



Oregon State University
**Professional and
Continuing Education**

Course Title: Land Steward Instructor-led Online Course

Instructor name: Rachel Werling

Instructor email: rachel.werling@oregonstate.edu;

Instructor phone: (541) 776-7371 x 211

Office Location: 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR

Instructor bio:

Rachel Werling is the faculty coordinator for the OSU Land Steward Program and has been with OSU Extension since 2011. She oversees the Land Steward fall training, volunteers and mentors, community education classes, and Living on Your Land conference. Rachel developed this course with the assistance of a Land Steward advisory committee of volunteers and partners. The Land Steward Program works with a diverse set of community partners working to support land stewards to achieve their management goals.

Rachel grew up in Minnesota on a family dairy farm. After studying environmental biology and botany at Humboldt State University in California, she served as a forestry volunteer in the Peace Corps in Ecuador. She lived in Oaxaca, Mexico for twelve years where she stewarded three acres of land, ran a family business, and raised two daughters. Through Arizona State University, Rachel completed her Master's degree in botany while in Oaxaca. Her thesis is an illustrated flora of native trees and shrubs. Prior to the Land Stewards, Rachel worked for OSU Extension coordinating a watershed education program. She has been teaching natural resource education in Oregon since 2008. Since moving to Oregon, Rachel has walked many wild miles of land as a professional field biologist performing inventories and assessments for plants, birds and mammals in the Pacific Northwest. She is chair of the Native Plant Society of Oregon's Siskiyou Chapter. In her free time, you'll find her outdoors when possible, hiking, camping, canoeing, x-c skiing, and always keeping an eye on what the plants, birds, land stewards and other creatures are up to.

Course Description

This online 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 “webinar” online meetings with natural resource experts.

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 course is centered in Jackson County Oregon, but many of the concepts are transferable to much of the west. The information given here will help you figure out how to get answers about natural resource questions that may be different in your area.

In this course, you will gain essential insights into wildfire risk reduction, forest and 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 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.

Prerequisites

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

Communication & Instructor Support: Rachel Werling

This course is designed to be accessible for folks with limited time for inperson classes. Our communications are also designed to be remotely accessible. Below

- **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 is available by phone or email for individual consultation or questions. Rachel.werling@oregonstate.edu.
- For matters of a personal nature, please email or call Rachel. **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 Zoom meeting which, get an overview of the course and get to know each other. Then you will complete five self-paced online modules over the

next five weeks, followed by Zoom session with some natural resource experts to review the first set of resource topics and answer questions that may have come up during your assessments. Then you'll complete four more online modules, with a second Zoom session following these. Throughout the course you'll be completing a series of assessments of resources on your property. These assessments will help you build your management plan. You'll complete a written plan, using the template provided or your own, by **November 30, 2020. 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](#).

Fall 2020 Land Steward Online Course Outline & Schedule

Date	Topic	Activities	Class Location/Mode
Friday, September 11, 2020 6:00-8:00pm	Overview of course Stewardship Navigating Canvas	Zoom Meeting	Zoom
Week of Sept. 14, 2020	Mananagment Planning	Review online lesson Begin pp 1-4 in Management Plan	Online Self-paced
Week of Sept. 21 2020	Woodlands & Forests	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Week of Sept. 28 2020	Wildfire Preparedness	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Week of Oct. 5, 2020	Wildlife Habitat	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Week of Oct. 12, 2020	Streams & Riparian Areas	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Thur. Oct., 15 2020 6-8 p Zoom	Zoom Meeting: Woodlands, wildfire, wildlife, riparian	Zoom Meeting	Zoom
Week of Oct. 19, 2020	Soils	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Week of Oct. 26, 2020	Pasture Management	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Week of Nov. 2, 2020	Water & Infrastructure	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Week of Nov. 9, 2020	Economic & Enterprise	Review online lesson Complete resource assessments Summarize in plan	Online Self-paced
Friday Nov 13, 2020 6-8	Zoom Meeting: Soils, pasture mgmt., water, rural enterprises	Zoom Meeting	Zoom
Nov. 30, 2020		Management plan Due	

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

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. 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 resources:
 - Woodlands
 - Streams and riparian areas
 - Wildlife
 - Wildfire preparedness
 - Soils
 - Pastures
 - Water resources
- Conduct an assessment of the conditions of each of these resources topics and identify potential resource concerns, healthy conditions, and potential follow-up actions.
- Create a management plan for your property to help you meet your 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 screen.
- 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.

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.