

Help save an Applegate Valley Historical Society building

BY BARBARA NIEDERMEYER

The Applegate Valley Historical Society (AVHS) was started in 1989 by Myrtle Krouse to move and save the old Grange Store, an 18- by 18-foot building that used to be about two miles out North Applegate Road from Williams Highway.

The Southern Oregon Historical Society acquired the building when the Pioneer Village was disbanded. Myrtle got a few people involved to form a local historical society. They started the process to get the building moved from Jacksonville. Now, where to put it? Roar and Mary Kjar had property in downtown Applegate and were generous enough to deed a small piece to the AVHS. An adjoining landowner, John Pernoll, also gave a piece of land to allow parking on the corner of Highway 238 and North Applegate Road.

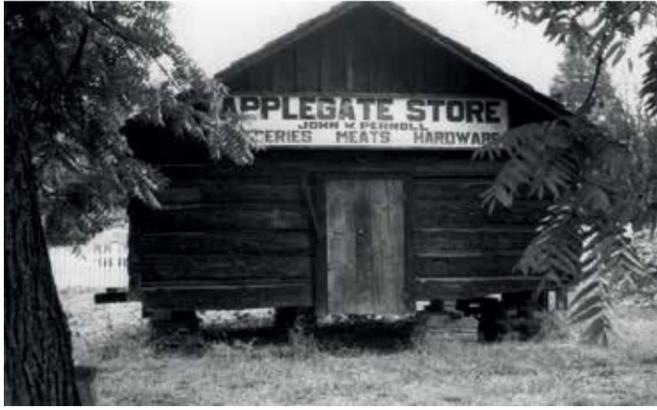
The Applegate Lions were a big part in helping to get the property ready as well as moving and placing the building. Many people donated their professional services to get it accomplished. We are forever grateful to them.

Granted, for a few years the museum was closed, due to the lack of funding and volunteers. During that time members discussed what should be done. How are we going to do it? When can we do it?

It was brought to our attention, from the adjoining landowner, that the deed from Kjar, dated June 3, 1992, says, that should AVHS property “no longer be used as a historical site, as concerns the William Pernoll Store, or should AVHS cease to exist, then this grant shall revert and revert in the then owner of record of Parcel 3.”

Well, we are still in existence and have been trying to move forward.

If we were to “cease to exist,” then the building and anything we own would



The “Grange Store” was on North Applegate Road. When it was moved into Pioneer Village it was known as the “Applegate Store,” pictured above in Jacksonville in the 1980s.

revert back to the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

Over the years, AVHS has been a member of the Southern Oregon Historical Society/Jackson County Historical County. We have always paid our state and local fees to retain the historical status and remain involved.

Now, our goal is to move the building again to a more visible and community friendly location across the street. The property has been approved by the county already. We are in the process of following the county regulations. All of this takes time and money.

We have been in contact with A Greater Applegate, and they will help where they can.

We are asking for donations at this time to help make our move. We would welcome anyone that is willing to help us out, be it with ideas, money, or equipment. At this time our goal is \$30,000-plus.

Donations can be sent to AVHS, 3120 Thompson Creek Road, Applegate, OR 97530.

Let me know if you need a tax-deductible receipt.

We feel this is a good cause. Help us keep Myrtle Krouse’s dream alive and preserve the history of our area, such as who settled here, the mining that went on, and how things got their names, just to name a few.

You can become a member. The

cost of a single membership is \$25. The cost for a couple is \$40, and for a family, \$50. Membership is good for one year. Send to the address above. Include your name(s), address, phone number, and email address. Please print.

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The old Applegate Store in the early 2000s after it was moved out of Jacksonville.



APWC crews placed logs on the floodplain in an effort to reconnect it to Cheney Creek.

Improving life for fish on Cheney Creek

BY NATHAN GEHRES

As we face a drier future, how do we keep the water in our streams and protect the fish we love, such as salmon, steelhead, and lamprey, that are so important to our region? One way to preserve the water on the landscape longer is to mimic natural processes like adding large woody debris (LWD) to the upper reaches of our creeks and rivers. The addition of LWD or



These Douglas fir logs were transported from the Provolt Recreation Site to Cheney Creek and “keyed” into trees on the stream bank to hold them in place.

logs improves the stream habitat in a variety of ways: by forming pools, slowing the water down during times of high flows, reducing erosion, increasing food sources for fish (aquatic bugs), retaining more of the gravel needed for spawning, and allowing the groundwater to recharge.

Historically, beavers and vegetation mortality in dense riparian (streamside) forests created stream complexity by introducing logs and woody debris into the stream. Beavers have largely been removed from our area, and past logging practices in the riparian forests have proven to be detrimental by eliminating the big conifer trees that are the most resistant to rot. Red alders, cottonwoods, and bigleaf maples, although important components in streams, tend to break down more quickly and are generally smaller than conifers when recruited as LWD. Complexity also creates opportunities for riparian forests to act as sponges, retaining groundwater and increasing water availability from the pools that form after the logs are placed in the stream.

The Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council (APWC) partnered with the local hydrologist of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and a BLM fisheries biologist to enhance the instream habitat on the federally managed section of Cheney Creek. Due to limited floodplain connectivity, this creek has experienced significant habitat degradation caused by drought conditions and decreased water storage. This project builds on the BLM’s 2012 successful large-wood placements. Fish surveys in Cheney Creek have identified populations of coho, Chinook salmon, and steelhead, and recent onsite planning allowed BLM fish biologists to observe adult coho carcasses, along with some successful spawning redds (fish nests).

This joint effort to improve Cheney Creek’s instream habitat through a Large Wood Project began in the spring of 2022. Mitt Dietrich Construction harvested over

100 Douglas fir trees from the Provolt Recreation Site. The trees are harvested by “tree tipping.” The contractor uses a large excavator to “tip” the trees in such a way that the roots are retained, allowing the trees from the retired seed production site to benefit the watershed. In mid-July Tom Maddox, from 4M Timber in Ruch, placed 96 logs at 10 different stream sites. The logs were “keyed” into trees on the streambank and laced together to secure them in place. Ballast logs were used to anchor the structures. Large woody debris was also placed in the floodplain to connect streamflow with the surrounding groundwater. The recharged groundwater should provide cooler water temperatures into the summer season. The log placement went quickly, and all work was completed by early August.

The log jam locations were selected to address sections of channel that showed significant streambank erosion due to high-water velocities, large substrate, and limited habitat complexity, as well as for high likelihood of groundwater recharge through improved floodplain connectivity. Constructing log jams in these select locations will enable the stream to retain more water into the surrounding floodplain soil, while also reducing the amount of erosion. By creating pools and alcoves, the log jams also promoted higher-quality habitat for juvenile and adult coho.

Later this fall, APWC and BLM staff will return to the site to cover any disturbed areas with straw and native grass seed (provided by the BLM) and plant some native riparian plant species in areas that have been heavily impacted. This project was made possible through Federal Title II Secure Rural Schools funding.

With this work, we hope to restore the stream to a more natural flow, providing habitat for the fish we all value.

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VOLUNTEER

OPPORTUNITIES ARE ABUNDANT

Cantrall Buckley Park
Provolt Recreation Site
ROCS Community Garden

Look for opportunities on our Website, Facebook Page and the Applegate Connect Calendar
www.applegatepartnership.org/upcoming-events
apparks@apwc.info or 541-899-9982
a 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit Organization