

FOREST • LOG

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY • FALL 2006

Inside:

Making forestry come alive for school kids

Path to energy independence may lead through the forest

Take a tour through Astoria's demonstration forest

2006 brings bustling fire season to Oregon

...and more!

From the State Forester



**State Forester
Marvin Brown**

Welcome to this latest edition of the Forest Log. As always, there has been a great deal happening of late and it's a pleasure to share a bit of it with you.

You can read the rundown on our 2006 fire season, but the short report is that we and our partners in the other agencies have been extremely busy and pretty successful. Fire danger on the eastside approached near record levels on numerous occasions. We had probably twice as many lightning events as usual, some

tough challenges in the Cascades and several moments of concern in coastal areas.

A key to keeping fires small continues to be the availability of what we call "severity resources." These are dollars that the legislature places in a special appropriation that we only access when fire danger gets to dangerous levels. They are used to hire additional crews, fire engines and helicopters. These funds also help us to secure two heavy air tankers throughout the summer.

Time and again these extra fire fighting tools allowed ODF personnel to get to fires while they were still small

Time and again these extra fire fighting tools allowed ODF personnel to get to fires while they were still small, saving the state the millions of dollars it would otherwise cost when fires are allowed to get large. The last statistic I saw indicated that we were able to keep over 95 percent of this year's starts under 10 acres.

We all owe the State Legislature our gratitude for their support and their foresight in implementing this process. It prevents landowners from suffering huge fire losses, as well as ultimately keeping fire costs under control.

I also want to recognize the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the landowner-supported Forest Protection associations, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and all of our local cooperators for your

outstanding efforts. Oregon has a unique and highly effective "Complete and Coordinated System" that works because of the cooperation and

dedication that each of these entities brings to the table.

Thank you all.....very much!

Cover photo:
Schoolchildren from Clarkes
Elementary School in
Clackamas County are all smiles
on their final hike to Butte Creek
Falls last year. Photo by
Jonathan Mayer, ODF.



FOREST LOG



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*A pileated woodpecker
takes in the view on
private land along
Hurricane Creek, Enterprise.
These birds prefer large trees
in deciduous or coniferous
forests for nesting.*

Copyright Bruce Craig
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Visit Astoria for a 'Short Walk' on State Forests Management

Jeff Foreman, ODF Public Affairs Specialist

State forests seem to be managed pretty well. They seem to have pretty good balance when it comes to connecting timber harvesting with wildlife and recreation.

But what if you want to see for yourself just how it works?

One way is to go on an Oregon Department of Forestry tour of state-managed forestlands. Tours happen fairly regularly and you can call a district office to find out when the next one is scheduled.

ODF managers of state forests welcome the opportunity for tours. In fact, you'll find they're downright passionate when they talk about how the forests are managed. It's a chance for them to show firsthand the balance and connection between the social, economic and ecological benefits of these forests.

There is, however, another option. No disrespect meant to the ODF foresters, but there is another way for you to size up

what's being done on state forests – on your own.

Instead of calling ahead and waiting for a tour, you can go to a demonstration forest and see and compare the effects of various types of forest management techniques.

ODF's Clatsop Demonstration Forest at the Astoria District office provides a quick look at different types of forest treatments and how they are turning out over time. The ODF Astoria office is on Highway 202 about four miles east after turning off Highway 101. The turnoff is at the southern edge of the city of Astoria.

No reservations are necessary. Just pull in, park and start walking. You can check in

at the office if you have questions. Visiting hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

It's worth the trip if you're interested in forestry, and it definitely qualifies as a stopping point if you're in the neighborhood. Adding to the attraction is an adjacent arboretum with more than 50 species of trees, both native and exotic (see related story).

You can spend a half-hour or 45 minutes in the demonstration forest and walk away feeling like you understand the thinking behind decisions on how state forests are managed. You'll see how:

- In a crowded forest, entangled branches of trees planted closely together block sunlight from reaching the forest floor, which results in few, if any, understory shrubs.
- Thinned forest stands increase space between trees, allowing light to reach the forest floor and encourage understory growth. Thinning also reduces competition among trees so these stands generally produce larger trunk diameters than unthinned stands.
- Foresters manage forests to promote a diversity of tree species. This contributes to forest health (trees are better able to withstand insects and disease) and provides essential habitat for wildlife.

As you walk the half-mile loop of the 7-acre forest, you'll notice a series of

information panels that explain why sections look the way they do. The stands could be a result of how the trees were planted, or whether or not they

were thinned or pruned.

The installation of the panels in June officially marked the completion of the demonstration forest. The project began in 1993 when ODF staff, scout troops and local



Light splashes out on a trail, beckoning visitors to the new demonstration forest at the Astoria District. The self-guided walking tour takes about a half-hour and shows visitors the results of differently managed stands in both younger and older forests.



This idea of actively managing stands to promote growth is central to the forest plans for state-owned forests.

residents planted Douglas-fir, western hemlock, red alder and western redcedar.

A forest comprised solely of 13-year-old trees would only show the early stages of development – a nice start, but hardly something to get too excited about. Fortunately, that’s not the case. The younger trees are on half the forest.

On the other half, you’ll find much older trees – ones planted between the 1930s and the 1950s. This was back when ODF first acquired the mostly cutover lands that now make up the 135,000-acre Clatsop State Forest. Together, the two 3.5-acre parcels – one younger, the other older – create the demonstration forest.

“The demonstration forest is designed to be an outdoor classroom for school groups,” said Larry Sprouse, who heads up recreation and public use for the Astoria District. “But it’s self-guided and also well-suited for visitors from the general public.”

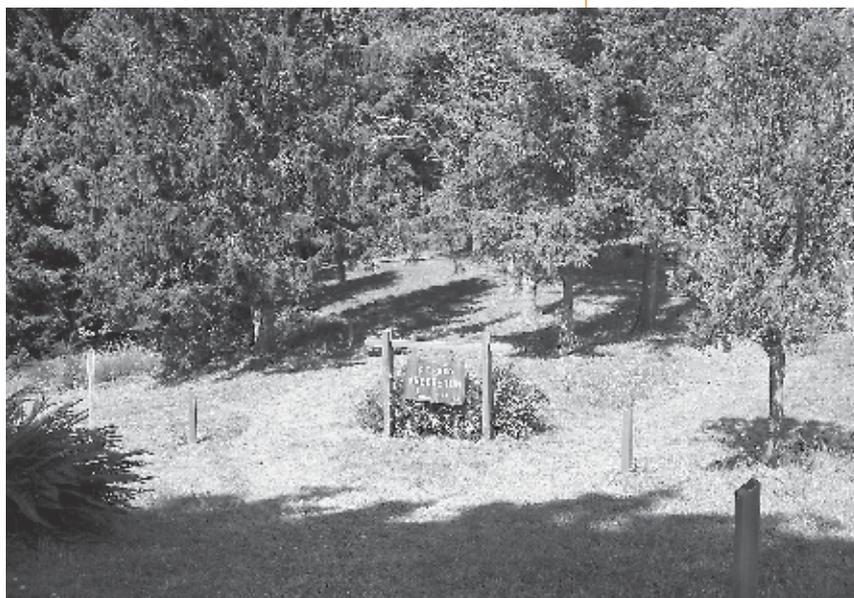
Even in the younger stands additional tree growth is easily noticeable in thinned stands compared to unthinned stands. This idea of actively managing stands to promote growth is central to the forest plans for state-owned forests.

State forests are managed to produce timber, and the harvesting is planned in ways so it also develops habitat for native wildlife. The state forests in northwest Oregon use a system called structure-based management that identifies five specific stages of development.

The term “structure” refers to things you can see and touch in a forest, such as trees (size, types and numbers), snags (standing dead trees) and decaying logs. These “structures” are all indicators of wildlife habitat and signs of healthy forest ecosystems.

ODF measures and tracks stands of state forests – such as the Clatsop and Tillamook – as they move through the stand structure stages. The forest plan specifies a percentage goal for each stage, and districts map where it makes sense for the different structure stages to occur.

See for yourself how it works – on a tour or – at the Clatsop Demonstration Forest.



Astoria District’s C.J. Reed Arboretum, with more than 50 species of trees, provides a convenient companion attraction for people visiting the district’s new demonstration forest. Recent upgrades to the arboretum, established in 1967, make it more inviting to visitors.

Arboretum Helps Put Names with Trees

“Hey, what kind of tree is that?”

At one time or another, most of us have asked that question. We live in Oregon, after all, and half the state is covered in trees. Most of us probably know a Douglas-fir – our state tree – when we see one. But it’s the lesser-known varieties that leave us sometimes scratching our heads.

That’s where an arboretum comes in handy. It’s a place where trees and shrubs are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes.

More than 50 tree species and shrubs await visitors at the C.J. Reed Arboretum next to the Oregon Department of Forestry’s Astoria District Office. Established in 1967, the arboretum has a collection of mature trees, both Oregon natives and exotic species from Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Some younger versions of the mature trees were recently planted to help visitors identify the trees. New signs and other improvements were made this spring.

The short, 750-foot trail is easy to get to from the parking lot. The arboretum was named after Chet Reed, a unit forester for ODF’s Astoria District.

The Astoria office is at 92219 Highway 202, about four miles east of Highway 101. Visiting hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



2006 Fire season: *Lots of lightning, initial attack*

Rod Nichols, ODF Public Affairs Specialist



Photo by Paul Ries, ODF

large wildfires occurred on federal forestlands, and the department allocated considerable firefighting resources to aid their partner agencies, the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service.

“We helped them with aircraft and fire management personnel on several fires including the Lake George Fire, Black Crater Fire, Blister Fire, Foster Gulch Complex, Alder Creek Fire, Mt. Hood Complex and the Puzzle Fire,” Boro noted.

The federal agencies reciprocated, on numerous occasions performing initial attack on wildfires on state jurisdiction that were more quickly accessible to their forces than the department’s.

A large smoke column rises from the Lake George Fire in Central Oregon in August.

As wildfires blazed across the state last summer, Department of Forestry firefighting veteran Dan Shults observed, “August is always August in southern Oregon.” His words sum up fire activity statewide as well. A heavy winter snowpack and above-average spring rainfall boded well for the 2006 fire season.

But when summer weather finally took hold and dry lightning storms swept across much of the state, igniting hundreds of fires, the previous wet weather faded to just a pleasant memory.

“A couple of things stand out this season,” said Fire Operations Manager John Boro. “Lots of lightning and lots of initial attack.”

After each thunderstorm, department firefighters chased down scores of lightning-started fires on the districts, stopping most of them at small size. Most of the season’s

Governor tours Black Crater Fire

Shortly after the department mobilized to work in a unified command with the interagency Northwest Incident Management Team on the Black Crater Fire near Sisters, team members received word of an important visitor: Gov. Ted Kulongoski was flying in July 29 to tour the fire. In a press conference with Department of Forestry and U.S. Forest Service administrators, the governor underscored twin objectives he said the close state-federal cooperation helped to fulfill: minimize losses to the forest resource and prevent destruction of homes in wildland-urban interface areas.

Eastside action

A glance at a wildfire map quickly reveals that by mid-August, most of the fire activity in the state was concentrated east of the Cascades. The characteristically dry, hot weather, coupled with thunderstorms,



spawned wildfires great and small across the region. In a region of the state dominated by large public land holdings, Eastern Oregon Area Director Cliff Liedtke has always fostered a close working relationship with his sister federal agencies.

“Our interaction with the Forest Service and the BLM has been really good this year,” Liedtke said. “We’ve had several of our folks plugged into federal fires. [Rangeland Fire Coordinator] Gordon Foster served as agency administrator on the Foster Gulch Complex fires, and [Interface Coordinator] Tom Andrade did the same on the Lake George and Black Crater fires.”

Partnering with the federal agencies on their fires serves the interest of the private forest landowners the Department of Forestry protects, he said, because many of the BLM and Forest Service lands lie adjacent to private lands.

“On Lake George, for example, we got involved up front to prevent the fire from getting on us,” he said.

The area director credited a fire severity fund established by the Oregon Legislature with augmenting eastside firefighting resources at crucial times during the season. Heavy air tankers, helicopters and fire engines were moved into the area ahead of expected dry lightning storms, which aided in suppressing the numerous fires that ensued.

“This is where the severity fund really works well. As an example, we moved an ODF tanker to La Grande because the federal tankers were in Redmond,” he said. “So we covered La Grande and stopped a fire in Wallowa.”

He also cited a move-up of fire engines into John Day in August - funded by severity dollars - that helped district forces quell 70 new fires ignited by lightning over a three-day period. Sharing of aviation resources with the Forest Service greatly bolstered the firefighting effort there as well, he said.

Southern Oregon success

By the middle of August, wildfire activity had been about average across most of southern Oregon. A dry lightning event at mid-season broke the relative calm and sent a spike into the statistics, sparking more than 80 fires. Thirty-one of them occurred

on the South Cascade District, with the majority in the Sweet Home Unit. The large number of lightning fires was unusual for this part of the state, but firefighting forces handled the high activity effectively. A severity-funded contract helicopter and an Oregon National Guard Blackhawk were key to the successful suppression effort.

Rugged terrain and heavy forest fuels at the Boulder Creek and Rocky Top fires challenged district firefighters. Nevertheless, they were able to hold both blazes to about 100 total acres.

Area Director Dan Shults praised forest landowners, both small and industrial, for their active involvement in fire suppression during the season. Coos Forest Protective Association District Manager Mike Robison provided an example from the Fall Creek Fire.

“We had a great response from Roseburg Forest Products. They provided five task force leaders and four local resource bosses,” Robison said, “and we didn’t even have to ask.”

Along with bolstering CFPA’s firefighting effort, the forest landowners’ strong commitment to fire safety also goes a long way toward preventing wildfires. The 2006 season was no exception.

“They provide oversight for their contract loggers and they’re an important element of the association’s ‘team effort’ approach of preventing wildfires,” he said.

When lightning started several fires in the Sweet Home area, Weyerhaeuser Company stepped up by contributing a large block of flight time with its locally based helicopter.

On account of its California-like climate, the Southwest Oregon District is often near the top each year in number of fires and acres burned. But the 2006 season did not record any eye-popping statistics, thanks to relatively little dry lightning, high fire safety



Photo by Chris Friend, ODF

A firefighter conducts burnout operations on the Black Crater Fire.



awareness among forest operators and the public, and a close working relationship between state and federal fire entities. When a thunderstorm did pass through in early August, cooperation won the day.

"It caused 40 fires on our district and 40 on the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest," District Forester Dan Thorpe recalls. "Both agencies worked together, put fires out for each other, and shared resources on several different occasions."



Photo by Chris Friend, ODF

Firefighters conduct mop up operations on the Black Crater Fire near Sisters in August.

On several reports of fire, the department's two leased air tankers were first on the scene. Paid for with fire severity funds, the planes helped slow the spread until ground forces could arrive to engage the fires directly. Operation of the Medford air tanker base in 2006 is another example of successful interagency cooperation.

"We provided some staffing and the federal agencies provided some staffing," he said. "Also, Jackson County helped with additional funding."

The statistics speak to the federal base's effectiveness this summer. By mid-August, ground crews had loaded a quarter-million gallons of liquid fire retardant onto tanker aircraft. The planes delivered the goods, dropping 85 loads on 23 different wildfires.

Forest cyber-lookout

This summer, traditional fire lookouts eyeing the forests of Douglas County from their mountaintop towers shared the view with a cyber-sidekick. The Douglas Forest

Protective Association field-tested Fire Watch, an automated system that detects wildfire smoke and transmits photos to a computer screen in DFPA's Roseburg office.

"We currently have a camera on Mt. Scott that scans a complete panorama every six minutes," District Manager Melvin Thornton said.

If the rotating black-and-white digital camera sees smoke, it sends an alarm to the DFPA office, where staff evaluate the imagery real-time and determine if it depicts a nascent wildfire.

Developed by a South Africa-based company, the Fire Watch system includes a sophisticated software package that interprets the photos to weed out clouds, heavy equipment exhaust, dust and shadows. Since installation of the camera in July, DFPA staff have been tweaking the software in hopes that it can eventually home in only on smoke produced by wildland fuels.

"We're still getting some false alarms from low clouds," Thornton said.

The Fire Watch camera has an effective range of about 25 miles and operates 24/7. Producing photos from visible light during the day, at night the system captures near-infrared, those wavelengths that lie just beyond visible red light. A computer mapping feature integrated into Fire Watch can locate a suspected wildfire on a map to within 70 meters.

DFPA will soon evaluate a competing fire detection system, ForestWatch, developed by a Swiss firm, to compare features.

While automated wildfire sensing holds great promise, it won't necessarily lead to the demise of staffed fire lookouts.

"Whether it replaces lookouts or just improves our overall fire detection system, we don't know yet," he said.

Best-value fire crews

The shift to a "best-value" contract for private firefighting crews last spring promised to make a good resource even better. When the Oregon Department of Forestry prepared the 2006 Interagency Firefighting Crew Agreement for bid in late spring, it added the criterion of past performance to the existing factors of hourly rate and a crew's proximity to a fire that are considered when selecting crews to be dispatched to wildfires.



The new contract enabled the department to rank the 159 20-person crews selected through the bid process on quality. Those crew contractors that had in the past demonstrated a high level of firefighter training, quick response to fire dispatches, and effectiveness on the fire line were rewarded with a higher ranking. This translated to more work opportunity, as fire dispatchers selected crews from the upper portion of the list whenever a call came in for crews.

The human factor

By mid-season, a disturbing trend had emerged: While lightning-caused fires accounted for most of the acreage burned, the number of human-caused fires had surged well above the 10-year average. Keep Oregon Green Association President Mary Ellen Holly attributed the gain partly to a long-term demographic trend.

“As Oregon’s population grows, the wildland-urban interface continues to expand, and a substantial number of fires this year occurred in the interface,” Holly said.

She cited common wildfire causes associated with the interface including escaped backyard debris burns, kids playing with fireworks, and malfunctioning lawnmowers and other motorized equipment.

Already a leading cause of wildfires in Oregon, debris burning put a spike in the fire numbers last spring when weather intensified fire conditions earlier than normal.

“We had a stretch of nice weather, and people decided to get rid of their yard waste,” she said. “Then, an east wind event occurred in the North Cascade District just when they were burning debris, and that caused many of the burns to escape into wildfires.”

While the wind dried out grasses and shrubs and set the stage for the wildfires that ensued, the responsibility lay ultimately with homeowners, the prevention specialist said. Checking the weather before deciding to burn, monitoring a debris fire from start to finish, clearing vegetation from around the fire site, and having water and fire tools on hand are basic steps that could have prevented these small burns from becoming damaging wildfires.

For more fire season photos, see page 23.



Above: Rick Harris, ODF, fights fire with fire in July at the North Grass Mountain Fire 17 miles southwest of Philomath.



Right: A hardhat and pulaski are all that’s visible of this firefighter engaged in mop-up operations on the Panther Gulch Fire.



More than 90 years of forestry experience:

Charlie Stone, Steve Thomas and Tim Keith retire

Jeri Chase, ODF Public Affairs Specialist



Charlie Stone

This past summer, three long-time leaders for the department retired: two Assistant State Foresters – Tim Keith and Steve Thomas – and one former Assistant State Forester, Charlie Stone.

The following are some highlights of the careers of Steve Thomas and Charlie Stone. Tim Keith's interview about his career, as well as his perspective on the 2006 Fire Season, will be published in the next edition.

Charlie Stone, Special Projects Leader, Protection From Fire Program

Charlie Stone began full-time work with ODF in 1977, after graduating from the University of Massachusetts, first doing forest practices work in Coos Bay, then in Gold Beach. He then began his "Salem career" with the Forest Practices Program, ultimately becoming the Program Director, then Assistant State Forester for the Protection Division, and officially retired from ODF as Protection From Fire Special Projects Director.

Forest Log [FL]: *When you left Massachusetts for Oregon after college, did you ever think you would be here for almost 30 years?*

Charlie [CS]: I first came out here on an adventure during the summer before my senior year, driving three riders to the west coast. When I got to Oregon, I began looking for work and ended up as a trainee for ODF in Astoria. During my senior year, since there were not a whole lot of forestry jobs back east, I contacted ODF to see how I could get hired here and ended up with a

CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) position in Coos Bay. My thought was that I would probably be out here for three to five years, get enough experience to get a job back east, and return to be close to my family. That was until I got married to a native Oregonian, began to really enjoy the staff work in Salem, and figured I better retire here before returning back east. I'm a New England Yankee, through and through – my family's been there for about 400 years.

FL: *What would you consider your most significant accomplishments with the agency?*

CS: During the first portion of my career, definitely Forest Practices Act revisions and subsequent rules - particularly the original civil penalty authority, but also written plans, endangered species protection, riparian areas, etc. Since my time overseeing and working in the fire program, the strong aviation program that now exists throughout the state, my role in legally and safely procuring air tankers in 2004 - when federal air tankers became unavailable, and most recently, the staff work to redesign the fire funding system, which ultimately became HB 2327 that passed the legislature in 2005.

FL: *What's next?*

CS: I hope to continue to work part time for the department on policy in the Protection Program. And then, some projects around the house. Plus, I am to spend some more time in Massachusetts on some property that my three siblings and I inherited. When I fully retire, I want to spend several months of the year in Massachusetts and the balance here in Oregon. And, of course, I could spend all my time just exploring – all over the country and then, when I get the United States done, Canada. The only state I have never been in is Alaska, so I would like to do that.

FL: Last thoughts?

CS: The Forestry Department has just been a really exciting, wonderful adventure. Being a transplant from another part of the country, most of my friends are from the department. I married into the department, basically, and it's been a wonderful experience from that standpoint – not one that I plan to leave behind in any fashion.

Steve Thomas, retired Assistant State Forester, Forest Management Division

Born and raised in Portland and a graduate of Oregon State University with a Forest Management degree, Steve Thomas came to the department in 1976 following time in the U.S. Navy. His career included field experience in Klamath Falls, Veneta, and Prineville, before beginning time in Salem in contract administration with the State Forests Program, as the agency's Human Resources Director, and, ultimately, as the Assistant State Forester for the Forest Management Division, overseeing the State Forests, Urban Forestry, and Human Resources Programs. Immediately prior to his retirement, Steve was the first recipient of the agency's newly established Working Guidelines Award.

FL: How did you feel when you received the Working Guidelines Award?

Steve Thomas [ST]: I felt really good about that. I thought the guidelines were a great idea when they were first developed, and I was always proud when I talked with others within and outside of the organization about them, so I appreciated that folks felt I contributed to them enough to be recognized for it.

FL: What have you enjoyed most about the past 30 years?

ST: The opportunities to work in so many different places and to do so many different things – my career may have been with one organization, but I feel that I have had many different careers. Some dirt forester work, time in the field firefighting and then more time with fire teams, business/real estate/contracting work, Human Resources, and then so many completely new experiences in my last job – working with the Legislature and the counties, and then the work I got to do with the Tillamook Forest Center. I feel good about the work we have

done over the past five years with forest management plan implementation and that there is a good foundation for others to build on and make even better.

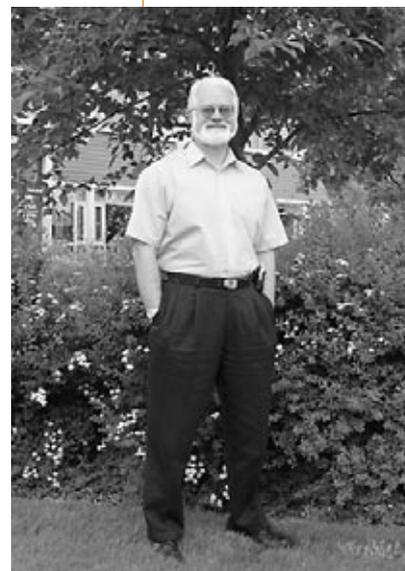
FL: And your plans now?

ST: My wife, Julie, has now retired also, so we have lots of short-term plans. More time at our beach house in Cannon Beach, golfing lessons a couple of afternoons a week – how decadent is that? - Shakespeare classes at Chemeketa and a long weekend to see some plays in Ashland. Then, some road trips – South Dakota or British Columbia and Vancouver Island. I may do some volunteer work at the Tillamook Forest Center or even some contract work.

FL: Last thoughts?

ST: Overall, it's been wonderful and I've learned so much – hopefully been able to contribute as I went along. If you have worked for an employer of choice, and feel like you have been able to contribute and been valued, whenever you leave, whatever you leave for, you feel a little pain. It really is an official ending because you are going to do something different – you don't quite know what, but you're excited; retirement is just a new adventure.

You can read the complete conversations with Charlie Stone and Steve Thomas online at [HYPERLINK "http://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestloginterviews.shtml"](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestloginterviews.shtml) www.oregon.gov/odf/forestloginterviews.shtml.



Steve Thomas



ODF's Mayer makes forestry, environmental ethics come alive for schoolkids

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Affairs Specialist



Photo by Janet Nagle, OSU Extension

Fifth grade students from Rural Dell Elementary School learn how to identify forest understory plants during a tree and plant identification after-school class.

Jonathan Mayer, North Cascade District's recreation coordinator, has been busy this year connecting classrooms with opportunities to learn about Oregon's natural resources. Mayer's enthusiastic approach to teaching elementary and middle school children in Clackamas, Marion and Linn counties about the many economic, environmental, and social benefits their state forests provide is garnering rave reviews from teachers, librarians, and the participants.

Mayer's environmental education program is relatively new, and has an interesting history. Following some intensive planning for the program in 2000, the program first got underway when Mayer established interpretive day hikes, for all ages, to Shellburg Falls. The site worked perfectly in creating excitement among the young audience; an easy trail passes behind

Shellburg Falls, so youngsters could view the waterfall plunging 100 feet from the edge of a basalt cliff into a pool. A summer reading program was then added at the Lyons Public Library, reaching 30-120 students of all ages. Last year, the program reached some 1,300 participants.

Mayer is a master at planning, outreach, and sheer juggling. Each spring and fall, he stays busy balancing six programs, plus two field trips. Currently, Clackamas County is the area of greatest focus because of grant dollars the county receives. This grant provides funds for ODF to hire its part-time environmental education specialist, Steve Hernandez, for a six-month period. Topics taught by Mayer and Hernandez range from forest habitat and wildlife to hunting ethics, and how forests are managed for timber, clean water and recreation.

Mayer finds various ways to give the students a greater understanding and appreciation of the many resources that enrich their lives. On a typical day this past spring, Mayer instructed some 60 school children about the importance of environmental ethics. Mayer led the students in skits about various outdoor activities, including hunting safety and etiquette, litter and decomposition

Judging from the show of hands, these topics really resonated with the lives and recreational activities of the students.

rates, off-road vehicle use, fishing, target practice, and fire prevention. Judging from the show of hands, these topics really

resonated with the lives and recreational activities of the students.

As he leads summer library presentations, in-school and after-school programs and field trips to the forest, Mayer also provides the school children with opportunities for fun and safe outdoor learning. Janet Nagle, OSU Extension's 4-H development agent, says the program has been "a wonderful partnership."

"It increases the students' understanding of forests and natural resources, and teaches them what being good caretakers means," says Nagle. "It's a way of hands-on education, making education fun."

Nagle says teachers tell her the program "helps students overall with science benchmark testing." Nagle anticipates a full environmental education program again next year.

The success of the program has not been limited to rural communities. As a result of the grant dollars received for the Clackamas County area, Mayer and Hernandez have been able to visit all sizes of cities and towns, including Tualatin, Canby, Gladstone, Oregon City, and Milwaukie.

Nagle says teachers tell her "the program helps students overall with science benchmark testing."

"Attendance is always good," says Mayer, recalling the visits paid to a few of Oregon's more populated communities. For example, just this past summer some 85 students attended an environmental education program called "Claws and Paws" in Tualatin. Sixty five students came to Milwaukie, and 100 turned out for the program in Molalla. Typically, once a library sets a date with Mayer for a program or presentation, word



Photo by Jorge Martinez

Steve Hernandez teaches Clackamas County junior high students how foresters use an increment borer to measure tree growth during a forestry summer camp for Hispanic youth at the Santiam State Forest.



Photo by Jonathan Mayer, ODF

Schoolchildren scamper under Butte Creek Falls in the fall of last year.

gets around quickly via the newspapers and library web sites.

In Molalla, Assistant Librarian Michelle Satyna has nothing but glowing feedback about the presentations she's been a part of at the Mollala Library. "This is a really wonderful, entertaining and informative program," says Satyna. "They've fine-tuned it so even the preschoolers stay entertained ... preschoolers up to 99-year olds." Using props and slides, Mayer and Hernandez let the kids ask questions "and do an excellent job." Presentations at the libraries usually run about 45 minutes, and then hands-on time for the kids to interact is provided. "There's always a long line for that," adds Satyna.

Typical turnout for a library presentation runs from 100 to 120 people, indicating the level of community interests these opportunities generate. Topics at the Molalla Library have included wildlife, forest habitat and fire prevention. "I'm hoping the program continues. It's really great when kids can get hands-on with ODF," says Satyna.

Mayer hopes so, too.

"It's our hope to one day have a full-time position to assist with the growing education program here, and offer more opportunities in our other counties," says Mayer. "There is a high demand for forestry programs, a greater demand than we can meet."

The path to energy independence: it may lead through the forest

Dan Postrel, Director, Agency Affairs



ODF's Board of Forestry met in northeast Oregon in July to discuss issues related to forest vitality and biomass. Pictured is a portable chipper being used to send wood chips to a biomass plant in Prairie City.

Vast expanses of Oregon's forests, particularly in the state's hotter, drier regions, are in crisis. They're overcrowded with small, struggling trees, and vulnerable to insect attack, disease, and wildfires that are abnormally hot, fast-moving and destructive.

The problem has several causes, including decades of vigorous prevention and suppression of fire, an agent that has a natural role in maintaining healthy forests. Now, many of these forests are so overloaded with vegetation that allowing them to burn can threaten lives, property, and natural resources, such as wildlife habitat and healthy streams.

A movement is now underway in Oregon to confront this problem by developing and supporting opportunities to use excess forest biomass. The benefits are clear enough. They include:

- Restoring the health and fire-resiliency of the affected forests, most of which are on federal land.
- Providing a renewable energy source.
- Bringing much-needed economic opportunities to rural Oregon.

But the challenges are equally clear. They include finding economical, technically feasible means of moving forest biomass to facilities where it could be used, addressing market problems, and building public acceptance and trust. Conflict has engulfed the management of public lands for decades, and important issues must be resolved if biomass use is to move forward.

Views vary widely. Some groups worry that biomass use itself will become harmful if more vegetation is removed over time than is necessary to restore forest health, or if larger trees are harvested along with the smaller ones. Others argue that harvest of some

larger trees is desirable, and necessary to help make biomass use economically feasible.

However, the forest health crisis is so compelling that folks with diverse interests have sat down together to work through the obstacles. One indication of this came earlier this year, when the Oregon director of The Nature Conservancy and the CEO of a large timber company co-authored a column in *The Oregonian* calling for action. As the article noted, work on the issue is happening on several levels, public and private.

A recent study commissioned by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute estimated that 4.25 million acres in eastern and southern Oregon could produce biomass through thinning of forest stands to reduce the danger of abnormally severe fires. Other estimates of acreage needing fuels reduction treatment are larger.

At the state level, the **Governor's Renewable Energy Action Plan**, initiated under Governor Ted Kulongoski's leadership, serves to "encourage and accelerate the sustainable production of energy from renewable sources," with the goal that 25 percent of the state's electrical needs come

from renewable resources by 2010 and 100 percent by 2025. Forest biomass, such as biomass from timber harvests, stand improvement activities, fuels treatments and thinning, is included as one of the renewable energy sources in the plan.

A **Renewable Energy Work Group**, with about 35 members, including four legislators, is responsible for implementing the Renewable Energy Action Plan. While many of the tasks identified in the plan will be delegated to specific working groups already in place, the Renewable Energy Work Group will examine broader issues, including incentives, a renewable portfolio standard, and other means of achieving the action plan's goals.

To address some of the specific technology barriers in the Renewable Energy Action Plan, a state **Biomass Coordinating Group**, under the direction of the Governor's office, is made up of state agencies that are bringing stakeholders together in three sub-groups – one each to focus on biomass from forest, agricultural and urban sources. The diversity of stakeholders engaged in the forest sub-working group might surprise some people. The list includes people from

conservation and labor groups, utilities, the forest products industry, state and federal agencies, and representatives from Congress and the Oregon Legislature.

The Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) participation with the coordinating group's forest biomass sub-group ties in with



Photo by Arlene Whalen, ODF

Senate Bill 1072, passed by the 2005 Legislature. This bill directs the state forester to promote public understanding of forest biomass issues, help assess where these opportunities exist, and determine how the appropriate technologies can be used to tap these resources. The department's work is

also focusing on how ODF can increase participation in federal forest management decision-making, since most of the biomass is located on federal lands. The Board of Forestry's Forest Vitality Work Plan calls for promoting state laws and policies that provide economic incentives for biomass energy development.

Besides state efforts,

Board of Forestry members, ODF staff, and guests discuss issues related to forest vitality and economic challenges facing eastern Oregon landowners.



Mike Gaudern, Director of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, learns how Wallowa Resources is getting economic value from smaller diameter wood removed from the forest. Besides being used for posts and poles, long poles can be connected together to mimic a large log for in-stream placement or be used to control erosion. Because the wood is biodegradable, it eventually restores nutrients back into the soil and doesn't spread noxious and invasive weeds, like commonly-used straw waddles.



other opportunities are being provided to foster dialogue and collaboration. For example, in August, The Nature Conservancy, the Oregon Business Council, and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute hosted a biomass forest tour for public and private sector leaders to look at woody biomass opportunities in Klamath and Lake counties. The event provided the chance to show and discuss biomass potential as it relates to green energy, rural economies, and forest health in Oregon.



Photo by Arlene Whalen, ODF

A tour at the Biomass One plant in White City reveals how wood waste can be turned into energy. The plant has been in operation since the 1980's and offers the Oregon Department of Forestry, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management an economically feasible way of dealing with forest slash.

The Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities Partnership, launched by Sustainable Northwest, a non-profit association of forest owners, loggers, wood products manufacturers and community organizations, has also been actively supporting improving the health of forests and rural communities, with biomass use as one way to achieve both goals. This year, the partnership joined with the California-based Watershed Research and Training Center to host a conference titled "Making Biomass Work." The conference brought nearly 200 people to Klamath Falls.

An important biomass event this year was the **Business Alliance for Sustainable Energy Summit** in Bend, where Governor Kulongoski introduced new initiatives to promote the generation of renewable energy. More than 200 people from private and government sectors met to discuss ways to expedite the development of renewable energy sources.

Beyond the various working groups and events, some businesses are taking steps to use biomass, particularly for power production, in Oregon. In Central Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs has signed an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management for long-term supply, and is working with utilities on a power purchase agreement, for building a 15-megawatt biomass facility.

Forest products firms around the state are working with the Oregon Department of Energy to develop biomass as an energy supply. Douglas County Forest Products, Stimson, Hampton, Seneca Lumber, Rough and Ready, Freres and other mills are converting to – or returning to – biomass for steam and electricity production, and Oregon's largest producer of biomass pellet fuel is doubling its production this year.

Currently, biomass is used to produce steam for industrial processes at 55 sites in the state, 12 of which have cogeneration facilities, producing both steam and electricity from biomass.

In addition, opportunities may eventually develop for conversion of forest biomass to ethanol.

Despite all the current activity, issues involving market barriers, cost competition, supply, utility interconnection and other matters have yet to be fully addressed – as does the important matter of public acceptance and agreement about how to best manage our forests.

Joe Misek, an ODF policy analyst who co-chairs the state's forest biomass working group, says he is pleased to see so many collaborative efforts underway.

"Throughout the work that is being done, it is becoming very clear that staying focused on a common goal – improving overall forest health by reducing the fire threat from unnatural buildups of biomass – needs to be the driver," he said. "If those at the decision-making table can stay focused on that particular outcome, solutions will be found to any obstacles that might prevent us from developing markets for forest biomass."

TREES IN TOWN

Community Tree Inventories Grow Statewide

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Affairs Specialist, Urban Forestry Program

Working with both city officials and volunteers, Urban and Community Forestry Outreach Coordinator Sarah Kresse took urban forestry to another level in several Oregon communities this past spring and summer. With Kresse's help and guidance, the cities of Lakeview, Brownsville, and Mount Angel made significant progress on their street tree inventories. And with Kresse's support, the city of Echo recently finished a complete street tree inventory as well as an inventory of park trees and trees in the city's arboretum. This type of work helps communities take stock of both the assets and liabilities along their city streets, and plan and prioritize important projects such as removing sick or hazardous trees and planting new, healthy trees.

Kresse's position is made possible through a one-year service program through the Northwest Service Academy, a local sponsor of the AmeriCorps program. Kresse's job is to work with the smaller communities throughout Oregon, assisting them in building upon their community forestry programs by helping plan and implement tree plantings in the winter and early spring, and helping them with tree inventories as soon as trees have leafed out. Educational events are also part of Kresse's outreach, including assisting cities with their Arbor Day events. However, although less glamorous, her work with street tree inventories is what will leave a lasting legacy in Oregon towns and cities.

For example, working with Mt Angel City Administrator Gene Miles and the city's receptionist in tackling a complete street tree inventory in Mount Angel, Kresse provided guidance and instruction in tree identification and storing the street tree data in hand-held PDA's (computers). Following the completion of their street tree inventory, Mount Angel city staff will then take on an inventory to assess the condition of the trees found in their parks.



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

Projects like these can help communities reap the economic, environmental, and social benefits trees provide. If you have questions about a tree planting, a tree inventory, or other ways in which the Urban and Community Forestry Program can get involved with your community, please call 503-945-7391, or 503-945-7421.

Volunteers Gisela and Don Murtha assist with a street tree inventory in Mount Angel. This type of work helps communities take stock of their assets and make plans to correct problems.



Photo by Sarah Kresse

School children enthusiastically helped Kresse plant trees at a Brownsville Arbor Day event.



Awards:

Various ODF staff recognized for their food drive efforts and special achievements

By Jeri Chase, ODF Public Affairs Specialist

At the agency's Leadership Team Meeting in June, several employees and groups were recognized for special accomplishments.

Governor's State Employees' Food Drive

Employees for the Oregon Department of Forestry again rose to the challenge of the Governor's State Employees Food Drive in 2006. The Food Drive is the Oregon Food Bank's major source of food and funds. As an agency, ODF won its' agency class for the seventh consecutive year, increasing giving by approximately 20 percent over 2005, and collecting the equivalent of 239,994 pounds of food.

Food Drive Winners

Eastern Oregon Area: Klamath Falls Unit (1976 pounds per employee)

Northwest Oregon Area: Molalla Unit (3038 pounds per employee)

Southern Oregon Area: Grants Pass Unit (936 pounds per employee)

Salem Headquarters: Combined Group of the Executive Team, and the Human Resources, Agency Affairs, and Quality Assurance Programs (512 pounds per employee)

Other Food Drive Awards

10,000 pound Club: Danny Benson, Klamath Falls Unit, a member for the third year in a row; personally collecting the equivalent of 19,935 pounds of food in 2006

Special Recognition:

Columbia City Unit for submitting the unit's contributions of 1075 pounds per employee to Wal-Mart's matching grant program and receiving an addition \$1000 for donation to their local Columbia Pacific Food Bank

Agency Annual Special Achievement Awards

The first *Working Guidelines Award* was awarded to **Steve Thomas** in recognition for leading their development, and consistently and effectively applying them in his interactions with others.

The *Team Award* recognizes work groups who have

performed in an exemplary manner to produce a very successful outcome, either on a one-time project or over a sustained period of time. Three separate teams were the recipients of this first year's team award.

The Winners

- The **Audit Implementation Team** (Pam Stroebel-Valencia, Marti Graham, Linda Fenske, Mark Hubbard, Betsy Kelly, Michelle Remy, Jill Bradford, Chris Cottrell, Pat Rudisill, Diane Smithburg, Leon Nerpel, Keith Dehut, Robin Johnson, Judy Wilder, Karl Kohler, and Chris Roach)
- The **Harvest and Habitat Model Project Team** (Dave Johnson, Pam Overhulser, Rob Nall, and Dave Enck)
- The **J. E. Schroeder Seed Orchard Staff** (Rick Quam, Don Wright, Dawn McClain, Mario Lara, and Bret Mitchell)

The *Technical Achievement Award* recognizes people who develop an outstanding product, tool, technique, process or procedure related to the responsibilities of their position(s). Three individuals received this recognition.

The Winners

Alan Maul, Business Services Program (retired), for successfully leading the re-development of the Salem campus over the last several years.

Pam Overhulser, State Forests Program, for her individual technical contributions to the Harvest and Habitat Model Project Team.

James Scarsce, Business Services Program, for his technical work developing tools to help others in with the budgeting process.

The *Mary Rellergert Forestry Education Award* was given to **Anne Maloney, Klamath-Lake District**, for her work in helping to establish and launch the Klamath Outdoors Science School in the Sun Pass State Forest.

State Controller's Gold Star Certificate CAFR Gold Star 2005

Awarded to agencies that provide accurate and complete fiscal year end information in a timely manner. Presented to fiscal services staff, including lead *CAFR Accountant, Diane Smithburg*.

Talkin' about Streamside Benefits

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Affairs Specialist

Family forestland owner David Schiappa of Lorane, Oregon, recently received a visit and helping hand from representatives with Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and ODF. The visit was prompted by some questions Schiappa had about his forestland, specifically with regards to logging practices along streamsid es on his property. While working within the stream protection provisions of the Forest Practices Act, Schiappa hopes to convert unproductive ground into healthy conifer plantations.

Schiappa owns 82 acres of forested land along the Siuslaw River, but when he first acquired the land in 1993 it was apparent that the prior owner had heavily logged it. What remained were small residual stands of Douglas-fir, Western hemlock and Western red cedar throughout the property.

In 2005, Schiappa wisely contacted an experienced forestry consultant to help him write a forest stewardship plan. Because of the land's close proximity to the Siuslaw River, the presence of Coho and cutthroat salmon and steelhead, and the property's stream associated wetlands, the landowner invited ODF stewardship forester Jordan Ryder and ODF&W representative Jason Kirchner to walk the site this past spring.

In this photo, Kirchner and Schiappa discuss the long-term streamside benefits that will result from a large, mature cedar log that fell across the channel. Schiappa will leave high stumps to trap wood during high flows as part of a small hardwood conversion (replacing hardwoods with conifers) he has planned for the area. He's also looking into protecting portions of his riparian (streamside) management area (RMA) under the Riparian Tax Incentive Program, which would provide long-term benefits to fish and wildlife along the Siuslaw River and stream-associated wetlands.



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

A large cedar log, above, provides a convenient stopping point to discuss a planned hardwood conversion, and riparian (streamside) protection measures, on property located near the Siuslaw River near Lorane.

AROUND ODF

Liz Dent Receives Forestry Leadership Award



*Liz Dent
Aquatic and riparian specialist,
State Forest program*

Corvallis resident **Liz Dent** has received the 2005 James E. Brown Leadership Award for her leadership and accomplishments in forestry. Named for former Oregon State Forester Jim Brown, the award recognizes department employees who have demonstrated “sustained organizational leadership, a strong record of accomplishments, and excellent communications skills.”

An employee of the Oregon Department of Forestry for the past 10 years, Dent was honored by the department at a meeting June 13 in Salem. The selection committee lauded Dent for her work with the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, the Forest Practices Monitoring Program, the Headwaters Research Cooperative, the Trask River Intensively Managed Watershed Program and other

similar monitoring and research projects. As forest practices monitoring coordinator, the forest hydrologist worked closely with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists on a project to determine the effects of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds on coastal coho salmon runs.

“She provided tremendous leadership in completing these challenging and innovative projects,” said current State Forester Marvin Brown. “Liz is an outstanding ambassador for our department, and all her work has had solid credibility.”

Dent is currently working on the Riparian Function and Stream Temperature Study, a project she and her fellow researchers initiated in 2002 to gauge how effective forest practice rules are at maintaining stream temperature and streamside habitat function for fish. The study design calls for collecting field data before and after timber harvest. Dent’s educational training includes a bachelor’s degree from Humboldt State University and a master’s degree in forest hydrology from OSU.

Journal of Forestry Publishes Article by State Forest Program Director Lisa DeBruyckere



*Lisa DeBruyckere
State Forest Program Director*

“*Changing the paradigm – Effectively engaging stakeholders in forest policy issues*” is the title of an article by ODF’s **Lisa DeBruyckere** being published in the September issue of *Journal of Forestry*. In her article, DeBruyckere points out the importance of adaptive management – engaging stakeholders in discussion and involving communities – to the adoption of ODF’s newest forest management plans.

“A recognition that science serves to inform a broader policy discussion that advances the common interest of society is imperative,” writes DeBruyckere. “We must ground ourselves. Despite the difficulties of working in the public service arena these days, we must retain a collective faith that our dedication to serve will protect and advance the common interests of society as a whole.”

To view the article online in November, go to: <http://www.safnet.org/>

Oregon Community Trees Executive Director Moves On

After nearly three years of innovative leadership, Oregon Community Trees (OCT) Executive Director Gail Gredler is moving on. Gredler has accepted a teaching position in horticulture with Chemeketa Community College in Salem. "The challenge now is to secure the financial and human resources to ensure our community forests in Oregon remain well cared for," says Gredler.

New Forest Service Museum in Montana

A new museum sprouting up in Montana could use your help. The *National Museum of Forest Service History* is developing interpretive themes and messages to portray more than 100 years of conservation history of forest and grasslands in the United States. The museum, located in Missoula, Montana, was organized and granted non-profit 501(c) 3 status in 1993.

Its mission:

- preserve and interpret the material culture history of the US Forest Service
- educate the public about the history of the agency and its role in the history of conservation in the US
- present this historical information with integrity.

Construction of the site's infrastructure began this summer. When completed, the museum will provide a dynamic and interactive experience for visitors while providing national leadership, education, and professional support for curation and interpretation of conservation artifacts and archive material. Conservation education programs will be provided nationally by means of lesson plans and the internet.

"State forestry agencies have always been a significant cooperater in designing, implementing and supporting the Forest Service State and Private Forestry Programs," says museum board member and retired Montana State Forester Gary Brown. "It's important for the museum to tell this story."

The museum is currently collecting ideas and themes for exhibits to portray the cooperative work of State Forestry agencies

and the Forest Service for more than 100 years. Please send your ideas for core messages, themes, and museum displays to: nationalforest@montana.com or write to: NMFSH, PO Box 2772, Missoula, MT 59806.

Oregon White Oak Savanna study at U of O

More than 90 percent of oak savanna habitat in Oregon is on private lands. Oak habitat conservation on these lands is therefore critical to maintaining biodiversity in Oregon. Three Master's thesis and projects on conservation and restoration planning for oak savanna in the Willamette Valley were presented at the University of Oregon in June; one student sought to identify strategies to restore Oregon white oak savanna in the Willamette Valley. Working with public state and federal agencies, private landowners, Native American tribes and technical experts including ecologists, foresters and fire managers, graduate student Jenna Garmon created a set of alternative land management scenarios designed to restore oak savanna and reduce fire hazards. Stakeholders identified key issues, including:

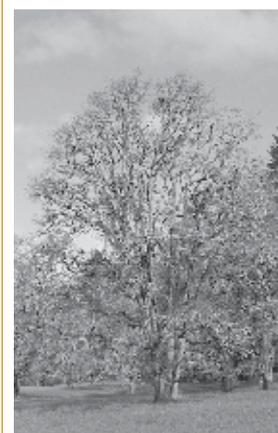
- costs of restoration and need for funding
- feasible strategies
- prioritization of at-risk areas

While considering ecological and economic issues and the needs of private landowners, stakeholders were asked to develop alternative scenarios to restore and manage oak savannas. These scenarios are applicable to a wide range of site conditions and management needs, and could inform and empower landowners in making decisions by forecasting and comparing effects on the landscape. For more information about the study, please contact Jenna Garmon: garmonita@yahoo.com.

ODF's Gibson Earns Golden Smokey Award

ODF's Fire Policy and Prevention Manager Dick Gibson was awarded the Golden Smokey Award at the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) annual meeting,

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Oregon white oak (Quercus garryana)



NEWS BRIEFS, continued

Continued from page 21

held recently in Anchorage, Alaska. This is the highest honor given for service and is national in scope, recognizing outstanding service having significant impact in wildland fire prevention. The award recognized "...leadership in wildland fire prevention and education for more than 12 years," and cited Gibson's work through the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), and Wildland Fire Education Working Team (WFEWT). Presenters went on to say that Gibson's fire prevention work "has touched many wildland fire education professionals in our nation and beyond."

Between 1958 and 2004, the Golden Smokey has been presented to 73 recipients. In eight of those years, no award was given. President Eisenhower presented the first award in 1958.

Daugherty to Head Private Forests Program

The Oregon Department of Forestry has selected professional forester and college professor Peter Daugherty to head the Private Forests Program. The Private Forests position became vacant this summer when the former program director, Paul Bell, was promoted to fill an assistant state forester slot. The department's Private Forests Program provides technical assistance to forest landowners and regulates management activity through the Oregon Forest Practices Act.



Peter Daugherty

Currently an associate professor at Northern Arizona University, Daugherty has also worked as a research forester at the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station and as a forest economist for the Campbell Group, an Oregon-based timberland investment advisory firm that manages more than \$1.3 billion in Northwest forest assets. Assistant State Forester Ted Lorensen said Daugherty brings expertise in forestry operations, management science, economics and policy to the job. His most recent research has focused on the economics of forest restoration and hazardous fuel reduction, and the forest biomass energy potential from fire hazard reduction treatments in Oregon and Northern California.

Daugherty will assume his new duties beginning Jan. 2, 2007.

Developer Recognized with Urban Forestry Award

A construction company based out of Wilsonville has been recognized for its foresight and work with tree preservation at its new Villebois community, located at the site of the old Dammasch State Hospital. In June, Costa Pacific Communities was recognized with a State Urban Forestry award ("development" category) for its work in development and planning - particularly for saving large, mature and healthy trees, and creating a system of parks and trails within their 500-acre housing development. The state's annual urban forestry conference was held in Salem and was attended by nearly 90 people representing 25 cities and many other agencies and companies.

Timber Operators Reminded to Renew Log Brands

90-Day Log Brand Renewal Period Begins October 2, 2006

Timber operators with currently registered state log brands must renew their log brands between October 2 and December 31, 2006. Log brands - the identifying symbols welded onto the face of a hammer and struck into the ends of logs for identification - discourage log theft and aid in the return of lost logs. Renewal forms will automatically be mailed to registered log brand owners on October 2, 2006. These log brands will be good through December 31, 2011. Any log brands not renewed will be considered abandoned, and the registration number will expire at that time.

To ensure receipt of a renewal form, timber operators whose addresses have changed since their last registration/renewal should send their current address to the Oregon Department of Forestry's Log Brands Unit before October 1, 2006.

Mail: 2600 State Street, Salem, Oregon 97310
 Fax: (503) 945-7314 (fax)
 email: cwalker@odf.state.or.us
 Phone: 503-945-7305.

2006 Fire Season snapshots

Continued from page 6

Other Fire News

In August, just when firefighters had their hands full battling large wildfires ignited by lightning, people added to the problem by carelessly starting hundreds of additional fires. Said ODF's Fire Prevention Manager Rick Gibson: "We have to go back to 1987, 19 years ago, to find a year with a higher number (of human-caused fires) at this point in the season." Simple carelessness – campfires left burning, cigarettes discarded into grass and brush, backyard debris burns escaping control, and the use of gas-powered equipment – were the primary causes.

Fast initial response and attack, as well as cooperation and assistance from private landowners, and the use of fire retardant drops, were all integral parts of the fire suppression successes experienced this year. In fact, the use of fire retardant was key in containing many of this season's fires: ODF used 59 loads (170,633 gallons) on 21 fires this year.

Still other news: in September, former Oregon Department of Forestry official Tim Keith took over as administrator of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee. He replaced Tom Lane, longtime head of the four-member panel, which oversees the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund. The fund serves as a revenue safety net that covers firefighting costs for large wildfires.

And, just a reminder: as this issue of The Forest Log goes to print, wildfire danger this fall - especially in southwest Oregon's forests - is high. Hunters are reminded to be careful while camping, hiking or driving through the woods.



Photo by Rod Nichols, ODF

State Forester Marvin Brown and Governor Ted Kulongoski en-route to the Black Crater Fire in July.



Photo by Paul Ries, ODF

A large smoke column from the Lake George fire in August could be spotted from miles away.



A firefighter cools the embers of the Lake George Fire near Sisters.

Forestry Calendar of Public Meetings

Sept. 29	9:00 - 3:30	State Forests Advisory Committee	Forest Grove
Dec. 15	9:00 - 3:30	State Forests Advisory Committee	Forest Grove
Jan. 3	8:00 - 5:00	Board of Forestry Meeting	Salem
Jan. 5	9:30 a.m - 2:00	Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee	Salem
Mar. 7	8:00 a.m - 5:00	Board of Forestry Meeting	Tillamook Room Salem



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
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