you for your generous support as the Woodlands Association continues to protect the historic wooded backdrop of Jacksonville, and provide hiking and educational opportunities for school classes and adult groups.

All gifts are tax-deductible.

Name _____

P.O. Box # _____ Street _____

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Amount enclosed \$ _____ Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

____ Please place me on the Woodlands E-contact list to be alerted to scheduled work days and special events.

A \$100 contribution can be leveraged to \$1,000 and a \$1,000 contribution can be leveraged to \$10,000

Mail to :

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The Woodlands

Preserving the Natural & Cultural History of Jacksonville, Oregon

Newsletter of the Jacksonville Woodlands Association



Fall 2005

JACKSONVILLE CELEBRATES OUR MANY SUCCESSES



The Cross Country team from Crater High School trains regularly using the Woodlands trails. Several members of the Crater team attended the Hike-A-Thon to help promote a healthy live-style. One runner said, "We love your trails!"



Jacksonville Veterinary Hospital's annual Mutt Strutt. For the past several years the Woodlands trails have provided a safe and fun area for local animal-lovers to come and enjoy the beautiful trails and canine companionship.



JWA's fuel reduction contractor burning brush piles on private land around Jacksonville. When all burning is completed this spring, the Association will have reduced the fire hazard on 1335 acres in and around Jacksonville.



BLM botanist, Mabel Jankovsky-Jones, shows Steen Rasmussen how to use a compass while Piers Rasmussen and JR Collins look on. The boys learned about using maps, a compass, and a GPS unit as a part of Bring Your Kid to Work Day. The boys used their new skills to find a carefully hidden cache of juice and cookies along the Rich Gulch Woodlands Trail.

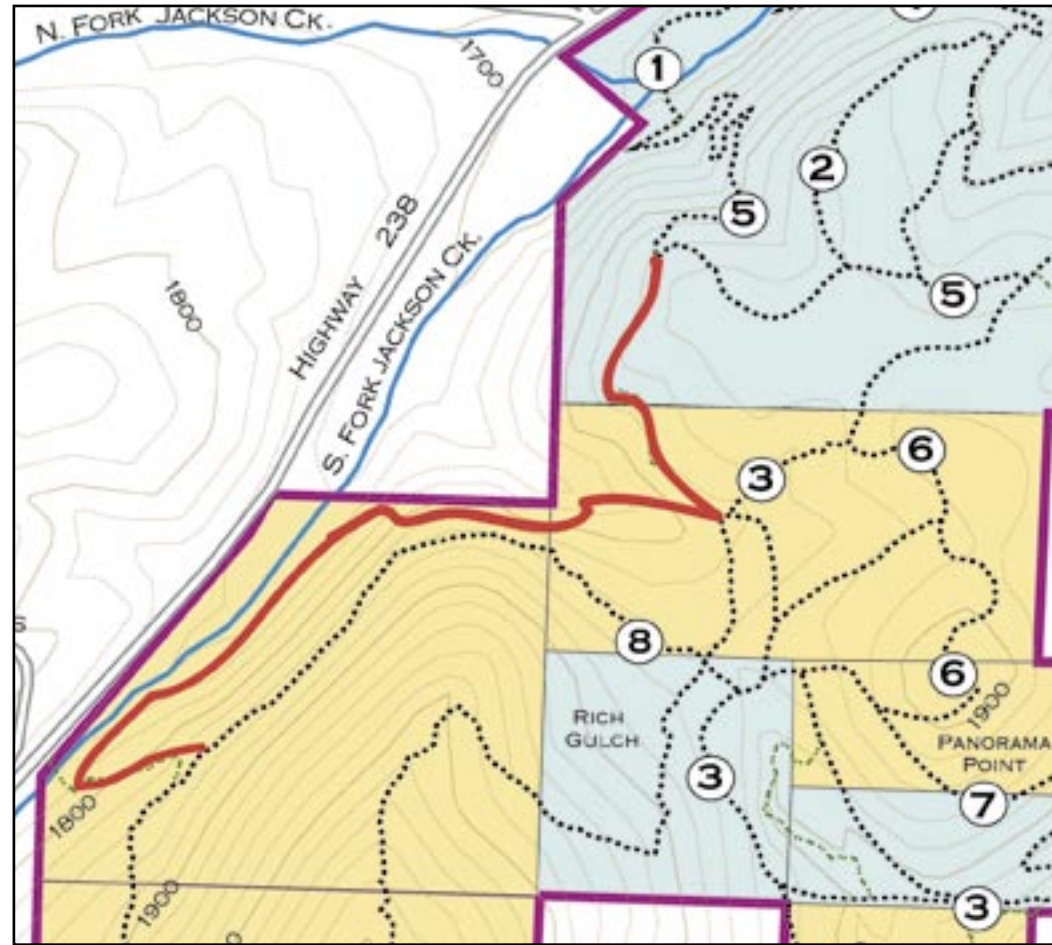
New Trails within the Woodlands

Two new trails will soon be added to the Woodlands trail system. Both trails will provide additional loop opportunities.

One of the trails (shown on the right) will connect the Jackson Forks Trail with the Rich Gulch Trail.

The second trail (shown on the right) will provide an easy to moderate hiking loop located on BLM lands. The new portion of the trail follows an old 1930s mining ditch along the South Fork of Jackson Creek and has connections on each end; one end connects to the old mining ditch portion of the Petard Ditch Loop and the other to the Rich Gulch Trail.

When hiking the Woodlands next spring, be on the lookout for these new trails. They will be signed and included on future Woodlands trail maps.



Currently the Petard Ditch Trail provides a flat, easy walk along an old mining ditch to a bench and a scenic overlook. The trail continues on a long and lengthy climb before returning back to Rich Gulch. Hikers will soon have the option of a shorter return route using the new S. Fork Jackson Creek Loop Trail thanks to Eagle Scout, Kyle Vineyard.

Woods Woods Rehabilitation Project

On a cool and sunny Saturday morning in early November, Cub Scout troop pack #41-The Dragon Patrol Den - met in Jacksonville on the Dr. Woods property to help the JWA complete some much needed forest rehabilitation work. The Woods property will soon be added to the Woodlands system thus providing a wooded backdrop to the city, a cross town woodlands hiking connection and preservation of a substantial population of the rare and endangered plant - Gentner's Fritillaria.

Cub Scout troop members and their parents donned work gloves, boots and warm clothing to rehab an old skid road that had been used as an informal hiking trail in recent years. The old skid road was steep and showed signs of erosion that

needed to be controlled. To replace the eroding skid road trail, the JWA had designed and constructed a new trail with a gentle gradient through the Woods woods to connect with the Beekman Woods trail system.

Cub Scout troop members worked to close the old skid road by carrying and hauling debris, sticks and logs to cover the old road and naturalize it by checking erosion which will allow native grasses and plants to recolonize the area. Troop members took time out to watch the wildlife and deer wander by while they braved the poison oak to retrieve the logs and brush to cover the old road.

By doing this work for the JWA, Cub Scout troop members of pack #41 will be eligible to receive their World Conservation Badge.

Fuel Reduction Grant work on schedule to be completed

The last 105 acres of piles on private lands within the Wildland/Urban Interface around Jacksonville are scheduled to be burned this coming winter/spring. When completed, the JWA will have reduced the fire hazard on 1335 acres in and around Jacksonville.

The work that the JWA has done has been funded through four grants that the Association received through the National Fire Plan totaling \$908,500. Besides reducing the fire hazard in the Jacksonville Woodlands, the JWA also partnered with over 90 private landowners and reduced the fire hazard on their properties to help increase the effectiveness of the fuel reduction treatments around Jacksonville.

Noxious Weeds being controlled in the Woodlands

Scotch Broom, an introduced non-native plant classified as a noxious weed in Oregon, is being brought under control in the Woodlands and surrounding lands. The Association has completed the second spraying of Scotch Broom this summer hitting the new sprouts and seedlings that had come up since last year

The JWA has spread native grass seed in areas that were heavily infested with Scotch Broom. The Association intends to restore and maintain the native species and vegetation in the Woodlands and in particular to preserve the habitat for the rare and endangered Gentner's Fritillaria.

Key to the success of the control of Scotch Broom has been JWA's partnership with adjacent private landowners to control the Scotch Broom present on their properties.

Besides controlling Scotch Broom, JWA is also currently looking to control yellow Star Thistle within a few areas of the Woodlands and around the Jacksonville Pioneer Cemetery in partnership with the City of Jacksonville, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and adjacent private landowners.



Executive Director Larry Smith shows off a patch of the rare and endangered Fritillaria Gentneri lilies that are being protected by JWA's purchase of the Dr. Woods Property - historically known as "The Grove."

New Woodlands Trail Signs

In 2005, new trail signs were made for the Beekman Woods, Beebe Woods, JV Cemetery, and the adjoining new Quarry Loop trail. The signs are made from Douglas fir stair treads donated by Larry Smith's father, Elmer Smith. The signs are routed freehand for a historic touch. The routed letters are then filled with black paint. The final touch is to brush with wood preservative to give a rustic look. New signs will be installed for trails in the Coachman Hills development this winter, keeping the same theme.



Jacksonville's annual Fritillary Festival is held each March and April honoring one of Oregon's rarest wildflowers.