

FOREST LOG

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY • JANUARY WINTER 2005

Happy New Year!

Inside:

- ▶ Construction Launched on Tillamook Forest Center
- ▶ Identifying, Avoiding Landslides
- ▶ Profiting from Special Forest Products Takes Planning
- ▶ Protecting Sensitive Resource Sites in Oregon's Forests

From the State Forester

Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Forest Log. As is always the case, there's no shortage of interesting and important developments to share with you.



Something you won't see mentioned in these articles, but actually ties all of these topics together is the Oregon Board of Forestry's effort to create an agenda for their work that zeroes in on the state's forest resource policy concerns. The Board's adopted strategic policy document, "*The Forestry Program for Oregon*," clearly spells out their vision and strategies, but there is an intense interest among the members that this document be truly implemented. At their October meeting, Governor Ted Kulongoski took time from his busy schedule to address the Board in person and strongly encourage them to become the voice for visionary leadership of the State's comprehensive forest policy concerns.

To that end, the Board is working to refine the list of issues that are in greatest need of Board attention. They are defining the information they need to make good policy decisions with regard to these issues and the stakeholders that they need to hear from as a part of their deliberative

process. They are also outlining the range of potential policy decisions that need to be considered for each issue. For example, will the Board's most appropriate action be to recommend new legislation for some finding within the fire program review, or will their work revolve around directing the development of new initiatives to support the viability of family forestlands? And, they are stating up front what they feel will be necessary to monitor the effectiveness of the decisions they ultimately support.

The Board of Forestry is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by Oregon's Senate. Statutorily, their charge is to "supervise all matters of forest policy and management under the jurisdiction of this state..." It is a leadership challenge that the current members have enthusiastically accepted and they will be keenly interested in the views and values of the citizens they represent. I encourage you to become informed on their work and seek out the opportunities that will be available to contribute to their important endeavor.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mawin Brown".

FOREST LOG



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

January Winter Issue 2005
Volume 75, Number 1

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Forest Log (ISSN 0015-7449)
is published four times per year
(Winter / Spring / Summer / Fall).

POSTMASTER
Send address changes to:
FOREST LOG
Oregon Dept. of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Periodical Postage paid at
Salem, Oregon

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*On the Cover: Winter in the Metolius Forest.
Photo by Mike McMurray*



Celebration Marks Tillamook Forest Center Milestone

Donors, friends and supporters gather to help launch construction

Doug Decker, Project Leader, Tillamook Forest Center

School children, veteran tree planters, neighbors, donors and project supporters joined together in September to launch construction of the Tillamook Forest Center. More than 160 people gathered at the site on Friday, Sept. 24 to mark the ceremonial launch by forming a human chain around the footprint of the building and laying personalized stones on its foundation.

At the beginning of the ceremony, participants received a stone and a permanent marking pen and were asked to write their name, a word or a phrase, or draw a picture on their stone. Each of the stones was later added to the concrete foundation.



A human perimeter outlines the shape of the Tillamook Forest Center.

“We wanted to find a way to celebrate the special connection that exists between people, the center, this particular site, and the Tillamook State Forest in general,” said Project Leader Doug Decker. “Everyone who participated has now invested a piece of themselves here, and has literally helped build the foundation of the building.”

Crews from Precision Construction Co. have been on-site since late August, and despite early rains, they made good progress in preparing the site so that they could work through the wet season ahead. Construction Project Manager Frank Evans said crews focused first on getting access roads, bridge foundations and the building foundation underway before fall rains began in earnest. The 250-foot-long pedestrian bridge over the Wilson River should be lifted into place in January, and the building’s frame and roof will begin going up in the spring.

“Much of this work is dependent on the weather, but the contractor did a good job of preparing for rain by getting the necessary pieces in place, like roads and temporary staging areas,” said Evans. The site receives about 140 inches of rain annually, much of it in the fall and winter.

Construction should be complete in the fall of 2005, and opening is planned for November or December, in advance of the major visitor season in the summer of 2006.

Visit the project on the web at www.tillamookforest.org

The box of stones, each signed by a groundbreaking ceremony participant, ready to be placed inside the building foundation.

Ceremony participants gather around the box holding their groundbreaking stones.



Landslides Will Happen--But Early Warning Saves Lives and Property

Arlene Whalen, ODF Public Information Officer

After fire season, some Oregon Department of Forestry personnel find themselves switching from one mode of high alert to another. As part of a fire crew, they pray for rain. When it finally arrives with a fury, however, they're wondering if it will ever quit.

Such is the case for John Seward, an ODF geotechnical engineer, who can attest to the sleepless nights he's encountered with the arrival of the rainy season in Oregon. With it comes a heightened awareness of the public-safety risks of landslides and debris flows.

Seward knows all too well what can happen when poorly planned timber harvesting or poorly built roads on steep slopes aggravate what is already a naturally unstable situation. But he's also quick to point out that landslides aren't primarily a *forestry* issue. "There is this pretty common notion," he said, "that if we were to stop timber harvesting on steep slopes, landslides wouldn't occur. That's clearly not the case." Many existing homes in steep, forested portions of Oregon are located on flats formed by previous landslide deposits. It is a matter of when, not if, landslides will again deposit materials on these sites.

Steep slopes, subsurface water and associated pore-water pressure within the soil are the most important factors associated with the occurrence of most landslides. Other important factors are shape of the ground surface, composition of the soils, amount of forest canopy and root strength of vegetation. Scientists are quite aware that it is impossible to prevent landslides—they are a part of the geological process.

The public-safety risks from landslides and debris flows can be greatly reduced, however. This is where Seward's work makes a difference. He decides if weather

forecasts predicting heavy rainfall should be accompanied by a landslide advisory or warning. Through either an advisory or warning, homeowners and the motoring public may be encouraged to avoid or leave dangerous locations.

As a licensed geotechnical engineer, Seward makes the call on whether or not restrictions should be placed on proposed timber operations on steep slopes or headwalls on private lands. Most of his time is spent responding to ODF stewardship foresters' requests to check out any worrisome situations that come to their attention. Other times, an industrial forester may give Seward a call when an experienced opinion is needed. Seward also helps local governments make sound decisions about which sites to approve for proposed dwellings. Good siting decisions are the best way to lower the risk to public safety. This approach of "shared responsibility" has been made into Oregon law.

"I look at each case as 'white,' 'black' or 'gray,'" said Seward. "Those that are extremely high-risk are 'black' and require definite harvesting restrictions. Those that are 'white' are low-risk, and those that are 'gray' need further evaluation. Most cases I see are 'gray'—there's a lot of uncertainty with Mother Nature. In these cases, the landowner will usually have to hire a consultant to provide more details before I will make a judgment call."



John Seward, ODF Geotechnical Specialist, carefully notes geographical features of a slope that may have debris flow potential.



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Over the years, Seward has learned to recognize the trouble spots. He says it is especially worrisome when structures are located at the mouths of steep, confined channels in canyons. "Historically, landslides and debris flows that have damaged structures initiated in headwalls greater than 65 percent (slope) after heavy rainfall," said Seward. "They were initially relatively small in size and occurred in shallow soil, but traveled hundreds, and in some cases, thousands of feet from where they started"—landslides can travel surprisingly far, he added. "Some of them had previous timber harvest at the initiation site, but some didn't."



John Seward, ODF geotechnical specialist, uses his binoculars to get a "landscape" view of potential landslide risk on a steep slope.

In days past, ODF's attention was focused primarily on areas within the boundaries of harvesting units and on protecting water quality. Today the focus has broadened to include public safety. Ironically, it's now evident that landslides are an important source of large wood and sediment necessary to maintain fish habitat in streams. Some of the practices used to provide trees and wood for this purpose may make landslides and debris flows a greater public-safety risk.

"Landslides and debris flows are fluid and behave more like a liquid than a solid," said Seward. "They can bank up

around channel corners. This makes them very dangerous and has forced us to change our paradigm of thinking. Now, we look at impacts across the landscape."

It is up to the landowner and operator to determine the level of risk posed by their harvesting operation (with the help of a geotechnical specialist, if needed) if it occurs near a location with high landslide risk. Several criteria are considered, such as whether occupied residences or heavily traveled roads (greater than 500 vehicles a day) could be damaged. If so, the landowner or operator must submit a written plan to ODF to describe how the operation will protect public safety and natural resources.

According to Seward, determining the risk to public safety isn't just a matter of following a checklist on a piece of paper. "The criteria are just meant to be guidance, because everything is so site-specific," he said. "It takes somebody on the ground to make the right judgment call. For example, if you had a sharp channel junction angle at the main stem of a canyon, it might cause the landslide to deposit before it would reach a dwelling or road, resulting in little or no potential risk."

Foresters, engineers, landowners and operators can learn more about how to identify locations subject to the Shallow, Rapidly Moving Landslides and Public Safety Rules of the Forest Practices Act (OAR 629-623-0000 to 0800) by referring to ODF's *Forest Practices Technical Note #2*. It is available on the ODF website at www.odf.state.or.us. On the ODF home page, click on "Working in the Forest," "Private & Community Forests," then "Forest Operations." Next, click on "FPA Issues" at the top of this web page and click on "Landslides." The document can be found at the bottom of the "Landslides" web page.

Homeowners living in areas of steep terrain can learn more about how to assess risks related to the location of their dwelling by consulting another helpful publication, *Landslides in Oregon, Protect Yourself and Your Property*. It is also available on the ODF website where other landslide documents are located.

Election '04: Voters Reject Forest Management Measure; Approve Land-Use Compensation

Dan Postrel, Agency Affairs Director

Oregon's voters on Nov. 2 rejected a ballot measure that would have changed state forest management, and approved a measure that requires government to compensate landowners for some land-use restrictions.

Even though one of the measures failed, forestry officials believe the results in both cases will continue to influence the work of the Oregon Board of Forestry and the department.

Ballot Measure 34, which failed by about 62 to 38 percent, would have altered the management of all Board of Forestry lands. In particular, it would have required development of a new management plan for the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests. It would have directed that 50 percent of the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests be designated for restoration of native old-growth forest.

"There are messages for us in this ballot measure and in the legislation introduced in the last session," said State Forester Marvin Brown. "We need to make sure the Board of Forestry is viewed as the place to bring forestry issues—that people will feel their concerns will be heard and considered." He said the board is in the process of developing a new system to help it prioritize and address the complex issues it faces.

Brown added that the vote on Measure 34 is a reminder that management of our state forest land is a matter of great statewide interest, and that Oregonians



have differing views about the best management approach.

Although the management plan for the Northwest Oregon state forests has been approved by the Board of Forestry, Brown emphasized that it is not a finished document. By its nature, he said, the plan is flexible and adaptable, subject to adjustment based on new scientific evidence or other considerations.

"The election highlights the importance of ongoing conversation with Oregonians about the state forests, their current condition, and the best path to production of sustainable social, environmental and economic benefits," the State Forester said. "Our challenge is to balance the need for con-

tinuing review and adjustment of the plan with the need for some measure of continuity and stability."

The measure that passed—Ballot Measure 37—requires government to compensate landowners when certain kinds of land-use restrictions limit the use of property and diminish its market value. The measure provides that in some cases agencies may waive requirements instead of paying compensation. However, it's important to remember that many land-use requirements are founded in statutes that can be changed only by the Legislature.

The measure includes exemptions for certain kinds of regulations. Representa-

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2004 Fire Season Review

Rod Nichols, ODF Public Information Officer

Last spring, Oregon Department of Forestry's fire managers faced an all-too-familiar scenario: Forest fuels were drying out fast, and meteorologists predicted unseasonably hot, dry conditions throughout the summer. Then in early May, the USDA Forest Service and the Department of the Interior dropped a bombshell: they were cancelling the federal air tanker fleet contract due to airworthiness concerns.

Year after year in Oregon, the heavy fire-retardant planes had demonstrated their worth in attacking and holding fires until ground forces could arrive. Another tough season loomed, and this integral component of the department's aggressive firefighting strategy had suddenly gone missing.

To fill the gap, the Department of Forestry's Fire Program requested and received "fire severity" spending authority from the Legislative Emergency Board to lease air tankers and additional helicopters. By the time wildfire activity ramped

up in June, four tankers and seven helicopters were under contract to the department to offset the loss of the federal fleet and bolster the districts' regular complement of helicopters.

Fast-forward to mid-October and the end of the season: Fire managers cite the additional air-attack capability as a major factor in holding the acres burned statewide to about 6,200—well below the 10-year average on the 16 million acres protected by the department.

Air attack saves Cave Junction

The Redwood Highway Fire near Cave Junction (ignited by a power line) is a noteworthy example of the role these additional firefighting aircraft played. At one point the fast-moving fire threatened hundreds of residences as well as the local USDA Forest Service Ranger District office. But Department of Forestry helicopters and air tankers helped catch the blaze,

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tives of state natural resource agencies, including ODF, have begun discussions to determine which regulations may be exempt, and how to best implement the measure.

However, officials who have analyzed the language believe that it raises a variety of procedural and legal questions. The Legislature may be involved in addressing these issues.

Brown said that Oregon's land-use planning system and its forest practice laws have been instrumental in preserving a rich base of privately owned working forestlands. These lands are managed according to science-based principles intended to produce wood products in an environmentally sound manner, he said. Maintaining this productive forest land

base is central to the Board of Forestry's *Forestry Program for Oregon*, which guides the work of the board and the department.

Measure 37 passed 58 to 42 percent, a decisive statement of public interest in introducing economic compensation into Oregon's land-use and regulatory systems. ODF's challenge will be to integrate this concept into the board's vision of sustainable forestry, and a sustainable forest land base, for our state.

Implementation of Measure 37 is certain to involve lots of discussion among state and local agencies and the many groups with a stake in Oregon's land-use and regulatory systems. ODF will continue to update stakeholders as more is learned about implementing Measure 37 and its effect on forest practices.

likely averting large-scale damage to the forest resource as well as to structures.

The additional aircraft were based in regions of the state considered at particularly high risk. But whenever a dry-lightning event was predicted in other locales, they moved in to bolster local firefighting forces.

The department leased three of its air tankers from Butler Aircraft, a Redmond-based company. The fourth came from Alaska via the Northwest Compact Act, an interagency agreement that enables member states and Canadian provinces to share fire resources. The helicopters were leased from several Oregon-based aviation firms.

Districts hold down fire size, cost

While the additional aircraft contributed significantly to fire suppression last year, the normal district complement of overhead personnel and fire engines played an integral, though less visible, role in the successful effort. These local forces stopped hundreds of fires at small size, minimizing losses to the forest resource and holding down suppression costs. It doesn't require Alan Greenspan to compare the cost/benefit of a single fire engine crew quickly putting out a quarter-acre blaze to a small army of firefighters and equipment working a 1,000-acre-plus fire that resulted from delayed initial response.

The string of severe fire seasons in recent years put a strain on the motto, "Prepare for the worst and hope for the best." Fire managers held up their end, but from the late 1990s on the weather seldom cooperated. The break finally came in 2004, according to the department's fire operations manager, John Boro.

"We had lightning storms come through as we always do," Boro said. "However, most storms had at least some moisture with them. What that did was buy us time to find and suppress the fires early."

Weather, prevention awareness helpful in 2004

The statistics tell the tale: In 2004, fewer than 400 acres burned in lightning-caused fires. In 2003 the figure was about 3,300 acres. And that was a significant improvement from 2002, a season marked by large-scale dry-lightning events in which more than 92,000 acres burned.

While nature afforded the state a respite from lightning fires, Oregonians also contributed to the below-average season by practicing fire safety in the woods. Amid hot, dry conditions, fewer than 6,000 acres burned due to human-

caused wildfires. Mary Ellen Holly, President of the Keep Oregon Green Association, cited this and other 2004 statistics as a positive sign.

"The number of human-caused wildfires averaged 640 this year, still way below the 10-year average of 762," Holly said. "I think this tells us a

lot about the job we've done in prevention awareness and education."

Recent severe fire seasons, coupled with public education programs, have raised awareness of the hazards, she noted. Recreationists overall were more conscientious about campfires, smoking, off-road driving and other common causes of forest fires in 2004.



Heavy fire-retardant planes have demonstrated their worth in attacking and holding fires until ground forces can arrive.

Interest Rises in Oregon's Special Forest Products

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Information Officer

Special forest products are natural resources other than timber that are collected by family forest landowners and others for personal and commercial use. As an industry, special forest products are growing rapidly, both nationally and internationally.

For the last few years in Oregon, public demand for a wider variety of special forest products has been increasing, and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) districts are experiencing an increase in the number of requests for permits. In northwest Oregon state forests, for example, permits are issued to the general public for a wide variety of products, including evergreen boughs, cedar products, cones, ferns, firewood,

moss, mushrooms, vine maple for transplants, poles, Oregon grape root and salal. The collecting and selling of these products make an important contribution to Oregon's economy.

According to the Institute for Culture and Ecology, Portland, more research is needed to understand just how big these industries are or could be, but nationally, non-timber forest products represent a multi-billion dollar industry involving thousands of businesses and harvesters. The floral and medicinal industries are growing, and new products are continually becoming marketable. For instance, permits to collect beargrass have been a common request at the Tillamook District since 1987, reflecting a new demand for this product by the floral greenery business.

It does seem there are opportunities for family forest landowners to profit by this

trend. One such entrepreneur is Pat Mooney, who manages 340 acres in Creswell and another 160 in Roseburg. His Roseburg property, which was established in 1946, may be one of the oldest continuously operating Christmas tree farms in Oregon.

Mooney, who's been a family forest landowner all his life, recently offered some advice to family forest landowners considering broadening their profit base: Identify what you have, think outside the local market, and pre-harvest. "The first thing is to identify everything you have, and learn what it's used for," Mooney said. "Then, you have to think outside of the local farmer's market."

Mooney, who's been interviewed by several specialty publications and has been a guest speaker for Oregon State

University's Extension classes, knows what he's talking about. As an illustration of thinking outside the local-market "box," Mooney offers this thought about a pesky invasive species: "In Omaha, the wholesale houses there use a tremendous amount of

Scotch broom."

Diversifying one's product base from timber to include special products takes foresight and the ability to look at the whole property as a system. For example, when he cuts timber, Mooney leaves all of the cedar for wildlife trees. When they bloom, the enterprising landowner hires a tree climber to harvest the foliage, which he can then take to market.

"I pre-harvest products before I log," said Mooney. "For example, I pre-harvest 2- to 3-inch madrone poles before I log. I sell them in Las Vegas; from there they're sold to a buyer in Florida." The end product? Mooney says the small madrone branches are prized by bird aficionados who use the

"I pre-harvest products before I log," says Mooney. "For example, I pre-harvest 2-3" madrone logs, and sell them in Las Vegas; from there, they're sold to a buyer in Florida."



Mistletoe branch

Photo by Edward L. Barnard, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, www.forestryimages.org

durable wood for the interior of bird cages for parrots to climb and peck on. In addition, Mooney says he moves some 25,000 pounds of greenery each year.

“I also harvest a lot of manzanita,” said Mooney. “Most everything I harvest, I manage. I have earned more than \$200 a day picking pussy willow. These are specialty willow I’ve planted in place of regular willow.” Other products Mooney harvests include Oregon grape and cascara, both used as medicinals and sold out of state.

Many family forestland owners have faced the frustrating situation of having poor sites within their property where it is hard to grow anything profitable. Such was Mooney’s situation on his ranch at Roseburg, where clay soils are a problem. He solved it by finding species adapted to such tough sites. “I have a lot of blister-rust-resistant sugar pine I planted. I got more than an 80 percent survival rate on a soil where not much else would grow. I sold \$4,000 worth of sugar pine cones to a guy who uses them as bird feeders.”

Mooney points out that by performing such practices, he’s able to satisfy his reforestation requirement on a harsh site, meanwhile selling boughs and cones and turning a profit. Eventually, of course, the trees themselves will be ready to harvest for additional profit.

In addition to harvesting products from private land, there are state and federal public lands in Oregon also open to commercial harvest. ODF districts issue three basic types of permits for special forest products: personal use (free) permits for some products, personal use firewood permits, and commercial (fee) permits.

Different ODF districts have their own programs for special forest products. Programs are based on public demand for different products and staff time available to administer the program. Although the sale of special forest products does not produce a large amount of revenue for the Department of Forestry, the department has developed programs for special forest products in response to public inquiries and demands for the products.

Oregon’s Economic Development Department has an interest in helping this

When on State Managed Land...

The Department of Forestry manages its special forest products for sustainability. ODF rotates activity areas through permits to prevent over-harvesting and preserve sustainable special forest products for the future.

You can help ODF succeed in this endeavor by remembering the following guidelines:

- Make sure you know who owns the land you’re on, **and that you have the appropriate permits**
- Comply with fire prevention rules and fire closures
- Bring hand tools, food and water, and a map
- Minimize any disturbance, and be sensitive to visual impacts by cutting or harvesting products at least 25 feet off the road
- Return any disturbed soil back to its natural state
- Pack out trash and litter
- Drive only on rocked roads and park so as not to block traffic
- Comply with all road closures
- Use sustainable harvest techniques and methods. For example, mushrooms should be collected with a sharp cutting tool only. A rake or leaf blower should not be used, and it’s important to leave some mushrooms at all picking sites to produce spores for the next generation.

segment of the state’s economy to grow. ODF’s contribution to this effort is to enhance the overall efficiency of the special forest products program and to sustain a reliable source of raw materials for today and tomorrow.

“I’d estimate there is 80 to 100 million dollars a year of unmet demand for product in the Northwest,” says Mooney, “excluding mushrooms.”

Mooney finds ways to stay busy and profitable by continually trying new things. “Right now, I’m inoculating some of my oak with mistletoe, I sell the oak limbs now, and later, hopefully, some mistletoe.”

“I think if a person would diversify their products to include Christmas trees and exotic greenery, it’s possible to exceed the value of the timber. I do \$10,000 to \$12,000 in special forest products from marginal ground each year.”

“Everything out there is a market of opportunity, and there’s a season for everything.”

“Identify what you have, think outside the local market, and pre-harvest.”

Governor Affirms Board's Role in Leading Public Conversation on Forest Policy

Jeff Foreman, ODF Public Information Officer

Speaking to the Board of Forestry in October, Gov. Ted Kulongoski affirmed that Oregon's forest policy is best made by the Board of Forestry, not by single-interest groups competing at the ballot box or in the Legislature.

The governor stressed that Oregonians need to get past the "us versus them" mentality whereby forests are either set aside for wildlife and recreation or harvested for wood products.

He said the board is well equipped to produce sound policy based on broad public input and scientific data. The Board's strategic plan, the *2003 Forestry Program for Oregon*, is a model of public policy that ensures sustainable forests in Oregon. Kulongoski said the plan acknowledges that the social, environmental and economic benefits from forests are interconnected.

"If we don't protect soil and water, the land's economic value will be eroded," he said. "Enhancing fish and wildlife habitat provides recreational, scenic and other social benefits."

Emphasizing the theme of interconnected benefits, the governor added that being able to generate revenue from forests "lets us afford environmental protection."

Kulongoski recognized that not all lands provide the same mix of benefits. The primary use of private lands, for example, as spelled out in statute, is for growing and harvesting timber. Federal lands, on the other hand, are managed as wilderness areas, roadless areas, reserves and matrix lands for harvesting.

Board of Forestry forestlands, he said, are managed for the "greatest permanent value" and represent the convergence of economic, environmental and social benefits.

The governor challenged the Board "to make the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests models for public land management." He urged members to put the concept of adaptive management to work.

"That means carefully folding new and better science into the forest management plan – so that the plan evolves and improves over time," Kulongoski said.

He said it also means listening to and integrating the views of stakeholders, especially when those views are based on sound science and promote sustainability.

"Oregonians must understand that adaptive management – under the guidance of a Board of Forestry and with the full engagement of stakeholders – affords them the best opportunity to find – and agree on – the productive capacity of our forests, wildlife and watershed benefits, and the value of forests as places of quiet solitude," he said.

Not to have this open and ongoing conversation with stakeholders, he cautioned, invites more legislation or initiatives driven by single interests, which only perpetuates conflict and gridlock that result in unhealthy forests.

"The Board of Forestry must be the place where all points of view find an audience – and the stakeholders that bring these points of view to the table have confidence that their ideas will be carefully considered," Kulongoski said.

The governor also challenged the Board to boldly create a unified vision of how federal lands should contribute to the sustainability of Oregon's forests. He said he believes states must be more actively involved in federal forestland policy implementation.

And he said the Board should maintain Oregon's position as a global leader in

the use of sound, science-based, carefully considered forest practices rules on private lands. The governor said landowners should be given the opportunity to add value to their land in exchange for helping to achieve sustainability.

“We should provide incentives for landowners to contribute to the environmental and social value of their land – in ways that actually add value to their land,” the governor said. He cited marketing the environmental benefits of carbon storage in trees to combat global warming (reducing carbon in the atmosphere slows the greenhouse effect), and increasing market-place recognition – ecologically friendly certification – for Oregon’s approach to forest

practices as examples of incentives.

The governor’s message to the Board, the citizen volunteers he believes are best qualified and most prepared to lead the discussion on healthy forest management: “Be bold. Be open. And keep your eye on the big picture.”



Governor Ted Kulongoski, along with Mike Carrier, new Natural Resources Policy Advisor, addressed the Board of Forestry in October at the ODF Tillamook District office. The governor emphasized using adaptive management to incorporate the latest sound science in the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan.

2004 Operator of the Year Award Winners Selected

The Board of Forestry is pleased to announce the Forest Practices Operator of the Year Award winners for 2004. The forest practices operator recognition program encourages protection of forest resources and values by honoring operators who consistently surpass the standards of compliance with Oregon’s recognized forest management practices. Members from each of the three Regional Forest Practices Committees toured the work sites of operators nominated by Department foresters to determine the winners.

Eastern Oregon Region: Bob Bottorff, Moonlight Timber, LLC, Klamath Falls, for *Excellence in Wetland Riparian Management Area Harvesting*

Northwest Oregon Region: Ken Fallon, Fallon Logging, Inc., Tillamook, for *Excellence in Harvesting & Forest Management Practices*

Southwest Oregon Region: Mike and Gary Brownson, Brownson Logging, Inc., Myrtle Creek, for *Excellence in Harvesting & Riparian Management Area Protection*

Special thanks to these operators for their extra efforts to help protect Oregon’s natural resources!

Four Generations Take Turns Harvesting, Managing Jewell Forestland

Jenny Laughman, Stewardship Forester, Astoria District; and Lanny Freeman, Forester, Astoria District



Left to Right, the Olstedts: Dan, Ed, Matt, Roric, Herb and Denny.

Deep Creek has a history—a deep family history. Four generations of the Olstedt family have taken turns harvesting this fairly flat piece of ground near Jewell in the Clatsop State Forest.

If you head east from Astoria on Highway 202, you'll see several signs that let you know the town of Jewell is ahead. After about 30 miles, you will come to a junction. More signs to other towns like Birkenfeld and Vernonia are listed.

But there are no more signs for Jewell, because there at the junction is what used to be the town of Jewell. Two old buildings, both falling apart, remain. What's special about what's left of the town is the people in the community who still live there.

Many of the folks who live in Jewell come from families who have a history there. One of those families is the Olstedt family.

Four generations of Olstedts (one generation by marriage) can be tied to timber and to Deep Creek: From Art Camberg (Herb Olstedt's maternal grandfather) and Ed Olstedt to Denny Olstedt to Herb Olstedt to the current generation of Matt, Dan, Eddy and Roric Olstedt.

This succession of Olstedt woodsmen started in the early 1900s when a boy by the name of Art Camberg was born in the Nehalem Valley. By the 1920s, Art was living at the Buster Logging Camp a mile from Deep Creek and working for BW (Brix-Woodward) Timber Co.

Art was a member of the crew that harvested trees in the Deep Creek area for the first time. This occurred in 1921. The property was privately owned and much of the area in that part of the county was already logged.

At that time, loggers relied heavily on the railroad. All of the equipment—steam donkeys, locomotives and the like—was powered by man or by steam.

Hard times hit and many private landowners weren't able to pay their property taxes. Much of the land had been logged, reducing its value, and they let the county foreclose on it. Such was the case with the Deep Creek property. The county deeded all this foreclosed land to the state in the 1940s in exchange for a share of future harvest income.



Herb Olstedt (left) and Art Camberg, 1973

In 1935, several years before the state started managing the land, Ed Olstedt settled in Jewell. He owned a trucking company and hauled for Ebsen Logging. Some of the hauls were from logging jobs around the Jewell area and, yes, that included timber from Deep Creek.

Ed's son, Denny Olstedt, started a logging company in 1961 with another local man, Leonard Foster. The third generation of the Olstedt family's logging in Jewell, and specifically Deep Creek, had begun.

Olstedt and Foster Logging worked on private timber sales in the area and also on some state alder sales in Jewell. They had a small yarder and a D-4 Caterpillar tractor for pulling the logs off the land.

Denny's son, Herb, started working for his dad measuring logs in 1963. He was 10 years old. Then in 1974, Stimson Lumber Co. purchased a state timber sale in Deep Creek.

It was a thinning—a diameter cut where only the oversized and smaller trees could be taken. A specific spacing also was required. Herb worked with his dad here, as well as with Art Camberg (Denny's father-in-law) who at this point was 74 years old.

Two generations of the Olstedt family had now been logging and hauling from the same piece of Deep Creek property.

In 1976, Herb carried on the tradition by starting his own logging business, H.D. Olstedt Logging. His first logging job was on state land, a timber sale purchased by Stimson in the same Deep Creek vicinity.

In 2003, Olympic Forest Products purchased the Deep Creek Thinning timber sale from the state. Herb's company contracted to do the logging. Herb and his three sons, Matt, Dan and Eddy, along with nephews Roric Olstedt and Mark Lucia, are currently on the job.

The boys' grandfather Denny still stops by to see what's happening—to observe operations and check on the familiar piece of land. The crew is using several of the same skid trails used back in 1974 when Denny's company thinned the stand.

They also can see the results of their past work. The growth rings in the trees

now being harvested show accelerated growth patterns after the previous thinning. Today's harvest is another thinning of a type called auto-mark, where cutters choose how many of the less-vigorous trees are to be cut based on the number and sizes of trees (target basal area) the state wants left on the site after harvest.



Deep Creek Thinning, 2004

The desired future condition for this stand is “layered,” according to the categories in the Astoria District's plan for implementing the *Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan*. A layered stand has multiple tree canopies (18-inch-diameter trees 100 feet tall mixed with younger trees at least 30 feet tall), with extensive layering of diverse shrubs and herbs in the understory.

Foresters in the Astoria ODF office wanted others to know what an exceptional job the Olstedts do on state timber sales. They also wanted to point out that Deep Creek is an excellent example of how land can be successfully managed—with help from conscientious loggers like the generations of Olstedts—to produce wood over the years and also be on a path to provide habitat for wildlife.

This article was written to recognize the Olstedt family for nearly 85 years of hard work and dedication to the logging industry and their unique relationship with a piece of land called Deep Creek. We hope you enjoyed this little piece of Clatsop County history from the logging community of Jewell.

Logging Projects Enhance Fish Habitat

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Information Officer



ODF Stewardship Forester Jordan Ryder (left), and Sam Moyers, Fish Biologist with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, examine fish habitat at Johnson Creek.

gradient (one percent) and high-quality spawning gravels, making Johnson Creek a very good stream for coho spawning. However, the pools along the creek dry up during the summer months; more than likely, the water goes sub-surface. Unfortunately, that leaves the fish, and their habitat, high and dry.

Sam Moyers is a fish biologist with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife who has been working with stewardship forester Jordan Ryder of ODF to survey the creek and identify ways to improve its fish habitat. Says Moyers, "For this stream, which is rich in gravel, we want to create pools to keep the water there all year 'round."

Mike Mast of Reedsport owns forest land in several locations around Oregon, including the 160-acre parcel encompassing Johnson Creek. He's planning to

The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds calls upon the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), private citizens and associations from all areas of the state to work together to restore and maintain the state's salmon and trout resources. These voluntary measures and projects complement effective regulatory practices to protect Oregon's natural resources. Improving fish habitat along Johnson Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the Smith River, is one such project.

Three species of fish are found in Johnson Creek: coho, winter steelhead and cutthroat trout. The stream has a low

cable-log some two million board feet of mostly hardwood timber from it in the near future, and he plans to plant Douglas-fir on the land in its place.

"The only thing I'm really concerned about is the fish," says Mast, who is vice-chairman of the Smith River Watershed Council. "It's not something I'm required to do, but I wanted to do something to give the fish better habitat."

Many forest landowners don't realize that, under the Forest Practice Rules, if they log hardwood timber such as alder from a riparian management area, they don't have to replant the same kind of tree. They may choose instead to replant the area with conifers.

Such is the case with Johnson Creek, which, following logging, will be planted primarily with Douglas-fir. "From ODFW's perspective, when replanting the riparian area our preferred alternative would be to plant conifer," says Moyers.

According to Moyers, converting the riparian area from hardwoods to conifers will provide future opportunities for "conifer recruitment," or, put another way, for conifers to remain as part of the stream's component of large downed logs.

Johnson Creek, which runs north-south through the Mast's property, is typical of many creeks in the area. Lined with occa-

sional large boulders, ferns, vine maple, alder, fir, and willow, it is heavily frequented by coho and cutthroat fingerlings.

The fish habitat project includes the placement of logs along the creek. That will enable the water to scour out the bottom of the creek, making the pools deeper. "We'll place logs over the top of the creek," said Moyers. "On the lower quarter-mile of stream, we'll have about 10 sites with four conifer logs each, either Douglas-fir or western redcedar." The project is to take place in the summer of 2005.



Above: Landowner Mike Mast and Fish Biologist Sam Moyers discuss log placement strategies to improve fish habitat



Right: A pacific giant salamander pauses on a rock along Johnson Creek

Protecting Sensitive Resource Sites in Oregon's Forests

By Ted Lorensen, Assistant State Forester;
and Arlene Whalen, ODF Public Information Officer

Oregonians value our rich legacy of native forest plants and animals for the economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values they

provide. Private forest landowners play an important role in providing for the overall maintenance of wildlife and in protecting threatened and endangered and other "sensitive" plant, fish and wildlife species.

The role of landowners

Landowners are required to protect certain habitat elements by complying with the Oregon Forest Practices Act. The Board of Forestry adopts forest practice rules to provide "overall maintenance" of fish and wildlife and also specific protection to certain designated fish and wildlife habitat features. The federal Endangered Species Act and other federal and state regulations establish other protections for threatened and endangered and other "sensitive" fish and wildlife species.

The Board recognizes that different forest ownerships must play different roles in providing for the overall maintenance of fish

and wildlife through a wide range of plant and animal habitat conditions;

■ Within the regulatory limits of the Forest Practices Act, private lands are managed to meet individual landowner objectives, which often means their em-

phasis is on timber production (wood production forests).

■ On approximately one-third of Oregon's 28 million acres of forest, mostly in federal reserves (reserved forests), the emphasis is on management for protecting biological diversity and sensitive species. Older forests are mostly on federal land, while private lands contain mostly young and mid-aged forests.

■ State forests, tribal forests, other federal lands and some private lands are managed to provide the full range of stand ages and structures, in part to meet biological diversity objectives (multiple resource forests).

The variety of forest types and different management approaches is expected to enhance native plant and animal habitat, but this expectation is not proven, because we have as yet no complete assessment of the conditions and trends of native plants and animals and their habitat.

ODF's role

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) role is to help private forest landowners understand the different conditions necessary to maintain native plants and wildlife, the specific needs of sensitive species, and, as applicable, how to comply with the Forest Practices Act requirements that address sensitive resource sites on private forestlands. The Department, along with OSU Forestry Extension, has many publications and documents available that describe how landowners can provide habitat and other conditions for a range of species. The department can assist in developing management (stewardship) plans that can address how to integrate habitat management with other landowner objectives.

When there are applicable forest practice requirements, the forest practices rules

Sensitive wildlife sites include:

- Habitat sites of any threatened and endangered fish or wildlife species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or noted by the Oregon State Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Sensitive bird nesting, roosting and watering sites
- Biological sites that are ecologically and scientifically significant
- Significant wetlands
- Critical wildlife or aquatic sites that are listed in the "Cooperative Agreement between the Board of Forestry and the Fish and Wildlife Commission (1984)" or sites designated by ODF

Wildlife species associated with these sites:

- Northern spotted owl
- Bald eagle
- Great blue heron
- Osprey
- Golden eagle
- Goshawk
- Peregrine falcon
- Marbled murrelet
- Band-tailed pigeon
- Oregon silverspot butterfly
- Oregon chub

(Watch for upcoming articles in the Forest Log that address additional issues relative to sensitive resource site protection.)



address how to identify special resources, how to determine whether forest practices conflict with these resources, and how the resources should be protected. Special resources include sites used by threatened

and endangered species; sensitive bird nesting, roosting and watering sites; significant wetlands on forestlands; and biological sites that are ecologically and scientifically significant.

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Protecting Spotted Owl Habitat

The forest practice rules require 70 acres of suitable habitat surrounding spotted-owl nesting sites (core area). The Board of Forestry established the size of the core area after reviewing research completed at Oregon State University.

Mortality of juvenile spotted owls is high. Great horned owls and starvation are constant threats. It is important that spotted owls have a relatively closed tree canopy in a contiguous block of suitable habitat to prevent threats from predators above. A designated core area can vary in shape, depending on the makeup of the forest.

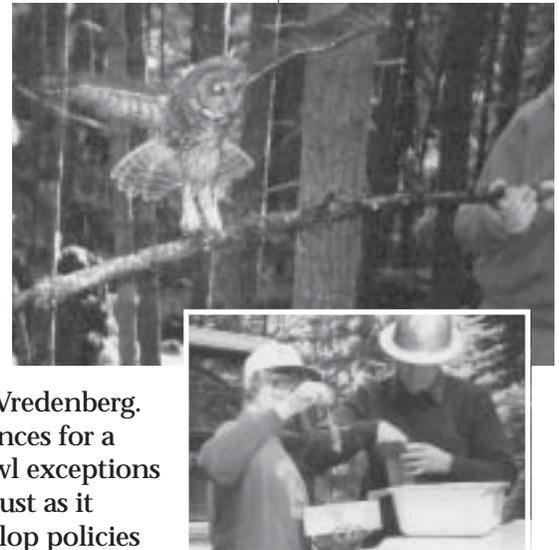
“Spotted owls typically prefer a multi-layered, multi-species canopy dominated by large overstory trees,” said Rod Kraemer, ODF Wildlife/Fisheries Specialist. “Many of the trees will also show evidence of various deformities, such as cavities, broken tops and other evidence of decadence. Numerous large snags and large accumulations of fallen trees and other downed wood on the ground are also common habitat features.”

When considering where the 70-acre core area should be, foresters and biologists also consider how the owl is using the forest and where nest trees are located. Topographic features are also important. “Spotted owls often make use of specific drainage basins,” said Kraemer. “We’ve also found that a circular core area with the nest tree in the middle is preferable to a long and narrow configuration where the nest is located along an open edge. Clearcuts, openings and corridors can fragment suitable owl habitat and reduce overhead canopy. These are generally discouraged from being within a 70-acre core area.” Kraemer stressed that every case is unique, however. “There really isn’t any single formula that one can follow when configuring a 70-acre core area.”

Tim Vredenberg, an Endangered Species Act consultant with the firm Biological Information Specials of Roseburg, agreed. Spotted owls, he said, can be just as individualistic as people and have their little quirks. “Some have been found in second-growth forests surrounded by clearcuts, and you just have to scratch your head,” said Vredenberg, “But the birds must see an advantage to being there.”

Unfortunately, the diverse behaviors, traits and characteristics of spotted owls can cloud people’s perceptions of what they consider prime habitat for spotted owls. “When it comes to policy-making to protect sensitive resource sites, about the best we can do is address the more typical scenarios,” said Vredenberg. “Creating policy allowances for a wide array of spotted-owl exceptions would be really tough, just as it would be tough to develop policies that covered every exception relative to human behaviors and characteristics.”

For more clarity about FPA protection requirements for spotted owls, the department has posted a *Forest Practices Note* on the ODF website at www.odf.state.or.us. (On the ODF homepage, click on “Working in Forest,” click on “Private & Community Forests,” then click on “Forest Operations.” At the top of the Forest Operations page, click on “References,” click on “Publications,” then scroll to “Wildlife” at the bottom of the page and click on “Spotted Owl.”)



Spotted owls are enticed from their perches by using mice placed on sticks as bait.

Protecting Sensitive Resource Sites

(continued from page 19)

Each ODF district office maintains an inventory of the special resources in its area. The inventory is a compilation of shared information from the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, environmental consultants and ODF. The specific site information is available only to those who need the information for planning purposes and operational purposes, such as private landowners who have a resource site located on their land.

Working together to protect resources

Forest landowners and operators typically need to notify the state before conducting a forest operation by submitting a "Notification of Operation" to ODF.

Stewardship foresters will then check ODF records to determine if the proposed operation is near a resource site that requires protection. To ensure they have the best available information, landowners may also contact other state and federal agency biologists directly. The ODF stewardship forester will then decide if the site is "active" or has been recently used by a protected species. A definition of "recent past" use for each species is identified in the forest practices rules. No protection is required for abandoned resource sites.

"If a proposed harvest operation is one-quarter of a

mile or less from a sensitive resource site, there will most likely be ramifications to the operation," said Jack Tannehill, ODF stewardship forester. "Harvesting may have to wait until the critical nesting period is over, or some proposed areas

may not be able to be harvested as long as the area is deemed active."

The stewardship forester inspects the site with the landowner or operator, or both. At times an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife representative is also available to visit the site. The on-site inspection allows everyone to develop a thorough understanding of the site and the proposed operation so that forest practices don't result in the destruction, abandonment or reduced productivity of a resource site.

If it's determined that an operation conflicts with a resource site, the landowner must prepare a written plan, often with the assistance of an ODF stewardship forester or other natural resource professionals. The plan describes how the operation will comply with Oregon's forest practices rules. "Prescriptions might include implementing a habitat management plan, limiting the time when forest operations will occur or redesigning the layout of the timber harvest," said Tannehill.

The requirements of the Forest Practices Act are designed to meet the purposes of state, not federal, laws. Thus, even though the landowner may be in compliance with Oregon's requirements, that doesn't necessarily mean an operator or landowner is in compliance with federal requirements, such as those in the Endangered Species Act, which requires private landowners to avoid "take" of a listed species. Private landowners need to contact the National Marine Fisheries Service or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine what "take" might mean in their situation, and what they need to do to comply with federal law.



Fire Program Review Update

Rod Nichols, ODF Public Information Officer

At this writing, a sweeping review of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Fire Program is moving toward completion. The year-long process will culminate in a set of recommendations for updating the program.

The ODF's program has long been considered one of the premier wildland firefighting organizations in the United States. In undertaking the review, the department saw the need to address changes that have occurred in Oregon's forests, climate, demographics, fire technology and funding over the past several decades.

The recommendations will be posted to the department's website, www.odf.state.or.us, when they are finalized. These findings are not destined for a bookshelf: The innovative proposals will be incorporated into a work plan to be implemented by the department with the help of its fire protection cooperators.

Compiled by a steering committee from the individual reports of six work groups, the Fire Program Review recommendations address a range of issues. These include catastrophic fire funding, protection coverage, buildup of forest fuels, maintenance of workforce capacity, fire prevention, and fire program business efficiency.

The work groups spent countless hours collecting information, meeting with individuals and organizations concerned about wildland fire, and developing recommendations to maintain and improve the Fire Program. Each group wrote a detailed report on its area of focus. The group reports can be found on the department website.

The review process reached beyond the department to bring together forest landowners, department staff and field personnel, partner fire agencies, elected officials and many other Oregonians with

a shared interest in protecting forest resources and adjacent communities from wildfire.

The review was requested by the 2003 Oregon Legislature. Lawmakers expressed concern that rising suppression costs could jeopardize

the department's ability to continue to provide efficient and effective fire protection and called for a review of the Fire Program's funding mechanisms. State Forester Marvin Brown expanded this fiscal assessment into an evaluation of all aspects of the program.



ODF's program has long been considered one of the premier wildland firefighting organizations in the U.S.

50 Years of Service is Hard to Beat: ODF Employee Honored at September Board of Forestry Meeting

Walter Schutt, a biometrician who guided the department's early efforts in the quantitative side of forestry, recently received recognition for 50 years of service. (A biometrician uses biology and mathematics to measure tree growth and changes that occur in forests.)

Schutt, who received his B.S. in forestry at Iowa State College in 1952, first became interested in forestry when he met a forester while camping with a friend near

Service job was no longer available. He was hired by the Oregon Department of Forestry in October 1954 as a Forester 1, working in timber sales, land deeds and trespass cases in Salem, where he would spend his entire career. In 1957, Schutt was promoted to Senior Forester and in 1965 his position was later reclassified to Forester 3, Biometrics Analyst.

During these years, Walt improved the efficiency of the State Forests Program by introducing new ideas, methods, and procedures in the fields of biometrics, timber cruising and measuring, inventory, log scaling and data processing. He led the department—and, in many ways, the state—in incorporating early data processing technology.

In 1967, Schutt introduced and demonstrated the use of computers, some of the first in Oregon state government. He developed the timber sale accounting system for state forests, a computational systems design for the department's forest resource survey of cut-over lands, the department's burning index data processing system, and the department's forest inventory system. In 1970, he also participated in early work

on Geographic Information Systems, and he analyzed the BLM forest management planning system for Governor Tom McCall.

In 1971, Schutt began to develop the department's "Growing Stock Analysis System," used to process state-forest timber cruises and inventories. When his position in the State Forests Program was eliminated in 1992, Schutt transferred to the



State Forester Marvin Brown (right) presents Walter Schutt with a 50-year service award.

the Grand Canyon. His first forestry job was working on timber stand improvement for the Coconino National Forest in Arizona. He was drafted and served two years during the Korean War in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. After his active-duty discharge, Schutt continued to serve in the Army reserve for eight years.

In the summer of 1954 Schutt returned to Arizona, only to find that his Forest

Forest Resources Planning Program, where he worked as a Studies Coordinator. There he provided valuable staff support as the department responded to the 1991 Legislature's direction to conduct major studies on the cumulative effects of forest practices, the decline of anadromous fisheries, and the status of the state's Pacific yew resources.

After 39 years of employment with the department, Schutt retired in 1993, but he continued to come to work and provide valuable assistance on a wide range of projects, first as a temporary employee and, increasingly, as a volunteer. In the 1990s, the department was beginning to explore the utility of bringing international concepts of sustainability and sustainable forest management into Oregon forest policy discussions. Walt conducted extensive research that provided background information for these efforts, eventually leading to the 2000 *Oregon First Approximation Report* and the 2003 *Forestry Program for Oregon*.

Schutt also became one of the department's experts on forest certification, and his extensive research on this

rapidly evolving topic has helped the Board of Forestry and the department influence how forest certification systems interact with Oregon forestlands and forest landowners.

Schutt has been an employee of the department for more than half of its 93-year history, yet he continues to possess a curious, inquisitive and youthful mind, and is always interested in new trends potentially affecting forestry in Oregon. Schutt said he has gained the most personal satisfaction in his career by developing and introducing new concepts within the department, from biometrics and records management in the early days to sustainable forest management and certification today.

A 50-year service award was presented to Walter Schutt at the September Board of Forestry meeting. In addition, a tree plaque in Walt's honor will be among those on display at the entrance of the soon-to-be-constructed Tillamook Forest Center to recognize Walt's contributions to the management of the Tillamook and all other state-managed forests during his career.

Environmental Quality and Forestry Leaders Meet

In the photo at right, Stephen Hobbs, chair of the Board of Forestry and Mark Reeve, chair of the Environmental Quality Commission, address those attending a morning tour October 21 focusing on water quality standards and related management practices on private timberland. The tour, on land owned by Stimson Timber Co., also included examples of voluntary stream-protection measures undertaken, in addition to requirements found in the Oregon Forest Practices Act. At a joint public meeting of the Board and the EQC held later that day at the ODF Tillamook District Office, the two panels discussed the EQC's processes for establishing state water quality standards and the Board's processes for meeting these standards through the Forest Practices Act, which regulates forest operations on private land.



Forestry Calendar of Public Meetings

Date	Time	Meeting	Location
Jan 13	9:00 - 2:00	Committee for Family Forestlands	Santiam Room, Salem Headquarters
Jan 14	9:00 - 3:00	Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee	Santiam Room, Salem Headquarters
Jan 20	8:30 - 3:00	Smoke Management Review Committee	Santiam Room, Salem Headquarters
Feb 15-16	TBA	Smoke Management Review Committee	Santiam Room, Salem Headquarters
Mar 9	8:00 - 5:00	Board of Forestry	Tillamook Room, Salem Headquarters
Mar 9-10	TBA	Smoke Management Review Committee	Santiam Room, Salem Headquarters
March 11	9:00 - 3:00	Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee	Santiam Room, Salem Headquarters



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