

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

December-January, 2008-9

January 27th WCSWA Meeting

FPA: Notification Of Planned Forestry Activities

Now is a good time for woodland owners to be anticipating their forestry activities for the year, and preparing the Notification required under the Oregon Forest Practices Act. The January meeting will feature Tom Kennedy and Eric Perkins, Stewardship Foresters for the Oregon Forestry Department in Forest Grove, who will provide useful information to help you fill out your notification for activities such as timber harvest, road building and maintenance, firewood cutting, and other forestry activities.

The meeting will be at the OSU Extension office, Capital Center, 185th and Walker Road in Beaverton, and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Tom Kennedy grew up in Aloha, Oregon, and was active in the Boy Scouts; eventually reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. After high school he enlisted in the Oregon Army National Guard for a total of eight years while he attended community college at PCC Rock Creek. He then transferred to

See "FPA Program", page 12



Tree Farmers of Year 2008 – Scott and Marge Hayes

Scott and Marge Hayes, owners of "Arbor House Tree Farm" in the Gales Creek area, are the 2008 Tree Farmers of the Year for Washington County. The honor was awarded at the WCSWA Annual Awards Banquet on November 18th by Mike Heath, chairman of the WCSWA Tree Farm Committee.

Marge and Scott's tree farm is 40 acres in size, and was certified by the American Tree Farm System in 1996. It consists of a mix of old Christmas tree plantations that have "escaped", riparian areas of mixed fir and hardwood, and recently established fir plantation. Scott and Marge manage their tree farm for a variety of values – wildlife, timber, and minor tree species such as madrone, white oak, and cherry.

Scott and Marge met while both were working for the Oregon Department of Forestry – Scott has a forestry degree and Marge's degree was in home economics. They both retired from the Department in 2005, and volunteer at the Tillamook Forest Center when they're not working on their tree farm.

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Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

Another momentous year is in the history books. The price of gasoline and diesel hit never-before-seen prices, and has since retreated. This in turn helped an economy already suffering from some problems to accelerate into what is now an unpleasant time. Log prices and the log market demand are at lows not seen for a long time.

And yet, we have much to be thankful for as a people. The sun comes up every morning for its usual round trip. We all for the most part are enjoying good health. If the recent Black Friday is any indicator, some people seem to still have money. And more than 93% of Oregonians still are working. This is truly a season to be thankful for what we have.

This month we exercise one of the rights we enjoy as American citizens, that is, the right to vote. Yes, I know that it is for officers and directors of the local chapter, but still I encourage each of you to cast your ballot for the officer and director of your choice.

Congratulations to Bob and Bonnie Shumaker for their runner-up finish in the contest for Oregon tree farmer of the year! Congratulations to the Browns of Union County for being selected outstanding tree farmers of the year. I look forward to seeing their tree farm next summer.

I want to give special thanks to Wendell Walker for his service to Washington County OSWA over these many years. He is finishing his term as director and has decided not to run again. Wendell served many years as our treasurer, a thankless job. Thank you, Wendell!

Next month is a month in which many dues renewals are mailed out. It also marks the start of the legislative session. What do these have in common? Each membership is allowed to have up to three members. Please, if you haven't already done so, add the extra names to have three members on each membership. When we are talking to our legislators, the number of members we represent is very important. The more we have, the better we are heard.

That's all for now.

Dallas

The Dawn of a New Understanding....

You might guess environmental groups would be glad timber prices have collapsed to where loggers' chain saws have fallen silent and sawmills are shutting down. Instead, they're nervous. If logging doesn't pay, the same timber companies some environmentalists have blamed for ruining the forest may get rid of the forest -- selling off their prime real estate. Then subdivisions could grow instead of trees, absent the wildlife, clean water and other benefits forests typically present.

A rising number of environmental groups now want to help the timber industry stay in business by providing funds or other support. The question is whether they can save timber companies and mills reeling from the collapse of housing and construction. "It's a new day -- it's a new landscape," said Guido Rahr, president of the Wild Salmon Center in Portland. "We have to realize private-land timber companies are our friend. Once land gets broken up into smaller pieces, our ability to protect it is eliminated."

Michael Milstein, "The Oregonian", 12/20/2008

WCSWA Leadership

President – Dallas Boge; 503-357-7688

Vice-President – Jim Brown; 503-284-6455

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

Board of Directors:

Dick Courter; 503-297-1660

Art Dummer; 503-357-4258

Tom Nygren, 503-628-5472

Neil Schroeder; 503-628-2344

Bonnie Shumaker – 503-324-7825

Wendell Walker, 503-353-0328

Legislative Committee Chair:

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)

Wanted: Chipper, PTO or trailer mounted, with 4"+ capacity and hydraulic feed, Tom, 503-628-5472

Event Calendar

- January**
- 10 Ecological Forestry: Restoring Habitat in Managed Forests.** Northwest Trek, Eatonville, WA. 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Information at <http://www.nnrg.org/news-events/habitat-complexity-in-managed-forests>
 - 26 WCSWA Monthly Meeting.** OSU Extension office at 7:00 p.m. Location: Capital Center at 185th and Walker Road in Beaverton. The program will be a presentation on the Oregon Forest Practice Act – how to interpret and comply with it – especially filling out notifications. Tom Kennedy and Eric Perkins of the Forest Grove office of ODF.
- February**
- 19-21 Oregon Logging Conference** – Eugene. Call 541-686-9191, or go to www.oregonloggingconference.com
 - 24 WCSWA Monthly Meeting** - 7:00 p.m. OSU Extension office. Capital Center, at Walker Road and 185th in Beaverton.
- March**
- 21 Tree School** – Clackamas Community College, Oregon City. For information and application, contact Cheryl at 503-655-8631. (note: this school fills up quickly, so act immediately!)
 - 24 WCSWA Monthly Meeting**
- April**
- 28 WCSWA Monthly Meeting**
- May**
- 26 WCSWA Monthly Meeting**
- June**
- Beginning of Field Tours – Schedule not yet developed**

Farmer's Advice:

Life is simpler when you plow around the stump

Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment

Letting the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back in

A yellowjacket is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor



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Dealing with Scotch Broom on Old Fields

Recent research suggests that, when sown into an existing seedbank of Scotch broom, blue wild-rye and spike bentgrass are likely to inhibit development of this aggressive shrub species; however, western fescue will not be as aggressive at inhibiting Scotch broom. Nutrient amendments strongly stimulated biomass development of Scotch broom and grass; however, broom biomass was lowest when it was grown with grass without any nutrient amendments. Because relative competitive effects of the grass increased with nutrient amendments, the potential may exist to combine fertilization and mowing treatments to create an aggressive stand of grass that may effectively eliminate Scotch broom and inhibit further germination of the species. **Tim Harrington, USFS PNW Research, Olympia, WA**

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1/2 page	65	130	325
2/3 page	86	170	425
Full page	125	250	625

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Looking Ahead – Upcoming WCSWA Programs

The Program Committee has been working hard on developing some interesting programs for the monthly WCSWA Meetings. In addition to the January agenda on FPA Notifications, they have arranged for the following:

February 24 – the newly elected Oregon Attorney General, John Kroger, will visit and be prepared to discuss the LNG Pipeline proposal. This will be a joint meeting with the Farm Bureau, so there should be a good sized audience!

March 24 – David Ford, new Executive Director of OSWA, and Mike Gaudern, President and CEO of the newly formed Woodlands Carbon Company, will be the featured speakers.

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Oregon Forest Inventory Report Available

The first 5-year forest inventory report for Oregon's private and public lands is now available to the public: *Oregon's Forest Resources, 2001-2005: Five-Year Forest Inventory and Analysis Report*. Read it online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/qtr765/>.

Here are some key findings from the report:

- Oregon's forests span about 30 million acres; about half of Oregon's total land area of 61 million acres.
- Forest land is being converted to other uses particularly near urban areas. The rate of conversion had slowed in the past decade, but it's not clear what protections will remain on rural forest and agricultural land.
- The majority of old-growth forest is now found on federal land, although the current percentage is estimated to be less than half of that existing before Euro-American settlement.
- Data spanning 1953 to 1987 show a decrease in timberland area and volume, but inventories in the late 1990s and 2001-2005 suggest recent increases in timberland acreage and volume.
- Economic activity increased in the forest products industry, with an 8-percent increase in harvest since 2003.
- Private landowners provide most of Oregon's wood products, industry jobs, and timber revenue.
- Ownership is rapidly changing as some industry owners sell their lands to timber investment management organizations (TIMO) or real-estate investment trusts (REIT) who may manage the land for a variety of purposes.
- A single fuel-management prescription does not fit all landscapes in Oregon. Less than half of forested lands are predicted to develop crown fires, and an even smaller fraction can be expected to develop active crown fire.
- Oregon's forests are a net sink for carbon. More carbon is sequestered in growing wood than is emitted in decaying wood.

The data from the FIA reports are used by state, federal, and private land managers, investors, and others for a variety of purposes including the assessment of fuels and potential fire hazard, biomass and carbon storage, the effects of insects and disease, growth and mortality, wildlife habitat, plant diversity, and the supply of goods and services.

Since the 1930s, the U.S. Forest Service has conducted inventories of private lands throughout the United States. In the early days, inventories focused primarily on trees: how much timber was out there? Today's inventory is still about measuring and counting trees, but it also accounts for understory vegetation, down woody material, lichens, damage caused by insects and disease, and more.

Whereas the original inventory design produced resource bulletins about every 10 to 12 years from data collected over a 2- to 3-year period, today's inventory in the Western United States is conducted on a 10-year cycle where 1/10 of the field plots are measured annually on public and private forest land. Data are now posted each year and summary reports are issued every 5 years.

For more information about the national Forest Inventory and Analysis Program visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/fia/>. The PNW Research Station is headquartered in Portland, Oregon. It has 11 laboratories and centers located in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington and about 500 employees.

Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

Winter in the woods conjures up a medley of delights. Christmas first comes to mind with the celebration of Christ's birth. The forest is perhaps God's most elegant cathedral, especially after a snowfall. Many children's books set the scene in a snowy wood. "Stranger in the Woods" and "Owl Moon" come first to mind with their dreamlike pictures and prose. When I wrote this column for the December Forest Forum, it had yet to snow and I was hoping for some. As I rewrite this for the combined December/January issue, we still have snow on the ground, but it is down from the 2+feet that seemed to build every day and postponed or cancelled many holiday plans. All that snow may have caused some inconvenience (and more than a few broken tops), but I cannot deny its beauty.

Bob and I spent many days in November at our Vernonia road property clearing brush from about ten under-stocked acres for which 1500 seedlings are on order. The snow we got should pack the grasses and last year's fern fronds down making the finding of planting spots much easier come February.

We're planning an experiment when we plant here. We've purchased bud caps from IFA; the peel-and-stick kind. The idea is threefold. First, we hope to discourage the many deer and elk from eating our seedlings. Reportedly, the bud caps can even be used a second year by boosting them up the prior year's leader. Second, we hope to kick off the planting with a fun three-generation "ties to the land" planting day and weenie roast with the five grandkids applying the bud caps and helping with the planting. We keep reminding ourselves that we must keep it fun and not expect tremendous output. We can finish the planting on other days when we'll slog through the rest of the seedlings ourselves. I know we won't work the grandkids too hard, because Bob and I are only good for about two hours of this kind of work at a time. This explains why it took us so many days to get the brush cutting done. The third part of the idea behind the bud caps is so we will be able to find the trees two weeks or so later when it is time to spray for grass control around the trees. It's an experiment we've decided is worth a try. I'll report on its level of success later.

I'd like to share one thing I learned when we were cutting brush. My job was to follow Bob and his brush cutter around and spray the stems he cut with basal spray so they won't re-sprout next spring. After a few days, my backpack sprayer wouldn't hold pressure for more than a few seconds and would only pump up a couple of times. I reported this to our son, Dan who knows about all things mechanical. He said I needed to empty the sprayer and then pump with the nozzle open until only air came out. The problem was that we hadn't been emptying the back pack sprayer each day and in getting ready for the next day had been just "topping off" the sprayer with the herbicide. Apparently this allows liquid to get into the "thingamajig" that pumps air pressure into the sprayer so it can't pressurize well. I'm sure this isn't news to many of you, but it was important for me to learn, so I'm passing it on to those of you who may encounter this problem and not know how to fix it and don't have a mechanical son to help out.

Bob and I both hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and holiday season. We look forward to seeing those of you who can make it at the January meeting.

WCSWA Director Election – Ballot Enclosed

Two positions will open up this year for the WCSWA Board of Directors. At the November 18th Awards Banquet, nominations were sought for the Director and Officer positions. The existing officers (Dallas Boge, president, Jim Brown, Vice-President, and Bob Shumaker, Secretary-Treasurer agreed to run for their positions. For the two Director positions, two candidates were identified: Art Dummer (incumbent), and Bill Triest. Additional nominations were sought from the floor, but none were offered and nominations were closed by vote of those attending.

A mail-in ballot is included in this issue for your use in voting for these positions. Note that there are spaces for write-in candidates for all positions. Please cut it out, fill in, and mail as instructed.



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USDA Announces New Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 2008--Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer today announced the intention to establish a new USDA Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets and the creation of a federal government-wide Conservation and Land Management Environmental Services Board to assist the Secretary of Agriculture in the development of new technical guidelines and science-based methods to assess environmental service benefits which will in turn promote markets for ecosystem services including carbon trading to mitigate climate change.

"Our Nation's farms, ranches and forests provide goods and services that are vital to society - natural assets we call "ecosystem services," said Schafer. "The Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets will enable America's agriculture producers to better compete, trade their services around the world, and make significant contributions to help improve the environment."

Agriculture producers provide many ecosystem services which have historically been viewed as free benefits to society - clean water and air, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and scenic landscapes. Lacking a formal structure to market these services, farmers, ranchers and forest landowners are not generally compensated for providing these critical public benefits. Market-based approaches to conservation are proven to be a cost-effective method to achieve environmental goals and sustain working and natural landscapes. Without financial incentives, these ecosystem services may be lost as privately-owned lands are sold or converted to development.

Secretary Shafer intends to name Sally Collins Director of the Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets (OESM). Organizationally, OESM will be located within the Office of the Secretary providing direct access to the Secretary. Collins will assume this position after serving as Associate Chief of the USDA Forest Service for the past 8 years, where she pioneered concepts for ecosystem services and markets as part of that agency's sustainable land management mission. (Note: Sally Collins is a past Forest Supervisor of the Deschutes National Forest)

OESM will provide administrative and technical assistance to the Secretary in developing the uniform guidelines and tools needed to create and expand markets for these vital ecosystem services and will support the work of the Conservation and Land Management Environmental Services Board. As directed by the authorizing legislation the first ecosystem services to be examined will be carbon sequestration. The Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets and the Conservation and Land Management Environmental Services Board will be established to implement actions authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill.

The Conservation and Land Management Environmental Services Board will be comprised of the Secretaries of Interior, Energy, Commerce, Transportation, and Defense; the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors; the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology ; the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and, the Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers. The Secretary of Agriculture will Chair the Board. The Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Administrator of Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs will serve as vice-chairs.

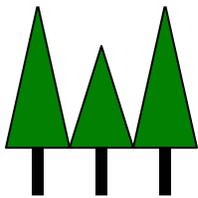
Nominations will be sought in the near future for a federally chartered public Advisory Committee to advise the Board. The Advisory Committee will include farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners, Tribal representatives, as well as representatives from State natural resource and environmental agencies, agriculture departments, and conservation and environmental organizations.

Washington County Small Woodlands Association
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Forest Forum

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**WASHINGTON COUNTY
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**Bob Shumaker
Secretary-Treasurer
Washington County Small Woodlands Association
52490 NW Cedar Canyon Road
Banks, OR 97106-8822**

The following people have been nominated for Officers and Directors of Washington County Small Woodlands Association. Please mark your ballot with an "X" in the box to the right of the candidate, or write-in a candidate of your choice. Fold, tape, and stamp the mailer before mailing.

Thank you for participating in the WCSWA election for Officers and Directors for 2009!

Election Slate – 2009 Term

<p><u>DIRECTORS:</u> (Two positions)</p> <p>Position #1:</p> <p>Art Dummer <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(write-in)_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Position #2:</p> <p>Bill Triest <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(write-in)_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><u>OFFICERS:</u></p> <p>PRESIDENT</p> <p>Dallas Boge <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(write-in) _____ <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>VICE PRESIDENT</p> <p>Jim Brown <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(write-in)_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>SECRETARY/TREASURER</p> <p>Bob Shumaker <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(write-in)_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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WCSWA Recognizes “Tall Timbers” – Contributors To The Woodland Community

Three annual “Tall Timbers” awards were presented by WCSWA at the Annual Awards Banquet for outstanding contributions to the woodland community:



Stimson Lumber Company, for their support of small woodland owners over the years through their Managed Forest Program (MFP), participation in the Tree Farmer of the Year awards (including providing the handsome sign shown in the photo on page one), and supporting the OSWA membership drive by providing a \$25 match to any new member who joins OSWA. **Mike Heath**, the Company’s MFP manager, received the award.



Richard and Anne Hanschu, for their educational work over the years, and especially for providing an outstanding “model woodland” that has been the site of many woodland events, including the 2008 National Tree Farm System Field Day at their Little Beaver Creek Tree Farm.



Chal Landgren was recognized for his many valuable contributions to woodland owners, WCSWA, and the Oregon Woodland Co-op as Extension Forester for Washington and Columbia Counties. Chal is now the Christmas Tree Extension Specialist for Oregon, but his expertise and innovation have benefited many aspiring tree farmers – both Christmas tree and timber tree types. Chal was instrumental in obtaining two economic development grants for WCSWA, resulting in a county wide survey of woodland owners and other benefits. Chal has provided expertise and material support for the Co-op in obtaining and implementing two USDA value-added program grants, resulting in a high quality Co-op business plan, and several value-added projects which are continuing.

2008 Farm – Opportunities for Woodland Owners

The 2008 Farm bill, passed by Congress and signed by the President, offers more opportunity for woodland owners than past farm bills. The programs are not yet funded, so there is some question about when they will be available. Major programs of interest to woodland owners are:

- EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentive Program
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Farmland Protection
- WHIP – Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program
- Healthy Forest Reserve
- Community Forestry, Open Space
- Energy
- Community Wood Energy
- Forest Biomass
- Biomass Crop Assistance

Details about these programs and other aspects about the Farm Bill can be found at

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/FarmBill/2008/Titles/TitleVIIIForestry.htm>

WCSWA Native Plant Sale – Get It On Your Calendar!

The 2009 WCSWA Native Plant Sale is scheduled for March 14th, 2009. Possibly new this time – an online pre-order option.



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FPA Program, continued from page 1

OSU in business, later transferring to forestry. He obtained a Bachelor of Forestry degree in Forest Management, and began his career with the Oregon Department of Forestry. He has worked in recreation, engineering, and his current position of Stewardship Forester.

Eric Perkins grew up in small rural communities in Oregon and Washington on both sides of the Cascade mountain range. The majority of his childhood was spent in the Willamette Valley area. He graduated high school in Cottage Grove and eventually graduated college from Oregon State University (OSU), with a degree in Forest Management.

Eric began his career in forestry working part-time for the Forest Service on the Ochoco National Forest, while going to college part time. He then worked for Prineville Saw Mill Company, getting experience in supplying logs to the mill and dealing with this industry from both the business side and the private landowner's perspective. With the downturn in the sawmill business, Eric turned to forestry consulting, and then to Oregon Department of Forestry, leading to his current position of Stewardship Forester.

Just the Facts

Family forest owners account for 92 percent of all forestland owners, and 62 percent of the private forest land in the U.S.

Sixty-one percent of the family forest owners own less than 10 acres, but 53 percent of the family forest land is owned by people with more than 100 acres.

Fifty-eight percent of family forest land is owned by people who have commercially harvested trees.

One in 5 family forest land owners is at least 75 years of age.

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Seven Concepts of Sustainable Forestry:

1. *Sustained Yield* – grow more than you harvest
2. *Timber harvests are unattractive and unappreciated* – Modify to retain public support
3. *The U.S. consumes a lot of wood* – decreasing per capita use is good
4. *The U.S. is a net wood importer* – we have a large “footprint”
5. *Importing wood exports consequences* – “out of sight, out of mind”
6. *Wood is better than most substitutes* – wood – the original “green” building material
7. *There is a finite area from which wood must come* – as they say, “Land - they aren’t making any more of it”

Stephen Shifley, Northern Research Station, U.S. Forest Service

Chainsaws and E-10

Oregon filling stations now sell gasoline with 10% ethanol – “E-10.” What affect does that fuel blend have on two-stroke engines such as on chainsaws? Two Roseburg service representatives offered to consult with operators:

- Myrl Davis, at Hobi Equipment, 1810 NE Stephens, Roseburg, said preliminary observations suggest E-10 is acceptable in Stihl chainsaws. The key, he said, is to use fresh fuel and lubricating oil reformulated by Stihl for gasoline-with-ethanol. He recommended not leaving gasoline in the carburetor for weeks; in his repair shop he sees a lot of build up in fuel systems. He advised not to add other substances to the gasoline because it may reduce energy output.
- For Husqvarna chainsaws, Steffan Ihrcke, Diamond Power Equipment, 7445 Old Hwy 99 N., Roseburg, has found the alcohol itself has not proved a real problem. The problem, he said is that alcohol absorbs moisture in this climate and that additives used in four-stroke engines are not adapted for two-stroke engines. He recommended buying gasoline from a major dealer and only the volume an operator uses in a month. He described a test for water in gasoline: Pour gasoline in a clean glass jar; let it set for a few minutes; watch for signs of water in the gasoline.

(Article from the Douglas County Woodlander, October, 2008 – Thanks, Douglas County!)

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Aldo Leopold

Russian Log Export Taxes Rise Up to 80% For Some Species!

As a move to force more lumber, plywood, and pulp manufacturing to stay in Russia, the country plans to increase their export tax on logs on January 1st. Softwood log tax will increase from 20% to 80%, poplar logs from 10% to 80%, and hardwood logs from 20% to 40%.

The high tax will likely cause sharp reductions in log exports, and will have both short and long term effects on the world forest products markets. China and Finland will feel the effects first, but ripple effects will circle the globe. One possible effect is an increase of log exports from North America to Asia. Another possible effect is that these countries will opt to purchase lumber rather than logs from North America.

A key question: How will log markets in the Pacific Northwest be affected?

Six Trends Driving Sustainable Development:

1. Global market forces
2. Changes in financial models for corporations and government
3. Innovation in core industries
4. Globalization; international institutions
5. Evolution, not revolution; incremental change
6. Communication and the influence of global media in changing policy and behavior

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OSU Extension Selects New Forester

The Oregon State University Extension Service has selected a new Extension Forester for Washington and Columbia Counties, replacing Chal Landgren. **Amy Grotta** has just accepted the position of Extension Agent and Assistant Professor (tenure track). ***Amy will begin her position on July 1, 2009, and will work primarily out of the Columbia County Extension office in St. Helens, with part-time office time in the Washington County Extension office.*** Amy has a B.S. degree from the University of California-Berkeley and an M.S. in Forest Science from OSU. She has worked as the King County Extension Agent for Forestry & Natural Resources for the past five years, with Washington State University Extension. Amy also was an Agroforestry Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay and a former high school Spanish teacher.

In her work as Extension Forester in King County, Washington, Amy developed tools to help small woodland owners to improve their economies of scale by working together, and prepared and delivered programs to help the general public understand and appreciate the benefits of active forest management and the role of working forests.

To help woodland owners keep up on Extension programs and information about forest management, Amy also developed a list-serve to send out weekly e-mails. The result was more engaged landowners, and two-way communication with landowners.

Amy has also been active in youth education, and in developing partnerships with local government, non-profits, and other entities.



Washington County Small Woodlands Association looks forward to working with Amy!

Market Update

Commodity wood products demand and prices in the U.S. continue to sink, much to the discomfort of mills, distributors and retailers alike. The reasons for this unprecedented market slide are all too well known at this point, but the question marks that remain about when the bottom will be reached and exactly how further losses will be absorbed by supply chain players are still of significant concern. It is expected that there will be more casualties, as the financial burden will be too difficult to permit all companies to survive this massive market correction.

Lumber and panel prices are so distressed that it is hard to comprehend how low they have gone to this point. Some U.S. West dimension lumber and stud prices have inched below the lows seen in 1986. Green Douglas fir 2x4 R/L (now at US\$148/Mbf) is now below its low point of US\$160/Mbf (achieved in 1985) and is moving closer to its next lowest point of US\$140/Mbf (achieved in 1982).

Mill operating rates— or production levels relative to normal capacity — reveal a lot about the state of the North American market:

- Canadian lumber operating rates averaged 63% for the first nine months of 2008, but in December are expected to be closer to 50% (normal is over 90%).
- U.S. lumber operating rates were at 70% for the first nine months.

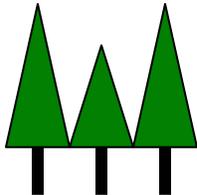
There are many issues to be considered at this point in the North American market slump. Many producers have few options and seem prepared to protect their market share at a huge financial cost, while wide price spreads indicate aggressive pricing. Also, the rest of the world uses mainly rough sawn lumber in construction, while North American mills mainly produce S4S lumber; this limits export opportunities.

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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

Welcome to New Members!

Lee Obanion of Gales Creek 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).

Ned and Sis Hayes Receive Award

Ned and Sis Hayes, longtime woodland owners and members of WCSWA, received the Lifetime Conservation Leadership Award from The Nature Conservancy. Ned and Sis, in addition to providing excellent stewardship of their woodlands, have provided resources to Oregon State University, and supported many conservation related efforts, such as protecting Sycan Marsh and Zumwalt Prairie. Congratulations, Ned and Sis!

Think Ahead – Tax Time Is Coming!

2008 Tax Tips for forest landowners

<http://www.timbertax.org/publications/FS/taxtips/TaxTips08.pdf>

This bulletin summarizes key federal income tax provisions for forestland owners, foresters, loggers, forest product businesses, and tax practitioners