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From: Susan Applegate

Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 11:58 AM

To: Kent Smith

Subject: Pond Scoping letter

Hi Kent,

I wanted to preface this letter with a comment about dreams and dreaming. In this comment I have dreamed, fully realizing that the constraints of reality press our dreams into feasible forms. So I hope when you read this that you will let yourself imagine first, fully, before letting the hammers and saws intrude, (as they must). But I know also, that this shouldn't be difficult for you, because you too can dream and dream big. Thank you for your invitation to make comment. I am sure something good will come of it all.

Susan Applegate

## SCOPING COMMENT

### THE WOOLLEY POND PROJECT

To: North Douglas Betterment Committee

Kent Smith, Chair

The history of the Woolley Mill, at one time the financial backbone of the Yoncalla community, resides now only in the memories of our elderly. Behind the wall of blackberries, tangled amongst a mix of native willows and the ornery hawthorne and scotch broom, lies the family's mill pond: a more visible reminder of an era when the mill held such a huge presence in our area. Now the time has come to develop another potential of this important feature to be incorporated into the life of our town again.

According to maps and current information, the pond and surrounding property comprise an 80 acre parcel. Sitting at the edge of Eagle Valley Road and right across from Main Street, it has become a place where Yoncalla children and teens have in the past fished. For several years a No Trespassing sign has kept most out of the area and children fish in the ditches by the road instead.

The opportunity before our community at the bequest of the Woolley family, is to create a place of varied recreation and learning.

Cleared of invasive species such as blackberry, hawthorne, Scotchbroom and thistles, by volunteers, civic groups and students of our schools, this area could be transformed into a park, a native wildlands park with an emphasis on understanding the wetland, its role in hydrology and habitat. Our highschool students could partake in college preparatory classes with an emphasis on wetland biology and resource management.

This park could feature a museum of rural Yoncalla history and include memorabilia from the Woolley Mill and the logging industry in Yoncalla. As well the important history of the earliest pioneers could bring an understanding of the development of the early farmsteads and families, the changes to the landscape because of agriculture. Facts and information regarding the first indigenous people, the native Kalapuya Kommema, would expand our knowledge and understanding of the rich human history of our community. Emphasis on the flora, fauna and ecosystem of the pond would raise an awareness and foster appreciation for the natural history of our area. The nature trail could begin at Elkhead Road and extend to the museum area circling the entire pond. Labeling of plant species along the road could also be included.

### **Park Structures and Purposes**

This park could showcase something like **The Woolley Mill Warehouse Museum**, or **The Yoncalla Historical Museum**, featuring photographs, artifacts and interpretive labeling. A separate structure, a **Kalapuyan Long House** could be devoted to the native Kalapuya , (the **Yoncalla Kommema**), complete with artifacts, photographs and related texts. An **Outdoor School** structure could serve both elementary and secondary training in biology and resource systems. The greenhouses given the schools by Marie and Russ Helmer could be used to propagate native species for transplanting into the pond area. This could be part of a curriculum on resource management. A **Boat dock or two** could be available for launching canoes and small boats, as well for fishing from. A **Performing Arts Stage** and seating near the Eagle Valley Road with parking area could accommodate summer concerts in the park. Along with the performing arts stage, a picnic area could be constructed a covered area for bar-b-que and minimal food prep counters, tables and benches. A **Train Station** enclosed in a kiosk could house the miniature Southern Pacific Railroad and the miniature town of Yoncalla, created to scale by railroad buff and craftsman, Leon Wright. Photographs and early railroad and through the town could also accompany this display. This structure could be located close to the existing railroad across from Main Street. The rest of the entire area of the park would feature a wetland plant and animal species interpretive trail, or “nature trail”, along the pond’s edge, complete with plant labels for all plants.

### **Considerations of regular and perpetual maintenance**, such as

- 1.garbage patrol and collection,
- 2.bi-annual noxious weed eradication program and
- 3.road and trail maintenance would be part of the final proposal.
4. costs for building maintenance and upkeep

Additionally, the costs for building and maintaining a cultural museum need to be fully addressed. Insurance coverage and the entity responsible for a comprehensive insurance coverage is another key issue to explore. Initial funding sources must be researched for land clearing, garbage hauling and some excavation where necessary. Repairs to the berm or any other structure which confines the water to the pond, also need to be

included in our final proposal. The design of any structures will require a commitment to historic accuracy.

All versions of this project would involve clearing the ground area of noxious weeds, any foreign objects or trash, and restoring the land fill area with some excavation and landscaping with native plants. It would also involve clearing and improving the road area to the site of the kiosk or museum and creation of a trail, which follows to a greater or lesser degree, the pond perimeter. Each species of herbaceous plant, shrub and tree would be identified with a metal label for protection against the effects of weather. The labels help visitors identify plants, and also assist classrooms in plant identification. The natural history section of the kiosk, outdoor school or museum will hold additional information regarding the ethnobotanical uses of the various plants as well as their role in the ecosystems both as habitat, food and water supply.

I view this project as both an educational and cultural addition to both the towns of Yoncalla and Drain. Such a park would enhance the historic awareness of our area. Ultimately, the park would have the capacity to educate all ages and backgrounds to the history and natural history of our area and in doing so, bring a sense of public pride.

### **Technical and Financial Assistance Research**

#### **RESOURCES:**

**Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation And Development Council** Amy Wilson, Coordinator --- (Non Profit) organization working for the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and working in concert with Soil and Water Districts, Watershed Councils, and other government and citizen groups. 476-5906 (GrantsPass office). Working to help entities research, and get grants to restore damaged areas for community purposes.

**Douglas Soil and Water Conservation Service**. Walt Barton, cell phone 541-580-7101. (Roseburg Office Technician). Office # 957-5061 Walt could help with technical Assistance on reclamation and restoration aspects of the pond area. He could also help us with acquiring financial assistance from the Governors Water Enhancement Board, (GWEB)

**Resource Advisory Council (RAC)**, RAC monies fund projects related to the environment and education. Title 11 and Title 111 Funding. They have funded:

- \*Douglas Soil and Water District for the Kanipe Park
- \*Northwest Youth Corps
- \*OSU Extension Service – expanding forest related education
- \*Umpqua Discovery Center

**Salmon Habitat Improvement Program,** Brian Conners, Douglas County Water Resources Department, Rm 306, Douglas County Courthouse, Roseburg, OR. 440-4255 Brian is the Chair of the, (SHIP) which coordinates grant applications for projects related to water habitat restoration. The Yoncalla Turtle Oil Spill money is acquired through grants through SHIP.

**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife,** 440-3353, Douglas County, administers the oil spill money. The application from SHIP, goes to ODFW for acceptance and direct funding.

**Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Division's Conservation Riparian Enhancement Program, (CREP)** 2593 NW Kline St. Roseburg, OR 97470  
Cindy Bright 541-673-6071- NRCS-CD, Roseburg, OR"  
<cindy.bright@or.nacdnet.net>

## **MAINTENANCE/OPERATION COSTS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### 1) CONTACTS for INFORMATION:

DOUGLAS COUNTY PARKS: Rob Stevens, Operations Mgr. 541-440-6088,  
Jim Dowd, Dir.

OREGON PARKS AND REC. [www.orpa.org](http://www.orpa.org)

DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDNER'S, Steve Renquest 541-672-4461, x-107  
ANALYTICAL LAB AND CONSULTANTS, Eugene. Rory White 541-485-8404

### 2). ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Electrical and Water Utilities

Liability

#### **General Maintenance**

VOLUNTEERS in Maintenance

- 2 or 3 times a year for major mowing, repair and clean up --- Do-able.
- Regular garbage and trash clean up, weekly, but nearly impossible to enforce. Frustrating with volunteers to depend upon for regular maintenance

#### SEASONAL CONTRACT

- Put contract out for Bid
- Clearly describe list of duties
- \$8 to \$12 per hour

#### **Restrooms**

Fixed Double Stall .....\$25,000

- Lowest overall maintenance
- One Piece, precast solid concrete, pump-out

“Porta Potties”

- Easiest to install
- Least Sanitary
- Costs include routine pump-outs

### **Electrical & Water Utilities**

Electrical could be largest expense outside of buildings

- Depends on what is already present or nearby
- Depends on what electrical requirements are for:
  - Lights
  - Security
  - Equipment

Water

- What’s presently available
- Yoncalla or New Source, estimate....\$3,000 to \$8,000

### **Define Project Stages**

- Access to property for assessment and feasibility study
- Assess wetland structure to reduce flooding, water recharge and release (hydrological plan)
- Begin financial support campaign
- Brush Hog, Mowing, Noxious weed/Plant Removal, Trash removal
- Determine Water and Soil Quality
- Define chemical and/or environmentally friendly corrective actions as needed

Note: The Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA) offers financial and technical assistance to towns, cities and communities on projects which aim at cleaning up areas: TBA’s, (targeted brownfields assessment). A TBA is a study conducted by the EPA to determine the nature and extent of contamination. The TBA covers the cost of the assessment and uses contractors hired by the EPA.

### **Define Intensity/Level of Work**

- \* Produce a structure and landscape plan
- \* Produce an architectural blueprint for museum/ longhouse/kiosk.
- \* Re-Forestation plan
- \* Landscape plan
- \* Development of Trails
- \* Native Plant Inventory
- \* Removal of Non-Native Species
- \* Identify native species to be planted. Contract with Yoncalla Schools to make cuttings and propagate seedlings.

I am willing to help as the need arises and my skills match the need.

Susan Applegate

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Yoncalla, OR 97499

541-849-3500