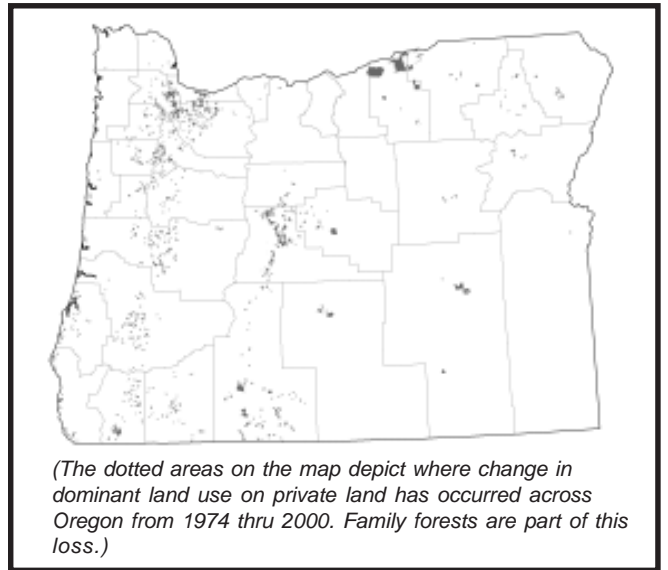


Coming in April 2007...

A symposium that might make you think a bit differently about the forestland you see from your own back yard.



Looking forward II
**Oregon Families & their Forestlands:
What's at Stake?**

Wow. Every week we seem to get subtle and not so subtle reminders that our way of life in Oregon is changing. Some changes for the better, some maybe not so desirable.

Forestry in Oregon is no exception. We're starting to hear some pretty heart-wrenching stories about private family forest landowners struggling to find ways to hold onto the land they've cherished for generations. Even though they are resilient, hardworking folk, the odds are quickly being stacked against them.

Like in other parts of the country, the threat of forestland being converted to other uses is very real in Oregon. Maybe it's not quite as severe as what you might find back east, but it HAS begun, especially in the central and southwestern parts of our state. A 2005 report by the USDA Forest Service acknowledges that many private forests are "on the edge" of succumbing to development pressures, for a number of reasons. It notes that, nationwide, over 11 percent of private forests (44 million acres) are likely to be replaced with housing developments over the next 30 years. That's an area about the size of New England!

By now you might be saying to yourself, "I feel badly that family forestland owners are having such a hard time of it, but I'm not sure what this has to do with ME?" The answer is clear and simple, yet complicated at the same time.

The loss of forestland in Oregon affects *everyone's* quality of life. What's at stake are clean drinking water, clean air, recreational opportunities, and an ability to sustain economically-thriving communities. Even fish and wildlife populations are impacted by the loss of important habitat.

So, how do we turn this disturbing trend around in Oregon or, at the very least, slow its progress?

It's going to be complicated, but where there's a will, there's most certainly a way...probably *several* ways. That's why a symposium is being planned, "**Oregon's Families and their Forestlands: What's at Stake,**" on April 27 & 28, 2007 at Oregon State University (OSU) in Corvallis. Hosted by the Board of Forestry and the Committee for Family Forestlands, the symposium will bring together some of Oregon's "best and brightest" from all walks of life who value our forests to address how we can work collaboratively to take action. Opportunities lie ahead to help guide the makeup of Oregon's landscape, but we must start now.

Also, just prior to the symposium on April 26, OSWA's state office and Benton County Chapter will host the **2007 OSWA Annual Meeting**, "Beyond Sustainability-Enhancing our Woodland Neighborhoods," which will include a day of family forestland field tours and provide terrific networking opportunities for landowners, agency and industry representatives, policymakers and others. The annual meeting is sure to stimulate dialogue that will continue during the symposium, and public attendance is encouraged for both events. (Enclosed are further details.)

We hope you, too, will join us during these events as we engage with others to find ways to help conserve Oregon's family forestlands...and, perhaps, the view from your own back yard.