

The WOODLANDER UPDATE

February 2011

News and Information for-and-about Small Woodland Owners

Volume 31 Issue 1

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DATES

UPCOMING MEETINGS

2011

March 3 OSWA Exec Mtg

March 10 OSWA Board Call

March 19 Tree School Clack.

April 7 OSWA Exec Mtg

April 14 OSWA Board Call

April 21 Day at Capital

June 23-25 OSWA Annual Mtg

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OSWA NEWS

OSWA's Annual Meeting Date Has Changed

The dates for OSWA's 2011 Annual Meeting have been changed to June 23rd thru 25th hosted by our Baker County Chapter. The meeting will be held in Baker City at the Best Western Sunridge Inn. A block of rooms are being held for our event. Congressman Greg Walden and new Oregon State Forester Doug Decker have been invited. This year's theme is "Dealing with Changing Realities in Woodland Management". Our Annual Meeting will be linked this year to the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year tour on Thursday June 23rd visiting the Harry Merlo woodlands in Union County. The OSWA and Oregon Tree Farm System Board meetings will be held Thursday night in Baker City.

The program on Friday, June 24th will include OSWA's Annual Membership Meeting and speakers on topics relevant to the changes affecting woodlands management on family forests with a focus on the specific challenges east of the Cascade Mountains. A forum to facilitate a dialog between speakers and the audience will be used with the following topics planned:

New Partnerships - Public and Private

New partnerships are needed to navigate the changing landscapes of forest management. New partnerships will bring expertise, funding for activities, education, and opportunities to sell products.

New Markets for Woodland Owners

With the economy on a slow recovery path, family woodland owners are looking for alternative ways to find income from their woods or redesign the old market to accommodate changing times. Several groups are developing new approaches to income streams for woodland owners.

New Management Practices to Address Markets and Forest Protection

Forest landowners are up against an increasing amount of threats such as fire, insects and disease, low quality wood from younger trees, and other issues that affect forest management practices. There are tradeoffs associated with some practices. What are examples of alternative practices to address these issues?

Family Ownership Changes – How Do We Extend the Stewardship Ethics to New Forestland Owners?

What are the options and steps landowners need to make to ensure their lands pass on to their family or their stewardship practices are passed along to new owners of the property?

Con't on page 12

Our Vision

To see privately owned family woodlands are a thriving part of Oregon's landscape in 2050.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To provide opportunity to Family Woodland Owner by:

- Educating and informing the owners of forested tracts and the public regarding forestry and family forestland management issues.
- Providing a medium for the exchange of ideas about family forestland by land owners, public agencies, consultants and timber industry personnel.
- Serving as a forum to make recommendations for investigating and solving problems, and for improving forest management, harvesting, and marketing.
- Disseminating information on the establishment, growth, harvesting and marketing of forest crops produced on family forestlands, and to foster the wise use and protection of forests and encourage better forestry practices.
- Representing the owners of family forestlands to the general public and before legislative bodies and regulatory agencies.
- Complying with ORS Chapter 65 and as authorized by ORS 65.061.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Nancy Hathaway

Catching up with Kristina McNitt

Kristina McNitt was OSWA's lobbyist from 2000 to 2008 and enjoyed close personal relationships with many OSWA members. Her smiling face was seen at most board meetings and almost always at our Annual Meetings. Her reports were always interesting, informative and spiced with legislative quips.

So, what's Kristina doing now? She's still walking the talk in the Capitol and still protecting forest interests. Let her tell you...



What a pleasure to be asked to share with you my current comings and goings. I always enjoy the month of December, when I change pace from my indoor day job as a lobbyist and spend weekends at my husband's farm making and selling wreaths at the fruit stand. This creative outlet and time with members of our community is often the respite I need before heading into Oregon's Legislative Session, when it's all meetings, all the time.

Since my departure at OSWA, I was fortunate to pick up a contract with the Oregon Forest Industries Council, and I have had the privilege of representing forest landowners ever since. I also remain busy representing irrigated agriculture and irrigation districts, sharing their perspectives and issues with our elected officials.

Over the past decade, spending from the General Fund for all agencies has gone up more than 31% -- but General Fund support for natural resource agencies has gone down by 2.5%, and now represents only 1 percent of the overall General Fund budget. At the same time, agency costs have increased for natural resource agencies, just as they have for other agencies. The difference has been made up through landowner fees, which have steadily climbed and are clearly at a tipping point. Landowners cannot continue to shoulder costs that outpace the productive capacity of their lands.

It will come as no surprise to OSWA members who follow legislative issues that the 2011 session will see the recurring theme of preventing more cost shifts from the General Fund onto landowners, protecting the 50-50 funding split for base fire protection, and ensuring the Department of Forestry has the capacity to enforce the Forest Practice Act.

I fully anticipate OSWA and OFIC working together on these budget issues. We'll be jointly reminding and even educating legislators about what timber resources can earn in a community, when supported with sound public policy and strong economic fundamentals. Oregon will never climb out of its "decade of deficits," as projected by Governor Kulongski, without a robust agriculture and timber economy.

I look forward to working with you all in the coming months and would encourage you to remember that you are the best, most authentic lobbyist in the building --- even if you happen to live in Grant County, for example. Perhaps especially if you're from Grant County! Don't forget how important you truly are to the process.

My best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year. Kristina

OSWA NEWS

Message from the Executive Director

This edition of Woodlander Update will have information about the 2011 Legislative Session and bills of interest to OSWA. The capital is full of activity since February 1st when the session reconvened. OSWA will be sending out Legislative Updates weekly via email using Constant Contact. If you are not receiving this email update and you wish to do so, please contact Jen Rains at the Salem office to give her your email address and you will be added to the distribution list. OSWA is still looking for volunteers to give personal testimony on bills important to OSWA. Someone who is represented by a legislator who sits on the committee evaluating a bill of importance to OSWA can be more influential than someone who is getting paid to represent OSWA interests. If you are willing to testify, please let me know. With the struggling economy and emphasis on a balanced budget, this session will be a challenge for everyone.

Roger Beyer is OSWA's lobbyist. He is a past legislator and an OSWA member from Clackamas County. I believe it is important for members to know the background of who is representing us so I ask Roger to write a short article so we could get to know him better. Following is some background information in Roger's own words:

"Growing up on a tree farm in south Clackamas County it seemed natural that I would one day choose tree farming for a profession. After graduating from Oregon State University with a degree in horticulture, I came back to work for my family tree farm. At that time our tree farm was just over 1000 acres, which included about 150 acres of Christmas trees. My primary role was to manage the Christmas tree and bough operation which in the early 1980's was the profit center on the farm.

In 1984 I was talking with Clyde Ramsey, a long time neighbor, and he impressed upon me the need to get involved with the legislative process. Having been interested in politics since Vic Atiyeh, then a state senator campaigning for governor, came and spoke at our high school, Clyde convinced me to become involved. Starting in January of 1985, I joined the OSWA legislative committee which met every Tuesday at 7:00 AM to plan for the coming week. Bert Udell was the chairman and he would assign tasks to anyone who would accept them. With Gary Carlson to guide us, we would head for the Capitol to advocate for OSWA issues.

I was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1996 where I served two terms. I was then elected to the Senate in 2000. In July of 2003, I was chosen to be Republican leader of the Senate and served in that capacity until the end of 2004. In January 2008, I left the Senate to begin the next phase of my career and last February returned to my roots in politics when David Ford asked me to represent OSWA during the Special Session.

I still live on my tree farm in south Clackamas County with my wife Barbara and the two youngest of our five children who attend Molalla High School. Our oldest children are pursuing careers and advanced education, but live nearby and spend much time on the farm. I continue to grow Christmas trees and have just over 600 acres of timberland which I manage with my brother.

con't on pg 7

Resources

<http://www.oswa.org/>

Visit the OSWA web site at www.oswa.org for information about your local chapter. Be sure to click on "Your Local Chapter" for a link to local chapter information.

ADVERTISE IN THE UPDATE!

The Update is sent to over 2,900 OSWA members and friends eight times per year.

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OREGON NEWS

Doug Decker selected as New Oregon State Forester

The state Board of Forestry Wednesday selected Doug Decker, a Department of Forestry executive and leader of several major agency initiatives in recent years, as Oregon's next state forester.

Decker assumed his duties on February 1, succeeding Marvin Brown who resigned effective last Dec 31.

"Doug is an excellent communicator and understands the challenges facing the Oregon Department of Forestry," Blackwell said. "He has the skills to bring ODF into better alignment with a multitude of stakeholders, and to keep the department focused on its mission."

"Doug understands the leadership role required of the state forester, and is deeply committed to building on the agency's 100-year legacy of forest protection and management."

Decker, of Portland, most recently has been acting chief of the department's state forests division. He began with the

agency in 1987 as a public affairs specialist, and served as public affairs director from 1990 to 1996.

He led development of the Tillamook Forest Center, an interpretive facility in the Tillamook State Forest, from 1996 to 2006. Most recently, he oversaw acquisition in Central Oregon of the Gilchrist State Forest, Oregon's new state forest in more than 60 years.

"I am deeply honored to be selected for this job and look forward to working with the board, the Governor and our many stakeholders and partners to shape the conversation about forests and forestry," Decker said.

Decker was selected from a field of 12 candidates who met qualifications for the position.

Oregon's state forester carries out the board's overarching policies through leadership of the Department of Forestry. The state forester services as director of the department, which provides services including preventing and fighting wildfires, managing state-owned forests, enforcing natural resource protection laws on private forestlands, advising landowners, and providing urban forestry assistance.

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OREGON TREE FARM SYSTEM NEWS

Oregon Tree Farm System News

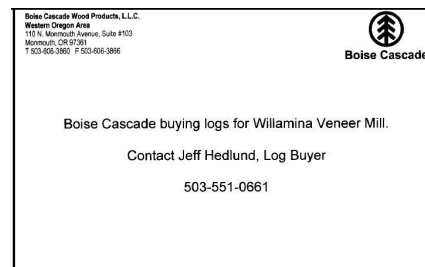
Eligibility for Certification by the American Tree Farm System

ATFS eligibility requirements were developed to ensure ATFS certification remains consistent with the mission to outreach to small private landowners and positively affect the management of their lands. The eligibility requirements evaluate membership suitability based upon trends in land management style and the appropriateness of the AFF Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification. Landowner requirements may be delegated to the land manager, as landowners shall be engaged in the decision to pursue certification, but land managers may implement the requirements of the program. ATFS reserves the right to refuse certification to any party. ATFS may review petitions for exceptions and may make eligible for certification properties that contribute to the greater mission of AFF and the conservation of private forest land in the United States.

Eligibility Requirements

Acreage Requirements

1. State Tree Farm Committees may enroll properties from 10 to 10,000 contiguous acres
2. Independently Managed Group (IMG) and Aggregated Management Group (AMG) programs may enroll properties from 10 to 20,000 contiguous acres.
3. Individual third-party certificate holders may include under their certificate contiguous properties from 10 – 20,000 acres.
4. ATFS acreage limits apply only to contiguous parcels. Contiguous parcels are defined as discrete parcels that share a boundary line or corner point and are held under the same legal ownership.



Landowner Requirements

1. Ownership must be privately held and not publicly traded
2. Ownership may be a public entity such as municipalities, schools, public and private universities and watersheds.
3. Properties owned by state government organizations must undergo third party certification assessments. Properties may not be enrolled through a state Tree Farm committee. Properties may be enrolled through an Independently Managed Group (IMG) program or the state may obtain an individual third-party certificate.
4. Properties must be non-industrial but may be associated with small local business¹
5. Owner must clearly exhibit commitment to sustainable management through management objectives or management plan
6. Owner(s) demonstrates proactive forest management involvement
7. Ownership goals and objectives reinforce the ATFS mission
8. Owner(s) is engaged in active outreach efforts or can contribute to the effort.

¹ Title 13 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 121 Small Business Size Regulations.

OREGON NEWS

Message from New State Forester*By: Doug Decker*

The Governor released his proposed budget for the 2011-2013 biennium, which begins next July 1. It's an important first step in the budget-building process that will unfold in the legislature over the next five months or so. And I'm glad to be able to tell you that all in all, it's an encouraging budget for ODF.

As the Governor made clear, this budget reflects the need to streamline government, to use proven strategies for revitalizing our struggling economy, and to focus on priorities during these difficult times. It suggests that our work in ODF is among those priorities. It proposes no reductions beyond those we have already made. Indeed, it would allow us to regain some ground we have lost in our capacity to implement the Forest Practices Act.

The budget does propose a departure from the current 50-50 split, between landowners and the state General Fund, in the cost of basic fire protection. The new ratio would increase the landowners' share to 55 percent. However- and this is important- the Governor expressed his desire to offer a supplemental budget request in the near future that would restore the 50-50 balance.

The budget would also add \$1.2 million in General Funds, above the current service level, for implementation of the Forest Practices Act, one of our utmost responsibilities. Together with matching Forest Products Harvest Tax, this would allow for some important restorations.

As we've seen in recent years, budget uncertainty is always with us. For now, we are still analyzing the Governor's proposal to more precisely determine the effects on the services we provide. And we won't have an official budget for 2011-2013 until the legislature completes its work- balancing the state's many needs- around mid-year. We've posted more detail about today's budget proposal at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/budgetdevelopment.shtml>, and I'll continue to keep you updated as events move along.

In his comments to agency directors, the Governor emphasized that while being forced to make difficult choices today about the broader state budget, we also are presented with an historic opportunity to rebuild. He rolled out several significant structural change ideas relating to higher education, health care reform, and criminal justice system. I encourage you to read more about these ideas as a way of appreciating the broader state context in which we operate.

The Governor also encouraged all of us to "lean into the changes we must make," noting that unless we work together to address fundamental issues, the state budget picture will only grow more challenging. He also voiced confidence in the work you do, and Oregon's collective ability to make the changes and put the state on a stronger footing for the future.

Thanks for all you do.

Doug Decker, State Forester

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Forester/broker

Member: Society of American Foresters, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Washington Farm Forestry Association, Forestland Owners Association, American Tree Farm System, and the International Society of Tropical Foresters.

OREGON NEWS

The Back Door Tax Increase- A Sweepingly Bad Idea

Discussions are taking place in the capitol about how to drain millions of dollars from scores of dedicated fee accounts, paid for by Oregon business, and divert that money into the General Fund (GF). The GF is the repository for income and many other taxes and is the funding source for the majority of education and health programs.

Here's just one example how it can cost you money: The Worker's Compensation Premium Assessment jumped from 4.6% to 6.4% last September. This money, which you pay as your assessment to support the Workers' Compensation Department, is held in the Workers' Compensation Premium Assessment Operating Account. If the Legislature raid this account and divert the dollars into the GF, the Department would have to extract yet more of your money to keep the agency afloat. In essence, you have an increase in your taxes without even knowing it.

The term used for such an account drain and diversion is called "fund sweep." Although some accounts are protected by the State Constitution or federal law, most are not, and new legislation implementing a fund sweep supersedes existing statutory limitations or guarantees. Some fund sweeps occurred last session, but the possibility of repeats and expansions is raising concerns in the business community.

it is difficult to think of many state-business interactions that do not require a fee. These fees, each with a dedicated account, were often established or increased with the support of the payers with the clear expectation they would be used for purposes strictly specified by statute. DEQ permitting or Department of Agriculture food safety programs are just two examples.

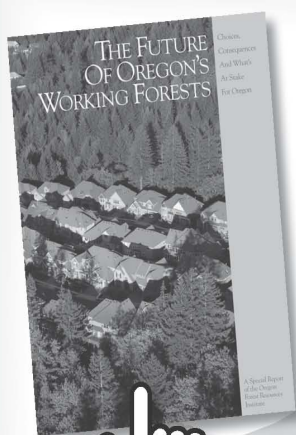
There is another interesting angle. To date, bills diverting fee dollars to increase GF revenue have not required a 60% vote to pass, as would normally be required for new revenue raising measures. The rationale appears to be that if the Legislature decides to "reprogram" funds already collected, regardless of expectations or statutory mandates applying at the time of collection, the funds can be moved into the GF with a simple majority vote. In other words, the 60% vote requirement to increase GF revenue can be sidestepped by identifying or increasing fees and then sweeping them into the GF.

Con't from pg 3

Beyer Tree Farm has been a member of OSWA and a certified tree farm as long as I can remember. My current operation, T&R Tree Farm, continues to be an OSWA member but has not been certified by the tree farm system. All our children actively use our tree farm and one of the management challenges we face is to keep them involved. Ownership transitions can be very challenging, and having gone through two already, one of my goals is to make the next one as smooth as possible."

As you can see, Roger has a lot of personal interests as well as professional interests similar with those of other OSWA members. He is well respected at the capital and with our Natural Resource Organization allies. Even with the challenges ahead, there is reason for cautioned optimism as we begin our journey through the 2011 Legislative Session.

OSWA's Day at the Capital is April 21st. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important event. More details will be available as we get closer to the date.



FOREST INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute is your source for information on Oregon's forests. Visit our Web site and explore OFRI's new online library where you can download our publications and order copies by mail.

www.oregonforests.org



The targets for 2011 fund sweeps are many and diverse;

OSWA NEWS

Action Requested- DEQ Toxics Reduction Rulemaking Package

Submit written comments- Deadline extended to Monday, March 21, by 5:00 p.m.

Background on DEQ Toxics Rulemaking Package:

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) proposes, through this rulemaking, to revise the water quality standards regulation to address the human health criteria for toxic pollutants. DEQ seeks to significantly raise water quality standards for point (end of a pipe) and nonpoint sources of pollution.

The proposed rules expand the role of DEQ to include directly setting and enforcing water quality standards it deems necessary to implement the federal Clean Water Act. This includes explicitly allowing DEQ to establish and assign Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) load allocations to forest landowners where water quality standards are not being met. If the Oregon Board of Forestry is unwilling to change its forest practices rules to meet future water quality standards set by the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), the proposed rules will allow DEQ to take direct enforcement action against landowners who it deems are violating water quality standards.

You and all other natural resource producers in Oregon will be effected by the rulemaking if adopted by the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) at its June 2011 commission meeting. The rules, as proposed, will potentially have significant effects on how family forest landowners will be able to manage their lands.

Currently, Oregon Statute (ORS 527.770) states; "A forest operator conducting, or in good faith proposing to conduct, operations in accordance with best management practices currently in effect shall not be considered in violation of any water quality standards." Thus, forest landowners are protected against enforcement action by DEQ if their operations are conducted in compliance with Forest Practices Act, including BMP's (Best Management Practices) designed to protect soil and water quality.

Under this proposed rulemaking, DEQ seems to throw out the protections for forest landowners established in ORS 527.770, commonly referred to as the "BMP Shield." Instead, if DEQ determines that water quality standards are not being met as a result of forest operations on specific land areas, it can use its authority to establish load allocations that must be met by landowners or they

will be subject to enforcement action. These actions by DEQ should only occur if the Oregon Board of Forestry does not change Forest Practices Act requirements to the satisfaction of DEQ. In our opinion, these proposed rules are setting up a clear conflict between the Environmental Quality Commission and the Board of Forestry on who controls water quality on the state's forestlands.

OSWA opposes any proposed regulation by DEQ that shifts regulatory authority and/or enforcement responsibility for water quality standards away from the Oregon Board of Forestry and the Oregon Department of Forestry to the Environmental Quality Commission and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

THE DEAD LINE FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS HAS BEEN MOVED TO MONDAY, MARCH 21 AT 5 PM.

OSWA's Suggested Points on the Rulemaking Proposal:

Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) will be submitting formal comments on this rulemaking package. We will send you a copy of OSWA's formal written comments as soon as they are complete.

Below are the major issues facing forest landowners if the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) adopts the proposed rule language. We encourage members to use this information as a supplement to your own thoughts and comments. We advise you to personalize your comments by providing your own background and information to provide more specific information to DEQ and EQC regarding the impact of the proposed rule on your family business. Please contact Jim James at jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com or at 503-588-1813.

1. Begin by describing your background. For instance, "I am a family forest landowner and I have been managing my property for ___ years in the (YOUR TOWN) area. I am very concerned about the proposed Human Health Toxic Pollutants rules and how this increased regulation will affect my ability to manage my forestland in Oregon."
2. I believe the Oregon Forest Practices Act has significantly improved water quality in Oregon as it relates to pollution from non-point forest management operations.
3. **Any regulation and enforcement of forestry practices should come directly from the Oregon Department of Forestry and no other agency.** Oregon statute requires landowners to conduct forest management operations in compliance with the Forest Practices Act. ORS 527.770

Con't on pg 10

OREGON NEWS

References From the website of U.S. Representative Greg Walden

February 7th, 2011

This week the House will vote to direct 10 committees to review existing and pending regulations that are hurting job creation and economic growth. After eight straight days on the road in southern and central Oregon, I can tell you this effort is exceedingly important work. This is a topic of concern raised in nearly every meeting I held. Expensive, senseless, job-costing regulations from the federal government are depressing our ability to get even burned, dead trees out of our forests and to our mills and biomass facilities, threaten farmers and ranchers who stir up a little dust as part of their operations, and drive up the cost of health care delivery in our emergency rooms.

I welcome your suggestions and ideas on how to cut back an all-too-intrusive bureaucracy. The time is ripe to get rid of unneeded regulations, or at a minimum, force reform. Soon, the House will take up the REINS Act, which

major rules that affect the economy by \$100 million more. I'm an original cosponsor and strong supporter of this legislation and look forward to this passage.

We have to design a better system than what we have today where rule-writers can ignore the public, remain insulated from the economic impact of their actions, exceed the intent and sometimes the legal authority of Congress, and the public gets stuck with the outcome.

Improving forest management in the Northwest remains a big priority of mine. I toured the newly reopened Murphy Plywood plant in Rogue River, which currently employs more than 100 people, and would like to expand, when the markets recover and if the area forests have adequate timber sales. I met with workers and outlined principles for forest management reform.

It's important to note that before the Northwest Spotted Owl listing and the Northwest Forest Plan, federal lands in Oregon produced more than 50 percent of the state's timber harvest. That figure is now at about 8 percent. We've seen an 80 percent to 85 percent reduction in timber harvest from federal lands since the listing of the Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet. Meanwhile, wildfire has consumed 15 percent of the Northern Spotted Owl's habitat annually in overstocked dry forests between 1994 and 2003.

And the forests continue to grow, and burn.

We need a new strategy to better manage these forests to keep up with growth and mortality rates, turning thinning debris into biomass and pellets, and getting back to a sustainable forestry that produces saw logs for mills. Common-sense changes in the law and regulations would allow our foresters to better manage the federal lands and would generate revenue for our schools and roads and put people back to work.

To read more or subscribe to Walden's email updates, visit www.walden.house.gov



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OSWA NEWS

Cont'd from pg 8 (DEQ Rulemaking...)

states that a forest operator conducting, or in good faith proposing to conduct, operations in accordance with best management practices currently in effect shall not be considered in violation of any water quality standards. I am not aware of any Oregon law that provides direct enforcement authority over forest landowners to either the EQC or DEQ, and I oppose any proposal to establish such an authority.

4. It is critical that any water quality regulation of forestry operations remain under the direction and enforcement of ODF, through the practical best management practices based on sound, peer reviewed, science. If DEQ continues to move forward with the proposed rulemaking language, I believe family forest landowners could very likely be subject to unreasonable and economically inefficient rules that force families to sell their forestlands.

5. I oppose DEQ's establishment of TMDLs on forestlands in Oregon. **Any attempt by DEQ to directly regulate forestry operations through any mechanism, particularly TMDLs would be in direct conflict with Oregon law.**

6. I support formal comments and suggested rule language changes submitted by the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA). As an active participant of the DEQ stakeholder group, I know OSWA seeks to find a positive balance between the need to maintain water quality standards in Oregon and keeping family forestlands economically viable so families can maintain ownership of these lands that contribute a variety of valuable products and services to Oregonians and

our nation.

7. Use Examples!

Examples of how your management practices have changed because of changes in the Forest Practices Act.

Examples of how projects underway currently in your watershed improve water quality.

Examples of what you individually are doing to improve water quality on your forestland and in your local community.

How You Can Comment:

Please mail your written comments to

Andrea Matzke
Oregon DEQ- Water Quality Division
811 SW 6th Ave
Portland, OR 97204
Fax: 503-229-6037
Email: toxicsrulemaking@deq.state.or.us

DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN COMMENT IS MONDAY, MARCH 21 BY 5 PM

Oregon Forest Resources Institute- News Release

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute has published the 2011 edition of "Oregon Forest Facts and Figures," which can be downloaded or ordered from OFRI's website.

The publication offers 32 jam-packed pages of current, accurate, forestry information at a glance. Repeated and updated from the first version are basic statistics such as Oregon's total forestland area (30,472,000 acres), forestland by owner (60 percent federal government) and potential biomass acreage (4.25 million acres), as well as many other up-to-date statistics.

To order a copy, please visit oregonforests.org. Under the pull-down menu for "Facts & Resources," choose "Publications." Scroll down to "Oregon Forest Facts and Figures 2011" and download a PDF version or order a copy to be shipped to you at no cost.



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OSWA NEWS

Action Alert Tab on OSWA Website

OSWA's website, www.oswa.org now has an Action Alert tab that will be used for issues requiring immediate action. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) rule making for Water Quality Toxins is currently identified as an Action Alert item. Members are being asked to comment to the DEQ about the rule making and it's potential to challenge the long standing authority the Board of Forestry has over regulating lands zoned as forest lands in Oregon. See article about this rulemaking in this Woodlander Update or on the Action Alert tab of the website. The comment period has been extended from February 23rd to 5:00 p.m. March 21, 2011.

Also visit the Members Only section of the website for Legislative Updates, minutes of Executive Committee and Board meetings, past editions of Woodlander Updates and past editions of Northwest Woodlands magazine. To access the Members Only section, use one's last name as the User Name and one's OSWA membership number as the User Code. One's membership number can be found on one's membership invoice or by contacting the Salem office.

Chapters without websites are being asked to provide chapter information in the WHO We Are - Local Chapter section. Chapters can contact the Salem office to have their information added to the website.

2011 Legislative Session Has Begun

The 2011 Legislative Session met briefly in January introducing 1600 bills. It reconvened on Feb. 1st to continue its 160 day session. It is scheduled to close on June 30th. Another round of bills has been introduced with an expectation of nearly 4000 bills before the session is over. Jobs and budgets are dominating the early agendas as both parties strive to reverse the economic downturn.

Here are a few early bills identified as important to OSWA with a brief description.

Bills OSWA Supports

HB 2122 Prohibits importation of untreated firewood into the state.

HB 2164 Reduces limit on forest patrol assessment rates for lands east of summit of Cascade Mountains and certain other areas.

HB 2451 Limits expenditure from Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund to lesser of specified sum or one-half of fire suppression and insurance costs.

HB 3050 Reduces rate of tax on capital gains of personal income and corporate income and excise taxpayers.

SB 326 Replaces inheritance tax imposed on basis of former federal credit for state death tax with estate tax imposed as a percentage of Oregon taxable estate.

HB 2121 Allows Environmental Quality Commission and State Department of Agriculture to enter into memorandum of understanding that provides for department to operate program for prevention of water pollution from chemical wastes and discharges of biological materials.

HB 2124 Extends privilege taxes on merchantable forest products harvested on forestlands.

HB 2238 Permits small woodland owner to register vehicle as farm vehicle. OSWA supports.

HB 2817 Eliminates Oregon inheritance tax on transfers of property occurring as result of decedents who die on or after January 1, 2012.

SB 320 Adjusts sunset for tax credit for reforestation. HB 2757 Allows owner of land to receive liquidated damages in amount not to exceed \$1,000 in action in which owner establishes that owner closed land to specific activities and defendant entered upon land and engaged in prohibited activities without permission of owner.

SB 588 Requires reclassification of class of positions in classified service by Oregon Department of Administrative Services to be approved by Legislative Assembly by law.

Bills OSWA Opposes

HB 2589 and SB 265 Deletes definition of "applicant" for purposes of certain provisions related to removal-fill permitting program. OSWA strongly opposes.

HB 2700 and SB 261 Expands definition of "applicant" for purposes of removal-fill permitting program.

SB 619 Establishes Task Force on Natural Resource Agency Consolidation.

Con't on back page



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**“A forest of these trees is a spectacle too much for one man to see.”
 —David Douglas**

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Con't from front page (OSWA Annual Meeting...)

A Howdy Neighbor Tour is scheduled for Saturday June 25th to a local woodland owner. It will focus on how these challenging issues are being addressed by one woodland owner.

For more information, keep checking the OSWA website, www.oswa.org and look for the program later this spring.

Con't from pg 11 (2011 Legislative Session)

Bills OSWA Opposes

SB 345 Requires that one member of the Board of Forestry be representative of organized labor.

SB 521 Establishes Oregon Department of Natural Resources and Oregon Natural Resources Commission.

HB 2188 Changes the definition of integrated pest management for purposes of state agency practices.

It is more effective to have OSWA members speaking to legislators about bills, so as high priority bills are scheduled for hearings, the Salem office will be asking members to contact certain legislators. Once a bill is scheduled, there typically isn't time to look for OSWA members in key districts. If you haven't yet contacted the OSWA office to have your name added to the list to volunteer, now is the time.

STAFF

- Executive Director** Jim James
jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com
- Office Manager** Jen Rains

NEW MEMBERS

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| AT LARGE: | ZAK HANSEN | LANE: | BRENT HENNINGS |
| COLUMBIA: | KEVIN ROBERTSON | | JC THORPE |
| JACKSON/JOSEPHINE: | HELGA BUSH | WASHINGTON: | ALBERT DIPIERO |
| | TOM CARSTSEN | | RODNEYJ LINZ |
| | DON GOHEEN | YAMHILL: | JOHN BARNES |
| | TERI MACDOUGALL | | |
| | JOEL WEYHE | | |