

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

January, 2018

What's Involved In A Logging Operation? ***January 23, North Plains Fire Station, 7:00pm***

The three-legged stool of forestry (social, environmental, economic), is familiar to most of us as important for a viable, sustainable forest community. In most small woodland owner's management plan, the social and environmental legs get yearly attention as we strive to keep our forests healthy and follow best management practices. The economic leg will be shored up less often, but will likely result in a harvest at some point. This doesn't come often to most of us, but when it does, it can be fun and rewarding.

How to plan for all types of harvest and what is involved will be the focus of our January



Every logging operation needs a little supervision

23rd meeting. Marcus Bigsby and John Ragsdale are both advertisers in the Forest Forum and have volunteered to give the logger's perspective on harvest options and considerations. How do you approach a job? Do you want to thin or patch-cut? What is the best equipment to use and where? Should you pile slash or scatter? Where to place skid trails and landings? How do you market your logs? When is the best time to harvest? How does the landowner best supervise the operation?

Forestry is dynamic – things change all the time. This applies to harvest, too. Even if you have harvested before, logging technology, markets, site conditions, and logging goals may be different from one harvest to another. These factors can make a significant difference in the feasibility, cost, and results of the logging operation. So, come and learn from Marcus and John. They will give insight into current markets, technology and much more. There will be time for questions, too.

PLANT SALE, SAT. MARCH 10, 9:00AM – 3:00PM, HILLSBORO ARMORY
PLANNING HAS ALREADY BEGUN FOR THIS FUN EVENT THAT BRINGS URBAN AND RURAL PEOPLE TOGETHER AND RAISES MONEY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AT OSU'S COLLEGE OF FORESTRY. WE NEED YOUR HELP! SIGN UP AT THE JANUARY 23RD MEETING.

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WCSWA Website

www.wcswa.com

Website Manager: Michael Morgan
Contact Tom Nygren or Bonnie Shumaker for web postings and information.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>

Forest Forum Newsletter

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The Tree Farm Tradin' Post

A free service to our members: List tree farm items/land to buy, sell, or trade. Contact Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472. Got a tool or piece of equipment you don't need any more? Or maybe you are looking for tools, equipment, property, or materials? You can place a free advertisement in Forest Forum. Another way for tree farmers to help each other! (3 month limit)

For Sale: Chains for chain saws: 325 pitch .050 gauge, 78 drivers/links, fit 20" bar. One brand new, \$20 (sells for \$30), 3 almost new (been sharpened 1-2 times), \$15 each. 3 well-used, free with purchase. Call Richard Hanschu 503-539-5988.

Wanted:

1) A few short (2-3') rounds of recently-felled Doug fir, cedar or hemlock 16-20" diam. with bark intact (for making table tops). Call Miles, 503-621-9867 or 971-285-6960.

2) **WCSWA** needs you! Please consider the following: Join the Program Committee or help keep our social media up-to-date. Contact a Program Committee member or any Officer or Board Member on page 2.

Event Calendar

January	23	What's Involved in a Logging Operation?	7 pm, North Plains Fire Hall. (See page 1)
February	27	Forest Land Assessment and Surveying	7 pm, North Plains Fire Hall
March	10	WCSWA Native Plant Sale	9:00am – 3:00pm, Hillsboro Armory
	27	US Survey of Forestland	7 pm, North Plains Fire Hall
April	24	Chehalem Ridge Nature Park Update	7 pm, North Plains Fire Hall
July	21	Tree Farmer of the Year Tour and Picnic SAVE THE DATE!	Rich and Connie Gaebel's Tree Farm, Mountindale

Leadership Notes

Happy New Year to you all. I hope your holidays were filled with good things and you kept warm and cozy. The reason for the picture is to exude warmth and also to show off the wonderful metal wood box that Bob made. I had asked for this present (actually for quite some years), and this was the year it all came together.

Like many woodland owners, we heat our home with wood. Restocking the wood box is a never-ending job in winter, and we have made do with a wooden box, that started its life as a camping box, for many years. We've always been careful about sparks from the wood stove, but it just didn't seem safe having wood that close to flame. I searched high and low on the internet for a metal wood box and only found small ones or open sided ones that would be messy.

Bob jumped on my request this year and headed to Forest Grove Iron to see if they could make one. They were not enthusiastic, but quoted \$1,000. So, Bob drew up design plans and had the metal cut. He tacked the pieces together with his welder, but knowing his welding lacks aesthetic beauty, he called upon a friend who is a retired welder. He gave the box a professional look, and Bob painted it to match the stove for less than one-tenth the quote. It has angled corners, a space for newspaper and a rounded rim of cold-rolled steel that also serves as a comfortable aide for standing back up after feeding the fire. I'm delighted and so is Bob.



Outside, we tackled some small burn piles in our now-thinned forest, and it looks much better. I also managed to sow some wildflower seeds in one thinned area that was converted from pasture twenty years ago. It has virtually no understory plants except for the weeds that came up after thinning. I've been watching and waiting those twenty years for understory to appear and have been rewarded with only a few sword ferns along the outside edge. Not content to have weeds take over and convinced it was too late to spray the weeds, I flagged trees that didn't have weeds around them, bought wildflower seeds and spread them in the open areas. Directions on the seed packet stated you could sow the seeds after the first frost in fall, or in the spring. I plan to do both. The other option is to wait for seeds to be dropped by birds or blown in from surrounding forest. I'll take those, too.

WCSWA news is that our two new Board Members, Cathy Dummer and Kent Grewe officially started their job on January 1st. The first Board Meeting will be January 16. I will be reporting on what was accomplished in the February Leadership Notes. At our monthly meetings, you can spot WCSWA Officers and Board Members by their colorful name tag. Please let us know how you would like to get involved and/or share your ideas.

Our monthly meetings are at the North Plains Fire Station on the fourth Tuesday of the month and start at 7:00pm. Our January 23rd meeting will be a presentation by Marcus Bigsby and John Ragsdale. They will present logging options available to small woodland owners from a logger's perspective.

Bonnie Shumaker

Tree Harvesting Methods Protect Water Quality in Coast Range Study

KTVZ.COM news sources, **Posted:** Nov 28, 2017 12:48 AM PST

Tree harvesting methods designed to protect streams from soil erosion and sedimentation can be effective in maintaining water quality, scientists have shown in a study in the Oregon Coast Range.

By following rules enshrined in the Oregon Forest Practices Act, research in the Alsea River watershed showed that a stream draining clear-cut slopes carried no more sediment after harvest than before. In fact, the clear-cut watershed had lower sediment concentrations than streams in two nearby uncut watersheds.

While the study shows what can theoretically be achieved, researchers are cautious about applying their results to actual harvesting activities elsewhere. The practices in this study may not represent the variety of conditions faced in forest management across the state, they said. For example, no new roads were constructed in the process of carrying out the study. That's significant because previous studies have showed that road construction can be an important source of sediment.

The results of the study were published in *Forest Ecology and Management*, a professional journal.

"This and a number of other studies provide some very nice evidence that current best management practices are proving to be much more effective than historical practices," said Jeff Hatten, lead author and associate professor in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University. Studies in other parts of Oregon and the West show that the impacts of such practices depend on landscape characteristics including geology, soil type, slope and historical landslides.

In the 1960s, the Alsea watershed was the site of one of the first comprehensive studies of tree harvesting and water quality in the nation. Located in southern Benton and Lincoln counties, the river empties into the Pacific at Waldport and supports runs of Chinook and Coho salmon as well as steelhead and cutthroat trout. Research results provided evidence for standards included in the landmark 1971 Oregon Forest Practices Act, among the first such laws in the United States to set rules to protect streams from impacts of tree harvesting.

In that study, forests were clear-cut above Needle Branch and Deer Creeks, and significant increases of sediment were recorded in each stream after harvesting. Another watershed, Flynn Creek, was left uncut as a control.

Tree cutting practices at that time included widespread burning of branches and other non-saleable materials. For the most part, trees were harvested down to the stream edge; few uncut vegetation buffers were left along the streams. Even where such buffers were left in Deer Creek, storm-driven road failures caused pulses of soil to enter the water.

By the time the latest project was begun in 2005, sediment concentrations in Needle Branch and Deer Creeks had returned to their pre-harvest states. Researchers began a new round of monitoring sediment, stream discharge (a measure of how much water is flowing per second) and precipitation. In 2009, after five years of data collection, the upper portion of Needle Branch was clear-cut. Similar harvest operations were conducted in the lower portions in 2014, and to meet annual clear-cut limits in the Oregon Forest Practices Act, the remainder was cut in 2015. No trees were cut in Flynn and Deer Creek, which were maintained as control sites for comparison purposes.

Over the course of the study, which ended in 2016, more than 4,400 water samples were collected and analyzed at the Forest Hydrology Lab at Oregon State.

"We found that there was no evidence of an effect of contemporary forest practices on suspended sediment concentrations," the authors wrote. For all years, both the mean and the maximum sediment

concentrations were higher in Flynn and Deer Creeks, where there had been no harvesting, than in Needle Branch, where trees had been cut.

Among the harvesting practices used in the study were 50-foot-wide buffers along fish-bearing portions of Needle Branch, which are required by law. No buffers were left along non-fish bearing stream segments. Residual materials were burned in discrete piles rather than broadly across the harvested areas. Tree-cutting equipment was not allowed in the stream channels.

Large pieces of wood that fell into the stream channel of Needle Branch were left where they lay. The researchers did not directly measure the impact of this material on sedimentation, said Hatten, "but there is evidence (from other studies) that large wood can increase the formation of pools and riffles, increasing sediment retention. There is also evidence that wood can cause channel widening and steepening."

Other authors of the report included Catalina Segura and Kevin Bladon at Oregon State; V. Cody Hale at Nutter and Associates in Athens, Georgia; John Stednick at Colorado State University; and George Ice (retired) of the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, a nonprofit research organization for the forest products industry.

The study was funded by members of the Watershed Research Cooperative at Oregon State University and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement. More information about the study is available on the [Watershed Research Cooperative](#) website.

Salmonberry Trail snags important right-of-way victory

Salmonberry trail leaders have entered into an agreement with heads of Port of Tillamook Bay that will allow the strip of land once used as a railroad line to be repurposed for a multi-use trail.

This piece of news, among others, was announced at the regularly scheduled every-other-month Salmonberry Trail Intergovernmental Agency (STIA) meeting Dec. 1, in Banks.

That's an important step in creating the 84-mile trail, which will eventually run from Banks to the Oregon Coast. The agreement, known as railbanking, will preserve the right-of-way and allows the trail agency to use an out-of-use rail line for a trail until the railroad company might need it again. Railbanking was an essential step moving forward with the project because it prevents the rail line from being technically "abandoned."

Other updates included the news that \$2 million has so far been raised for the trail project. In addition, Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust members are working on securing capacity-building grants, which will help the organization expand fundraising efforts, perhaps launching a major campaign.

The next STIA meeting will be Friday, Feb. 2, and will likely include a new study from Portland State University that details economic and social benefits of the trail.

Construction on the trail is still three to five years out and will begin with the 25-mile Willamette Valley section, which starts in Banks.

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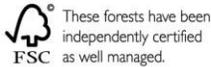


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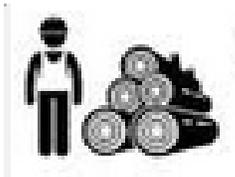
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TOOKE TO TAKE CHARGE

From an article by Jack Petree, Timber West, Nov/Dec, 2017

The USDA Forest Service has a new Chief. Tony Tooke takes charge as the Forest Service stands balanced, one foot in the future and one foot in the past, at the cusp of change regarding how the nation's forests are to be managed in response to changing public perceptions about why those forests exist.

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue comments, "He will oversee efforts to get our forests working again, to make them more productive, and to create more jobs. His focus will be on ensuring we are good neighbors and are managing our forests effectively, efficiently, and responsibly, as well as working with states and local governments to ensure the utmost collaboration."

Tooke has been a major player in the Forest Service's development of an Ecosystem Management approach to forestry.

Both private forest land owners and environmental groups seem to like and respect the new chief. Hopefully that respect will enhance the odds that Chief Tooke may be able to resolve some of the dichotomies pointed out by Secretary Purdue.

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OSU College of Forestry Oregon Forest Science Complex



Oregon State University College of Forestry is constructing its new headquarters entirely out of engineered wood products. The Oregon Forest Science Complex will include the new Peavy Hall and the A.A. "Red" Emmerson Advanced Wood Products Laboratory.

Geoff Huntington is Director of Strategic Initiatives at OSU's College of Forestry. Huntington: "The new Peavy Hall is going to be a demonstration project of a commercial building that is constructed with mass timber products, all of which are made within 250 miles of Corvallis. Cross Laminated Timber is a new wood technology that consists of 2 by 6 Douglas-fir pieces glued together in a crisscross pattern, and pressed to create panels that are as strong as steel. And instead of steel beams and concrete slabs, you'll see, this building will be made of wooden glue-lam beams and CLT, cross-laminated timber panels and other laminated veneer lumber and other types of engineered wood."

The \$65 million complex will use a "rocking wall" design which protects building occupants during a seismic event. It's also supposed to withstand an earthquake and be habitable afterwards. The CLT panels were manufactured by DR Johnson mill in Riddle.

*Read more and watch the Webcam at
ofsc.forestry.oregonstate.edu*

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Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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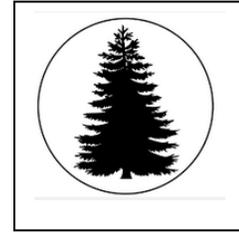
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Exploring your property's past: a trip back in time

Posted on November 8, 2017 by Amy Grotta

"Ah, November. The wet and the darkness set in and we feel like turning on the teapot and bundling up. For woodland owners, winter lends an opportunity to catch up on indoor projects: accounting, taxes, and maybe updating or writing a management plan. Another indoor activity that I guarantee will be more interesting than any of the above is researching and putting together a history of your woodland."

There is much more to Amy's Post. You can read it at <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics>. Oregon State University has good information on their website for "Oregon Forest Management Planning, History of Property." There are examples of the property history of two OSU Research Forests, one on the Matteson Forest that Amy did and the history of the Cameron Tract done by Pat Wheeler. Amy's blog post and the OSU site have information on links too numerous to mention here, but include pre-European settlement, donation land claims, mapping, and county historical records.

Tracing your land's history will take time, but should be fascinating. Speaking for the Shumaker's, I hope we find enough rainy days that don't require the boring things Amy mentioned to begin the history of our land. We are fortunate to have "The Hayward Story" written by a descendant of the community of Hayward of which our land is a part. We know the name of the original homesteader – now where to go from there?

Editors Note: I wanted to include in the January, 2018 Forest Forum thoughts of last year and promises or resolutions for 2018. Then I read Susan Schmidlin's post and thought "this is it." Just personalize Susan's post with your own year's activities of learning and doing. Susan is a WCSWA Board Member. You can read her daily posts at mrssusanschmidlin.wordpress.com



As The Year Draws To A Close

by [Susan Schmidlin](#)

This has been a year of learning more about the farm and woodlands of these acres that we have been living on for nearly 40 years. We have concentrated more on the individual sections of the place, realizing that there are a million micro-environments that change from season to season and year to year.

We have been taking a lot of time to clean up areas to decrease fire danger while leaving other sections in dis-array for native habitat. The time we took this year is just a drop in the bucket to all that needs to be done so this task will be on-going as long as we are.

More focus has been on the sensitive areas of the property especially the riparian areas around the Nehalem River and Robinson Creek. An up-tick of planting is just the beginning and are looking toward planting a wide variety of trees, shrubs, brush and grasses in addition to the years of tree planting.

We have thinned out the cows (by only a few) and limited the amount of time spent preparing the animals for showing as well as the time going to fairs and shows, giving us more time to concentrate on the cow/calf commercial operation.

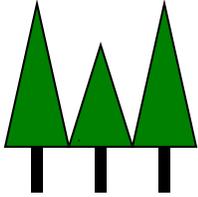
One of the highlights of the year is the things that didn't need to be done. There were no structures that needed to be torn down, consequently no structures needed to be built either. The hope is that the shop (the oldest and most rickety structure) will hold up another few years before we have to start the tear down, clean up and rebuild process.

There are many things that I am grateful for and this is only a partial list, but the top ones are definitely family, friends, neighbors, fellow land owners, web site followers (many of you fit into several of the categories) and our clients who purchase our logs, firewood, herd animals and locker meat. The amount of support we get from all of you is appreciated beyond measure. Thank you for making 2017 a very good year!

"There is no neutral in life: either we're moving ahead or falling behind. The direction may be up for debate, but not the movement."

Steve Bowers, "The Treeman", contemplating life after his retirement, Northwest Woodlands, Summer 2017

Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
OREGON SMALL WOODLANDS
ASSOCIATION

Potpourri

“Oregon’s Timber History, An Update,” by Josh Lehner has been published by Oregon Economic News, Analysis and Outlook. You can find it at <https://oregoneconomicanalysis.com/2017/10/10/oregons-timber-history-an-update/>

The Future of Tall – on display at World Forestry Center through Summer 2018

OSU Extension has published 3 pamphlets to help family forest owners find or hire professionals including:

- Finding the right accountant/preparer <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9169>
- Choosing the right logging contractor <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9170>
- Choosing the right chemical applicator <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9171>

Helpful Links:

- <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics> to read Amy Grotta’s “Tree Topics” blog
- www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com to learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative
- <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>
- For E-Notification: : <https://ferns.odf.state.or.us/E-Notification> or visit ODF Office