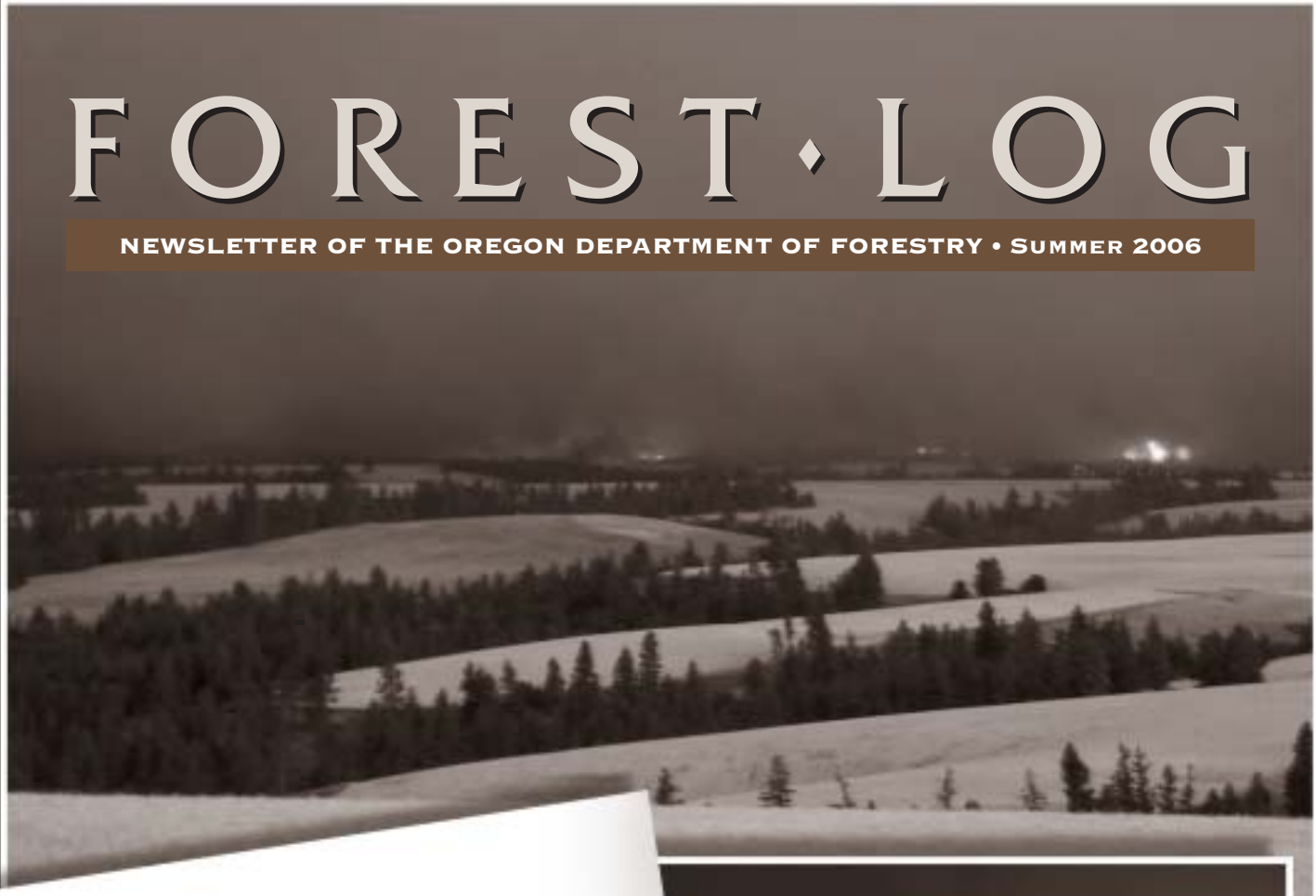
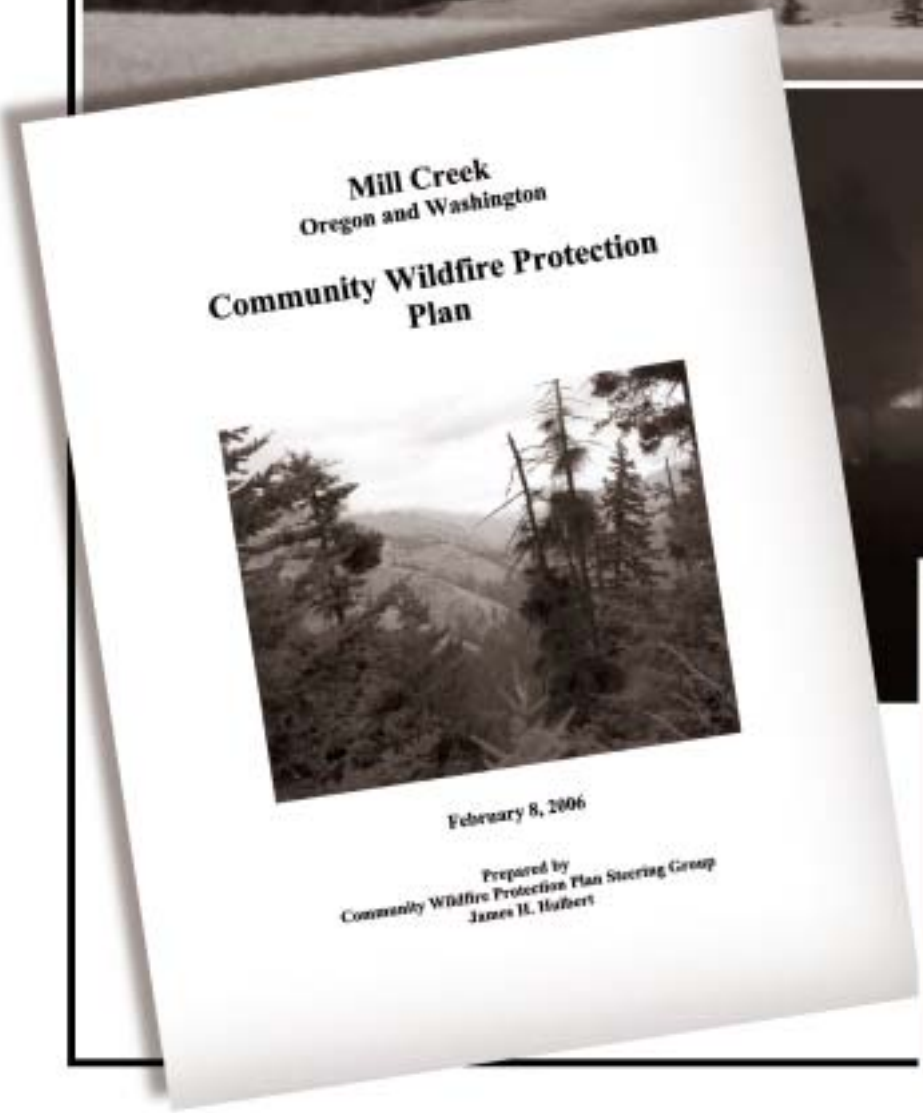
# FOREST • LOG

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY • SUMMER 2006





Mill Creek
Oregon and Washington

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

February 8, 2006

Prepared by
Community Wildfire Protection Plan Steering Group
James H. Hulbert

## Inside:


- Classrooms on the Sun Pass
- Horse Camping
- Community Fire Prevention in Northeast Oregon
- Urban Forest Management in Hillsboro

**Also inside: ODF's 2005 Annual Report**

# From the State Forester

**State Forester Marvin Brown**

Those of us who are fortunate to work in the forestry profession in Oregon know first hand that forests provide extraordinary value to our state. Whether it's by providing economic contributions, clean water, wildlife habitat, scenic vistas or great recreation opportunities, forests are part of what makes Oregon – well, Oregon. If there's a theme that runs through this edition of the Forest Log, it's that we foresters are by no means alone in recognizing – and working to enhance – these diverse values. Many of the stories on the following pages are about the combined efforts of volunteers, non-profit groups, business people, government agencies and others in enhancing and maintaining the value of our forests.

A good place to start is with the cover story, about community wildfire planning in a watershed that straddles the Oregon-Washington border northeast of Pendleton. Community wildfire planning is fundamentally about collaboration, bringing federal, state, and local agencies together with landowners and other citizens to protect communities from this serious threat.

*Many of the stories on the following pages are about the combined efforts of volunteers, non-profit groups, business people, government agencies and others in enhancing and maintaining the value of our forests.*

The Mill Creek Community Wildfire Protection Plan does this on both sides of the border, protecting not only the source of drinking water for Walla Walla, Wash., but also homes and diverse forest resources throughout and beyond the 22,000-acre Mill Creek watershed.

Another example of collaboration involves the work of the Klamath Outdoor Science School in providing education opportunities in our Sun Pass State Forest for hundreds of school kids. Forestry education is vital if we are to instill appreciation and knowledge of forest values in new generations of Oregonians. The Klamath Outdoor Science School is up and running with completion of two yurts to accommodate overnight visitors, and more yurts planned to provide classroom space, a kitchen and other facilities. The effort involves contributions from private foundations, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Klamath County and many others.

For her leadership in this project, Anne Maloney, a stewardship forester in the department's Klamath-Lake District, has received the second annual Mary Rellergert Forestry Education Award. This honor is named for a dedicated ODF educator in the Tillamook State Forest. Congratulations, Anne, and all who are working with you on this great project!

There's more about collaboration in this issue of the Forest Log, including the story of horseback riding enthusiasts helping to develop horse camps in state forests, and 4-H volunteers chipping in to help with an urban-forestry tree inventory in Hillsboro. In the Hillsboro story, 4-H extension agent Lisa Conroy notes that 4-H kids who had never paid much attention to trees now notice street trees everywhere they go.

As this issue of the Forest Log shows, those kids are by no means alone in recognizing the many ways in which forests enrich us – and they're not the only ones stepping up to help. That's a very gratifying thing. ■

FOREST ♦ LOG

"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

**Summer Issue 2006**
**Volume 76, Number 3**

State Forester
**Marvin Brown**

Editor
**Cynthia Orlando, APR**

Writers
**Rod Nichols • Jeri Chase • Arlene Whalen • Jeff Foreman • Cynthia Orlando**

Special Contributors
**Dan Postrel**

Business & Circulation Manager
**Darlene Downey**

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

**Librarians, please note:** The last two issues of Forest Log - Winter and Spring '06 - were incorrectly labeled "Volume 75." They should have been labeled Volume 76, No's 1 & 2.

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

Periodical postage paid at
Salem, Oregon

Anyone may reprint, with credit to the Oregon Department of Forestry, any article or graphic in the Forest Log unless copyright is otherwise noted.

**www.oregon.gov/odf**

***Cover photos: Last year's 52,000-acre School Fire in Columbia and Garfield counties, Washington, emphasized the importance of wildfire protection plans.***

# Contents

From the State Forester ____ 2

Mill Creek Plan a Breakthrough in Fire Protection ____ 4

Science and Schoolchildren Connect on the Sun Pass ____ 6

Horse Camping Connects Riders to the Past ____ 8

Independent Study Finds ODF Successfully Following State Forest Plans ____ 11

Urban Planner Gets 4-H Volunteer Help Managing Hillsboro's 10,000+ Trees ____ 12

Remember to Visit Forestry at this Year's Oregon State Fair ____ 14

ODF News Briefs ____ 15

## Note from the Editor

*In this Summer issue you'll find not only the usual articles about forestry practices on private land, urban forestry, state forests and wildfire prevention, but also, tucked into the center of the publication, something else: ODF's* ***2005 Annual Report****. Check here for 2005 fire statistics, information about ODF's new web site, urban forestry accomplishments, annual revenue from your state forests, statistics about recreation use, and information about Area projects and programs.*

*For the past few months we've been busy with a redesign and makeover of sorts in terms of the Forest Log's format and design. While we aren't sure just yet when all of the changes - including a new publication name, "Forestry for Oregon," will take place - some changes have been underway since the Spring issue. You may have noticed a few things underway already, including different headline sizes and new sections such as the urban forestry* ***Trees in Town*** *page, and our new* ***News Briefs*** *area with short, newsy items about the Department.*

*More than likely, our new look will be finalized and the dust will have settled with our Fall issue. Stay tuned.*

*Cynthia Orlando*
*Editor, The Forest Log*

***A male Calliope hummingbird pauses while drinking from a feeder in Sublimity in May. Calliope Hummingbirds are a species of the high Cascades and Eastern Oregon, but visit Western Oregon during spring migration.***

Photo by Jim Liesch, ODF

# Mill Creek Plan a breakthrough in fire protection

*Rod Nichols, ODF Public Affairs Specialist*

*A severe wildfire sweeping through the Mill Creek watershed would degrade water quality and likely require installation of a multi-million-dollar filtration system to restore potability. . .*

For its scope alone – nearly 22,000 acres - the Mill Creek Community Wildfire Protection Plan deserves recognition. But in this era of conflict over the management of natural resources, the most remarkable aspect of the agreement may well be the diversity of its signatories.

Driven by the growing threat of wildfire to this critical watershed that straddles the Oregon-Washington border, federal, state and local entities overcame regulatory and institutional obstacles to craft a strategy that promises to protect human lives and property as well as natural resources. The breakthrough didn't come easy, according to Ann Walker, National Fire Plan coordinator with the Oregon Department of Forestry.

"A key step for the local participants was to understand the constraints on our federal partners and work through them," Walker said.

She cited as examples the National Environmental Policy Act rules that restrict the actions the USDA Forest Service can take on the ground, and the federal agency's dwindling budget for forest fuel-treatment projects.

In David King's view, the planning effort is already yielding long-term gains. "We are forging a collaborative and cooperative approach to fire prevention among numerous state, federal, county and private entities." King is protection unit forester for the Department of Forestry's Pendleton Unit.

Sponsored and funded by the City of Walla Walla, Washington, the Mill Creek Plan has a twofold aim: safeguard the city's water supply and protect the many homes located dangerously close to built-up forest fuels.

A severe wildfire sweeping through the Mill Creek watershed would degrade water quality and likely require installation of a multi-million-dollar filtration system to restore potability. Also, expanding development adjacent to the watershed has placed many year-round residences and vacation homes in the path of a potential fire.

In 2005, nearby large wildfires gave Mill Creek residents a chilling glimpse of what can happen. One of the blazes, the 52,000-acre School Fire, destroyed more than 200 structures in terrain that mirrors that of Mill Creek.

The Forest Service has taken numerous steps over the years to prevent fires from occurring within the watershed boundaries. Through the Community Wildfire Protection Plan process, participants recognized that the fire threat exists outside as well as inside the watershed. So, in addition to laying out strategies to

Photo courtesy of Pomroy Ranger District, Umatilla National Forest

*A truck's headlights pierce through smoke and haze at the 2005 School Fire.*

safeguard the watershed itself, the plan addresses protection of other important values.

"Wildfire also poses a threat to the community and the lands that surround Mill Creek," King said.

To gather baseline information for the plan, wildfire behavior specialists with the Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry and Washington Department of Natural Resources collaborated to identify likely points of origin for fires that could threaten the area. Other agency experts evaluated forest fuel conditions. Out of this initial assessment work came fuel-treatment projects designed to lower the severity of wildfires as they occur.

On the other side of the equation, the planning partners sought strategies to improve the firefighting response of the city, the local fire districts and the state and federal agencies. For all of the collaborators, declining funding is a key limiting factor for implementation of these strategies. Adoption of the Mill Creek Plan opens the possibility of obtaining financial assistance through the National Fire Plan, Healthy Forests Restoration Act, Federal Emergency Management Agency and other sources.

*A smoke column rises from the 2005 School Fire.*

Though completion of the Mill Creek Community Wildfire Protection Plan stands as a milestone, much of the work is just beginning. Fuel-treatment projects will be underway for years, as funds become available, to reduce the intensity of wildfires. And fire awareness education entails a long-term commitment to effect a downward trend in human-caused fires. ■

All photos provided by Pomeroy Ranger District, Umatilla National Forest.

# Science and Schoolchildren connect on the Sun Pass

*Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Affairs Specialist*

Anne Maloney, an ODF Stewardship Forester at Klamath Falls, is breathing a sigh of relief these days as she watches a project she's worked on for more than four years come to fruition. Much to the delight of ODF staff and Maloney's local community, the project - the construction of two yurts in the Sun Pass State Forest for the camping and instructional needs of local schools and elementary school children - finally opened this spring.

Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

*Schoolgirls with KOSS enjoy their lunches by a newly constructed fire ring. . .*

As part of her Stewardship Forester duties, in 2002 Maloney attended a meeting at which various natural resource agency representatives, school districts, environmental groups and individuals were discussing ideas for coordinating natural resource education efforts in the Upper Klamath Basin. It became apparent that a large number of participants were in favor of a local residence camp to instill an awareness and appreciation for the unique and outstanding natural resources in the area.

Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

*Ann Maloney, Ed Deblander and one of two yurts constructed on the Sun Pass State Forest.*

From this group, a separate Klamath Outdoor Science School group was formed.

"We looked at potential sites for about three years, including a site formerly owned by the Klamath tribes, and abandoned guard stations," says Maloney. For various reasons, nothing panned out.

That's when Maloney and the other members of the KOSS Board began to consider locating the yurts on state forest land. The idea was to provide the Klamath Outdoor Science School (KOSS) with a home base from which to conduct environmental education classes for local school children.

Maloney had the enthusiastic help and support of State Forests Unit Forester Ed DeBlander and District Forester Bill Hunt. And no wonder, because the KOSS program

Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

*. . . while the boys take to the rocks on their lunch break.*

provides community outdoor science education, highlights the unique features of the Upper Klamath Basin, and primarily serves area youth. "The Klamath Outdoor Science School is a wonderful opportunity for ODF to accomplish the public outreach education called for by the Eastern Oregon long-range forest management plan for state-owned forest land. We're pleased that Sun Pass State Forest was chosen as the permanent site," said DeBlander.

All of the work necessary to complete bunk beds and the two yurts was done by volunteers, friends and family of KOSS supporters and ODF personnel. Four feet of snow were plowed from the site on March 16. Construction began March 27 and continued through April 16 - the day before the very first campers arrived.

Each yurt houses 12 double bunks, so the site can accommodate up to 48 overnight visitors at any one time. Yurt accommodations are rugged, as they should be. There's a large steel post bolted through to the ground to concrete inside each yurt, and the yurts have been constructed to withstand both wind and snow. And yes, all of the requirements of the Klamath County Building, Planning, Health and On-Site Departments have been met.

Future plans for the KOSS site include another 30-foot diameter yurt for a classroom, a kitchen facility and two smaller yurts to house instructors. Eventually the site will also have a well, and electricity. KOSS is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and improvement of the site involves applying for various grants. Major supporters to date have been the Jeld-Wen Foundation, the Collins Foundation, the Nancy J. Wendt Foundation, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Klamath County, Oregon Department of Forestry and several local suppliers.

Photo courtesy of Anne Maloney, ODF

*Students at a 2005 KOSS summer camp discuss forest insects.*

Photo courtesy of Anne Maloney, ODF

*Steve Jones, a forester with ODF, looks on while 2005 KOSS Summer Camp students identify shrubs and trees.*

Photo courtesy of Anne Maloney, ODF

*Forester Anne Maloney describes the next tree identification activity.*

The first class of sixth graders and their paid instructors arrived in April; by the time the Summer Forest Log goes to print, some 500 5th and 6th graders will have taken advantage of the new facilities. Some classes stay two nights, and others stay four. Coursework includes forestry, watersheds and riparian areas, and some optional subjects, including wildlife, global positioning, soils and fisheries.

"These students are experiencing a whole new world by being immersed in this natural environment. It is so rewarding to see their curiosity blossom and attitudes improve," says Susan Anselme, lead instructor and Executive Director of KOSS. ■

# Horse Camping Connects

## *Thanks to Volunteers, New Campgrounds in NW Oregon Mean More (and Closer) Options*

*Jeff Foreman, ODF Public Affairs Specialist*

After a long day in the saddle, it's nice to be able to climb off your horse and sit around a campfire.

Kind of like the old West.

Except you hauled your horses into camp with a trailer behind your crew cab, and there's a well-constructed corral right next to your campsite for your horse.

Welcome to horse camping in the 21st century.

The past joins the present as riders enjoy Oregon's natural beauty from atop a horse. They ride trails during the day and spin yarns in the evenings.

Until it's time to crank up the diesel, pack up their belongings and head back to today's life, leaving yesteryear behind...until they saddle up next time.

Horse campers typically do their range-roaming in the drier parts of Oregon, where weather and fire keep underbrush at bay and wide-open spaces beckon. Most facilities are found in the Cascades, or in Central or Northeast Oregon.

Photo by Randy Peterson, ODF

*Riders unload their horses for a day of trail riding at Reehers Camp in the Tillamook State Forest.*

Not many horse campgrounds exist on the Westside. Little more than a handful can be found in Northwest Oregon.

Of the slim pickings, four of those campgrounds are on forestlands managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). The Tillamook, Clatsop and Santiam state forests are home to this small enclave of horse camps.

What these campgrounds in dense Westside forests lack in wide open spaces, they more than make up for in convenience – especially for nearby horse campers who want to steer clear of expensive fill-ups for the trek east.

Close counts, it turns out, when it comes to horse camps – and probably other camping as well. Now horse campers and other campers, too, have options closer to home in Northwest Oregon.

Stagecoach Horse Camp off Highway 6 in the Tillamook State Forests has been around since 1992. The campground about

## Be Talkative When You Meet a Horse and Rider on the Trail

***All horse trails are shared with other non-motorized users, such as hikers and mountain bikers. When they meet a horse and rider on a trail, etiquette calls for hikers and bikers to step off the trail on the downhill side, allowing the horse and rider to pass.***

***During these trail meetings, people should talk normally because horses are accustomed to humans. Don't be silent and don't hide behind a tree – a horse might think you are a predator. Horses also can be startled by people who don't look human – those carrying big backpacks that stick up (makes you look headless) and bikers in helmets. Again, talking is the best policy.***

# Riders to the Past . . .

an hour west of Portland took eight years to complete, using volunteers for much of the work. Thus began an association with Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET), a non-profit group dedicated to improving equestrian opportunities on public lands.

OET also played an integral role in ODF's other three horse camps, all constructed in the last few years. The local chapters of the organization pitched in with labor, expertise, materials and funding. They helped choose locations, design campground layouts, and they lent a hand in the construction.

Horse camps differ from regular campgrounds. First, they're smaller, usually less than 10 sites total. Then they have longer parking areas to accommodate horse trailers and towing vehicles. And the corrals, where horse can stay next to their owners. Of course, there's the requisite manure bins, too.

Horse campgrounds are kept small to reduce the impact on trails. OET recognizes that unrestrained riding can damage a forest, and they work with their members and others to practice low-impact camping.

ODF's long association with OET has resulted in three new horse camps. In the Tillamook State Forest, Reehers Camp opened in the spring of 2005. Also in 2005, construction was completed on Northrup Creek Camp in the Clatsop State Forest. A grand opening ceremony for Northrup Creek took place in May.

Photo courtesy of Randy Peterson, ODF

*A horseback rider passes the information board at Reehers Camp.*

Santiam Horse Camp in the Santiam State Forest opened June 1. Again, it was OET that provided the "horsepower" – donating nearly 2,000 hours in all aspects of the camp and trail development.

"This forest offers incredible variety," said ZoAnne Farmen, a member of the OET Silver Falls Chapter that helped develop the Santiam Horse Camp. "It's a managed forest so there are parts with big trees, others have dark, tunnel-like areas of dense younger trees, and some parts following clearcuts are open with young trees. You get to see it all."

The campgrounds represent ODF's effort to provide diverse recreational opportunities for Oregonians. Using different harvesting techniques, ODF develops a range of habitat for native wildlife while generating revenue. Two-thirds of the revenue goes to counties and schools where the harvesting occurred, and one-third goes to the state to manage the forestlands. Of that one-third, ODF uses some to fund recreation projects.

These campgrounds are in areas of the forests where hiking and mountain biking

*Continued page 10*

Photo by Jonathan Mayer, ODF

*A horse neighs from newly constructed corral at the Santiam Horse Camp in the Santiam State Forest.*

*Horse Camping (continued from page 9)*

## Oregon Department of Forestry Horse Camps

### Tillamook State Forest

**Stagecoach Horse Camp**
**Location:** South of Hwy 6 (turn on Beaver Dam Road at MP 33, then to University Falls Road)
**Sites:** 11
**Fee:** $5/night, $2/night extra vehicle
**Season:** All year, first-come basis (no reservations)
**Notes:** Corrals, restrooms, stock water, community picnic shelter

**Reehers Camp**
**Location:** 2-1/2 miles west of Timber Cochran Road
**Sites:** 10, 6 for campers w/o horses
**Fee:** $10/night, $2/night extra vehicle
**Season:** May 1 to Oct. 31, first-come basis (no reservations)
**Notes:** Corrals, restrooms, picnic shelter, stock water, large day-use trailhead parking area with picnic sites

### Clatsop State Forest

**Northrup Creek Horse Camp**
**Location:** North of Hwy 202 (MP 35) near Jewell
**Sites:** 8, 3 for campers w/o horses
**Fee:** $10/night, $2/night extra vehicle
**Season:** All year, first-come basis (no reservations)
**Notes:** Corrals, restrooms, potable drinking water, stock water, picnic area along creek, trailhead area, day-use area and loading assist in the day-use area

### Santiam State Forest

**Santiam Horse Camp**
**Location:** South of Hwy 22 at Gates
**Sites:** 9
**Fee:** $10/night, $2/night extra vehicle
**Season:** May 1 to Oct. 31, first-come basis (no reservations)
**Notes:** Corrals, restrooms, picnic shelter, stock water, large day-use parking area with picnic sites, trailhead area

also occur. Other parts of the forests are designated for motorized trail use. ODF has zoned the forests, with help from user groups, to curb conflict among non-motorized and motorized users.

"It's exciting to have a horse camp in Clatsop County," said Diane Berry of OET's North Coast Chapter and a member of ODF's Astoria District recreation advisory committee. "ODF is easy to work with and I'm really happy with how Northrup Creek turned out."

She added that the trail system is an ongoing project. Currently there are seven miles with parts still under construction.

Stagecoach has 10 miles of trails and Reehers has 13 miles. The two trail systems are connected and equestrian users can ride from Stagecoach to Reehers – a 17-mile trip. An interesting historical note about Reehers Camp is that the site once was a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in the 1930s – some old foundations still remain and ODF offers interpretive programs.

"We're really pleased with the Forestry Department," said Joe Reeves, a member of OET's Northwest Chapter and a longtime advisor to ODF. "They listened to volunteers and used a lot of our suggestions, and Reehers Camp turned out marvelous as a result of that."

Farmen, who worked on Santiam Horse Camp, said development of the campground was an important first step. She said the surrounding trails are what bring riders to a camp and keep them coming back. There are currently 15 miles of trail, with six more miles expected to be completed this year. Another five miles planned for next year would connect the trail system to Rock Creek Camp Sites. ■

# Independent study finds ODF successfully following State Forest plans

## *Structure-based management moves 'middle-aged' forests toward mature habitats*

***Jeff Foreman, ODF Public Affairs Specialist***

A recent independent study found that the Oregon Department of Forestry is successfully implementing its forest management plans for state forestland in northwest and southwest Oregon.

Completed in March, the assessment was seen as a way to give the Board of Forestry an overall picture after five years of forest management under the current plans. The assessment reviewed 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.

Among the findings, the study found that by using structure-based management, ODF is moving the primarily "middle-aged" forests toward a mixture of habitats, including complex forest stands which are similar to old-growth.

Structure-based management uses harvesting techniques – variations of thinnings and clearcuts – to develop diverse habitat for native wildlife species. Thinnings promote tree growth and understory development, and clearcuts create patchy openings – mimicking natural disturbances such as fire, disease and insect infestations, while still ensuring adequate timber harvest.

A primary goal of the NW and SW management plans for state-owned forestland is to achieve the "greatest permanent value" for the citizens of Oregon by providing a full range of social, economic and ecological benefits.

"Stable and sustainable timber harvest levels and other management programs appear to be providing a mix of values and outputs desired by the citizens of the state," the report stated.

"We conducted the assessment to evaluate implementation and effectiveness of the plans to meet the greatest permanent value and the plan strategies," said Lisa DeBruyckere, director of the State Forests Program. "To this end, we contracted an assessment of the goals, objectives and procedures described in the plans to aid in measuring our performance against the full intent and standards presented in them."

The program plans to use the assessment to identify gaps in information. The assessment provides a base line from which future independent assessments will be made.

The study did cite some shortcomings. In the area of recreation, according to the study, some off-highway vehicle use near streams is causing erosion and sedimentation problems. It suggested that ODF seek "more cooperation with recreational users to construct and maintain facilities and control problematic users."

The study said the access system to the forests is good and being improved, but a few roads still need major upgrades. Some roads and stream crossings are introducing sediment to streams, and the study warned that wet-weather log hauling can harm even good roads.

The study noted that by following its forest management plans, ODF is doing a good job of protecting and diversifying fish and wildlife habitats. It said the habitat needs of northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets – two threatened species under the federal and state endangered species acts – are being addressed through surveys, habitat management and protection, and by restricting activities.

In terms of timber, the study said the harvest levels appear to be sustainable. It did offer some suggestions for improving timber production.

Wildlife browsing on regeneration stands (replanted after clearcuts) should be more formally monitored, the report said, and more complete slash burning could reduce habitats for over-abundant rodents. It also suggested lower-density plantings that could reduce the need for precommercial (a non-timber sale activity) thinnings.

The study said better stand-level record-keeping would help to determine the effectiveness of past treatments, such as thinnings. It also said additional marketing opportunities might exist for both smaller and large diameter wood.

The report is posted on the ODF Web site at: http://oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/docs/Second_Party_Assessment_3-06_FINAL_REPORT.pdf ■

TREES IN TOWN

TREE CITY USA

## The City of Hillsboro:

# Urban planner gets 4-H help managing Hillsboro's 10,000+ Trees

*Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Affairs Specialist*

You cannot manage any forest effectively unless you know its overall health, including its condition, size and age of its trees, and species composition. In urban forestry, this means conducting something called a "tree inventory." Tree inventories help foresters and city officials address questions like: "How many street trees are there?" "What kind?" and, "In what condition are they?" Simply put, tree inventories are an essential tool of good urban forest management.

With some 10,000 trees of various species, sizes and ages to consider and keep track of, Doug Miller, an urban planner in the city of Hillsboro Oregon, had his hands full. The city needed substantial help with data gathering and processing.

Photo by Lisa Conroy, OSU Extension Service

*Two 4-H volunteers take tree diameters along a busy Hillsboro street.*

Fortunately, early in 2005 Hillsboro received a Community Forestry Assistance grant. The grant, for just under $5,000, came from the Oregon Department of Forestry and US Forest Service and was awarded to the city to conduct an inventory of its street trees using community volunteers.

But just where would Hillsboro find enough volunteers?

That question was answered as Miller became aware of the National 4-H Program and its work to promote the understanding and use of geographic information system (GIS) and global positioning technology among city youth. The local OSU Extension Service, Washington County 4-H office had already been working in partnership with Hillsboro the year before, assisting with a GIS project the city's GIS department needed help with. With a "learn by doing" approach, these 4-H programs are intended to help local youth develop skills in communication, community service, citizenship, teamwork and record keeping, and learn to use a variety of technology.

The highest school dropout rates in the Hillsboro area are among the Hispanic and Latino community, and 4-H's efforts are focused on helping these at-risk youth. To get the tree inventory started, Miller worked with 4-H OSU Extension Agent Lisa Conroy to train more than 400 volunteers to gather tree data. The goal? A complete inventory of all trees within the City of Hillsboro's public right-of-way.

Volunteers used GIS-based tree inventory software loaded onto handheld computers. "I downloaded a street tree inventory script

*Continued next page*

Photo by Lisa Conroy, OSU Extension Service

*4-H volunteers use tree inventory software and handheld computers.*

from the web," says Miller, a graduate of ODF's "CTMI" (Community Tree Management Institute) program. "I then modified it so that it fits Hillsboro's geography and data needs." As information is gathered by the volunteers, they load the field data into the citywide GIS at the end of each day, eliminating the need for double entry.

"Doug had to train us in the use of equipment," says Extension Agent Conroy, "in how to collect and manage the data." Some 30 high school students of all ages from Forest Grove, Hillsboro and Sunset high schools participated in the volunteer effort. The role modeling and mentoring aspects of the project also benefit the students. "Any time you have a mentoring program and mentors are excited about their job, kids are interested," says Conroy. Conroy says students often remark that they've never paid any attention to trees before, but since becoming involved with the tree inventory, "they notice street trees everywhere they go," and, Conroy says, it does stimulate career interest. Conroy says Miller has done a great job mentoring the kids in understanding the benefits of a tree inventory and learning how to process the tree data.

So far, nearly 2,000 out of 10,000 street trees have been visited. The group took a break last winter, but work has picked up again now that favorable weather has arrived. "We're excited to see what can get done in this next phase," says Miller. Volunteers will continue to receive training by 4-H staff, on how to identify tree species, size, age and condition.

Once data collection is complete, Miller and the 4-H members will work in a program called ArcView to create easy-to-read maps that will help Hillsboro qualify for Tree City USA status. The Tree City USA® program, sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the US Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, provides recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of towns and cities that more than 93 million Americans call home.

Two primary factors in this urban forestry success story have been the affordable and accurate street tree inventory software, and the mutually beneficial partnership with 4-H.

"This is an example of a terrific community partnership and a win-win situation for everyone," says 4-H coordinator Lisa Conroy. "It's also a great project for future workforce preparation," she adds.

With the help of ODF's urban forestry program, Hillsboro is well on its way to joining 43 other Oregon cities as Tree City USA communities. "This experience with Doug has just been fantastic," says Conroy. The 4-H Extension Agent adds that if the group manages to finish the tree inventory this year, the OSU Extension Service Washington County 4H-er's will be looking for other GIS projects next year. ■

***"This is an example of a terrific community partnership and a win-win situation for everyone."***

*— Lisa Conroy, 4-H Coordinator*

# Remember to visit Forestry at this year's Oregon State Fair

Aug 25 to Sept 4 in Salem

It's that time again, time to get out and enjoy all of the sights and sounds of the Oregon State Fair in Salem, including the Oregon Department of Forestry's booth located in the Natural Resources Area of the fairgrounds. From Aug. 25 to Sept. 4, ODF personnel will be staffing a booth that features a look at the brand new Tillamook Forest Center, why forests matter to us, and the latest on wildfires in Oregon

Don't be surprised if you don't recognize ODF's booth this year. That's because it's recently experienced a complete makeover, including construction of a more open display and reception area, new displays, a fresh coat of paint, and new and improved publications racks.

An exhibit by Keep Oregon Green (KOG) features the topic of regulated use and the greatest causes of wildfire statewide: off-road vehicles, chainsaws, lawn mowers, weed wackers, debris burning and debris piles, and campfires. This year, a display by the Oregon Forest Research Institute (OFRI) features the effects of wildfire on the environment, and the display is located at the entrance to KOG's booth.

As always, staff will be on-hand to offer kid-friendly activities, provide interesting publications about forestry, and answer any questions you may have about forestry, invasive species, fires, fire prevention and fire season, trees and tree care, and recreation opportunities. ■

## Instant Habitat:

### Tree planting in Prineville

*The city of Prineville received a grant from ODF to plant an arboretum. Outreach Coordinator Sarah Kresse worked with Prineville to enlist volunteer support, and some ninety trees were planted April 1st to kick off Oregon Arbor Week.*

*A mountain bluebird, right, quickly spots the new habitat and tries out a perch just moments after tree planting.*

Photo by Katie Lompa, ODF

# ODF *NEWS BRIEFS*

## Farwest Show in Portland

The 2006 Farwest Show in Portland is features nearly 900 exhibitors, and nearly 60 percent of all exhibitors are nurseries...this is why some refer to the Farwest Show as the "Greenest Show on Earth." Show hours are daily from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, through Saturday, Aug. 26. Seminars on a variety of topics begin on Wednesday, Aug. 23, from 2 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m., and will run from 9 a.m. to noon on show days.

Contact Aimee Schendel, Oregon Association of Nurserymen, 800-342-6401; 503-682-5089 x 2006; info@farwestshow.com URL: http://www.farwestshow.com ■

## Two new assistant state foresters

Two assistant state foresters have been appointed to head fire protection and state forest management. Both appointments came from within ODF and fill vacancies that resulted from retirements.

Paul Bell is now responsible for statewide fire protection on private, state and westside U.S. Bureau of Land Management lands. He formerly directed the Private and Community Forests Program and was previously a district forester. Bell has been with ODF for 16 years, and worked an additional six summers as a forest officer dealing with forest fires. "I look forward to working with forestland owners, cooperators and concerned citizens to provide and improve Oregon's complete, coordinated wildland fire protection system," says Bell, adding that a top priority is "ensuring the department maintains a safe and efficient well-trained fire fighter workforce." He will replace Tim Keith, who is retiring. Bell, who lives near Monmouth, holds a bachelor's degree in forest management from Oregon State University.

Jim Paul is now responsible for statewide management of state forestlands, including the Tillamook, Clatsop and Santiam state forests in northwest Oregon, the Elliott State Forest near Coos Bay and the Sun Pass State Forest near Klamath Falls. He was formerly a manager in charge of policy and interagency coordination for private forestlands and previously managed operations within the State Forests Program. "I'm looking forward to being involved with leading both the State Forests and Urban and Community Forests Programs and all of the potential they hold for the future," said Paul. Paul has been with ODF for 10 years. He replaces Steve Thomas, who retired. Paul lives in Salem and holds a master's degree in forest hydrology from the University of Washington, along with a year at Duke University in a master's forestry program. His bachelor's degree is in political science from Whitman College in Washington.

Both appointments became effective June 1. ■

## Oregon's "Moon" Trees reach ripe old age of 30

Have you heard about Oregon's "moon trees" ? Despite the name, these trees are not exactly extraterrestrial, but the story behind them *is* rather interesting.

When the Apollo 14 moon mission was launched in 1971, one of the three astronauts making the trip was Colonel Stuart Roosa, who had worked several summers as a smokejumper with the U.S. Forest Service and had an interest in forestry. As part of Roosa's "PPK" (Personal Property Kit), seeds collected from Douglas-fir growing in Oregon's Benton County — along with seeds from several other western tree species — were taken on board. While the other two astronauts, Shepard and Mitchell, walked the surface of the moon, Roosa and a canister of seeds circled the moon 34 times. The crew – and the seeds - finally returned to earth when Kitty Hawk, the Apollo 14 Command Module, splashed down into the Pacific Ocean.

Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODF

*Seed from this Douglas-fir tree, above, circled the moon 34 times with the 1971 Apollo 14 moon mission.*

The seeds were taken to the Forest Service nursery at Placerville, California where they were germinated, planted, and grew into small trees. The young trees were given out to many states and even to other countries for planting as part of bicentennial celebrations in 1976.

As part of the elebration, Oregon was invited to plant the moon trees. Trees were planted in Roseburg, Eugene, Corvallis, and Salem. On Arbor Day of that year, Governor Bob Straub planted a moon tree on the grounds of Oregon's State Capitol. As you can see by the photo of the 30-year-old conifer, this is one moon tree that will likely remain rooted to mother earth for many more years to come. ■

# Forestry Calendar of Public Events

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| July 14 | 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee | Santiam Room, Salem |
| July 22 | 7:00 p.m. | "Intro to Orienteering and GPS" | Tillamook Forest Center<br>for info: 503-815-6808 |
| July 27 | 8:00 - 5:00 p.m | BOF Field Tour - Biomass | NEO |
| July 28 | 8:00 - 5:00 p.m. | Board of Forestry Meeting | Best Western Inn,<br>Baker City |
| July 29 | 7:00 p.m. | "Black Bears Program" | Tillamook Forest Center |
| July 29 | 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Oregon Tree Farm System's<br>Annual Tour | Kintigh property,<br>Eugene (tentative)<br>for info: 541-741-9833 |
| August 5 | 7:00 p.m. | "Salmon in our Streams" | Tillamook Forest Center |
| August 12 | 9:00 p.m. | "Perseid Meteor Shower" | Tillamook Forest Center |
| August 25 - September 4 | | Oregon State Fair | State Fairgrounds, Salem |

"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

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