The 2013 Legislature is in Session

By Roger Beyer, OSWA Lobbyist

In an opening day onslaught of bill introductions, the legislature opened session on January 14th. The scheduled three days of meetings and bill introductions was reduced to a single day as they introduced 1200 bills and left town for a two week recess. Seasoned Capitol watchers were left wondering why a relatively small number of bills were introduced, compared to session openings in recent past where we saw twice as many bills. As they came back to work the first week of February, lobbyists acting like weather forecasters waiting for a winter storm predicted bills will be coming in epic numbers. Like often happens with winter storm predictions the bill introductions have been more like a light dusting of snow then the predicted Armageddon. Bill introductions will continue throughout the month of February and while the number at this time may be lower, the issues are as important and varied as ever.

House committee chairs, many of them new and anxious to begin work, scheduled introductory meetings while their senate counterparts jumped right into hearings and work sessions on bills. The first day for the House Agriculture and Forestry committee was forestry introduction. Chairman Brad Witt asked selected lobbyists to outline their organization’s purpose, agenda and how the committee could work to achieve those goals, and by the way, please do it all in three minutes or less. Invited individuals included Department of Forestry, OSWA, Oregon Forest Industries Council, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Oregon counties and individual timber companies.

My allotted time was used to outline OSWA membership statistics, point out the “what we do” section from the OSWA website and finished up with the legislative agenda. Most, if not all, presenters highlighted issues similar to OSWA’s for their agendas which include Wildfire Protection Act, industry infrastructure and wildfire liability.

Roger Beyer & Representative Mark Johnson, Sponsor of OSWA’s Pole Building Bill, HB 2441
OSWA President’s Message

Scott Hayes

From Down Under

Normally the message in this column in late winter includes encouraging words about tree planting or updating your management plan - but it’s summertime! Well, it is as this message is being written. Summer is beginning to wane in Australia and the southern-most states here are in the midst of extreme bushfire danger. Melbourne television each evening is packed with stories about total fire bans, threatening fire outbreaks, burned homes and evacuation notices.

The friends we stay with in Melbourne say our arrival portends harsh fire seasons. We were here in February 2009, during Black Saturday. Lessons from that disaster will be included in an early-summer article about preparing for fire season in Oregon.

However, thinking about wildfire in February or March is important to Oregon small woodland owners, especially since the Legislature is considering a critical bill we are co-sponsoring this session. The Wildfire Protection Act is all about equitable funding and redresses the critical issue of paying for large fires. Jim James has another update on the bill and its implications to you.

It is a mistake to not include some time-sensitive suggestions as spring approaches in Oregon. So, think about moisture control for your planted seedlings to increase summer survival. Cut brush and limbs around your home and out buildings. Check your culverts and waterbars. Change the oil in something. Update your forest management plan, and if you live on your forest, include a fire plan. Yes a fire plan.

In closing, enjoy this third joint issue of the Family Forest News. And please join the board, the executive committee and other members at the OSWA ‘Day at the Capitol’ on April 23rd.
“Yes, Virginia...”

Invariably in December, my local newspaper reprints an editorial that first appeared in the New York Sun in 1897 entitled “Yes Virginia there is a Santa Claus”. My Santa Claus appeared at the January Oregon Tree Farm System Board of Directors meeting in the person of Dick Powell. I had remarked at a previous Board meeting that I needed to call the meeting to order by rapping my knuckles on the table. Santa read my letter and Dick presented OTFS with a gavel he crafted from Pacific yew. This distinctive gavel will henceforth convene our Board meetings. Thanks Santa.

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) offers the opportunity for its state affiliates to apply for grants to initiate state-specific projects that will educate family forestland owners and help grow participation in Tree Farm programs. Last year’s grant helped pilot the January PNW Forestry Leadership Academy while the 2011 grant supported compiling the best video clips from over five years of video taping of county Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. The series of 4-6 minute video clips are on the OTFS web page www.otfs.org. This year’s grant is supporting a series of training sessions around the state introducing consultants, Tree Farm Inspectors, ODF Stewardship Foresters and Master Woodland Managers to the new web-based Forest Management Plan template and guidelines. Information on dates and locations for this training will appear in the next newsletter and will also appear on OFRI’s Know Your Forest web page http://www.knowyourforest.org/ under Upcoming Event.

Speaking of upcoming events, mark June 13-15 on your calendars and consider attending the OSWA Annual Meeting in Roseburg followed by the OTFS “Oregon Outstanding Tree Farmer for 2012” tour of Bill and Joan Arsenault’s Paradise Creek Ranch near Elkton.
As the 2013 Legislative Session begins a lot of my attention, as you would expect, will focus on what is going on at the capital. Roger Beyer is fully engaged in representing our interests at the capital and we have many allies. This is going to be another interesting and challenging session. I am optimistic about our opportunities to advance legislation important to small woodland owners such as the Wildfire Protection Act- HB 2050, OSWA’s pole building bill HB 2441, OSWA’s farm plate bill- HB 2442, and in our ability to help secure general fund support for Oregon Department of Forestry’s Private Forestry and Fire programs and Oregon State University’s Forestry Extension programs. At this time, OSWA’s branding bill HB-2615 that would make log brands optional in Western Oregon, just like Eastern Oregon, has hit some opposition from scaling bureaus. We will be working to resolve these issues, but it is unclear if this bill will move in this session or need to be addressed in a future legislative session.

I am concerned that tight state budgets and the many demands for general funds will challenge this legislature to be fair to forest owners. There have been several bills introduced that could raise fees and taxes paid by forest owners. OSWA will track and oppose any such unfair legislation. There are also bills that could impose additional regulation on forest owners that in our opinion are not justified. These bills will be aggressively opposed. The date for OSWA’s Day at the Capital is set for Tuesday, April 23rd.

I am excited about the enthusiasm the Douglas County Chapter has expressed as the host of the 2013 OSWA annual meeting. Mark your calendars for June 13-15th for an outstanding event in Roseburg. More information will be included in this and future newsletters.

OSWA implemented the board’s decision to make every member’s renewal anniversary date become January with a few spits and sputters. I did not do a good job of explaining this change to members whose anniversary dates changed. I appreciate the patience of these members who have contacted me for needed clarification. Members who paid their annual dues late in 2012 were expected to only pay prorated dues to update their dues to January 2013. These members will then be on a full rate dues schedule beginning in January 2014. Please let me know if there is still confusion about what your 2012/2013 dues should be and thank you for your patience as we make this important change. Many have asked why make this change. The Board was driven to make the change because of a huge shortfall on the 2011/2012 budget revenues when membership renewals in the second half of 2012 fell short of expectations. We need a much better tracking system.

### Revenue

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*Continue on page 7*
Letters to the Editor

Building Standards Need Revision

Dear Editor,

In recent years, sustainability and environmental awareness have garnered more attention to “green building” from businesses, governments, the media and the public. Oregon is fortunate to have such a robust Forest Practices Act (FPA) that protects the environment while landowners harvest and grow trees. Having been raised on a wheat and cattle ranch, I understand how important our natural resources are to our economy and way of life. That is why I fully support efforts to keep our land healthy for the next season and the next generation. With the FPA as a backdrop and millions of acres of Oregon’s private forests third party certified to credible sustainable forestry standards, one would think Oregon wood products would be well positioned to compete in these green building markets.

However, at a time when we should be embracing environmentally-friendly building standards and promoting the use of renewable wood products, the U.S. Green Building Council’s green ratings system, known as LEED, is set up to discourage the use of wood products and only grant “green” building credits to wood products sanctioned by a single forest certification standard, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). That means in the LEED program no credits are available for products made from logs harvested from American Tree Farm System (ATFS) or Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certified forests or for renewable wood products from a state like Oregon with mandated sustainable forestry practices. Many regulatory agencies across the country require that public buildings adhere to LEED standards. As a result, builders are discouraged from using materials certified by ATFS or SFI standards. Many tree farmers, here in Oregon and across the U.S., are at an unwarranted disadvantage. I applaud OSWA’s recognition and acceptance of all credible third party forest certification programs.

Oregon needs jobs, plain and simple. With our state’s unemployment at 8.7 percent — higher than the national rate — the time has come for serious discussion about ways to grow our industries and create new economic opportunities. The University of Oregon’s regional economic index recently showed that, aside from Portland, most areas of the state are struggling with little or no growth. The lack of job growth in rural towns and communities is particularly troubling. Putting forest certification programs on a level playing field in green building standards could increase the demand for Oregon wood products. Such actions have bipartisan support. Former Gov. Ted Kulongoski, as well as other governors and members of Congress from both parties, have urged the U.S. Green Building Council to revise its LEED standards. A large number of conservationists and experts on land management have vouched for the credibility of ATFS and SFI in furthering the sustainability of our land, so a more inclusive approach to forest certification makes good sense.

We need to build support for insisting the U.S. Green Building Council change its policy on acceptable forestry certification standards or lose its credibility as a credible green building standard. By expanding the scope of certification, we can assist our timber and forest products industries and put folks right here in Oregon back to work.

Sincerely,
Bill Hansell, State Senator representing District 29
Former Umatilla County Commissioner

Dear Senator Hansell

Thank you for the information about the U.S. Green Building Council’s one sided view of forest certification. OSWA supports all credible certification programs and understands the need to convince the U.S. Green Building Council to modify its LEED standard to allow credits for all wood products certified to credible programs. In fact, the U.S. Green Building Council should give credits for renewable wood products in general. Life cycle analysis proves that wood products are considerably more environmentally friendly (green) than concrete and steel products because of the amount of energy needed to produce the products and wood is a renewable building product.

OSWA is also concerned about the lack of economic growth in rural Oregon where the majority of our members call home. Opening up green building markets to Oregon wood products could certainly help grow the economies in Oregon’s rural areas. A higher demand for Oregon wood products would equate to more jobs and economic growth. OSWA will look for opportunities to promote a level playing field for certified wood products in green building standards and be an advocate for recognition of all credible standards.

Sincerely, Jim James, Executive Director, OSWA
Wildfire Protection Act - HB 2050

By Jim James

The Wildfire Protection Act has momentum in the state legislature and will have hearings in February. At OSWA’s annual meeting in 2011, the membership voted to make what was then called the Wildfire Reduction Act our number one priority in the 2012 legislature. We garnered a lot of support, but the short 2012 session turned out to be too short for the bill to get the traction it needed. It now appears 2013 will be a different story. The governor included provisions for the Wildfire Protection Act in his proposed budget so the Oregon Department of Forestry has introduced HB 2050 with support from OSWA and Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC). HB 2050 is slightly different than the bill OSWA introduced in 2012 but will accomplish the same thing.

Here are the key elements of HB 2050:

- Takes $3MM from the Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) and makes it available to the Department of Forestry (ODF) to fund initial attack capabilities throughout the state during fire season. In a typical fire season ODF receives $2.2MM from the general fund for these activities. When passed, ODF will have $5MM available for this purpose. The result will be smaller fires and an anticipated overall reduction in firefighting costs. The EFF is funded by private forestland taxes and traditionally has only been used to pay the private forest owners share of the state’s fire insurance deductible. The bill allows the EFF to be proactive to avoid fire costs instead of being reactive after the fact.

- The general fund will provide $1MM of tax relief for fire protection costs for forest owners in Eastern Oregon. Traditionally private forest owners and the general fund split the cost 50/50 for basic fire protection throughout the state. Because of the extreme forest fire potential in Eastern Oregon, unrelated to the efforts of private forest owners, the per acre assessment for fire protection has become an unreasonably high number. The $1MM tax relief will help balance the cost to benefit ratio private forest landowners pay in Eastern Oregon for fire protection.

Fire Liability in Oregon

By Jim James

In the first joint OSWA/OTFS Oregon Family Forest News last October an article titled

“Fire Liability Ruling Potentially Devastating” by Jim Geisinger, Executive Vice President, Associated Oregon Loggers outlined the concerns Oregon forest owners have as a result of a lawsuit in California. The US Forest Service sued a private timber company, who had hired an operator to harvest timber purchased as a timber sale from another private forest owner, for damages for a fire that spread from that area to adjoining federal land. It was called the Moonlight Fire Case. An issue in the case was California’s fire liability laws. The case was settled out of court for a total (cash plus forest land) of $120 million. In pretrial discussions, it was determined that the company was not going to be allowed to argue they were not responsible for the fire because of the way California fire liability laws are written. There was evidence that the fire started from recreational use. From the outside looking in, it appears the settlement was unjust and the court may have misinterpreted the intent in California’s liability laws.

Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC) has been reviewing Oregon’s Fire Liability laws and will be proposing legislation this session to clarify Oregon’s fire liability law’s intent. This will be a high priority for all private forest owners. Once introduced, OSWA will support this bill and lobby for it to become law.
Executive Director's Report
continued from page 4

OSWA's capital reserves are not large enough to withstand large negative swings in revenue forecast. Several generous chapters returned their portion of their membership dues ($10 of everyone's dues goes to their chapter) that financially bailed out the organization. With all membership renewals in January, the Board will have a better idea of what revenues are available and can be better prepared to make adjustments in expenditures if needed. The annual renewal date of January for all members also simplifies the workload for membership renewals and allows a much better tracking system.

OSWA sent out 1469 membership renewals in December 2012. This included several members whose dues were delinquent in 2012. Through the end of January 2013 we have received 1003 renewals and 12 new membership applications. Our budget for the 2012/2013 assumes we will grow to 1500 members by the end of OSWA's 2012/2013 fiscal year (October 31, 2013). Thank you to all who have renewed your membership. Members who have not renewed are encouraged to do so and will be sent a membership renewal reminder in February. Please let me know if anyone has any questions about your membership status.

For your information, I will continue to include an overview of OSWA's budget update in my Executive Director's Report.

Day at the Capitol
Set for Tuesday, April 23, 2013

OSWA's 2013 Day at the Capitol will be on Tuesday, April 23rd from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. OSWA members and other small woodland owners are encouraged to participate. The day will start with doughnuts and coffee at 8:00 am. During the morning, legislative leaders will visit our group and we can advocate for issues important to OSWA and have a dialog with these leaders about our issues and the legislative process. Lunch will be provided. In the afternoon we will tour the capitol with Roger Beyer and visit the House and Senate while in session. A guided tour to see the Golden Pioneer on top of the capitol will also be available for those interested. There will be opportunities for members to meet with their representatives.

Please register for this event so we will have an accurate lunch count. Free parking passes will be available to the first 20 members who register. Contact Jen Rains jenerains@gmail.com or (503) 588-1813 to register. This will be a great opportunity to influence what happens at the capitol during this legislative session. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

OSWA’s Annual Meeting
set for June 13-15

By Jim James

OSWA's 53rd Annual Meeting will be hosted by OSWA's Douglas County Chapter, June 13 – 15th. It will be held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, in Roseburg. This year's theme is “Family Forests: Our Legacy Our Future – It's a Family Thing”. The OSWA Board will meet on Thursday, June 13th. The annual membership meeting, program, silent auction, and recognition banquet dinner will take place on Friday, June 14th. Both days events will be at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. On Saturday, June 15th the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year and Howdy Neighbor woods tour will visit Bill and Joan Arsenault’s Paradise Creek Ranch near Elkton. Registration forms will be available in April. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.
OSWA Signs Available

By Jim James

The new OSWA signs have been very popular and almost 90 have been sold. All members are encouraged to purchase the 2 ft. by 2 ft. sign with OSWA’s logo and place it on their property. Each sign costs $35. One goal is to give OSWA more recognition. It is amazing how many potential OSWA members who have no idea OSWA even exists.

The signs will advertise who we are and members can display the signs with pride. Signs will be available at chapter annual meetings and tree schools and can be available at other chapter events.

Please contact Jim James jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com or Jen Rains jenerains@gmail.com to order signs or to coordinate receiving a group of signs to sell at a chapter event. Delivery of the signs will be coordinated with each member who orders one.
Timber Resource Value Fire Insurance Offered to OSWA Members

Time is running out to participate

By Jim James

As reported in the last two editions of Oregon Family Forest News, Willis of Oregon is offering OSWA members an insurance policy that will cover resource value losses following a forest fire. Those insured will be reimbursed, after allocations for salvage and deductibles, for losses should a fire destroy any of their timber resource value. Each participant can select the deductible level they prefer amongst standard available options. This type of insurance has never been available in Oregon before and it is now available only to OSWA members if at least twelve (12) OSWA members wish to purchase it and they decide to do so by April 1, 2013. The deadline has been extended to allow for more possible participants. At this time, only 6 members have applied. It appears this insurance option may be lost for the 2013 fire season for a lack of interest.

To qualify, one must be an OSWA member, have a third party certified forest plan, successfully complete an application to determine the premium, and sign up for the insurance. Each insurance premium will be specific for the forest owner’s resource value, the deductible they choose, and the history of fire in the geographical area their forest is located. A detachable application, to determine the premium an insured party would need to pay, is on the next page. Anyone interested should complete the application and return it to Willis of Oregon for an evaluation as soon as possible. There is no obligation for filling out an application. If one is interested in the insurance, but does not currently have a third party certified forest plan, they should contact Jim James (541) 619-4252 or jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com to see if becoming certified before the deadline is an option.

OSWA members purchasing the insurance will be part of a pool of participants that will share a potential insurance payout of $25MM per year. Should the total payout in any given year exceed $25MM in losses, the year’s total losses will be evenly prorated to the recipients, not to exceed the $25MM payout. If enough OSWA members insure through Willis the amount of the total payout can be increased to reflect the size of the OSWA pool.

To qualify, one must apply for and purchase the insurance annually at the end of each year, but for this initial startup, participants will have until March 15, 2013 to apply for the insurance and will need to purchase the insurance before April 1st. The insurance will cover forest fire losses in 2013. Time is short for applying for this year.

Fax the application to (503) 274-2155 or mail to Willis of Oregon, Attention Joe Luchsinger, 222 SW Columbia St., Suite 600, Portland, OR 97201. If anyone has questions, they can contact Joe Luchsinger at (800) 688-4155 or (503) 450-9819 or email him at joseph.luchsinger@willis.com.
Standing Timber Insurance Application

Coverage:
Standing Timber insurance covers your trees against loss due to fire and perils associated with fire. Minimum premium of $350 applies. The perils of wind, and freeze, may be available for an additional premium.

1. ABOUT YOU

1. FOREST OWNER DETAILS
Business Name .................................................................
Contact Name.................................................................
Mailing Address:
Line 1 .......................................................... Line 2 ..........................................................
Line 3 .......................................................... City ..........................................................
State .......................................................... Zip Code ..........................................................
Telephone No ..........................................................
E-mail Address ..........................................................

2. PAST INSURANCE
Have you ever had any standing timber insurance policy declined or cancelled, a renewal refused, had special conditions imposed, or had a claim rejected .................................................... Yes ☐ No ☐

3. YOUR GROWING TREES (PHYSICAL INVENTORY AND VALUATION)
If you have a full schedule for your forests by location, block, area, species, date of planting (age) and value, please attach as an appendix to this form, in place of completing the table here.

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<th>Harvestable area (acres)</th>
<th>Main Species grown</th>
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STANDING TIMBER APPLICATION 1 September 2012
4. LOSS HISTORY BY EVENT FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS

- If you have no losses in any particular year, declare ZERO in the first column for total damaged area for that year.
- If you have NO LOSS HISTORY INFORMATION for the past 10 years, please explain reasons here:

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<th>Cause of Loss (EVENT) Fire/wind/other name</th>
<th>Value of Loss after salvage [EVENT] (US Dollar)</th>
<th>Total Area of all your timberland in THIS year (acres)</th>
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TOTAL

If you need more space to complete per event loss history last 10 years, please attach details as an annex to this document.

5. MANAGEMENT PLANS & CERTIFICATION

5.1 Do you have a formal management plan for your forest? Yes ☐ No ☐

5.2 Is your forest certified as sustainable? (Forest must be certified to a credible third party certified sustainable forestry program such as the American Tree farm System, Forest Stewardship Council, and Oregon Department of Forestry's Stewardship Program) Yes ☐ No ☐

5.3 What is the distance to your local fire station (miles)? ___________________________

DECLARATION

Declaration I / We declare that answers and statements made in this document are correct.

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Name in CAPITALS

Title/Position in company
News for Family Forests

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Forest

By Sara Magenheimer, Public Affairs Specialist, NRCS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works through county soil and water conservation districts to protect and improve natural resources across the state.

Through our network of county field offices, NRCS staff provides technical assistance to the state’s private landowners, communities and other agencies to help them protect and conserve the state’s natural resources including soil, water and wildlife habitat.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program through the Farm Bill providing funding and technical assistance to improve a variety of natural resources on private lands. Forestry related EQIP funds are specifically designated for non-industrial private forestland owners. Resulting projects are designed to create pest and disease resistant stands, as well as develop a more natural stand structure and environment.

Over the past two years, NRCS in Oregon has treated more than 15,000 acres of forestland through EQIP contracts across the state. This includes funding for landowners to develop forest management plans, complete slash treatment, tree pruning, pre-commercial thinning of dense forest stands, as well as brush management. Other approved practices include developing fire breaks, building access roads, tree and grass planting, and tree and shrub site preparation.

“Helping Oregon forestland owners assess their property and develop a specific management plan to address any issues they may have is the first step,” said Misty Seboldt, NRCS Oregon State Forester. “We can also provide financial assistance to implement the plan. The end result is a healthier forest stand that should eventually produce improved profits for the landowners. However, the benefits for soil health, reduced erosion, improved watershed function and water quality, better wildlife habitat, and breaking the chain of high fuel loads that can feed wildfires share the benefits with the whole community.”

A number of counties across Oregon have adopted forest health as a priority in their conservation strategy. These locally developed strategies vary from dealing with fuels reduction to overall forest management.

Strategies for conservation are developed through what NRCS terms “Local Work Group Meetings”. It is through this process that the local offices conservation priorities are set for the next fiscal year. Local landowners are encouraged to take part in the development of these strategies.

To find out more information about these and other NRCS conservation program opportunities, contact your county USDA Service Center or visit the web at, www.or.nrcs.usda.gov.

Forest Road Runoff in Courts

By Rex Storm, Forest Policy Manager Associated Oregon Loggers

There are recent developments to report surrounding forest road runoff litigation. Regardless of the ongoing legal machinations, Oregon forest landowners and forest operators continue to diligently focus on managing road water runoff, assuring muddy water from their operations does not enter streams or stream channels. Muddy road and ditch water, under current Oregon Forest Practices Rules, must be directed away from streams and onto the forest floor where it can filter—using culverts, cross drains, and other methods.

Supreme Court Case: On December 3rd, the US Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the Clean Water Act forest roads case (NEDC v. Decker et al) The Court did not hear much of the case merits because the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) unexpectedly issued a rule the Friday before. The surprise EPA rule suddenly claimed to exempt logging roads from the Federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) “point-source pollution” stormwater permit requirements of the Clean Water Act—even though this claim is what the NEDC lawsuit challenged in the first place. That new EPA rulemaking stunned the Supreme Court Justices, and forced the unprepared Justices and case attorneys alike to spend their oral arguments addressing this new rule complication, rather than the case merits. An upset Chief Justice Roberts, admonished the federal government’s attorney for failing to inform the High Court of EPA’s rulemaking—as the EPA’s last-minute stunt was tantamount to political taunting of the Court’s authority.

(continued next page)
Forest Road Runoff in Courts
continued

Then, in January the Supreme Court requested supplemental briefings from plaintiffs and defendants. The State of Oregon & industry defendants plan to continue arguing that forest roads/operations are exempt from federal stormwater (NPDES) permitting under the EPA. The Court is not expected to issue any ruling on the matter before late spring.

Another NEDC Lawsuit Filed: On January 4th, Northwest Environmental Defense Council (NEDC) filed a “protective appeal,” petitioning the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals for review of the EPA's new rule that claims to exempt forest roads from NPDES permitting.

Congress Awaits Court; May Then Pass Exemption: Under all the uncertainty created by lawsuits, possible Supreme Court ruling, and EPA's new rule—Congress has begun to address this issue in the event the Courts fail to codify the forest road exemption. At this point, Congress is awaiting the outcome of Courts before acting. The Silvicultural Regulatory Consistency Act has been introduced in both the US House (HR 2541) and Senate (S 1369). The bills would amend the Clean Water Act to permanently exempt forestry and road activities from federal permitting under the Clean Water Act. This would legally codify that Oregon forestry and roads would remain under the Forest Practices Rules, and forestry in other states would remain under state Best Management Practices. If such a bill became law, it would clearly preserve EPA's 35-year exemption of forestry/roads, stop the costly litigation, and enable the States, forest owners and operators nationwide to continue improving water quality on a local basis—that's where it begins.

Board of Forestry Meeting Focuses on Federal Forests

By Jim James

At the January 9th Board of Forestry meeting, Governor Kitzhaber addressed the Board for the second time since his 2010 election. The Governor shared his serious concern over the unworkable status quo surrounding dry-side federal forest management. He briefly mentioned his advisory group now working on an O&C BLM forest proposal. He urged Board action on two eastside federal forest matters: to engage in improving federal forest polices; and support of his state budget proposal to spend $4.5 million on federal forest collaboration. Kent Connaughton, US Forest Service Regional Forester, also addressed the board. Connaughton said undesirable overcrowding on the region’s federal forestlands is accelerating at about twice the rate that restoration projects are able to address the overcrowding problems. He predicts that future federal forest wildfire risk will be extreme and damaging, and that it is now necessary to treat more forest acreage, more aggressively. The Governor's budget allocates state general fund dollars to fund collaborative efforts to break the gridlock on eastside forests between those who advocate for active management and those who litigate against it.

Double Forest Acres Treated:

A recent report, ‘National Forest Health Restoration: An Economic Assessment of Oregon’s Eastside National Forests,’ urged a doubling of annual acreage treated on east-side federal forests that would double the current 2,310 jobs produced, which now generates $90.5 million in income, $231.5 million in industrial output, and $3.6 million in state tax revenue. For every $1 the Forest Service spends on restoration, the agency could avoid a potential loss of $1.45 in firefighting. The state-prepared report was provided to Governor Kitzhaber and Oregon’s Legislators.
Phenology
By Joe Holmberg and Mike Barsotti

A phenologist is not someone who determines your character by studying the bumps on your skull. That is a phrenologist with an “r”. A phenologist is someone who studies natural phenomena that reoccurs periodically in response to climate and seasonal change. A noted phenologist was Henry David Thoreau who noted the changing seasons and plant flowering times while holed up in his cabin on Walden Pond.

Jody Einerson of Benton County Extension writes about phenology and how woodland owners can participate in what is termed “citizen science.” Some examples of citizen science projects are observing and reporting things like bird migrations, plant bud break, autumn leaf drop, the spread of invasive species and insect life cycles. Citizen science had its genesis at the ornithology lab at Cornell University http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citscitoolkit/about/definition and is still expanding. The widespread availability of Internet communications is assisting in this expansion.

We will expand on one element of a citizen science network and that is CoCoRaHS. CoCoRaHS is an acronym for Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow, a network of volunteers measuring precipitation. Using low-cost measuring instruments and an interactive web site, volunteers in all 50 states and several Canadian Provinces report their daily precipitation. Oregon joined the network in December 2007 and has over 400 volunteer observers. The network originated in 1998 with the Colorado Climate Service of Colorado State University.

Anyone can participate in the network. All that is necessary is enthusiasm for watching and recording weather conditions and a desire to understand how weather can impact our lives. The network encourages volunteers to record precipitation using the same model rain gauge. The rain gauge costs $29 including shipping. The gauge is read each morning and the precipitation is reported on the CoCoRaHS website. After you enter your information, you can compare your precipitation with other areas of the state and zoom in to your county to see how your measurement compares with neighbors. Joe compares his central Linn County measurement with Mike’s from northern (and 2000 feet higher) Linn County and what fellow OSWA member, Bud Baumgartner reports from the Calapooia. It is not imperative that you report every day since you are a volunteer and probably like to travel and like to visit grandkids.

Meteorologists, hydrologists, emergency services managers, municipalities, farmers, ranchers, teachers and students utilize the data. The data is particularly valuable during extreme weather events. For example, Joe recently went online and reported a lightning strike and within ten minutes, the National Weather Service in Portland called and wanted additional information on the strike’s distance from station and the direction the storm was heading. The network expands the density of precipitation recording locations throughout the country and is encouraging citizen participation in meteorological science. By providing your daily observation, you help fill in a piece of the meteorological puzzle that affects others in your area. It seems to me that Tree Farmers and OSWA members are particularly valuable as CoCoRaHS volunteers as we often live in more remote locations with few precipitation recording stations. Besides it is fun.

For additional information and to sign up as a volunteer, please go to www.cocorahs.org.
KnowYourForest.org: Everything you need to know about managing family forestland

PORTLAND, Ore. – A new website is now available to help the more than 60,000 family forest landowners in Oregon manage their property more successfully.

The site, at KnowYourForest.org, is a comprehensive resource for many of the questions that come up with family forestlands. Topics it covers include harvest, fire protection, wildlife and much more.

“It won’t quite plant trees for you, but this is the next best thing to having a staff,” said Mike Cloughesy, director of forestry for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute. “If you have a question about your forestland, this is the place to start.”

OFRI was one of the organizations that helped build the site for the Partnership for Forestry Education. A year in the making, the site went live Jan. 2.

For any forestland owners thinking about harvesting timber, the site provides information on finding a logger, figuring out what kind of mill would buy logs, certifying forestland, and knowing state rules for logging and replanting. Even landowners who aren’t planning to log can learn about creating better wildlife habitat, managing invasive species and protecting against wildfire.

The site also has a calendar of relevant conferences and events. And it includes a directory of experts—from landowner associations, to government agencies to contractors and consultants—as well as resources specific to each county, such as local foresters and watershed councils.

The Partnership for Forestry Education includes OFRI, the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, the Oregon Tree Farm System the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State University Extension, the Oregon Department of Forestry and many other groups.

Introducing the Latest MyLandPlan.org Upgrade the Forest Journal

MyLandPlan.org is the American Forest Foundation’s (AFF) interactive website created for woodland owners, by woodland owners. AFF launched MyLandPlan in 2012 in an effort to make on-the-ground stewardship of America’s forests more widespread and effective. MyLandPlanners are determined to preserve their woods in the face of today’s real threats—invasive pests, drought and wildfire, trespassers, and transfer of property onto their heirs. More than 1,000 members have already mapped 100,000 acres of land and set goals unique to them.

According to feedback submitted by the website’s first 1,000 users, MyLandPlanners would like a one-stop-shop to record changes in their woods, upload photos, and share progress and observations with friends and family. To that end, AFF is excited to announce new upgrades to the Forest Journal. Members can use the Forest Journal to capture family memories, upload photos, and record wildlife sightings, for example.

Create an account and start recording by visiting mylandplan.org/forest-journal.
It is again time to begin selecting candidates for Oregon Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for 2013. Each OSWA Chapter can submit one candidate from each County the Chapter represents to the Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS). Nomination information will be sent to all OSWA chapter presidents by Dick Courter. Return all applications to Dick using the forms he provides. If you have any questions you can contact Dick at genetechs@aaahawk.com.

Remember Dick Courter must receive all applications no later than June 1st to qualify.

Dick suggests these reminders to help facilitate the application process:

- Each OSWA Chapter can nominate only one candidate for Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year from within each County represented by the OSWA Chapter.
- Please make certain your candidate has an up to date management plan that conforms to current American Tree Farm Certification Standards. If you are uncertain what is required, please contact Dick or your local Tree Farm Inspector. Generally, an inspection within the past two years will suffice.
- Check candidate eligibility prior to submitting nomination on June 1. Dick will gladly help determine eligibility. Just call or email him.
- Assist your nominee in filling out the paper work. Please do not expect your nominee to complete the nomination by themselves.
- Make certain the individual named as nominator on the nomination form is the proper individual that can answer questions relative to the application and the named candidate.
- Note changes in the “green box” on the signature page to also include the items outlined on the “Check List” page and make certain the nominating forester has discussed each item with the candidate.
- Please be aware that the dates as outlined on the “Check List” are estimated schedules and not certain 2012 Linn County Tree Farmer of the Year, Ed and Jim Merzenich positive dates. Each candidate will be required to mutually agree upon a workable schedule with each team scheduling a visit.
- Please do not wait until the last minute. Get the application to Dick at the earliest possible date.
- It is desirable and preferable to use the 2013 nomination form even though you might have a form dated earlier than 2013.
- Contact Dick directly with any and all questions about completing the application.

It is OTFS’s goal to recognize twelve or more candidates for 2013. Help make it happen. Submit applications early. Start searching for your 2013 candidate.
Averted Fiscal Cliff- What Does It Mean for Small Woodland Owners

By - Melissa Moeller, Manager Public Affairs, American Forest Foundation

In the nick of time, Congress passed a deal to avert the fiscal cliff. What does the final deal mean for forest owners, for the policy tools that you rely on to keep your woods healthy and intact for future generations? And how did some of the issues fare, like the estate tax and farm bill, that American Forest Foundation fought for in 2012? Overall, while its not perfect and there’s still much work to be done, it could have been far worse.

Here’s a quick rundown on the issues:

**Estate Tax**

The estate tax levels are permanently set at a $5 million exemption ($10 million for couples) and a 40 percent tax rate—a slight increase from the 35 percent estate tax we advocated to maintain. The exemption level is adjusted for inflation each year, and because the levels are permanent, we won’t be back at the negotiating table in another year or two. While this isn’t everything we asked for, we think this is a very good outcome, in light of the circumstances!

**Conservation Easement Tax Incentives**

A conservation easement is a tool that some forest owners choose to use to protect their land from development, and the fiscal cliff deal retroactively extended the enhanced conservation easement tax incentives through 2012 and 2013. (The tax incentives had expired in 2011).

**Farm Bill**

The fiscal cliff deal extended current Farm Bill provisions that expired on September 30th for one year. Although the farm bill extension is somewhat disappointing—none of the policy changes and improvements we fought for were included—for the most part, forest owners will continue to have access to tools through the conservation programs (with some program limitations). We’re confident we can maintain the improvements included in the 2012 House and Senate Farm Bill proposals in any comprehensive farm bill legislation proposed in 2013. As of right now, the House is tentatively scheduled to mark-up Farm Bill legislation on February 27th.

**You take care of your land, Let us take care of you!**

Your land is important to you and your family. And you and your family are important to J.D. Fulwiler. That’s why we have been providing personalized insurance coverage to OSWA members for over ten years. If you are looking for options for your liability insurance, contact us today! JDFULWILER & CO. INSURANCE

Jan Oyela – j.oyela@jdfuwiler.com – p. 503 977 5595
1727 SW Macadam Ave, Portland, OR 97239 – 800 735 8325 – www.jdfuwiler.com

**Capital Gains Tax**

Capital gains taxes are an issue for many family forest owners when they sell their timber. As a result of the fiscal cliff deal, capital gains tax rates will remain at 15 percent for individuals with an annual income less than $400,000 ($450,000 for couples) but will increase to 20 percent for individuals and families above the threshold.
Wildlife in Managed Forests: Practical Skills Workshop

March 14, 2013
Linn County Fair and Expo
3700 Knox Butte Road East, Albany, OR 97322
Albany, OR

Come join us for the day to explore tough management issues facing forest landowners, wildlife biologists, foresters, and other natural resource managers. This workshop is designed to address a variety of important topics and provide participants with practical tools that can be implemented on various landscapes. Participants will have an opportunity to interact with wildlife experts and discuss management issues at the breaks.

This event is hosted by the Marys Peak Chapter of the Society of American Foresters and co-sponsored by Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Oregon Society of American Foresters, and the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

Tentative Agenda

8:00 a.m.  Registration/networking
8:45-9:00  Welcome/Overview—Fran Cafferata Coe, Cafferata Consulting, LLC, and Julie Woodward, Oregon Forest Resources Institute
9:00-9:35  Wildlife Damage and Strategies for Coping—Jimmy Taylor, APHIS
9:35-10:10 Current Issues and Solutions in Coastal Forests—Mark Gourley, Starker Forests, and Bob Gilman, Bob Gilman Forest Management
10:10-10:45 Networking Break
10:45-11:20 Getting the Best Bang for your Buck—Managing for Wildlife in Mixed Use Forests—Jennifer Weikel, Oregon Department of Forestry
11:20-12:00 Fish Passage Law and Culverts: How Much Water is too Much?—Jeff Light, Plum Creek
Noon–1:30 p.m.  Lunch and roundtable hot topic discussion
1:30-2:15 Managing Healthy Elk Herds in Forestland: A PacifiCorp Case Study—Kendel Emmerson, PacifiCorp
2:15-2:50 Wildlife Response to Structural Retention—Jake Verschuyl, NCASI
2:50-3:15 Networking Break
3:45 -4:45 The Management Planning Toolbox for Landowners—Expert panel led by Nicole Strong, OSU Extension
4:45-5:00 Wrap up and Closing—Fran Cafferata Coe
Wildlife in Managed Forests: Practical Skills Workshop
March 14, 2013 • Albany, Oregon

Registration Form

Name _____________________________________________
Organization _________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________
City, State, ZIP: _______________________________________
Daytime phone: _________________________________________
E-mail: _______________________________________________

Member: ☐ SAF  ☐ TWS  ☐ OSWA  ☐ Tree Farm  ☐ AOL

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Registration fee includes materials, lunch and breaks.

Method of Payment

☐ Registration fee enclosed. Make check payable to:
   Marys Peak SAF
☐ Purchase Order # ________________________________
☐ Charge to: ☐ Visa    ☐ MasterCard
Account Number: _____________________________________
Expiration Date: _____________________________________
Three-digit security code on back of card ________________

Tax ID: 23-7065108

Mail form and payment to:
SAF Northwest Office
4033 SW Canyon Rd.
Portland, OR 97221
503-224-8046
annie@forestry.org
Fax: 503-226-2515

Program Questions?
Contact Fran Cafferata Coe
503-680-7939
fran@cafferataconsulting.com

Maximum occupancy 150. First come, first served. Walk in registration if space allows.
### Upcoming Events

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<td>February 28, 2013</td>
<td>OSWA Executive Committee Meeting/Board Call</td>
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<td>February 22, 2013</td>
<td>Coos/Curry County Chapter Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>February 27, 2013</td>
<td>Douglas County Chapter Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>March 14, 2013</td>
<td>Wildlife in a Managed Forest Symposium</td>
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<td>March 15, 2013</td>
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