

2007

FOREST PRACTICES OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

This agenda item is the Board of Forestry's presentation of Forest Practices Regional Operator of the Year awards for 2007.

This agenda item relates to the *Forestry Program for Oregon* by supporting Strategy D, protecting, maintaining, and enhancing the soil and water resources of Oregon's forests through voluntary resource enhancement efforts. The Operator Recognition program encourages protection of forest resources and values by recognizing operators who have excelled in effort, innovation, cooperation, consistency, and prevention to achieve or surpass the standards of forest resource protection sought by Oregon's recognized forest management practices.

A subcommittee of each of the three Regional Forest Practices Committees toured sites nominated by Department Stewardship Foresters and selected the Regional Operator of the Year.

Chair Hobbs, on behalf of the Board of Forestry will present the 2007 Forest Practices Regional Operator of the Year Awards to these operators:

- The Eastern Oregon Regional Operator of the Year is **Gary R. Wright Contracting** of Union. Gary consistently provides excellent comprehensive timber stand management for landowners, from timber harvesting to fuels reduction and slash treatment for adding fire resistance to their forest holdings. Gary spends an extraordinary amount of effort educating landowners in forest management, insect and disease management, forest best management practices, and wood utilization and marketing.
- The Northwest Oregon Regional Operator of the Year is **Morisse Logging, Inc.** of Astoria. Steve Morisse and his crew safely conducted an extremely challenging harvesting operation on 91 acres of extremely steep, shallow soils in the Ecola Creek watershed. The yarding was particularly challenging due to a near-vertical cliff bisecting the unit. Multiple yarding techniques were necessary, including shovel yarding, conventional uphill cable yarding, and a demanding downhill cable yarding setup. Morisse Logging conducted the operation without gouging the shallow soils. Weyerhaeuser Co. is the landowner.
- The Southwest Oregon Regional Operator of the Year is **Scott Allen Logging** of Oakland. Scott and his crew conducted a 100 acre harvest operation while overcoming numerous constraints. They also had an audience because the unit

had 40 acres within the urban growth boundaries and 7 acres within the city limits of the town of Drain. Constraints included a Bonneville Power Administration 115 kilovolt powerline, the adjacent Drain High School football field, a Douglas Electric Co-op powerline, residential streets for haul roads, and city concerns with runoff control. Scott's fallers, yarding crew, and truck drivers were successful to the point of receiving complements from the city, neighbors, and the utilities. Glen Crouch is the landowner.

At local events in the regions, seven Merit Awards will be presented to operators selected as runner-up candidates for the top award in their region. There are two Merit Awards in the Eastern Oregon Region, four in the Northwest Oregon Region, and one in the Southwest Oregon Region. They are:

- **Moore and Hueckman** from Canyon City, for consistently outstanding thinning and insect control practices.
- **Tree-O Logging**, from Chiloquin, for outstanding salvage harvesting practices.
- **D & S Contractors**, of Sweet Home, for outstanding logging, road construction and site preparation practices.
- **Euchre Mountain Construction, Inc.**, of Tillamook, for outstanding road construction practices.
- **J.M. Browning Logging Co., Inc.**, of Astoria, for outstanding harvesting and road construction practices.
- **DTL Logging**, of Philomath, for outstanding harvesting practices.
- **Meriwether Southern Oregon Lands and Timber**, of Medford, for outstanding harvesting practices on steep slopes.

Additional operators have been selected to receive district Letters of Commendation. These Merit and Commendation awards will be presented at local functions in the spring of this year.

All winners of Regional Operator of the Year will also be recognized at the Associated Oregon Loggers Convention later this month and at the Oregon Logging Conference in February.