Logs, 2011!

Housing starts are the big engine that drives our wood products industry, our log prices, and directs our decision making on how we manage our tree farms. As I reported last year, US Housing starts YTD 2009 were slightly under 550,000. According to U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, March 16th, 2011, privately-owned housing starts in February were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 479,000. This is 22.5% below the revised January estimate of 618,000 and is 20% below the February 2010 rate of 605,000.

Domestic Logs: January through April, 2011 has seen tight log inventories in our local mills keeping prices up somewhat. Currently good quality Doug Fir stud logs, 6” top, to say a 24” butt diameter, heavy to long logs are bringing $530 to $560 per thousand board feet. Some local mills are trying to stay away from the 5” logs and #4 mill grades. Remember a #4 mill is any log less than 6” and/or less than 50 board feet. White Fir and Hemlock stud logs are in the $470 to $520 range in the same parameters as Doug Fir.

If you have Doug Fir in the 14” to 16”+ category, fairly clear #2 mill grade in a heavy mix of long logs you can expect to sell them in the $550 to $610 range at 2 or 3 locations here in Douglas County. Hemlock and White Fir, of the same characteristics, at this time are in the $490-$520 range delivered to Swanson Group at their Glendale and Springfield green ends.

If you are fortunate enough to have some true “Old Growth” Doug Fir trees there are a couple of options. High quality #2 saw, 20”+, capable of producing B & Better Clear or A grade veneer, are in the $600 to $640 range. This log, at a minimum, needs to have at least 6 annual growth rings/ inch at the small end of the log. Special Mill Grade logs are currently bringing $650 to $675. #3 Peeler ranges from $800 to $1,000 primarily based on quality and diameters. #1 & #2 Peelers are $1,100 to $1,350 range respectively.

C&D Lumber is purchasing Incense Cedar at this time. They are taking a 6”+ sort again, with the higher pricing in the 32’-40’ lengths. Depending on diameters and lengths you’re looking at prices in the $430 to $550 range. C & D Lumber’s office phone number is 541-874-2281. Keller Lumber Co. is only op-(Continued on page 4)
Tree Farm Chores April—July
By Marty Amos

Check your seedlings: Walk through newly planted seedlings to look for problems. At this time of year, seedlings should not show any signs of stress. Buds should be swollen or newly broken with lush, bright green foliage emerging.

Check the effectiveness of your weed control measures: Nearly every vegetation management scenario has more than one option. Spring and early summer is the time to evaluate the effectiveness of this year's project and think about improvements that you may want to make in the future.

Apply for financial assistance programs if applicable: Even though cost share programs that were so beneficial in the past have been drastically reduced, you might get assistance. Call Marty Amos for more information.

Begin harvest operations: Don't plan to do all your harvest in mid or late summer. Fire season can wreak havoc with dry season logging! Submit your notification of operations to ODF early.

Plan summer/fall site preparation: Submit notifications on time. Arrange for contractors if necessary. Douglas County & ODF co-ordinate mutual mid-summer and fall aerial spray projects. Call Marty Amos for more information (440-3412).

Spray Poison oak: If no trees are present, use a 5% solution of Accord (Roundup) in late May-June while leaves are full and green. If tree seedlings are present, wait until their new buds have hardened, usually in late July or early August. Treat poison oak before leaves turn red using Accord Concentrate. Douglas County has backpack sprayers you may borrow for your personal use. Contact: Marty Amos for more information.

Order seedlings
Join DSWA!

There are a number of reasons for joining the Douglas Small Woodlands Association. DSWA is a county chapter of OSWA, the Oregon Small Woodlands Association.

One of the greatest benefits is the political voice given to woodland owners. OSWA has had a significant impact on both legislation and the administrative rule making process. OSWA has brought the family forest landowner’s perspective to bear on issues. OSWA has done a commendable job of accommodating the diverse perspective of Oregon’s woodland owners.

DSWA and OSWA newsletters keep members informed of the latest issues impacting family forestlands. They include articles about forest management, forest products marketing, and other resources to help you better manage your forestland. They also offer the perspectives of fellow woodland owners on current issues.

Chapter meetings, tours, workshops, and classes give DSWA members a chance to interact with like-minded people. They provide the opportunity to see forest management practices applied to situations that may be similar to yours, and may help avoid costly and long lasting errors. Chances are there is someone in the group that has already gone through what you’re about to try.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of all is the opportunity to meet some of the friendliest folks in Oregon. Whether it is over dinner at the annual meeting or at a barbecue following a tour, our members enjoy socializing with others that share common interests.
Logs, 2011! (continued from pg 1)

Operating 4-6 days per month at this time. They are purchasing both I. Cedar and Western Red Cedar, heavy to the Red Cedar. Red Cedar is around $600/MBF for the merch and $300 for the wormy cull. Mike Keller would be your contact person and can be reached at his home at 541-672-4705 or office at 672-6528. TMI Forest Products is purchasing Red Cedar merch at Guistina’s Dexter yard, located on hwy. 58, (no wormy culls). That market is $690 to $710 at this time. Roy Burke is your contact person and can be reached at 360-808-2934.

Local conifer chip market is currently at $34/Ton (no cedars). At this time the only hardwood chip log market is in the Eugene area. Oak and Madrone are in the $24/ton range with Alder, Chinquapin, and Maple at $24 to $25/ton.

If you are interested in exploring the export markets we have some new kids in town, which are in the Port f Coos Bay.

#1. Pacific Lumber and Shipping Co.
Log Buyer: Eric Recht 971-279-9852

#2. Merrill and Ring
Log Buyer: Tom Forsman 541-290-1609
Log Buyer: Tom Fogarty  541-260-4678

#3. Sojitz
Log Buyer: Yuzo (Ozzy) Shioda
604 202-1989 cell
604-684-8351 x111 office

These companies are all purchasing Douglas Fir, Hemlock, W. Fir, Spruce and maybe even some P. Pine. They are looking for an 8”+ sort heavy to the 36’-40’ log lengths with a maximum of 10-15% defect. Most of this volume is shipped to China with a small percentage going to Japan. The China sort is somewhat less restrictive than the Japanese sort with respect to allowable defect such as crook and sweep, knot characteristics, etc. My sense is this market is not going to go away any time soon. If you add up the volume they are looking for out of Coos Bay, it is 150,000MBF + per year. Delivered values at this time are in the range of $600 to $640/MBF for all species. Remember you will have a 5” to 7” sort you will need to find a home for.

Here is an opportunity to test your skills; transmission and distribution poles. This grade insists on very minimal sweep, no crook, no spike knots, 1” minimum sap wood, 6 rings/inch in the outer 2” of the poles small end diameter and it must have at least 1” of taper/ 10’ of pole length. Sound difficult? It is. Distribution poles (less than 65’) are in two categories: 35’ is around $600/MBF and the 40’ to 60’ are $700/MBF. Transmission poles are 65’ and up are in the $800/MBF range. The point of delivery is Wilber, Oregon, the former Weyerhaeuser pole yard, purchased last year by McFarland Cascade. Your contact person is Carl Harrison at 541-689-1278. Carl will be happy to come to take a look at what you have.

Looking at housing starts and all the economic indicators, it is very difficult for me to be optimistic about the near future as far as a predictable and robust housing market here in the U.S. I am hearing, from much respected think tankers, it may be 2014 before we see

(Continued on page 5)
LOGS, TIMBER & TIMBERLAND WANTED

Grade Logs
Joel Clark (541) 988-7561

Fiber logs
Ted Curtis (541) 988-7545

Timberland & Stumpage
Craig Yocom (541) 988-7563

Making your forest pay for itself - products in addition to timber, 2) Record keeping and rules that apply to tree farming, 3) Silvicultural options, 4) Practical reforestation, 5) Forest measurements and 6) Tree farm tools. Other suggestions included: Using GPS to identify property boundaries and corners; economics of portable mills, tree farm certification; mill tours; logging operation tour; woodland roads; horse logging; tree thinning; legislative action; integrated pest management; managing for multiple objectives; native plants; invasive species control; wildlife conservation; right-of-way road construction, trespassing—what can you do?; cross generational transfer of ownership; thinning of young Douglas-fir stands and biomass.

We continue to need help with special projects. One of the more urgent is developing and maintaining our website. This should be a relatively easy task since it will be posted with the OSWA website. If you have interest and skills to do this, please contact Audrey at 541-430-7037 or at Audreyb@douglasfast.net.

Lastly on the survey, from time to time we use email to get information out to our members when we don’t have time to do a mailing. We also use email for monthly meeting announcements and upcoming events. If you wish to be put on that list, please send your email address to Audrey.

Thank you to those who provided feedback. If you have any suggestions or wish to help, please just let one of the Board members know. We would appreciate hearing from you.
**DSWA Member on Public Decision Making Panel**

During the Lunch Bunch community program at the Roseburg Country Club March 8, Gary Groth told a story about the formation of our County Woodland Assistance Program: The 1976 “Beuter Report” predicted a shortage of saw logs. The report alerted public officials in Douglas County. County Commissioners underwrote a mailed survey to Douglas County’s small woodland owners asking what they’d welcome to spur their management of private, non-industrial forests. Results of the survey were considered by a committee representative of family forestland owners, Extension, county government, the timber industry and others. The committee recommended the County employ a professional forester to offer technical assistance to families who wanted to increase the forest productivity of their lands.

The first Woodland Assistance Program forester, appointed in 1979, was Ray Probart. The second was Gary Groth in 1987 who served until he became head of our County Land Department. Marty Amos is now our County Woodland Assistance Forester; he coordinates the Program’s technical assistance, cooperative herbicide applications, seed bank, tool lending and cooperation with private forest consultants who manage timber cruising, harvesting, and marketing.

Gary said he sees the Woodland Assistance Program as a partnership between county government, the Oregon Department of Forestry and family foresters. It is an example of public decision making that further enables private land owners to help meet the public demand for forest products and to invest in long-term economic opportunities for families and businesses in Douglas County.

Another Lunch Bunch panelist in March was Shelley Wetherel with the Friends of Douglas County. Shelley spoke about the group’s efforts on the legal front to maintain farm lands for farming and forest lands for forestry. A third panelist was Tom O’Brien of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils. Tom illustrated a consensus model of making public decisions with those who manage lands up and down streams as sources of clean water for fish and domestic uses. Jim Proctor, founder of Alder Creek Community Forest near Canyonville and professor of environmental studies at Lewis and Clark College, referred to his interests here and abroad in public decision making related to natural resources.

Master of Ceremonies Brian Parkinson, former County Planning Commissioner, lead a lively discussion. During the discussion Jim Caplan spoke about another community activity to stimulate conversation about economic opportunities—the emerging Umpqua Basin Economic Alliance. The Alliance is building upon two recent economic studies to which the U of O and OSU contributed.
Good Things We’re Doing in Forestry

The speaker for DSWA’s Annual Meeting was Mike Cloughesy from Oregon Forest Resources Institute. His presentation focused on woodland owners, universities, forest industries, conservation organizations and forestry agencies all working towards creating and maintaining healthy, sustainable forests which contribute so much towards the social, economic and ecological well-being we all depend on. However, all too often the good work we’re doing doesn’t get very much recognition and people are unaware of how forests and forestry touch their lives in amazing and wonderful ways.

Mike’s talk highlighted some of the great stories in forestry today. OFRI’s new booklet titled, 2011 Oregon Forest Facts and Figures provided much of the basis for the presentation, which also highlighted some new web-based videos called, Forest Fact Breaks.

Oregon Department of Forestry Forest Health Update

We hear much these days about “Forest Health”, but where does the basic information regarding the health of our forests originate? The Oregon Department of Forestry’s Private Forests Program conduct surveys, evaluations and monitors forest insects and tree diseases. A wealth of information is available on the web at:

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- Incense Cedar
- Douglas Fir

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Rodney Evens, Gary Schroeder, or Darin McMichael
For more information see our web site at
www.cdlumber.com
DSWA Celebrates 2010

At its annual meeting Saint Patty’s Day, 2011, DSWA members and guests celebrated the year past and the year ahead. Audrey Barnes arranged for us to meet again at the County Fairgrounds. The catering staff at the Fairgrounds prepared a scrumptious dinner. Registrar Nancy Benzel said about 66 folks attended; these included guests Douglas County Commissioner Susan Morgan; Sharon Harris, the new Mayor of Winston; and Melvin Thornton from Douglas Forest Protective Association. Margaret Fabrizius from Farm Credit Services was also recognized and thanked for her continued support of our programs and tours.

MC Dan Newton called on Rich Holcomb to conduct elections for board positions: Three retiring directors “re-upped” and were elected: Bill Arsenault, Gary Groth, and Ken Nicholls.

OSWA Executive Director Jim James reviewed several state legislative and regulatory measures of interest to family foresters: vehicle licensing, building construction, landowner rights, transportation of fire wood, herbicide use, property taxes. He invited members to tap into regular telephone conferences hosted by OSWA’s Governmental Affairs Committee, to attend Capitol Day April 21, and to participate in OSWA’s annual conference in Baker City June 22-24. He acknowledged two DSWA members whose forests have been certified by the Oregon Tree Farm System for more than a quarter century: Bill and Joan Arsenault and Marion and Pat Rentz. Thanks to new member Nancy Geyer, Jim now has photographs to show his colleagues in Salem and to publish in OSWA’s newsletter. Oregon Small Woodland Association at www.OSWA.org

Gary Groth urged members to respond to a survey on the round tables, indicating their willingness to help DSWA and their interest in future workshops and fieldtrips. Gary also reported two students received the 2010 Don Ollivant Memorial Scholarship: Jacob Brint, graduate of Umpqua Valley Christian School, studying forest engineering and civil engineering at OSU; and Schuyler Watson, South Umpqua High graduate, studying rangeland ecology and management at EOU. Gary reminded us of the 2010 Tree Farmer of the Year, Erik and Linda Helltenthal, who are converting harsh brush land into productive forests between Roseburg and Glide.

President Bill Arsenault summarized DSWA’s 2010 activities: January tour to Nancy Benzel’s reforestation program; February’s annual meeting and tour to Harlan Haines on commercial thinning; representation in Extension’s Tree School in March; summer tour to Dan Newton and Bob Ragon’s forest; participation in our County Fair; the fall Tree Farmer of the Year tour to Hellenthal’s forest. Bill acknowledged Ken Nicholl’s “miles on I-5” to continuously connect DSWA and OSWA; Bill Rice’s representing DSWA at the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers; Jenni Haines and Jim Long’s efforts for the quarterly Update newsletter. Treasurer Audrey Barnes summarized volunteer investments in actual enhancement projects by the Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby--some $50,000 this year.
and over $850,000 since the first Derby 19 years ago. Bill noted our association’s support of Rock-ED and Extension’s annual School Forestry Tour. He thanked Marty Amos for his contributions to service forestry and Extension for its support of joint outreach efforts. He extended his gratitude to the scholarship committee, tours committee, and board members. He concluded by thanking his wife, “dear Joan,” for again arranging table decorations—appropriately displayed this time for St. Patrick’s Day.

Oregon Forest Resources Institute forester Mike Cloughesy first noted three birthdays—a century of service each from Douglas Forest Protection Association, Oregon Department of Forestry, and OSU Extension. Then he reminded us of “Good Things We’re Doing in Forestry.” He discussed a new power point presentation available at www.oregonforests.org about forestry’s contribution to Oregon. He chuckled with us as we enjoyed newly released video clips produced for a young generation. The clips are called “Fact Breaks” and feature photosynthesis, reforestation, clear cutting, wildlife habitats, and forest carbon sequestration and climate change.

Mike emphasized that public opinion toward commercial forestry becomes more favorable as the public learns more about the legal, economic, and environmental underpinnings of modern forestry. He challenged us to help get out the word through our tours, workshops, newsletters and public presentations that can draw from OFRI materials such as its booklet Oregon Forest Facts and Figures.

MC Dan Newton thanked everyone for coming and closed the 2010 celebration by leading the group in singing Happy Birthday to Colene Freadman.
DSWA meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 in the DFPA Meeting Room.

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<td>6/07</td>
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<td>9/06</td>
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<td>9/10</td>
<td>Tree Farmer of the Year Tour</td>
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* The DSWA Monthly Meetings may be moved to the Conference Room in the basement of the Oregon Department of Forestry office if DFPA is using the conference room during fire season.

Please watch for flyers for upcoming summer tours!