

FOREST LOG

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY • JANUARY WINTER 2004

Inside:

- Fish are Jumping:
Another Oregon
Plan Success Story
- Governor Honors
Helicopter Crew
- 2003 Tree Farmer
of the Year
- Log Goes Quarterly

and more...

Prior to my arriving here last June the Department of Forestry had begun an evaluation to propose merging our Forest Practices Program and Private Landowner Technical Assistance Program. The Forest Practices Program provides assistance and oversight to landowners to help them achieve compliance with the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Private Landowner Technical Assistance provides more general assistance to landowners and helps them in obtaining different cost-share incentives.

Whenever a forester has been on the ground working with a landowner, I'm sure there has been some overlap between these two areas. But for many years now the two programs have been administered separately and generally considered to be two distinct functions. In September we formally brought the administrative aspects together and are now working with staff and constituents to define a new program for our private landowner customers in the future.

I think it is an exciting opportunity and look forward to the final result. What we have the chance to do here is ask the big questions and look for truly creative answers. How do we most effectively produce the natural resource protection outcomes that we all desire and that will ensure a sustainable forest resource for the State? How can we best help the landowners who are responsible for these outcomes? How can we take advantage of Oregon's long history of commitment to resource protection as a way to promote the state's wood products in the global marketplace? Is there a new model out there for a private lands program that adds value for the landowner and yields benefits for every citizen in the form of environmental quality, economic vitality and community well-being?

It is not a simple challenge. There are people who have grappled with this issue of private forest management for many years in all parts of the United States. Government regulation, incentive payments, education, technical assistance, conservation easements, market promotion and green certification are all tools that have been employed. There is research out there to document the successes

and shortcomings of each. Enough symposiums, panels and white papers have been generated on this broad topic to create its own industry. And certainly, there are diverse views held as to what constitutes an appropriate role for a government agency like the Department of Forestry.

Oregon has many successes to be proud of when it comes to privately owned forests, but I hope that in this process our thinking doesn't stop with what we've done in the past. Instead, we should anticipate a future where continued change is inevitable.

Forests produce a host of benefits that we all know well, and their ability to sustainably produce those benefits is impacted by conditions that constantly change. Global economics, local economics, scientific knowledge, climate, insect and disease threats, public opinion, consumer preferences and simply the age and condition of any given tract of forested land are all dynamic elements that have an influence. Surely our response to, and anticipation of, these changes must also be dynamic.

The goal of this new program should be to ensure a sustainable private forest resource for now and the future. To obtain broad support, the program must be beneficial to a broad set of interests. Clearly we should propose solutions that yield real value for landowners. At the same time, citizens across the State have an expectation that forests should yield economic opportunity, clean water, diverse habitats, visual amenities and many other benefits. Aligning all of those interests in a way that achieves strong, broad based support both requires and deserves the best, most creative thinking we can offer. If we can provide this level energy, Oregon will maintain its place as a global leader on forestry issues.

"The goal of this new program should be to ensure a sustainable private forest resource for now and the future."



From the State Forester

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"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

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Correction

In an article on drought conditions in the September/October 2003 issue of *Forest Log*, the illustration on page 11 was mislabeled as an "adult bark beetle." The correct name is actually a flatheaded fir borer, responsible for considerable tree mortality around Grants Pass.



Flatheaded fir borer

Cover Photo: Fish jump in Oregon's Alsea River. Photo by Mike McMurray.



ODF Celebrates Completion of Salem Campus Construction

Arlene Whalen, ODF Public Information Officer

To celebrate completing the construction of their Campus Headquarters, the Oregon Department of Forestry hosted a dedication ceremony on Thursday, October 23, 2003, in its new Administration Building. The "Salem Campus Construction Dedication Ceremony" was held to recognize the efforts of those who helped make the multi-phased construction project a reality.

During the ceremony, Clark Seely, ODF Administrative Services Division Chief, provided an historical overview of campus construction and discussed the agency's plans for the future. Other presenters included State Forester Marvin Brown, Board of Forestry Chair Howard Sohn, and James Brown, Governor Kulongoski's Natural Resource Policy Director and former State Forester. The North Salem High School Bel Canto String Quartet was also on site to provide musical entertainment.

An Open House held later allowed members of the general public an opportunity to view the new buildings and grounds, and learn more about the services provided by the agency.

History of the Salem campus

The Oregon Department of Forestry's Salem campus was originally constructed as the state headquarters for the State Forester's Office and the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) after the State Capitol, where ODF was previously housed, was destroyed by fire in 1935. This was during the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal." The CCC was very active in thinning forests, building trails and forest roads, developing campgrounds, and other activities that preserved the nation's natural resources.

Over the last 60 years, the Salem campus and its buildings have had frequent and often major changes. The changes resulted as the role of the site shifted from that of heavy equipment repair, equipment storage, and warehousing, to primarily administrative functions. Changes in code relative to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and an increased seismic rating for

the area made it increasingly difficult to remodel the buildings to provide personnel with a safe, productive, and code compliant workplace.

In 1993, the Legislature directed the Department to conduct an independent feasibility study and master plan for the Salem campus. During the planning process, the master plans and building designs were reviewed extensively by organizations such as the Legislature, the Governor's Office, the Capital Projects Advisory Board and the Capital Planning Commission. The result was a well-planned and designed multi-phase project that now houses the various programs at ODF that include Fire Protection, Private and Community Forests, State Lands, Administration and others.

Maintaining an uninterrupted workflow was important because employees continued working on-site during all phases of construction. "We moved the fire dispatch operation at 4 in the morning and they were only down five minutes," said ODF's Facilities Manager Alan Maul. "That was at the height of the fire season in July 2002, so time was extra critical there."

Looking Toward the Future ... but Remembering the Past

Visually, a key design element of the project was to have the Salem campus buildings look toward the future, but still remember the past. This was done by:

- Retaining the State Forester's Office as well as surrounding grounds and stone walls that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Retaining the old CCC Headquarters Building and using it as a history center showing the CCC, ODF and Keep Oregon Green (KOG) contributions to forestry in Oregon.
- Retaining the original stone pump house on the north side of Mill Creek.
- Retaining stone work along Mill Creek that is not currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Materials salvaged from existing buildings were incorporated into the new structures. In addition, materials used for the new buildings



exteriors on the main campus were built to be compatible with the State Forester's building – composed primarily of horizontal and vertical cedar siding with areas of stone work.

October's Building Dedication event proved

to be a great opportunity for ODF staff to visit with friends, both old and new. About 200 people stopped by to see the new buildings, listen to the speeches, attend the open house, and share cake and refreshments.



State Forester Marvin Brown, left, along with Jim Brown, Governor Kulongoski's Natural Resource Policy Director and former State Forester, and Board of Forestry Chair Howard Sohn, unveiled a plaque at the ceremony which dedicates the building for the state of Oregon, and also lists the project's contractors and architects.



The new administration building houses Human Resource Staff, Fiscal Services, Budget Staff and Payroll, the Board of Forestry meeting room, and is also the new location for the public to purchase maps and conduct most business.

Reducing Forest Fuels in Eastern Oregon is Key to Keeping Communities Safe

Rod Nichols, ODF Public Information Officer

A \$247,000 National Fire Plan grant awarded for Baker County is making some eastside towns safer places to live.

Weather, topography, and fuel: These three factors interact to affect wildfire behavior in both obvious and subtle ways. Oregon's rural communities have no influence over the first two. But managing forest fuels (trees, shrubs, brush, and grass) can go a long way toward protecting homes from the flames. A \$247,000 National Fire Plan grant awarded for Baker County is making some east-side towns safer places to live.

Local governments, the Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon Department of Forestry have identified project areas along the eastern face of the Elkhorn Mountains and areas near the city of Sumpter where overly

Plan planning coordinator for the area, Angie Johnson.

"Once the grant was awarded, we wrote up treatment prescriptions with interested landowners - predominately non-commercial thinning and slash treatment," Johnson said.

The grant is being applied to projects both large and small. Of the \$76,000 approved for projects, a fourth will be used for work around home sites. The rest is earmarked for fuels treatment ranging from two to 80 acres as a means of creating community fuel breaks. Thinning the forest adjacent to a concentration of dwellings provides a buffer against approaching wildfire. When fire enters this open zone where ground and ladder fuels have been removed, the flames diminish and slow their advance, enabling firefighters to gain control more easily.

Where practical, the department is working on parcels near BLM landholdings in Baker County. The intent is for landowners to align their projects so National Fire Plan grant money is being spent in conjunction with the federal projects taking place. With all entities working together on planning and fuel treatment efforts, the result will be more acres treated - a key to achieving the goal of creating a community fuel break.

The methods for reducing the forest fuels include slash busting and chipping, as well as conventional removal of trees. So-called "slash-busters" are track-driven machines that grind up small trees and brush, then spread the debris on the ground. A chipper is stationary and requires workers to feed limbs into the device, which reduces the woody debris to chips. These processes convert potential fodder for forest fires into compost that benefits trees and other flora. In some areas, selective logging is the best approach. The harvested trees are processed for a variety of uses, ranging from pulp for paper to fuel for power generation.

The approximately \$130,000 left in the National Fire Plan grant will be applied to future fuels-treatment projects in Baker County.



Fuels treatment on this homesite near the town of Sumpter in northeastern Oregon lowered the risk of a wildfire carrying to the structure.

dense stands of timber could carry wildfire to residences. This work includes fuels treatment currently underway in and around the Baker City Watershed as well as the perimeter of private land around the city of Sumpter.

The project dollars are being used to thin standing timber as well as remove limbs, fallen trees, and brush from the forest floor, according to the Department of Forestry's National Fire



Another Oregon Plan Success Story

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Information Officer

The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds represents an unprecedented undertaking on the part of the State of Oregon to restore our state's salmon and trout resources. By protecting and restoring the state's watersheds, as well as fish resources, its goal is to restore populations and fisheries to productive and sustainable levels that will provide substantial environmental, cultural, and economic benefits.

Government agencies including ODF, associations and private citizens from all areas of the state remain committed to restoring Oregon's natural aquatic systems. These voluntary measures complement effective regulatory practices that serve to protect the state's natural resources.

An increased production and survival of juvenile salmonids is but one example of benefits stemming from the placement of numerous new fish structures along Miller Creek on ODF's Veneta (Western Lane) District.

The project was spearheaded by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W) Stream Habitat Restoration Biologist Jason Kirchner. Kirchner, who has been with ODF&W for five years, works with timber companies and

small landowners on a myriad of fish enhancement endeavors, including riparian planting projects, large wood placement projects, culverts and bridges for fish passage, and generally advising landowners on how best to improve fish habitat on their property.

Under Kirchner's direction, ten log structures were placed along Miller Creek in September of this year. Kirchner says he prefers using large conifer logs because they persist longer in the stream.

"We use logs that are eighteen inches or larger in diameter, and are two times the width of the channel," says Kirchner. "They persist for decades and they are native species that would naturally fall into the creek."



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

The goal of the Miller Creek project was to improve stream habitat conditions for native salmonids by adding large woody debris to the stream channel and by removing six culverts. Adding structure will slow stream velocities, provide slow water habitats for rearing salmon and trout, retain gravel for spawning, develop complex stream habitats and improve stream/floodplain interactions. Removing

Fish habitat projects are plentiful around the state, including on ODF's Western Lane District. Adding structure slows stream velocities, providing slow water habitats for rearing salmon and trout. These photos show fish projects that took place on Miller Creek.

Oregon Plan continued on page 23



New Private and Community Forests Program at the Oregon Department of Forestry Integrates Forest Practices and Forestry Assistance

Arlene Whalen, ODF Public Information Officer

Change is inevitable. Oregon forests produce a host of benefits that are impacted by conditions that constantly change. In response to internal and external social, economic and environmental changes, the Oregon Department of Forestry has created a new **Private and Community Forests Program** that integrates what were previously known as the Forest Practices and Forestry Assistance Programs.

For thirty or more years, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has provided assistance and oversight to landowners to help them achieve compliance with the Forest Practices Act ("FPA"). The FPA acknowledges landowners' rights to manage and harvest their timberland in a manner that is consistent with resource protection through the **Forest Practices Program**. The Department's **Forestry Assistance Program**, on the other hand, has provided an array of technical assistance to encourage landowners to manage and invest in their forestlands, and assist them in obtaining cost-share incentives.

Even though the two programs historically were administered separately, Stewardship Division Chief Ted Lorensen, points out that the overall objectives of the programs became increasingly intertwined in recent years. For example, a degree of overlap in the policy objectives of the two programs resulted from the implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, which stresses both regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to salmon recovery and meeting water quality standards. Other external factors such as federal policy shifts, an economic downturn, changing population demographics, increasing interest in sustainable forestry, and increasing wildfire and forest health problems have also caused changes. Internal constraints due to budget reductions and workforce reductions, as well as the challenge of lawsuits, have required a

reassessment of how the agency will continue to provide high priority services to landowners.

State Forester Marvin Brown believes the new Private and Community Forests Program will help improve policy development and coordination, take better advantage of technical expertise, improve the Department's customer service delivery and help gain budgetary efficiencies. "With this integration, we will create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts," said Brown. "One thing we want everybody to understand is that the new program is a long way from being shaped into whatever it's going to be. We want to talk with customers, with landowners, with people who are generally interested in forests and get everybody involved in helping us shape what the program will be in the future."

ODF is now filling a number of field "stewardship forester" positions with a broader scope of duties that will evolve with the new program. The positions will encompass the duties of both service and forest practices foresters. These duties may vary, however, based on customers' needs and differences in landowner needs around the state.

"In the past, the Department set up expectations in most locations that these field positions would only serve as a forest practices forester or a service forester, but not both," said Gregg Cline, Private and Community Forests Program director. "With the newly created stewardship forester positions, the agency now has a great opportunity to improve service delivery by providing both. Now, for example, if there is a reforestation violation, a stewardship forester will be expected to address the enforcement aspect of the situation, and then provide the landowner with advice and assistance on how to reestablish their stand."

The services provided by ODF in the future

New Private and Community Forests Program
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Forester Bill Lecture Receives 'Tough Tree' Award

Jeff Foreman, ODF Public Information Officer

Astoria Assistant District Forester Bill Lecture was honored recently by the Oregon Chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) with its "Tough Tree" award.

"Tough Tree" recipients are SAF members who demonstrate "sustained, excellent professional performance in an extremely adverse work climate." Lecture's skillful handling of a long-running land exchange, made controversial by local and national environmental interests, earned him the SAF award.

Not a bad note to go out on. After 31 years with the Oregon Department of Forestry, Lecture retired Oct. 1. He will continue as a temporary employee for a few months to oversee completion of several projects, including the possible conclusion of the land exchange.

Controversy arose about four years ago when Lecture responded favorably to a proposal by three private landowners in Clatsop County to trade forestlands with the State. The swap, which came to be known as the G&N land exchange, presented an opportunity to establish State Forest tracts into more contiguous holdings.

As the operations manager for the 154,000-acre Clatsop State Forest, Lecture saw the exchange as not only offering better consolidation for efficient and effective management, but also as a way to enhance the potential for developing recreation sites. Such land trades are the long-standing policy of the Oregon Board of Forestry and the department.

Decisions about activities on the Clatsop State Forest are guided by the Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan, which seeks to provide Oregonians with a balance of social, economic and environmental benefits from the state forests. Lecture has played a key role in implementing that plan.

The exchange involves five state-owned tracts totaling 295 acres for five private tracts totaling 407 acres plus cash and timber. Independent assessments conducted for land and timber value, recreation value, and biological and endangered species values were all favorable.

After two public meetings, where Lecture represented the department's position, and another public session with Clatsop County Commissioners, the exchange was approved by the Oregon Board of Forestry.

However, some private citizens including a few residents adjacent to one of the state parcels in the exchange, protested the land trade at these public meetings. They also enlisted a national environmental organization which launched a media campaign opposing the exchange.

When the Board of Forestry approved the exchanged, opponents appealed the decision, requesting a contested case hearing. An administrative law judge concluded that the majority of issues being contested were not legal matters but differences in philosophy and opinion on public forest policy. The proposed final order did suggest a minor change - slightly reducing the cash payment - to avoid invoking an "extraordinary circumstances" stipulation within the rule for land exchanges.

The Board of Forestry continues to grapple with the exchange, with another meeting scheduled in January to consider its pros and cons. Even if the Board finalizes the exchange, future legal appeals could create additional delays. For the retired Lecture, it could extend beyond his temporary status.

"It's been a long journey," said Lecture of this land exchange process. "I appreciate the landowners' patience - their willingness to stick with us during all the different appraisals and assessments, the hearings and the appeal. They should be commended for their perseverance."

Patience and perseverance also describe Lecture, according to SAF. In granting the Tough Tree Award to the Astoria forester, Oregon SAF, the largest SAF affiliate with 1,200 members in its 13 chapters, cited Lecture



Astoria Assistant District Forester Bill Lecture caps 31 years at ODF with SAF's "Tough Tree" award.

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Oregon “Tree Farmer of the Year” Revealed at World Forestry Center Ceremony

Arlene Whalen, ODF Public Information Officer

The Oregon Tree Farm System, Inc. announced the recipient of the “Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year 2003” award at an awards banquet held recently at the World Forestry Center in Portland. **Chris and Donna Heffernan** earned the title for sustainable management of North Slope Natural Resources, their tree farm located ten miles west of North Powder, Oregon.

Chris Heffernan, Oregon Board of Forestry member, and his wife, Donna, actively support the forestry and natural resource communities, both statewide and nationally. To promote tree farming, the Heffernans use their farm as a

efforts have earned them special recognition, including the National Wild Turkey Federation—Wild Turkey Woodlands Award; Fish and Wildlife Steward Award; Oregon Hunters Association—Landowner of the Year, and Rural Sportsman—Big Game Farmer of the Year 2002.

Their tree farm has also been featured in many state and local newspapers, on Oregon Public Broadcasting, and in several forestry-related magazines.

The Heffernan’s use an integrated approach that consists of managing their land for timber, water, wildlife, recreation and grazing. Their objective is to maintain a healthy, sustainable forest that provides social, economic and environmental benefits for their family and community, now and in the future. Besides reforestation and pre-commercial thinning to control insects and dwarf mistletoe, management activities on the tree farm include the development of three ponds for fire suppression and wildlife, as well as riparian restoration.

Oregon’s state runner-up for Tree Farmer of the Year 2003 is Van and Ann Decker, Corvallis, OR; the western runner-up is Clem and Phyllis Hunter, Beavercreek; and eastern runner-up is Sid and Nancy Johnson, Baker City.

Each year, local groups of Oregon Department of Forestry foresters, consulting foresters, and forestry extension agents meet with the Oregon Small Woodland Owners’ Association chapters to select county Tree Farmer of the Year award recipients. Oregon’s State Tree Farm winner is selected from the county winners and competes in the Western Regional competition that represents 13 states. The National Tree Farmer of the Year Finalist is selected from four U.S. regional winners.

The 2003 county winners include:

- Baker County: Sid & Nancy Johnson, Alder Creek Tree Farm
- Benton County: Van & Ann Decker, Decker Tree Farm
- Clackamas County: Clem & Phyllis Hunter, Fir Vista Tree Farm
- Columbia County: Rauch’s Tree Farm

Tree Farmer continued on page 12



Chris and Donna Heffernan accepting their award at the World Forestry Center.

demonstration site for small woodland owners, as well as for the Oregon State University Forestry Extension Service and high school natural resources classes. The Heffernan’s have served on numerous councils, boards and associations, including the Oregon Board of Forestry (ODF); Northeast Oregon District Fire Budget Committee, ODF; the Oregon Small Woodlands Association; Oregon State University Union County Advisory Council; and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Access and Habitat Program. Their conservation

Oregon's Forest Taxation is Changing

Oregon's 2003 Legislature passed two laws (HB2197 and HB2188) that bring significant change to Oregon forestland taxation, and result in two forestland property tax options:

1. **Forestland Program** - for all owners with 2 or more acres of forestland
2. **Small Tract Forestland (STF)**

Option - a special option for owners with 10-4,999 acres of forestland

As of 2004, all owners will be transferred into the **Forestland** Program. Those with less than 10 or more than 5,000 acres are required by law to remain in the Forestland Program. Owners with 10-4,999 acres who decide the new **Small Tract Forestland (STF)** Option is more advantageous may apply¹ to enroll in it.

Owners in the **Forestland** Program will pay property tax based on 100% of forestland special assessment value. They will **not** pay the new volume-based severance tax upon harvest of their timber. Owners opting into STF Option will pay both property tax based on 20% of forestland special assessment value **and** the volume-based severance tax.

Once in the STF Option, only *very limited movement* between programs is allowed. Properties in STF will remain there unless the property ownership is transferred or the property is no longer being used as forestland. Removal and disqualification provisions exist. Back tax and rollback tax penalties may be assessed upon removal and disqualification.

For the 2003 "transition" year, owners in the current Small Owner "20/80" Program **will** pay the current value-based Privilege Tax on timber harvested from their land. Privilege Tax **is not** required for timber harvested from all other forestlands.

Additionally, the **Western Oregon Small Tract Optional Tax (WOSTOT)** has been repealed. Forestland previously in WOSTOT has been automatically transferred to the Forestland Program effective with the 2003-04 tax year. The **Forest Products Harvest Tax** remains in effect for all who harvest timber.

Beginning in late fall 2003 and continuing into 2004, landowner notification and education will be done through a cooperative effort by the Oregon Departments of Revenue and Forestry, OSU Extension Forestry, OSWA, and Oregon's county assessors.

For more information about these changes and related educational programs, stay in touch with your local OSU Extension Forestry agent and Master Woodland Mangers serving your county. The Oregon Department of Revenue website is also a valuable resource that may answer many of your questions: <http://www.dor.state.or.us/timber.html>

¹ Applications (available in December 2003) should be submitted to local county assessors.

Family Forest Fair to be Held in March

"Full-spectrum forestry," with an emphasis on marketing the attributes of family forestlands, will be the theme of the **Oregon Family Forest Fair**, being held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 19, 2004, at Chemeketa Community College. The event is free to the public and is being coordinated by the Marion and Polk County chapters of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA).

The Oregon Small Woodlands Association promotes forest stewardship and the political interests of family forestland owners. The Oregon Family Forest Fair will expand this role by providing a broad marketing network and educational opportunities. Exhibits and presentations will focus on "Brand Oregon" and family forestlands, the changing forest marketplace, unique Oregon forest products and ways to stay flexible in a changing marketplace.

The event is being held at Chemeketa Community College, Salem, at the Auditorium/Theater Building.

For additional information, contact Mark Havel, event coordinator, 888-258-1445, or the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, 503-588-1813, oswaed@oswa.org.



Governor Kulongoski Honors Helicopter Crew For Rescue of Firefighters in northeastern Oregon



Chief Warrant Officer Rob Brattain, Oregon Army National Guard, co-piloted a Blackhawk helicopter that rescued injured firefighters from Hells Canyon Aug. 28.

A short ceremony took place at the capitol in Salem Wednesday, Oct. 29, to recognize an Oregon National Guard helicopter crew for a remarkable night rescue of injured firefighters from Hells Canyon in northeastern Oregon this past summer. Gov. Ted Kulongoski presented a plaque to the five crewmembers who flew into the steep river canyon during the “Lightning Complex” fires to transport two severely wounded firefighters to medical facilities in Spokane, Washington.

As part of the ceremony, a National Guard medivac helicopter landed on the lawn north of the Capitol Building across Court St. The helicopter crew and an ODF staff member were available to answer questions about rescue missions and the Guard’s role in wildland firefighting.

In addition to Governor Kulongoski, speakers at the event included Linda Goodman, Regional Forester with the USDA Forest Service; Oregon State Forester Marvin Brown; Lt. Colonel Dan Hokanson, Military Air Rescue Team Commander of the Oregon Army National Guard; Fred Steen, Wallowa County Sheriff; and Don Moss, president of Strike Back, a fire crew contracting company.



Governor Ted Kulongoski with Rob Brattain and family. In a ceremony Oct. 29 at the capitol, the governor recognized the helicopter pilot and other crewmembers of the Oregon Army National Guard 1042 Medical Company for the lifesaving rescue they performed at the Lightning Complex fires last summer.

Tough Tree Award continued from page 9

for maintaining his professionalism “despite numerous personal attacks on his judgment, his veracity, and his value as a human being.”

“Bill has nevertheless never flagged in his dogged determination to see this transaction through to the end,” the awards committee added, “since he is convinced that this exchange benefits ODF and the public it serves.”

In a written statement, the committee commended Lecture’s skill and perseverance in countering the considerable misinformation generated about the proposed land trade.

Lecture holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in forest resource management from the University of Washington.

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Linn County: Arlene J. Sorseth, Al “Tyke” Sorseth

Marion County: Charlie Grogan

Polk County: Fred & Lyn Rhodes;

Union County: Chris and Donna

Heffernan; North Slope Natural Resources

Yamhill County: Jack Smith

Oregon joined the Tree Farm System in 1941 and has selected an Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year every year since 1966. The state has now had three National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year award winners: Bert and Betty Udall, Lebanon, 1982; Wayne and Colleen Krieger, Gold Beach, 1993; and Ron and Barbara Bentz, Scio, 2002.

International Community Adapting to Changing Fire Conditions

Arlene Whalen, ODF Public Information Officer

The way wildland fires are fought around the globe may vary from country to country, but the nature of such fires reveals a common and disturbing trend—fires today are more intense and last much longer than in years past, and they produce greater risks to life and property. Global warming, no longer considered an anomaly by most experts, is thought to have played a significant role in this fire behavior change, as has a lack of active forest management, which causes buildups of undesirable fuels. In addition, the continual encroachment of urban populations onto the forest landscape has increased the frequency of wildland fires.

These are common themes, resounding not only throughout North America, but also in other parts of the world, such as Asia, many parts of Russia and Central and South America. It is becoming increasingly clear that there is worldwide responsibility in addressing the environmental, social and economic impacts associated with these wildfire challenges.

Three years ago, delegates and fire management professionals from several different countries came together at the 1st International Wildfire Conference and Exhibition to share their experiences and knowledge about what it is like to live in fire-prone environments. This year, the third International Conference was held on October 8, 2003 in Sydney, Australia. According to John Gledhill, member of the Tasmanian Fire Service and President of the Australasian Fire Authorities Council, “it provided fire managers from around the world the opportunity to participate in discussions on an incredibly broad range of fire and emergency service topics.”

Roy Woo, Oregon Department of Forestry Deputy State Forester, participated as one of 80 poster presenters at the conference who shared a written abstract about their state’s fire protection system. One hundred people also provided oral presentations on various wildfire topics.

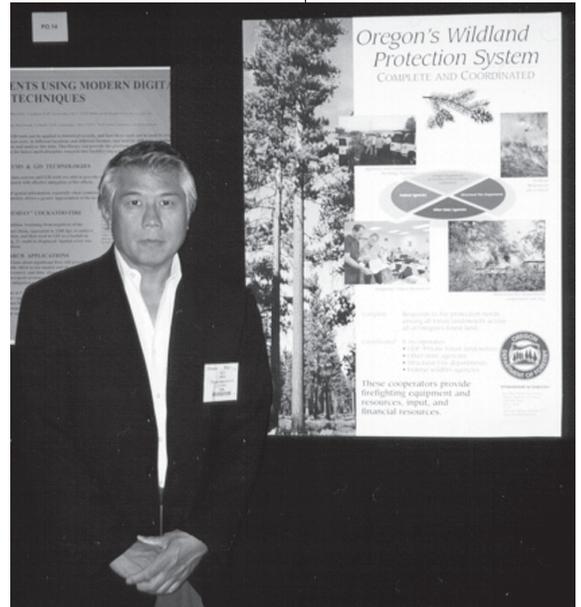
Overall, 66 countries were represented at the conference, with attendance numbering approximately 1,200 delegates.

“I had a lot of Australians talk to me about how Oregon provides fire protection utilizing landowner resources,” said Woo. “They also wanted to know how we work together with the rural and federal agencies.”

Unlike Oregon, Australia doesn’t have a federal presence that deals with fire suppression. Rather, their five states and one territory oversee it, combining wildfire and structural fire fighting efforts.

According to Woo, Australia is just beginning to explore the use of their forest landowner community to fight fires. “What we call industrial and non-industrial forestland owners, they call plantation owners,” said Woo. According to Woo, Australian states are now assisting plantation owners so they can form their own firefighting brigades that consist of thousands of volunteers. Besides expertise, the states also provide the necessary fire-fighting equipment. “I saw a photo of a fire truck parked in an Australian neighborhood, ready to roll, as needed,” said Woo. “If there is a fire, the homeowners have been trained to use it.”

Interestingly enough, insurance companies provide approximately 75% of most states’ firefighting funds in Australia. Very little would be derived from what Oregonians consider general fund monies. “Initially, insurance



Roy Woo, Deputy State Forester, stands beside Oregon’s poster entry for the conference.

“I had a lot of Australians talk to me about how Oregon provides fire protection utilizing landowner resources.”

— Deputy State Forester Roy Woo

companies in Australia created their own fire departments,” said Woo, “but that has evolved into their present day, state-run system.

Like Oregon, Australia is becoming increasingly vulnerable at wildland-residential interfaces, and they are also struggling to integrate environmental needs with socio-economic needs. “There are a lot of similarities regarding natural resource use here and the conflict of active management versus non-management and the urban/rural divide,” said

Woo. “In addition, environmentalists in Australia are lobbying heavily to preserve certain areas. This often means there hasn’t been any forest management at all. In one of their (Australia’s) conference presentations, the speaker cited that fuel build-up was becoming an increasing problem.”

Australia has a fire-dependent ecology and besides “bush” (Australia’s term for forest) fires, non-commercial brush fires are also prevalent. Global climate change has definitely caused more intense fire behavior in the country and, according to Woo, this is being exacerbated by a lack of active management.

“Globally, there are very few places that we’re not seeing more extreme fire behavior,” said Woo. “Fire management must adapt to these changing conditions. It will be critical for the international community to work together using scientific and technical

Reassessing Oregon’s Wildland Protection System continued from page 15

Another issue that Stone said has been brought up by landowners is whether Oregon’s 30-40 year-old industrial fire equipment regulations are still effective or obsolete. “Our industrial fire equipment regulations say, for instance, that an operation out in the woods should have a 500-gallon water supply with 250’ of hose. Well, when you’ve got a cable logging system that reaches out one-half mile and gets a fire at the bottom of a unit a quarter of a mile from the landing, a 250’ hose doesn’t do much good. This committee will decide whether or not to tackle those kinds of issues as well.”

Stone indicates that any constructive changes that are made to the system will require a collaborative effort by all the cooperating

The theme of the *3rd International Wildland Fire Conference/International Wildland Fire Summit* was to “strengthen international cooperation to reduce the negative impacts of wildland fires on humanity and the global environment.”

More specifically, intended outputs from the conference include:

- 1) An agreement on the principles that should apply to international wildland fire management projects
- 2) An agreement on a template document that can be used by countries wishing to form a cooperation arrangement with one or more other countries for mutual assistance with wildfire management
- 3) An agreement that the Incident Command System (ICS) will become the international standard for all wildfire incident management
- 4) An agreement to a strategy for future development of the issues and international responses to wildland fires

analysis and prediction so that environmental, social and economic issues can be addressed.”

“Overall,” said Woo, “the conference provided valuable information, as well as a number of contacts that will be helpful when assessing our own protection system.”

agencies involved. “Part of this is because there are some areas where the Department does not have completely coordinated jurisdiction. We can shed a spotlight on a problem and then others will have to step in, where appropriate, to help improve the system,” said Stone.

Another topic the committee will likely explore is using National Fire Plan monies effectively for fuels and hazard abatement. Stone emphasizes that the question becomes “how do we drive down the cost of firefighting by making the forest more fire-safe and resilient?”

No doubt, grappling through such complicated issues will take time and tremendous focus, but many are excited about the probable outcome...enhanced public safety and forest resource protection in Oregon.

DID YOU KNOW?

Australia is the 6th largest nation on the globe and is populated with approximately 20 million people — the most sparsely populated continent on the globe. Forests cover 21% of Australia. Eucalyptus, a hardwood used to produce paper and furniture, is predominant in the coastal and highland belts of the country.



Reassessing Oregon's Wildland Protection System...

Arlene Whalen, ODF Public Information Officer

A work group is being formed that will evaluate the various aspects of Oregon's wildland firefighting protection system to determine what is working and what may need improvement.

State Forester Marvin Brown, and others overseeing firefighting efforts, believe the evaluation is needed because the program, as it exists today, is pretty much the program that has been in place for over 40 years. And, according to Charlie Stone, ODF Forest Protection Division Chief, some of the statutory framework actually dates back 90 years ago with the very formation of the Department of Forestry and when the initial firefighting requirements were established. "We (the work group) will do a broad scale review of the program and determine what works, and we will also examine policy foundations and statutory requirements," said Stone.

Several issues precipitate the need for such a review. The state's catastrophic fire insurance is becoming increasingly difficult to acquire—the state is realizing less coverage at a greater cost. There is also a question of who should pay for the increasing costs of fire protection and how much. As things stand now, the public and landowners share the burden of paying for fire protection through general fund dollars and private landowner assessments. During the last session, the Legislature directed ODF to create a work group consisting of legislators, the Emergency Fire Cost Committee, the Department of Administrative Services, landowners and the Legislative Fiscal Office to examine funding mechanisms for emergency forest fires. However, an ODF Legislative Budget Note indicates the group is to "maintain the historic relationship of the public share to the land owners' cost share." A major consideration will be whether or not Oregon should continue coverage through a commercial insurance program or whether other options, such as becoming self-insured, make more sense. The department has until September 2004 to report on the budget note to the Emergency Board.

The directive created an opportunity to not

only take a closer look at *funding* issues associated with wildfires, but to also look at other important fire-related issues as well. With representatives from several groups already meeting to assess funding issues, it only made sense to expand upon the opportunity. Additional topics of discussion could include such things as improving firefighting technologies, exploring whether the entire state should have fire protective services, automating business systems needed to support firefighting efforts, dealing with excessive fuel buildups in our forests and addressing forest health issues that could precipitate forest fires.

According to Stone, big changes in the fundamental strategy and tactics that the Department of Forestry employs to suppress fires aren't anticipated, however, because overall it seems to have served the state well and landowners have supported it. "But we've got some problems to solve," said Stone.

"For example, we are still completing billings and payments with some of our cooperators for fires in 2002, and some contractors had to wait several weeks for payment," said Stone. "Our business systems need to be modernized to keep up with the scale of the work."

Record keeping and resource tracking during large fire situations has posed continual business system challenges for the state. Stone cites an example. "Our payroll system is designed for agencies with regular employees. The challenge has been using that system to hire a considerable number of "administratively determined" firefighters (emergency firefighters hired for a specific fire) for just five-day assignments, for example."

Reassessing Oregon's Wildland Protection System continued on page 14

In Oregon, wildfire protection is provided through a coordinated protection system that incorporates resources from federal wild-fire agencies, other state agencies, city fire departments, rural fire protection districts and private forest landowners. The Department of Forestry protects 16 million acres of private, state and federal forestland having an estimated value of 60 billion dollars.

Forestry Loses Valued Employee and Friend



Craig Mackey
Loved and Respected
1950 - 2003

Tom Soward, ODF Western Lane Fire Operations Supervisor, and Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Information Officer

On October 14, 2003, while flying the rivers of Western Lane District mapping out new water holes for helicopter fire fighting purposes, the helicopter that Forest Protection Supervisor Craig Mackey was riding in struck a power line that brought down the helicopter along the Siuslaw River near Swisshome, Oregon. Craig Mackey and the pilot Richard Black were both killed in the accident.

Craig's death came as a shock not only to coworkers in his own district at Western Lane, but also to the entire ODF "family."

David Craig Mackey went by his middle name, Craig. He began his career with the department in 1974 as a Forest Officer at the Marcola Guard Station in Eastern Lane District. In 1975, he was hired as a permanent Forest Officer. Two years later, Craig was promoted to Forest Technician in a move to Western Lane District. In 1987, his position evolved into Forest Protection Supervisor (Forest Unit Supervisor 1). Originally, Craig was in charge of Fire Operations at the district, but later switched to training and prevention, the position he held until his death.

A firefighter his entire career, Craig loved the work. He was born August 14, 1950 in San Francisco and grew up in the Bay area. Friends Craig grew up with said he always wanted to live and work outdoors in the country. He received his Associate Degree in Geography from Foothill Junior College in Los Altos and an Associate Degree in Forestry from Lassen Junior College in Susanville. From there Craig began doing what he loved, fighting fire and establishing his home in the country. Craig and his wife Nancy recently completed a new home on their tree farm near Veneta.

Skilled as a fire fighter, Craig served as the Incident Commander of the Sulphur Creek Fire near Mapleton last summer. His coworkers remember him as a calm, thoughtful firefighter that always knew how to handle fire situations. Midway through his career, his love for fire fighting expanded to aviation. He held the

position of Air Attack on Incident Management Team 3 for several years, and as one of the foremost firefighters in that position he continued to be requested after retiring from the team. Craig was also a qualified Air Operations Branch Director. Mementos including photographs, paintings, and patches filled Craig's workspace. He loved aviation work and is remembered as being the best at it.

Craig was a Type 1 Fire Investigator and was not only called to investigate ODF fires throughout the state, but was asked to investigate fires for other agencies. A year ago, he spent time investigating fires for the Willamette National Forest. Always willing to teach and assist young firefighters, Craig helped instruct an investigation class in his district early last fall and enjoyed seeing students suddenly catch on, as if a light turned on.

As the Training and Prevention officer for Western Lane District, Craig's influence again reached far beyond the district boundaries. Through his quiet, yet efficient, class organization and the recruitment of instructors, he was responsible for training hundreds of inmate crews, hundreds of structural firefighters throughout the state, and hundreds of wildland firefighters from the private sector, federal agencies, and ODF. Craig was instrumental as an organizer of the Mid-Willamette Valley Fire School, which trains firefighters from several ODF districts, several federal agencies throughout the mid-Oregon area, and firefighters from private and structural fire groups.

Craig had an enjoyable sense of humor. Many received a phone call from Craig over the years, didn't have a clue who they were talking to and what this "strange person" wanted — sometimes for up to 3 or 4 minutes. His voices were famous not only at ODF, but wherever he made phone calls. Craig also had a nickname for everyone. If you didn't have a nickname, then you were called by your formal first name.

A skilled craftsman, Craig had many hobbies. He did everything from rebuilding motorcycles to landscaping his tree farm and home. Craig collected almost anything that was old and unusual. He also enjoyed good blues music. A sports enthusiast, Craig was a Giants' and 49ers'

fan. Baseball was his passion though, and he coached teams for several years as his sons grew up. Coworkers say he was truly an artist with pen and pencil. They miss his engaging conversation and sense of humor, but mostly his welcomed advice, which he always freely gave.

Most important to Craig was his family. His work desk has been a tribute to his family over the years as they grew and branched out. Whether he was slipping away to a ball game or heading out-of-state to attend his daughter's wedding, these were the most important places to be.

Craig married his high school sweetheart, Nancy, in 1972. His oldest child, Amy, lives in Hillsboro with her husband and Craig's grandchild Daulton. His younger daughter, Melissa, has worked as an office specialist for the Western Lane District for ten years, and was recently promoted to Office Manager. Craig's son, David ("Bo"), worked seasonally for ODF at Eastern Lane and is currently employed by the Eugene

Water and Electric Board. His youngest son, Matt, lives at home and attends Elmira High School.

Pilot Dick Black, a resident of Eugene, had been a Weyerhaeuser helicopter pilot since 1984. Black flew many missions for Weyerhaeuser, helping in aerial reconnaissance and fire suppression.

Several hundred guests attended memorial services for Craig, which were held Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Calvary Fellowship Church in Eugene. Family and friends watched as more than 30 wildland and structural fire engines drove by with lights flashing in solemn procession. The Tualatin Valley Fire's Pipe and Drum Corp led over 100 firefighters into the services. An Honor Guard presented Craig's wife, Nancy, with an American flag. Rev. Jim Jenkins directed the service. Craig's brother Scott and several friends remembered Craig's humor, his accomplishments, and devotion to his family.

He will be missed.

New Private and Community Forests Program continued from page 8

under an integrated program will continue to focus on technical or educational assistance, with a regulatory component to assist in compliance with the FPA. Lorensen says that people often relate to the Forest Practices Act (FPA) as a regulatory program. "The FPA has a regulatory component, but it has always been premised on trying to provide education and technical assistance to landowners so they can achieve their operational objectives, while meeting the state's objectives. Our foresters try to have a dialogue with forestland owners about how those objectives can be met and then help the landowner find a solution using best management practices."

Cline says that there seems to be a question as to whether or not a regulatory threshold has been reached, meaning that perhaps the implementation of additional forestland regulation isn't necessarily enhancing our ability to meet Oregon's forestry objectives. One change may be in how ODF does enforcement compliance inspections. Lorensen added, "an option could be auditing landowner practices on a periodic basis, rather than operation by operation, when we know that compliance with current regulations is already high. We know that industrial landowners, for instance, are planting at levels well above what the FPA rules require. It may make sense to look at landowner planting records and spot check, and if they

haven't achieved a successful plantation, then step in to provide quick and ready treatment."

However, State Forester Marvin Brown notes that the statutory underpinnings and administrative rules will still be the foundation of the program. He believes, though, that by bringing together ODF's skills, knowledge and customer relationships, a host of new and innovative ideas for service delivery will be sparked.

Feedback from ODF customers and stakeholders on how to develop a more dynamic system for private forest management and landowner assistance will be key to acquiring desired outcomes. Brown said the goal of the new program should be to ensure a sustainable private forest resource for now and the future, and ensure that it is beneficial to a broad set of interests.

"Clearly, we should propose solutions that yield real value for landowners," said Brown. "At the same time, citizens across the State have an expectation that forests should yield economic opportunity, clean water, diverse habitats, visual amenities and many other benefits. Aligning all of those interests in a way that achieves strong, broad-based support both requires and deserves the best, most creative thinking we can offer. If we can provide this level of energy, Oregon will maintain its place as a global leader on forestry issues."

Summary of Major Legislation Affecting Forestry in Oregon Passed by the 2003 Legislature

Many bills were introduced during the 2003 Oregon Legislative Session with the potential to affect forestry in Oregon or the agency's programs. The following is a summary of these bills.

Fire Protection

HB2200

Summary: Firefighting liability relief for department and association employees when injury or damage results from necessary fire suppression action where there is no willful misconduct or negligence.

HB2301

Summary: Emergency fire funding base and expenditure changes. Increases the expenditure limit of the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund by \$5 million, lifting the cap to \$15 million. Without this bill, there would be an additional \$5 million potential annual exposure to the General Fund for emergency firefighting costs.

Concern has been expressed with regard to the portion of this bill that repeals the statute requiring purchase of insurance and paying for it from the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund. However, a budget note directs the Department of Forestry, together with other parties, to study the cost effectiveness of such insurance, and if it is viable, who should equitably pay for it. A report is to be made to the Emergency Board by September 2004.

State Forests

HB2344

Summary: Requires timely harvest when state timber is burned. Directs the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to adopt statewide policies that direct state agencies to immediately begin efforts to harvest burned timber. Although the Department of Forestry has been harvesting burned timber in a timely manner on lands it manages, this bill was an

outgrowth over concerns about delays in harvesting timber burned on other state agency lands during the 2001 season.

HB2148

Summary: This bill directs the transfer of forest development fund (FDF) dollars to the state General Fund (GF). Also directs the transfer of other funds from savings and reductions.

HB3152

Summary: State-owned lands forest health and forest fuel reduction policy. Directs DAS to coordinate with natural resource agencies, including the department, to adopt forest management plans or policies that address forest health and fuel load issues on state owned forest lands. All of our state forestland is covered by existing forest management plans, so this will have no effect until revision of those plans takes place.

Forest Practices

HB3264

Summary: Approval of Forest Operation plans. Prior to this bill becoming law, the state forester was required in some circumstance to review and approve written plans that describe how forest operations would be carried out. This bill changes the Forest Practices Act to remove the approval requirement, leaving in place existing forest practice standards, notice provisions, waiting periods, and the process for communication between the department and the operator concerning forest practice requirements.

Removal of the approval requirement makes it completely clear that it is the operator's responsibility to comply with applicable state and federal laws. The intent of this bill is to ensure actions lawfully taken under state law do not place the state forester in a position of potentially violating the federal Endangered Species Act.

The written plans for which approval will no longer be required are only intended to demonstrate the methods and means by which a forest operator will comply with the standards contained in the Forest Practices Act and administrative rules. Under this bill, plans must still be submitted for review and comment, and the same protection standards must be complied with.

HB3375

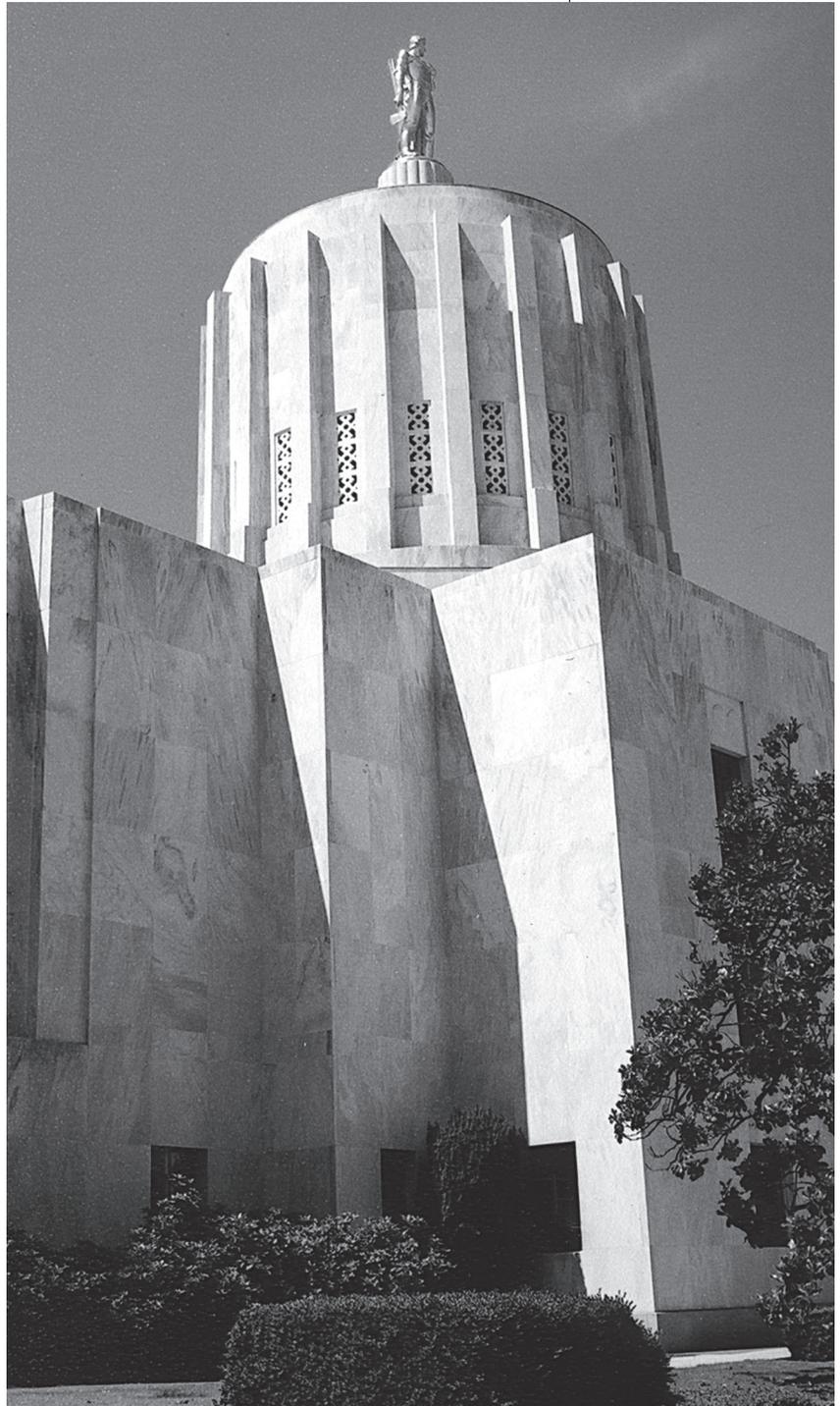
Summary: Addresses some issues that made some portions of Senate Bill 12 (a comprehensive landslide Bill passed in 1999) difficult for local governments to implement. These changes have no direct effect on forest management, but should allow local governments to better share responsibility to protect the public from rapidly moving landslides. HB 3375 also clarifies language that applies forest practices rules to protect people in existing buildings.

Forest Taxation & Agency Budget

HB2197/ HB2188

Summary: Passage of these two bills represents years of work to make property tax changes for family forestland owners. The bills together make three significant changes:

- Repeals the Western Oregon Small Tract Optional Tax effective July 1, 2003 and moves these owners to the “Forestland” assessment, a program that also assesses the land annually at 100% of the specially assessed forestland value.
- Creates a new property tax option called Small Tract Option in 2004 for owners of 10 to 5000 acres of forestland in Oregon. Department of Revenue and the counties administer this new program. Directs agencies to inform landowners about the new tax option. Like the current land and privilege tax program, the annual property taxes are based on 20% of the lands assessed value. However, privilege taxes collected at harvest (for the other 80% of land value deferred) are now based on a flat rate multiplied by the volume harvested. Rate for 2004 is \$3.03/MBF in Eastern Oregon and \$3.89/MBF in Western Oregon (MBF = thousand board feet).



- Eliminates Eastern and Western Oregon forestland and privilege tax system in 2004 and transfers these lands to the Forestland Program (land assessed at 100% of specially assessed value). Eligible owners who wish to transfer to the Small Tract Option program can do so without penalty in 2004 through application to the counties.

HB3616

Summary: Enacts many recommendations of the Conservation Incentives Work Group, a diverse set of stakeholders convened by the Departments of Agriculture and Forestry that includes farmers, ranchers, timber producers, local governments, conservation organizations, and many state and federal agencies.

Re-writes the statutes governing the Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program, which allows owners of farm and forest lands to manage their land for habitat conservation without incurring higher property taxes.

- Revises land eligibility criteria and provides local governments with discretion whether to participate in the program.
- Clarifies that the program is an independent special assessment program separate from open space designation and relocates it to ORS Chapter 308A (where the other special assessment statutes are located).

Also re-writes the statutes that govern the Stewardship Agreement Program

- Expands the program to all rural lands (not just forest lands).
- Creates a framework for substantive incentives, such as regulatory certainty, for landowners to go beyond land management standards otherwise imposed by law.
- Allows both the Departments of Forestry and Agriculture to enter into stewardship agreements with landowners (either jointly or independently).

HB2195

Summary: Amends ORS 321.015, to establish the Forest Products Harvest Tax rates for calendar years 2004 and 2005 in support of the administration of the Oregon Forest Practices Act and the Oregon State University Forest Research Laboratory. For the Department of Forestry, the bill maintains the concept of “shared responsibility” for Forest Practices Act administration between the general public and program beneficiaries.

The Oregon Forest Products Harvest Tax (ORS 321.005-185) is a privilege tax paid by all owners of harvested timber (at the time of harvest) in the State of Oregon, with the exception of harvests from Tribal lands. The tax is collected based on a statutorily established dollar rate per thousand board feet (MBF) of timber harvested.

- Forest Practices rate - \$0.79/MBF (down 13%)
- Forest Research Lab rate - \$.067/MBF (no change)

HB2372

Summary: Extends the sunset date on the property tax exemption for environmentally sensitive logging equipment and skyline and swing yarders. Moves sunset date from tax years beginning before July 1, 2008 to tax years beginning before July 1, 2012.

HB5022

Summary: The department’s 2003-05 Legislatively adopted operating budget is \$204 million with a 9.7% increase over last year’s budget. However, nearly all the increase is attributed to increased federal funds limitation for grants and contracts. Overall, the department lost \$34 million in state General Funds and an 8% loss of positions.

Other Significant Natural Resource Bills:

HB2915

Addresses legal issues arising from a federal case related to commodity commissions. While the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) is not a commodity commission, it is affected by the same legal challenges to the use of mandatory assessments to fund its programs. The solution in HB 2915 maintains OFRI as a state agency, but provides for a rebate for persons who prefer not to support the work of OFRI. In addition, the bill clarifies and strengthens the role of OFRI as state agency by having the state forester appoint the OFRI Board members, and makes it clear that only the Legislature may dissolve OFRI. The bill has only minor impacts to OFRI as an organization and will allow it to continue its work in collaboration with its partners, including the department.

HB2138

This bill defines “recovery” for the purposes of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The bill directs the Governor to negotiate with federal officials to obtain assurances to the effect that compliance with the Oregon Plan will satisfy federal requirements imposed by the federal Endangered Species Act.

Legislation calls for State Forester to appoint OFRI board members

Dave Odgers, Oregon Forest Resources Institute

Under legislation passed by the Oregon Legislature earlier this year changing the organizational structure of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), the 11 voting members of OFRI's board of directors will now be appointed to three-year terms by the State Forester. These include three voting members serving in staggered terms representing each of three producer classes—small (Class 1), medium (Class 2) and large (Class 3)—plus a small woodland owner representative and a representative of forest industry employees. In making these 11 appointments, the State Forester is required to consider nominations or recommendations by producers or producer organizations.

Prior to this change, the small woodland owner representative and two members representing each of the three producer classes were elected to OFRI's board by their constituents, and three at-large members were appointed by the board. The board also appointed the employee representative.

In addition to the 11 voting members to be appointed by the State Forester, two non-voting members serve on the board. One is the Dean of the Oregon State University College of Forestry and the other is a public representative, who will continue to be appointed jointly by the President of the Oregon Senate and the Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives.

Qualifications for the voting members of the board are unchanged and include U.S. citizenship and Oregon residency. Each member representing a producer class must be a producer of timber or timber products in Oregon or an employee of such a producer. The member representing small woodland owners must own between 100 and 2,000 acres of forestland in Oregon on which harvest taxes are paid, but have no direct financial interest in any forest products processing activity. The voting members must have been actively engaged in producing timber or timber products for a period of at least five years, deriving a substantial portion of their income from such activity. Finally, they must have demonstrated, through membership in certain forest industry or forest landowner organizations, a substantial interest in the development of Oregon's forest products industry.

The first full-term appointments by the State Forester will be for the positions with terms ending June 30, 2004. New administrative rules are being drafted by the Oregon Department of Forestry to implement the legislative changes. In the meantime, State Forester Marvin Brown has appointed the existing members to fill out the remainder of their current terms.

The current board members are:

Class 1 Representatives:

Hap Huffman (Vice Chair)
Jeff Van Natta

Class 2 Representatives:

Jennifer Phillippi
Barte Starker

Class 3 Representatives:

Dennis Creel (Chair)
Greg Miller

Small Woodland Owners Representative:

Bob Kintigh

At-Large Representatives:

Russ McKinley
Carol Whipple
Martin Lugas

Employee Representative:

Brad Witt, Oregon AFL-CIO

Non-voting Members:

Dean Hal Salwasser, OSU College of Forestry
Dan Williams, Public Representative

Notes from the Editor

“The Forest Log” goes Quarterly

Last year we conducted a readership survey and heard from you, our readers, about a variety of topics including publication frequency and cost savings. Of those of you who responded, a whopping 72% thought that reducing the frequency of *The Forest Log* from 6 to 4 times per year might be an effective way for us to reduce costs and still communicate with you, our readers. We couldn't agree more.

So it should come as no surprise that, effective with this issue, the *Forest Log* production schedule is transitioning from a bi-monthly publication frequency to a quarterly production schedule. And yes, you guessed it, the issues will arrive with the change of the seasons: one for winter, one for spring, one for summer (our annual report), and one for fall.

Got Friends?

As usual, if you have a friend or neighbor you think would be interested in reading *The Forest Log*, please let us know and we'll be happy to mail them a sample issue or add them to our mailing list. And thanks for your continued support.

Cynthia Orlando
 Editor, *The Forest Log*

Would You Like to Receive *The Forest Log* on a Regular Basis... (or Be Taken Off Our Mailing List)?

Some of you may be receiving the *Forest Log* for the first time. If you would like to remain on our mailing list, no action is required on your part.

If you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please give us a call (503-945-7200), or send an email to Corlando@odf.state.or.us

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Forest Log* and, as always, if you know someone else who might enjoy receiving it, please let us know.



Forestland-Urban Interface Public Meetings Slated

Preparations are underway for a series of informal public meetings throughout Jackson County this winter to bring residents up to date on the implementation of the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act. A meeting held in December 2003 in the Sams Valley area attracted approximately 150 people (out of 700 invitations), so a strong turnout is expected at the upcoming meetings.

The meetings give urban-fringe residents a chance to review and comment on draft identification and fire-risk classification maps developed by the Jackson County Forestland-Urban Interface Classification Committee. The five-member committee began its work in March 2003. Approximately 11,000 residential lots in Jackson County will be affected by the law,

which was passed by the Legislature following a string of costly and destructive wildland/urban interface fires during the late-1980s and early 1990s.

The law asks forestland-urban interface residents to create fuel breaks around homes and other large structures, and take other fire-prevention measures. The intent is to make environments in which home protection during wildland firefighting can be more successful, and safer for firefighters and residents. After land-owners have completed fuel breaks and other tasks, they are encouraged to certify with the Department of Forestry that they are in compliance with the Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act.

Informal public meetings will also be held in Deschutes County, where a similar process is underway. Public hearings will be held in both Jackson and Deschutes counties prior to finalization of the forestland-urban interface identification and fire-risk classification maps.

Oregon Plan continued from page 7

the culverts will open up more than a mile of stream for spawning and rearing for salmonids.

Tributary junctions – where two or more creeks come together – are favored sites for structure placement because this is where large wood naturally accumulates and because these locations naturally capture more of the cooler waters. This cold water provides a refuge for the salmon during the summer from the warmer mainstem waters.

A similar project is also planned for next year along nearby Nelson Creek.

The benefits of placing large woody debris into the stream will lead to improved freshwater survival of anadromous fish, improved returns in the future and additional benefits to other fish and wildlife specie. Winter habitat has been



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

A Partnership with Long Term Benefits

The Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, in existence since 1981, is a nonprofit agency that has contributed more than \$8.6 million in financial and in-kind contributions to restore, protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat throughout Oregon. The Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation donated money for equipment, for having the culverts removed,

identified as a limiting factor in juvenile salmon survival in most Oregon coastal streams. Additions of large wood to the stream will provide the slow water habitats required by winter rearing salmon, pool habitats for summer rearing and gravel retention for spawning habitats.

Culvert removal was also part of the project along Miller Creek. “We removed six old culverts along Miller Creek Road,” says Kirchner. The culverts needed to be removed because they were undersized and had become perched, i.e., water velocity had removed materials and downcut the bank, a problem both for fish passage and for water quality.

and also paid the costs of the excavator and for hiring a timber faller to cut down the needed conifers. The Oregon Department of Forestry supplied the trees and access to the property.

Kirchner predicts increased production and survival of juvenile salmonids. “We anticipate more complex habitat, additional spawning gravel, and an increase in stream complexity approaching its historic state.”

“This partnership between ODF&W, ODF, and the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation is kind of what the Oregon Plan is all about,” adds Kirchner.

(Above) Fish habitat improvement project on Nelson Creek, Western Lane District.

Forestry Calendar of Public Meetings

Jan. 14	10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Fire Funding Budget Note Work Group	ODF Salem Headquarters
Jan. 28	1:00 p.m.	Deschutes County Forestland-Urban Interface Classification Committee Meeting	Deschutes County Community Devel. Bldg. 117 Lafayette, Bend
Feb. 12	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Oregon Forestlands Coordinating Group	ODF Salem Headquarters, Santiam Room 101
Feb. 18	10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	Committee for Family Forestlands	ODF Salem Headquarters Sunpass Room (201)
March 19	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Oregon Small Woodlands Association Oregon Family Forest Fair	Chemeketa Community College
March 29 - April 1	8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Symposium: Human Dimensions of Family and Farm Forestry	Washington State University, Pullman Washington
April 28-29	8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Symposium: Enhancing Oregon's Economic Contribution and its Relationship to Global Forest Sustainability	Miller Hall, World Forestry Center, Portland



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"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

