**President’s Corner**

**GARY BUSH**

_Since I am the only Christmas tree guy on the CCFFA board, I thought I would write about the state of my Christmas tree crop for this year._

I always start shearing when the buds on the Douglas-fir turn brown. This seems to cut down the chances of too much lammas growth, which to me can spoil the looks of the tree. After the Douglas-fir are done, I switch to grand fir and then on to the noble and Nordmann fir.

This year the grand fir had very few aphids, and I haven’t had to spray for them yet. If you have to spray this time of year, you can get sun scald on the needles. With the temperatures in the upper 90’s and with the hot, dry weather (50 days and counting), this can be a real problem. The aphids haven’t been excessive on the noble fir either. The beneficial insects must be doing a good job this year! This excessive heat can also burn the needles on noble firs, usually on the south side.

To get back to shearing, I have my shearer leave the tops on the noble and Nordmann so I can cut them where I want, and tie up the ones that are growing sideways. This year I was done with shearing by the third week in July and I let the tops grow out more: sometimes they will straighten out by themselves.

The Nordmann which I thought were resistant to root rot, are not! I had one tree that when the new growth was about two to three inches long, started to wither and die. Then the new growth turned reddish and in about three or four weeks, the whole tree was red like I had sprayed it with 2-4-D. So far this has happened to only one of mine, but my neighbor two miles down the road has had it happen to four in his field. I guess I’ll have to wait and see what happens next spring and have Glenn come out and see if he can figure out what’s happening.

I hope some of you are getting some family time out in your woods teaching your children and grandchildren the benefits of your labor and the joys and responsibility of owning timber land and maybe if it starts raining a little, cutting a little firewood!

Well, the year that was looking so good at the start of the season may not be so good at harvest...but with a little rain sometime in August and September, we will still have a good year, God willing!

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**Welcome New CCFFA Members**

**Bob Jones**  
_Henrici Road in the Redland area_

**David Piatt & Sarah Beyers**  
_Unger Road in the Clarkes area_

**Rachel Campbell**  
_Munson Road in the Molalla area_
JIM SCHREIBER

I dropped over the hill to the Henri
ci Road area of Redland to meet with new CCFFA/OSWA members Bob and Linda Jones. Bob and Linda are relocated Californians who have woodlands with many challenges: one rather unique challenge is what to do with approximately 2.5 acres of open ground below some BPA transmission lines. Bob attended OSU Tree School in March with the hope of picking up some information on how to attack his many challenges. He found out that he needed more assistance just to know what questions to ask and where to go look for the answers; it was at Tree School that he signed on with CCFFA. My call came at an opportune time in his process.

When they acquired the property, the previous owner indicated that the forested area was under special assessment and “do not cut any trees.” A quick review of their Property Account Summary, obtained from the Clackamas County Assessor’s office, will quickly determine if that is true. Bob is going to check on his tax status. We also talked about how to inventory his trees so that he has an idea of just what he has to deal with in the future. While they have no immediate plans to remove any timber, for now Bob & Linda want to enjoy the natural environment, they want to follow good forest management practices so that future owners will have a choice on what to do with the woodlands.

The woodlands are made up of multiple species: some Valley Ponderosa pine, Western Hemlock, Oregon Ash and Red Alder interspersed amongst the Douglas-firs. The woodland has been neglected and is in need of tender loving care. They have already worked to remove some of the invasive species and understory brush in one area, and can now see what needs to be done to make the woodland more viable. A look at the cleared-out area found some dead and soon-to-be-dead Douglas-firs that have been crowded out by the healthier trees; it’s a pretty tight canopy. We discussed some possible next steps in their efforts: removal of dead trees, followed by those that are close to dying and multi top or damaged trees. If taking out a damaged or multi topped tree can give some breathing room for one about to be crowded out, then that’s a choice he will need to make.

A quick look at the land beneath
the transmission lines found what appeared to be evenly spaced rows where the sod had been scarified to bare soil. It almost looks like spacing for Christmas tree plantings, or possibly other crops like blueberries. There are no stumps to give an indication of what might have been planted there and, as I understood it, the previous owner is out of the picture. Bob has obtained guidelines related to what the land beneath the lines may be used for, and as one would expect, there is a height regulation for any vegetation. The remainder of the woodlands is on steep terrain, and some of the trees are close enough to structures that professional guidance may be a good idea when it comes to dealing with some of the same issues discussed above.

This second area needs some heavy lifting, along the lines of the area that they have cleaned out already. Bob said that they do not have a wood burning device in their home or in-law cabin, and is wondering just what to do with the firewood generated by their clean-up efforts. He is inside the DEQ Special Burning Restriction Area where slash burning is prohibited. I suggested that he contact his neighbors to see if someone might be interested in cutting up and removing the firewood; it’s a good way to reduce the workload.

On a personal note, Bob is a Software Production Manager for ATP (Aircraft Technical Publishing) where they produce operational, instructional, parts and maintenance manuals for the aircraft industry. He has been in the software field for several years and has been with ATP for 24 years. He enjoys RV life and riding with Linda on short cruises with his Harley. Linda ran a home-based secretarial service and was a part time breeder of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. After moving to their current property, she became a full time breeder and expanded into a licensed “Doggie Day Care” facility. For hobbies, when time permits, she is into crafting miniature figures and ornamental yard art for gardens. Their combined family also includes five adult children residing in an area from Oregon City to Texas.

Right now, after leaving a tract home and the hustle and bustle of California, Bob and Linda are fully enjoying the solitude and natural environment of their woodland home. If you get a chance, introduce yourself to the Joneses and find out more about our new members. Bob said that any suggestions you might want to pass along would be appreciated; they are trying to learn as much as they can about being good stewards of the land.

Letter to the Editor:

I enjoyed Jen Gorski’s article “Twilight in the Forest” about cougar or mountain lion. My 92-acre Silverton tree farm is fairly isolated, so I try to be aware of bear or cougar signs when I am working on the property. I have noticed tree scratching on a few trees, but it was lower on tree trunks, so I am guessing it was done by a bear. I have not seen either animal on the property, but I have seen a cougar within two miles of my property crossing Grade Road.

Here is my normal protocol when I enter the gate of my Silverton tree farm. I always carry my small chainsaw on the truck for every trip. An unusual attribute of the tree farm is that I enter the property at the high point (2000 foot elevation) of the land, and the road descends down into a canyon. At the base of the canyon Bridge Creek flows across the land (a good place for animals to get a drink). I have a one-mile loop road that I drive around on to make sure the road is free from large branches, large rocks, or small trees leaning into the road. The chainsaw comes in handy for cleanup. If I have a large crowbar on the truck, it can be used to nudge a large rock off the road.

I also am looking for signs of animal presence (alive or remaining bones). The one-mile loop drive gives any animals notice that a human is present on the property today. Hopefully if a bear or cougar hears the truck engine it will move to a quieter part of the property to hang out for the day. Given the road is free of obstacles, I then drive to where I will start today’s work. If I am using the gas engine chainsaw or hedge trimmer, I further make noise that discourages animals from remaining close by to me. If I am using hand tools for the day’s work, I still warm the chain saw and run briefly for a few minutes. Then I switch to the hand tools to do the necessary work.

In summary, tree farmers need to be aware of animals’ presence on their property. It is no different than being smart and safe when using tools on the tree farm. I am usually working on the tree farm alone and the canyon layout prevents cell phone usage. At the end of the day I need to return to the truck and drive 42 miles back to home and civilization.

Thanks again for your great article!

Scott Hanson
Every year at this time we look around, fingers crossed, hoping wildfires will not start on our property. This is the perfect time to use that fear to energize you to make your plans to create a fire resistant landscape for your forestland.

Here are a few things to consider when making your plans.

**Control invasive weeds.** Blackberry and scotch broom are common ladder fuels for wildfire.

**Himalayan blackberry** is a highly invasive plant that replaces native vegetation in forestland. The control of Himalayan blackberry can be a difficult task. Visit our website for more detailed information on blackberry control: [https://weedwise.conservationdistrict.org/weeds/himalayan-blackberry-rubus-bifrons](https://weedwise.conservationdistrict.org/weeds/himalayan-blackberry-rubus-bifrons)

Manual removal of Himalayan blackberry can be an effective control option, but it is labor intensive and often a difficult and painful process. Cut large plants at ground level and remove root crowns and large lateral roots. It is important to remove as much of the root system as possible to prevent regrowth. This method will need regular follow-up to remove new growth and seedlings. While effective, this process heavily disturbs soil and increases the erosion potential of a site. This method is not recommended on steep or unstable soils.

If you cut the top of the plant, leaving the roots behind, there will be rapid regrowth from the roots. This is when landowners may want to use a targeted herbicide application on the tender new shoots. Please remember that before using any herbicide product it is important to read and follow the label instructions.

**Scotch Broom** is a fast-growing shrub in the pea family. It has masses of yellow flowers and forms dense stands that are shade intolerant, so you find it on the edge of forest property or in many harvested areas. As with Himalayan blackberry, the control of Scotch broom can be a difficult task. The seeds have a hard coat that allows them to survive up to 30 years in the field.

Manual removal of Scotch broom can be an effective control option especially for smaller infestations, but it is labor intensive. Pull small plants between January and May when the soil is moist for easier removal. Continuing manual removal until the seed bank is exhausted is one of the most effective controls for Scotch broom. It is helpful to note that while manual removal can be an effective treatment, it can cause heavy soil disturbances and bring seeds to the surface creating a new generation of growth.

For old established stands, cut Scotch broom between ground level and three inches using loppers or a saw during the dry season (July to August). To limit spread, try to cut before seedpods mature. Young Scotch broom plants will sprout following cutting from above the root crowns. Older plants generally will not sprout following a cutting. For best control, landowners may want to follow-up with a targeted herbicide application once new sprouts appear.

Mowing to control Scotch broom is possible, but the process must be repeated at regular intervals to exhaust the plant. Mowing is not a very effective control by itself, however when used in conjunction with herbicide application it can be very effective. Note that mowing equipment can transport seeds if not cleaned before leaving site.

Avoid major weed removal disturbances in the spring and early summer when native birds are nesting and other animals have young offspring.

Reduce forest density. Trees growing too close together are especially at risk for wildfire hazards. Thinning will improve tree health as well as reduce fuel for wildfire. Another practice to help reduce excess fuel is to prune lower branches to increase the distance between the ground and your lowest tree branches. This reduces the chance that a fire started on the ground will spread up into the tree canopy. It is important to control ladder fuels on forest edges as that is where fire is most likely to start.
For detailed information regarding fuel reduction and safely disposing of the woody material that these practices generate, visit this Oregon State University website: http://extension-web.forestry.oregonstate.edu/information-woodland-owners

**Keep a defensible space.** Do not forget to protect your homes and out buildings. Take some time to step back and look at your home through the eyes of a firefighter. There are many structural as well as landscape considerations. As always, control invasive weeds and mow firebreaks on grass, especially near roads, where many fires start. For more information about home and landscape fire preparedness, visit this Firewise USA website: http://www.firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness/be-firewise/home-and-landscape/defensible-space.aspx

**Have an emergency plan.** In case of wildfire, do you know the phone numbers for appropriate agencies to contact (for example, the fire department and Oregon Department of Forestry)? Do you have an evacuation plan and know alternative routes of escape? Do you have water sources, like a pond or stream, which may be utilized in the event of a fire? If you do not have good answers to these questions, you may want to get started developing an emergency plan. Wildfires never happen at a convenient time.

A good resource for emergency planning is from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Use this information to get started on a very important component of wildfire safety, your emergency plan. Their address for this information is quite long. Please use this shortened address: https://goo.gl/iidxab

Not all fire is bad. Historically much of our landscape in the Willamette Valley was managed using fire as a tool. Fires do help control disease and insects, reduce fuel buildup, and promote biological diversity. However, there are also downsides to forest fire, including soil damage and erosion. You will find many sources of information on both sides of the “wildfire as a management tool” debate if you search the internet.

In any case, protecting yourself and your forestland is a wise investment of time and energy!

You may access this article online where you can easily click on the links for additional information: https://wp.me/P2aeb5-1RF.

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**Cost-share Opportunities for Forest Landowners through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will have funding available in 2018 to help forest land owners implement conservation practices designed to increase forest health and diversity. Practices eligible for funding include brush management, forest thinning, tree/shrub planting and others. Those who wish to participate in these practices must first have a forest management plan that meets NRCS criteria. If participants do not already have a plan in place, there is funding available from NRCS to develop a forest management plan through a Technical Service Provider.

NRCS also has cost-share funding for landowners that have existing Oregon white oak trees on their property that would like to enhance this habitat. Practices include (but are not limited to) thinning to release oak, brush management to control invasive species, shrub/understory plantings and fencing to facilitate managed grazing in Oak habitat.

Both funding pools are available in limited geographic areas and all participants must have farm records established prior to making an eligible application. If you are interested in participating in either of these programs please call the Oregon City Service Center (503-655-3144, x3) to verify that your property is in an eligible area and to get assistance in establishing your farm records.

Kimberly Galland—NRCS District Conservationist for Clackamas & Multnomah Counties • kimberly.galland@or.usda.gov

Dusty Jager—NRCS Soil Conservationist for Clackamas & Multnomah Counties • Dustin.Jager@or.usda.gov

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Rob Guttridge

The word “recreation” means different things to different folks and covers a lot of territory, but to me it covers anything I enjoy doing, in a place that I enjoy being in; and I enjoy being in the woods. I enjoy hearing the sounds of the wind in the treetops, the water burbling over rocks in the creek, the songs and calls of the birds. I enjoy the quiet that lets me hear these natural sounds, rather than the noise of traffic, of moving machinery, the hum of engines. I enjoy the fresh clean air, the way the forest smells. I enjoy seeing the sometimes-subtle, sometimes-sudden changes in the understory plants as the seasons change.

Because I enjoy being in the woods, I enjoy working in the woods; I enjoy labor that would seem less pleasant if I had to perform it elsewhere. Part of this is, of course, the satisfaction of caring for something of my own; but more of it comes from the pleasure of working with living things, of being a sort of gardener in a vast garden. By thinning, pruning, culling, weeding, I am nurturing trees that will outlive me, helping them to become a healthy beautiful forest for the future, a safe home for wildlife.

Because of this, my labor in the woods feels like a creative effort, an expression of creativity rather than duty or necessity: it feels like recreation. I don’t have to try to make my forest more healthy or beautiful; I don’t have to spend much time there. But I feel like my efforts to make a positive difference in the forest do have an effect, and so I enjoy making the effort. And when I’m tired, and sit down to drink some water and take a break, I can listen to the birds and the breeze and the creek, and breathe deeply of the fresh air, and look around at the forest, and feel like I understand what recreation is.
What I Learned at the Logger’s Forum

LINDA BUTTS

Recently, I attended a Logger’s Forum at The Oregon Garden, sponsored by Polk and Marion County chapter of OSWA. The event was moderated by chapter president Mark Havel, and four logging companies were represented on the panel. Mark did a good job of leading the discussion, which covered the type of equipment they had, how they operated, and the size of job each preferred—some were better at smaller jobs, some with bigger ones. I came away from this meeting with a new appreciation and admiration for the professionalism of these loggers. All were willing to work with us forest owners, helping to educate us as to the best possible outcome for our logging operations, but we also need to be prepared with a clear vision of what we want to accomplish. Here are the main points I took away from this meeting:

First, as the forest owner, you should have a clear idea of your goal—do you want to thin, or to clearcut? If a thinning, have an idea of what you want the forest to look like afterwards, i.e. what spacing are you looking for?

Secondly, know your property boundaries. You must be able to show the logger where your trees end and the neighbor’s trees begin, even if there is no fence.

Third, be familiar with logging terminology so you can understand what kinds of equipment do the job. What is a feller-buncher or a harvester-processor? Shovel logger? High lead cable? Under what conditions are they used?

Fourth, after having a clear goal in mind (or at least a general idea of what you want to accomplish), contact some loggers on the Associated Oregon Loggers (AOL) list and meet with them on site. Since personalities are different, and each of us looks for different traits, a face-to-face meeting will tell you whether this is someone you can work with.

Fifth, realize that there are other, related expenses to consider. You might need rock for roads; is it to be for permanent access, or temporary for just the one time? That will make a difference how you rock it. What about slash piling and burning? What about replanting a clearcut?

Also, it’s very expensive for your logger to move equipment in, so if a neighbor might be thinking of logging soon, you might be able to coordinate a timeframe and save some of those costs.

Sixth, make sure you have a contract, and that you understand it. The loggers at the forum all had standard contracts they used, and they all will provide you with proof of liability insurance, called a “broad form”. Of course, be on site as the job begins to make sure you and your logger are on the same page as to what you expect.

I came away from this meeting with a new appreciation for the men who do harvesting for us, as they are dedicated to providing us with the best job possible. It’s up to us to educate ourselves so we can communicate what it is we want to accomplish in our forest, so here are a couple of websites with loads of good information to get you started: www.oregonloggers.org. This is the AOL site and has a wealth of general information as well as a list of certified loggers. Spend some time browsing around here and you can learn what a feller-buncher (and other equipment) is used for. https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9129.pdf is a publication written by Steve Bowers and Francisca Belart. Besides a good summary of what a logging job entails, there is a list at the end titled, “20 Things You Should Know Before Conducting a Timber Harvest” that is well worth reading. Several times!

Purchasing alder, maple and ash saw logs, pulp logs, and timber. Also hemlock saw logs and timber.

Centralia, WA (360) 736-2811
Longview, WA (360) 577-6678
Mount Vernon, WA (360) 428-8583
Eugene, OR (541) 689-2581
Coos Bay, OR (541) 267-0419
Garibaldi, OR (503) 322-3367
**Satori Springs Tour**

**JANE STONE**

Let’s meander through the woods” Chris Carlberg invited CCFFA guests...and what a privilege it was! He grew up on this land and has joy in sharing his treasure with others. Chris loves to see trees grow and loves to plant them. The old part of his 40-acre forest is 85 years old, but he began planting trees personally (and regularly) about 45 years ago. He doesn’t have big plantations. He likes a variety of species and accepts his own environmental conditions.

We began walking through a small, dense stand of young fir trees in the process of being thinned. Chris says that he plants thick, and thins by cutting at ground level and letting a tree fall gently into other trees. Then he cuts off four-foot sections and drags them out for firewood as needed. Our OSU Forestry Extension agent, Glenn Ahrens, told us that it is acceptable to cut and leave trees hanging up, that they will drop and decompose in time. They do go through a fire hazard stage, but it lasts only a short time. This early stage thinning method is especially good for small plots and do-it-yourselfers. Chris also breaks up the small branches and scatters them to enrich the forest floor with nutrients.

We meandered further down the “charming small trail” It is narrow, but well-groomed. Chris has made several little resting areas within his woods, for family and friends to stop, look and listen to the sights and sounds of nature around them. He has left the surviving big old trees where they stand, to enhance charm and interest throughout the woods.

Chris pointed out a spot where he had learned a hard lesson when he let Himalaya berry vines overtake a new planting, and they ruined his young seedlings: “It happened so quickly! I can’t stand it!” Chris does use forest approved herbicides on the trail. At this point Glenn discussed approved application prescriptions, as per exact dosages listed in the herbicide label (folder), and reminded us that moving the wand back and forth doubles the dose to the soil.

Over the years Chris has developed two ponds to provide for the wildlife. One is spring fed. He has a stand of black cottonwood that love the wet area and are good for wildlife. Also, he has a stand of native Oregon ash that grew up fast. He had pruned the lower limbs and after one storm these trees bent over. Chris made long props to support them until they renewed their strength to stand tall.

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**Clackamas County Parks and Forest** is pleased to support the Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association. As a forest land steward, we are proud that our sustainable forest management program helps to ensure that our timberlands are grown and harvested in a manner that is environmentally sensitive, provides community benefit and is economically viable. The revenue generated from the sale of timber on County-owned forest lands directly supports the County Parks program.

The County Forest Program is currently looking for timberland of any age to enhance its portfolio and long term management strategy. Please contact the Clackamas County Forester if you have or know someone interested in selling or donating their timberlands to Clackamas County Parks and Forest program.

For more info contact Andrew Dobmeier, County Forester, adobmeier@clackamas.us, phone 503-742-4425.
His oldest timber plot began to show slight curves of the main trunks. He learned that the wet soil of the slope near the spring kept moving, thus bowing the trunks.

Chris learned that sequoia redwoods thrive better among other trees, so his five sequoias were planted with coastal redwoods, western redcedar and valley ponderosa pines. They are now around a hundred feet tall. Next to this grove is a new planting of three mixed species on a converted pastureland. At one stop the value of invasive holly was discussed, at another stop we saw nettles and yet at another stop was a saved specimen of poison oak. He remembers and wants to educate others about what he has learned. We were encouraged and educated by listening to his lifelong learning experiences.

When he was young Chris loved to log off trees. He planned and plowed and planted. Now he loves to look at trees. He enjoys their beauty and the feeling of serenity they give to him. He finds peace when out in the woods that he cannot find anywhere else. The sounds of nature are music to his soul.

After the tour through the woods, Chris and his wife, Susanne, hosted us to hors d’oeuvres and wine tasting, from their Christopher Bridge Winery. A very pleasant evening was had by all as we watched the sun setting over a peaceful valley.
GLENN AHRENS

Brainstorming on Forestry Education

In early August our Statewide Extension Forestry group gathered for summer brainstorming on forestry education needs that seem worthy of group effort. Of the dozens of ideas we put on the board, several got me going on a team to flesh out proposals for group projects for statewide Extension Forestry. Here are some notes on a few of these ideas:

Forest Wellness—Checking the pulse. Responses to landowner surveys indicate that forest health is a high priority concern. Dying trees provide an urgent call for attention to forest and tree health. But just as in human health, greater attention to prevention or “wellness” may be the most effective approach to forest health care.

Outreach to New Forest Owners—what if every new forest owner got connected with OSU Extension, CCFFA, and other helpful agencies right at the beginning of their land tenure? We think it is important to make sure they have the chance. Reaching new forest owners is a perennial challenge for us, and it’s time to make a renewed effort with a strategic approach to reach landowners in new ways.

Connecting Young and Old in the Forest—It seems that there is a large and growing proportion of woodland owners starting to feel like they are getting too old to do a lot of things that need doing and they are looking for more help. At the same time, we have a vast pool of young talent who have potential to find their way in life through the forest while helping (and learning from) some veteran woodland owners. With the growth in our school programs at Hopkins and elsewhere, perhaps there are increasing opportunities for Extension to make the connections.

Tree School Ideas

Brainstorming to develop classes for the next Clackamas Tree School started with a focus group meeting with about 12 people on August 24. Our class development effort gets serious in October when we put together ~75 classes. We also have another transition for the Tree School team with the retirement of our registrar Sally Yackley. I am happy to report that Sally is doing well in retirement and she left us in good shape for passing the baton. Jean Bremer will be increasing her effort on Tree School along with supporting Extension Forestry in general. And Tree School Coordinator Jen Gorski has all the facets of Tree School well set to go forward.

As always, we welcome your input on education needs, topics, and programs you would like to see addressed by OSU Extension.

Fire Education in the Forest

I made my way to the annual Extension Forestry meeting at the peak of a heat wave, hitting 105º in Silverton. An hour up the road I found myself heading right for the afternoon plume of the Whitewater wildfire by Mt. Jefferson (which is likely to keep burning until the fall
rains). It’s no surprise that fire and fire preparedness are a dominant issue in our forestry discussions. Our Extension Forestry team is putting a lot of effort into fire education curriculum across the spectrum, from whole landscapes to one property at a time. We want people to learn how to manage woodlands for resilience to fire, or at least for defensible space near high value features.

**East vs. West**—Much of the attention about wildfire is directed to forests on the east side of the Cascades, where fuels have built up to uncharacteristic levels and lightning can be expected to ignite fires that will burn large areas at high severity compared to historic conditions. Increased attention to forest fire on the west side is needed given the combination of extreme heat and drought, high fuel hazards in our productive forests, and our increasing population in forested areas. Earlier this year (May 24) OSU Extension worked with the Pacific Northwest Fire Science Consortium to organize a “Westside Fire Summit” to focus on fire issues in forests west of the Cascades in Oregon and Washington.

Here on the west side, heavy fuels are normal; infrequent, high-severity (stand-replacement) fires were part of the natural fire regime mixed in with moderate to low-severity burns.

Much of the research on forest fire ecology, fire behavior, and fire management is based on large montane landscapes, where we can expect to see high-severity fires continue to occur at some level. But when you get down into the private forest zone, the prospect of stand-replacement fires in the modern west side landscape is very alarming to most people.

There are about 1.4 million acres of private forest lands surrounding the north Willamette Valley, almost half of which are non-industrial family forest and rural residential woodlands belonging to 17,000 different owners. It is increasingly important to understand fire risk and fire behavior in this relatively developed but heavily forested landscape and be prepared for fires that start under extreme fire weather scenarios.

**Managing for fire resilience**—In terms of managing for resilience to fire, we often think of creating low fuels or discontinuous fuel conditions so that when fire comes through, many trees survive and it is a low-severity event, not a “stand-replacement” fire. Fuels reduction treatments including thinning and controlled burning can be quite effective for this. But for many forest stands on the west side, managing for low fuels is probably not going to happen very often. Productive moist forests produce a lot of biomass—along with high timber volume and value—so high fuel hazards are normal across large areas managed for timber. In this case, we have to rely on a low probability of ignition, relatively infrequent dry conditions, strategic fuel breaks, and good access and infrastructure for quick fire suppression.

In more developed forest areas the solution is likely a combination of:

- Developing and maintaining access and infrastructure for fire containment and suppression in rural-residential landscapes and at the wildland interface.
- Fuels reduction and maintenance of low-fuel, defensible space around high value sites.

Fire preparedness and fire protection are high on the list of priorities for woodland owners. OSU Extension will continue to develop fire education resources and events, with increasing attention to fire on the west side of the Cascades.

**Resources for further reading:**
Westside Fire Summit presentations, http://cpe.forestry.oregonstate.edu/Presentations

Not All Fires are Wild: Understanding Fire and its Use as a Management Tool, https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9114_1.pdf

There’s smoke in my air, guest opinion by our own Scott Hanson http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/08/theres_smoke_in_my_air_guest_o.html

Firewise, wildfire preparedness resources, http://www.firewise.org/
CCFFA Woodland Farmer of the Year Tour

BARRY SIMS

CFFA members and other interested landowners gathered in June near Meadowbrook for a tour of Camp Adams, the 2016 Clackamas County Woodland Farmer of the Year. Hosts Bob and Natalie Becker, who are camp co-directors and live on site with their teenage daughter Ruby, welcomed the group and provided some history. The Camp was established in the 1930s when the Adams family, a prominent family in Oregon City at the time, donated the property to their church. That organization is now the regional conference of the United Church of Christ, a mainline Protestant denomination. It has been operated as a church camp for member congregations ever since. In recent decades, as church membership has declined, the camp has become self-sufficient by operating as an outdoor education camp and retreat to a wide variety of groups. Over the years these have included Outdoor School, as well as faith-based groups from a variety of religions, including Buddhism, Sikhs, Sufis, and Jesuits.

Barry Sims of Trout Mountain Forestry, led the tour. He has worked with the Beckers on Camp Adams for three years, and in that time, they have accomplished several forestry projects, including thinning in mixed conifer (western redcedar/Douglas-fir/grand fir) stands, stream restoration work, and an Oregon white oak restoration project. Sims emphasized the diversity of forest types on the property—everything from cottonwood and ash along the two fish-bearing streams—Milk and Nate Creeks—to about 12 acres of old-growth Douglas-fir on the slope of the hill.

We first walked to the forest edge, where recent drought had caused mortality in 80-year-old Douglas-fir. The 2013-2015 drought period was especially hard on Douglas-fir growing in areas with shallow, poorly drained soils, and this was the case here. Sims thinned this stand himself, and the prescription was to remove declining fir and release naturally regenerated western reccedar in the understory. Along the edge of the stand, where fir mortality was nearly 100%, Willamette Valley ponderosa pine was recently planted to shift the species composition to a more suitable native.

As the tour moved north, the aspect shifted to slightly north-facing, and the stand became more lush, with a vigorous mix of fir and cedar. The unique challenges of timber management within an active camp were discussed as the tour passed through a “trust” course, where ropes, cables and other devices are attached to trees. These provide for various challenges and obstacles for kids and other campers to work on, building trust through teamwork. Timber falling in this area is quite challenging, as there are many obstacles for the fallers as well!

Other notable stops included a visit to a pocket of mature Douglas-fir mid-slope. These mighty trees, which are as large as 8 ft. in diameter, probably exceed 300 years of age and for some reason escaped harvest during the early settlement and timber days. Now they provide a reminder of the potential for older forest, even in relatively low elevation portions of the Valley.

Bob Becker introduced the “Whispering Tree” one of the largest of the old growth, famous among campers for its size and the fact that, if you put your ear to it, you can hear a faint whispering. Although the whispering could possibly be the faint sound of the nearby perennial stream, it is a good exercise for the imagination!

Finally, we made it to the top of the hill, where Trout Mountain Forest Forestry: www.ccffa-oswa.org

PHOTO COURTESY OF JEN GORSKI


PHOTO COURTESY OF JEN GORSKI
Forestry had completed a 3-acre oak woodland restoration project the prior year. All of the Douglas-fir had been removed from this area, the slash piled and burned, and follow-up work to control invasives—particularly blackberries and Scotch broom—had been conducted. Sims and the Beckers discussed plans for a working forest conservation easement through the BPA, which could permanently protect the property from development, while still allowing some active forest management and restoration work.

It was one of the first non-rainy stretches of the year, and it seemed everyone enjoyed stretching their legs and getting a chance to see this gem of a property. The tour concluded with a visit to the swimming hole—the confluence of Milk and Nate Creeks. During the summer camp period, kids revel in the cool water of this swimming hole. Fish biologists have identified these streams as important for Winter Steelhead, as well as other species, including Coho Salmon, Cutthroat Trout, and Oregon Chub, which were recently documented here.

Why Are the Deer Going Bald?

JEN GORSKI, OSU Extension Forestry & Natural Resources

Have you noticed deer with bald spots on their pelages (coats) in the forest? It’s not a sign of age—quite the opposite. It most severely impacts young fawns and yearlings because they have a weaker immune system. Their baldness is caused by an exotic louse that can build up by the hundreds of thousands on a single animal.

Columbian blacktail deer are the predominant deer species found in Oregon from the Columbia River down through Grants Pass. They are a subspecies of mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*). Wildlife biologists believe the exotic lice (*Damalinia* spp.) afflicting this and other U.S. deer species, were first imported by Asian deer that were raised for meat throughout the U.S. Thomas Jefferson was one of many who maintained Asian deer on farms as early as the 1800s. These exotic lice have spread throughout the blacktail deer range, from British Columbia south to California.

The lice attack in cool wet weather, and are hardest on fawns and yearlings in winter to spring. The deer appear to develop a severe allergic reaction according to Colin Gillin, who is Oregon’s State Wildlife Veterinarian at Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. Death can result in affected animals because of excessive scratching and grooming, which results in hair thinning and removal followed by overexposure to cold. The young deer spend less time eating which results in poor nutrition. They use up more body fat from the cold and become thin and emaciated. They can have diarrhea, lethargy, pneumonia and can die. Because their condition becomes so weak, they can be susceptible to other parasites and illnesses. Some deer can recover in spring as they eat more nutritious browse and temperatures warm. Their risk of exposure decreases and their pelage will grow back. If they can survive their first winter they don’t usually get the lice as they get older.

Native lice commonly live with our native deer but don’t produce the same allergic reaction. Native lice look almost identical to the exotic lice. One big difference is how they produce young. The exotic lice are parthenogenic; the females do not need males to reproduce. Their populations can explode during cool wet conditions. Native lice require both males and females to produce young, so do not multiply so rapidly.

Transmission of lice may occur among deer by direct contact, sneezing or ground contact. Dr. Gillin notes that the lice can survive up to a week in cool wet conditions in ground bedding. After infested deer leave their beds, enough lice can linger to re-infest an unsuspecting new group of deer nesting down for a nap. These insidious lice can have multiple generations in a year with 21-day life cycles, spreading and infecting new animals. Eggs survive the warm weather and the insects emerge when temperature are wet and cold again.

It may take many years, but eventually resistant animals that don’t manifest the strong allergic reactions will likely increase in number. Weather conditions may adversely affect the animals in a particularly long, wet, cold spring but the deer may rebound in warmer, drier years.

Forest landowners can positively contribute to deer health by providing nutritious forbs and shrubs in their forests. Other than Douglas-fir and western redcedar, which are taste treats that most woodlot managers would rather not share, deer prefer lichens, deer fern, native blackberries, salal, salmonberry, red huckleberry, and many forbs. Feeding deer with troughs is not advised because it groups the animals together and the lice can spread more readily. Good distribution of animals throughout the forest is the best practice and that can be accomplished with native plantings throughout.
Fire Prevention Rule Changes Take Effect

MIKE HAASKEN, ODF

2017 RULE UPDATES

Following a more than two-year review by a diverse committee of forest landowners, operators, affiliated organizations and ODF representatives, new and improved fire prevention rules for industrial operations are now in effect (July 1, 2017).

While many changes provided better clarification, others reduced or increased regulation in key areas based on today’s logging technology and practices.

Decreased regulation comes in the form of self-loaders. When the only activity remaining is that of self-loading trucks, a water supply and fire watch is no longer required as long as the activity is done in a clear area free of flammable vegetation. This change allows operations with self-loaders to move their fire watch and water supply to their next job.

Another reduction in the rules is the tool requirements for operations with four or less workers. A tool box is no longer required as long as each worker is outfitted with at least a shovel suited for fighting fire. Sawyers still need to have a fire extinguisher of at least 8-ounce capacity to go along with their shovel.

On the subject of fire tools and extinguishers, fire extinguishers on trucks and equipment must now be rated as 2A:10BC (5 lb.) or a combination of extinguishers that provide equivalent protection (i.e. two 2.5 lb. ABC). This update brings ODF into alignment with OR-OSHA requirements. Power saws are still required to have at least 8-ounce capacity extinguishers/suppressants.

Fire extinguishers are also required to have a pressure gauge or measuring device (not required for the smaller extinguishers for power saws).

Increased regulation focuses on water supply delivery. The water supply must have enough hose to reach where power driven machinery is working, 500 feet minimum. This can be achieved by either acquiring enough hose to reach from where the water supply is located or being able to move the water supply to a location in a timely fashion (within ten minutes of a fire start) where hose can reach the equipment.

Determining the right water pump for fire suppression can be difficult when the requirement calls for 20 gallons per minute. Language was added to this GPM requirement to give operators the needed pressure to achieve this standard. The new rule now reads “the pump will discharge not less than 20 gallons per minute at a pressure of at least 115 pounds per square inch at pump level.” This language was applied from pump discharge tables for smooth bore nozzles that equates the 20 gallons per minute requirement through a 1/4-inch nozzle at 115 psi.

In an effort to reduce the number of electrical fires on equipment that spread to nearby vegetation, a rule was added that requires operators to disconnect main batteries from power components through a shut-off switch or other means when machinery is left unattended. If this is not possible, equipment must be left on ground cleared of flammable material.

Finally, clarification was added to fire watch responsibilities. A fire watch is not only required at the end of the day, but also during any breaks up to three hours.

IFPL’S UPDATED TOO

Besides updating Oregon’s Administrative Rules, the Industrial Fire Rules Review Committee also examined requirements within the Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) system. Initially, the focus was placed on changes in technology over the years regarding motorized carriages. The group then turned their attention to feller-bunchers, power saws and tethered logging. The end result loosened some requirements while tightening others. These changes are effective immediately on all ODF protected forestlands in western Oregon.

The first noteworthy change is in each level’s title description, putting the language in layman’s terms without jargon. Simply put, the four levels are 1) Fire Season, 2) Limited Shutdown, 3) Restricted Shutdown, 4) Complete Shutdown. Now for the rest of the changes.

Feller-bunchers with rotary head saws will be allowed to work until 1:00 p.m. under IFPL 2. They will also be allowed to work until 1:00 p.m. under IFPL 3 as long as they have a full-time fire watch that constantly observes where they are working and equipment capable of constructing fire line is immediately available. Non-rotary head feller-bunchers may work all day under IFPL 2 and until 1:00 p.m. under IFPL 3 when equipment capable of constructing fire line is immediately available. Non-rotary head saws are not required to have a continuous fire watch under IFPL 3.

The use of power saws has been expanded under IFPL 3. Besides being permitted to work at loading sites until 1:00 p.m. (no change), power saws may now work on ground based operations as long as equipment capable of constructing fire line is immediately available.

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What’s Hot—What’s Not

JOHN FOSTER

I am writing this report the first week of August, and it would not surprise me if there will be some log market changes in the near future. Some wildfires are already being reported around the state and if we continue to receive hot dry weather, this could turn out to be a bad fire season.

At this time softwood prices are holding steady even though many of the sawmills are indicating that they have a pretty good supply of Douglas-fir in their yards. Alder mills and whole log chippers are stating that they are not receiving enough logs to keep their operations running full time. It was reported that Kapstone had a fire in a paper production plant in Longview earlier this summer. I also have read that at present there is a shortage of log trucks available at certain locations.

Export prices continue to be good to excellent for Japan, China, and Korea. It is also reported that China is now accepting pine when it is available in the export yards plus Japan sort prices have increased some. There was a large spike in prices for western redcedar this spring and early summer at the cutting mills which were paying record or near record prices. It is not uncommon for cedar prices to increase in late winter into early spring and then as demand starts to lighten up in late summer or autumn they start to drop again.

The national housing construction decline during the recession is basically over and new construction is close to the numbers it was before the recession even though there was a slight decline in building permits in April and May. A report from Harvard states that construction is lagging below demand for low end affordable starter houses and for apartments. The Harvard report also stated that they expected baby boomers in the near future to be spending more on home modifications, renovations, and remodeling.

The Federal Reserve Board is expected to raise interest rates once more before the end of the year. If it is only 1/4 of one percent as predicted, mortgage rates for housing financing should still be fairly affordable.

Manufactured softwood imports from Canada were reported to be approximately $5.66 billion US dollars in 2016 with the majority of these wood products from British Columbia. However there have been some major changes in wood manufactured in Canada for import into the U.S. The strength of the Canadian dollar has increased about six percent the last few months, from seventy-five cents to eighty cents per U.S. dollar. The U.S. Department of Commerce also imposed a tariff of over 20% in April, and in late June they increased it a small percentage to totals varying from 26% to 31% in British Columbia depending on the manufacturer.

I do not understand how British Columbia timber sale prices are arrived at, but I have been told that the sales are not bid on. Instead the Forestry Department under the Provincial Government sets the stumpage prices for timber from Crown Lands (public lands). The sale price may be based on a number of factors including markets, estimated jobs provided in the area where the sale is sold, transportation costs, reforestation credits, etc. It is expected that this tariff issue will be revisited at the North American Free Trade meeting in August of this year.

British Columbia also had some large fires in July that continued into August which affected operations of some of the large timber companies such as Norbord, Inc. and West Frazer Timber Co. By the end of the first week in August smoke from these fires had drifted as far south as Northern Oregon.

Fire Prevention Rule Changes continued from page 14 . . . . . . .

Another significant change is the use of motorized carriages. “Approved” motorized carriages will be allowed to work under IFPL 3 until 1:00 p.m. Approved carriages are defined as a cable yarding system employing a motorized carriage with two 2A:10BC fire extinguishers mounted securely on opposite sides of the carriage, an emergency motor cutoff, and an approved exhaust system.

Finally, the new practice of tethered logging will be allowed under IFPL 3 as long as equipment capable of constructing fire line is immediately available.

LOG PRICES

Saw Logs $/MBF

Douglas-fir cutting domestic.............$690-780
Douglas-fir export.......................740-850
Hemlock/white fir.........................560-630
Hemlock/white fir export..............570-630
Red cedar..........................1,300-1,700
Alder.................................450-850
Maple..............................400-450

Pulpwood/ton

Alder..........................$29-33
Maple..........................28-32
Cottonwood..................25-26
Douglas-fir & hemlock........31-33
October 14 is CCFFA Day at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

CCFFA has a long tradition of teaming up with Forests Forever and OSU Extension at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Community Forestry Day (CFD) at Hopkins Demonstration Forest is the second Saturday each month. With support from the CCFFA Board of Directors, we have designated the CFD on October 14 for CCFFA members. We have several high-priority projects begging for attention from experienced woodland owners and managers. Please join us and sign up to lend your brain and brawn to the effort on projects from the list below:

- **Repair and replacement of bridge deck**—A large redcedar fell on one of our main bridges on Little Buckner Creek. Join the crew on the bridge deck project, utilizing wood that was milled from the same tree that fell on the bridge!

- **Equipment Storage Construction**—Thanks to the generous donations of Walt and Ron Dilley, we have expanded the equipment and capabilities at Hopkins. Now we need more covered storage space to do it justice. We need help to put up more storage structures.

- **Sawmilling**—the Wood-Mizer sawmill (donated by the Dilley Bros.) is up and running well and we have a deck of logs from last winter’s blowdown to finish milling for use at Hopkins. We need some sawyers and lumber handlers to help convert the logs into lumber.

- **Young stand thinning**—about 15 acres of trees planted in what we call Margaret’s Unit need to be marked for thinning real soon. Some parts are relatively pure Douglas-fir, others more mixed with western redcedar, grand fir, alder, and maple. Lend your perspective and ideas for how to thin and help make the tough decisions about which trees to cut.

An excellent hot meal will be served for all. We do request that you sign up in advance so that we can count you in for lunch and prepare enough tools and materials for the day. To register, please call Jean Bremer at 503-655-8631 or email jean.bremer@oregonstate.edu.