



Roots

*A newsletter of the Oregon Department of Forestry
State Forests Program*

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STATE FOREST ROADS MINIMIZE EFFECT ON FISH & WILDLIFE; ODF HELPS SPONSOR CONFERENCE

Ongoing attention to roads has resulted in ODF helping to sponsor a conference Dec. 13–14 in Eugene on Forest Road: Advancements in Science and Technology. The conference includes four ODF speakers (Rick Thoreson, Ted Lorensen, John Seward and Keith Mills).

Data collected through the road information management system (RIMS) confirms a large majority of State Forest roads are being built, maintained and closed to minimize the effects on forests, fish and wildlife. Our roads disturb a small amount of the overall forest (2 to 4 percent) and are carefully designed to fit surrounding topography. Most roads meet current standards for passing flood flows without major damage—and the roads allow fish to move freely up and downstream.

Many miles of roads have been stabilized—including improvements for fish passage, erosion control and landslide prevention—as part of the Oregon Plan for Salmon



and Watersheds. We still have old, legacy roads, especially from the Tillamook burn era, that need to be addressed over time. These roads were built in locations that would now be avoided.

Consistent data collection procedures for RIMS are being used to evaluate current road conditions, risks to resources and restrictions on road use. This system evaluates fish passage, sediment sources, hydrologic connection to streams, long-term road risks, and areas dedicated to roads and not growing trees.

The RIMS system has been applied on all roads in the Miami and Upper Nehalem watershed analysis projects. It will be used for watershed analysis in the future (a Request for Proposal has been submitted to the state contracting system to assess roads in the Wilson River watershed analysis area). The analysis can be used to develop maps and summary reports.

Our strategic plan calls for transportation planning to be completed by 2011. Our “planned new roads” layer was used in the current Harvest and Habitat Model project. Tillamook District (Howard Harrison) has taken this data layer to the next level, bringing it to proposed GIS standards.

Over time, all our roads data will become more consistent to help guide future road building and road closures and make our road system more efficient. A transportation pilot is planned for the Santiam State Forest to merge all roads information to help determine when and where we need roads, locations where roads need to be relocated, and which roads are no longer needed for management that should be closed or vacated.



STATE FORESTS PROGRAM IS DEVELOPING PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Over the next five months, State Forests Program staff will be working together with the counties and stakeholders to develop economic, environmental, and social performance measures for the program. These measures will be in alignment with the Forestry Program for Oregon, the Board of Forestry Workplan, and the Forest Management Plans. Stay tuned for more information via the next issue of *Roots*, our listserv, public advisory groups, and Board of Forestry presentations.



WATERSHED ANALYSIS MOVES FORWARD, BUILDING ON PREVIOUS PROJECTS

ODF watershed analyses are progressing on several fronts—implementing information from completed projects, working through current projects, continuing to gather data with side projects and developing new projects.

Two pilot projects—the Trask River and the entire Elliott State Forest—helped refine information needs and format, leading to the completion of a State Forest Watershed Analysis Manual last year. The manual was used on the Miami and Lower Nehalem projects this year. The Miami project is completed and in implementation, and the Upper Nehalem is scheduled for completion in December.

Data for these projects comes from the projects themselves and other projects, such as the road information management system (RIMS). RIMS is proving very useful in answering Watershed Project questions, including stream/ditch connectivity and sediment.

Other side projects: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) summary reports on fish habitat in various watersheds help prioritize restoration opportunities and riparian vegetation information from watershed projects. These reports provide useful insight into

projecting future large-wood recruitment.

Other new data include amphibian and noxious weed surveys. New needs identified include better information on the end of fish use and the location of the upper end of streams on small F (fish) streams and N (non-fish) streams.

Analyses information has been incorporated into planning and subsequent management at several levels. The Coos District used the watershed analyses information during its Forest Management Plan revision and during construction of its Implementation Plan. Watershed analyses information is being integrated into districts' Annual Operating Plan (AOP) processes.

Watershed Analysis was identified in the Northwest and Southwest Forest Management Plans to assemble and analyze information. ODF watershed analyses provide an end product that is useful to management, uses scientifically solid methods, builds on existing work, partners with other stakeholders and communicates information.

More projects will include a process-improvement step with lessons learned from the Miami and Upper Nehalem projects.

As we work through these projects, additional information is being collected and a better picture of our information needs is developing. These watershed analyses continue to provide a useful information source for management of our State Forests.



CHECK YOUR OLD STUFF – YOU MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING FOR THE TILLAMOOK FOREST CENTER

As most of you are well aware, ODF is nearing completion of a significant milestone in our efforts to expand our role in forest education. The Tillamook Forest Center is a visitor and education facility located adjacent to the Wilson River in the heart of the 368,000-acre Tillamook State Forest; approximately 20 miles east of the community of Tillamook.

The center is designed to inform visitors about the forests of Oregon. The displays and

exhibits will use many authentic artifacts, or “props,” to bring these messages to life.

ODF State Forest Program Cultural Resource Specialist John Barnes is coordinating the gathering of these items from sources within the agency, but is now in need of items people may have used while working and playing in the woods, or products that use raw materials extracted from the woods.

John developed a list of items he is still seeking to use in the Tillamook Forest Center. If you are interested in donating any of these items to the center, simply send him an e-mail message describing the item, its condition, size, and origin to jbarnes@odf.state.or.us.

John will gather the submittals over the next couple of weeks and let you know when and where they should be delivered or how he can pick them up. We’re telling the story of Oregon’s forests through a wide range of messages. If you have questions about any of these, you can also call him at (503) 945-7387.

Fishing rod and reel from the 1890s early 1900s

2 sets of old and used rain gear

Caulk boots – old and used

Felt hat – old and used

Work boots – old and used

Hiker’s small daypack with water bottle

Camping utensils

Mountain bike helmet

Mountain bike gloves

Baskets or containers for berries

Bird watchers items: a cap, brochures, binoculars, guidebook, and sketchbook with notes/drawings

Mini tape recorder

Wooden flute

Small wood frame drum

Wood Duck house/nesting box

Turned wooden items – bowl, vase, plates

Wooden spoons

Wood salt and pepper shakers

Woven wood basket

Other small wooden crafts

Compass

Small camera

Small tackle/lure box

Small wooden toys: Yo-Yo, helicopter/airplane, truck, car, etc.

Contractors will move into the center in three weeks to begin construction of the exhibits, displays and interior fixtures. Our goal is to complete our search for all of these props by Dec. 1.



PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH MOVES FORWARD – PROPOSALS DUE BY DEC. 2

The request for proposals (RFP) for the public opinion research was sent to the state contracting system in late October. The proposal deadline is Dec. 2. We hope to award a contract by Jan. 1. A final report on the opinion research collected by the contractor should come in April or May. The research information will evaluate the opinions of Oregon residents about state forest management issues. This will provide baseline data for subsequent surveys planned every two years.

