



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

North Santiam Watershed Council

April 23, 2024 (6:00 to 7:44pm) (online and in person Lyons Old School Center)

DRAFT

Our Mission:

Providing opportunities for stakeholders to cooperate in promoting and sustaining the health of the watershed and its communities.

6:00 pm Welcome, Statement of Mission, Introductions

Directors Present:

- Suzette Boudreaux (Director - Little North Fork Subbasin Representative – President)
- Jan Irene Miller – (Director – Lower North Santiam Subbasin - Secretary)
- Kathy Bridges – (Director – At Large - Treasurer)
- Brent Stevenson – (Director - Water Control District Representative – Vice President)
- Jennifer Mongolo – (Director – Natural Resources Specialist)

NSWC Staff Present: Brandin Hilbrandt (Executive Director), Amy Knutson (Office Administrator), Marie Heuberger (Wildfire Adapted Communities Specialist for North & South Santiam Watershed Councils)

Technical Partners Present: Becky Pineda, Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Watershed Council Liaison, Lawrence Schwabe (Grande Rhonde Tribal Hydrologist Technical Advisor)

6:03 pm Call to Order, Mission stated & Approval of March 2024 Minutes

Suzette called the meeting to order. We have a quorum. Suzette brought the approval of the March NSWC meeting minutes to the board. Jan Irene made a motion to approve the March 2024 minutes and Kathy Bridges seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were adopted.

6:04 – 6:41 Staff Reports

NSWC Executive Director Update – Brandin Hilbrandt

Highlights: Key Current Project Updates and Season Planning, New Potential Collaborative Grant, and Project with MSWCD on Mill Creek, Advancing Partners of the North Santiam Collaboration FIP Application, Upcoming Santiam Summit, Updates on upcoming due dates for grants and reports and funds awarded and Drought Contingency planning outreach.

Discussion: How to best support MSWC 11 landowners on Mill Creek with inexperience hiring contractors for a restoration grant. Support has been received from City of Salem for coordination of FIP application.

Executive Director's Report

April 23rd, 2024 Board Meeting



6:25 – 6:41 Wildfire Adaptive Communities Specialist (WACS) Update – Marie Heuberger

Highlights: Fuel reduction projects, Xerces Society Pollinator Kit requested for 4 landowners, upcoming meeting in Sweet Home re: Emergency Response in Wildfires. Projects of weed treatments on North Fork Road re: readying for county parks to open. Research on Spanish written materials to support landowners. ORDA Bio-agent control kits received to stop scotch broom generation. Grant requests updates for Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund. Upcoming presentation at Regis High School junior class.

Discussion: Readiness of parks on the North Fork for being open to the public.



6:41-7:09 Breitenbush Floodplain Restoration Project & Tour – USFS Agreement Update

- Thank you to partners for the excellent site tour and discussions Friday, April 19th.
- Updates on meetings to learn more from partners about this type of project.
- Project Scope, Goals and Timeline (see ED staff report presentation) including implications of FIP application process and NOAA Fish Passage co-application with MVRC.

Discussion: How to communicate to the public at large of a huge restoration project being done so far from the public eye. Drone use and communication through social media weekly update is being used by McKenzie River Trust. Safety and security for people and equipment onsite. Knowledge of the funders and their way of managing with implementors. Access to the site for workers and equipment. Clarity of responsibilities and role of NSWC, communication, outreach, pass-through eases procurement for local contract selection in contrast to federal requirements, reporting, education. Key to this success will be the project manager which would be hired by the NSWC.

Summary and Board Vote: Suzette, President, proposed we vote on our decision to go forward with USFS.

Kathy Bridges made a motion that NSWC partner with the USFS to plan and implement the Breitenbush Floodplain Restoration Project and Brent Stevenson seconded the motion with the caveat that we will have the authority to review the contract before proceeding. All were in favor and agreed to move forward with the USFS.

7:09 pm: Financial Updates and 990 – Amy and Brandin

- Financial detailed reports from QuickBooks were presented.
- Finance Committee and staff still learning, and reviews happen on Tuesday and will review January and February balance sheets.
- Amy learning and paying attention to using QuickBooks for clarifying best practices and process.
- 990 reports are in from bookkeeping service and expect to meet the May 15th deadline.
- There will be a meeting next week to discuss 990 completions with the CPA, Vickie

7:17 pm: Grant Status – Amy and Brandin

- An excel spreadsheet snapshot of the various grant timing and finances was shared.

Discussion: Update on open grants, match funds and allocation of remaining funds. United Way Funds still available \$66K. Bear Branch funds could include reallocation to staff. Consideration of funding for continually funding Marie's position.

7:31 pm: 2023 Annual Report Update – Amy

Branding book will be done soon by Kaitlin, and she has been paid to finish the brochure. For the 2023 Annual Report draft review, it is outlined, and we can request numbers from CPA Vickie that will go on the 990. Request from Brandin to include a highlight in the Annual Report and Suzette offered that we introduce Brandin, and update on the new staff and a tribute to Rebecca McCoun. Annual Report will be drafted by next Board Meeting.

7:36 Open Floor for Announcements and Discussions

Regis High School juniors are studying water in their theology class and how to take care of water. The NSWC staff will meet with them next week. Brother Cyril from Mount Angel Abbey met with them to share liturgical references to water as sacred and light. They will be at Bird Haven May 17th and will share their photos and videos with NSWC.

All are invited to Bird Haven on June 8th, 11am-2pm for a potluck, celebrating Rebecca McCoun's tenure with NSWC.

Announcements

- **North Santiam Basin Summit** – April 24th, 10-3pm at Salem Public Library. Reach out to Council@northsantiam.org if interested in registration.
- **ODEQ's Willamette Mainstem & Major Tributaries Temperature TMDL RAC Meeting** – May 1st, 1pm to 3:30pm via Zoom
- **Marion County's North Fork Parks Town Hall Meeting** – May 1st, 6:00-7:30pm at the Elkhorn Fire Station
- **Marion SWCD – Hazelnut Cover Crop Workshop** – May 3rd, 9am-1:30pm at Chemeketa Ag Complex (Marionswcd.net/events)
- **St. Regis at Bird Haven** – May 17th

Adjourn 7:44pm

Meeting minutes will be posted on the website when they have been approved:

<https://northsantiam.org/north-santiam-watershed-council-documents/meeting-minutes/>

Next NSWC Board Meeting: May 21, 2024

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88129665919?pwd=TEExYUE5OYzRwU1krdlg5MUdRUmZzUT09>

Executive Director's Report

April 23rd, 2024 Board
Meeting





Landowner Restoration Project Updates, and Season Planning

Bear Branch Riparian & Prairie Restoration – Final Season of
Activities



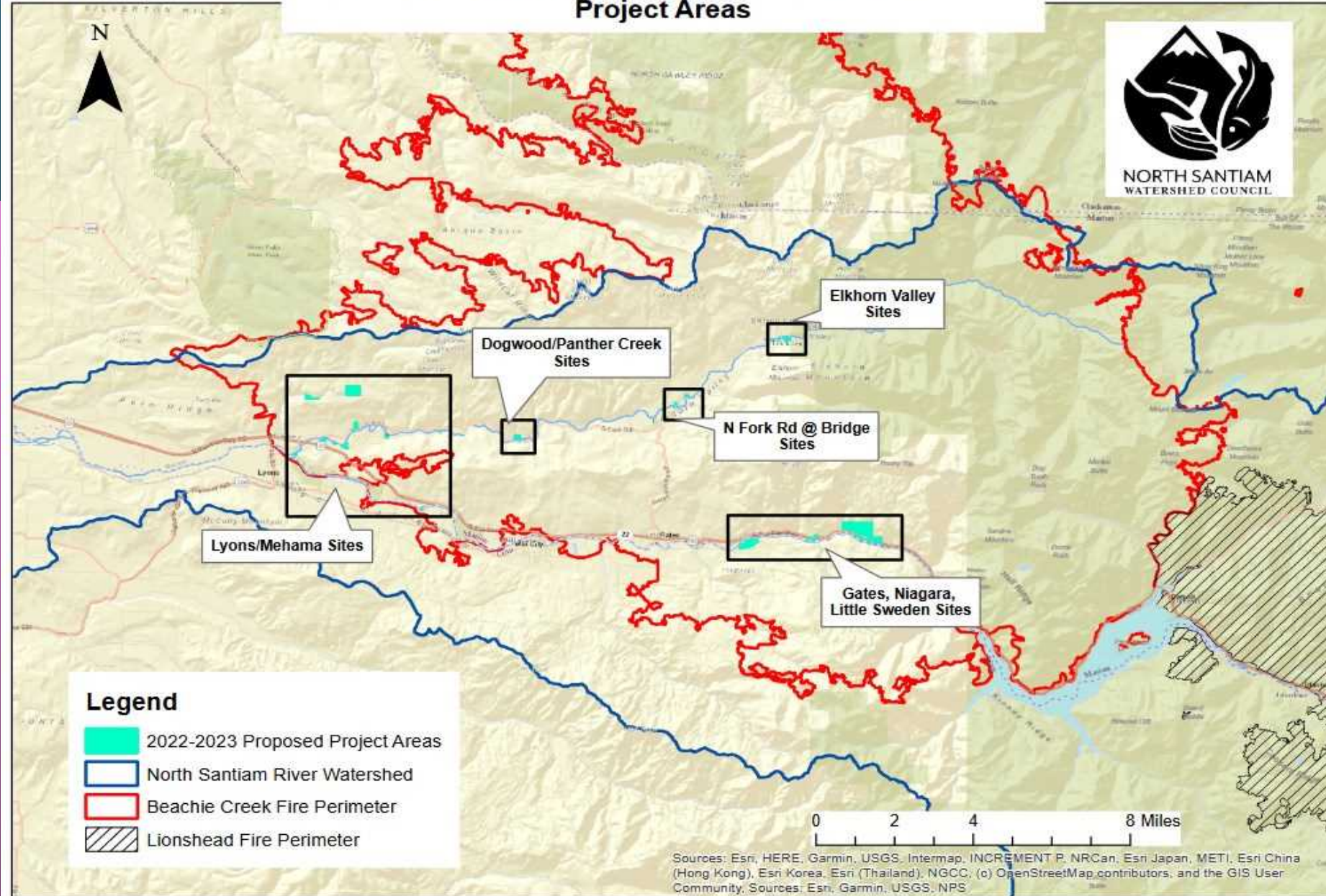
Season Planning:

2020 Post-Wildfire
Riparian
Restoration Project

Early Detection,
Rapid Response
Project

Aquatic Invasives
Phase 3 Project

Beachie Creek Fire Perimeter - North Santiam Watershed Project Areas



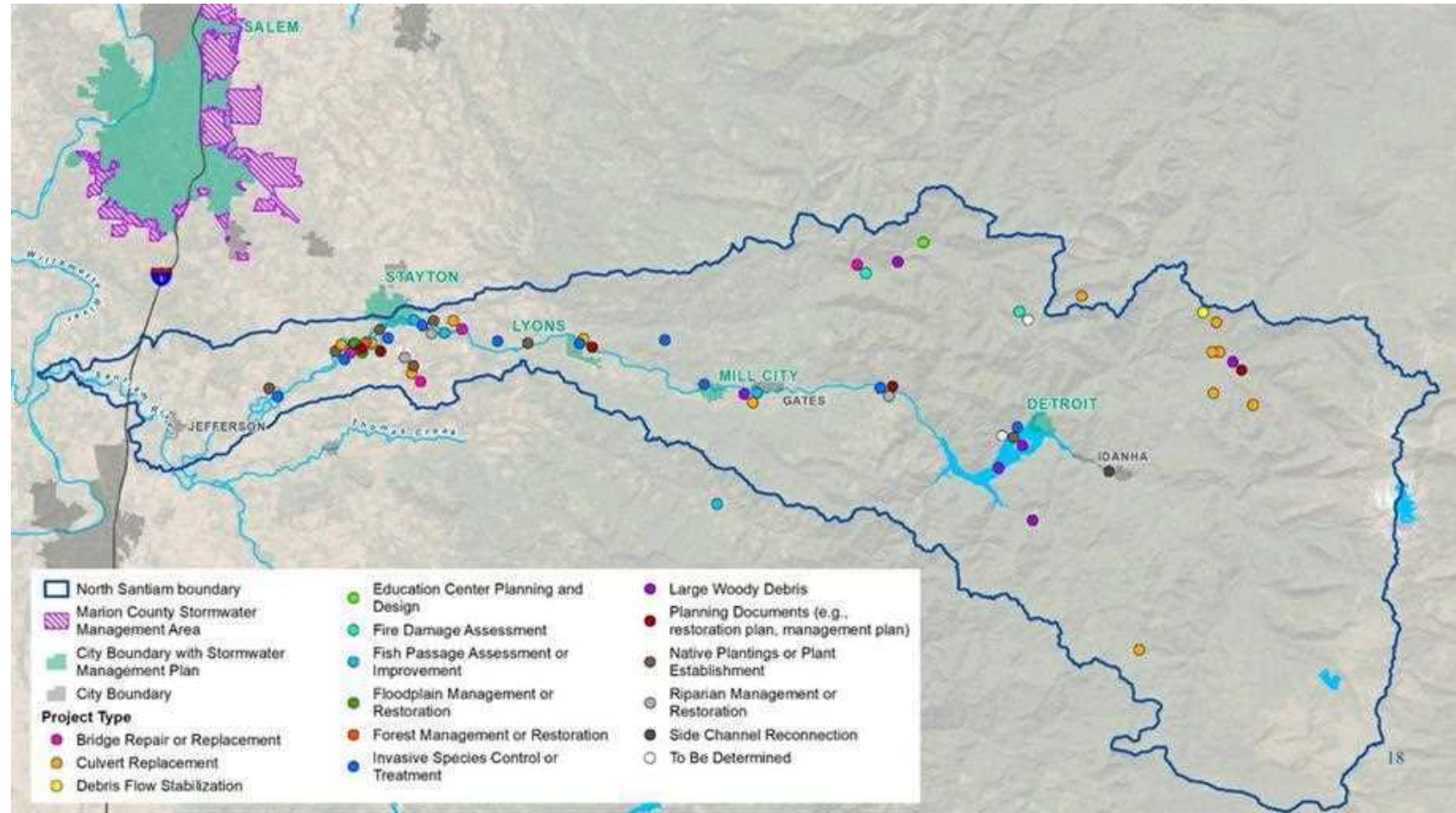
Mill Creek

Marion SWCD –
Conservation
Assistance
Grant, and
Partner
Capacity Funds



Advancing the Partners of the North Santiam

- Next Steps:
 - Possible Theme is Keep Clean Water Clean
 - Priorities might include addressing temperature and mercury TMDLs and sediments to help improve fish habitat
- OWEB grant closes at the end of the year
- City of Salem has offered funding support for FIP application development and coordination with Partners



Collaborative Planning & Engagement



13TH ANNUAL NORTH SANTIAM BASIN SUMMIT "Working Together for a More Resilient Future"

Agenda

April 24, 2024

Anderson Room, Salem Public Library
585 Liberty Street, SE Salem, OR 97301

Time	Topics	Presenters
10:00 am	Meeting Protocols & Agenda	Tammy Menkerud
10:05 am	Welcome	Robert Chandler
10:10 am	Who's in the Room?	Katie Wilson
Morning Session		
Water Management		
10:15 am	US Army Corps of Engineers Updates	Dustin Bengtson
10:45 am	Water Resources Department: Draft Integrated Water Resources Strategy	Crystal Grinnell
11:00 am	BREAK (15 minutes)	
Legislative Updates		
11:15 am	Short Session Update	Michael Martin
11:25 am	Overview of 2023 Legislative Priorities	Bryn Hudson
11:45 am	<i>Panel Discussion:</i> How Water Management Policy and Upcoming Legislation May Impact Resiliency in the Watershed	Panel of morning presenters
Lunch		
12:10 pm	Lunch Provided by City of Salem	Participants invited to provide brief announcements or updates

13th Annual partnership event with City of Salem, focusing on basin resiliency with updates in water management, legislative overview, and with local partners.

Afternoon Session

Community Resiliency		
1:10	City of Salem: Geren Island/Bennett Dam Complex	James Winslow/Rob Keller
1:25	Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde: Current and Upcoming Restoration Projects	Annaliese Ramthun
1:40	USFS: Floodplain Restoration Project on 6 Miles in the Breitenbush Watershed	Mark Richardson
1:55	BREAK (15 minutes)	
2:10	Partners of the North Santiam: The Path Forward	Suzanne de Szoeko Brandin Hilbrandt
2:20	North & South Santiam Watershed Councils: Community Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Efforts	Marie Heuberger Brandin Hilbrandt
2:35	New National Weather Service Tools	Andy Bryant
2:45	Q&A	
2:55	Closing & Thank You	Robert Chandler
3:00 pm	Adjourn	

Other Updates:

- OWEB Spring Cycle 2024, with due date Monday April 29th
 - NS Post Fire Resource Assessment and Restoration Prioritization – Technical Assistance, Resource Assessment and Planning
 - Plan For Your Land – Stakeholder Engagement with Mid-Valley Rivers Connection
 - Two Workshop Series in each respective basin (5 basins)
- Reports for Council of Water Leaders, Partner Capacity and Post-Wildfire Riparian Restoration are due
- Awarded MSWCD Partners Capacity Funding, and USFS Capacity Support for 2024
- Compiling invoices for Funds Requests
 - Council Capacity 2023-2025
 - Partners of the North Santiam
- Drought Contingency Plan Update meetings



North Fork - Breitenbush Floodplain Restoration

- **Goals of the Project: Identified as an Essential Project for our Priority Watershed (2017)**
 - Improve fish habitat for ESA-listed species (spring chinook salmon)
 - Improve fish habitat for all native species – deep pools, log jams, side channels, healthy distribution of sediment size (cobble, gravel, silt)
 - Enhancement of Beaver habitat
 - Improve water quality – stream temperature, sediment filtering
 - Create resilient habitat for the future (climate change, flood mitigation)
 - Raise water table in floodplain - healthy distribution of riparian vegetation
- **Met with Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council and McKenzie Watershed Council**
 - Offered to share resources and support
 - Has shared RFP for Deer Creek Stage 4 Restoration Project to use as a template
 - Big Proponent for these USFS – Watershed Council partnership projects
- **Project Tour on April 19**
 - Board members and technical advisors
 - Great discussions and questions
 - Thank you, Darrin and Mark!



General timeline (with 2025 implementation)

	2024												2025														
	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November					
Agreement development (USFS and NSWC)	█																										
NEPA (USFS)	█																										
Consultation - fish, wildlife, cultural (USFS)	█																										
Permitting (USFS)								█																			
Project design (USFS)	█																										
Contract RFP development (USFS and NSWC)							█																				
Contract RFP (NSWC)											█																
Contract Selection/Award/Final contract (USFS and NSWC)												█															
Pre-implementation layout (USFS and NSWC)														█													
Contract Implementation (USFS and NSWC)																	█										

With considerations of a FIP Application (Focus-Investment Partnership), the application would be due in Fall (~Oct) of 2025. Assuming award of FIP is 6-8months from submission, projects could potentially be as early as Summer 2026 – 2032

We also have pending NOAA Fish Passage co-application with MVRC, which has budgeted Project Manager for Mill Creek dams environmental analysis, outreach and permitting. If awarded, this would take place from July 2024 – June 2026.

Fuel's Reduction & Fire Resiliency updates

- Fuel's Reduction completed on one property in our North Basin.

- Completed through mechanical removal and the help of hair sheep - 1 acre of ladder fuel's removed.

- Applied for 3 habitat kits from Xerces Society

- Four separate landowners applied for Xerces Pollinator Kits (with help or independently) in our basin!

- Scouted one area for potential fuel's reduction, fire restoration, and riparian enhancement.

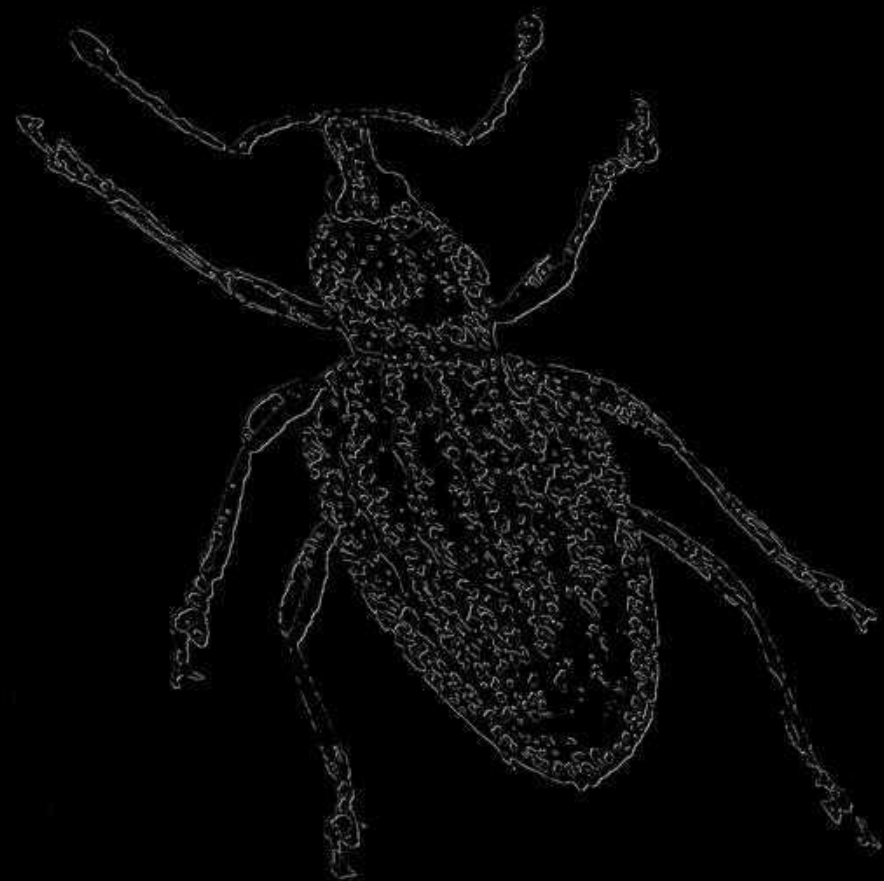
- Public meeting planned for Sweet Home for responding teams' incredible response to the Wiley Creek fire in Jan. 3rd.



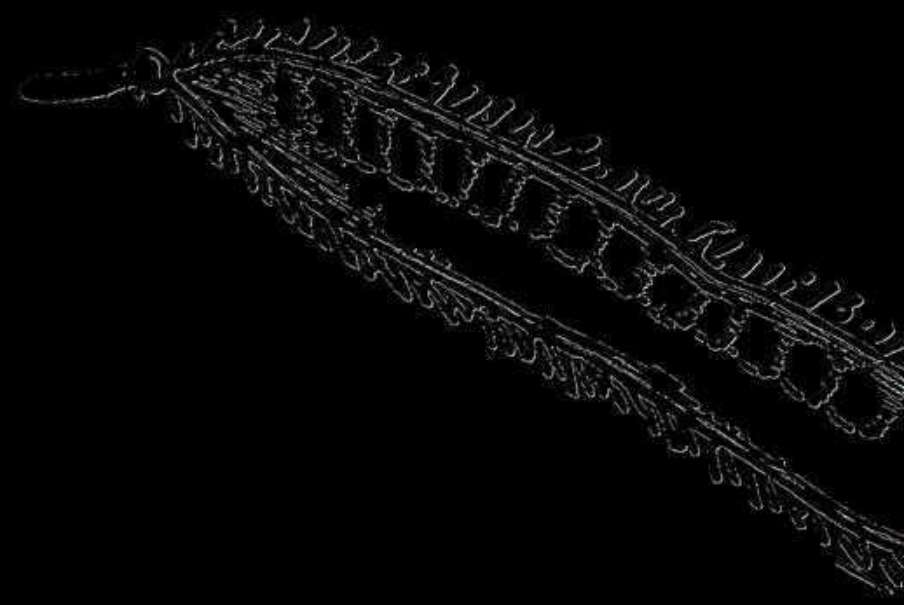
ing
2023.

FROM OFFICE PRESS:

Scotch Broom Seed Weevils coming to the Canyon.



ODA has approved two agent requests from us for Scotch Broom Seed Weevils, which are bugs that will eat the seeds in Scotch Broom pods. They are being mailed to us currently and will be placed by the end of the week.



As do most weevils, Scotch Broom Seed Weevils, they will eat the seeds of the Scotch Broom and help to reduce the seed bank and help to prevent the Scotch Broom from reproducing.



For more information about biocontrol in the State of Oregon, follow this QR code.



While these bugs are eating the seeds of the Scotch Broom, they will also be eating the seeds of the Scotch Broom and helping to reduce the seed bank and help to prevent the Scotch Broom from reproducing.

Policy: Linn County CWRP

Linn County Community Wildfire Protection Plan is adopted on March 26th, 2024.

- Living document
- Continued planning meetings throughout the year with partners
- Potential for funding for Linn County in the future

