



## Providing Opportunity to Family Woodland Owners

March 5, 2008

Oregon Board of Forestry  
State Forester's Office  
2600 State Street  
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Members of the Oregon Board of Forestry:

Thank you for the opportunity to allow OSWA to update you on the issues facing family forestlands after the storm, and the actions we have taken to address them.

OSWA identified a need to contact family Forest owners regarding the issues they face after the December 07 storm. OSWA, with help from OSU Extension, conducted and summarized a survey of all Family Woodland Owners who own between 10-5000 acres in Tillamook, Clatsop and Lincoln Counties.

We have supplied summaries of our survey data to the Department on at least two occasions.

We continue to see a need to review and revise our regulatory approach: One-size-fits-all approaches to regulations often have the unintended consequence of reducing the economic viability of small forestland owners and further drive conversions.

These findings are also in line with our members comments to the Board of Forestry issues scan.

### **Related to our regulatory approach.**

It is OSWA policy to support responsible use of economically viable silvicultural tools to maintain/create desired conditions in forests and a landowner/State Department of Forestry partnership in which forest practices are outcome driven.

Many of our regulations are driven by state and federal laws (ESA, FPA, etc.) and provide landowners little incentive for doing the right thing in times of market down turns and emergency. The need to develop regulatory policy based upon holistic and sound science is a must if we are to retain our family forestlands

During time of emergency combined with very low market conditions meeting the full extent of the Forest Practices Act may prove to be difficult for small landowners. Reforestation requirements and riparian area management are of particular concern.

**Related to cost effective delivery systems for landowner and neighbor education**

We would like to reemphasize our ongoing commitments to work with the department on educational issues facing family forestlands and their neighbors.

We spent considerable resources in December posting storm related items to our website, including ODF links. We would like to thank department staff for their contributions to our December and January Update.

We have at our own cost, mailed each respondent who requested more information, an illustrated guide of the forest practices act and have scheduled an additional Howdy Neighbor, Full Spectrum Forestry Tour for the Astoria region in July 2008. OSWA has raised funds to allow us to mail Howdy Neighbor invitations, a copy of our March Update and the new Wildfire Fire Am I at Risk? Leaflet to all woodland owners in the state later this month.

We have also joined forces with our sister organization in Washington to promote to our members the 2008 Family forest Field Day that this year will be hosted close to the Mouth of the Colombia River in late August.

OSWA suggest that before adding any new policy work to its numerous work plans, the Board and Department staff should strengthen its work with partners such as OSWA to stabilize budgets for stewardship positions in the field and new cost effective delivery systems for landowner and neighbor education .

The Board should consider additional, innovative ways of meeting family forestland owners' needs for cost-effective, science-based means of meeting and influencing regulatory requirements, and developing land management plans that lead to desired action. This should include creative thinking about a range of possibilities, including working with partners to provide information to a large group of volunteers, who could then work directly with landowners.

Sincerely,



Mike Barnes  
President