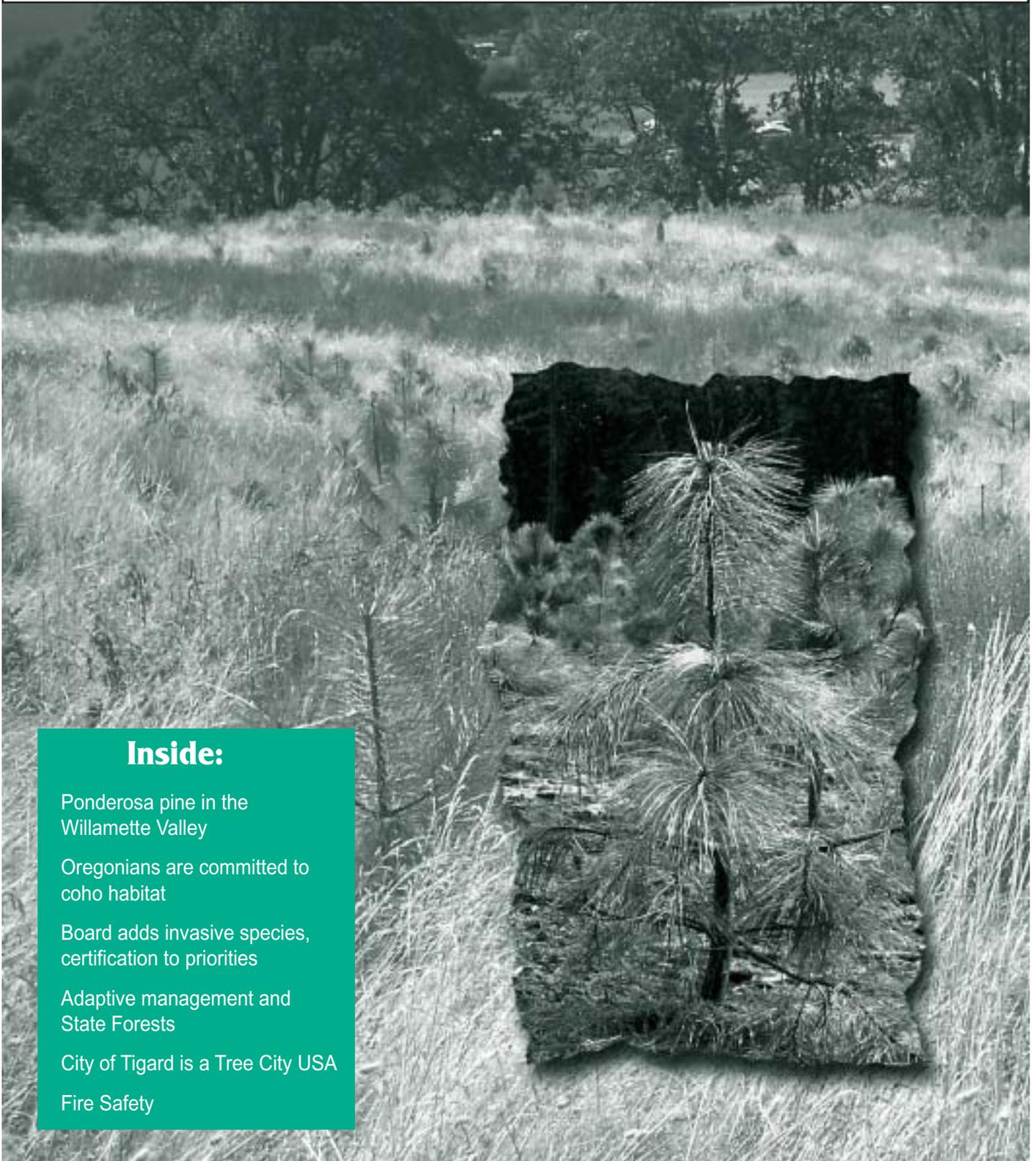


# FOREST • LOG

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY • SPRING 2006



## Inside:

Ponderosa pine in the  
Willamette Valley

Oregonians are committed to  
coho habitat

Board adds invasive species,  
certification to priorities

Adaptive management and  
State Forests

City of Tigard is a Tree City USA

Fire Safety

## From the State Forester



**State Forester  
Marvin Brown**

One of the Department of Forestry's little known operations is a forest seed orchard that we manage in the Willamette Valley. The orchard is a cooperative venture fully funded by participating land-owners. Its purpose is to most efficiently produce seed that will lead to economically and environmentally sound reforestation in Oregon. It's a great example of public-private cooperation and it doesn't cost the average taxpayer a dime.

One of the unique projects they have been working on is the restoration of a variety of Ponderosa pine that was once common in the Willamette Valley. Our geneticist, orchard manager and staff have worked with interested landowners to secure samples of somewhat rare sub-species and are successfully cultivating a seed crop to ensure that these trees are around well into the future.

It's always a delight for me to realize that folks care so deeply about trees in all their diversity that they would go to these lengths, in this case just to preserve a bit of our natural heritage. I don't think this affinity for forests shows through any greater than in the State of Oregon and there are a number of articles in this issue of the Log to prove it.

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*It's always a delight for me to realize that folks care so deeply about trees in all their diversity*

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The attention that urban residents pay trees in their communities is another illustration. An article about the City of Tigard and their achievement of Tree City USA status is yet another example. All across the state there is tremendous participation in this urban forest recognition program.

You can also read about how forest managers are working to help coho salmon, how loggers are working to reduce the risk of forest fire and how the Department is revising one of our programs to accelerate reforestation on lands that have been unsuccessful at establishing a stand of trees.

I don't want to show any favoritism, but probably the most exciting thing we talk about in this issue is the opening of the Tillamook Forest Center on April 1st. An hour from Portland on the Wilson River

Highway in the middle of the Tillamook State Forest, the Center is a great opportunity to learn about forests in Oregon. It is free

and open to the public, and we look forward to the chance to talk to thousands of Oregonians about this fantastic resource that means so much to the State.

We hope you'll read all about it in the article, and then schedule a visit to come see us as quick as you can! Enjoy.

# FOREST LOG



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

**Spring Issue 2006  
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*Cover photo: Ponderosa  
Pine is making a comeback  
in the Willamette Valley.*

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*A Western Scrub Jay  
(Aphelocoma californica)  
sits on a fence rail in  
Sublimity, Oregon.*



Photo by Jim Liesch, ODF

## Forestry and Coho Salmon habitat:

# Private landowners and the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds making a difference

*Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Affairs Specialist*

**E**arlier this year the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) announced that Oregon Coast coho salmon populations from Seaside to Cape Blanco do not warrant listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). While no one single factor can be credited with the decision, it's likely that a combination of actions by many different people and landowners created the improved habitat needed by coho.

In May of 2005 the state completed, and submitted to NOAA Fisheries, an assessment of the status of Oregon Coast coho. The assessment found that these populations are viable - meaning they demonstrate sufficient abundance, productivity, distribution and diversity to be sustained - and are likely to maintain their viability into the foreseeable future.

The *Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds* is one piece of the improving picture for Oregon Coast coho populations. In 1997, with the support and participation of a wide spectrum of stake holders from all regions in Oregon, then-Governor John Kitzhaber and the Oregon Legislature established the *Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds*. The plan seeks to restore salmon runs, improve water quality, and achieve healthy watersheds throughout the state. The plan relies heavily on volunteerism and stewardship - a hallmark of Oregonians.

Salmon live where we do - following rivers that take them through our cities, working forests and farmlands, and coastal estuaries. People from all walks of life - city dwellers, suburban residents, farmers, ranchers, business people, educators and others - are doing their part to help achieve the goals of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

### State forests and coho

ODF's State Forest Program manages nearly 800,000 acres of forested lands to produce

revenue, develop habitat, and achieve healthy streamside areas. Conducting watershed analyses, restoring aquatic habitats, and improving or closing forest roads are all actions that support the goals of the *Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds*.

All watershed analyses are slated to be completed by 2011, and take place at a rate of two per year. Based on the results of watershed analysis, aquatic habitat restoration projects are designed to mimic natural processes. This action supports the Oregon Plan by promoting aquatic habitat conditions for short-term survival needs of depressed salmonid populations.

ODF constructs roads in the best locations for carrying out anticipated activities, making sure each road is a suitable match for the terrain and type of access needed. Roads are effectively maintained to prevent degradation to other forest resources. Proper road system planning and design, as well as construction and maintenance, prevent or minimize impacts on aquatic resources, and significantly extends the useful life of forest roads.

Some roads on state forest lands were built using older measures not up to the current more environmentally sensitive standards; in some cases, these roads were built in locations where they could potentially impair aquatic resources. ODF closes or abandons unnecessary roads, and where appropriate, the land is returned to active forest management. This contributes to the Oregon Plan by identifying and reducing the risk that roads pose to water quality and salmonid habitat. Road closures are planned at about 29-49 miles a year.

In short, it's been a spirit of teamwork and cooperation between public and private agencies, private landowners, the general public and others that's providing the continued impetus needed to conserve and restore habitat for coastal coho around the state.



*Here are just a few examples of other types of activities and projects around the state that have helped make a difference:*

**Willamette Basin: Ames Creek Restoration**

It started with Forest Service biologist Todd Buchholz looking for a convenient outdoor classroom for his Sweet Home High School science students. What he found hidden among the blackberry and ivy-choked banks of Sweet Home's Sankey Park was a creek with eroding banks that had become a dumping ground for old tires and trash, and an abandoned mill dam blocking fish passage. Ames Creek once was home to thriving populations of cutthroat trout, steelhead, and salmon. According to the students' water quality testing and inventory, despite appearances, the creek appeared to be an excellent candidate for restoration. The South Santiam Watershed Council took up the challenge with a host of local, state, and federal government agencies, private industry, citizen groups, landowners, and of course, students. A grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) helped fund the project's goals of restoring native vegetation and enhancing wetlands to improve riparian and instream habitat. What started as an educational experience for a small group of students turned into a community learning opportunity about valuing and restoring a natural treasure in its midst.

**Deschutes Basin: Buck Hollow Watershed Enhancement**

Native grasslands that covered a place called Buck Hollow until the mid 1800's protected its soils from erosion and kept fish streams healthy. Aware of the harmful impacts of 19th century sheep and cattle grazing practices, one hundred and fifty years later the landowners of Buck Hollow joined with the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to restore the entire watershed. The main catalyst for the Buck Hollow Watershed Enhancement Project was stopping the periodic flash floods that occurred in the disturbed landscape. These floods eroded hillsides, damaged remaining native vegetation, destroyed fish habitat, and drained the uplands that would otherwise store and slowly release precious water through late summer.

Wasco County SWCD worked with Buck Hollow landowners to restore proper watershed function, reduce runoff and erosion,

lower peak flows, and increase water quantity late in the season. Work was completed with a series of grants from state and federal agencies, as well as financial contributions from more than 50 participating landowners. In less than 15 years the project made remarkable progress toward improving water quality and restoring watershed function. Every year since the project began, steelhead spawning counts have increased – holding the promise of “flashing fish” instead of “flash floods” – for the next generation of Buck Hollow families.

**The Umpqua Basin - Lane and Judd Creek Stream Enhancement**

Two major landowners on Lane and Judd creeks wanted to demonstrate industrial timber's commitment to the new statewide effort to restore salmon and watersheds. C&D Lumber and Silver Butte Timber, along with a tenant who leased grazing land from C&D, agreed to improve water quality in the creeks by increasing streamside vegetation and reducing erosion in the lowland grazing areas and the forested uplands. GWEB's grant of \$51,980, together with in-kind support from the landowners and state and federal agencies, made possible the fencing of sensitive riparian areas on either side of each creek to exclude livestock. To limit stream bank erosion and destruction of streamside vegetation, project partners constructed several hardened, designated stream crossings and constructed off-stream water troughs for livestock. A snorkel survey of coho salmon in the creeks on the first anniversary of the project found that coho presence had increased threefold.

These are just a few of the many ways Oregonians continue to prove their commitment to the **Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds**. In April, many individuals will be recognized at a special recognition event at the state capitol for their continuing efforts to support salmon runs and improve water quality. This spirit of teamwork and commitment is something all Oregonians can be proud of.

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*In short, it's been a spirit of teamwork and cooperation between public and private agencies, private landowners, the general public and others that's providing the continued impetus needed to conserve and restore habitat for coastal coho around the state.*

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## Board of Forestry adds invasive species, forest certification systems to list of priorities

*Dan Postrel, Director, ODF Agency Affairs*

The Oregon Board of Forestry has decided to add two topics – invasive species and the increasing use of forest certification systems – to its list of priority work items, after asking the public for help in shaping its agenda for 2006 and beyond.

The decisions came late last year, after the Board completed the first of what are

expected to be periodic “issue scans” intended to assist it in setting priorities for its own work and that of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

ODF staff are currently working to develop information that will help the Board formulate its plans for addressing the two new topics.

The invasive species issue has to do with growing concerns about the increasing presence of non-native plants and other organisms, and their effects on forest

ecosystems. The certification trend involves landowners’ adoption of standards – put forth by a variety of organizations – to ensure consumers that wood is grown using practices that support sustainability.

The issue scan, conducted during the last few months of 2005, has its roots in a system for organizing its work that the Board developed in December 2004. Through that system, the Board has adopted work plans to address seven broad issues deemed as high priority in sustaining Oregon’s forests.

Periodic issue scans are envisioned as a means of gaining input as to whether the Board has indeed focused on the most important issues, or whether adjustments are needed.

Last year’s issue scan drew more than 120 suggestions from more than 90 individuals or organizations. Participants included family forestland owners, representatives of industry and conservation groups, ODF employees and other interested parties. The suggestions covered a broad range of topics – state forest management, urban forestry, wood products marketing, stream-side buffers in harvest areas and much more.

All of the input was reviewed by staff and then by a work group that the Board had appointed to organize the material and provide recommendations. The Board then made final decisions.

The Board concluded that most of the suggestions were already covered by one of the Board’s existing seven work plans. However, the invasive species and certification issues emerged as topics to be addressed in new work plans.

The Board also called for additional staff work on other topics that may be incorporated into existing work plans or addressed by other means. These subjects included the conservation of oak savanna woodlands, concerns related to high-risk landslides, and a possible role for the Board or Department in the comprehensive review of the state’s land use system set in motion by a bill passed by the 2005 Legislature.

**To learn more:** Further information – including the Board’s seven existing work plans, full text of all issue scan input, and a matrix showing the Board’s final response to each suggestion – is available on the Web, at [www.Oregon.gov/odf/board](http://www.Oregon.gov/odf/board)



*Japanese knot weed, an invasive species in Oregon and other western states.*

Photo courtesy J.M. Swearingen, USDI National Park Service, [www.forestimages.org](http://www.forestimages.org)



## The City of Tigard:

# A great *Tree City USA* model

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Affairs Specialist

**T**ree City USA is a designation that cities can earn by meeting minimum requirements for community forestry programs at the municipal level. A program of the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the US Forest Service, *Tree City USA* recognizes cities that have developed programs that plant and care for trees.

To become a *Tree City USA*, a community must meet four standards:

- appoint a tree board, department or commission to advise the city on tree issues;
- adopt a tree care ordinance;
- spend \$2 per capita on community forestry activities and,
- hold an Arbor Day celebration.

The City of Tigard – part of the Portland metropolitan area located south of Beaverton and north of Tualatin – is a good example of how, with a little time and sweat equity, any city with the right level of commitment can step up and earn *Tree City USA* status. Matt Stine, city forester for the city, was first hired by Tigard in 2000 and well-remembers the qualification process.

“It was my job to get the city qualified for *Tree City USA* status,” says Stine, “and the first thing we did was to create a seven-member tree board through a city council resolution.” Five citizens and two planning commission members were selected to comprise Tigard’s tree board, whose first job was to work within existing guidelines and establish a municipal tree program for the management, maintenance, removal, replacement, and protection of trees on public property.

Although the Tigard City Council had passed a private property ordinance in 1996, the city didn’t have an ordinance for regulating trees on public property. “I was allowed to develop one while going through the city’s *Tree City USA* application process,” says Stine, “and thankfully, we finished it.” The city forester says he looked at several tree ordinances from cities around the country to get ideas. “Form a tree board, and look to other cities for ideas

about tree ordinances,” says Stine. Tigard’s public tree ordinance was passed in 1991.

The third requirement for becoming a *Tree City* – spending \$2 per capita on community forestry activities – is usually pretty easy for most cities to accomplish. If you’re in doubt – or looking for a list of ways to meet these criteria – Stine recommends contacting the Arbor Day Foundation or visiting their website ([www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)).

Stine is a big supporter of official Arbor Day observances – especially those that involve kids and schools – and Tigard issued their first Arbor Day proclamation in 2001. “The proclamation was very easy to do,” says Stine. “Our Mayor has to read it every year because the City of Tigard celebrates Arbor Day on a different day (in March or April) each year. We work closely with the schools to decide the date,” he adds.

Stine urges other cities who are engaged in qualifying for *Tree City USA* status to “get kids involved with Arbor Day, and have your mayor come and speak.” He also recommends contacting local members of the media, who are usually eager to cover community events – especially when those events include trees, schools, and kids.

Communities achieving *Tree City USA* status receive a walnut plaque, a *Tree City USA* flag with the program’s logo, and city entrance signs. There are *Tree City USA* communities in every state. Since 1976, 38 Oregon cities have obtained this status.

Cities that go beyond program minimums each year are eligible for the *Tree City USA Growth Award*. This advanced designation recognizes the efforts of cities that have conducted special projects, such as a comprehensive tree inventory, a community forest management plan, or a unique demonstration or educational event.

For more information about Tigard’s *Tree City USA* process, contact City Forester Matt Stine at 503-639-4171, ext. 2589.



TREE CITY USA

*Communities achieving Tree City USA status receive a walnut plaque, a Tree City USA flag with the program’s logo, and city entrance signs.*



*School children pose with former Tigard Mayor Jim Griffith in 2002.*



## Forest Resource Trust Program: Board of Forestry approves lower interest rate for Forest Research Trust

*Jeri Chase, ODF Public Affairs Specialist*

### What is the Forest Resource Trust?

The Forest Resource Trust is a program administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry to support family forest land-



Photo by Bob Johnson, ODF

*Landowner Nancy Pelton, Lane County, stands next to a twenty-three acre site - formerly an agricultural field - planted with Douglas-fir trees in 2002 using Forest Resource Trust funding. Good site preparation and attention to weed control paid off - with most of the trees reaching a height of six feet or more in four growing seasons.*

owners by providing funds to convert underproductive forest lands into healthy, productive forests. These lands either once had forests or are capable of growing forests, but may have been previously converted to agricultural uses, damaged by fire, or poorly managed.

Under the Forest Resource Trust, funds are advanced to the private landowner – up to \$100,000 every two years – that are used to establish an adequately stocked, free-to-grow forest stand. The landowner does not need to match this investment. When forest products are harvested, a percentage of the net revenue is paid back by the landowner to the trust for future forest investment. The landowner's property is not encumbered in any way by the contract with the trust – only a percentage of the future value of any forest products, with all rights completely transferable.

### Benefits of the Forest Resource Trust

The trust has enrolled 42 projects for a total of 1,350 acres since its inception in 1993. While clearly benefiting the family forest landowners who own these acreages, these forestlands ultimately provide benefits to all Oregonians by contributing to increased timber production, clean air and water resources, fish and wildlife habitat, economic stability, and visual beauty.

### Recent action by the Board of Forestry

At its meeting on January 4, 2006, the Board expressed continued support for the Forest Resource Trust and took action to invigorate the program. This included approval of temporary rules to lower the interest rate for the buyout option from 6.8 to 4.6 percent. Buyout refers to the process a landowner could use during the first 25 years of the contract to repay the trust funds. The buyout option rate is directly tied by administrative rule to 30-year government bond rates – which have decreased over the past ten years – so this board action reflects the current interest rate trend.

The board also directed the department to reconvene the Forest Resource Trust Advisory Committee – a statutory committee that provides recommendations to the Board about the trust program. The committee was directed to review the program and identify and recommend actions to improve its vitality, and to work with the department to simplify process and make this program more attractive to landowners. The department was also directed to work on rules that would enable periodic adjustment of the interest rate.

“These actions all reaffirm the Board’s support to the Forest Resource Trust,” said Ted Lorensen, Assistant State Forester. “The trust is unique to Oregon and a valuable tool for landowners and investment in the future of Oregon forests.”

“The department is committed to the Forest Resource Trust Program,” added Paul Bell, ODF Private Forests Program Director. “The actions taken by the Board are a good step to increase landowner commitment to the program, as well. We look forward to other recommendations that may be brought to the table during the advisory committee process to continue adding to the viability of the trust.”

### What’s next?

The department is actively working to implement the recommendations of the board and the advisory committee will convene soon to begin the work directed by the board.

“We are excited by the possibility of making this a more useful program for family forestland owners,” said Steve Vaught, ODF Field Coordinator. “We are already seeing renewed interest and expect that interest to increase as we work with the advisory committee and the board to further improve the program. We have funds available in the trust for investment and want to see those funds used as intended.”

“We want to hear from Oregon’s landowner community,” added Lanny Quackenbush, ODF Private Forests Opera-

tions Manager. “We want to know what they think about the program and what they think would make it better. In the long-run, this is *their* program for investment in *their* forests.”

### Find out more

A unique feature of the Forest Resource Trust Program is that family forestland owners may apply any time throughout the year – there is no application deadline. For more information about the trust, including eligibility requirements and application materials go to [www.oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE FORESTS/frt](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE_FORESTS/frt). To find out how to contact your local Stewardship Forester who can help you with your goals for your forestlands, including applying for the Forest Resource Trust Program, go to [www.oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE FORESTS/odfsf.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE_FORESTS/odfsf.shtml).

To comment on the program or find out about the work of the advisory committee, contact Lanny Quackenbush at 503-945-7478) or Steve Vaught at 503-945-7393.



Photo by Jeff Classen, ODF

*Steve Vaught, ODF, examining Douglas-fir tree growth from 2005. Using Forest Resource Trust funding, 18 acres of this Polk County farm were planted in 2000 with a mix of Willamette Valley ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir, western redcedar, and Oregon ash.*



# Efforts well underway to reestablish ponderosa pine in the Willamette Valley

*Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Affairs Specialist*

Since 1850, the presence of Willamette Valley ponderosa pine has declined due to harvesting, land conversion for urban and agricultural uses, and forest succession. It is also thought that the exclusion of fire from the valley has allowed other species to thrive, and has prevented the regeneration of ponderosa pine.

In 1996, concern about the dwindling supply of native Willamette Valley ponderosa pine and the realization that the local source could not be replaced with eastside sources led to the formation of the *Willamette Valley*

common along rivers and sloughs on some fairly wet sites. Valley ponderosa pine is currently being planted on very dry sites, as well as on wet sites where Douglas-fir does not do well. Like other conifers, it responds well to weeding and fertilization, but is not tolerant of certain common herbicides, so care needs to be taken in applying chemicals around new plantings.

The potential to grow ponderosa pine on soils that are considered marginal for other tree species is significant. Thousands of potential planting sites exist across the Willamette Valley, and in many areas, pine plantations can coexist quite well with livestock grazing or other rural land uses. By planting pine, farmers and small family forestland owners are hoping to reap substantial economic and ecological benefits in future years.

One thing is certain: the genetics of ponderosa found west of the Cascades is different from that of its counterpart in Eastern Oregon. "If you plant ponderosa west of the Cascades, make sure you're not using an eastern seed source because your trees will start to die out in 20 - 25 years," says Bob McNitt, executive director of the Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine Conservation Association. Indeed, a study done near Corvallis indicates that while trees grown from eastern seed sources may survive 15 to 20 years, they aren't likely to reach mature size and may become carriers for all sorts of pine pests.

## Planting

Make sure your site is free of weeds and grass for the first few years. Competing vegetation puts moisture stress on newly planted trees and is a primary cause of plantation failure. Whether you use herbicides, mulch mats, or hoeing, you must control vegetation to ensure the seedlings' survival and growth. An adequate weed-free space around each tree generally is thought to be a radius of about two to three feet for the first three years. Common spacing for newly



Photo by Mike Barsotti, ODF

**Foreground — Valley ponderosa pine saplings established on a Yamhill County farm as part of a thirty-six acre FRT project. The project also included establishment of Douglas-fir on a field and restoration of an Oregon white oak site.**

*Ponderosa Pine Conservation Association* (WVPPCA). This group seeks to reestablish the native strain of Willamette Valley ponderosa pine for genetic conservation and future timber, wildlife, and urban uses.

One of the first projects WVPPCA members undertook was the mapping of ponderosa pine stands found throughout the Willamette Valley. The association has mapped more than 900 stands between Beaverton and Cottage Grove. Willamette Valley ponderosa pine seems to reach its maximum growth potential on the deep, well-drained farm sites near the Willamette Valley floor, and generally, native pine are found only at elevations below 1,000 feet. Ponderosa pine is commonly associated with oaks on drier sites and is

planted ponderosa pine plantings is about ten to twelve feet apart. On most sites, ponderosas are expected to grow nearly one hundred feet in the first fifty years.

Discuss any site or planting questions with your Oregon State University (OSU) Extension forester or your local ODF stewardship forester *before* planting.

**Insects and disease**

There is still much to learn about its silviculture, but young plantations seem to be capable of densities similar to its Douglas-fir counterparts. Willamette Valley ponderosa pine has been very successful as a component of farmland, and mixes well with grazing. As with any plant, there are any number of insects and diseases that can cause problems. The most severe include Ips bark beetle and Ponderosa Pine cone beetle.

“We think we’ll be able to control it,” says Dave Overhulser, ODF’s Forest Entomologist, “IPS and cone beetle are more or less established pests.” IPS prefers to infest green slash or downed trees. The first sign of beetle activity is orange-brown boring dust pouring out of bark crevices.

Even without large acreages of ponderosa pine, IPS is already a problem in the valley, particularly in drought years. “Preventive measures around slash creation and disposal are especially important,” says Overhulser.

The association seeks to further the work done to restore ponderosa pine to the Willamette Valley through research, education and increased availability of seed from the local race of pines. To date, over 600 native stands have been mapped, and about 150 parents have been grafted into a seed orchard near St. Paul, Oregon, and should begin producing seed in the next couple of years. In the meantime, seed collections from existing Willamette Valley ponderosa pine stands have been used to produce seedlings, which now account for more than one million planted each year in the Willamette Valley.

**Seed availability**

“Right now, one of the limiting factors in tree planting is seed availability because natural cone crops are very infrequent and get hammered by insects,” says ODF Forest Geneticist Sara Lipow. “We anticipate we’ll

be alleviating these seed shortages once the seed gets produced in the next year or two,” she adds.

Most of the work is being done by ODF’s JE Schroeder Seed Orchard. It has a two-fold goal: to serve as a gene repository to make sure genetic variation exists in native stands, and, to have an assured seed supply.

**Challenges and opportunities**

One current challenge is where to market ponderosa pine logs. With little current supply available, no mills in the area cut ponderosa, so landowners must ship their logs to the eastside or to southern Oregon. As the millions of currently planted trees come on line in 30-40 years, this new raw material should stimulate a better market.

Establishing a demonstration pine forest at the Oregon Garden in Silverton is underway. The demonstration forest will consist of four sections: pure oak savanna, Oak / pine forest, a Valley pine plantation, and an Eastern Oregon pine forest. Tree planting took place in 2004, so it may be at least another 4-5 years before the sites attract visitors. The group is also working towards developing some incentives for small landowners, including those with farmland, to plant pine on their property. And the association will continue to work with the US Forest Service, OSU Extension and others to address insect and disease issues of Willamette Valley ponderosa pine, especially the cone beetle and IPS.

If you would like more information about the reestablishment of Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine, the Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine Conservation Association, or for a copy of the recently completed publication, “Establishing and Managing Ponderosa Pine in the Willamette Valley,” contact Bob McNitt at 503- 769-2520, Rick Fletcher, OSU Extension at 541-766-6750 or visit [www.westernforestry.org/wvppca/](http://www.westernforestry.org/wvppca/).



Photo by Mike Barsotti, ODF

*Lon Rankin, Linn County’s 2005 Tree Farmer of the Year with his young Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine plantation. Rankin’s property was part of the Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine Conservation Association’s 2005 Summer Tour.*

# Influx of information a new beginning

## *State Forests Program Looks for Ongoing Conversation with Board of Forestry and Stakeholders*

*Jeff Foreman, ODF Public Affairs Specialist*

**L**ots of information – performance measures, computer modeling, second-party assessment and statewide public opinion survey results – will all come before the Oregon Board of Forestry this spring.

And it's only the beginning.

The State Forests Program that manages about 780,000 acres of forestland in Oregon wants an ongoing conversation with the board and with stakeholders, says Lisa DeBruyckere, who directs the program.

Long-range plans for state-managed forestland in northwest and southwest Oregon were approved by the Board in 2001. Major reviews are called for every 10 years. The first comes in 2011.

"We're establishing annual performance measures to provide the Board of Forestry and our constituents with a level of certainty that we are achieving greatest permanent value on state forestlands," said DeBruyckere.

It's all part of adaptive management, where assumptions are tested and adjustments are made that lead to constant improvements. Then the cycle begins again. The continuous improvement process also is open to new, important scientific information as it becomes available.

But how can you get anything done when you're constantly changing?

"We need to be timely in incorporating change into our normal planning and implementation cycle," DeBruyckere said. "But we can't create inefficiencies in the field. If changes need to be made, they should be smooth and not result in backtracking."

Planning for timber harvest operations often takes three years because of the re-

quired surveying for threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

The fine line between timely change and operational efficiency needs to be found, acknowledged and accepted by all interested parties, DeBruyckere said.

The fortuitous coming together of these studies allows the board to consider a range of information as it weighs possible shifts in forest management plan policy. The board will need to apply the "greatest permanent value" administrative rule to its decisions on these state-owned forestlands.

Under the administrative rule, greatest permanent value means healthy, productive and sustainable forest ecosystems that over time and across the landscape provide a full range of social, economic and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon.

The board also will consider whether to pursue a habitat conservation plan, an agreement with federal agencies for protective measures that preclude the need for surveying.

### **Harvest and Habitat Model Project**

Weighing the pros and cons of a habitat conservation plan (HCP) will be aided by the recently completed Harvest and Habitat Model Project. An analysis was done to compare the outputs of the current forest management plans using an HCP with the plans using take avoidance (surveying for species).

The study found that take avoidance increased short-term harvests, but produced lower long-term harvests when compared to the current plan with an HCP. For the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests in the first decade, take avoidance produced 213 million board feet (mmbf) a year. Using an HCP in those first 10 years produced 177 mmbf a year.



About 30 years in the future, harvest volume for both take avoidance and HCP evened out, then the HCP strategy began to show increased harvests. Over 150 years, managing with an HCP produced 180 mmbf a year, while take avoidance produced 161 mmbf a year.

A board foot is a unit of wood that measures a foot square and an inch thick. There are about 13,000 board feet of framing lumber in an average house and 7,000 board feet of plywood or similar panels. A total of 180 mmbf would provide enough wood to construct 9,000 homes.

Another finding from the study found that changing complex structure goals could increase or decrease harvest. The current plans are being implemented to achieve 50 percent complex structure, a forest condition with a combination of larger and smaller trees, snags and decaying logs. The plan calls for a range of 40 to 60 percent.

Under the current management with an HCP for Tillamook and Clatsop state forests, if the complex structure goal was changed from 50 to 40 percent, the first decade annual harvest levels increase from 177 mmbf to 194 mmbf. If the complex structure goal was changed to 60 percent, annual harvest levels decreased to 159 mmbf.

In addition to examining the current plans with an HCP and with take avoidance, the study looked at two additional alternatives – wood emphasis and reserve based – that fall outside of the approved current management plans.

The wood-emphasis model produced an annual harvest level of 246 mmbf over 150 years on the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests, with complex structure fluctuating between two and 12 percent of the forest. The reserve-based model produced an annual harvest level of 106 mmbf over 150 years, while achieving complex structure on 60 percent of the forest.

### Second-Party Assessment

If the Harvest and Habitat Model Project forecasts potential futures for state forestland, then the second-party assessment gauges the current state of affairs. The assessment by a contractor not affiliated with ODF was designed to see if “we’re doing what we said we were going to do.”

Completed in March, the assessment was seen as a way to give the board an overall picture after four years of forest management under the plans for northwest and southwest Oregon. The assessment checked the implementation of the forest management plans, ranging from staff understanding of the plans to actual on-the-ground evaluations in the field to see if objectives were being met.

The program plans to use the assessment to identify gaps in information. The assessment may ultimately position the program to conduct a third-party audit prior to certification by an established certifier such as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

DeBruyckere said assessments will become part of an ongoing review of the program. “It helps us because we learn from others (conducting the assessments) and it provides us with a credible platform for dialog with stakeholders,” she said.

### Public Opinion Research

Adding to the information brought before the board was a report on a public opinion survey of Oregonians conducted by an independent contractor in April. Also in the report were results from citizen focus groups from Portland and Coos Bay and a stakeholder focus group.

(Editor’s note: The results and analysis of the survey and focus groups were not available in time to be included in this story.)

The State Forests Program initiated a public trends survey to obtain and evaluate the opinions of Oregon residents on state forest management issues. These results are intended to provide baseline data for subsequent surveys every two years.

Issues explored included public awareness and perception of how ODF manages forestlands, general knowledge of state forestlands and the importance of forests and forest values.

“We’ll be able to use information from the biennial trends survey to assess changes in perceptions and attitudes of state forest management and policies over time,” said DeBruyckere.



*Lisa DeBruyckere,  
State Forests  
Program Director*

# Tillamook Forest Center Opens to Public



*The Tillamook State Forest Center opened its doors to visitors for the first time this spring.*

The new Tillamook Forest Center – fresh from a dedication ceremony – opened its doors to the public for the first time Saturday, April 1, celebrating the start of Arbor Week.

The new visitor and education facility center is located 50 miles west of Portland on the Wilson River Highway (Oregon 6) in the heart of the former “Tillamook Burn,” which is today’s Tillamook State Forest.

Admission is free and the center will be open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through April. Beginning in May, it’s open seven days a week until 6 p.m.

At the dedication March 31, officials praised the efforts of the public-private partnership that turned the dream of a center into a reality. No tax dollars were used to build the \$10.7 million center.

“This new special place is a gift to Oregon,” said Gov. Ted Kulongoski in a statement read by State Forester Marvin Brown. “It reminds us about the spirit of Oregonians who came together in adversity to literally re-make a landscape from ashes.”

Today’s Tillamook State Forest, still recovering from a series of devastating wildfires in the 1930s and 1940s, is regarded as one of the largest forest planting efforts ever

undertaken. Following the fires, thousands of Oregonians, many of them schoolchildren and volunteers, helped plant more than 72 million Douglas-fir seedlings across the blackened landscape.

During the dedication ceremony, the area where the center sits was inducted into the Oregon Heritage Tree program, recognizing the grove of trees as historically significant. The forested site was planted entirely by schoolchildren in the 1950s.



Photos by Frank Evans, ODF

*A young visitor appears mesmerized by lifelike salmon in the streambed model.*

The center – with its 40-foot tall replica of a fire lookout and dramatic 250-foot-long suspension bridge for pedestrians across the Wilson River – offers visitors an opportunity to see how their lives are connected with forests.

Visitors can explore the past, present and future of the Tillamook State Forest through artifacts, personal stories, photos, film, exhibits, games, hands-on models, computer simulations and interpreter-led programs.

Outdoors, the forest comes alive for visitors with salmon watching viewpoints and a network of interpretive trails. Grand opening activities throughout Arbor Week included guided hikes on the interpretive trails.

For more information about the center, call (503) 815-6800 or visit on-line at [www.tillamookforestcenter.org](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org).



*Center hours will be open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through April. Beginning in May, it’s open seven days a week until 6 p.m. Admission is free.*

# Wildfire protection plans proving their worth to communities

Rod Nichols, ODF Public Affairs Specialist

## Near miss prompts action

When the Herman Creek Fire exploded about a mile from the community of Cascade Locks, Oregon, wildland firefighter Dennis Klein knew he had little time to stop it.

"We watched it scream on by. It ripped down that mile in about 20 minutes," Klein said.

Quick reaction by both structural and wildland fire agencies spared the town from the wind-whipped blaze, which claimed only a bed-and-breakfast, an abandoned house and a barn. But this near-miss in September 2003 prompted community leaders to take action to ward off future disasters.

Their concern culminated in the Cascade Locks Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP for short), completed in January 2005. A collaborative effort of the City, Hood River County Fire Defense Board and the Oregon Department of Forestry, the plan has already potentially netted a half-million dollars in grants to perform much-needed fuel reduction work in and around the town.

Research conducted for the plan identified the extent of the fuel-loading problem. Two-thirds of the planning area received a high wildfire hazard rating due to the presence of large trees with a heavy brush understory.

"With the completion of the CWPP, fire prevention projects identified and prioritized in the plan can now be funded by the National Fire Plan and other sources to reduce these hazardous fuels," said Ann Walker, the Department of Forestry's National Fire Plan coordinator. "These collaboratively developed plans enable communities to strategically reduce threats to values identified through the planning processes as 'at risk.'"

Walker noted that for small communities with little revenue, such grants are vital

to implementing fire prevention plans.

While the grant dollars will be applied chiefly to landscape-level fuels work, the plan also advises homeowners on steps they can take to lower wildfire risk at the individual lot level. This two-pronged approach is crucial, since fire planners assigned a high hazard rating to nearly a third of the homes in the community.

According to plan author James Hulbert, the community fire planning process also served as an educational tool for the residents of Cascade Locks.

"A lot of the work will have to be done by the community itself," Hulbert said, "and the plan engaged people to look out for their own best interest, as well as the community as a whole."

## More CWPP success stories: Josephine County

The massive 2002 Biscuit fire posed a threat to lives and structures in several southwestern Oregon communities. Not long after firefighters achieved control of the half-million-acre blaze, Josephine County citizens and local government officials rose to action. They organized a collaborative planning effort that produced the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan.

The plan was designed to reduce the vulnerability of the county's many wildland-urban interface areas to wildfire. So outstanding was the final product that it netted a statewide award as the Outstanding Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for 2005. The honor was bestowed by Partners for Disaster Resistance, a multi-entity collaboration whose aim is to help Oregon communities prepare for an array of large-scale hazards, including wildfire.

Last summer, Josephine County's plan was put to its first major test when the 1,600-acre Deer Creek Fire struck near Selma, Oregon. The fast-moving blaze destroyed five homes and threatened more

*Continued on page 17*

*"These collaboratively developed plans enable communities to strategically reduce (wildfire) threats."*

# Improved technology, techniques boost operator fire safety

*Rod Nichols, ODF Public Affairs Specialist*

In 1985, fires caused by forest operators peaked at 10 percent of the total human-caused wildfires in Oregon. Today, forest operations account for a mere five percent. Certainly, some of the decline can be attributed to the contraction of the forest industry. But Oregon still harvests a lot of timber, both at the industrial and family forestland scales. The operator community – loggers and road builders – deserves a good



Photo courtesy AOL

*When feller-bunchers first arrived on the logging scene, a number of fires were associated with their use. Fortunately, over the years technological innovations have dramatically reduced fire starts from these mobile harvesters.*

share of the credit for the improved wildfire statistics.

Over the years, they have steadily refined harvest practices and stepped up fire prevention awareness. This diligence has paid off. Forest fires caused by recreation and other activities unrelated to timber harvest have actually surpassed the total fires and acres burned linked to forest operations.

## **Culture of safety**

For today's forest operator, fire prevention has become ingrained as a normal part of business. This culture of safety protects workers, contains operating costs and preserves the timber resource. Operators developed Oregon's fire regulations in

concert with landowners and the Oregon Department of Forestry. As a result, compliance with rules is high, including the requirements for:

- water supply, fire tools and extinguishers
- firewatch and communication
- cable-yarding precautions
- spark arresters for power saws
- preparedness and action to control fires

## **Mechanization**

The advent of cable logging with a motorized carriage enabled loggers to harvest timber on steep terrain with very little disturbance to the soil. Advances in this light-on-the-land method have dramatically reduced sparking and other causes of ignition.

Mechanical logging equipment is designed to be fire-safe, but machines can get out of adjustment and cause fires. Today, state-of-the-art electronic diagnostics have not only improved work performance but also reduced malfunctions that can lead to combustion or sparking.

The technique of tree-length yarding concentrates cutting operations at the landing. This reduces the amount of saw work in the brush where sparks are tougher to detect.

When feller-bunchers, or "hotsaws," arrived on the logging scene, they were rightly hailed as a leap forward in efficiency. However, the machines had a downside: A number of fires were associated with their early use. The high-speed cutting heads could quickly heat wood to smoldering. But over the years, technological innovations have dramatically reduced fire starts from these mobile harvesters.

*Continued next page*

## Landowner fire prevention checklist

With fire season 2006 still a ways off, now is the time for forest landowners to see that their firefighting equipment is in good working order. Gear should always be cleaned and serviced in the fall before being stored. A spring review will ensure all the tools, pumps and other equipment are present and still check out OK.

### Fire tools

- Store fire tools in a toolbox marked "Fire Tools"
- Clean tools to remove mud and dirt
- Check and repair/replace damaged or worn handles
- Sharpen all tools including shovels
- Spray tools with a tool coating to prevent rust

### Portable pumps

- Make sure crankcase oil (four-stroke engines) is clean
- Clean and gap spark plug
- Check spark arrester and repair/replace as needed

- Grease pump bearing (if applicable)

### Backpack pumps

- Lubricate slide with silicone spray
- Lubricate threads on caps and any quick disconnects on hoses
- Wipe down rubber backpacks with protectant

### Firehose

- Test hoses for leaks and repair/replace as needed
- Inspect couplings for damaged threads and appropriate gaskets



*Operators deserve much of the credit for the low incidence of logging-related wildfires. They follow a myriad of precautions to prevent fire starts, as well as to quickly snuff any fires that accidentally ignite.*

## Wildfire Protection (continued from page 15)

than 100 others. But two follow-up forums held under the auspices of the Integrated Fire Plan determined that operations, response and evacuation functioned better during the Deer Creek fire than a previous wildfire in 2004. Much of the credit goes to interagency communication developed during the planning process that resulted in stronger coordination during the incident.

A key take-home message from the Deer Creek Fire is that large wildfires can still happen despite a plan being in place and actively implemented. The forest fuel treatments outlined in the plan will take years to complete and require a sustained commitment from the community.

### Eastern Oregon communities also addressing at-risk areas

When wildland-urban interface boundaries were drawn in Oregon's arid Baker County, Woodtick Village and Rattlesnake Estates nearly maxed out the score sheet used

to gauge wildfire risk. More than 90 structures lie within the wildland-urban interface (WUI), and the recreational/retirement communities have no structural fire protection. Poor vehicle access and abundant fuels further exacerbate the wildfire threat.

When the Baker County Community Wildfire Protection Plan designated the communities as "highest priority," this enabled coordinators to seek grant funds to treat fuels on 400 acres of private lands. A pending National Fire Plan grant for just over \$200,000 would fund fuel-reduction work targeted for completion by December 2008. An intensive education program will teach residents what they can do to create defensible space on their property through fire-resistant landscaping, fuels treatment and other prevention measures. And, on adjacent federal lands, thinning and prescribed burning have been scheduled to reduce the threat of fires carrying over to the homes nearby.

## STATE OF THE ART

# Stewardship foresters discuss reforestation, wetlands, and other topics during winter field training



*The group visited this cultivated wetland riparian management area below, to discuss wetland properties and forest practice rules.*



Photos by Tod Haren, ODF

*ODF Stewardship Forester Ole Buch, West Lane, organized a field training for ODF's stewardship foresters in December. The conference focused on ways to promote more efficiency and effectiveness within ODF's Private and Community Forest Program. Here, the group stopped to discuss wetland issues around the state.*

*A later tour stop on a wintry afternoon, right, allowed participants to discuss reforestation requirements and "free to grow" issues.*



Photos by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

### Forest industry directory can help you with wood issues

Where do you connect with people who could use your wood? The Oregon Forest Industry Directory (OFID) at [www.orforestdirectory.com](http://www.orforestdirectory.com) contains nearly 1,600 listings for all sectors of Oregon's forest industry, including large and small sawmills, cabinet and furniture makers, small woodland owners and others. Users can search the directory by any combination of company name, county (or region), species, products purchased or produced, residue available (chips, bark, etc.) or services provided. With funding from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, the directory is a joint project of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, the Oregon State University Forestry Extension and the Northwest Wood Products Association. ■

### Urban forestry efforts move forward in Eastern Oregon

An inventory of trees in the City of Redmond is showing the numbers of public trees there is exceeding prior city estimates. Funded in part by ODF grant dollars, the inventory is a tool the city's arborist can use to calculate the worth of public trees, ensure a diversity of planted tree types and efficiently schedule maintenance projects. Redmond's mayor, city council, local citizens and city staff are all part of a growing support for urban forestry efforts in Redmond.

With technical assistance from ODF, in December, Redmond adopted a public tree ordinance and initiated an urban forestry program which was recognized during this year's Arbor Week events with a Tree City USA award.

The City of Prineville is also busy giving its full backing to improvements to the city's urban forest. Through a small grant and technical assistance from ODF, on April 1, local volunteers planted trees that will become part of a planned arboretum near the city's industrial park - conveniently located just before entering the city on its west side. Senior planner Dave Reesor heads the project, and has been excited about the overwhelming response he's received from the citizens of Prineville. In addition, a local Prineville citizen and business owner has stepped forward with more than \$2,000 to help pay for additional trees.

"The enthusiasm surrounding this project seems to be contagious, stimulating discussion on the development of a needed urban forestry program that could give the city Tree City USA status," says Urban Forester Katie Lompa. ■

### Updates to protection rules for fish-bearing streams, resource sites

Updates on forest practices issues related to fish-bearing stream and resource site protection rules were provided at Regional Forest Practice Advisory Committee meetings that were open to the public in early April. A recent assessment by the Department of Forestry has shown that current Forest Practices Act rules were not specifically designed to retain significant sources of large wood along small debris torrent-prone streams. Presently, ODF is proposing rule changes related to stream classification and in-unit leave trees (trees required to be left in areas harvested for timber) to increase the possibility that large wood will enter debris torrent-prone streams, and enhance fish habitat.

During the meetings, committee members were asked to provide input about how to effectively and efficiently implement these proposed rules. Input was also sought on how to develop an Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Voluntary Measures Project, as directed by the Board of Forestry. The Oregon Plan, through voluntary and regulatory actions, aims to restore watershed health, water quality and habitat for native salmon and trout through the collaborative efforts of landowners, community groups, watershed councils and other agencies and organizations. The department will be working with various stakeholders and interest groups over the next few months to finalize this project by the fall of 2006. At that time, new and revised Oregon Plan voluntary measures for forestlands will be brought before the Board of Forestry for their approval. For more information, contact Jo Morgan, Aquatic Policy Analyst, at 503-945-7469. ■

### Soil information web site

The Natural Resources Conservation Service recently developed a new user-friendly soils Internet site. Simply click on a map to locate information about the soils in a given geographic area. To try it out, visit: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov> ■

### New forestry offerings at OSU

Oregon State University has one of the oldest and most well known forestry programs in the US. But until 2005 and 2006, there had never been an urban forestry course taught at OSU. In cooperation with the Department of Forestry, OSU recently offered a survey course in Urban Forestry and Urban Horticulture, taught by ODF Urban Forester Paul Ries, who has been appointed as an affiliate faculty member in the OSU College of Forestry. The courses were well accepted by students, and discussions are underway to expand OSU's urban forestry offerings. ■

### Celebrate Earth Day at Silverton

Join environmental groups from around the area and state in celebrating Oregon's environment with an Earth Day celebration at The Oregon Garden in Silverton. This year's theme is "Climate Solutions," and the Saturday, April 22 event includes exhibits, hands-on activities, presentations, tours, and demonstrations. The event takes place from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information, contact Renee at 503-584-7252. ■

### May WoodFest aims to celebrate Oregon's forest heritage

Don't miss Oregon's WoodFest 2006, a hands-on educational celebration of Oregon's forest heritage being held adjacent to the World Forestry Center in Portland's Washington Park on Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event is intended to help Oregonians more fully appreciate wood and the forest sector's environmental and sustainability commitments and technological sophistication, as well as its contributions toward maintaining a vibrant Oregon economy. Those who attend will find activities of interest to every member of the family. Admission is free. Besides OSU, OFRI and the World Forestry Center, WoodFest sponsors include the Guild of Oregon Woodworkers, Anderson Wood Company and Weyerhaeuser. ■

## Forestry Calendar of Public Meetings

April 6	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	West Oregon Forest Protective Association Spring meeting	ODF District Headquarters Philomath
April 6	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	West Oregon Forest Protective Association Budget Hearing	ODF District Headquarters Philomath
April 10	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Eastern Oregon Forest Practice Regional Committee Meeting	Best Western Prineville Inn, Prineville
April 11	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m..	Committee for Family Forestlands	Sunpass Room, Salem
April 12	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest Management Indicators	Tillamook Room, Salem
May 6	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..	Wood Fest 2006	World Forestry Center, Portland
July 29	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Oregon Tree Farm System's Annual Tour	Kintigh property, Eugene (Tentative) Phone 541-741-9833 for more information



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY**  
**2600 STATE STREET**  
**SALEM, OR 97310**