

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

September, 2008

OWC - Marketing Workshop Set For Sept. 13th

The Oregon Woodland Co-op will host a workshop on September 13th designed to help woodland owners, including Co-op members – understand the current timber market, and learn of progress with current Co-op projects. The workshop will be held at the Forest Grove District of Oregon Department of Forestry, and will begin at 9 a.m. ***All interested people are invited!***

This workshop will focus on understanding the future of timber markets, both traditional and non-traditional. Timber will be discussed in both a global and local context. New, non-traditional markets and business models developed by the Oregon Woodland Co-op will be discussed. The event will feature four components:

The program will begin with a presentation by John Krier, timber market analyst, on the future of log markets from both a local and global perspective. Scott Zimmerman, Kent Goodyear, and Louis Leatherman, OWC Coordinators will then present on the new

See "Workshop", page 2

WCSWA Tour: Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge Tour Sept. 20th

Washington County Small Woodland members and friends are invited to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge for the final tour of the 2008 field season on September 20th. The tour will begin at 10 a.m. in the Wildlife Building at the refuge. Chris Lapp, Deputy Refuge Manager, will give information about the refuge, and then Norman Penner will conduct a tour. Those attending should dress for the weather. The Refuge is located at 19255 S.W. Pacific Hwy. (aka 99W), Sherwood, OR.

The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, which opened in the spring of 2006, is one of only 10 urban national wildlife refuges in the country. Situated within the floodplain of the Tualatin River, the Refuge comprises 6400 acres, less than 1% of the 712 square mile watershed. Yet, due to its richness and diversity of habitats, the Refuge supports some of the most abundant and varied wildlife in the watershed. The Refuge is home to nearly 200 species of birds, over 50 species of mammals, 25 species of reptiles and amphibians, and a wide variety of insects, fish and plants. Habitats consist of emergent shrub and forested wetlands, riparian forests, oak and pine grassland, meadows, and mixed deciduous/coniferous forests common to Western Oregon prior to settlement. A Visitor's Center has been constructed, along with several miles of walking trails.

Refuge managers are currently pondering a problem:

The Refuge is made up of formerly privately owned land sold to US Fish and Wildlife by "willing sellers". In most instances the land comes "as is" and needs to undergo significant restoration in order to return it to its original natural condition. There is one unit of the Refuge that was a Christmas tree farm that had been allowed to go

See "Refuge Tour", page 4

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Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

Oregon Small Woodlands Association is in the midst of some extensive changes. By the time you read this, the Woodlands Carbon Company should be in existence. WCC is being formed to aggregate and sell carbon credits generated by our collective woodlands, as Jim Brown and I have described in recent columns.

WCC will be a for profit corporation wholly-owned by OSWA in the beginning. It is being front funded by ATFS. The first order of business will be to hire a chief executive. That process is now under way. With each acre of western Oregon Douglas fir being capable of producing up to \$40.00 of carbon credits each year, the potential for supporting the tree farm between harvests looks promising. One of the requirements for participation is that the tree farm must be ATFS certified. Now might be a good time to apply, if you aren't already certified.

Next month is the national convention of ATFS in Portland, October 16-18. If you haven't already done so, contact Bonnie Shumaker to volunteer to help on the 18th at the public day at Anne and Richard Hanschu's Little Beaver Tree Farm. Bonnie can be reached at 503 324-7825.

At a meeting early this year we learned that the rules for stream designation have been changed again. One of the interesting changes, to me at least, was that a stream above a permanent artificial barrier might change that stream to non fish bearing. We have owned our property over 48 years. There is a culvert crossing the road just downstream from our property which has a drop into the stream far greater than a fish can navigate. It has been an adventure finding someone to make the application to. I will keep you up to date as this continues.

The dry summer grinds on. As I write this (August 16), we have had less than a quarter inch of rain since June. There seems to be a chance of rain next week. The replacement Christmas trees planted last January still seem to be doing pretty well, some have died from lack of moisture. The next four weeks will tell.

That's all for now.

Dallas

Workshop, from page 1

OWC programs developed, including: FSC and other custom cuts, bundled firewood, non-timber forest products, and shared purchasing. Particular focus will be paid to the economic results of the custom cut and firewood programs.

There will also be presentations from OWC Vendors such as Wilco, who will talk about their relationship with the Oregon Woodland Cooperative, and how it provides a unique opportunity and benefit to small woodland owners.

To give those attending a chance to have their personal questions answered, or share experiences, the presentations will be followed by breakout sessions, where attendees will have the opportunity to rotate in small groups to talk to the OWC Coordinators about specific co-op projects.

Date and time: September 13th 2008 9:00 am – 1:30 pm
Place: Oregon Dept. Of Forestry - Forest Grove District Office
801 Gales Creek Road, Forest Grove, Oregon 97116-1199

WCSWA Leadership

President – Dallas Boge; 503-357-7688

Vice-President – Jim Brown; 503-284-6855

Secretary-Treasurer – Bob Shumaker; 503-324-7825

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Ron Larson; 503-775-3223

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

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)

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Event Calendar

- September 20 WCSWA Tour of Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge.** See article on page 1.
24-26 Western Stewardship Summit – Sunriver Resort, Bend. See agenda at www.sustainablenorthwest.org/WSS, Email: info@sustainablenorthwest.org
Phone: 503-221-6911 x100
- 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
22-23 Lumber Quality and Process Control - OSU Extension, Corvallis.
Contact OSU Conference Services, 541-737-6439, or toll-free at 800-678-6311
24-25 Lumber Quality Leadership - OSU Extension, Corvallis.
Contact OSU Conference Services, 541-737-6439, or toll-free at 800-678-6311
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. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Details to follow in future newsletter.
- December No Meeting Scheduled**
8-11 How To Dry Lumber For Quality and Profit – OSU Extension, Corvallis.
Contact OSU Conference Services, 541-737-6439, or toll-free at 800-678-6311

***Refuge Tour, continued
from page 1***

wild for many years. It now contains a large number of fairly mature trees, growing in uniform rows that are not considered native and need to be removed so that native vegetation can be reintroduced. Since small woodland owners are in the business of growing trees as a commercial enterprise, Refuge managers have indicated they would be interested their advice concerning finding a market for the wood from these trees.

Firewood – What Are You Looking For?

Do you know what you are getting with a “cord of firewood”? While a thousand board feet is roughly equal to 2 and one half cords, the comparison is meaningless to someone buying firewood. Firewood is measured in cords, but the key is getting a full 128 cubic feet of wood – 4’ by 4’ by 8’. If the wood is unstacked, you need to add approximately 50% volume to the 128 figure, or about 200 cubic feet for a full cord. Most cut wood you buy is in 16” lengths, the length required to measure the full cord using the standard 4x4x8 measurement. Accordingly, any wood shorter or longer requires one to adjust the length x width x height measurement to achieve the 128 cubic foot volume. Adapted from the *Douglas County Woodlander*, Fall 2008

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Where the Tall Trees Grow – 2nd Notice

“Where the Tall Trees Grow” is the theme for the American Tree Farm System’s National Convention which is to be held this year in Portland on October 16-18. It is open to members of ATFS as well as any other interested parties. You can learn more about the convention at www.treefarmssystem.org.

The Field Day for the convention is to be held at WCSWA members Anne and Richard Hanschu’s tree farm. Attendance at Field Day is expected to be between 400 – 600 people from all across the USA. It will be exciting to show off Oregon’s fantastic tree growing country to fellow tree farmers. In order to make this a wonderful success, many volunteers are needed. I already have the beginnings of a volunteer list, but I need more. If you would like to be part of this fun event and have not already contacted me, please do so now. Call or email Bonnie Shumaker, Field Day volunteer coordinator at bandbshu@aol.com or call (503)324-7825.

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ATFS Receives PEFC Endorsement

The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) has received international approval by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC). PEFC is an international, independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 1999 which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification. ATFS is the oldest and largest forest conservation, certification, and advocacy program in the United States. The 67 year-old program is sponsored by the American Forest Foundation.

Family forest landowners welcome the endorsement by PEFC for certifying sustainably produced wood, a step that will open the door to new green markets for wood that is sustainably produced on their land. The Geneva-based Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC) made the announcement after a 14-month rigorous review designed to provide assurance to purchasers that certified wood and paper products are in fact produced from sustainably managed forests. Currently there are two other large certifying systems in the U.S – FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) which certifies primarily non-industrial private and public forest lands, and SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative), which certifies primarily industrial forest lands. ATFS, FSC, and SFI have recently also been certifying some public forestlands - state, federal, and county.

"This is fantastic news for conservation-minded family forest owners who are struggling to survive in tough economic times," said Laurence Wiseman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Forest Foundation, the parent group of ATFS. "PEFC approval is the key to connecting more of the good operators to the rapidly growing marketplace of green manufacturers, distributors, retailers and consumers."

Forest landowners who voluntarily commit the extra time and expense to produce wood sustainably under the ATFS system will now qualify for access to the international markets that they never had before. Traditional markets for U.S. wood have been shrinking as more foreign wood gains control into those markets, and Wiseman believes this endorsement step will help U.S. growers.

The United States is permanently losing 1.5 million acres per year of family forestland to development. For many of these small forest landowners, achieving some economic return on their property is essential if they are to avoid the pressures of development.

"By joining the largest forest certification system in the world, the American Tree Farm System is creating new markets for American growers," said Ben Gunneberg, Secretary General of PEFC International. "The demand for sustainably-procured wood is rapidly increasing because more businesses and more consumers are stepping up to the plate on issues like climate change. PEFC endorsement means that more American growers can now serve this rapidly growing market. "

Only about 10 percent of the global wood market currently comes through forest certification systems. Now with ATFS, PEFC has 500 million certified acres. At this size and growing rapidly, PEFC is by far the largest global program for certifying sustainable forests. This is the second such approval for the U.S., with the first being the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

The American Tree Farm System was first launched in 1941 as a private initiative to address concerns that America's forests were being cut at unsustainable rates without reforestation. It now represents more than 90,000 family forest owners in 45 states, most of whom manage woodlots of less than 100 acres. ATFS is the largest private forest conservation and forest restoration initiative in the history of the U.S. "The number of certified family forests landowners in the system has doubled over the past four years, and this shows the tremendous growth potential in this area," said Bob Simpson, Senior Vice President for the American Forest Foundation.

Information obtained from American Forest Foundation news release

Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

I don't know how many of you tire, as I do, of the hype about global warming, or more appropriately climate change. How much is the natural dynamics of climate and how much is attributed to or is subject to "control" by humankind? I would never venture to include this hype in a column, but I do want to highlight some points in the summer 2008 edition of Pacific Northwest Research Station's "Science Update". For a start, the issue piqued my interest with its title "Changing With The Climate".

Two broad-based strategies surface: Adaptation and mitigation. Adaptation would aim to prepare for the new climate and mitigation would attempt to slow down the process of climate change. As with almost any science, models have been developed to project what will grow where with different climate scenarios. These models suggest that warmer temperatures in northern latitudes will enable trees to grow where they currently do not and thus sequester carbon from the atmosphere – a good thing. Counter-balancing this is increased fire risk further south.

Traditional resource management has been that the future will echo the past. It must change to acknowledge that we have to live with uncertainty and manage for change.

Connie Millar is a climate change scientist with the PNW Research Station. She and her colleagues have come up with the "5 R's" approach to reframing strategies in a changing climate. (1) increase **resistance** (2) promote **resilience** (3) enable ecosystems and resources to **respond** (4) **realign** land conditions with current and anticipated environments and (5) **reduce** greenhouse gases and use of nonrenewable energy.

Rethinking seed zones is one approach. Seed zones for Douglas-fir are based on latitude and elevation. As climates change, seed zones may shift north and uphill and it may be wise to intersperse seedlings from warmer seed zones with local seedlings to increase genetic variation and the stand's resiliency to change. Brad St. Clair, a geneticist at PNW Research Station says, "Diversify to manage for uncertainty". St Clair explains that the Douglas-fir forests of the Pacific Northwest can store more carbon than any other terrestrial ecosystem which brings added importance to our forests. The science from determining seed zones is already there and could be revised from a climate perspective.

What are our options for mitigation? Ralph Alig, an economist with the PNW Research Station says, "Slowing down deforestation may be a critical step to mitigating climate change" since forests store more carbon and require less input than agricultural land. Supply and demand must play a role too, acknowledging that too much afforestation would drive down timber prices. Valuing the ecosystem service of carbon sequestration in the marketplace could create incentive for longer harvest rotation and for private forest owners to maintain or increase their forested acreage. Mitigation options also include using wood instead of non-wood products for building and managing forest stands for sawtimber rather than pulp-wood since sawtimber comes from larger trees that sequester more carbon and the final product, such as wood beams, tends to have a longer shelf life than paper products.

What about using woody biomass to generate electricity? Thinning forests would reduce fire risk, but is expensive. Mark Nechodom and colleagues have been conducting the Biomass to Energy project for California. On average, electricity generated from fossil fuels costs 5.5 cents per kwh; biomass energy costs 6.5 to 8 cents per kwh. But if the benefits such as fuel reduction resulting in fewer fires in forests were priced into the equation, the prospects for biomass energy improve.

How does a wildfire differ from a wood-burning power plant in terms of carbon emissions? Although gaps exist in the data, "A ton of biomass burned in a wildfire releases the same amount of carbon dioxide as it would in a clean-burning biomass plant," says Nechodom. "The issue is the difference in greenhouse gasses emitted by wildfires of different severity. A severe wildfire produces more emissions than a less severe wildfire. A wildfire also releases other greenhouse gas components such as methane which has 21 times the global warming potential that carbon dioxide does. Biomass energy emits greenhouse gases that have lower global warming potential than wildfire."

There are other challenges to managing for change. The Endangered Species Act, for example does not take into account climate change that could alter the habitat of a species beyond human control. Incorporating management practices that facilitate future processes may make more sense than trying to create desired conditions.

The article ends by acknowledging that scientists will never be able to give a definitive answer about what will happen, but many decisions will need to be made regarding mitigation and adaptation.

"The purpose of the PNW Science Update is to contribute scientific knowledge for pressing decisions about natural resource and environmental issues." It is published several times a year. If you would like to be on their mailing list, call (503)808-2592.

WCSWA Committees: Be A Part Of The Action!

WCSWA relies on the involvement and contribution of its members in order to provide benefits for members, forestry leadership in Washington County, and outreach to the broader community. Currently the following committees carry out this important work:

Scholarship - Bonnie Shumaker, Mike Heath, Don Moore, Sharon Boge

Seedlings - Bob Shumaker, Wendell Walker

Annual Meeting - Sharon Boge, Ann Hanschu, Bet Adams

Program - Jim Brown, Ralph Raines, Beth Adams, Steve Olsen, Bill Triest

Membership - Art Dummer

Government Affairs Committee - Ron Larson

Plant Sale - Bonnie Shumaker, Ardis Schroeder, Eloise Binns

Tree Farmer Of the Year - Mike Heath and last two years recipients

Newsletter editor - Tom Nygren

Projects - Tom Nygren

Annual banquet award - WCSWA President, Bob and Bonnie Shumaker, Pat Nygren

Some committees need additional help! If you are interested in helping out, contact someone on a committee, or WCSWA President Dallas Boge.

Did You Know?

In the U.S., there are about 5 acres of forestland per capita today, but by 2060 that number is expected to drop to 2 acres. This will put enormous pressure on forestland owners to serve competing values. From *Oregon's Family Forestlands*, OFRI



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Need A Market? Or, Want to Buy Some Forest Products?

The Oregon Forest Industry Directory is a good source both buyers and sellers – of anything related to a wood product or service. The Oregon Forest Industry Directory facilitates the establishment of business connections between the broad array of interests in Oregon's forestry sector. The directory is a joint effort of the Oregon Wood Innovation Center at Oregon State University, the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, and the Northwest Wood Products Association

<http://www.orforestdirectory.com>

Market Forces At Work – How Will They Affect US In The Next Year?

While supply and demand forces are always equalized with prices, there appear to be a number of new supply shocks emerging that are going to have a huge impact on markets and products going forward. They include the following:

- Mill closures in North America, driven by the slump in housing, which will reduce available capacity during the rebound.
- The mountain pine beetle in B.C. and other western regions, which will decrease timber harvests by as early as 2010.
- The emergence of wood usage for energy as biofuels, which is a reality given US\$100+/ barrel oil prices.

However, the biggest supply shock — and one that is almost upon us — appears not be as well known. **The Russian government's log export tax is currently at 25% (minimum euro 15/m³) and will move to a crippling 80% (minimum euro 50/m³) on January 1, 2009.** Russia leads the world in softwood and hardwood log exports, with a 40% market share that reached almost 50 million m³ (275 billion bf, Scribner scale) in 2007. The key customers of Russian log exports — China, Finland and Japan — will be the countries most impacted. However, there will be a new supply realignment of replacement log and wood products to rebalance supply in these countries. **Higher prices are expected as early as the 4th quarter of 2008, and new exporters and product flows will be a given!**

The major question on many people's minds is how large the "ripple effect" will be beyond the main impacted markets of China, Japan and Scandinavia, and — going further than logs — what will be the global price impacts on lumber and plywood, including in North America. **It could be bigger than the withdrawal of U.S. national forest timber as a result of the spotted owl!**

By Russell Taylor, President, Wood Markets Monthly, August, 2008

Local LNG and Pipelines Opposition Fund Raiser Is Success

Over 250 concerned citizens and landowners from Dayton, Molalla and Astoria joined local OCAPers (Oregon Citizens Against Pipelines) at beautiful and sunny Montinore Estate Saturday, August 16th for picnic dinners with wine tasting, music, desserts and silent auction. Thanks to Rudy Marchesi of Montinore Estate, musicians Karla Fisher and Rene Berblinger, local organizers, and many preparers of cakes, pies and pastries. Special thanks to storyteller David Barrett for his Tillamook Forest Narrative which captivated the attendees.

Some highlights of the silent auction included jewelry, artwork, an Italian Outdoor Dinner for Ten from Gardens of Nana Cardoon, Forest Grove and scenic river view accommodations at The Cannery Pier Hotel, Astoria. Approximately \$16,000 raised will be used by Columbia Riverkeeper, for legal, media and other costs associated with several ongoing activities to inform and protect communities, forests, streams, farms and homes. Additional contributions can be mailed to Columbia Riverkeeper, 724 Oak Street, Hood River, OR 97031 or donate on the web at www.columbiariverkeeper.org.

State Representative Chuck Riley and candidate Al Hansen spoke in opposition to LNG importation and the two separate 36 inch diameter high pressure gas pipelines proposed from the Columbia terminals to Molalla area interstate connections. A representative for candidate Jim Gilbert also addressed the assembly. State House representative Debbie Boone provided a statement in opposition to LNG.

Other speakers reported that unauthorized trespassing by LNG developers on private properties with impending pipeline crossings appears to have abated since an associated lawsuit was filed. Speakers also noted that recent "LNG Is Green" advertising and telephone "push polls" by LNG developers are deceptive and part of public relations campaigns underway by Northernstar, OregonLNG, and Northwest Natural Gas.

Hazards associated with 500 planned initial annual transits of LNG tankers on the lower Columbia were discussed. LNG tankers in Columbia Navigation Channel in close proximity to existing ocean going vessels 365 days a year creates liabilities to regional economies, especially agriculture and wood products industries. Speakers addressed requests by LNG shippers for billions of gallons of free ballast water and reminded attendees that the State of Oregon does have authority to deny environmental and other permitting requirements.

Among those attending and contributing were the following WCSWA members: Paul and Sue Vosburg, Bob and Bonnie Shumaker, Neil and Ardis Schroeder, Art and Joan Dummer, Dallas and Sharon Boge, Richard and Anne Hanschu, the Howells, and the Neuringers.

Don Hennig and Joyce Sauber

Wood – The Original "Green" Building Material

James Bowyer, Director of the Responsible Materials Program of Dovetail Partners and University of Minnesota emeritus professor of bioproducts and biosystems engineering, writes that, "As people become more knowledgeable about environmental life-cycle assessment, and as bioenergy and carbon storage and mitigation move to the forefront of public discourse, wood could well re-emerge as the environmental material of choice for the 21st century and beyond."

Forest Products Journal, July-August, 2008

***Assessing the Response of Streams to Contemporary Forest Practices
October 13-14, 2008 – CH2M Hill Alumni Center, OSU***

Over the past several decades in response to environmental concerns, the annual harvest in the timber-producing states of the Pacific Northwest was reduced and forest practices were improved. However, there is still concern that the intensity of contemporary forest practices used to manage commercial forest land is not environmentally sustainable. To address this concern, the Watersheds Research Cooperative (WRC), under the administration of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University, is conducting research on the impacts of contemporary forest practices on aquatic ecosystems. This research is carried out in three paired watershed studies in western Oregon: Hinkle Creek, the Alsea Study, and the Trask Watershed.

The purpose of this conference is to report on the state-of-the-science of the environmental effectiveness of contemporary forest practices. The conference will feature reports on preliminary results, current status, and future directions for the three WRC paired watershed studies. Also, results will be presented from similar research from throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Early registration (before Sept. 16) \$135, 9/16 on - \$160

Got A Spare \$16 Million?

Stimson lumber officials in Missoula met with Craig Rawlings of TimberBuySell.Com, representatives of Montana's congressional delegation and others to spread the news about an offer: Buy the former Stimson plant in Bonner for \$16 million and get all the equipment, including a working stud mill, for free.

Source:
www.timberbuysell.com



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In 2007 the Slide Began: How Long Will It last?

For the first time in over 20 years, 2007 sales of the top 500 wood retailers fell versus previous years. Total sales for the group fell 2.1%. The drop in sales of key wood products reflects the North American wood products industry decline over the past two years, and will likely result in closures, mergers, etc.

Home Depot accounts for 55% of total home center sales and lost 2.1% in sales in 2007 (sold HD Supply and closed a number of its retail stores). Pro dealers were the hardest hit of the building channel sector with a drop in sales of 15.8%. The top five pro dealers' total sales were down US\$3.4 billion, attributable to 48% of their sales being in lumber and plywood.

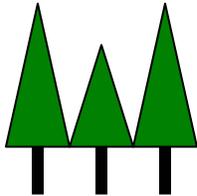
U.S. housing is not expected to recover until early to mid-2009, but which building channel companies will be left standing and in what condition?

Wood Markets Monthly, August, 2008

Washington County Small Woodlands Association
Newsletter Editor
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Potpourri

Washington County Forestry Extension Search

With the move of Chal Landgren from Extension Forester for Washington and Columbia Counties to a statewide Extension Agent for Christmas Trees, the Extension Service has begun a search for a new forestry agent to serve Washington and Columbia Counties. The position has been advertised nationwide with a September 30 closing date for applications. Jim Johnson, Forestry Leader for OSU Extension Service, has appointed a search committee, under the chairmanship of Glenn Ahrens, Clatsop/Tillamook Extension Forester, to screen applicants. Interviews will be conducted with applicants in mid-November, with a decision to follow. A change from the past: the new Extension Forester will have primary headquarters in the Extension office in St Helens instead of Beaverton. The move is due to an increasingly crowded Beaverton office.

Tualatin SWCD Annual Meeting, BBQ

The Third Annual Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District BBQ and Tour on will be held on Saturday, September 13th at the Ralph Duyck farm in Roy. Tours will showcase two projects: Ralph's ECREP (Enhanced Conservation Reserve Project) project and another on a nearby farm that has participated in EQIP (Environmental Quality Improvement Program). There will also be food, square dancing, and a silent auction. The BBQ/Tour will begin at 12 pm and go until 4 pm. The Duyck farm is located in Roy, just south of Greenville Road on Roy Road. The projects visited will feature tree planting in riparian areas and other stream restoration projects. If you would like to attend, RSVP at the SWCD office, 503-648-3174, extension 117.