Forest Forum
Washington County Small Woodlands Association

November 2026



WCSWA Annual Meeting, Friday, November 20

Family forests: positivity and hope as working hypotheses



Dr. Mark Swanson, Starker Chair in Private and Family Forestry at Oregon State University, will discuss forest properties managed by families and individuals as places where a diverse array of beneficial practices is employed, with outcomes as diverse as the owners. The critical economic, ecological, and social roles of family forests will be emphasized, along with consideration for how society can support family forests.

If you have a donation for the raffle, Mary Spiering is the point of contact and is currently collecting items. You can contact her at maryspiering@gmail.com or by phone at (503) 680-8051. All raffle proceeds will go toward the OSU scholarship fund for Washington County students attending Oregon State University and majoring in forestry.

Be sure to send in the banquet registration found in the October Forest Forum to reserve a place. See page 3 for more details about the banquet.

2026 WCSWA Monthly Programs

November	**20**	**WCSWA Annual Banquet**	Embassy Suites Hotel, Hillsboro Note change of day: The banquet will be held this year on **Friday**.
December		**No program in December**	

WCSWA Leadership
President – Dan Shumaker
Vice-President – Vic Herinckx
Secretary-Treasurer – Melinda Shumaker

Board of Directors:
Pos. #1: Kathy Brock
Pos. #2: Ashley Tibbs
Pos. #3: Amanda Henderson
Pos. #4: Susan Schmidlin
Pos. #5: John Bucsek
Pos. #6: Mary Spiering

WCSWA Website – https://wcswa.com/
Website Manager: Michael Morgan
Contact Cathy Dummer for web postings and information.
Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation

To contact anyone on this page, email: wcswa.oswa@gmail.com
Note: Our Gmail address has changed to make it easier to use.

Legislative Committee Chair: none
Membership Committee: WCSWA Board members
Program Committee: John and Cathy Dummer, Tony and Mary Spiering, Tom Nygren
Tualatin River Watershed Council Representatives: Tom Nygren, primary; Eric Chambers, alternate

Forest Forum Newsletter
Editors: Norie Dimeo-Ediger and Bonnie Shumaker
Proofreaders: Bonnie Shumaker, Dan Hundley, Tom Nygren, Ardis Schroeder, Norie Dimeo-Ediger

The Tree Farm Tradin' Post

You can place an advertisement in *Forest Forum*. This is a free service to our members (3-month limit). List tree farm items/land to buy, sell or trade. Email ad to wcswa.oswa@gmail.com.

For Sale: Pneumatic Tree Pruning System. Brewt Power Systems LB-10 package includes compressor with 4HP Honda engine, Campagnola lopping shears & extension, retractable reel with 50 ft air hose. Asking $950. Contact ridgebacktrees@gmail.com.



Saturday, November 14th, 2026
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Laurel Community Hall

Save the date for our 5th annual Oak Seedling Giveaway for Washington County. This is your opportunity to take home Oregon White Oak seedlings, native seeds, wildflower bulbs and more.

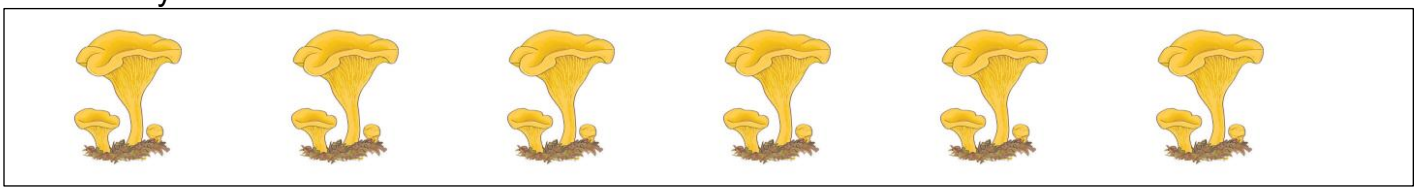
Come for the trees, stay to talk with our specialists about the oak habitat you're creating and how we can help. Join us this year at the Laurel Community Hall.

Registration opens October 20th. Register early to guarantee your trees. A limited supply will be reserved for walk-ups.

Leadership Notes *by Dan Shumaker*

Preparations are well on their way for the WCSWA Annual Meeting and Banquet. This year, the event will be on **Friday**, November 20th at 5:30pm at the same Embassy Suites in Hillsboro where we have had the banquet for the last few years. I am pleased to announce that Mike Cafferata, the Executive Director of OSWA, will be attending as a guest. He will give us some highlights about what has been happening at the state level. We are also looking forward to hearing from our speaker this year, Dr. Mark Swanson from Oregon State University.

This fall has been warm and dry, so Melinda and I have not yet had any luck finding chanterelle mushrooms in our forest. There are some mushrooms in our forests but not the preferred chanterelles. My guess is once the rain starts, we will see an abundance of mushrooms again this year. Then dry sautéing, vacuum packing and freezing make them last for many months.



More About the WCSWA Annual Meeting and Banquet-Friday, November 20th at 5:30 at Embassy Suites in Hillsboro

In addition to good food, a great speaker, prizes and awards, there will also be a business meeting where officers and board members will be elected.
The following positions will be voted on at the meeting. The field of candidates is listed below, and nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Mary Spiering – President
Vic Herinckx – Vice President
Kathy Brock – Treasurer / Secretary
Board Position #5 – John Dummer
Board Position #6 – Mark Turner (Turner Logging)
Board Position #1 – Bonnie Shumaker to fill in as Kathy is moving to Treasurer / Secretary position

And, drumroll please……The Tree Farmer of the Year will also be announced!

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QR code for membership application

This QR code goes directly to the OSWA online membership application. It may be helpful if you would like to renew your membership or know a fellow woodland owner who might like to join without having to search for the webpage.

Advertising Opportunity: The Forest Forum is a monthly newsletter sent out to over 300 members and friends of WCSWA. Advertisers receive free newsletters for the duration of their ads. ADVERTISING RATES (PRICE

INCLUDES TYPESETTING & AD PREP)

YES! I want to advertise in the WCSWA Forest Forum. Ad size: _____

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Please send this form, ad copy, logos, photos, etc. to:
Melinda Shumaker, 52490 NW Cedar Canyon Road, Banks, OR 97106. ***Thank you for supporting Washington County Small Woodlands Association!***

	1 issue	4 issues	12 issues
1/12 page	$20	$40	$100
1/6 page	30	60	150
¼ page	40	80	200
1/3 page	50	100	250
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2/3 page	100	200	500
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503-931-3143 cell
Tillamook
3111 Third St.
Tillamook, OR 97141
Desired Species: White woods

TYLER ROBBINS
503-861-5300 office
503-728-8192 cell
Warrenton
550 NE Skipanon Dr.
Warrneton, OR 97146
Desired Species:
Douglas fir & White woods

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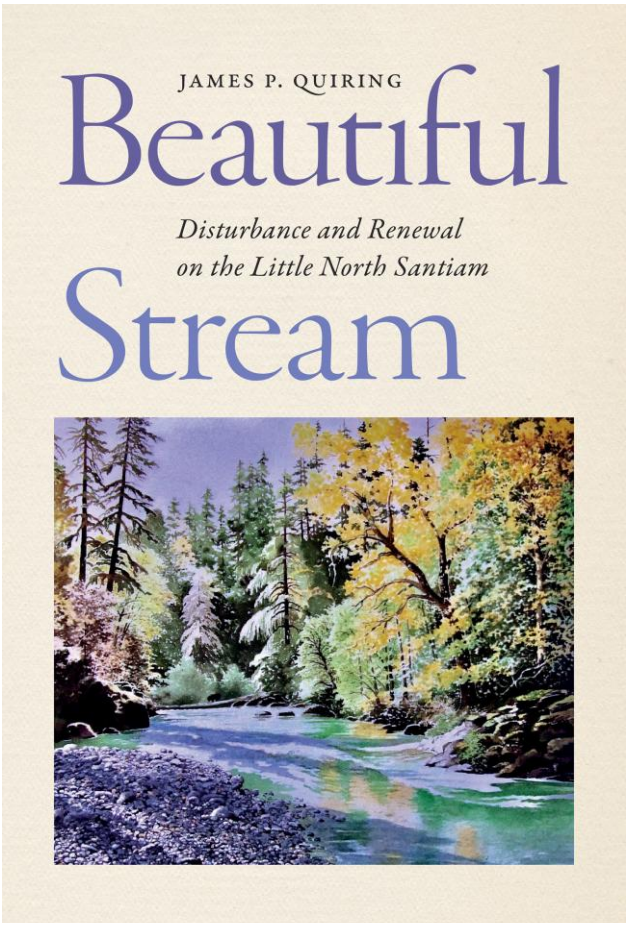
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Through personal reflection and historic events, *Beautiful Stream* chronicles the natural and human story of Oregon's Little North Santiam River, sentimentally referred to as the North Fork. James Quiring showcases this remote community's love of the land, resilience, and dedication to conservation alongside his own memories of his family's retreat in the mountains. By conducting nearly one hundred interviews and combing through homestead-era journals, historic newspapers, and other sources, Quiring shares the canyon's history, including the 2020 Beachie Creek Fire, the decades-long political battle for Opal Creek, and the timeless stories of neighbors coming together through challenging times.

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- Search by County for local resources
- Find educational materials in the Learning Library
- Refer to forest practice laws
- Register for classes

Oregon Forest Resources Institute

November Browse and More

by Susan Schmidlin

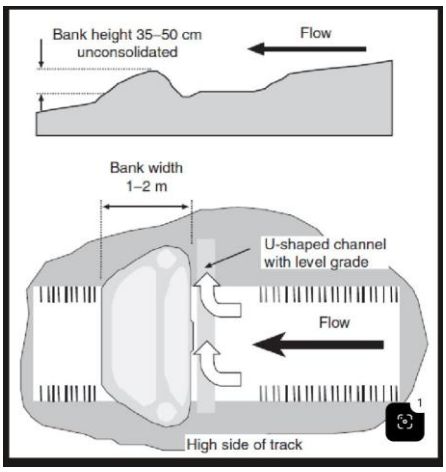
While the frenetic sounds of elk rutting have calmed but not yet concluded, the quieter sounds of shovels can be heard around the forest. This is the time of year when I like to access the riparian areas, do trail cleaning maintenance and repair/replace water bars along skid roads. The vegetation is moving into dormancy, the deciduous leaves are falling, and the evergreens are slowing for cooler weather.

Working on water bars, either repairing ones that have filled in with sediment or inserting new ones is basically managing the flow of water to reduce the gouging that sluicing run-off can cause to roads, trails and paths. A good rule of thumb to remember when building or repairing water bars is What Would Water Do? (WWWD). A simple concept to remember is, water goes where the easiest path takes it. On slopes it will run down, sometimes rather destructively, on those areas that have been disturbed of natural growth, packed soil and even wildlife trails. Creating diversions or water bars allows the water to escape off the edges, keeping the turbulent scouring from ruining all the hard work of access through the forest. On smaller slopes the water bars can be relatively minor, just a slight berm on the lower edge.

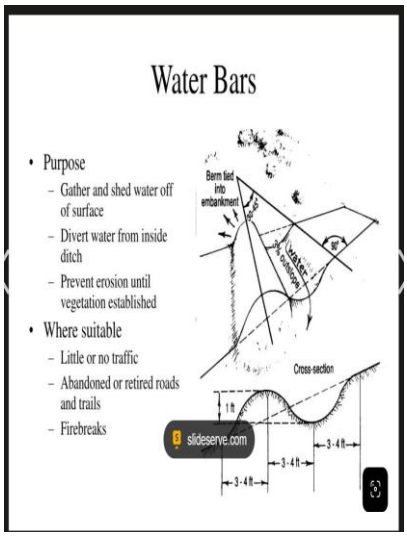
Keeping in mind the WWWD rule, unless a stream runs into something solid and bigger than the flow itself, it will continue down the path of least resistance, namely right down the ditch it is creating. Running water can sluice around and under tree roots or big rocks over time. The power of water does create some of the most scenic landscapes around the world, but it does not happen overnight. The deep gorges and majestic scenery are awesome to behold but you don't want that on your trails or roads. To ensure the water is diverted away from the road or trail, the water bar should be gently angled to encourage the runoff to change course easily before continuing downhill away from the road.

Steep pitches may need mechanical equipment to create strong enough water bars to interrupt the damaging flow of water. On roads with rock or solidly packed earth, equipment with a blade that can tip can get an edge before a berm creates a path that water naturally follows. The steeper areas that have been water barred can be big enough interruptions to close paths off completely for vehicles during the wet months.

Those areas that have less severe slopes can be water barred with a shovel and a little elbow grease, but the same rules apply to manage the runoff. Gently angle off the road, path or trail to minimize puddling or flow damage. Before the heavy rain settles in for the season is a good time to grab that shovel and prepare for the moisture ahead.



Construction (courtesy OSU 1982)

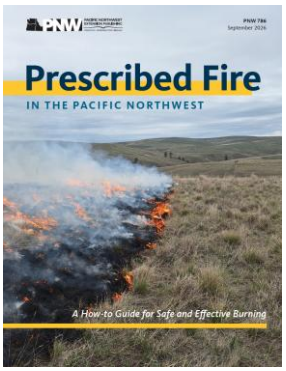


Waterbars
(courtesy slideserve.com)



Road Damage
(courtesy voc.org)

Prescribed Fire in the Pacific Northwest
A How-to Guide for Safe and Effective Burning



Fire is one of the oldest land stewardship tools in the Pacific Northwest. Long before modern forestry and wildfire suppression, Indigenous peoples used fire to care for forests, grasslands, oak woodlands and other ecosystems. Today, prescribed fire is increasingly recognized as an important tool for reducing hazardous fuels, improving wildlife habitat, promoting native plants and building resilience to future wildfires. Yet for many landowners, prescribed burning can feel intimidating or out of reach.

That's why Oregon State University Extension, with its regional partners, developed *Prescribed Fire in the Pacific Northwest: A How-to Guide for Safe and Effective Burning*. Designed for private landowners, land managers, prescribed burn association members and anyone interested in learning more about prescribed fire, this comprehensive guidebook walks readers through every stage of the burning process — from understanding weather, fuels, fire behavior, and smoke to developing a burn plan, conducting a burn and evaluating results. Filled with practical checklists, illustrations, examples and region-specific guidance, this how-to resource helps make prescribed fire more understandable, approachable and achievable.

Whether you're considering your first burn or looking to deepen your understanding of prescribed fire, this resource can help you take the next step toward putting good fire back on the landscape.

This publication is a practical guide for landowners, land managers, prescribed burn association members and natural resource professionals interested in using prescribed fire. Developed by the Oregon State University Extension Fire Program and regional partners, the publication provides an intermediate-level introduction to prescribed fire in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, combining foundational fire science with step-by-step guidance for planning, implementing and evaluating burns. Download the publication here: https://oregonstate.app.box.com/s/wwc4fxbvbykgc1vimlzryj7xjiqfmspq

Save the date — Women in the Woods Webinars: Practical Approaches to Habitat Enhancement for Forest Pollinators

Tuesday, December 8, 12–1 p.m.
Online
Free

Join us for quarterly Women in the Woods Webinars spotlighting women woodland owners and stewards. For our kick-off session, we will hear from wildlife biologist Eliana Pool on how to design and monitor projects for native pollinators on your forest.

Topics will include project design and site preparation, key habitat components, seasonal timing, plant selection and sourcing, slash management and monitoring considerations. Monarch butterflies, western bumble bees and solitary bees such as mining and leafcutter bees will serve as case studies, connecting pollinator phenology and habitat needs with practical forest management strategies to benefit common and at-risk species.

Questions? Please contact Sarah Cameron at sarah.cameron@oregonstate.edu.
To register, go to: https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_414j8gSiermoISy

Information on Emerald Ash Borer from Oregon Department of Forestry

For those waiting to cut down ash trees or prune them, the time to do so has now arrived. Emerald ash borer (EAB) larvae mature into adults inside ash trees and emerge starting in late spring. They soon mate. Females then find an ash tree to lay their eggs on. By October, almost all the adults have died. Their offspring will spend the winter chewing galleries under the bark. Over time, thousands of EAB larvae create so many galleries under the bark that eventually water and nutrients to the host tree are cut off, killing it.
“Best management practice is to wait until the adults have died before disturbing the canopy of an ash tree to avoid sending EAB adults flying to other trees,” says ODF EAB Support Specialist Matt Mills. “From October until early April one can safely remove or prune any ash tree. Once a tree is down, we want to act to limit the spread of EAB to new areas. Burning and chipping on site are good ways to kill beetles. Creating firewood is another option, but remember that EAB can spread inside firewood that is not heat treated properly. Untreated wood should be moved as little as possible, and never more than 10 miles from where it was harvested, to limit the spread of any wood-boring larvae inside."



Plant Propagation by Hardwood and Softwood Stem Cuttings

Date: November 14
Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
PCC Rock Creek Campus, Building 4 Room 104
17705 NW Springville Rd
Portland, OR 97229

Presented by: Helen Dorbolo, Karen Anderson, & Cindy Muir, OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers
Discover the magic of plant propagation in this two-hour class! Delve into the art of softwood and hardwood cuttings, exploring techniques for their successful growth. Learn to nurture and propagate plants effectively with demonstrations and expert tips. This is a hands-on class, and you will take your new starts home, so bring your work gloves and garden scissors/pruners if you have them, and a box or plastic bag. Everything else will be provided.

Northern Spotted Owl Decline Continues



Despite more than 30 years of protection, northern spotted owl populations have continued to decline. Using AI-assisted technology, researchers have found large areas of the pacific northwest where northern spotted owls are functionally extinct, which means their numbers are so low that they no longer play a meaningful ecological role or cannot reproduce enough to persist. Study findings include:

• Barred owl calls were heard eight times more often than spotted owls across the entire study area in Oregon, Washington and northwestern California.

• Northern spotted owls are approaching functional extinction thresholds in Washington and on the Oregon Coast.

• Northern spotted owls were not detected in the Washington Cascades at latitudes north of Seattle. (Oregon State University, 8/24/26)

Oregon Fire Updates and Cost

KOIN News reported the cost of fighting Oregon's large fires, which are defined as incidents greater than 100 acres in timber lands or greater than 300 acres in grass or brush, is estimated at more than $842 million so far in 2026. However, the costs are divided between state and federal, and the exact numbers will not be available until next spring.

At the end of July, KVAL reported that Oregon's fire expenses were in excess of $260 million. According to the National Interagency Fire Center's Aug. 17 National Fire News report, the Northwest was the nation's most active fire area, with 37 un-contained, large fires. Oregon had 22 active large fires on that day, with 14 of those more than 50% contained and two uncontained. Year-to-date, Oregon had more than 1,600 wildfires this year, according to an ODF situation report posted Aug. 21, though many were not considered large.

Pamphlet offers reforestation guidance



Just ahead of the start of tree-planting season in Oregon's forests this winter, OFRI's landowner education program has released a new educational pamphlet that offers practical guidance on planning and executing a successful reforestation effort.

The eight-page *Reforestation in Oregon* pamphlet includes an overview of what landowners should know to meet Oregon's legal requirement to replant trees after harvesting timber, as well as information about additional resources to help them get on the right path to growing their next forest. Go to https://oregonforests.org/publication-library/reforestation-oregon to download or order the publication.

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Potpourri

***Membership*:** We are here to help members achieve their management goals. To get the most out of your membership, come to the meetings and tours that are scheduled throughout the year. You'll find many kindred spirits among our diverse membership – and many opportunities to learn and share together! Questions? Contact any of the directors, officers, or Newsletter Editors listed on page 2.

Helpful Links:

Oregon's Forest Protection Laws: An Illustrated Manual 2025
This edition is now available as a print copy. You can order at Oregonforests.org. ***We will also have print copies available at WCSWA meetings.***

Forestry for the Birds: Western Oregon was produced by the Forest Stewards Guild. Download at: https://foreststewardsguild.org/foresters-for-the-birds

Recommended Fire Related Brochures:
Initial Attack Fire Equipment for Woodland Owners Booklet: www.wcswa.com. About us/links.
Firewise Landscaping: Firewise Landscaping Basics | OSU Extension Service (oregonstate.edu)
Wildfire Prevention: Oregon Wildfire Response and Recovery: Wildfire Prevention : State of Oregon
Other Helpful Links:

- www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative
- https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation
- For E-Notification: : FERNS - Welcome (oregon.gov) or visit an ODF Office