

Forest Forum

Washington County Small
Woodlands Association

November, 2009

News from Oregon Department of Forestry

Fire Mitigation Grants

At our October meeting, Tom Kennedy from Oregon Department of Forestry informed us that there are still cost share dollars available for fire mitigation. This is an opportunity for anyone in Washington County to make the space around their homes defensible against wildland fires. Activities such as pruning, slash disposal, chipping, burning and pre-commercial thinning or equipment needed to perform these activities are covered under the grant. The grant covers 50% of the cost and the work landowners do on their own can account for part of their portion. Erin Wilson will be in charge of grant management. Call (503)359-7487 for more information or Email her at ewilson@odf.state.or.us. See President's Notes for more information.

Stewardship Foresters

Budget cuts have required increased territories for Stewardship Foresters. In our area we have:

John Krause - areas North of Forest Grove
Brent O'Nion - areas South of Forest Grove
Call ODF (503)357-2191 for more detail.



Don Rice accepting Madrone pencil holder from Dallas Boge

Hybrid Poplar a.k.a. Pacific Albus

Don Rice, the Director of Resource Management at GreenWood Resources, kept the audience enthralled at the WCSWA October meeting at Capital Center. He is a 27 year veteran of poplar management at GreenWood's Lower Columbia Tree Farm at Clatskanie and the 24,807 acre plantation at Boardman. Pacific Albus is the name they use to differentiate the species from Eastern Poplar.

The plantation was originally started by Potlach with the intent to grow this fast-growing species for pulp wood. However, the fluctuations in the pulp market hit a low when the harvest was ready and the pulpwood idea was scrapped. GreenWood Resources now owns the plantation with the Collins Company as managing partner.

Since 2000 their goal has been to grow sawlogs, and through extensive genetic research the trees still grow fast but also straight with improved density and less branching. To illustrate the rate of growth, Don stated that a 12- inch dormant stick planted with one bud above the surface in April would be 8-10 feet tall by August. Trees grow an average of 1" diameter and 10' per year on a 10 to 15 year rotation. **See "GreenWood", page 2**

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Notes from the President

by Dallas Boge

Several months ago, I wrote about a federally-funded program administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry that is intended to mitigate the fire danger in the inhabited rural areas. We signed up to do seven separate projects on our property. To date we have finished one and have submitted the paperwork for our share of the cost share program payment.

The project completed was a five acre tract of mostly ten to fifteen year old trees planted on thirteen and one half foot centers. The work consisted of pruning up to ten feet and slash busting the limbs so that they were less than 12" deep on the ground. We used long handled hand pruners and a small fixed length power pruner to do the removal of limbs. I then ran over the limbs with a tractor mounted rotary mower, which reduced the limbs to small pieces which were left lying directly on the soil. This tract is nearly flat, which allowed the use of a wheel tractor.

The resource management class met at our farm recently and had a chance to see one of our tracts undergo pre-commercial thinning and slash busting by a new machine. The day was clear and sunny (the only one in a long stretch of wet weather) making the observation that much more pleasant. The tract being worked on consists of trees planted in 1989 and volunteer saplings courtesy of the neighboring trees. Thus, the tract is overplanted, probably six or seven hundred trees per acre. When we plant, we aim for about two hundred. The tract is more typical of our farm, being anything but flat. There is no way that I could use a wheel tractor to do any slash busting here.

The machine we saw working has a Fecon head that does the work. It consists of a rotating drum with fixed carbide teeth that chew up anything that gets in their way. It is capable of removing stumps (large and small) to the point where one cannot see where they even were. The head is attached to a machine which resembles a large Bobcat on steel tracks. With 140 horsepower, trees disappeared quickly.

We have done some work on two other tracts, one of which is almost done. Any further work will have to wait until harvest is done in December. One small tract is done except for the final pruning up to sixteen to twenty feet. This work is being done using a telescoping power pruner. Using the pruner fully extended is hard on people who have witnessed many sunrises, and is best done in small doses.

There are still monies left in the grant. See the article elsewhere in this issue. This is an opportunity for anyone in Washington County to make the space around their homes defensible against wildland fires.

That's all for now.

GreenWood, continued from Page 1

GreenWood plants and harvests over 600,000 trees per year on a sustainable basis. Trees are planted on a 10' x 15' grid (290/acre) although they are experimenting with a larger 10' x 20' spacing using 18-foot planting stock planted 3 ½ feet deep to minimize deer and wind damage. Pruning is done in three lifts to a total of 24 feet beginning in the third growing season.

Water is pumped 3 ½ miles from the Columbia River utilizing a state-of-the-art fish screen. The water is filtered and chlorinated to prevent algae growth and is supplied by drip irrigation through a highly automated system that monitors pressure and flow. Irrigation is done from April to September and varies from 8 inches/year on newly planted stock to 32-36 inches/year on mature stock.

Harvesting is fully mechanized using a feller buncher. A new mill, the Upper Columbia Sawmill managed by Collins serves the plantation. The average log haul distance is about 3 miles and is all off-highway from plantation to mill. Lumber from the mill goes into a dry kiln which uses waste heat from the PGE Coyote Springs co-gen power plant. It is dried to 6-8% moisture content in 5-6 days.

GreenWood is exploring biomass as a third component in addition to sawlogs and pulp. Due to their efforts to be sustainable and conserve water, soil and energy, GreenWood Tree Farms is certified under the Forest Stewardship Council's plantation standards.

WCSWA Leadership

November, 2009

WCSWA Website

www.wcswa.org

Website Manager: Kathy Scott

Contact Tom Nygren for web postings and information.

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
Bill Triest – 503-626-1838

Legislative Committee Chair:

Ron Larson; 503-775-3223

Forest Forum Newsletter

Editors: Tom Nygren & Bonnie Shumaker
503-628-5472 or 503-324-7825
e-mail: tnygren@juno.com or
bshumaker@coho.net

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:

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Illness forces sale: 40 acre tree farm above Hagg Lake. 30 acres in deferral. Mixed ages and species. Includes home, barn, orchard, pastures, springs and seasonal ponds. Kathy or Steve 503-359-1405

Event Calendar

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--|
| November | 13 | The Lacey Act: Implications for the Forest Products Industry
Embassy Suites Portland Airport, Portland, OR 8 AM - 4 PM (see article in this newsletter) |
| November | 17 | WCSWA Annual Awards Banquet. Jennings-McCall Center, Forest Grove. 5:30 p.m. social hour, 6:15 p.m. dinner. The Jennings-McCall Center is located near McMenamins at the corner of Pacific Highway and Highway 47. Speaker: Peter Hayes, Board of Forestry member and Washington County small woodland owner. |
| December | | No meeting is scheduled |

Advertising Opportunity:

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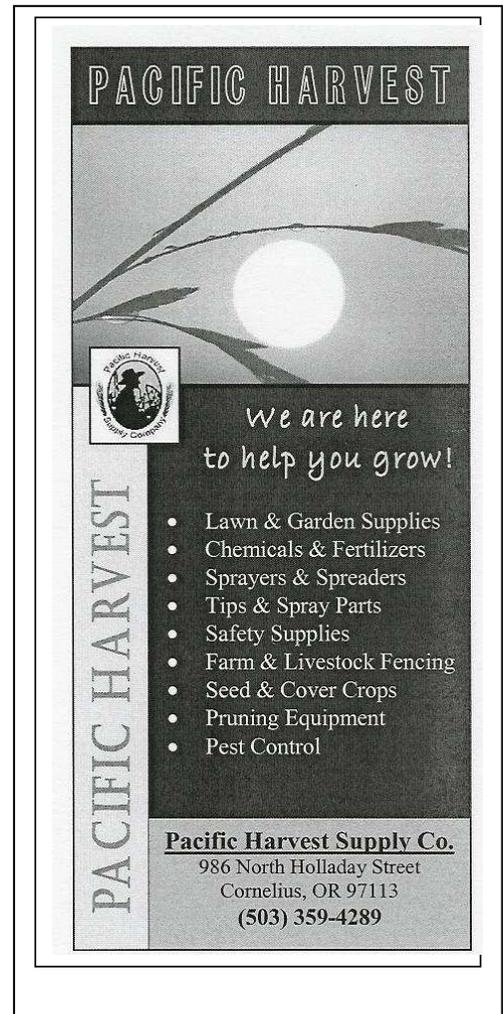
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Tree Talk

by Bonnie Shumaker

In September, Bob and I enjoyed a three week get-a-way to the desert southwest. We visited eight National Parks and enjoyed the different characteristics of each one. The picture to the right is at the bottom of the Navajo Loop trail in Bryce National Park, Utah. It is a real treat to find Douglas Fir in this arid country. Our first night there brought a thunderstorm and deluge of rain that may help explain how Doug Fir gets enough water to survive. We wished we had brought our increment borer to measure ring count. We're guessing it is pretty tight.



Douglas Fir defies the arid landscape at Bryce National Park

An interesting note from the trip: In the Visitor Center at Canyonlands National Park in Utah, the local floral and fauna listed Oregon Grape as well as the Spotted Owl. The owl was said to be geographically separated from the Northwest Spotted Owl. No mention was made of any endangered issues. The habitat is so different; it raised all kinds of questions in our minds.

Back on the tree farm, we are into the pruning season. We have targeted a 5.2 acre stand planted in 2002. This is a converted alfalfa field and the trees are growing well. They were hard to establish due to the competition and tenacity of the alfalfa roots, but our persistence was rewarded a couple of years ago with a winner in Stimson's Tall Leader Contest, and now they are ready for the first pruning. This is the most difficult hands and knees pruning that gives about a four foot lift. I'm not sure why Bob and I enjoy pruning, but it is satisfying to get up close and personal with the trees, and it certainly opens up the stand so we can see what's there. It is also a good opportunity to do pre-commercial thinning to those that will never make a good tree and trim off any double tops we find. Finally, we do it because physically, we still can.

A note about Stimson's Tall Leader Contest: The rules changed this year. The tree could not be taller than six feet and the winner was determined by new leader growth as a percentage of the total height of the tree. It required a totally different mindset when searching for a competitive tree. Our contestant was three feet tall with a 22 inch leader, making the leader 61% of the tree and worthy of third place, but no prize. The winner had a leader of over 70% of the total height.



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2010 Officers and Board Members Nominated

The nominating committee (Ron Larson, Don Moore, Elouise Binns) submits the following nominees for officers and directors.

President: Jim Brown
Vice President: Scott Hayes
Secretary-Treasurer: Bob Shumaker
Two Directors Positions: Tom Nygren and Sam Sadtler

Additional nominations will be solicited from the floor at the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet on November 17th.

A ballot will be included in the December issue of the Forest Forum and the official slate of officers and board members will be printed early next year in the Forest Forum.

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Resource Management Planning Class is Underway

We're about halfway through the Resource Management Planning shortcourse which is being co-sponsored by WCSWA and OSU Extension Service. The response has been great and there are 23 families participating in the class, developing their own forest management plans or updating existing ones. The initial classroom sessions introduced the structure and recommended elements of a forest management plan, the process of writing meaningful goals and objectives, and interpreting maps. These were followed by an all-day field session where we covered methods for collecting forest inventory information. Subsequent class sessions will delve more deeply into other topics which must be addressed in a management plan, including roads and water resources, wildlife, business and legal issues, and setting a course of action.

Special thanks go to all the volunteer mentors – Master Woodland Managers and others – who are “coaching” the students as they work through the process of writing their plans. The mentors include Mike Barnes, Dallas Boge, Anne and Richard Hanschu, Scott and Marge Hayes, Ron Larson, Tom Nygren, Paul Nys, Lylal Purinton, Sam Sadtler, Neil Schroeder, and ODF Stewardship Foresters John Krause and Brent O’Nion. Additional thanks to Dallas and Sharon Boge, who hosted the field day at their tree farm on a beautiful Saturday.

Got Wild Forest Goods?

Do you have a business that buys, sells, processes, or harvests Christmas boughs, cones, wild mushrooms, floral greens, medicinal herbs, mosses, berries, or other products from forestlands?

The Oregon Forest Industry Directory (OFID) is a free, on-line business directory operated and maintained by Oregon State University's Wood Innovation Center for businesses that buy and sell a variety of forest products and services. The directory is currently expanding its **nontimber forest products** section to include a diverse array of products and services. The site currently lists over 1,500 businesses and receives over 200,000 hits per month.

To register, go to www.orforestdirectory.com. If you need assistance registering on OFID, contact Scott Leavengood at OSU Extension (541-737-4212) or Lita Buttolph at the Institute for Culture and Ecology (503-331-6681).



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SEEDLING UPDATE, 2009-10
*by Bob Shumaker, Chairman, Seedling
Committee*

Bonnie and I confirmed our hunch about the negative effect of this year's hot summer on the seedlings we planted last year when we visited our Sunset Property to check out the survival rate. We have our seedling order in. I encourage you to do a visual check on any seedlings planted last spring, and if you need replacements or are planning an afforestation project on pastureland or under-stocked land let me know as soon as possible. We still have seedlings available and would appreciate any orders for these Vernonia Elite 1 + 1 Douglas Fir or Western Red Cedar seedlings. You need not be a WCSWA member to order seedlings, so let your friends and neighbors know. Call Bob Shumaker (503)324-7825 for an order form if you cannot find the one that came with your August Forest Forum.

The Lacey Act: Implications for the Forest Products Industry
November 13th, 2009
Embassy Suites Portland, Airport
8 AM-4 PM

Workshop will also be available as a webinar

Recently, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) made changes to the Lacey Act to include wood products. The act now requires that importers declare the species of wood used, the country of harvest for the tree and other data. The Lacey Act now authorizes substantial civil and criminal penalties if wood is taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of any U.S. or foreign law regulating trees. In May 2009, the U.S. Lacey Act officially began requiring declarations for some wood products. The second phase began October 1, 2009.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide participants with an overview of the new act, how the act will be enforced, learn from others in the industry how they are dealing with the act, and advice on how to show compliance or due care with the act. An overview of the Lacey Act can be found in the summer 2009 edition of the OWIC newsletter. For more information visit <http://owic.oregonstate.edu/FPS-WVC/>.

Sponsored by: The Forest Products Society Willamette Valley Chapter
The Oregon Wood Innovation Center, Oregon State University
Forest Products Department, Mississippi State University

Commercial Timberland Values – Rising or Falling?

Reported from the “Beck Group Report,” Fall, 2009

During recent months, controversy has been growing in the investment community regarding the current and future value of commercial timberland. A recent article in Barron’s financial magazine entitled “*Trouble in the Forest*” (August 10, 2009) made the allegation that timberlands in North America were grossly overvalued. In Barron’s words, “US timberlands may be one of the world’s most overvalued asset classes.” The article pointed out that timberland values actually increased 9% during 2008 and declined less than 1% in 2009 – quite remarkable when compared with other asset classes (e.g., stocks). The author suggests that timberland values, particularly in the South, could be vulnerable to a 50% drop in coming years, with part of this decline being due to current and future markets performing poorly for many timber users (e.g., sawmills, pulp mills) and to the need for TIMOs to sell timber at predetermined dates. Not surprisingly, the stocks of several firms tied to timberland dropped substantially in the days following publication.

Our response to these points is:

- While it is true that current demand for building products is at record low levels, the future outlook appears to be much brighter. In our crystal ball we see improved markets for lumber and plywood beginning the middle of next year. Longer term, the outlook for housing is quite strong. The Harvard Joint Center for Housing projects both a return to much higher housing starts (in the range of 1.5 million) and an increase in remodeling expenditures in coming years. When one couples increased demand with reduced supply due to permanent loss of capacity in Eastern Canada and the US, demand for lumber and, therefore, timber prices should increase substantially.
- The Barron’s article overlooked the potential impact of biomass on timberland values. While demand from pulp mills (and OSB) may be weak, demand for pulpwood for electrical power generation and wood fuel pellets has been growing and, therefore, could offset weakened demand from the pulp and OSB sectors.
- While the short-term outlook for real estate development or “Higher & Better Use” (HBU) properties may not be rosy, in the longer-term, with the retirement of many of the baby boomers, the demand for vacation homes and recreational properties will likely strengthen again, particularly as the stock market recovers.

There are a variety of other reasons that support timberland as an investment vehicle, including biological timber growth leading to increased value, diversification, and environmental considerations. As with other investment opportunities, astute due diligence and sharp negotiating skills are required. While current markets for timber are not great based on historical performance, the fundamentals still appear sound – the sky has not fallen on the value of timber.

Realizing Dreams

The following is taken from an article By Molly Priddy, “Flathead Beacon”, Montana

Building a home is a labor of love for many, full of financial unknowns and stressful deadlines. Once the planning and designing are finished, the waiting period begins as the house takes shape over a period of weeks to months.

A new company in the Flathead says it can help with the waiting, as it promises extra-efficient and environmentally friendly structures that, once manufactured, can be built in two days.

Montana Sustainable Building Systems, a new Whitefish company specializing in wood wall, roofing and floor systems, has taken European housing techniques and hopes to import them to the Flathead.

The underpinnings to this approach are standard practice overseas but are new to the United States. Solid wood walls, along with insulation made from wood products that would normally be

See “Dreams”, page 11

Dreams, continued from page 10

counted as waste, provide sustainability and efficiency for decades. The solid wood wall consists of three layers of panels pressed together with non-toxic glue, a method called cross-laminated timber form the wall that would be seen inside the house. On the other side lay thick layers of wood-fiber insulation, capped off by a breathable siding. Such thick walls would trap heat and only need one-third of the energy to keep the house warm, he added.

The layers are breathable and can dry, removing fears of inner-wall mold or trapped moisture. Solid wood walls, which are seismic and fire resistant, keep out unwanted noise as well.

The panels and insulation would be made from small to medium diameter trees. The process could revitalize the forest and add value to previously worthless wood.

Even the shavings and other byproducts would be used, either as fiber insulation or as biomass fuel to power the factory.

The business owners are still trying to find a spot for their facility somewhere in the Flathead, which would house cranes big enough to be used by Boeing and an assembly line 1,200 feet long. They expect to start pressing boards made from Montana timber by summer.

Prospective homeowners would design their house, the factory system would create custom panels, the materials would be shipped to the location en masse, detached and put together in 48 hours. This approach allows for fast additions as well, letting the owner unscrew part of the house to add another area quickly and efficiently.

The custom panels would not be cheap; however, these houses could be under warranty for decades and worth the higher cost.

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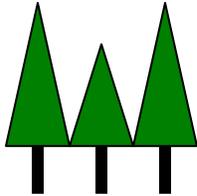
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Forest Forum



COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE
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Potpourri

Welcome to New Members!

Kay Nell Miller of Forest Grove, Jim and Laurie Marsh of Sherwood and Doug Eddy of Hillsboro have 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

Did You Know? (Of course you did)

Spending time in a forest could be good for your health! Scientific research has shown that when people view trees, their heart rate slows, their blood pressure lowers and they show relaxed brain wave patterns. (*Ulrich, Simons, Losito, Fjorito, Miles, and Zelson, 1991 reported in "The Oregon Forest Book", 2007 by Oregon Forest Resources Institute*).

To Avoid Getting a TICKET

When attending a WCSWA meeting or visiting the Extension Service office at Capital Center, park only in a space which is blank (); no verbiage painted on the pavement. There are thirty such spaces near the Extension Service entrance – including the two-hour spaces - and many more farther from it at the east end of the parking lot. There is truth to the rumor that parking over verbiage could net you a ticket, day or evening!

[Return to Home Page](#)