

FOREST LOG

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY • SPRING 2005



Inside:

- ▼ New Tillamook Forest Center Hopes to “Bridge” Rural-Urban Divide
- ▼ Property Owners Receive Fire Prevention Notifications
- ▼ Forest Stewardship Plans Make a Difference
- ▼ Elliott State Forest Study
- ▼ Coho Salmon Update . . . and more!

From the State Forester

As always, there's no shortage of things to talk about in the realm of Oregon forestry, and this issue hits just a few of those.

In many situations now we're reminded of the fact that the interests of urban Oregonians and those of rural Oregonians seem to be drifting further apart. When it comes to resource management issues we speculate that part of that disparity arises because urban residents have more difficulty connecting to the full range of values that natural resources provide. The goal of the Tillamook Forest Center is to help recreate those connections. Watching construction of the interpretive center move forward has been exciting, and, its official opening this fall will be even more so.

This is just one piece of an effort, in one location, that needs to expand greatly if we ever hope to effectively communicate largely rural based natural resource issues to a population of largely urban residents. Another story you'll find in this issue deals with the Board of Forestry's priority objectives. You'll see that one of their top objectives is to deal with this growing "rural-urban" split. As we work with the Board and continue to evolve ideas about making those connections, I think we'll be looking at opportunities and efforts that are just as exciting as the interpretive center.

Actually, this issue of the *Log* deals with another urban concern as well. That is the fire protection challenges that exist in the urban-rural interface and how implementation of Senate Bill 360 is attempting to deal with those challenges. There are also articles on coho

salmon, forest landowner management plans, and recognition of our contracting efforts in the fire program.

In addition we've included an update on discussions about the Phipps State Tree Seedling Nursery, and I want to emphasize a particular message for our nursery customers. That is, we're at the beginning of a process to consider alternatives for assuring an adequate supply of seedlings for various landowners through some means other than operating our nursery. If this alternative proves feasible then we intend to try it, but as of yet we have not answered whether, in fact, it will be feasible. In the meantime, your patronage of the nursery is very important, since we fund that operation solely through seedling sales. No state general funds, or other funds, support the nursery and we hope you'll stick with us while we explore these other ideas.

Enjoy these updates, and as always, let us know when you see ways that we can serve you better.



Marvin Brown,
State Forester

FOREST LOG



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

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Cover Photo: A new pedestrian bridge
stands gleaming in the sunlight over the
Wilson River at the new Tillamook Forest
Center. Photo by Doug Decker, ODF.

Contents

From the State Forester	2
New Landmarks on Wilson River Highway	4
Elliott State Forest Study	5
Forest Stewardship Plans Help Landowners	6
Property Owners in Deschutes and Jackson Counties Receive Notifications	8
Board of Forestry Sets Priorities	10
Coho Salmon	12
"Purchasing Hero"	15
Phipps Nursery	16
ODF News Briefs	17
Dry Winter Sparks Prevention Reminder	19
Calendar	20

Photo by Terry Spivey, USDA Forest Service,
www.forestryimages.org



American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*)

*Happy
Spring!*



New Landmarks on Wilson River Highway as New Tillamook Forest Center Takes Shape

Doug Decker, Tillamook Forest Center Project Leader

What a difference one week can make. During five days in early February, construction crews working at the Tillamook Forest Center site assembled and

lifted into place seven enormous wooden bridge components to create the new 250-foot long Wilson River Suspension Bridge, a major element of the Tillamook Forest Center. The bridge is a generous donation from the

The bridge and lookout tower are “bookends,” with a 13,500-square-foot center in between that’s filled with exhibits that invite visitors to learn about and connect with the Tillamook State Forest. The center also features a major classroom facility, a theater, restrooms and a forest archive. Outside, interpretive trails lead from the building through the woods featuring breathtaking river and forest views. Rustic benches that dot these trails—hand hewn from trees that grew on the site—are available for sponsorship.

Some of the most remarkable views are from the bridge itself. While not yet open to the public until construction is complete later this year, the bridge offers stunning views of the Wilson River as it arcs around a bend and transitions from a wide streambed to a basalt gorge. Just across from the center, and linked into the bridge, is the Wilson River Trail as it extends west from the Jones Creek Campground and Day Use Area.

continued on page 19



Photo by Frank Evans, ODF

Crews from Carpentry Plus (subcontractor to Precision Construction, the general contractor) work above the Wilson River as they tighten suspension cables on the north cantilever section. Workers are wearing safety harnesses and life jackets. The middle section was lifted into place two days after this photo was taken, completing the bridge and linking the north and south banks of the Wilson River.

Weyerhaeuser Company, which provided in-kind materials, design services and a financial gift to make the bridge possible.

As if building a bridge was not enough, on the last day of the week crews tilted up a 40-foot tall replica fire lookout tower on the center site, and topped it off by lifting and bolting the lookout cabin into place atop the tower.

These two new landmarks, visible from Highway 6 one mile west of Lee’s Camp in the middle of the Tillamook State Forest, are a tangible sign that construction of the Tillamook Forest Center is going well as the project proceeds toward opening early next year.



Photo by Doug Decker, ODF

To top off the week-long assembly process, crews hoisted the lookout cabin atop the newly-tilted up tower. In this photo, carpenters on the ground have a long leash on the cabin as the crane lifts it into place. Four very big bolts in each corner and special welds now hold it firmly in place.

Elliott State Forest Study Shows Range of Costs and Benefits from Sale

A cost-benefit study for 84,000 acres of the Elliott State Forest indicates that the fiscal impact of selling this portion of the forest could range from a loss for the state of \$136 million to a gain of \$206 million.

The range between the loss and gain figures depends on who might purchase the forest and what their management plan would be.

Completed in January, the study was requested by the 2003 Legislature and conducted by an independent firm. It was designed to examine the idea of selling the state-owned forest and reinvesting the proceeds in the Common School Fund.

The study concluded that the net present value of the forest under continued state ownership is near the midpoint of the net income if the forest were sold. With continued state management, the forest value is projected to range from \$282 million to \$381 million. The range of net income from the sale of the forest is estimated at \$245 million to \$488 million.

The 2003 Legislature directed the Department of State Lands (DSL) and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to conduct the study. The Department of State Lands owns 84,000 acres of the forest as an asset of the Common School Fund. Revenues from the Elliott's timber harvest are invested in the Common School Fund along with revenue from other assets and activities.

The State Land Board, made up of the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer, distributes earnings from the fund to Oregon's K-12 schools every six months. ODF manages the forest under contract with DSL.

In April 2004, State Land Board members issued a statement that they had "no intention of selling the Elliott State Forest because of its

Photo by Jeff Foreman, ODF



A "through-the-trees" view of the Elliott State Forest.

importance to the Common School Fund portfolio."

They said they would conduct the cost-benefit study to provide information important for determining a benchmark to meet the Land Board's fiduciary responsibility in the development of an Asset Management Plan. That plan, now being updated, guides the board's decisions for long-term management of the resources under its authority.

Results of the study were presented to the State Land Board and the Oregon Board of Forestry. DSL and ODF staff will provide recommendations – stemming from the report, as it relates to an Elliott State Forest Management Plan currently in development – at the June State Land Board meeting.

The study assumes that under continued state management, the forest would produce an annual harvest level of 30 - 36 million board

continued on page 18

Forest Stewardship Plans Help Landowners Envision, Achieve Goals

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Information Officer

The reasons people choose to own forestland are diverse, but one thing is clear: the number of family forest owners in the United States is growing. Between 1993 and 2003, their numbers increased from 9.3 million to 10.3 million, and these owners now control an estimated 42 percent of the nation's forestland. More common reasons for owning forestland include aesthetic enjoyment, the tract is part of a farm or home site, or, just to pass the land on to heirs.

Although nearly half of all family forestland owners have harvested trees on their property, only three percent of them have a written forest management plan. That may not be a good thing, because trends in owners' ages and future land-use intentions suggest widescale transfers of family forestland in the future - including, in Oregon.

Interestingly, although nearly half of all family forestland owners have harvested trees on their property, only three percent of them have a written forest management plan. That may not be a good thing, because trends in owners' ages and future land-use intentions suggest widescale transfers of family forestland in the future, including in Oregon.

Why take the time and trouble to write a management plan for your forest property? Simply put, creating a forest management plan is the first critical step towards guiding the future of your land.

Your 5-to-10-year management plan should describe the current condition of your property, including vegetation, soils, and wildlife/fisheries habitat. It should also help define your objectives, and outline a 10-year action plan to achieve your goals while maintaining and enhancing existing resources. In short, a good management plan should provide guidelines for a sound strategy that reflects the landowner's commitment to a land stewardship ethic, focusing on the integration of all resources in the management of the property as a valuable legacy for future generations.



Photo by Steve Vaught, ODF

ODF Forester Bob Young examines small woodland property for cost-share potential.

The first step in developing a management plan is to identify landowner objectives.² Which products and amenities does the landowner wish to obtain from the land? Examples include creating wildlife habitat or increasing species diversity, using the property for recreation, creating a source of income, managing the property to provide for a tax shelter or as an inheritance, and harvesting timber.

It's important that your objectives be identified in the beginning, because they determine what resources should be inventoried, and help steer the course of the management plan.

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The Parts of a “Typical” Forestry Assistance Stewardship Management Plan

Each management plan is unique, and is based on the landowner’s objectives and the resources present. In addition, all actions to implement a Stewardship Plan are strictly voluntary — the Stewardship Plan does not limit or reduce any existing rights of the landowner.

The following are a few of the topics that may be included in a management plan for your property:

- **Property description** (legal, topography, brief history, access, property tax status, and a brief description of the Oregon Forest Practices Act.)
- Description of **forest vegetation and forest health**, and actions needed to meet landowner’s objectives.
- **Wildlife/fisheries habitat description**, including threatened or endangered species, and actions needed to meet landowner’s objectives.
- **Water resources**; actions to protect and/or enhance to meet landowner objectives.
- **Forest health**, including insect, disease, and/or wildfire hazard concerns, and actions to protect/improve to meet landowner objectives.
- **Soils description**, productivity, limitations, etc.
- **Road and culvert assessment** including opportunities for upgrades and road improvement.
- **Archaeological-cultural resources**
- **Maps** showing property boundaries, vegetative cover types, soil types, access and existing and proposed roads, streams and other waters.

Plans are based on and limited by what is biologically and ecologically possible, what is socially or politically desirable, and what is economically feasible. The biological and ecological characteristics of your land determine which tree species will grow, how fast they will grow, what wildlife will live on the area, etc. Based on these characteristics, silvicultural practices can be designed, i.e., (various kinds of timber cuttings, tree plantings, prescribed burning, use of specific chemicals such as herbicides and fertilizers), and management recommendations can be made.

Other Benefits: Legacy and Taxes

A written plan helps insure continuity for your forest land, especially in the event that something happens to you and /or your land changes hands within you’re family and you’re not around.

Having your own management plan can also have tax benefits — both for income and property taxes — by helping you substantiate tax status for your property. Also, any certification system, including the Oregon Tree Farm system, requires some type of written plan.

A written plan may also be of assistance to you when seeking additional funding sources. “If people are looking for any kind of financial assistance, their likelihood of obtaining it will be greatly enhanced if they have a conservation, natural resources, or stewardship management plan,” says Steve Vaught, Private and Community Forests field coordinator for ODF.

Your local stewardship forester can assist you with any questions.

“The fact is, in most situations, the landowner is required to have a conservation, natural resources, or stewardship management plan in order to qualify for financial assistance.”

– Steve Vaught,
Field Coordinator, ODF

Why Have a Written Management Plan for Your Forestland?

- ▼ Brings together your dreams, ideas and plans through a thoughtful process that includes the knowledge necessary for natural resource management
- ▼ Can define an order and timeframe for accomplishing individual components of a string of activities for an extended period of time
- ▼ Demonstrates to county assessors and the IRS that the property is a business being managed to make a profit
- ▼ Clarifies what can be done by the landowner and what will need to be contracted out
- ▼ Establishes a written history of past efforts; this can benefit both the current landowner in the ever-growing understanding of forestry, as well as future owners
- ▼ Can help the landowner and others better understand vision...strategies to meet vision...necessary tasks and their sequence...potential risks to forests from insects, diseases and/or wildlife...and, opportunities for assistance.

Property Owners in Deschutes and Jackson Counties Receive Notifications

Brian Ballou, Wildland/Urban Interface Specialist

Building on rule-making and land classification work completed in 2003 and 2004, implementation of the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act continued in early 2005. This

a small number of cases, the fuel-reduction standards also apply to the perimeters of vacant properties.

One goal of the Fire Protection Act is to develop a complete and coordinated wildland-urban interface fire protection system that enlists the aid of property owners. ODF provides forestland-urban interface property owners with a self-evaluation guide and checklist to assist them with meeting the act's fuel-reduction standards. Property owners also receive a self-certification card, which they complete and return to ODF once they have complied with the fuel-reduction standards.

After a property owner returns a certification card to ODF, the fuel-reduction obligation is satisfied for five years. However, a property must be recertified prior to that time if the property is sold or a structure is added.

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Photos courtesy of Grants Pass staff, ODF



act affects more than 30,000 lots in Deschutes County and more than 12,000 lots in Jackson County. Notification letters went out to forestland-urban interface property owners in Deschutes County in late 2004 and early 2005, and to Jackson County forestland-urban interface property owners in March 2005.

Two Years to Meet Fuel-Reduction Standards

The notification letters inform property owners that their lands are included in forestland-urban interface areas, and that they have two years in which to meet fuel-reduction standards around structures and along driveways. In



Before/After: This home, like many others, had many ornamental juniper plants close to it. Should the juniper catch fire, the resulting heat could easily break windows and let flames in. Removing the junipers and replacing them with fire-resistant plants greatly increases this home's chances for surviving a wildland fire.

Property owners who do not return a certification card to ODF within two years may be billed for certain fire-cost recovery charges if a wildland fire occurs on their property, and the state incurs extraordinary suppression costs. Fire cost recovery under the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act is capped at \$100,000.

Accredited Assessors Available to Help

ODF assists property owners with evaluating the fuel-reduction needs on individual properties by responding to landowners' requests for help. In addition, ODF has trained a corps of accredited assessors – wildland fire and forest management professionals who may respond to property owners' requests for help, and who may evaluate a property's fuel reduction needs, do necessary work, and sign a property owner's certification card.

There are three types of accredited assessors. A Type 1 accredited assessor is a private contractor who holds either a Construction Contractors Board or Landscape Contractors Board license. A Type 2 assessor is a member of a structural fire protection department or district. A Type 3 assessor is a member of a home or property owners association. In all cases, an accredited assessor must also have at least two years of wildland fire suppression experience or two years of forestland management experience, and must have successfully completed ODF's accredited assessor training course.

Fire Protection Act coordinators are in place in ODF's Central Oregon, Southwest, Northeast and Klamath-Lake districts. The coordinators are Tom Andrade, who works out of the Sisters-Sub Unit; Brian Ballou, based in the Medford Unit; Cary Ann Capp in the Klamath Unit; and Steve Myers in the La Grande Unit. A coordinator will soon be hired for the Douglas Forest Protective Association in Roseburg.



This home has excellent — and very attractive — defensible space. Nonflammable ground cover, few fire ladders and adequate thinning will help this home survive a wildland fire.

Coordinators provide staff assistance to county forestland-urban interface classification committees, which select and classify forestland-urban interface areas in each county; train accredited assessors; provide assistance to property owners; and track certifications received by ODF from property owners.

Fuel Breaks Required

In general, the Fire Protection Act's fuel-reduction standards require property owners to establish a 30-foot primary fuel break around structures. In many cases a 20-70-foot secondary fuel break is also required around structures. Driveways are also required to be cleared to accommodate fire apparatus, and to have fuel breaks adjacent to the driving surface. The fuel breaks are to have nonflammable ground cover, have ladder fuels and dead vegetation removed, and have trees and brush thinned to a sufficient degree that the transfer of fire from plant-to-plant is disrupted.

In general, the Fire Protection Act's fuel-reduction standards require property owners to establish a 30-foot primary fuel break around structures.

Board of Forestry Sets Priorities, Crafts New Approaches

Dan Postrel, ODF Agency Affairs Director

The Oregon Board of Forestry continues its crafting of a more systematic way of setting priorities among the many issues it faces, and of planning its own work and that of the department.

The board began building its new “decision system” late last year. As part of the new approach, the board, using its 2003 *Forestry*

Board drafts seven priority areas

Using the 2003 *Forestry Program for Oregon* (FPFO) as a guide, the Board has identified seven priority work areas for 2005, and possibly beyond. These are broad groupings of smaller, related issues or initiatives. The following summaries provide only a brief overview. Those who are interested in specific areas are encouraged to review drafts of detailed work plans as they become available for board consideration.

Implementation of the FPFO. The intent is to build Oregonians’ understanding, acceptance and support of sustainable forest management, and to increase recognition of the board’s leadership role, using the FPFO strategies and actions as the basis for discussion. Actions will include efforts to explain and promote FPFO strategies, and to develop sound indicators that can be used to measure progress toward implementing them.

State forests management. This priority area addresses a range of issues: *Adaptive management* involves working with a wide variety of stakeholders to determine whether new scientific and other information should lead to changes in forest management plans. The second key element involves continued work toward possible development of a *Habitat Conservation Plan* for state forests in western Oregon. The third focuses on systematic *review of new scientific information*. The intent is to develop ways to identify, evaluate, and synthesize unbiased, credible research results that can then be incorporated into decision-making.



Photo by Rob Nall, ODF

A non-traditional “clearcut” in the Tillamook State forest shows one of the many variations of harvest techniques used by ODF to fully implement its multi-purpose forest management plan.

Program for Oregon as a guide, has established seven key priority areas on which it and the department will focus in 2005 and possibly beyond (see story on the right).

The department is in various stages of preparing detailed draft work plans in each area and submitting them for board review.

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The new system involves a yearly issues scan, expected to be conducted each fall, during which the board will develop a list of work priorities for the coming year. Some of these may be ongoing issues; others may be newly emerging. With each issue, the board will identify possible outcomes for its work, such as proposed legislation, a new or changed administrative rule or policy, or direction to the department to undertake a particular initiative.

In a recent letter to forestry stakeholders, board Chair Stephen Hobbs wrote that the system, which is still evolving, will help the board organize its approach to a long list of issues, tasks and responsibilities. These arise from many sources – including statutes, direction from the governor or Legislature, activities of federal or other state agencies, and the evolving needs and input of stakeholders and the public.

Efficiency and accountability

“By implementing the new decision system, we seek to increase our effectiveness as leaders in crafting public policy, and to ensure that we stay on track in implementing the visions described in the *Forestry Program for Oregon*,” Hobbs wrote.

The *Forestry Program for Oregon*, a document adopted every eight years following broad public and scientific review, sets overall visions and strategies for the sustainable management of Oregon’s forests.

The new system will assist in tracking work on multiple, complex issues, will help board members make the best use of limited time, and will improve accountability, Hobbs wrote.

The system, he wrote, will make clear to the public what the board’s priorities are, and will show how the board and department are doing in realizing the vision of the *Forestry Program for Oregon*.

Forest viability. This area incorporates a variety of actions focusing on maintaining a healthy and productive forestland base, and encouraging landowner investments that enhance forest health. Among the many elements here are:

- ▼ Responding to Gov. Kulongoski’s direction that the board work with the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department to develop a strategy to ensure the sustainability of Oregon’s forest sector and to enhance the sector’s contributions to our economy.
- ▼ Responding to the governor’s direction to work with a broad range of groups to develop a unified vision of how Oregonians would like to see federal lands managed.

Outreach to urban populations. This priority area seeks to build urban Oregonians’ connections with forestry and its importance to our state’s quality of life. The work area envisions the use of various tools, such as urban forestry assistance, the Tillamook Forest Center, and public education opportunities, to raise urban Oregonians’ awareness about the principles and importance of sustainable forestry.

Dynamic ecosystems. This area involves the notion that landslides, blow-down and other disturbances often thought of as “damage” are in fact natural processes with some positive effects, such as benefits for wildlife habitat. Objectives here include increasing scientific understanding of these processes, to improve policy-setting and resource-protection strategies.

Regulatory regimes. This priority area reflects the approach of using incentives and other non-regulatory means when possible, to lead landowners toward achieving public benefits – such as habitat protection – on private land. At the same time, however, this work recognizes the role regulations will continue to serve, and will incorporate several existing rulemaking efforts, along with analysis of the effects of Measure 37, and other activities.

Wildfire risk management. A key objective here is implementation of recommendations from a recent, comprehensive review of the department’s firefighting program. The recommendations cover a range of topics, including fuels reduction, fire prevention, business systems and workforce capacity. Another objective is completion of an ongoing review, conducted with many stakeholders and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, of the department’s smoke management program.

Coho Salmon: Report by State Officials has Good News about Fish

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Information Officer

The assessment relies on a definition of recovery for anadromous salmonid populations enacted by the Oregon Legislature in 2003, which is consistent with federal ESA requirements.

Oregon officials from a variety of agencies including the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Department of Forestry have recently completed a draft analysis of coho salmon conservation efforts and population viability. The report, a year in the making, concludes that populations of coastal coho demonstrate sufficient abundance, productivity, distribution and diversity to be considered biologically viable and likely to persist in the foreseeable future. The state's conclusions will be reviewed by NOAA Fisheries and the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST). NOAA fisheries will determine whether coho still need protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The Coastal Coho ESU is defined as those populations of coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) that occur in coastal watersheds between the mouth of the Columbia River to the north, and Cape Blanco to the south. The draft assessment is currently posted on the Oregon Plan website (www.oregon-plan.org) for review by the Coastal Coho Stakeholder Team and the public.

The draft assessment relies on a definition of recovery for anadromous salmonid populations adopted by the Oregon Legislature in 2003, which is consistent with federal ESA requirements. Various types of data were analyzed, presented, and discussed at meetings among scientists and stakeholders over the course of the study. These included fish abundance and distribution, marine survival, fishery harvest, hatchery programs, freshwater habitat, riparian condition, water quality, streamflow, fish passage or access to spawning and rearing streams, predation, disease, and exotic fish species.

The Oregon Plan

Development of the Oregon Plan began in 1996 at the direction of former Governor Kitzhaber. However, following legal action taken by conservation groups in Oregon, coastal coho salmon were listed as "threatened" by the federal government in 1998. The initial focus of the plan was on coastal salmon, but the plan now encompasses the entire state.

Over the years, the Oregon Plan has focused on both voluntary and regulatory actions to help restore watershed health and water quality, and to conserve and restore habitat for native salmon and trout. Multiple groups and agencies have joined efforts to improve the current conditions of the watersheds for both salmon and trout.

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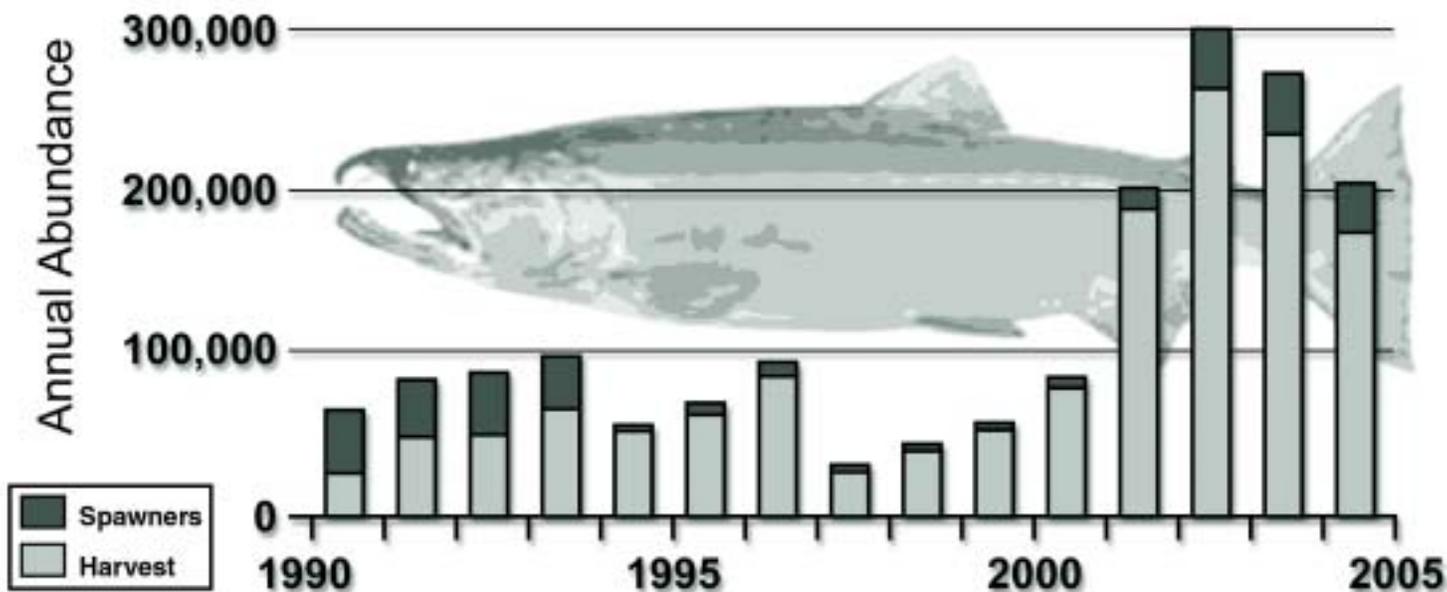


Photo courtesy of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

A draft report by state officials includes recommendations for both continuing and improving current salmon conservation measures around the state.

According to the report, the ESU ("evolutionarily significant unit") retains sufficient productivity and is supported by enough habitat "to be sustainable through a future period of adverse ocean, drought and flood conditions similar to, or somewhat more adverse than, the most recent period of poor survival conditions" during the 80s and 90s.

Oregon Coast Coho Abundance Trend



The number of coho spawners over the last three years are as high as the levels were in the early '50s.

– Note: Data courtesy ODF&W. Data for 2004/2005 is preliminary and subject to revision.

Various factors contributed to coho decline

Historically, a number of different factors have contributed to the decline of salmon and trout populations. These include the roles of dams, salvage logging in streams, stream cleaning (at the time, thought to improve fish passage), logging without leaving trees in riparian zones, railroad logging, legacy road building, equipment in riparian areas, ditching, diking, and draining wetlands. “Most of these practices have been eliminated while others are regulated with management goals geared towards achieving properly functioning aquatic and riparian areas,” says the report.

From a count of less than 15,000 wild adult coho in 1997, populations have rebounded to average more than 150,000 wild adult coho since 2000. By court order, the National Marine Fisheries Service must decide by June 14 whether to continue the coho’s threatened status under the species act. Federal and state funding to support ongoing conservation

efforts is not expected to diminish as a result of the federal ESA listing decision. Regardless of the decision, the state and NOAA Fisheries will continue to develop a full conservation plan for the species.

Recommendations

The report also includes recommendations for both continuing and improving current conservation measures in the state. It recommends ongoing commitment to conservation and restoration programs “necessary to sustain and improve viability of the ESU,” and suggests opportunities to further strengthen the ESU’s current viability, including enhancement of complex freshwater overwinter rearing habitat.

The report had three observations with regard to monitoring information. Although considerable effort and resources are dedicated to monitoring in the ESU, there are three significant shortcomings. There is very little

continued on page 14

...Coho Salmon (continued from page 13)

Voluntary landowner activities are key to coho success

Forest landowners are important contributors to the success of the Oregon Plan through high compliance rates with the regulatory components and implementation of non-regulatory projects and activities. To meet the goals of the Oregon Plan, the Oregon Department of Forestry's Work Plan is divided into eight categories. These categories address multiple issues and provide implementation guidelines. They include forest practices monitoring, voluntary private landowner activities, regulations, state forests management activities, assistance to family forest landowners, urban forest community assistance, education and information, and recognition and award programs.

The voluntary landowner activities are designed to go above and beyond the Forest Practices Act to accelerate conditions to improve fish habitat and water quality. These activities include:

- ▼ Road improvements
- ▼ Restoring fish passage
- ▼ Habitat restoration
- ▼ Riparian management
- ▼ Placement of large wood and boulders in streams.

For more information on what landowners can do to help support coho salmon populations via Oregon Plan efforts, please see <http://www.oregon-plan.org/partners/index.html>.

Various types of data analyzed for the report included fish abundance and distribution, marine survival, fishery harvest, hatchery programs, freshwater habitat, riparian condition, water quality, streamflow, fish passage or access to spawning and rearing streams, predation, disease, and exotic fish species.

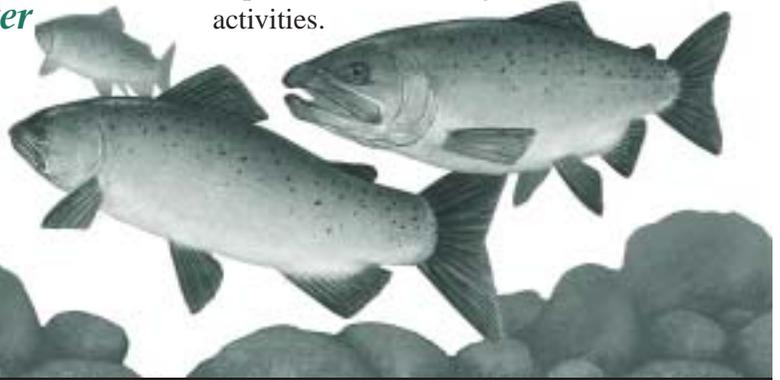
14

monitoring in place to evaluate the effectiveness of regulatory and restoration programs. There is a need to provide results at finer scale of resolution so that the state can report on conditions at the population scale. Also, there is a need for improved data archiving and retrieval.

The state's broader goal relates to full restoration of coastal coho. This is an opportunity to learn how implementation and effectiveness of the Oregon Plan can be improved to meet farther reaching sustainability goals. The state is moving forward with a conservation plan for the Oregon Coast coho ESU to address these broader objectives.

Partnerships are Key

Oregon has completed thousands of restoration projects in coastal watersheds, including placement of wood in streams to increase habitat complexity, streamside tree planting, and removal of impassable culverts to improve access to aquatic habitat. Under the Oregon Plan, the Department of Forestry works closely with other agencies, communities, landowners, and watershed councils. The Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Oregon Forest Industries Council, Associated Oregon Loggers, OSU Extension Service, and private forest landowners and operators are all partners in the development and implementation of Oregon Plan activities.



Protection's contract unit cited as "Purchasing Hero"

Rod Nichols, ODF Public Information Officer

In conjunction with the contract wildland firefighting industry, the Oregon Department of Forestry has raised the bar on compliance, and most crew contractors applaud the action.

"The state is really doing some things as far as making sure that the proper education is being had," said Bruce Ferguson of Ferguson Management, one of the largest fire crew contracting firms in the U.S. "They're going deeper than just a piece of paper. They're looking to see if people really have the training they said they have."

Unfair business practices

A few years ago, respected contractors started to complain of competitors cutting administrative overhead by falsifying training records and dispatch locations. In addition, reports of firefighters at large incidents engaging in alcohol and drug use, theft, sexual harassment and sleeping on the fire line had become increasingly common.

It was clear that the rapid expansion of Oregon's private wildfire contracting industry, the nation's largest, had outstripped the department's ability to enforce the rules of the Interagency Fire Crew Agreement. Oregon Department of Forestry administers the agreement for the fire agencies of Oregon and Washington, which supplies 20-person hand crews to large wildfire incidents in the Pacific Northwest as well as other states and Canadian provinces.

Fire crew growth spurt

In the late 1990s, the private firefighting industry experienced an unprecedented growth spurt. It carried over into the new century: In 2000, 106 20-person private crews were under contract. By 2003, the number had ballooned to 298 crews.

With no funding mechanism to administer the crew agreement, the Department of Forestry's Protection Contract Services Unit (a staff of two)

struggled to keep tabs on the burgeoning numbers of contractors and fire crews. Investigations into reported contract violations were limited due to workload.

Then in 2003, the Legislature granted the department authority to add three positions to the unit. By June of the following year the new slots had been filled, with funding for the additional staff coming from a reimbursement established in 2003 for contract crew use on an incident. Based on the number of crews dispatched, it is paid by the agency with jurisdiction over a fire. The USDA Forest Service provided start-up dollars for the account.

Stepped-up staffing prompts reform, Contract Services Unit Recognized

The increased staffing paid off in short order. Administrative actions against fire crews and crew contractors jumped from 23 in 2002 to 87 in 2004. Consistent monitoring by the Unit prompted contracting companies to comply with standards for training, fitness testing and crew job performance.

In recognition of successes by the Protection Contract Services unit in monitoring compliance with the specifications regulating the conduct of fire crews, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services recently recognized the Unit as a 2004 "Purchasing Hero" award winner. The award honors agency procurement sections that have had a positive impact on purchasing processes, including improvement in the quality and performance of services contracted by the state.

Photo by Rod Nichols, ODF



ODF's award-winning Contract Services Unit, L to R: Steve Johnson, compliance officer; Cindy Beck, support specialist; Don Moritz, unit manager; Patricia Morgan, contract officer.

Changes Possible for D.L. Phipps Forest Nursery

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Information Officer

Operated by the Oregon Department of Forestry, Phipps Nursery produces seedlings for state, and other public and private forests in Oregon. Since 1957, seedlings grown at the department's D.L. Phipps Forest Nursery have helped to meet these needs. The nursery, located near Elkton, Oregon, is Oregon's only state-owned forest nursery.

Nursery mission

The nursery's primary mission is to produce a stable supply of high quality, well-adapted seedlings - of diverse plant species and sizes for reforestation and rehabilitation of Oregon's lands - with special preference for Oregon's



family forest landowners. Family forest landowners often make harvest decisions based on a volatile timber market and relatively short-term family needs and objectives. It is often problematic for them to schedule the two or more years into the future needed to contract for seedlings to be grown.

To meet this need, Phipps grows seedlings from a wide range of seed zones and elevations "speculatively" (without a contract). Availability of this speculatively grown stock "over the counter," often in relatively small quantities, is important in meeting reforestation requirements under the Forest Practices Act.

The 261-acre Phipps Nursery initially produced 2.5 million seedlings a year, and now produces between 6 million and 12 million seedlings annually. The nursery grows mostly Douglas-fir seedlings, but pine, cedar, spruce, hemlock, true fir, other conifers, and hardwood seedlings like alder, ash and maple are also grown. Most seedlings are grown for two years (two growing seasons).

Looking at options

The Department of Forestry is currently working with the private nursery sector, family forest landowners, Douglas County and other stakeholders to investigate ways to meet seedling production through increased private sector involvement.

This effort seeks to:

- ▼ Assure a reliable and stable supply of seedlings for family forestland owners.
- ▼ Investigate the feasibility of broadening the selection of speculatively grown seedling types available from private nurseries.
- ▼ Assure that the seedlings are available at a reasonable cost.

As yet, no decisions have been reached about any changes to the system - including to the current operations of the Phipps Nursery. If any changes are made, the goal will be a seamless transition that: maintains an uninterrupted, reliable supply of speculation-grown seedlings for family forestland owners,

continued on page 18

ODF News Briefs

Oregon Forests Report available soon

The Department of Forestry will be releasing the "Oregon Forests Report 2005" in the near future. This report is intended to meet the needs of the Legislature by informing them, and the public, about the current conditions of Oregon's forests. It includes charts and diagrams pertaining to land classifications in Oregon and timber harvest levels. It also contains information about the revenue generated by Board of Forestry Lands and Common School Lands, and, volume and value of timber harvested and sold over the past two years on those lands.

The report should be available to the public by the first of May. Please call (503) 945-7200 or (503) 945-7421 to request a copy.

New web site being developed

Along with all other state agencies in Oregon, ODF is more than halfway through the process of migrating its website to a new server. The new format will conform to the requirements of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), and the agency hopes it will be easier for visitors to navigate than the former site.

The home page includes links to agency contact information, Board of Forestry information, news releases, fire topics, employment information, State-owned forests, the new Tillamook Forest Center, private forest information, urban forestry, resource policy, and the DL Phipps Nursery. GIS Information, as well as an online library containing some of the agency's more frequently requested publications, is also available via the new home page.

At the time the Log goes to press, our old site (www.odf.state.or.us) is still up and running. Although not yet completed, feel free to visit our new site and look around. It's located at: <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/>

Paul Bell named new director of Private & Community Forests Program

Paul Bell has been appointed director of the Private and Community Forests Program at ODF. Bell has a BS in Forest Management from Oregon State University and is a Certified Forester with the Society of American Foresters.

Prior to accepting his new position, Bell was a North Cascade District Forester, Cascade District Forester and Eastern Lane/Linn District Forester for the Department. From 1995 to 1999, Bell was an ODF policy analyst for the Forest Practices Program, which included working on issues related to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Bell's experience also includes working on alternatives to slash burning and more efficient methods for burning as an ODF Smoke Management Fuels Specialist.

New District Foresters in 2004

Ross Holloway, Tillamook District Forester. Ross started with the department in 1978. Previous department jobs include: Assistant to the Area Director for the Northwest Oregon Area and State Forests Program Director.

Dan Thorpe, Southwest Oregon District Forester. Dan started with the department in 1973. Previous department assignments have been in Grants Pass, Philomath, La Grande, Coos Bay and Fossil, with his most recent position in Medford as unit forester.

Lena Tucker, South Cascade District Forester. Lena started with the department in 1989. Previous department jobs include: Assistant to the Director of the Eastern Oregon Area, Unit Forester in Southwest Oregon District and Operations Forester in the Astoria District.

Gregg Cline, North Cascade District Forester. Gregg started with the department in 1979. Previous department jobs include: Assistant to the Director of the Eastern Oregon Area, South Fork Forest Camp Manager and Private & Community Forests Program Director.

John Buckman, Northeast Oregon District Forester. John started with the department in 1986. Previous department jobs include: Forest Technician at Tillamook, White River forester/service forester in The Dalles, Forest Practices Forester in The Dalles and Protection Unit Forester in Pendleton.

New State Forests Program Director

Lisa DeBruyckere (pronounced debra-care) was recently selected as new State Forests Director for the Department. DeBruyckere brings 16 years of experience managing forest, fish, and wildlife issues and public affairs programs. An 11-year employee of the Missouri Department of Conservation, she supervised and coordinated the management of private and public lands, oversaw the department's nature centers and led statewide conservation education and interpretation programs. She holds bachelor and master of science degrees in wildlife management, as well as a BS in journalism.

The State Forests Program manages 780,000 acres of state forest land. DeBruyckere will be responsible for overseeing management of operations (annual operations plans and watershed assessment), technical services (care and cultivation of trees, wildlife and forest engineering), asset management (timber sales and contracts), policy and planning, and integrated information systems (forest inventory, mapping and research and monitoring).

...Elliott State Forest Study (continued from page 5)

feet. This would result in income to the Common School Fund (CSF) of \$16 million-\$20 million per year. This projected harvest level is higher than in recent years.

ODF is working with DSL and others, including the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, to revise the forest's management plan and habitat conservation plan. The study assumes the revised plans will result in increased harvesting.

The study also assumes that a private owner would implement shorter harvest rotations of 50-year cycles on about 70 percent of the forest compared to much longer rotations under continued state ownership as outlined in the management and habitat conservation plans. The shorter cycles would result in a reduction in older forest acreage that provides habitat for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets.

In addition, the study makes the assumption that a private owner would need to set aside about one-third of the forest, mostly in older age classes, for threatened species protection,

streamside buffers, and landslide and visual quality protection.

A copy of the study is posted on the DSL Web site at: www.oregonstatelands.us. Click on "Elliott State Forest Cost-Benefit Study."

The Elliott State Forest, located in the Coast Range northeast of Coos Bay, was created in the 1930s through land exchanges with the U.S. Forest Service. The forest consists of 93,000 acres of forestland, of which 84,000 acres are Common School Fund lands and 9,000 acres are owned by the Oregon Board of Forestry.

The study focused only on the Common School Fund forestlands. The forest is the major land-based income generator for the Common School Fund. During the 2001-03 budget period, it produced \$22.2 million in revenue (with \$8.9 million in expenses).

Mason, Bruce & Girard, Inc., a Portland natural resource consulting firm, conducted the study. The company's forestry services staff has considerable experience with timberland planning and management issues. The group also manages several forest properties in the West.

...Possible changes for Phipps Nursery (continued from page 16)

and continues the Phipps Nursery's current contracts through to completion.

Lease to a qualified private grower?

One option the Department is currently looking at is the financial viability of leasing the nursery to a qualified private grower, with the requirement that this grower assume all existing contractual obligations.

ODF is also developing the organizational, financial and legal framework for a cooperative among private nurseries that would be formally obligated to produce speculation-grown seedlings for family forestland owners. Developing the legislation necessary to broaden the Board of Forestry's authority to utilize a private nursery cooperative approach as a mechanism to provide a stable supply of speculatively grown seedlings is also in the works.

What's next

If an effective seedling cooperative can be established with the private sector and leasing the nursery to a qualified grower is financially viable, the agency will move forward with a lease. The sale of the Phipps Nursery is not under consideration at this time; family forest landowners, the Committee for Family Forestlands and others working on the issue believe it is best that the nursery remain in state ownership as a leased operation for a period of time as a "safety net," in case the cooperative approach is not successful.

The Board of Forestry will continue its involvement and oversight of the process, through the Committee for Family Forestlands.

...New Landmarks (continued from page 4)

The lookout tower provides an excellent overview of the site and a unique platform to look into the surrounding Douglas-fir canopy. Once completed, the tower will be equipped much like lookout towers of the 1950s, complete with an Osborne Firefinder, maps, photos and journal entries from former lookouts who worked in the Tillamook Burn. Another interesting feature of the lookout tower: a web cam that will make the views widely available.

For more information about the Tillamook Forest Center, and to see more photos of the bridge, lookout tower and construction process, visit the project on-line at www.tillamookforest.org.



Photo by Rod Nichols, ODF

Doug Decker receives the 2004 James E. Brown Leadership Award from State Forester Marvin Brown (left) at the March 9, 2005 Board of Forestry meeting in Salem.

Named for former State Forester Jim Brown (right), the award was given to the State Forests Interpretive Program director for an array of career accomplishments, most notably his work to develop the Tillamook Forest Center. The first recipient of this honor, Decker has led all aspects of the Center project, which will provide visitors diverse opportunities to learn about the Tillamook State Forest.

Dry Winter Sparks Prevention Reminder

Mary Ellen Holly, President/CEO, Keep Oregon Green

Americans are a careless people, so careless that we have the highest fire death rate of any country in the industrialized world. So careless that between 1,200 and 1,500 children die each year because of residential fires. Twenty-four children a week. Each year, close to 4,500 American civilians die this way and more than five times as many suffer injuries.

Though we describe many fires as “accidental,” that description is misleading. They are not random acts of fate or bad luck (the definition of “accidental”), but instead, are the direct result of something someone did or failed to do. In fact, only 31 percent of wildfires are the result of natural causes such as lightning. This past year in Oregon, the primary causes of human-caused wildfires were equipment, debris burning, camp and warming fires, and smoking.

Safety is taken much more seriously in other industrialized countries, each of which has far lower

rates of fire deaths than the US. In New Zealand, public relations campaigns squarely shift responsibility to people. One poster shows a burning couch and the inscription reads, “Furniture does not cause fires, you do.” In Japan, fire in the home causes great shame for a family. Severe penalties, it’s true – but Japan, with nearly 20 times the population of New York City, has about half as many fires.

The point, of course, is not to punish. While we can pass laws and impose fines and penalties, in reality *it’s individual responsibility* that will make a difference. We must do everything we can to ensure that fire safety education is given the prominence it deserves, and rethink the importance of prevention and education.

Be a true partner to Sparky and Smokey and get that passion in your lives to prevent both house fires and wildfires.



Forestry Calendar of Public Meetings

April 1	9:00 a.m.	State Forests Advisory Committee	Forest Grove Community Auditorium
April 3	2:00 p.m.	Arbor Week Tree Walks	Various Oregon City Locales
April 19	9:00 - 2:00	Committee for Family Forestlands	Clatsop Room, ODF, Salem
April 19	9:00 - 4:00	Resource Management Planning Series	Benton County Extension, Corvallis 541.766.6750
April 28	9:00 - 2:00	Board of Forestry Tour	Portland
April 29	9:00 - 2:00	Board of Forestry Meeting	Portland
April 30	9:00 - 3:00	Naturalist Guided Walk: Hike to North Salmonberry Falls	Salmonberry Falls, Tillamook State Forest 503.842.8222 #120 for info
May 6	9:00 a.m.	Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee	Santiam Room, ODF, Salem
May 21	10:00 - 3:00	Naturalist Guided Walk: 5 Mile Hike Up Kings Mountain	Kings Mountain, Tillamook State Forest 503.842.8222 #120 for info
June 8	8:00 - 5:00	Board of Forestry Meeting	Salem
June 17	9:00 a.m.	Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee	Santiam Room, ODF, Salem



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STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY

