

# FOREST LOG

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY • WINTER 2006



*Happy  
New Year!*

## **Inside:**

- ▼ Trouble with Juniper
- ▼ Tillamook Forest Center  
Opens in April
- ▼ Training Urban Forestry Leaders
- ▼ 2005 Tree Farmer of the Year
- ▼ Help for Forestland Owners

## From the State Forester

Welcome to this latest edition. As we make our way into the heart of winter I, for one, am hoping to see the mountain snowpack that was virtually absent last year. So far, we seem off to a cautiously okay start. There's a short roundup of the '05 fire season in this issue. None of us would like to repeat the record low fuel moisture levels we saw last summer, and substantial snowfall in the mountains would be one way to prevent such a recurrence.

The story on juniper in Eastern Oregon is interesting and is just one more example of why we so often speak of, and the *Forestry Program for Oregon* strongly promotes, the need for "active management." I've heard people ask, "What do you mean by *active management*?" I guess what I would mean by the term is that we consider the current characteristics of a tract of land, and the characteristics that we desire, and then make conscious, science-based decisions about the actions that will help us reach that desired condition.

We could graze the land. We could burn it. We could spray herbicides, or harvest the trees. All of these activities can create changes in vegetation. In this case the desire might be to remove juniper in order to promote a more healthy stand of grass and forbs.

Interestingly enough, deliberately doing nothing also guarantees that the current vegetative characteristics of the land will change, because change is a constant in forest landscapes. Perhaps characteristics will change in ways we desire. But the failure to act could also mean the changes end up being undesirable. For example, just as there are now millions of acres of juniper in Oregon that have become less suitable for grazing and wildlife, there are also millions of acres of overstocked forest. These exist for a variety of

reasons, including outmoded past practices, such as the attempt to suppress all fire – which we now recognize as a natural part of the ecosystem – and failure to apply current best practices, such as thinning, harvesting or controlled burning, that can bring fuel loads back toward normal levels.

Returning these lands to a more desirable vegetative condition requires that we make a conscious decision to take deliberate action. Some would argue that simply allowing these lands to burn, as they did regularly for many centuries, is the best solution. The reality, though, is that during those centuries we didn't have homes and towns scattered through the region. Nor did we have health and safety concerns brought on by massive amounts of unregulated smoke, unnaturally high fuel loads that can generate heat well beyond what historical systems evolved to endure, or the communities of today needing to make an economic living in our rural areas.

"Active management" shouldn't be confused with "intensive timber management," which is just one form of forest management. Instead, it means taking steps specifically formulated to achieve whatever management objectives are established for a particular forest site. The fact is that today's landscapes appear to need such management, based on careful decision-making, in order for human beings to successfully co-exist with landscape-level forces and processes. Juniper control in Eastern Oregon is a telling example of that need, and there are many others in the state we can point out.

We hope you find this, and the other articles both informative and thought provoking. ■




State Forester  
Marvin Brown

# FOREST LOG



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State Forester  
Marvin Brown

Editor  
Cynthia Orlando, APR

Writers  
Rod Nichols • Arlene Whalen  
Jeff Foreman • Cynthia Orlando

Business & Circulation Manager  
Darlene Downey

Special Contributors  
John Barnes, ODF Cultural  
Resource Specialist  
Paul Ries, ODF Urban Forester

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**Cover Photo:** A male and female coho salmon spawn in a side channel of the Wilson River. Coho salmon like these can be seen on the move in the Wilson River and many side channels. Abundant fish-viewing opportunities await

visitors to the Tillamook Forest Center, including trail vantage points into deep pools, viewing from the 250-foot-long Wilson River Suspension Bridge, or an up close look from water's edge.



Photo by Frank Evans, ODF

# Are Juniper trees loving Oregon to death?

by Arlene Whalen, ODF Public Affairs Specialist

To see the twisted, contorted shape of rugged old Western juniper trees against the backdrop of a setting sun on a rocky hillside in central or eastern Oregon can be a reassuring sight in a seemingly barren landscape. These beacons have stood the test of changing seasons, changing climates and changing land use year after year, some living as old as 1,000 years or more. Today, however, these weathered grandfathers represent a very

have sprouted beards of juniper, disrupting the balance of what was. Besides central Oregon, significant juniper stands are now expanding in Malheur, Baker, Union, Wheeler, southern Gilliam, Sherman and Harney, Klamath and Lake Counties in Oregon.

Increased soil erosion, reduced soil water storage, disappearing forage and altered wildlife habitat are now putting juniper at center stage as researchers debate over how much their proliferation has impacted the land and way of life for local residents.

*Private landowners in affected areas say the junipers are like thieves in the springtime.*

A study done in 1980 (Buckhouse and Mattison) documented that erosion during a 25-year storm event was ten times greater in juniper woodlands than in adjacent areas occupied by grasses and forbs. “We’re losing our soil base,” said John Breese, a Prineville landowner. “You don’t know how many tons (of soil) are washing down off the hillside until you see the grasses slowly dying out and sediment flowing into the streams.”

But it’s not just soil disappearing. The Breese family says they witnessed a remarkable well recovery after they removed juniper from a hillside above a homestead that had been abandoned in 1948 because the well had gone dry. When the junipers slowly encroached upon the landscape, no one really put two and two together and recognized the impact they might be having on the watershed. “Forty years later, during a drought period in central Oregon, we started removing the juniper,” said Lynne Breese. “During that time, an Oregon State University Range Department class was visiting to do some watershed work. They dug a pit in the area to examine the soil and found subsurface water flowing at 18 inches (deep,) and there were even earthworms. It was tremendously exciting to see the water back.”

*Unfortunately, correcting this situation is a little more complicated than just cutting down juniper trees—juniper is stubborn and*

*continued on next page*



Photo courtesy Tim Deboodt, OSU Ext.

*Western juniper trees can live to be 1,000 years or more, but old-growth represents a small proportion of juniper trees that exist in Central and Eastern Oregon today.*

small proportion of the juniper found throughout the area—during the last 130 years, juniper trees have rapidly expanded at unprecedented rates.

“Forest Service inventory data from the mid-1930s indicates we had about 420,000 acres of juniper in eastern Oregon,” said Tim Deboodt, Oregon State University Extension Agent. “Detailed survey work in the late 1990s estimates that figure is now closer to six million acres. That’s a ten- or twelve-fold increase in 70 years—a tremendous rate of expansion.”

The land central and eastern Oregon residents have come to know intimately is being transformed. The hilly, clean-shaven grazing lands, once a prominent feature of the landscape due to fire from natural occurrences and Native Americans, (see sidebar page 6)

*difficult to eradicate.* Landowners have learned, firsthand, how hard it fights back. Like many invasive species, young trees may readily resprout, growing even more vigorously after cutting or disturbance, and removal of larger trees may increase short-term fire hazards. Prescribed burning appears to be a good remedy, but timing of the burn and how it is done must be carefully considered to improve the chances that desirable vegetation remains unharmed.

The cost to burn the juniper when it is at the seedling/sapling stage is quite a bit less than doing a prescribed burn of mature woodland. However, if the fire is introduced too early (within the first five years after cutting), there is a risk that desirable understory and shrub species won't survive and noxious weeds will move in instead. By letting downed trees and scattered slash lie for awhile to decompose, landowners help promote conditions favorable to establish and grow understory seedlings.

*The biggest problem is knowing when to remove downed juniper trees and slash from the landscape.* This creates a huge dilemma for landowners and forestry and range management advisors, because juniper can also present an increased fire hazard if it is cut and not promptly removed. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) foresters have seen, first-hand, what happens when fire enters an area of felled juniper that has been left to cure—the fire grows significantly and is more difficult to control. “These trees are loaded with highly volatile oils, and it is an issue that needs to be talked about when we are developing fire plans to address defensible space and fire-safe landscapes,” said Deboodt.

Breese adds, “And, unfortunately, with the population

*continued on page 6*

*Tim Deboodt, OSU Extension Agent, demonstrates data gathering equipment in the Camp Creek Paired Watershed Study Area. The study is monitoring changes in water quality following the removal of western juniper in the drainage, a tributary to the Crooked River. Current research indicates that water retention and storage are being inhibited by the expansion of juniper.*



## The changing focus of juniper restoration projects

The restoration emphasis of juniper removal projects has changed over time to reflect increasing knowledge. Initial restoration projects focused on improving wildlife habitat. In the 1960s, anchor chains were dragged behind equipment to pull and rip juniper trees from the ground. Next, grass and shrub seeds were broadcast onto the soil, and then another pass of the chain at a 90-degree angle to the first pass completed the operation. Sometimes “Ely” chains were used, chains that had short sections of railroad rail welded to them. This helped increase soil disturbance and improved seeding success.

By the 1990s, people realized that juniper control was actually reducing soil erosion into the creeks; therefore, soil erosion became the primary emphasis and chainsaws became the widespread western juniper control tool. Soon after was the realization that there was now less sediment in the streams and flow patterns were changing. Flows were not only longer in duration, but had increased capacity. Springs flowed where none had been recorded before and seasonal wet spots became obvious. Not surprisingly, this changed the focus to watersheds in the 1980s.

By the 90s, landowners and researchers were working to keep water in the soil in the uplands so that it would spur beneficial plant growth and restore ground water. This, in turn, would slowly release water back into the streams for downstream use. The management mantra of “*Capture, Storage and Safe Release of Water*” for watershed management was coined: *capture* water where it falls and reduce overland flow by increasing density of herbaceous plants and vegetation, *encourage* water's infiltration into the soil for plant growth and ground water recharge, and *release* the water safely through ground water recharge of streams, as opposed to the swift release of overland flow. During this time, the use of prescribed fire for juniper control increased.

Today, we've come full circle. Researchers are once again considering the effects of juniper on wildlife. Sage grouse, for instance, could potentially become a listed species because of the proliferation of juniper. In central Oregon, juniper has reduced sagebrush, an important sage

grouse habitat. As juniper grows, it kills its host plant, which is almost always sagebrush. Juniper also removes deep-rooted forbs from the landscape, a source of food for the grouse, and birds of prey use juniper trees as perches to search for sage grouse.

*...Juniper (continued from page 5)*

## Fire historically kept juniper in check

**I**t was fire that kept juniper spread in check on shrub-grassland in the Intermountain West prior to European settlement. Fire is a natural occurrence on rangelands, and Native Americans used fire to manipulate wildlife habitats.

When the settlers arrived, the lands were heavily grazed by livestock. This reduced the fine fuel accumulations that played a significant role in decreasing the potential for fire. Researchers believe these reduced fire occurrences, in combination with optimal climactic conditions that promoted conifer growth, were probably the two dominant factors responsible for western juniper expansion. From 1850 to 1916, winters became milder and precipitation increased, as was evidenced from the annual tree ring growth of juniper on several eastern Oregon sites.

Some research also suggests that rising levels of industrially-produced carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are aiding the increase of woody species throughout the west and accelerating tree canopy expansion and juniper establishment in some areas. Higher levels of carbon dioxide may be compensating for drought conditions by increasing juniper's ability to use water more efficiently.



Photo courtesy Tim Deboodt, OSU Ext.

*Prescribed fire is effective in controlling sapling and juvenile aged trees. Flame lengths initiated by grasses and shrubs spur on enough heat to kill the larger trees.*

surge in central Oregon, we have people moving in that appreciate the junipers for the privacy and screening they provide. They

aren't necessarily thinking about impacts to watersheds or susceptibility to fire."

Gordon Foster, ODF Unit Forester, Prineville, stresses the fire hazard in felled juniper is highest when the foliage is red. "But, even after the foliage has dropped, juniper can contribute to higher fire intensity for many years." He encourages private landowners to contact ODF foresters to discuss various juniper management treatments, such as mechanical removal or prescribed burning. Breese feels it's especially important for landowners to

*John Breese stands next to a deck of juniper logs headed to a portable sawmill. Juniper wood is known for its color and cedar-like smell.*



get guidance from foresters, Extension Service personnel or public rangeland managers to prevent the likelihood they might be liable for causing an additional fire hazard on the ground. Should this happen, landowners deemed negligent relative to the additional fire hazard they create are responsible for paying costs to suppress fire. (Juniper harvesting units larger than 120 acres are regulated by the Oregon Forest Practices Act, and lands within a Forest Protection District require a permit to cut juniper and burn slash, which may include a burning permit and/or a power-driven machinery permit. In addition, smoke management requirements may apply.)

Deboodt emphasizes that it's really important to assess what the goals and objectives are for a particular piece of ground *before* juniper work is done. "For example, if increasing forage production is the goal, it might be better to address north slopes," said Deboodt. "If reducing soil erosion is paramount, it might be better to focus on south slopes. According to Foster, landowners should consider maintenance, too, *prior* to removing juniper to ensure long-term success.

*And, on a larger scale, Breese emphasizes that folks need to be talking together more to figure out what's best for the land.* "There seems to be a huge leap from forestry to



Photo courtesy Tim Deboodt, OSU Ext.

*Juniper now occupies ridgetops, hill slopes and valley bottoms. Increasing juniper canopy reduces the amount of effective precipitation by intercepting rainfall and snow, making it more likely precipitation will evaporate before it touches the ground.*

rangeland, and the two don't talk enough. Forestry needs to see more than just the trees, and rangeland needs to see more than just the range. We have to look at the big picture, beyond tomorrow and into future generations...or we could be jeopardizing our watersheds." ■

## What to DO with all that juniper?

To date, the majority of western juniper that's been harvested over the years has been used for fence posts and firewood, or just burned in place. Paneling, furniture, and specialty products, such as mantelpieces and shavings for animal bedding, have also been crafted. For a number of years, juniper was also commonly used as a source of fuel for power generation. This use has diminished considerably, in part, because laws have been implemented to regulate alternative power purchases.

Ways of realizing profitable returns from the commercial harvesting of juniper are badly needed. Because the wood is small and considered of low mill quality, harvesting costs are high. Transporting the wood to distant mill facilities adds additional expense for landowners. Much of the juniper is also located on rugged slope and ground conditions absent of nearby roadways that make it difficult to access. Once juniper is cut, markets are limited, so most commercial operations are small in scale (rarely exceeding 40 acres).

**To learn more about juniper trees:** visit: <http://juniper.oregonstate.edu/index.php>

# Technical and financial options available

*Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Affairs Specialist*

If you're a forestland owner dreaming about improving your property but have limited resources with which to accomplish your objectives, please take note. Several government assistance programs can partially reimburse landowners for projects that enhance water, soil, wildlife or other resources. There are also tax credits and property tax savings strategies to consider.

Savvy forestland owners are well advised to get information about all of these resources. Let's take a look at the technical and financial assistance that's available to Oregon's forestland owners.

Two valuable financial assistance programs are the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) and the Forest Resource Trust (FRT). If you own between 10 and 5,000 acres of forestland and some of it is unproductive, or in need of reforestation or improvement, these programs can provide broad financial assistance. Under FRT, assistance is available for getting forests established such as site preparation, tree planting, and weed control. FLEP provides similar assistance, plus financial assistance for non-commercial thinning and wildfire rehabilitation. FRT typically picks up all project costs, while FLEP averages 50 percent funding assistance.

The FRT is a tree-planting program with a focus on converting unhealthy or unstocked forestlands into healthy, productive forests. To receive funding, the land must be zoned for forest or farm use, and be located outside urban growth boundaries and residential zones. Land that's capable of producing a healthy stand of trees but is currently covered with brush is a good example of a situation that could qualify for FRT funding. The landowner commits to establishing a healthy "free-to-grow" forest stand and takes responsibility for seeing that the work gets done. The FRT

provides money for the direct cost payments of site preparation, tree planting, seedling protection, and activities that remove competing vegetation. This program was created by the 1993 Oregon Legislature, and is administered by ODF.

The FRT can provide up to \$100,000 every two years per landowner. If forest products are harvested in future years, a percentage of the net revenue is paid back to the trust by the landowner. "It's a good deal because you don't have to pay any of the money up front and you still get to keep a significant portion of the

*Landowner Gerry Weisensee checks on the condition of trees and shrubs planted as part of a CREP streamside enhancement project on his Clayton Creek, Polk County property.*

*Weisensee's experience confirms the need to be very vigilant in controlling invasive species such as this scotch broom, which had been cut down just a year earlier.*



Photo by Steve Vaught, ODF

## Cost-share and other programs

Management plans are a recommended first step in any small woodland project, and may be written by the landowner or by natural resource professionals. Funds are available to assist you in creating a management plan for your property. In fact, if you have a minimum of 10 acres, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) may be able to provide cost-share funds so you can hire a professional forester or other professional to help you develop a forest stewardship management plan. Your local Oregon State University extension office can also assist you with developing such a plan.

*continued on next page*

# to assist forestland owners

revenue,” says ODF Stewardship Forester Bob Johnson. The Department is currently reviewing the program to find ways to make it even more useful to a wider number of landowners.

FLEP is a national program that was developed jointly by the US Forest Service and state foresters. Landowners may receive financial incentives for applying any number of sustainable forest practices to their land, including reforestation, weed and brush control, thinning or fuels reduction work, conducting erosion control measures or improving wildlife habitat by planting trees, creating snags or installing nest boxes.

## Other sources of assistance

Ready for more state and federal government acronyms that just might yield helpful resources to your property? If your acreage includes agricultural lands, you may qualify for funds for agriculture- and forestry-related projects through either the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), or through the Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP). If you need to install fencing on your property for resource-related reasons such as keeping livestock away from open waterways, either of these programs may be able to partly fund your project. Your local office of the US Natural

Resources Conservation Service would be the best place to find information about EQIP. For CREP information, contact the US Farm Services Agency office nearest you.

Don't forget that many of the agencies

providing funding for conservation projects are also great sources of technical expertise. Important practical information and tips are available through ODF's stewardship foresters, OSU Extension offices, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, county Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and local watershed councils.

## Watershed restoration work

Maybe your property is in need of watershed restoration work. If that's the case, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) may be able to assist you via its watershed improvement grants program. To check out all of the numerous federal and state funding sources available for activities that are designed to protect or restore watershed health, visit ODF's website ([www.oregon.gov/ODF](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF)), click on the "private forests" and "assistance for landowners" links, and look for the Directory link about halfway down the page.



Photo by Steve Vaught, ODF

*ODF Stewardship Forester Rod Bardell checks on the progress of a young Willamette Valley Pine plantation in Linn County. In this instance, the landowner was able to get reimbursed for some of his expenses using Oregon's 50 percent tax credit.*



Photo by Steve Vaught, ODF

*Sam Chan, assistant professor with Oregon State University, stands by a successful CREP ("Conservation Resource Enhancement Program") project.*

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*...Forestland Owners (continued from page 9)*

**Still other helpful programs: funds available to help at-risk species on private lands**

Oregon's Landowner Incentive Program ("LIP") is a federally funded competitive grant program administered by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). This program makes funds available for at-risk species conservation projects on private lands.

LIP projects must occur on privately owned land and benefit at least one at-risk species. LIP provides technical conservation assistance, offers up to 75 percent of project funding, increases economic and aesthetic values of private property, and may offer additional financial incentives in the form of conservation easements.

Some examples of common LIP activities include:

- ▼ Removal of nonnative plants
- ▼ Planting of native vegetation
- ▼ Installation of streamside fencing
- ▼ Removal of fish passage barriers
- ▼ Management of livestock grazing
- ▼ Stabilization of eroding stream banks
- ▼ Implementation of prescribed burns
- ▼ Purchase of conservation easements.

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Photo by Bob Johnson, ODFW

**Before:** This Forest Resource Trust site in Lane County was first cleared of brush using a bulldozer, then planted with two-year old Douglas-fir, and subsequently sprayed with Garlon to control invasive Himalayan blackberries.

Interested individuals or groups may submit applications to fund projects that protect and restore habitat on private lands to benefit at-risk species. An at-risk species is any species found on one or more of the following lists:

- ▼ Federal or state threatened and endangered species lists;
- ▼ Oregon's sensitive species list;
- ▼ Oregon Department of Agriculture's list of endangered, threatened or candidate plants; or
- ▼ Oregon Natural Heritage Program's list of rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals.

**After:** Now that's what we call "Oregon Grown!" Five years after initial site clearing, Stewardship Forester Bob Johnson stands amidst Douglas-fir trees which, in spite of earlier challenges by invasive blackberries and deer browsing, are now exhibiting impressive leader growth. "Keep the faith," says Johnson, "and the trees will get away from the deer."



Photo by Cynthia Orlando, ODFW

# In a nutshell...

*The following is a brief rundown on some of the primary financial and technical assistance options available for family forestland owners in Oregon:*

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>PURPOSE/ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
<b>Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)</b>	Must own between 10 and 5,000 acres of forestland. Provides financial assistance for afforestation, non-commercial thinning, weed and brush control, or rehabilitation after wildfire. Provides up to 50 percent funding assistance.	Your local ODF Stewardship Forester
<b>Forest Resource Trust (FRT)</b>	Must own between 10 and 5,000 acres of forestland in western Oregon. Provides financial assistance for projects that benefit unproductive forestlands (lands not requiring reforestation under the Forest Practices Act yet which are not stocked or are understocked with trees and not as productive as they could be). Picks up all project costs, including consulting forester fees.	Your local ODF Stewardship Forester
<b>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</b>	Any size forestland is eligible. Provides cost-share assistance for projects that improve watershed health.	US Natural Resource Conservation Service (under the Department of Agriculture)
<b>Conservation Resource Enhancement Program (CREP)</b>	Provides cost-share assistance. Applies only to agricultural land for projects to improve / establish stream buffers such that water quality will be improved	US Farm Services Agency (under the Department of Agriculture)

LIP applications are ranked by ODFW in cooperation with a diverse panel of representatives from government and non-government organizations. ODFW then submits the top-ranking Oregon proposals to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for review.

Contact numbers for more information about ODFW's Landowner Incentive Program:

- Bend - (541) 388-6363**
- Corvallis - (541) 757-4186**
- Salem - (503) 947-6301**

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## *A donkey flies to Tillamook Forest Center*

# Abandoned steam-powered yarder in remote area airlifted for historical display

*John Barnes, ODF State Forests Cultural Resource Specialist*

**C**an donkeys fly? Under certain circumstances – and with the help of a very large helicopter – they can.

This “donkey” happens to be a fully intact, Willamette Iron and Steel Works two-speed

The fact that this unique remnant actually came from the Tillamook State Forest made it even more attractive to the center. Trouble was, it was sitting three-quarters of a mile from the nearest road with an 800-foot elevation change. And these old steam donkeys aren’t light – they tip the scale in excess of 17 tons.

There was only one way out, and that was up and over through the air. Columbia Helicopters volunteered one of their larger “Chinooks” for the task, but even still, the donkey had to be dismantled into three parts to be light enough to become airborne.

Just getting the tools – 800 pounds worth – over the tortuously rough terrain to dismantle the behemoth became a quandary. Again, the intrepid salvagers looked to the air. Terra Helicopters of McMinnville stepped forward to fly in the tools and rigging.

The first plan of attack rigged a skyline between two adjacent trees to lift the two-ton haulback drum off its frame. Looked good on paper. Unfortunately, this only bent the trees over about 14 feet, while the stubborn drum remained steadfast.

Thanks to one of those ingenious old-time loggers, who came up with a plan to assemble an “A-frame” with poles made from nearby trees, and lots of manpower including an inmate crew from South Fork Camp, the steam donkey eventually was ready for the “lift.”

The large cable drums (weighing 9,500 pounds) went first, followed by the boiler (12,000 pounds) and finally the frame (13,500 pounds). They were air-lifted to a nearby landing, loaded onto trailers and hauled to the Tillamook Forest Center construction site.

Work recently began reassembling the donkey on a large cement pad adjacent to the main building at the Forest Center. When



Photo by Brent O’Nion, ODF

*Weighing 12,000 pounds, the boiler of the steam donkey was lifted from its remote location by a volunteered Boeing 234 (similar to a military “Chinook”) from Columbia Helicopters. The parts were airlifted to a landing, loaded on a truck and transported to the Tillamook Forest Center along Highway 6.*

steam-powered yarder, used in the early 1900s to bring logs to a place where they could be loaded (usually on a train) and hauled from the forest for processing.

Located in a remote part of the Tillamook State Forest near the Salmonberry River, its discovery was seen as a stroke of luck by the staff of the soon-to-open Tillamook Forest Center on Highway 6 (see related story). The center had been looking for just such a steam donkey for an outdoor display.

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finished, the steam donkey will serve as a glimpse into the past when forest harvesting depended on steam and manpower.

“It means a lot to me because I grew up around these machines when loggers were using them in the woods,” said Johnson, known as the “Donkey Doctor.” “Their sound, smell, speed and power were really something to see. It’s like a dream and finally it’s come to life.”

The recovery and restoration of the Tunnel Creek Steam Donkey required the participation and support of many individuals, private businesses and Oregon Department of Forestry staff. Without their commitment and dedication to the project, this unique cultural resource would still be rusting away in the forest never to be enjoyed and appreciated by the public.

Johnson, the retired school teacher and logger from Beaverton, led the effort to locate, disassemble and restore this steam donkey. John Barnes from the ODF Salem office provided overall project coordination and Don Sohler from the Salem office coordinated air operations.

This donkey was part of a larger operation based out of the West Oregon Logging Company camp at the top of the Edwards Incline above the mouth of the North Fork Salmonberry River. This incline and camp began operation in 1929, with the lower end joining the Pacific Rail & Navigation Company railroad mainline at the confluence of the North Fork and main stem Salmonberry Rivers.

However, this particular donkey was not yarding logs to be taken down the incline. Instead, it staged logs to be transported by high-lead (cable line) directly to the Enright logging camp across the Salmonberry River Canyon. Documentation and photos show such a delivery system in place from Enright across the river to the steep slopes and large timber on the north side of the canyon.

Apparently the donkey broke down. Partial disassembly and a large crack in the frame holding the haul-back cable drum support this

*continued on next page*



Photo by Scott Allen

*With an appearance of yesteryear, ODF’s John Barnes surveys the dismantling work to be done on the steam donkey located in a remote part of the Tillamook State Forest.*

*...Historical Steam Donkey (continued from page 13)*

## Exhibits taking shape for center's April opening



Photo by Doug Decker, ODF

Set to open in April 2006, the Tillamook Forest Center will offer exhibits, artifacts and computer simulations for visitors to explore the past, present and future of the Tillamook State Forest. The 250-foot suspension footbridge spans the Wilson River and connects to hiking trails and campgrounds.

Display artists and crafters have replaced construction crews at the Tillamook Forest Center, as engaging exhibits are created in the final phase of the new landmark along Highway 6.

The 13,500-square-foot center is set to open to the public in early 2006, with a grand opening celebration scheduled for Arbor Week, April 1-8.

The recently airlifted steam donkey is among the exhibits, artifacts, personal stories, photos, film, games, hands-on models and computer simulations at the center that will invite visitors to explore the past, present and future of the Tillamook State Forest.

An hour's drive west of downtown Portland, the center is situated alongside a picturesque narrow gorge of the Wilson River on a forested site planted entirely by schoolchildren. Outdoors, visitors can watch salmon from the 250-foot-long suspension bridge, climb to the top of the 40-foot tall replica of a fire lookout tower, or walk the interpretative trails to discover and connect with the forest.

The Tillamook State Forest is still recovering from a series of devastating wildfires in the 1930s and 1940s. The reforestation effort that followed is one of the largest of its kind ever undertaken. Thousands of Oregonians, many of them schoolchildren and volunteers, helped plant more than 72 million seedlings across the blackened landscape.

Readers are invited to visit the project on-line at [www.tillamookforest.org](http://www.tillamookforest.org).

belief. Before the crew could make repairs, the 1932 "Cochran" forest fire raged through this area, destroying the camp, railroad trestles, and all of the remaining standing timber.

A decision was made not to return to the area and retrieve the donkey. Since then, the Humboldt-style donkey has stood as a silent sentinel as the forest grew up around it. Due to

its remote location and difficult access, very little artifact removal has occurred. The identification plate and the steam whistle are the only significant missing parts.

"This is perhaps the finest preserved example of a steam donkey that's ever been found in the woods," Johnson said. ■

# Forest Log reaches a milestone

Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Affairs Specialist

A milestone came and went recently for the agency's flagship publication, the *Forest Log*, which turned 75 years old last year.

Yes, the *Forest Log* actually made its debut in the early summer of 1930: a typed, 6-page newsletter with short clips about things like road closures, signage, and insects and disease, along with a special section in the back - "The Duffel Bag" - for miscellaneous news items.

In its debut issue, the intentions and goals of the *Forest Log* were laid out as follows:

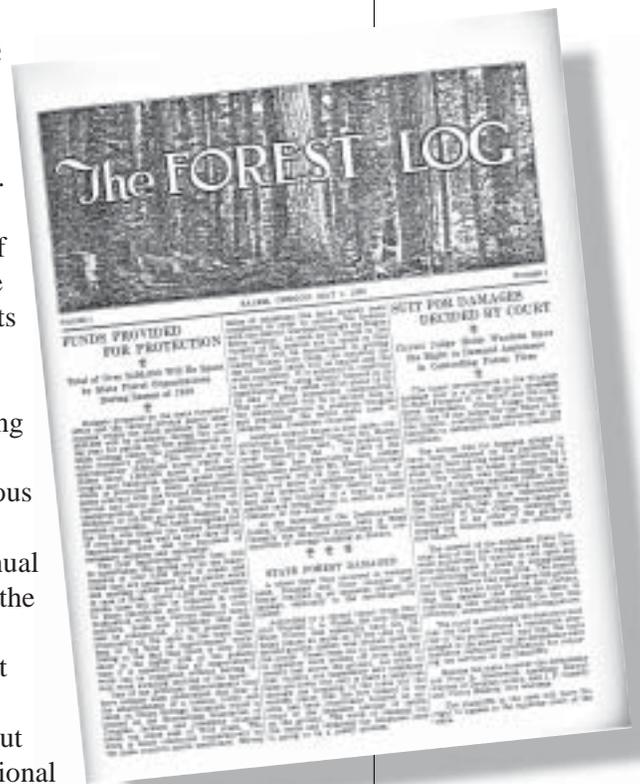
"Inasmuch as the log, as a forest product, may be considered symbolic of the forests and the multitude of activities in protecting, perpetuating and harvesting the forest crops, and again as the word may be used as a term to signify the setting down of certain occurrences and happenings for the enlightenment of individuals or organizations, so "The Forest Log," the official publication of the Oregon State Board of Forestry, will strive to do what the name implies: to set forth briefly both the activities and objectives of the department and its personnel.

"It will be devoted solely to the best interests of forestry, striving in a small way to attain a nearer approach to the ultimate objectives as expressed in progressive forestry policies through establishment between wardens, allied and cooperative forestry organizations and the public as well, of a better understanding of these policies and a knowledge of the activities of the many (people) and organizations engaged in protecting the greatest resource of the state."

Back in its infancy, the *Forest Log* routinely reported about things like fire conditions, hunting, the Board of Forestry and

reforestation law. It also routinely included items of a different nature - short statements about personnel, comments about employee's fishing trips, and even poetry, both serious and comical. In 1935, ODF's annual report described the *Forest Log* as follows: "It is not confined to state activities alone but also includes national activities which might have their effect on forestry in the state of Oregon. An effort is made to keep the publication as nontechnical as possible."

Publication frequency of the *Forest Log* has varied a bit over the years. Initially it was published on a monthly basis, then a bimonthly basis. It was published only sporadically in the late 1990s, but has been published on a regular basis since 2001, first



continued on next page

*...Forest Log Reaches a Milestone (continued from page 15)*

on a bi-monthly basis and since 2003, as a quarterly.

An article in the August, 1960 issue stated that the *Forest Log* was being distributed to more than 1,400 people each month, and included recipients in other countries including Japan, Canada, West Germany and Norway. "Each month from Japan comes a note of thanks for the publication," states the article, adding, "it never fails and is in very characteristic English handwriting, always by the same individual." At that time, even Oxford University, England, was receiving the *Forest Log*.

Today, the *Forest Log* continues to be distributed to many libraries around the country, as well as to many family forestland owners who maintain a keen interest in knowing about the latest forest practice laws, fire news, insect and disease information, legislation, and a host of other forestry-related topics. The general public, forestry schools, Department of Forestry retirees and current Department employees are other regular readers. ■

*The following is a sample of the poetry that appeared in early issues of The Forest Log:*

### **What Do We Plant?**

*What do we plant when we plant the tree?  
We plant the ship which will cross the sea.  
We plant the mast to carry the sails;  
We plant the planks to withstand the gales –  
The keel, the keelson, and beam and knee;  
We plant the ship when we plant the tree.*

*What do we plant when we plant the tree?  
We plant the houses for you and me.  
We plant the rafters, the shingles, the floors,  
We plant the studding, the lath, the doors.  
The beams and siding, all parts that be;  
We plant the house when we plant the tree.*

*What do we plant when we plant the tree?  
A thousand things that we daily see;  
We plant the spire that out-towers the crag,  
We plant the staff for our country's flag,  
We plant the shade, from the hot sun free;  
We plant all these when we plant the tree!*

— Henry Abbey



# The Community Tree Management Institute: Training future urban forestry leaders

by Paul Ries, ODF Urban Forester

*Picture this: you're an employee at a small to medium size municipality. With your background in trees, horticulture, or forestry, either from college or real life experiences, most tree questions fall to you – even though that is only part of your overall job in parks, planning, or public works. Where do you go to get additional training on exactly how one goes about managing community trees?*

If your city is in Oregon or Washington, chances are you sign up for the Community Tree Management Institute (CTMI), an intensive training program offered by the state urban forestry programs from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the Washington Department of Natural Resources in partnership with the US Forest Service.

The CTMI began in Oregon in 1994 with the realization that there were many municipal employees in small to medium size cities who had tree-related responsibilities, but not necessarily the title “City Forester” or “Urban Forester.” These community tree managers were park managers, horticulturists, arborists, and public works maintenance staff members who had some education and experience in trees, but needed help to effectively manage their community’s urban forest resource. The ODF urban forestry staff began the CTMI as a

way to reach out to these city employees and help them develop more effective urban forestry programs.

Oregon offered the CTMI in 1994, 1996 and 2000, and was joined by Washington for the 2003 and 2005 classes. A total of nearly 100 municipal employees have completed the program.

“The CTMI has turned out to be a wildly successful endeavor, as its graduates have gone on to become park directors, full time city foresters, and even president of a state urban forest council,” reports Paul Ries, who manages ODF’s Urban Forestry program. “The CTMI experience has allowed many cities to develop excellent urban forestry programs that help make their cities a safer, healthier and more desirable place to live.”

Chris Neamtzu, manager of long-range planning for the City of Wilsonville, is a CTMI graduate. As a graduate of Humboldt State

*continued on page 18*



Photo by Paul Ries, ODF

*At the Oakway Mall in Eugene, members of the 2005 CTMI class discuss how to preserve trees during construction projects.*

*...CTMI (continued from page 17)*

University with a degree in Natural Resources Planning, Neamtzu's training and experience was in forestry, ecosystem management, and land use planning. When he accepted a job as a planner in

*Chris Neamtzu, CTMI graduate and planner for the City of Wilsonville, instructs volunteers on the finer points of tree planting during an Arbor Day event.*



Photo by Paul Ries, ODF

Wilsonville in 1995, Neamtzu found himself dealing with a wide variety of urban tree related issues on a daily basis, managing tree related projects such as development review, natural area restoration, policy development, road construction, and park design in a rapidly growing city.

"When I learned about the CTMI program, I could not imagine training that was better suited to helping me transition my knowledge and expertise

*"When I learned about the CTMI program, I could not imagine training that was better suited to helping me transition my knowledge and expertise of trees to the often complex issues related to urban and community forest management."*

– Chris Neamtzu,  
Urban Forester,  
Wilsonville

of trees to the often complex issues related to urban and community forest management," recalled Neamtzu. "Talk about a crash course; the skills I learned at CTMI made me well-rounded as a tree management professional and gave me the skills to deal with a wide variety of tree-related issues in an urban setting."

The CTMI course meets four times between March and November, with a total of nine instructional days. Program management topics include the integration of urban and community forestry into city government, writing and adopting tree ordinances, tree inventories, community forest planning, tree risk assessment, tree protection during construction projects, working with the media, the importance of green

infrastructure to community livability, financing and budgeting, tree politics and promotion, and leadership. Technical topics include tree pruning, hazard tree management, soil and water considerations, tree and species selection, working with boards and committees, storm response, and utilities arboriculture. Class formats include lectures, group activities, field tours and group discussions.

Neamtzu was able to take what he learned at the CTMI and put Wilsonville's then-fledgling urban forestry program into overdrive. He wrote successful grant applications for funds provided by the Department of Forestry and the US Forest Service to enhance the city's program and leverage their own resources.

After completing CTMI, Neamtzu went on to help write the city's first comprehensive tree preservation ordinance. Shortly thereafter, the city received its first Tree City USA award from the National Arbor Day Foundation. Wilsonville later won Tree City Growth Awards and was named as Oregon's "Tree City of the Year."

What impact has CTMI made on Neamtzu and on the City of Wilsonville?

"Many of the people I met while participating in CTMI are friends to this day and we have created a network of tree professionals who I consult regularly," observes Neamtzu. "The experiences I gained as a graduate of CTMI gave me the knowledge and contacts to more effectively and creatively manage the City's urban forest, deal with diverse and complex situations, and effectively express the importance of urban trees to citizens and elected officials as they contribute to community vitality and livability."

The CTMI is a true partnership, leveraging federal funds provided by the US Forest Service to help two states and countless cities. The results of this partnership are the new urban forestry leaders being created, the professional networks being established, and the sustainable local urban forestry programs being developed. The City of Wilsonville's urban forestry achievements over the last decade are a testament to the CTMI program's success.

Chris Neamtzu sums it up best: "For me, CTMI was one of the best professional training courses I have ever attended." ■

# Tree topping a common but unwise practice

**W**inter is a good time to prune trees, but tree topping is a detrimental practice that damages both the health and value of landscape trees. Tree topping - the indiscriminate cutting back of tree branches to stubs - weakens trees, leaves trees vulnerable to insects and disease and shortens the life span of trees. Although tree topping is an unwise practice, many people mistakenly “top” trees because they grow into utility wires, interfere with views or sunlight, or simply grow so large that they worry the landowner.

## Here’s why topping trees is an unwise practice:

### Topping starves and shocks trees.

It removes much of the tree’s protective “crown” of leaves and branches. Without its “crown,” a tree cannot feed itself or protect its sensitive bark from damaging sun and heat. The result is the splitting of the bark and the death of branches.

### Topping is expensive.

Each time a branch is cut, numerous long, skinny young shoots (called suckers or watersprouts) grow rapidly back to replace it. A topped tree must be done and re-done every few years-and eventually must be removed when it dies or the owner gives up. A properly pruned tree stays “done” longer, since the work does not stimulate an upsurge of regrowth. Proper pruning actually improves the health and beauty of a tree, costing you less in the long run.

### Topping reduces the appraised value of your tree.

A tree, like any landscape amenity, adds to the value of your property. Appraisers subtract hundreds of dollars from the value of a tree when

it’s been topped (using the International Society of Arboriculture’s guidelines for evaluation).

And, not only do topped trees reduce property values; they also eventually increase liability because of safety issues. In many cities, topping is banned because of the public safety factor and the potential for lawsuits.

You can even sue a tree company for wrongfully topping a tree.

### Topping is ugly.

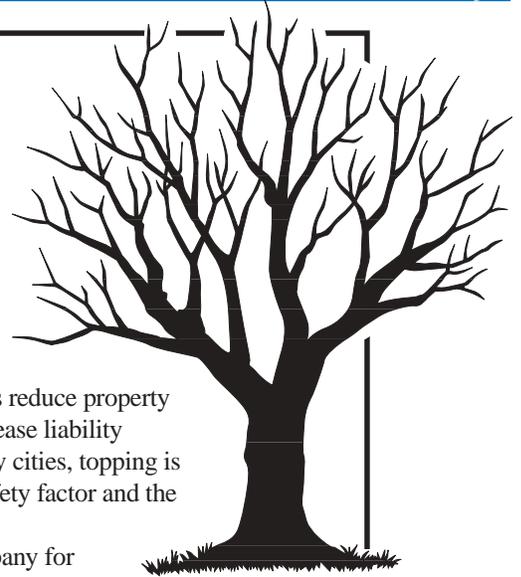
A tree’s natural form is the source of its beauty, a function of uninterrupted taper. Topped trees appear disfigured and mutilated. Arborists consider the topping of some trees a criminal act, since a tree’s 90-year achievement of natural beauty can be destroyed in a couple of hours. And, the freshly sawed look is just the beginning of the eyesore. The worst is yet to come, as the tree re-grows a witch’s broom of ugly, straight suckers and sprouts. Sadly, once topped, a tree will never return to its natural shape.

Paul Ries, urban forester for the Oregon Department of Forestry, hopes people can learn to recognize and appreciate the advantages of proper tree pruning and give up the practice of tree topping.

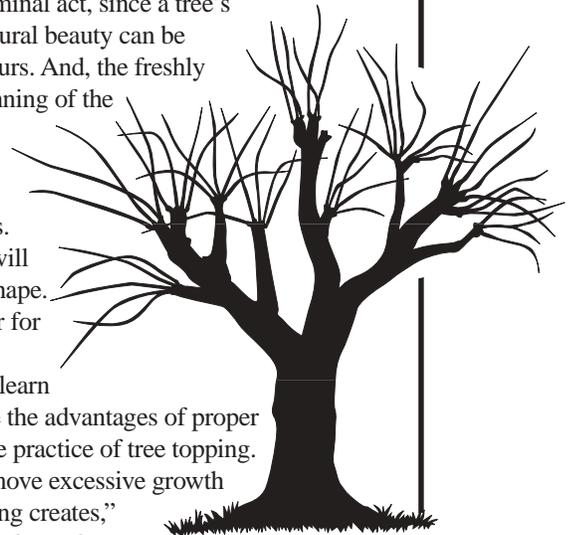
“Proper pruning can remove excessive growth without the problems topping creates,” says Ries. “Topping creates hazard trees, but proper tree pruning creates healthy trees.” If the trees on your property are in need of pruning but you’re unsure just how to go about it, contact a certified arborist in your area for assistance.

### Tips on proper pruning

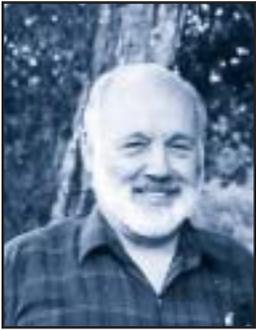
For more information on proper tree care, the popular publication “An Oregon homeowner’s guide to tree care” may be downloaded from the Oregon Department of Forestry’s website at [http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/URBAN\\_FORESTS/ucf\\_publications.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/URBAN_FORESTS/ucf_publications.shtml) ■



Properly Pruned Tree



Topped Tree



Bob Kintigh

## 2005 Tree Farmer of the Year announced

Oregon's newly selected **2005 Tree Farmer of the Year** is a man who planted his first trees at the age of 10, earned a Master of Forestry degree, has worked all his life on national and private forests, and is now passionately spreading the "forestry bug" to others.

Bob Kintigh, a Lane County tree farmer who manages the timber owned by Kintigh Family Limited Partnership east of Springfield, was a bit choked up when he took center stage at the World Forestry Center in Portland on Monday, Nov. 21, to receive the noteworthy recognition at the annual awards luncheon. "We have so many really good tree farmers in Oregon that are really doing a great job," said Kintigh, "to be chosen to represent *them* is a great honor."

Turning an unproductive "stump ranch," which he purchased in 1957, into a productive piece of ground that now produces 50 loads of logs annually, fine Christmas trees and high-quality seedlings took years of work. A former Oregon State Senator from 1987-1999 serving two terms as Chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, he's heard substantial testimony about the impact of man's

activities on the land. Maybe that's why he goes the extra mile to protect soil fertility and control erosion, maintain roads on his property, control aggressive non-native species, and reserve habitat for the herons, Canada geese, wild ducks, deer, elk, quail, swallows and other wildlife. Kintigh figures he has probably harvested enough timber from his property to build approximately 500 average-size homes as well. "That production has meant that 500 families didn't have to sleep under a bridge at night . . . I'm proud of my stumps," stressed Kintigh. "And we work really hard to ensure that we are maximizing sustainable wood production without hurting the environment, wildlife habitat or water resources."

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



Clint Bentz

## Former Tree Farmer of the Year in line for additional honors

Clint Bentz, who manages a tree farm in Scio, has been nominated to replace the retiring Bill Berry as **Chair of the National Operating Committee of the American Tree Farm System**, and to become a trustee of the American Forest Foundation, which sponsors both the American Tree Farm System and Project Learning Tree.

If confirmed, Bentz will be the first family tree farmer to hold the chairmanship of this 64 year-old organization. Clint and his father, Ron Bentz, were named the National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year for 2002. Bentz has served as the Vice-Chair of the National Operating Committee for the last two years.

The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation, is committed to sustaining forests, watersheds and healthy habitats through private stewardship.

Currently, the ATFS has 33 million acres of privately owned forestland and 51,000 family forest owners in 46 states who are committed to excellence in forest stewardship. ATFS has educated and recognized the commitment of private forest owners in the United States for more than 60 years.

ATFS has established standards and guidelines for property owners to meet to become a certified Tree Farm. Under these standards and guidelines, private forest owners must develop a management plan based on strict environmental standards and pass an inspection by an ATFS volunteer forester every five years.

The American Forest Foundation is a national nonprofit organization that works for healthy forests, quality environmental education and to help people make informed decisions about our communities and our world. ■

# Department's fire teams meet summer's big fires head-on

Rod Nichols, ODF Public Affairs Specialist

In summer 2005, Oregon Department of Forestry's three incident management teams took on four large fires in southern Oregon. That none of these formidable blazes grew into a huge incident is a credit to the skill and tactics of these highly trained "overhead" teams. The Wasson Canyon Fire burned 1,246 acres on department-protected lands; the Deer Creek Fire, 1,548 acres; the Simpson Fire, 2,225 acres; and the department branch of the Blossom Fire, 1,277 acres.

## Simpson Fire

A towering smoke column glowing red in the night sky is the image of the Simpson Fire engraved on the memories of Klamath Falls residents. Burning six miles to the north, the fire never threatened the city but understandably aroused widespread concern. When Incident Management Team 1 took over the fire from the Klamath-Lake District, one of the first orders of business was to establish rapport with the community and keep townsfolk updated on the firefighting effort.

"Oregon Institute of Technology's generosity to let us use their campus made us accessible to local media," Incident Commander Tom Savage said. "Reporters were there early on to learn the status of the fire and what we were doing to control it, interviewing team command and general staff several times a day."

In addition, team information officers took their message to the community, appearing at strategic gathering points such as Wal-Mart to share current fire news with citizens and answer questions. They also traveled to neighborhoods closest to the fire to learn residents' concerns.

Aside from the considerable public relations challenge, the team had its hands full with the fire itself. Explosive fuels, tough terrain and quirky weather required constant vigilance. Portions of the fire area had burned in the past, enabling highly flammable mountain mahogany and Ceanothus to take over. Slash and fiber log decks left over from recent logging activity added to the

fuel load. The small-diameter logs in the decks elevated the potential of the fire to cast embers and create spot fires well beyond the perimeter.

A fast-moving fire in tough terrain

calls for swift air attack, and the incident management team was not left wanting. Department air tankers and helicopters, along with a U.S. Forest Service helicopter, worked the fire hard while ground forces arrived and set up.

The next line of force after aircraft is bulldozers, and the district had lined up contract dozers and operators in advance of the fire season. They moved in and quickly began constructing fire lines.

"The district's relationships with community leaders, legislators, landowners, fire departments - everything clicked when we came in," Savage said. "They set us up for success."

The incident commander also cited outstanding support from local forest landowners, rural fire departments, the U.S. Forest Service and private firefighting contractors.

## Deer Creek Fire

On the Deer Creek Fire, Team 1's second deployment of the season, fire managers faced the added complexity of protecting wildland-urban interface. The charging fire destroyed several homes early on, and invocation of the state Conflagration Act paired the department with the Office of the State Fire Marshal's Red Team.

Since the wildland and structural teams train together annually, the unified command ran smoothly, with Team 1 focused on controlling the



Photo by Chris Friend, ODF

*Team 2 Division Supervisor John Pellissier directs firefighters in preparation for a burnout operation at the Blossom fire.*

*...Fire Teams (continued from page 21)*

*“This was very unique for us: a large-scale burnout well away from the active fire perimeter, with a dicey midslope line,” Hunt said. “It is a credit to our operations folks that they were able to pull it off.”*

wildfire and the Red Team taking steps to protect structures. As on the Simpson Fire, the team arrived at the site of the Deer Creek Fire to find the stage set for their takeover and good local cooperation.

“The Southwest Oregon District’s relationship with community leaders was excellent - two state legislators visited the fire,” Savage said, “and Josephine County helped develop an evacuation plan.”

**Blossom Fire**

When the Department’s Incident Management Team 2 got word that it would be deployed to a portion of the Blossom Complex fires, knitted brows became the look of the day among team members. “Rugged” is an inadequate term to describe the terrain of the Wild Rogue Wilderness where the fire raged. Incident Commander Bill Hunt knew the U.S. Forest Service had limited options to build direct containment lines within the boundary, so his job was to stop the blaze if it breached the Rogue River and Mule Creek onto department-protected Bureau of Land Management forest.

“In a unified command with PNW Team 2 (federal incident management team), ODF’s team determined the appropriate strategy was to seal the fire in the wilderness or at least as close as possible to the Wilderness boundary,” Hunt said. “With weather conditions fluctuating and east winds coming in the fall, we had to take action both on predicted and current weather events.”

The fire organization divided the Blossom Complex into branches, with the Department of Forestry team taking Branch 2. The state team went to work building indirect “contingency” fire lines on BLM ground. Old forest roads served as foundation for the lines, as firefighters cleared brush along these routes to lessen the chance of fire crossing them. Line A near the Wilderness boundary would confront the fire first, with Line B set back a distance from A.

The magnitude of the team’s work comes through in the statistics. Department firefighters constructed three miles of hand line, and heavy equipment and hand crews brushed out seven miles of existing road. All told, they built more than 23 miles of fire line. Meanwhile, other team

personnel “plumbed” the area, deploying 36 miles of firehose and 70-odd water pumps.

Once the contingency lines had been completed, Team 2 turned to building fires of its own. Firefighters conducted burnout operations over several days as the wildfire crept ever closer to the river and Line A. Concurrently, the team sought to create a buffer by burning out vegetation back into the Wilderness using a helicopter equipped with an incendiary device.

“This was very unique for us: a large-scale burnout well away from the active fire perimeter, with a dicey midslope line,” Hunt said. “It is a credit to our operations folks that they were able to pull it off.”

**Wasson Fire**

In protecting the forest from wildfire, the department is also called on at times to safeguard lives and structures. On the Wasson Fire, Incident Management Team 3’s control strategy included protecting a compound occupied by some out-of-the-ordinary residents: tigers and lions. The Oregon Tiger Sanctuary lay in the path of the blaze, and relocating all of the 100 or so tigers, leopards, monkeys and other large animals was unfeasible. The team’s efforts to keep the facility safe created a bond with the sanctuary staff.

“At first they were fearful that nothing would be done to save the sanctuary and the cats,” Walker said. “But once the information flow started going and we told them what our game plan was, that eased their concerns.”

While many tactical and strategic actions went into controlling the Wasson Fire, the incident commander pointed to a particular event as pivotal to protection of the sanctuary.

“During the evening briefing we discussed the possibility of doing a burnout operation,” he said. “Drip torches and other equipment were already strategically placed when the wind direction changed, pulling the fire back into itself.”

This enabled firefighters to quickly build a line all the way from the lower road to the bluff, surrounding the sanctuary.

“We hadn’t really expected to keep the fire out of the top of the bluffs but they did,” he said. “This was the turnaround point of the fire.” ■

...Forestland owners (continued from pages 10 & 11)

### 50 percent tax credit

As its name implies, Oregon's 50 percent tax credit ("underproductive forestland conversion tax credit") allows 50 percent of the cost of establishing a stand of trees on underproductive forestland to be applied as a credit against Oregon state income taxes. Eligible expenses include preparing the site for planting and actual planting costs, as well as measures to control weeds and animal damage.

This credit applies on brushland, grassland, or very poorly stocked forestland. Before the project begins, contact the ODF stewardship forester serving the county where your land is located.

Last but not least, for all cost share or grant programs, make sure you have written confirmation from the funding agency that your project has been funded *before* you begin work. ■

### More about Oregon's 50 percent tax credit (Underproductive forestland conversion tax credit)

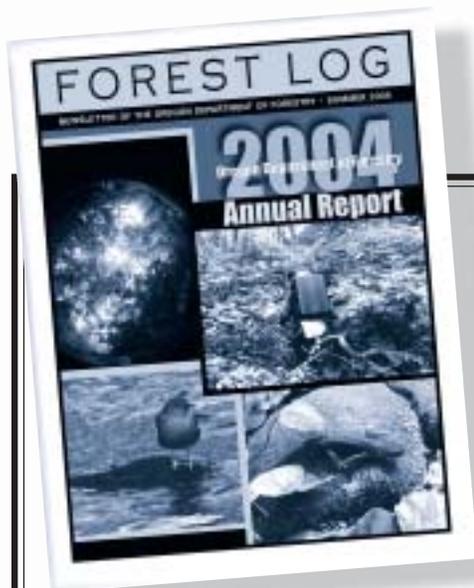
*The goal of Oregon's 50 percent tax credit is to encourage landowners to establish and maintain healthy and productive forests.*

*If you plant and establish free-to-grow seedlings on your property, you may be reimbursed up to 50 percent of your expenses. That's because 50 percent of the cost of establishing a stand of trees on underproductive forestland may be applied as a credit against Oregon state income taxes.*

*You can be any private individual, partnership, corporation or "S" corporation to apply for this tax credit; however, you may not claim this tax credit to comply with the Oregon Forest Practices Act unless your project meets the definition for hardwood conversions. You also may not claim this tax credit to grow Christmas trees.*

*This tax break applies on brushland, grassland, or on very poorly stocked forestland, and you must own or lease at least five acres of land in Oregon capable of growing a commercial forest.*

*Before beginning your project, be sure to contact your local ODF stewardship forester serving the county where your land is located and make sure your project qualifies. Once the project begins, keep good records of all expenses associated with the project, even if it occurs in different tax years.*



## Help! Your Feedback is Needed

*Each year, the Department of Forestry publishes an annual report that summarizes accomplishments and highlights from the prior year.*

**D**espite our best efforts to keep the annual reports brief and to the point, ODF has so many different programs, projects, and departments that the annual reports wind up being a bit longer than we'd like - and that's where you come in!

Please take a few minutes to answer a few questions about the agency's annual report so that we can determine which areas *you're* most interested in learning about. In case you didn't receive one, ODF's 2004 annual report is located online here: <http://oregon.gov/ODF/PUBS/publications.shtml> (click on: "Summer 2004 Annual Report Issue").

*To take part in the survey, go to [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com) and click on ODF Agency Annual Report.* ■

# Forestry Calendar of Public Meetings

January 4	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Board of Forestry Meeting	Tillamook Room, ODF Salem
January 9	9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Oregon Business Plan Leadership Summit	Oregon Conv. Center, Portland
January 10	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Committee for Family Forestlands	Clatsop Conference Room, ODF Salem
February 15&16	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	High Desert Green Industry Conference	Deschutes Fair & Expo Center, Redmond
March 8	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Board of Forestry Meeting	Tillamook Room, ODF Salem
March 14 - 16	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	2006 Incident Management Team training	Hood River Inn, Hood River

## FORESTRY EDUCATION NEEDS YOU!

Oregon forest landowners and forest products producers – constituents who pay the harvest tax that funds OFRI (Oregon Forest Resources Institute) – are invited to help plan forestry education programs. OFRI invites you to be their guest for lunch ... and share your thoughts at one of these planning workshops (each meeting runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.):

- February 2:** Holiday Inn Express, 375 West Harvard Blvd., Roseburg
- February 16:** Inn of the Seventh Mountain, 18575 Century Drive, Bend
- March 2:** Community Auditorium, 1915 Main Street, Forest Grove

**For more information, please contact Kathy Storm at 503-229-6718 ext. 22, or [storm@ofri.com](mailto:storm@ofri.com).**



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY  
2600 STATE STREET  
SALEM, OR 97310

\*STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY\*

