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# Course Title: Land Steward Instructor-led Online Course

# Instructor name: Rachel Werling

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**Office Location**: 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR

Online Instructor:

**Rachel Werling** is the faculty coordinator for the OSU Land Steward Progam and has been with OSU Extension since 2011. She oversees the Land Steward Program. Rachel developed this course with the assistance of a team of volunteers and partners. The Land Steward Program works with a diverse set of community partners to support land stewards to achieve their management goals.

**Course Description**

This oline Land Steward course from Oregon State University Extension features a blend of self-paced online lessons and instructor-led online meetings. This expert-led course is well-suited for busy adults who enjoy online learning and want to know how to improve management of their land. The course includes nine self-paced online lessons, and three virtual online meetings (zoom) with natural resource experts and weekly zoom mentor check-ins to help your progress.

The course is specifically designed for owners of forests, woodlands, small farms or other rural land who want to manage their property's natural resources more effectively. The material was developed for Southwest Oregon but applies to much of the West. The information given here will help you figure out how to get answers about natural resource questions about your land.

In this course, you will gain essential insights into wildfire risk reduction, forest and woodland management, wildlife habitat, 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-three 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 you will develop property management and planning skills. In our online sessions you will meet natural resource experts who can address questions that may come up as you do your assessments.

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

Communication & Instructor Support: Rachel WerlingThis course is designed to be accessible for people with limited time for inperson classes. Our communications are also designed to be remotely accessible.

* **Help Online:** Please post all technical difficulty questions with the online course in the **Help** discussion thread so that the whole class may benefit. (Usually, if *you* have a question, someone else in the class does also.)
* **Online “Discussion”:** Be sure to interact with the discussions at the end of each lesson module. We will gather your questions and comments and use them to help frame our online Zoom “webinar” meetings with natural resource experts.
* **Individual Help**: Rachel Werling is available for individual consultation or questions. Rachel.werling@oregonstate.edu.
* For matters of a personal nature, please email. **I work part time, usually M-Th. If I don’t get right back to you, thank you for your patience!**

Course Mode The course begins with an online introductory Zoom Class. We will have an overview of how the course works, meet our classmates and have a stewardship discussion. Then, you will complete five self-paced online modules over the next five weeks. The canvas modules open on Fridays. After week five, we will have a Wildland Resource Zoom Class with natural resource experts. Following this class, you’ll complete four more online modules, with a final Agricultural Resources Zoom Class in the last week. Throughout the course, you’ll be completing a series of assessments of the resources on your land. These assessments will help you build your management plan. You’ll complete a written plan, using the template provided, by **April 5, 2022**. **You must complete and turn in a plan to receive a certificate of completion for the course.**

# Canvas

This course will be delivered via Canvas where you will access the syllabus, learning materials, tutorials, discuss issues and/or display your projects. If you are having problems accessing Canvas [check your computer compatibility](http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/forms/browsercheck/).

# Winter 2022 Land Steward Online Course Outline & Schedule

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Activities** | **Class Location/Mode** |
| **Jan. 25, 2022**  **6:00-8:00pm** | Overview of course  Stewardship  Navigating Canvas |  | **Zoom** |
| **Zoom Meeting** |
|  |
| Week 1: Jan 25 | Managment Planning | Review online lesson  Begin pp 1-4 in Management Plan (3 weeks to complete) | Online Self-paced |
| Week 2: Feb. 1 | Woodlands & Forests | Review online lessons  Complete resource assessments  Summarize in plan  Finalize your map and preliminary information | Online Self-paced |
|  |
| Week 3: Feb. 8 | Wildfire Preparedness | Online Self-paced |
| Week 4: Feb. 15 | Wildlife Habitat | Online Self-paced |
| Week 5: Feb. 22 | Streams & Riparian Areas | Online Self-paced |
| **\*Mar. 1, 6-8 pm** | **Wildand Natural Resources Zoom Class** | **Zoom Meetings with regional experts** | **Zoom** |
| Week 6: Mar. 1 | Soils | Review online lesson  Complete resource assessments  Summarize in plan | Online Self-paced |
| Week 7: Mar. 8 | Pasture Management | Online Self-paced |
|  | Rural water systems | Online Self-paced |
| Week 8: Mar. 15 |
|  |
| Week 9: Mar. 22 | Economic & Enterprise | Review online lesson  Complete resource assessment  Summarize in plan  Review your vision and goals. Finalize Action Plan | Online Self-paced |
| **\*Mar. 29, 6-8pm** | **Agricultural Resources Zoom Class** | **Zoom Meetings with regional experts** | **Zoom** |
| **April. 5, 2022** |  | **Management plan Due** |  |

\* Resource Zoom Meetings: At these zoom meeting you will connect with agency experts for natural resource topics and have an opportunity to ask questions about land assessment questions. Links will be shared via email and in Canvas. Sessions will be recorded.

# Learning Resources

All of the needed learning resources for the course are available online within the Canvas course structure. The main resource is the self-paced **online lesson**. Within each lesson there are also suggested supplementary resources to review. Additionally, there is a **Resource Library** for each lesson within the Canvas course structure.

Technology SupportIf you experience difficulties, errors, or problems in Canvas, please click the **Help** button located at the bottom of the left sidebar within your Canvas course. Tier 1 technical support is available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you have difficulties accessing your course in Canvas, please **contact PACE** (OSU’s Professional and Continuing Edcuation unit) at (541)737-4197 or email [pace@oregonstate.edu](mailto:pace@oregonstate.edu). PACE is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Pacific time.

# Measurable Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

* Identify good stewardship practices for each of the following topics:
  + Forests and Woodlands
  + Wildfire preparedness
  + Wildlife habitat
  + Streams and riparian areas
  + Pastures
  + Soils
  + Water systems
* Conduct an assessment of the conditions of each of these resources topics and identify resource concerns, healthy conditions, and potential follow-up actions.
* Create a management plan for the property to help meet goals and improve resource stewardship.

**Zoom Meetings**

We will have three live Zoom classes. A few zoom pointers:

* **You don’t need a Zoom account** to access these meetings. Just click on the link provided by your instructor when you receive it.
* **You will be let into a waiting room until your instructor lets you in.**
* Once you are in you will be muted in audio and video. Controls to unmute are in the lower left of your computer screne.
* A phone number is always provided to call in to the meeting rather than using a computer.

# Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities

PACE seeks to accommodate the diverse experiences and learning styles of the students. Accessibility, accommodations are collaborative efforts between learners and PACE. If you require accommodations please email [pace@oregonstate.edu](mailto:pace@oregonstate.edu).

# Conduct in the Online Classroom and Field Sessions

Discussions of land management philosophy and practices sometimes bring out strong feelings and opinions. Exchanges of views are welcome when done in a civil manner. Participants will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded themselves. Disrespectful behavior to others (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors in the course (such as persistent and unreasonable demands for time and attention both in and out of the classroom) is unacceptable.

# Netiquette

While online interaction between participants is not a requirement of this course, students may want to post questions and/or offer responses via the online discussion forum. This is entirely voluntary and at the discretion of the participant. In an online classroom, your primary means of communication is written. The written language has many advantages: more opportunity for reasoned thought, more ability to go in-depth, and more time to think through an issue before posting a comment. However, written communication also has its disadvantages. This includes a lack of the face-to-face signaling that occurs through body language, intonation, pausing, facial expressions and gestures. As a result, please recognize the possibility of miscommunication and compose your comments in a clear, positive, supportive, and constructive manner. Please be sure to be professional by demonstrating tolerance for diverse points of view and give each other the benefit of the doubt about any unclear intended meanings.

Evaluation  
Course evaluation results are extremely important and are used to help improve this course and the learning experience of future students. In the last module, there is a link to a survey regarding the course to assess the effectiveness of the program. We value your feedback on this survey!

If you have feedback for improving the course, either during this session or for subsequent sessions, we would like to know. To provide direct feedback, please email [pace@oregonstate.edu](mailto:pace@oregonstate.edu).