

# Forest Forum

Washington County Small  
Woodlands Association

March, 2007

## **March 27<sup>th</sup> WCSWA Meeting** ***Crime in the Woods***

Robert A. Williams, supervisor of the analytical section of the Oregon Investigative Support Center\Oregon Department of Justice Criminal Intelligence Unit, will be the March WCSWA meeting speaker. He will speak about criminal activity occurring on woodlands and other remote sites including, but not limited to, drug manufacture - what woodland owners should know about it, and the dangers of confronting perpetrators.

Mr. Williams has been in this position for over five years. He was previously a Criminal Intelligence Analyst with the Oregon Department of Justice Criminal Intelligence Unit, and he currently serves as the Northwest representative to the FBI Law Enforcement Technical Forum for electronic surveillance issues. Mr. Williams spent twenty years in the U.S. Army primarily in intelligence assignments involving the Defense Intelligence Agency, and headquarter units in Europe, the Pacific, and Vietnam. During his military career he was primarily involved in all-source current intelligence analysis.

## **“Celebrating Successes, Finding Solutions”, Gales Creek Watershed Conference**

The Tualatin River Watershed Council and partners will host a conference at Pacific University in Forest Grove on **April 7, 2007**. The conference will inform Gales Creek watershed residents on watershed issues and recruit residents to participate in Gales Creek solutions.

Gales Creek is a vital and important sub-basin in the Tualatin River watershed. Clear Creek, a sub-basin of Gales Creek, provides drinking water to the City of Forest Grove. Gales Creek and its tributary creeks are also home to native cutthroat trout and federally listed winter steelhead trout. The Tualatin Basin population is expected to grow from its current 500,000 residents to over a million residents by 2040, managing growth and the adopting of sustainable practices by residents and businesses will determine future watershed health.

The conference will highlight many restoration projects, educational activities and sustainable practices occurring throughout the Gales Creek watershed. The introductory session will cover an introduction to the history, present conditions and future challenges in Gales Creek watershed. Other conference sessions will cover current Gales Creek conditions, ways to participate, resources to assist residents and landowners, future challenges and a choice of four afternoon tours. An April 6<sup>th</sup> evening event will include two films, *Source to the Sea* and *Legacy of Fire – The Story of the Tillamook Burn*. The registration fee includes lunch and conference materials.

**Pre-registrations are due March 30, 2007. More information on the conference (and registration form) can be found at**

[http://trwc.org/gales\\_conference](http://trwc.org/gales_conference)

*April Olbrich, Watershed Coordinator*

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## Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

It is March now and planting season should be about ready to give way to Spring. I for one am ready for a little warmer and sunnier weather. Here in Gales Creek St. Patrick's day signals the re-arrival of our resident humming birds and the time to spray herbicides on the Christmas trees and the newer forestry replanting. In our climate, the grasses and other annual competition is about at the right stage of growth to be highly susceptible to the application of the various herbicides we use. Please be careful and respectful in your use of herbicides and remember that as of January 1, PURS is in effect again.

Next month is the annual state level meeting of OSWA. If you haven't attended in the past, why not try to attend this year. The meetings and field trips will inspire you to do more around the forest and inform you by example what other people do. We tend to get tunnel vision if we don't get around seeing what others do.

The Master Woodland Manager class still has a few vacancies. This is a once in a decade chance to get this training in Washington County. There is an 80 hour service commitment after class. This is a great opportunity to support the fellow tree farmers who may not be as experienced.

Local log prices are looking better, maybe this will be a good year for timber yet. That's all for now.

*Dallas*

### **Canadian Forests Reach Milestone in Certification**

In January 2002, members of the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) committed to having all of their lands certified to one of three internationally recognized sustainable forest management certification standards in Canada: the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Recently, FPAC announced that it has achieved its goal and that all of forestlands under the January 2002 FPAC commitment have been certified.

More than 40 percent of the world's certified forests are found in Canada, making it the largest source of certified forest products in the world.

### **Starker Lecture Series Continues; Next Lecture March 15th**

The annual Starker Lecture series began on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Three more lectures follow, with the next one on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The series is held on the campus of the Oregon State University College of Forestry in Corvallis. The time and location of each lecture can be obtained from the following website: [www.cof.orst.edu/starkerlectures](http://www.cof.orst.edu/starkerlectures). The Starker Lectures are free to the public.

***March 15<sup>th</sup> - 100 Years of Forestry in the Pacific Northwest: A Critical Look Backward, and a Fresh Look Forward***

***April 5<sup>th</sup> – Preparing Resource Professionals for an Uncertain World***

***May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Science and the Sustainability Transition***

## WCSWA Leadership

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### WCSWA Website

[www.homestead.com/WashCntyOSWA/](http://www.homestead.com/WashCntyOSWA/)

**Website Manager: Kathy Scott**

Contact Tom Nygren for web postings and information.

### Forest Forum Newsletter

**Editor: Tom Nygren**

503-628-5472

e-mail: [tnygren@juno.com](mailto:tnygren@juno.com)

## 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:** Noble Fir seedlings (2-0, 2-1, and 2-2). Contact Dave Logan at 503-789-8869

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## Event Calendar

- March**      **24 Tree School – Clackamas County (registration full)**  
**27 WCSWA Monthly Meeting** Robert Williams, Oregon Department of Justice. 7:00 p.m. OSU Extension Office, Capital Center, 185<sup>th</sup> and Walker Road, Beaverton
- April**        **6-7 Gales Creek Conference – A Look at the Past, the Present, and the Future –**  
Details are available in the March Forest Forum  
**14-15 “How To Inventory and Monitor Small Woodlands”**, Miller’s Tree Farm, Olympia, WA. Sponsored by Northwest Natural Resource Group. Full program and registration at [www.nnrg.org/news/news.php](http://www.nnrg.org/news/news.php).  
**24 WCSWA Monthly Meeting** - Jim Johnson, OSU Forestry Extension Leader. 7:00 p.m. OSU Extension Office, Capital Center, 185<sup>th</sup> and Walker Road, Beaverton  
**26-27 - OSWA Annual Meeting** held in conjunction with:  
**27-28 2<sup>nd</sup> Family Forestland Owner Conference**, Corvallis, OR
- May**         **3-6 The Game of Logging, Level 1-4.** Pack Forest, Eatonville, WA. Precision tree felling and chainsaw safety. Program and registration at [www.nnrg.org/news/news.php](http://www.nnrg.org/news/news.php).  
**22 WCSWA Monthly Meeting Monthly –** Magness Tree Farm Potluck
- June**        **22-23 Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association Summer Meeting and Tour**  
Embassy Suites, Portland Airport. Contact PNWCTA at 503.364.2942 for information
- July**         **28 WCSWA Tree Farmer of the Year tour**, at the Dirk and Liz Jacobs tree farm, in the Gales Creek area. Details will follow in later issues.

# Oregon Chain ad

## **The Rest of the Story...**

*In the February Forest Forum, construction of a concrete slab bridge to replace culverts was featured. The work was done by Steve Bateman, with help from David Bateman, April Olbrich of the Tualatin River Watershed Council, Bernadette Graham-Hudson of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department, and others. Unfortunately, in final editing, the last three paragraphs of the article were dropped in error. Under the heading of "better late than never", here they are with apologies to all.*

The work began in late July when the concrete slabs were delivered to the site. Dave Bateman, Steve's cousin and a surveyor, participated in surveying the bridge location and helped build the forms. Paul Johnson and Bernadette Graham-Hudson were on-site working with the Bateman cousins starting in August. Prior to the culvert removal, Graham-Hudson isolated the work area by re-routing the stream through a temporary culvert. Nets were placed around the work area to prevent fish from entering the work site and fish were removed from the project area by electrofishing. Twenty-two cutthroat trout were removed and relocated out of the impact area.

In mid-September, Doug Ranes, NW Thinning Systems, owner of a large track log loader was hired to place the three bridge slabs on the bridge footings. The two large machines worked in tandem to align the slabs once placed on the footings. The work finished up in September with the bridge guardrails to be installed by Bateman this coming spring. Bateman will also be planting trees in February near the bridge crossing. A fish survey will be conducted in 2007 and future years to determine the success of both projects.

All those participating were pleased. The partners hope to tackle other upstream crossings in the future.

**Story by April Olbrich. Tualatin River Watershed Council  
Photos by Paul Johnson, Northwest Steelheaders**

## **Advertising Opportunity:**

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Please send this form, ad copy, logos, photos, etc. to:

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# Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

## ***“STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING – a Bold Step in the Right Direction”***

It's always great to read encouraging news, and I'm happy to share with you excerpts from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's "Bugle" magazine article by Greg Lemon in their March-April 2007 issue. We're aware of the causes of the poor state of many forest lands today, especially public land: Fire suppression causing overcrowding, insect infestation, earlier logging practices, noxious weeds, court cases slowing or derailing forest management projects.

"But a real change for the better is in the wind for how federal lands are managed. For decades, when the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) conducted a timber sale, the value of the merchantable timber went to the federal treasury. In 2003, though, the agencies convinced Congress to add habitat improvement toolboxes, after 4 years of successful pilot projects. The main idea of these contracts and agreements is to take the value of local timber and instead invest it in local habitat stewardship.

The most effective means of accomplishing this is by combining logging and restoration on the same landscape at the same time – with a goal of leaving the forest healthier than it was, while employing local workers and delivering logs to the mills."

Because these "Stewardship Contracts" incorporate all aspects of active forest management, they are gaining support from conservation groups, the timber industry and federal agencies alike. This is the second time I've heard the catch-phrase "concentrate on what's left in the forest, not what's taken out" as the focus of stewardship, and it makes a lot of sense.

On December 15, 2006, the Elk Foundation signed landmark agreements with the Forest Service and BLM to do the first ever landscape-level forest management in two large areas. Successful smaller projects paved the way, but with so many acres needing improvement, these landscape projects point the way to measurable success.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the agencies work in partnership on the projects. The Elk Foundation will contract with partners to complete the restoration work and receipts from harvested trees will pay for the work. In this way conservation concerns are at the forefront and the importance of getting merchantable timber from the land is also acknowledged. The Forest Service or BLM ultimately decides what will be done and where, but ideally it is done as a partnership with the agency, the contractor and the timber company planning together.

The first project is on BLM land near Pinedale, Wyoming. Decades of fire suppression allowed conifers to push their way into former pure aspen stands forcing elk to move elsewhere, making a pest of themselves on nearby ranches. Aspen stands provide year-round habitat and landscape level improvement was needed. The Elk Foundation will be the primary contractor on 9,000 acres of aspen regeneration spread out across 174,000 acres of elk country. Over the next 10 years, they will contract for removing conifers, thinning aspen and burning the stands to stimulate growth. The BLM maintains oversight authority.

The plan is to take the proceeds of the forest products removed from the site and use them to complete the aspen restoration and habitat enhancements. RMEF will also seek additional grant funds.

The second ambitious agreement is on the Seeley Lake Ranger District of Montana's Lolo National Forest – a key migration corridor for elk and mule deer between summer and winter range. Historically the land was open ponderosa pine savanna and western larch stands. Fire suppression here as well allowed Douglas fir to clog the understory and choke out important forbs, and elk, deer and other animals lost habitat. This 10 year contract on 85,000 acres includes logging, thinning, road restoration, noxious weed treatments and seeding.

Both of these scenarios offer a triple win situation: the Forest Service or BLM is able to help restore the forest, the Elk Foundation is protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat, and lumber mills get merchantable lumber. It makes great sense to use the value of timber coming off restoration areas to fund the restoration work. The Elk Foundation plans to continue to find opportunities for these kinds of contracts on public and private land. I believe The Nature Conservancy is also involved in Stewardship Contracts, although I don't have specifics for this article. I applaud the partnerships, especially looking at landscape level projects, and look forward to The Bugle updates on their projects.

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### **FORESTLAND OWNERS BUILD NEW BRIDGES TO LOCAL MARKET**

***Partners help to connect the chain for certified lumber from the forest to the framing***

*(News Release – Trout Mountain Forestry and Ecotrust, February 16, 2007)*

Green-certified forest landowners in Oregon are taking an unprecedented step to connect with the growing demand for certified lumber. Using sustainable harvest practices and focusing on local market connections, the project will bring more than half a million board feet of lumber directly into the local market.

Four landowners from northwest Oregon are selectively harvesting 60 truckloads of logs – enough lumber for approximately 60 new homes. The wood will be custom cut under contract by Hambleton Lumber, a family-owned sawmill in Washougal, Washington, on the banks of the Columbia River. The certification of forestry practices by the international Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) differentiates the wood from the usual 2x4s.

“There is a strong demand for FSC-certified lumber, and we are creating a new model to provide Oregon-grown lumber to the builders, lumberyards, and consumers that are asking for the FSC label,” explains Scott Zimmerman, a Portland-based lumber veteran who is selling the lumber into the growing market for local green building products. “By purchasing FSC lumber, consumers express their support for forestry practices that do a better job of protecting our air and water, including storing more carbon to fight global warming,” says Zimmerman.

The landowners are members of a network of FSC-certified forestlands administered by Trout Mountain Forestry, a group of consulting foresters based in Portland and Corvallis. Trout Mountain Forestry’s Scott Ferguson was the first consulting forester in the Pacific Northwest to achieve Forest Stewardship Council certification in 1997. “It is very satisfying to help a group of long-term land stewards get recognized for their commitment to a strong conservation-based forestry approach,” Ferguson said.

FSC certification requires strict environmental protection measures, including limitations on clearcuts, wide stream protection zones, restrictions on chemical use, and wildlife habitat protection measures that surpass Oregon’s state standards. Because FSC-certified forests are grown to an older average age than intensively managed forests, more carbon is sequestered and stored in the trees, which helps combat global warming. As an added benefit, this older timber contains higher quality wood that produces more value-added products.

See “*Certified lumber*”, page 9



**“Certified lumber”**, continued from page 8

“This project is expanding the range of green building products available in our region,” said Kent Goodyear, Director of Forestry Market Connections for Ecotrust. “We’ve seen small quantities of FSC beams and lumber before, but this project brings a significant volume of logs to a large sawmill. The result will be more competitive pricing and better product availability,” according to Goodyear.

FSC customers include Oregon Canadian, a value-added manufacturer and distributor of Douglas-fir lumber based in North Plains. Oregon Canadian has received FSC certification for chain-of-custody, ensuring integrity in the manufacturing and distribution process.

Lumber is also being sold to Voss Framing, an Oregon City company that frames for several large builders including Renaissance Homes of Lake Oswego, a leading “green” home builder. This lumber will go directly into homes built and marketed based on their green attributes. In addition, FSC certified lumber from this project will be available at several FSC certified retail lumber yards throughout the West Coast including Fairfax Lumber in Fairfax, CA, Hayward Lumber in Salinas, CA, and Withers Lumber of Woodburn, OR, which is in the process of achieving FSC certification.

*(Editor’s note: some of the wood being marketed in this project is from WCSWA members)*

**Additional information from a Capital Press article, February 23, 2007, by Mateusz Perkowski**

- Among green building professionals, more than two-thirds said using FSC certified lumber was a goal in their construction projects
- Nearly half of the professionals surveyed failed to source FSC products due to availability, cost, and a lack of education among project team members
- The green building industry has been growing by 20-30 percent in the last two years



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**Timber Supply Imbalance**

“For the first time since the early 1990’s, a period of tighter global timber and log supply, leading to higher log and lumber prices, could be looming” The reason why: It appears the world’s demand for saw, veneer, and even pulp logs could be increasing at a time when the supply base is undergoing structural change (Europe, Russia, Japan, China, North America, and Southern Hemisphere). This may result in a rise in many export and domestic log prices.

*Wood Markets International Report, February, 2007*



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### **3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr Log Prices – NW Oregon and Willamette** **(Oregon Dept. of Forestry)**

**Douglas-fir:**

2 Saw	\$540/mbf
3 Saw	490
(5-7")	465
(8-11")	510
4 Saw	465

**Western red cedar:**

2 Saw	\$960*
3 Saw	960*
4 Saw	960*
Wormy	350*

**Red alder:**

2 Saw (12"+)	\$755*
3 Saw (10-11")	640*
4 Saw (8-9")	465*
Pulp/Utility	380*

\* based on 5 0r less quotes

### **Timber Tidbit**

**Over the last ten years, 769 million board feet of timber has been harvested from State land in Washington and Tillamook counties. The revenue distributed to the counties was \$132 million dollars (Tillamook - \$88.7 million, and Washington - \$43.3 million)**



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### Cautions on Bio-Energy

While interest in bio-energy grows, a recent OSU study suggests that the "net energy" of bio-fuel is expensive, when all costs of production are considered.

For example, corn based ethanol nets only 20 percent of its energy, and canola nets 69 percent, after energy costs of production are accounted for. Wood cellulose does much better, netting 84 percent of its energy. Bio-fuel can play an important role, but what is best for Oregon needs to be based on well-researched, long-term, economically sustainable bio-based energy systems.

*From a study by the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences*



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### Forest Resource Trust Changes

The Forest Resource Trust is a stand establishment program which compensates family forest landowners up to 100 percent of the cost of planting and maintaining tree seedlings to convert marginal agricultural, pasture, range, or brush land back to healthy, productive forestland.

The Oregon Board of Forestry recently changed the rules governing the Trust, to make the program more palatable to family forestland owners. Changes adopted were:

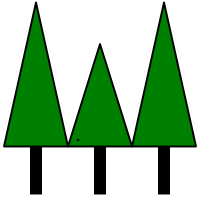
- eliminating lien requirements which were placed on lands in the program
- capping interest rates on funds provided
- converting from compound to simple interest for funds
- eliminating the revenue-sharing "grow-out" option (where future harvest revenues from stand establishment are shared with the State).

The changes were made because the previous rules were too complex and created unnecessary uncertainty, creating a barrier to family forest landowner participation.

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## Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE  
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### **Potpourri**

**Thanks!** To Lon and Laura Rankin of Lebanon, Oregon, who have again made a contribution to the Forest Forum. We appreciate the gift - and even more the thought that the Forest Forum is seen as worthy of a gift "above and beyond" the normal member dues.

**Scholarship Opportunity** Applications due April 2, 2007. WCSWA is providing two \$1,000 college scholarships for graduating high school seniors or college students through their senior year. Applicants must be recommended by a WCSWA member. Full details about the application process and requirements can be obtained from Bonnie Shumaker at 503.324.7825.

**The Big Three – Invasive Weeds** Verne Holm, Partnership Coordinator for the Northwest Weed Management Partnership, has identified the top three invasive weed species in northwest Oregon as **garlic mustard, false brome and knotweed**. They are poised to make Himalayan blackberry seem as harmless as dandelions. There are active working groups dedicated to establishing the best management techniques for each of these invaders.

For more information on the big three:

Garlic mustard

[http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile\\_garlicmustard.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_garlicmustard.shtml)

False brome

<http://www.weedmapper.org/brsy.html>

Knotweed

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/polycusp.html>