

## Dixonville Log Pond Wetland Conversion

### Former mill log pond will be converted

Built in 1955, the Dixonville mill included a large log pond used for log storage from 1956 until the mid-1990s. By 2003, the mill had been decommissioned and the structures demolished.

Roseburg Forest Products owns the property and currently is reconstructing the former log pond on the Dixonville property near Roseburg. The project will restore the historic through-flow of Livingston Creek and convert the 100-acre pond to wetlands. The purpose of this fact sheet is to describe the kinds of construction and mitigation activities expected while the project is underway and to provide you with appropriate contacts if you have questions.

### Site location and characteristics

The former lumber milling site (and log pond) is located at the confluence of North Fork Deer Creek and Livingston Creek, about 5 miles east of Roseburg. The address is 2320 Buckhorn Road. When the mill was operating, it included several large storage and processing buildings, concrete decks and a retaining wall for vehicle traffic, gravel log decks, and an earthen berm to create the large log pond. The land adjacent the former mill and log pond has been managed as pasture for several decades.

### What is being done?

Roseburg Forest Products will be changing the log pond and surrounding area in the following ways:

- Draw down the pond from its current 100-acre size to about a 20-acre size;
- Salvage woody debris and remove non-woody debris from the log pond;
- Grade the site to create a wetland drainage network using heavy equipment including bulldozers, belly scrapers, graders, and dump trucks;
- Slope new edges so they are not so steep;
- Construct a new gravel road to access the new spillway;
- Create a marsh by routing Livingston Creek into multiple subtle side channels to disperse water over a large area;
- Re-establish a diverse native plant community comprised of a mixture of native grasses, shrubs, and trees.

- Create 150- to 200-ft-wide wetland fringe around interior edge of the pond.



*Dixonville Log Pond in 2004*

The final pond elevation will be about 15 feet lower than the existing pond. This means that a large volume of material on the south end of the site will be removed for re-use in grading.

### What is the purpose of the project?

Roseburg Forest Products would like to sell the former mill properties in Green and Winchester for industrial development. Because both of these sites have log ponds that will need to be filled or partially filled prior to development, the law requires that they create or enhance wetlands elsewhere to “compensate” for the loss of the ponds. The Dixonville conversion project will create wetlands that will satisfy that law.

The Green and Winchester industrial developments also would allow Douglas County to market to large-scale industrial customers who require direct access to existing rail lines and highways. New industries could bring much needed jobs to the county and help the county’s economy. These developments would not be able to occur without the Dixonville wetlands-creation project.

### Didn’t the Division of State Lands (DSL) recently stop a similar project in Ramp Canyon?

DSL issued a cease-and-desist order to a nearby housing expansion project in the Ramp Canyon area just off Deer Creek. The order was issued for fill-removal violations because the construction project allegedly re-routed and ripped portions of a stream near the development without any permits.



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Although it is also on Deer Creek, the Dixonville project is unrelated to the housing expansion project. Roseburg Forest Products applied for a fill-removal permit from the Army Corps of Engineers and DSL in January 2005, and submitted detailed plans on how they would execute the project so that it would minimize harm to the creek.

**I heard the Dixonville log pond water is toxic; won't it hurt the stream if water is released from the pond?**

The Dixonville log pond has been releasing water to North Fork Deer Creek for decades. We have no reports that the log pond has caused any harm to the stream such as a fish kill.

In the early 1980s, DEQ required the mill to obtain a permit for their log pond discharge. The permit specifies that they can only release water when there is enough water in North Fork Deer Creek to reduce any potential impact. The permit also specifies and that suspended solids in the water, like silts and clays, must be below permit limits.

Roseburg Forest Products submitted the results of an environmental investigation of the site to

DEQ's Cleanup Program in July, 2005. DEQ concluded that no further investigation or cleanup was needed because the laboratory results indicated that the site met DEQ's standards.

**Is it true that the pond water contains hemlock poison?**

While the log pond may have contained logs of the hemlock tree species, the poison of the same name is found in an entirely unrelated invasive weed called Poison Hemlock, which is related to the parsley, carrot, caraway, and parsnip families of plants.

**For more information please contact:**

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