

Course Title: Online Land Steward Course, Columbia Gorge

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Course Hosts: Oregon State University Extension, Hood River County
Hood River County Soil and Water Conservation District

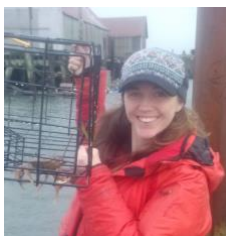
Instructor bios:



Glenn Ahrens is Extension Forester, Oregon State University Extension Service, Clackamas, Marion, and Hood River Counties. Since 2001, his mission for OSU Extension is to improve our knowledge of forest resources and options for sustaining and expanding benefits from forests. He provides educational assistance for landowners, professionals, youth, and the general public. Glenn has a B.S. in Forestry from Humboldt State University (1982) and an M.S. in Forest Science from Oregon State University (1990). In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, hiking, woodworking, gardening, and playing the harmonica.



Heather joined the SWCD in July 2018 as the District Manager. She oversees the operations and financial management of the SWCD and the Hood River Watershed Group and works with landowners to implement projects to protect water quality and habitat. She holds a B.S degree in Fisheries from Humboldt State University and a M.S. in Water Resources Science from the University of Minnesota.



Kris joined the SWCD as the Conservation Technician in 2013. She works with landowners and project partners to educate, protect, and enhance water quality and habitat in the Hood River Basin. She graduated from Northern Arizona University with a degree in Environmental Science and has worked for many partnering agencies (DEQ, ODFW, OSU) prior to working for the district.



Rachel has a bachelor's degree in environmental biology, with a minor in Botany from Humboldt State University and a masters in Plant Biology from Arizona State University. She has worked as a field biologist since in the PNW since 2006. Rachel has been the statewide coordinator of the Land Steward program since 2015. In her free time, you find her outdoors when possible, hiking, camping, canoeing or X-C skiing.

Date	Topic	Activities	Class Location/Mode
Thursday, May 28, 2020 6:30-8:00pm	Overview of course Stewardship Management planning Navigating Canvas	Presentation and Discussion	Zoom online
Week of May 31, 2020	Management Planning	Review online lesson Begin pp 1-4 in Management Plan	Online Self-paced
Week of June 7, 2020	Woodlands & Forests	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Week of June, 14 2020	Wildfire Preparedness	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Week of June 21, 2020	Wildlife Habitat	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Week of June 28, 2020	Streams & Riparian Areas	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Thursday July, 2 6:30-8:00pm	Woodlands, wildfire, wildlife, and riparian areas.	Online class, panel discussion Q&A #1	Zoom online
Week of July 5, 2020	Soils	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Week of July 12, 2020	Pasture Management	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced

Date	Topic	Activities	Class Location/Mode
Week of July 19, 2020	Water & Infrastructure	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Week of July 26, 2020	Economic & Enterprise	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced Office Hours T 10-12
Tuesday, August 4, 6:30-8:00pm	Soils, pasture management, water, small farm enterprises	Online class, panel discussion Q&A #2	Zoom online

Course Description

The Land Steward program from Oregon State University Extension began with an 11 week in-person course where landowners could gain knowledge to care for their own properties and if desired, serve as program volunteers to share information with others. A shorter, hybrid version of the course was developed to better accommodate the needs of students. This course was for educational purposes only and does not have the volunteer option. This year, we are offering a version of that shorter course, but in response to COVID-19 restrictions, the course will be entirely online, with a separate field trip option TBA when conditions allow.

The course includes a series of nine self-paced online lessons, plus three virtual classes where students will meet at the same time, utilizing video conferencing. It is specifically designed for owners of woodlands, small farms, pasture or other rural land who want to manage their property's natural resources more effectively.

In this course, you will gain essential insights into wildfire risk reduction, woodland management, encouraging and controlling wildlife, stream ecology, pasture management, growing healthy soils, small acreage infrastructure, stewardship planning, and more. We recognize that not all of the topics covered will be directly applicable to your property or situation. Nevertheless, we encourage you to interact with all of the course content to develop a broad understanding and perspective on land management.

Throughout the course, you can expect to spend about two hours per week on each self-paced online lesson and related activities. You will also complete a series of resource assessment to get to know your property better and develop a management plan for your property using our landowner-friendly template.

Through the online materials and discussion sessions, you will develop property management and planning skills, see real-life examples of land stewardship in action, network with other landowners, and meet natural resource professionals and learn how they can support you.

We strongly request your active engagement in the online discussion groups each week. Your questions, findings and photographs will provide us “real world” material to discuss during our group sessions with instructors and local natural resource professionals.

Prerequisites

There are no pre-requisites for this course, other than an interest in land management.

Technology Needs

This course is entirely online utilizing the Canvas online learning platform. You will use Canvas to access the syllabus, learning materials, tutorials, discuss issues and/or to display your projects. If you are unsure about your computer's capabilities or you are having problems accessing Canvas, click [here](#) to check your computer compatibility.

Communication & Instructor Support:

- **Help Online:** Please post all course-related questions in the **Help** discussion thread so that the whole class may benefit from our conversation. (Usually, if *you* have a question, someone else in the class does also.)
- **Individual Help:** Instructors are available by email for individual consultation or questions. Phone numbers are listed above.

Course Mode

The course begins with a virtual classroom session in which we will get to know each other, get an overview of the course, and learn about land management planning. Then you will complete five self-paced online modules over the next five weeks, followed by a Thursday virtual class session to review the first set of resource topics. Then you will complete four more online modules, with a second virtual class session following these. Throughout the course, you will be completing a series of assessments of resources on your property. These assessments will lay the foundation for your management plan. You will complete a written plan, using the template provided or your own, by the end of the course.

You must complete and turn in a plan to receive a certificate of completion for the course.



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Hood River County

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Land Steward



Hood River
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CONSERVATION
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