

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

July, 2008

Op-Ed by Susan Vosburg and Paul Sansone

Senator Wyden's proposal to jump-start thinning our overburdened federal forests has a key element that needs to be emphasized, a new market for the wood from these forests.

Why import massive amounts of LNG or repair aging coal-fired plants when a renewable resource is readily available to make a major contribution to fulfilling Oregon's energy requirements? Oregon uses about 6,000 MW of electrical generation today. The Oregon Forest Resources Institute report, "Biomass Energy and Biofuels from Oregon's Forest", 2006 (see Table 9 page 1-27); identifies nearly 2,000 MW of potential electrical generation, with 20 years of fuel, from the same forest thinning proposed in Senator Wyden's draft proposal. More is available from private woodlands and Westside forests. The reason this resource was discounted in the report was the low cost of competing energy sources.

See "Op-Ed", page 4

CFF Update by Gary Springer, CCF Member

Established by the Oregon Legislature, at the request of the Board of Forestry, the Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) was formed in 2000 to give advice to the Board and the State Forester on all issues of relevance to Oregon's family forestland owners. I represent northwest Oregon, as one of the four landowners on the committee. The committee includes environmental and forest industry representatives and a "citizen-at-large" member. These are the seven voting members of the CFF. Non-voting ex-officio members include representatives from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, OSU, Associated Oregon Loggers and the Department of Forestry. We have had a fair amount of turnover on the committee in the past couple of months. Our newly appointed citizen-at-large and chair is Dr. Craig Shinn, from Portland State University. Craig has a lengthy background in both public policy and forestry. Our newest ex-officio members are Brad Withrow-Robinson and Rex Storm. Brad is the Extension Forester for Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties, and Rex is the Forest Policy Manager for Associated Oregon Loggers.

The committee is currently working on a number of issues raised during the Family Forestland Symposium held last year at OSU. We have also been providing testimony, commentary, letters and other input on diverse family forestland topics to the Board and Department of Forestry, as well as to legislators, the Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee and others. Too much to go into detail within the space I have here, but stay tuned for future Update articles!

You are welcome to attend the CFF meetings and we are always looking for landowner input and future committee members. We meet at the ODF headquarters in Salem and you can call (503) 945-7472 for meeting schedules, agendas, or just more information. *See "CFF", page 7*

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Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

It was great to have the month of May off and have Jim Brown write the June notes column. Jim really clarified some of the issues affecting carbon credits. We will hear a lot more about this in the future. Sharon and I were in Alaska, British Columbia, and Yukon Territory for over three weeks; I'll have more to say about that next month.

We are into a period of time of low saw log prices which threatens to extend considerably into the future. Since our use of paper products isn't correlated to the use of wood in building materials, a predictable shortage of chips has developed, causing the demand for chip logs to increase. Predictably, the price of chip logs has risen along with the drop in price of saw logs.

How does that affect the small woodland owner? I decided to see just how the value of a given tree would be affected by the current prices of various raw wood products. In Washington County there are many overgrown Noble fir Christmas tree farms. Many of these trees are 50 to 60 feet tall and big enough to produce a saw log from the lower portion of the tree. So, off to the woods we went to find a tree to use as an example. The tree selected was a Noble fir growing in a stand of predominantly Douglas fir. It measured 7" DBH.

After falling and limbing the tree, it would yield a 26' log to a 5" top. This log would scale 30 bf. The same log would scale 30 bf cut to 24', so it was cut to 24', with 1' trim allowance. Since pulp logs are allowed to have a minimum top of 3", the log was limbed to that size. The total length to 3" was 39'. Thus, the difference yielded a pulp log 15' long with a 3" top.

Pulp logs are sold by weight. Thus, the next step was to weigh the logs produced. As a practical matter, one does not take one log to the mill, so the whole tree was cut into firewood. The 24' saw log weighed 425#; the 15' pulp log weighed 105#.

The current mill price for 24' white wood is \$290/MBF. Thus, the 30bf log is worth \$8.70 delivered to the mill. As a pulp log, the 24' log is worth \$40/ton; thus the log is worth \$8.50 delivered to the chip mill. The 15' top is worth \$2.10 delivered to the chip mill, making the usable part of the tree worth \$10.60 delivered to the chip mill. Finally, as the tree was reduced to firewood, it measured about 10.63 cf. At a price of \$150/cord, the log is worth \$12.46 for firewood.

The above examples in no way are a comprehensive analysis of forest usage. Individual harvesting costs will vary considerably, as will haul costs. The value of Douglas fir is higher as both pulp and saw log. However, this might give us a rare chance to sell our otherwise unmarketable thinnings, defective trees and the odd species at a price that will put some money in our pockets after harvest costs are paid.

Just a reminder - we have a \$25.00 reduction for first year dues available to any new member, courtesy of Stimson Lumber Company. When talking to any potential new member, please take advantage of this generous offer.

That's all for now.

Dallas

Note: the above log and pulp prices are assumptions based on market prices at a point in time – in this case about two months ago. Prices fluctuate continually, and this illustrative example would have to be adjusted to prevailing prices to give the situation at any point in time.

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WCSWA Website

www.wcswa.org

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

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No Advertisements Were Submitted This Month

Event Calendar

- July** **19 Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine Tour** - Lane County tour of ponderosa pine establishment, especially in riparian areas . See article on page12.
- 26 Tree Farmer of the Year Tour – Bob and Bonnie Shumaker’s** – See flyer on page 9
- August** **17 WCSWA Tour – Schroeder Wetlands** – Tour at the wetlands near the home of Neil and Ardis Schroeder. Details in the August newsletter.
- September** **Tour or Meeting – To Be Announced**
- October** **16-18 National Tree Farm Convention, Portland.** Field Day at the Hanschu's Little Beaver Creek Tree Farm on Saturday, October 18. The convention will be open to family forestland owners, both members and non-members of the American Tree Farm System, as well as industry professionals and others interested in forest land management. For more details, visit the website at:
http://www.treefarmssystem.org/cms/pages/73_1.html
- 28 WCSWA Meeting** – Marketing Small Woodlands Products, by Dr. Roy Anderson of The Beck Group, a consulting firm.
- November** **18 Annual Awards Banquet** – Jennings McCall Center, Forest Grove. Tentative speaker: Bettina Haugen, vice-president, Ecotrust. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Details to follow in future newsletter.
- December** **No Meeting Scheduled**

Op-Ed, from page 1

The rapid run-up of oil prices, and the fact that natural gas pricing is following the same steep increase, has changed the economics so that electricity from forest waste fueled electrical generation is very competitive to fossil fueled generation.

What is missing is an incentive for utilities and private power companies to build biomass-fueled generation. Power purchase agreements from BPA and Investor Owned Utilities (IOU's) for a block of electricity produced from these resources would supply to market forces necessary to mobilize a crippled timber industry to harvest wood for a different market. Similar incentives spurred the rapid implementation of wind generation. Every existing mill site would be a potential biomass generation site. Existing timber industry resources could be mobilized in a manner that would allow the market to replace revenues lost when large timber was depleted and when lumber markets are depressed. The huge negative impact of reduced Federal timber payment could be reversed. Sweden has made such a commitment and is well on the way to eliminating all oil and gas imports by 2020. Why can't Oregon do the same?

We can revive Oregon's Forests, contribute significantly to our energy security, and make significant reductions in greenhouse gas pollution while sequestering massive amounts of carbon in fast growing rejuvenated forests. Senator Wyden's bill can be faulted for its limited scope. The OFRI report identifies over 610,000 acres a year that needs to be thinned. Senator Wyden's proposal is for significantly less. The market-based incentive of generating electrical energy from these wastes vastly expands the potential for cost-effective remediation of our federal forests.

Editor's Note: Background information on available biomass in Oregon, on federal, state, and private lands can be found in the Oregon Forest resources Institute report on biomass. The report, entitled "Biomass Energy and Biofuels from Oregon's Forests", was issued June 30, 2006. Senator Wyden's recent proposal is discussed in the July edition of the OSWA Woodlander Update.

Opinion articles on topics of current interest to woodland owners are accepted for publication in the Forest Forum, subject to editorial and WCSWA Board acceptance. Submit proposed articles to the Forest Forum Editor by e-mail at tnygren@juno.com.



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The Trout Mountain Forestry logo features a large black triangle with the word "TROUT" in white, "MOUNTAIN" in black, and "FORESTRY" in white below it. To the right of the logo is a vertical flowchart with five upward-pointing triangles. The text next to the triangles reads: "A balanced approach", "TIMBER MANAGEMENT", "ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARCUTTING", "FOREST PLANNING AND RESTORATION", and "Forest stewardship for productivity and diversity". Below the logo, contact information is listed: "Scott Ferguson 503-222-9772", "Barry Sims 503-233-2131", "Mark Miller 541-602-2180", and "www.TroutMountain.com". At the bottom left is the FSC logo with the text "These forests have been independently certified as well managed." At the bottom right is the FSC trademark information: "FSC Trademark © 1996 Forest Stewardship Council A.C. SCS-FM/COC-0062GN".

Recent OSU Publications

Forest Health Fact Sheet: Insect and Disease Pests of Pacific Madrone: EC 1619-E, May 2008.
This new Fact Sheet by Max Bennett (OSU Jackson Co Extension) and Dave Shaw (OSU Extension Forest Health Specialist) gives good information on the biology of madrone, and useful for anyone wishing to maintain and manage madrone in their woodland.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1619-e.pdf>

Forest Health Fact Sheet: Swiss Needle Cast of Douglas-fir in Oregon: EC 1615-E, January 2008.

This new, 4 page bulletin by Dave Shaw (OSU Extension Forest Health Specialist) is available only online.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1615-e.pdf>

Forestland Taxes: The Importance of Establishing BASIS: EM 8941, December 2007

by Norm Elwood and Bob Parker.

Promotional materials on line describe CD-based program (\$19.95). CD contains Microsoft Producer multimedia files and PDFs (requires Windows operating system, PowerPoint, Internet Explorer, and Adobe Acrobat).

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/em/em8941.pdf>

Managing Woodland Roads: A Field Handbook

Familiar to many of you, this Extension publication edited by Steve Bowers in Lane County, received a 2008 ANREP award. Henceforth to be known as the “award winning Roads Handbook” some copies are available from the Yamhill County Extension office (while supplies last). If you want a signed edition, you need to call Tree Man (aka Steve Bowers) at 541-682-4243.

From “Forest & Tree Notes”, OSU Extension, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties

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Thank you for supporting Washington County Small Woodlands Association!

Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

Besides planning for our July 26 "Tree Farmer of the Year Picnic" to which we hope many of you can come, Bob and I have been on Scotch broom attack. We recently purchased sixty acres on the Timber/Vernonia road west of the Sunset Hwy. tunnel, now called our "Sunset Property". We knew Scotch broom was there when we bought the land, and that most of the eight year old trees of which the property consists were above the "broom". We also knew we probably wouldn't sit by with our clippers and chain saws silent and unused. So when the bloom of the broom began this spring, we had a plan. There are two areas of the property where most of the Scotch broom resides. One is at the top by the power lines confirming the adage "leave an area open and they will come" and the other is on and around a skid road. We decided the skid road had first priority since we plan to plant a not too well stocked area here next winter. Bob and our son Dan made the first foray while grandkids, daughter-in-law and I blazed a path to the creek that runs along one corner of the property. While we girls emerged triumphant and smiling, Bob and Dan were sweaty and beat up. But they had made progress.

After a day of getting more experience and confidence with my chain saw, I joined Bob and we tackled the skid road together. The process is cut, drag the brush out of the road and spray the exposed stump. After three days, the road is cleared, and we hope now to get the broom that snuck off into the surrounding area while it still blooms.

Resting on a Sunday morning after two days of broom war, two articles in the June 22 Oregonian caught my eye. John Terry in his column "Oregon's Trails" had spied the pesky stuff too and researched how it got to Oregon. His conclusion: It is not clear. Some say it was brought in as an ornamental or hitched a ride across the Atlantic given the traffic between Britain and North America in the 1700's. (Bob had heard that the seeds were in rock ballast of ships frequenting the Pacific Coast and when the ballast was dumped in favor of traded goods, the seeds were dumped, too). Since the seeds can germinate for 60-80 years and cling to almost anything, hitch hiking is one method that certainly is possible. Terry reports that \$47 million is lost in Oregon's timber production each year from Scotch broom over-powering forest seedlings. Whatever its origin, fortunately there is much effort beyond our own to eradicate it. This spring Oregon's Department of Agriculture dropped a 3,500 strong batch of *Bruchidius villous*, a kind of sand beetle, on Scotch broom threatening to inundate BPA rights of way east and south of Salem. In theory, the beetles lay eggs in seedpods which hatch into larvae that eat the seeds, so that beetles pop out instead of seeds, ready to begin the cycle again.

In another article by Lori Tobias in the June 22 Oregonian, Hayden Bush, the son of a Tillamook dairy farmer took third place and the bronze medal at the International Sustainable World Science Fair in Houston, Texas. His project? Convert Scotch broom into an alternative fuel. First, he put the Scotch broom into a blender with a bit of water, then into the freezer for 48 hours, then the microwave. "I knew if you freeze something and heat it up, it speeds up the cells and molecules, and that's what causes them to crack and create more juice". From there, he put the weed into a juicer; put the resulting juice into a fractional distiller, where it was purified, and from all that came the oil.

Beetles, bio-fuel crop or just plain hard work to get it eradicated, Scotch broom seems to be on a lot of minds these days. Our Scotch broom closest to the Sunset Hwy. even showed signs of the blooms being cut, probably for floral arrangements!

CFF, from page 1

Also visit the committee at our website by typing "Oregon Department of Forestry Committee for Family Forestlands" in your web browser. The website has information about the CFF charter, what we have been up to, and backgrounds and contacts for all of our members.

This is the website address:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/BOARD/CFF/cff.shtml>

From "Forest & Tree Notes", OSU Extension, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties

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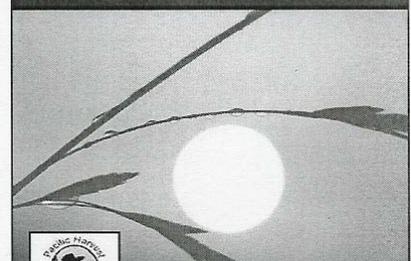
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Cogeneration is Regaining Steam

Even to casual observers of the media, it would be difficult not to notice a greater focus on the production of “green energy” to reduce our country’s dependence on fossil fuels. An important green energy source is biomass. The use of biomass as a source of energy and heat in the forest products industry has been going on for decades, but in the last couple of years there has been a renewed interest in cogeneration. As shown in the following illustration, cogeneration (or cogen) involves the production of two forms of energy at the same time – typically electricity and steam/hot water.

When analyzing the potential costs and benefits of cogeneration for a facility, a number of variables need to be considered. These include:

- Size, type, and condition of existing boiler systems (e.g., high pressure)
- Process steam requirements (e.g., dry kilns, veneer dryers, block conditioning, etc.)
- Current drying technology (i.e., steam versus direct fired)
- Current and future demand and net mill values for residuals (e.g., bark, sawdust, shavings, etc.)
- Level of interest of electric utility in purchasing power and likely purchase price
- Availability and cost of additional fuel in the area
- Current electrical power consumption and cost (e.g., rate per kWh)
- Plant/boiler layout issues (i.e., sufficient room to accommodate new equipment/needed changes)
- A reasonable return on investment, and the ability to access start-up capital and conditions
- Underlying viability of the mill or plant (i.e., industry competitiveness)
- Access to grants, tax incentives or other attractive financing programs
- Willingness to enter into long-term supply agreement with utility

Years ago, two rules-of-thumb were often used when discussing cogen economics. These were that capital costs were in the range of \$1 million per megawatt of capacity, and the producer needed about \$0.05/kWh or more for the project to pay off. Currently, a more realistic ballpark figure for capital costs is on the order of \$2 million/megawatt. However, even with higher capital and operating costs, a growing number of forest products operations would be well served to examine the potential benefits associated with cogen, particularly given the likelihood of continued high costs for fossil and other fuels.

From the Summer issue of The Beck Group newsletter

OWC Hosts Information Meeting on “Ecosystem Services”

The Oregon Woodland Co-op (OWC) served as host for an informational meeting of small woodland managers on June 21st at the Kinton Grange. 40 small woodland owners and other interested parties attended, with about one-half being Co-op members.

The speakers represented a spectrum of potential ecosystem services and nontimber forest products:

Dr. Mark Harmon of the Oregon State University College of Forestry presented an in-depth look at carbon in the forest – how it is stored, changes its form as it moves from plant to wood product to air and soil – and the gains and losses along the way. His presentation provided a good perspective for consideration of the role of forests – and forestry operations – in carbon sequestration.

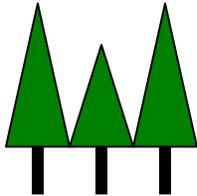
Dr. Bobby Cochran of the watershed department of Clean Water Services presented an overview of the many types of ecosystem services that could provide economic opportunities for woodland owners. These services range from water quality improvement – such as reducing stream temperature through riparian shading – to retention of publicly desired resource values such as wildlife habitat and scenic views – recreational opportunities.

Patrick Mooney, an entrepreneur in nontimber forest products, discussed and displayed the economically valuable plants and other organisms found in forests. According to Patrick, these overlooked economic opportunities can mean significant income for woodland owners.

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Newsletter Editor
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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

Welcome to New Members!

Rebecca Stanley of Scappoose has joined OSWA and WCSWA. We are here to help you achieve your management goals for your woodland. 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! If you have any questions, or need help, contact any of the Directors, Officers, or Newsletter Editor (listed on page 3).

Ponderosa Pine Tour

Ponderosa pine is a very versatile native species. While not found in large areas today, it once was found everywhere in the Willamette Valley. The Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine Conservation Association is dedicated to restoring pine to be an economic value in northwest Oregon. Each year the Association hosts a tour to look at areas where pine has been established, or where there is a lesson to be learned. This year the all day tour will provide a forum for watershed council principles and public organizations promoting watershed improvements to interact with landowners. The establishment of seedlings in riparian areas involves proper site preparation, seedling selection and judicious follow-up for success. The focus will be ponderosa pine as a species adaptable to riparian area restoration projects. Reforestation and plantation management on other areas will also be discussed.

If you are interested in the tour (July 19th), which will be in the Springfield area, go to the following website for more information and registration. www.westernforestry/wvppca