



County bans sale of butterfly bushes

By Deborah Yates, Staff Writer

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Another noxious weed?

How to use soil and water efficiently is a problem faced by both urban and rural dwellers. Presenters at Thursday's Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District annual meeting discussed how careful management of land and water is important to all land owners.

Land clearing and proper water management makes property more productive, said David Chain, district conservationist from the U.S.D.A's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Some landowners add features to their cleared land to attract wildlife to their property, he said. Such features included carefully constructed natural wood piles offering protection for birds and small wildlife, while piles of medium-size flat stones provide a place for reptiles to sunbathe during warm weather, or to hide from predators.

Butterfly bush bad

Assistant Conservation Technician Laura Smith gave a presentation on the noxious weed survey she is conducting in Douglas County.

"The three varieties of knotweed that are common on the Smith and Umpqua rivers are spreading," Smith said. "People living along the Umpqua and Smith Rivers should carefully monitor their land for the appearance of these noxious weeds."

Smith noted that butterfly bushes are moving up the Smith and Umpqua rivers.

"We are now finding butterfly bushes in areas where they should not be," Smith said. "For this reason, Douglas County has recently banned the sale of butterfly bushes."

Conservation technician and district manager Rhonda Black talked about the history of the district and discussed what a conservation district sought to accomplish.

The monthly meeting followed, with business items including:

Sending Smith to the 2010 Oregon Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium, Dec. 7-9, in Corvallis.

The need to create a tax base for the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District to ensure stable funding for the district.