



## Oregon State University Professional and Continuing Education

**Course Title:** 2024 Hybrid Online Land Steward Course

**Online Instructor(s):** Rachel Werling and Nicole Smith

**Instructor phone:** (541) 776-7371 x 08416

**Office Location:** 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR 97502

### Instructors:

**Rachel Werling** is the faculty coordinator for the OSU Land Steward program. The Land Steward program works with a diverse set of community partners to support land stewards to achieve their management goals. [rachel.werling@oregonstate.edu](mailto:rachel.werling@oregonstate.edu)

**Nicole Smith** is the educational program assistant with the Land Steward program and will be helping to coordinate the hybrid online course. [nicole.smith@oregonstate.edu](mailto:nicole.smith@oregonstate.edu)

**Glenn Ahrens** is the Extension Forester for Clackamas, Marion and Hood River County and will be co-coordinating the Columbia River Gorge In-person Intro class and field classes for that region. [glenn.ahrens@oregonstate.edu](mailto:glenn.ahrens@oregonstate.edu)

**Ann Harris** is the Open Campus Education Coordinator and will be co-coordinating the Columbia River Gorge In-Person Intro class and field classes for that region. [ann.harris@oregonstate.edu](mailto:ann.harris@oregonstate.edu)

### Course Description:

This Hybrid Online Land Steward course from Oregon State University Extension features a blend of self-paced online lessons, instructor-led online meetings, and in-person field days. 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 an introductory class (offer in-person or Zoom), nine self-paced online lessons, weekly mentor check-in sessions via Zoom, and two in-person field days sessions with natural resource experts (*if registered for the field day option*).

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 clarify your goals for your land, make a plan to achieve them and learn where to go for help.

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 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, your land assessments, and management plan creation. If you explore all the optional links and resources, it will take more time. The introductory class is two hours and **field days are about seven hours long each**. You will complete a series of resource assessment to get to know the conditions on your property and develop a management plan for your land using our landowner-friendly template.

Through the online materials you will develop property management and planning skills. Take advantage of weekly one hour mentor check-ins via Zoom. During our field days you will visit multiple example sites and meet natural resource experts who can address questions that may come up as you complete your assessments for your own land.

### Prerequisites:

There are no pre-requisites for this course.

### Communication & Instructor Support:

This course is designed to be accessible for people with limited time for in person 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 mentor check-in meeting.
- **Individual Help:** Reach out to Nicole Smith with individual questions. [nicole.smith@oregonstate.edu](mailto:nicole.smith@oregonstate.edu).
- For matters of a personal nature, please email. **We work part time. If we don’t get right back to you, thank you for your patience!**

### Course Mode:

The course begins with an Introductory Class, offered in person **in Hood River County (April 24), in Jackson County (April 25)**, or online **via Zoom (April 26)**. This session will include an overview of how the course works, how to use the online material, and an opportunity to meet our classmates and have a stewardship discussion. During the course, you will complete nine self-paced online modules over the next nine weeks. The canvas modules open on **Wednesday at 8pm**. Each week on **Thursday at 6 pm there will be a mentor check-in via zoom** about the previous week’s assessment topic.

**For people who sign up for the Field Days, we will provide two field days (~9 am – 4 pm)** with natural resource experts to experience some of what we have learned online in the field. **Field days are available in Jackson County and Hood River County.**

Participants are welcome to join the region most relevant to their property location, given they have registered for that option.

Throughout the course, you’ll be completing a series of assessments about the resources on your land. These will help you identify what you have, what you want, and how to make it happen. You’ll complete a written plan, using the template provided, by **June 27, 2024**. **You must complete and turn in a plan to receive a certificate of completion for the course.**

## 2024 Land Steward Online Course Outline & Schedule

Date	Topic	Activities	Class Location/Mode
<b>April 24 6-8pm</b>	Overview of course, Navigating Canvas and Stewardship Activity <i>(students attend one session)</i>	In-person	Hood River Extension 2990 Experiment Station Dr. Hood River, OR 97031
<b>April. 25 6-8pm</b>		In-person	SOREC 569 Hanley Rd. Central Point, OR 97520
<b>or April 26 6-8pm</b>		or online via Zoom	or Zoom (Link to be sent to students)
Week 1: April 25	Management Planning <i>(mentor zoom 6-7 pm on following week: May 2)</i>	Review online lesson Begin pp 1-4 in Management Plan (3 weeks to complete)	Online Self-paced
Week 2: May. 2 (Planning: Mentor Zoom at 6 pm)	Woodlands & Forests	Review online lessons, Complete resource assessments, Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Week 3: May 9 (Forests: Mentor Zoom at 6 pm)	Wildfire Preparedness		Online Self-paced
Week 4: May 16 (Wildfire: Mentor Zoom at 6 pm)	Wildlife Habitat		Online Self-paced
Week 5: May 23 (Wildlife: Mentor Zoom at 6 pm)	Streams & Riparian Areas		Online Self-paced
Week 6: May 30 (Riparian: Mentor Zoom at 6 pm)	Soils	Review online lessons, Complete resource assessments, Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Week 7: June 6 (Soils: Mentor Zoom at 6 pm)	Pasture Management		Online Self-paced
Week 8: June 13 (Pasture: Mentor Zoom at 6 pm)	Rural water systems		Online Self-paced
Week 9: June 20 (Rural Water: Mentor Zoom at 6 pm)	Economic & Enterprise		Online Self-paced
<b>June 1, 9-4pm</b>	Wildland Natural Resources Field Day <b>Jackson County</b>	with regional experts	<b>Field Day (location TBD)</b>
<b>June 8, 9-4pm</b>	Wildland Natural Resources Field Day <b>Hood River County</b>	with regional experts	<b>Field Day (location TBD)</b>
<b>June 22, 9-4pm</b>	Agricultural Resources Field Day <b>Jackson County</b>	with regional experts	<b>Field Day (location TBD)</b>
<b>June 22, 9-4pm</b>	Agricultural Resources Field Day <b>Hood River County</b>	with regional experts	<b>Field Day (location TBD)</b>
<b>June. 27, 2024</b>		<b>Management Plan Due</b>	

This course is offered through Oregon State University Professional and Continuing Education.  
Contact us to to learn more! Email: [pace@oregonstate.edu](mailto:pace@oregonstate.edu) | Tel: (541) 737-4197 | [pace.oregonstate.edu](http://pace.oregonstate.edu)

### Canvas:

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

### 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 Support

If 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 Education 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 zoom check-in meetings during this course. 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 scene.
- 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).