Dates Set For Two Important 2014 OSWA and OTFS Events

By Jim James

2014 Leadership Academy –

The 2014 Leadership Academy will be held Saturday, February 22nd from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Richardson Hall, Room 107 (OSU College of Forestry building next to Peavy Hall) in Corvallis. Like the Leadership Academy held in January 2013, this event will be a great opportunity to learn about leadership skills important for leaders in volunteer organizations like OSWA and OTFS. There will be separate sessions for first time participants and for those who participated in January, 2013. This program is an extension of the program last January, so if one participated then, they will still find valuable information by participating again in 2014.

Scholarships are available for accommodations at the Holiday Inn Express in Corvallis on Friday, February 21st for those who do not live close enough to commute. There are 25 rooms available on a first come basis. Breakfast and lunch are free for those who participate. The cost for the Leadership Academy is covered by a Partnership for Forestry Education grant funded by the USFS. This event is sponsored by Oregon Forest Resource Institute, OSU Forestry Extension, Oregon Small Woodland Association, the Oregon Tree Farm System and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Both the OSWA and OTFS Boards encourage our current and future leaders to participate. Even if one does not plan to step into a leadership position any time soon, the Leadership Academy can provide valuable information about being a member of a volunteer organization and how to effectively communicate. Registration is required. Please register by February 15th by returning the registration form on page 10 or contact Jen Rains at jenerains@gmail.com. See Leadership Academy flyer and registration form in this newsletter. OSWA will have a board meeting on Friday, February 21st at the same location as the Leadership Academy beginning at 6:00 pm. All members are welcome. Please contact Jim James, phone (541) 619-4242 or jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

2014 OSWA Annual Meeting and OTFS OTF of Y Woods Tour

OSWA’s 2014 Annual meeting will be hosted again this year by OSWA’s Douglas County chapter on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 26th - 28th at the Seven Feathers Casino in Canyonville. The theme is “Family Forest Ownership – The Gambles and the Rewards”. Optional tours, for those who wish to arrive early, will be available on Thursday followed by a board meeting that evening. Friday will consist of interesting programs, the annual membership meeting, silent auction, and awards banquet. The OTFS Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year woods tour will follow on Saturday visiting Rick and Audrey Barnes’ Nickel Mountain Tree Farm near Riddle. Additional details will be available soon, but for now mark your calendars and plan to participate in these great events.
I’d like to thank each of you for renewing your annual OSWA dues for 2014. Our strength lies in pro-active volunteer members like you. My sincere thanks to members who contributed to our 2014 “Sharpening Our Edge” fund drive.

In this newsletter you’ll learn about OSWA’s plans for 2014. Jim’s comments will fill us in on some of the details. Plus there are articles to alert you about upcoming issues that may impact many family woodland owners.

Maintaining the membership growth we achieved in 2013 is one of OSWA’s top priorities in 2014. To effectively address the issues important to family woodland owners, growing our membership is the key to our success. OSWA began 2013 with 1417 memberships. In 2013, 94% renewed their membership, chapters added 143 new members, and we finished the year with 1471 members. This 4% growth follows several years of membership declines.

The board for 2014 has challenged each chapter to not only keep their current members active, but to grow their numbers by another 4%. The table lists membership numbers for each OSWA chapter and each chapter’s growth targets for 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Primary Members Retained 2013</th>
<th>New In 2013</th>
<th>Total Primary Members 10/31/13</th>
<th>4% Growth</th>
<th>Primary Member Targets 10/31/14</th>
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<td>48</td>
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<td>1328</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>1471</td>
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<td>1530</td>
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Everyone is encouraged to help. Invite your friends and neighbors to join OSWA. Let’s work toward returning to the over 1600 members we had not that long ago!
Chair Message – January 2014

As we began a new year on the cusp of a building drought, I reflected on a non-timber product of our forestland – water. Water is one of the four legs of the Tree Farm sign – the sign of good forestry by the way – and is essential for life. Many of our publics take this product of our forests for granted. Drought tends to refocus. The California town where I was born and raised has just instituted water rationing after experiencing their driest year on record. Water supply managers are juggling competing demands from agriculture, fisheries and domestic users. Knowing that 80% of US fresh water is used by agriculture, I don’t envy their task.

Our parent organization, the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), has charged each of their 44 state affiliates with deciding whether to remain Certified or to opt out of certification. Tree Farm inspections would continue to be to the same standards regardless of a state’s decision. Those states choosing to remain Certified will be included in the third-party audit process. Those opting out, will not be audited. The Board of Directors of the Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS) has notified ATFS that Oregon intends to retain its Certified status. OTFS needs to formalize this status by the close of 2015.

To better inform our Board, I asked Connie Atkinson, our database guru, for some statistics. She tells me that Oregon claims 1064 Tree Farm properties with a total of 840,394 acres. There are 720 Tree Farmers as some have multiple tree farms. According to OFRI, there are over 10.6 million acres of privately owned forestland in Oregon but this includes large industrial ownerships. Of the 10.6 million acres, 4.4 million are certified; mainly by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) (3.4 million acres). As demand for certified product grows, it seems logical that SFI mills would be interested in retaining OTFS Certification as Tree Farm wood is almost 20% of Oregon’s Certified acres. Should the Board formally retain Certification, it also has to be able to cover some of the third-party audit costs. As we deliberate, I will keep Oregon Tree Farmers informed. If you have opinions to place into the certification/no certification/how to cover some of the audit cost debate, please send them to Jim James, our Administrator, at jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com.
OSWA Executive Directors Report

What lies ahead in 2014?

OSWA had a very successful 2013 on the legislative front, on the activities front, and on the membership growth front. We did fall short of our budget projections and have several unresolved regulatory issues to continue to work on. All in all, 2013 was a good year for OSWA. Looking ahead to 2014, we have a lot of things to be excited about and we still have good reason to be concerned about some issues from 2013 that still need to be resolved. So what lies ahead in 2014 for OSWA?

$$\text{Things to be Excited About}$$

- Douglas County chapter will once again host the 2014 OSWA Annual meeting, June 26th thru 28th, at the Seven Feathers Casino in Canyonville. The Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year will be the Saturday tour associated with our annual meeting again this year. This promises to be another great annual meeting. See front page article.

- OSWA and OTFS will co-host another Leadership Academy on February 22nd. See front page article and flyer on pages 8, 9, and 10.

- Chapters have many activities planned for 2014 including woods tours and programs valued by OSWA members. Look for chapter newsletters for details. OSU Forestry Extension has many programs to assist family forest owners scheduled for 2014. Look for County Extension newsletters and check the OSU College of Forestry website for details.

- OSWA will have four Howdy Neighbor woods tours in 2014. One at the Nickel Mountain Tree Farm associated with the annual meeting, one each in Clatsop and Linn County, and one at a location yet to be determined. Any chapter wishing to host the yet to be determined Howdy Neighbor Tour in 2014 can contact me.

- OSWA has great momentum in growing the OSWA membership and some new tools to assist in the process. Many chapters are sponsoring membership recruitment letters which have proven to be an effective way to invite landowners to become OSWA members.

- OSWA has been identified as a player in the state capitol, state regulatory agencies, and with our many partners; Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS), OSU Forestry Extension, Oregon Forest Resource Institute (OFRI), Committee for Family Forests (CFF), Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC), and Oregon Department of Forestry. OSWA is positioned well to help influence issues important to OSWA members and to collaborate with our partners to benefit all family forest owners.

$$\text{Potential Challenges}$$

- The Board of Forestry has started and in 2014 will likely conclude its rulemaking process related to new regulations for small and medium fish bearing streams in Oregon’s forests. OSWA will be fully engaged in this process working for a reasonable solution. See Letters to the Editor pages 6 and 7 for details about this issue.

- The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on December 20th that it intends to rule that Oregon’s Forest Practice Laws do not meet US Clean Water Act requirements. This could have negative consequences for Oregon. OSWA will continue to be engaged with allies on this issue. See article about EPA announcement and State Forester Doug Decker’s response to ODF employees on this subject on page 23.

- The Forest Roads case (NEDC vs Decker) continues to be unresolved. In 2013, The Supreme Court ruled that forests, like agricultural lands, are a non-point source of pollution as defined by the Clean Water Act. However, NEDC still claims ditches and culverts in forest roads are pollution point sources and need to get EPA permits. See article on page 22. Federal Legislation to resolve this issue once and for all is the best way to derail constant litigation. Such legislation is included in the Farm Bill and has bipartisan support. OSWA will continue to support this effort with our allies.

- The legislature has yet to determine how the Department of Forestry will pay for the $40MM in excess firefighting costs, over and above their fiscal allocation, from the 2013 fire season. The $40MM should come from the general fund, however, the Emergency Board choose not to make that determination in December and instead punted to the full legislature in February. OSWA will monitor to make sure this issue is resolved without taking needed funds from other ODF programs, other programs important to OSWA, or new taxes on forest owners.
• OSWA’s lost money in 2013 and had to dip into cash reserves. It is important that OSWA does not repeat this again in 2014. Our cash reserves are quite small for an organization like OSWA. The 2014 budget has a small contribution back to cash reserves. OSWA has a budget strategy that is dependent upon membership growth, OSWA’s Sharpening Our Edge Fund Drive, OSWA’s Patron Program and keeping costs in line with projections. OSWA’s budget will be a focus again in 2014.

OSWA Budget

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<td><strong>244,200</strong></td>
<td><strong>34,312</strong></td>
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| Profit                           | 400                        | (13,444)                      | 4,400                     | 91,931                                 |

Indispensable for the forest manager

Wildlife in Managed Forests: Deer and Elk is your guide to managing these animals in your forest. Fully updated with the latest scientific research, it explains behavior, how to encourage a vibrant population, and how to tackle the challenges they pose to timber production.

It’s free, in printed or digital form. Go to OregonForests.org
At the November 11, 2013 Board of Forestry meeting, member Gary Springer presented this letter to the Board of Forestry. The letter is on the Board of Forestry website and is consistent with OSWA’s opinion of recent Board of Forestry activities.

To: My fellow Board of Forestry members

From: Gary Springer

Re: RipStream rule-making and why I think we may be on the wrong path

I hope that my thoughts here will give some useful context to the five Board of Forestry members who were appointed after RipStream research findings were brought before the Board and after it’s very important finding of “degradation of resources” that triggered the current rule-making process. I would also like the entire Board (and anyone else who may be interested) to know why I believe that the regulatory path that the RipStream study has sent us down may be counterproductive to the purpose and intent of the Forest Practices Act.

The temperature part of the RipStream study was designed to answer a two part question - Does the Forest Practices Act assure that DEQ’s Protecting Cold Water standard is being met on private forestlands and do State Forest management plans assure the standard there? Any human caused action that results in a water temperature increase of more than 0.3 degrees Celsius is a violation of the Protecting Cold Water standard.

Thirty three Coast Range study sites were identified where timber harvests were planned, about half on private and half on state lands. All sites had Small or Medium fish-bearing streams on them. Private landowners were asked to harvest to the current basal area retention standards on their sites; State Forest managers were asked to follow standard procedures in their forest management plans. Private lands have 50’ and 70’ wide riparian management areas under forest practices rules for Small and Medium fish streams. State Forests have 170’ wide riparian management areas (on average, for all size fish streams) under their management plans.

The study (which was well and thoroughly done) found that while State Forest management is not likely to cause an exceedance of the Protecting Cold Water standard, there is a 40% likelihood that when private timber is harvested to the minimum basal area targets, there will be, on average, a 0.7 degree C increase in stream temperature at the downstream end of the clearcut unit during the heat of summer.

That, in a nutshell and for the purpose of triggering rule making, is the important outcome of the RipStream temperature study. There were other pieces to the study related to important aquatic functions such as vegetation and temperature response over time following harvest, potential large wood recruitment, etc. This part of the study is ongoing.

The very first question that came to my mind when the Board began receiving RipStream updates was “so what”? Is a small and likely temporary increase in stream temperature following clearcut harvests that are scattered across the private forest landscape a big deal, or not? Are there impacts, negative or positive, to the beneficial use (primarily fish) as a result of these temperature changes?

I have yet to get the “so what” questions answered. I think they are not germane to the issue: The Board of Forestry and ODIF apparently have to assure our forest practices rules are meeting state water quality standards, regardless of the answers to questions such as these.

If the Protecting Cold Water standard was not a state water quality standard, but was instead a third party request for rule change that was brought to the Board on the assertion that current forest practices rules in place for Small and Medium fish streams do not adequately protect fish, the burden of proof of need for change would be on the petitioner. Questions such as I have been asking would have to be answered before the Board could make a finding of “degradation of resources” and proceed to rule-making.

According to ORS 527.765(3)(a): Having initiated review, the Board must dismiss a petition if it finds “that forest operations being conducted in accordance with the best management practices are neither significantly responsible for particular water quality standards not being met nor are a significant contributor to violations of such standards”. Is a 40% likelihood that a clearcut harvest will result in an average increase in summertime stream temperature of 0.7 degrees C a “significant” water quality impairment, or not? And is it really impairment if the temperature increase doesn’t persist either downstream of the impact, or over time at the measured point of impact as shade grows back? I think these are important policy questions that we need to discuss.

The lack of answers to the questions above has been very troubling to me. So much so that when Peter Daugherty brought a recommendation of a Board finding that “…there is monitoring or research evidence that documents that degradation of resources maintained…” (Jan. 4, 2012) I could not support the recommendation. I had to see evidence that there was a significant impact to stream biology and in particular fish, as a result of RipStream findings to vote with the majority and there was none...
presented. A finding of “degradation of resources” had to be made in order to trigger a rule-making process. The vote was 5-2 in favor of the recommendation.

And so, here we are.

I don’t believe that we are addressing the real issue with this rule-making process. The real problem, from my perspective, is a disconnect between the Forest Practices Act approach to protecting water resources and that of the state water quality standards.

The water quality standard in play here, of course, is Protecting Cold Water. I have not read any detail on the background of this standard, but I have been told that it is truly an “anti-degradation” standard, based on a policy call more than a science foundation. 0.3 degrees Celsius is the smallest water temperature change that can be reliably measured, so the standard says, in effect, that any measurable increase in stream temperature that can be attributed to human action is a violation…regardless of biological or other effects of that change.

Forest Practices Act regulations are founded on the principal of an “overall maintenance” standard. The intent of overall maintenance was defined for the legislature in 1987, by Gail Achterman, Natural Resource Assistant to the Governor:

“The intent of this subsection (ORS 527.710 Subsection (2)) is for the Board’s rules to generally maintain the listed widespread resources, as opposed to maintaining them without any change or disturbance. This recognizes that forest operations may adversely affect these resources but that the integrity of the resources overall should be maintained.” (Revised by legislators to say “overall maintenance”, rather than “generally maintain”)

Clearly, the “overall maintenance of resources” standard of FPA and the “anti-degradation” standard in the water quality rules are in conflict. One will, by definition, cancel out the other.

I believe that the Board of Forestry, the Environmental Quality Commission and our respective agencies need to sit down together and figure out how to resolve this conflict. It is to the benefit of all of us, to say nothing of the resources we are charged with protecting, to maintain consistent standards that are responsive to the beneficial use of the water body (fish, in this case).

This is just one Board member’s perspective. I would welcome thoughts of others.

Letter to Editor Response
Testimony of Jim James to Board of Forestry
January 8, 2014

My name is Jim James, Executive Director of Oregon Small Woodland Association.

I wish to comment on the rule making process the Board approved at the November 11th Board of Forestry meeting. I would first like to state that OSWA does not see the urgency to develop new rules for small and medium fish bearing streams. OSWA believes that all landowners have an obligation to protect public resources such as water on their property, but question whether a very small temporary temperature increase, some of the time, that has little or no impact on the beneficial use of water in forest streams warrants a rule change.

One should not assume the results of the RipStream study suggests the same average results throughout private forestland in Western Oregon following current Forest Practice Rules. Over 40% of private forests in Oregon belong to family forest owners. A common practice on family forests in Oregon is to not enter the riparian area during harvest operations. For a variety of reasons wider than required buffers are common. Had family forests, as commonly managed, been included in the RipStream study, the results would be even more irrelevant. That does not mean family forest owners are indifferent about stream rule changes. Although many family forest owners may choose to leave trees in riparian areas, we strongly believe the value of trees in the riparian area should not be taken away unless there is a real defined benefit to beneficial uses. It is hard to believe such a small increase in temperature is that big a deal to warrant a change. Any change that requires leaving more trees in riparian areas will have an economic hit to forest owners in the economic value of their forest.

At a future Board meeting, if the Board decides stream rule changes are necessary, please consider voluntary measures. Forest landowners in Oregon have a history of doing the right thing. With science as the guide, and knowledge of what is needed, I believe all forest owners can and will achieve the desired results, voluntarily. Giving forest owners the flexibility to achieve the desired conditions, using common sense, based on each unique situation and using a variety of tools, will minimize the financial loss landowners will experience with stricter rules and still protect water quality.

OSWA intends to provide additional information to the Board on this subject, our estimate of the value loss to family forest owners should new rules be adopted, and a copy of the 1996 Forest Incentives Group report which promotes the benefits of voluntary actions verses inflexible regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to share OSWA’s concerns.
The Partnership for Forestry Education is proud to announce that the 2014 Oregon Forest Landowner Leadership Academy will be held on February 22 on the Oregon State University Campus in Corvallis, Ore.

The goal of the forest landowner leadership academy is to equip forest landowners to take active roles in leading Oregon forest landowner organizations. The academy will help new and existing leaders gain the skills they need to succeed.

Project partners include the Oregon Tree Farm System, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension, and the Cispus Institute.

In addition to a general session on Learning Styles, two four and a half-hour concurrent sessions will focus on different topics. Attendees will choose one concurrent session to attend. All sessions will be taught by a Cispus Institute leader and an OSU Extension co-facilitator, and will be highly interactive and applicable to your specific interests.

Grants from the USFS State & Private Forestry Program and OFRI will cover the cost of attendance including lodging for one night (double occupancy) on a first come first served basis. See details on page 2.

February 21 – Richardson Hall, OSU
6:00-9:00 p.m. – OSWA Board meeting

February 22 – Richardson Hall, OSU
8:30 a.m. Breakfast / Registration
9:00 a.m. – Welcome by Jim James and Joe Holmberg
9:20 a.m. – Opening General Session: Learning Styles
10:30 – Break & Move to Concurrent Session Rooms
10:45 – Concurrent Session – Part 1
12:15 p.m. – Lunch
1:00 – Concurrent Session Part 2
4:00 p.m. – Closing Remarks & Break
4:30 p.m. - Adjourn
General Session Description

**Learning Styles**
This session is fundamental to increasing people’s understanding of how to work together. A learning style is an individual’s method of acquiring and processing information as they learn. Based on the research of David Kolb and a model developed by Bernice McCarthy, this session engages participants in discovering their dominant learning style as well as styles that they may use less often. By analyzing the attributes of different learning style participants will learn how to engage people effectively in group processes.

**Concurrent Session Information and Descriptions**
Participants will attend one of the two concurrent sessions. On the registration form, rank the sessions you would like to attend in priority 1-2 with 1 being the highest. Sessions will be capped at 35-40 participants. Participants will be assigned their choices on a first come first served basis. The sessions are designed for a four and one half-hour block, so participants will not be able to move from session to session.

**Leadership in the Volunteer Arena**
Every group effort requires leadership to be effective. This session will focus on the qualities of leadership and some key techniques and skills individuals can apply to effectively engaging colleagues in their organizations. It is designed for those who are in designated leadership roles as well as those who want to engage others effectively in meeting goals. This is a new session designed for folks who attended last year’s Leadership Academy.

**Effective Volunteer Engagement (Meetings Management)**
This session focuses on tools and techniques to help you set a group up for success and keep it on track. Identify key roles and how to use them to manage the meeting. Identify ways to increase group participation and follow-through, making decisions and achieve objectives. This session is a repeat of a session offered at last year’s Leadership Academy and is suggested for participants who did not attend last year.

**Academy Location and Lodging**
Lodging for participants traveling more than 50 miles to Corvallis is included and room reservations will be handled through the Oregon Small Woodlands Association. We encourage participants living within 50 miles of Corvallis to commute. We are also asking folks to share a double room. Due to the limited number of rooms available, scholarships for room costs are granted to those who share their rooms with registered attendees. Most rooms have two queen-sized beds. A few have only one king-sized bed and would be appropriate for married couples.

**Registration**
Registration is free and includes breakfast and lunch Saturday. Registration deadline is February 14.

Return completed registration and payment information to:
Landowner Leadership Academy,
Oregon Small Woodland Association,
187 High Street NE, Suite 208
Salem, OR 97301

Questions? Contact Jen Rains at 503-588-1813 or jenerains@gmail.com
Registration Form
2014 Oregon Forest Landowner Leadership Academy
February 22, 2014, Richardson Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore.

Registration is free and includes Saturday breakfast and lunch and Friday night lodging (for those >50 miles away)

Name _____________________________ Chapter _______ Email __________________________
Address ________________________________ City/State/ZIP _______________________________
Day Phone ____________________________ Special dietary needs? ________________________
Which organization are you representing? ____ OSWA ____ OTFS
Did you attend the 2013 PNW Forestry Leadership Academy? ____ Yes ____ No

Lodging:
Please indicate room preference. (Participants are being asked to double up to stretch budget dollars and room availability.)

_____ I do not need a motel room

_____ Single King–Double Occupancy

_____ Double Queen–Double Occupancy

Roommate name: _____________________________________________ (if you have a preference)

Which concurrent sessions would you like to attend?
Rank 1-2 with 1 being your first choice.

☐ Leadership in the Volunteer Arena
☐ Effective Volunteer Engagement

Return form to:
Landowner Leadership Academy,
Oregon Small Woodland Association
187 High Street NE, Suite 208
Salem, OR 97301

Phone: (503) 588-1813; fax (503) 588-1970
E-mail: jenerains@gmail.com
The Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS) sponsored a workshop on internet-based tools for gathering and organizing information on forest land. The workshop was focused on information for management planning, but the websites contain a wealth of information of interest, regardless of whether you are working on a management plan or are just interested in learning more about your property.

Mike Cloughesy of Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) demonstrated a comprehensive, well-organized, up-to-date index to all sorts of information useful to woodland owners in Oregon at www.knowyourforest.org. One feature is the “Learning Library” where you can find web links, arranged by topic, to publications from OFRI, OSU Extension, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), PNW Research Station and others.

Amy Grotta of OSU Extension described the Oregon Forest Management Planning website, which was most recently revised in July, 2013. The link to this site can be found under the topic Forest Management Planning on the Learning Library tab of www.knowyourforest.org, or by an internet search. The focus of this website is a management planning template that was developed through the cooperation of ten different natural resource management groups and is accepted by these groups for activities requiring a management plan. This website helps you find and organize the material you need for a management plan.

Amy also demonstrated use of www.mylandplan.org, a website developed for nationwide use by the American Forest Foundation (AFF). This website could be described as Planning 101 – you can develop a rudimentary management plan just from the mapping tool and the menus and check boxes. It is somewhat tailored to forestry in Oregon, but far from the level of detail on the Oregon Forest Management Planning website described earlier. The unique feature of this website is that it allows you to store your planning and management information on their server, and share the plan, maps, photos, activities, etc. with family members who have the password. This feature is potentially very useful in keeping the entire family involved in management of the forest. The AFF has a privacy policy that you can read and evaluate before you register.

Information about selected fish and wildlife species that may be present on your forest land can be found in the Oregon Forest Biodiversity database. This database is an authoritative compilation of habitat types and 139 species selected because they are important in Oregon’s conservation planning or as game species. It was compiled in 2010 in a statewide assessment of forest resources. The information in the database for your property can be accessed through ODF’s LocatOR website, found through www.oregon.gov/odf and the Geospatial/GIS link, which also has an excellent video illustrating the use of LocatOR.

Jim Cathcart of ODF demonstrated the use of LocatOR to locate a property on a map or aerial photograph. Once you have found your property, you can add features to the map, display geographic information about your property (latitude and longitude, elevation, watershed, fire protection district, etc.), or use the Forest Biodiversity Information tool to obtain a list of wildlife species and forest habitat types located in the stream basin (sixth field watershed) in which your property is located.

The workshop was held at the OTFS annual meeting in Portland on November 25, 2013.
Willis of Oregon Offering Timber Resource Value Insurance to OSWA Members

By Jim James

Last fall, Willis of Oregon offered OSWA members Timber Resource Value Insurance to cover losses from fire. OSWA needed at least twelve members to sign up for the insurance to initiate the program. Willis of Oregon received less than twelve applicants and the program was not implemented for the 2013 fire season.

At OSWA’s September 27th Board meeting, Willis of Oregon’s Vice President, Joe Luchsinger presented the same offer to OSWA membership for the 2014 fire season. The Board directed the OSWA staff to present this offer, once again, to the OSWA membership to see if there is enough interest to start the program. Members who might be interested are encouraged to complete the application to see what a policy will cost so they can make an informed decision. The application is included in this newsletter. There is no obligation to purchase the insurance from filling out the application and getting a quote. Any resource value information included in an application is held in strict confidence by Willis of Oregon. Mail the application to Willis of Oregon, c/o Joe Luchsinger, 222 SW Columbia St., Suite 600, Portland, OR 97201. This type of insurance has never been available in Oregon and it is once again available only to OSWA members if there is enough interest.

Here is a recap of the insurance proposal. Participants will be reimbursed for any timber value loss they experience from a forest fire after allocations for salvage and deductibles are made. Each participant can select the deductible level they prefer amongst standard available options. To qualify one must be an OSWA member, have a third party certified forest plan, and complete an application to determine the premium. OSWA members interested in this insurance, but do not have a third party certified forest management plan can contact Jim James (503) 588-1813 or jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com to find out how to become certified. The premium for insurance will vary for every participant based on the age of their forest (potential for salvage following a fire), the landowner’s value for the timber resource, history of fire in the geographical area their forest is located, and the amount of deductible chosen by the participant.

OSWA members wishing to purchase 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.

Anyone interested should complete the application and mail it to Willis of Oregon for an evaluation. Commitments to the insurance program are due by April 1, 2014 so Willis of Oregon can evaluate whether OSWA members requesting insurance will have a program for the 2014 fire season. If anyone has questions, they can contact Joe Luchsinger at (503) 450-9819 or 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timber location: GPS Latitude/Longitude or street address</th>
<th>Name of location</th>
<th>Site Class</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Harvestable area (acres)</th>
<th>Main Species grown</th>
<th>Average Age (Years)</th>
<th>Value (US $)</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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Loss</th>
<th>Date of Loss (EVENT)</th>
<th>Total Area Damaged per EVENT (acres)</th>
<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

STANDING TIMBER APPLICATION

EMAIL TO: TIMBERINSURANCE@WILLIS.COM OR
FAX TO: 503-274-2155
Lori Rasor, the editor for Northwest Woodlands magazine since 1987, has been promoted to a full time employee for the Society of American Foresters. She will begin this position on July 1, 2014. Lori will be stepping down as editor at that time. Northwest Woodlands is a quarterly magazine for Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA), Washington Farm and Forest Association (WFFA), Idaho Forest Owners Association (IFOA), and Montana Forest Owners Association (MFOA). A search for a new editor is underway. For interested parties, a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for this position can be found on the OSWA website www.oswa.org. Lori will continue as editor for the 2014 Winter and Spring Northwest Woodlands editions.

The Northwest Woodlands magazine has been a valuable membership benefit to members of OSWA since it was created in April 1985. Merle Lowden was the first editor for the April 1985 edition: Volume 1, Number 1. At that time it was a joint effort between OSWA and WFFA. Lori Rasor was hired by the Western Forestry Center, now World Forestry Center, in June 1985, to be the “assistant” to Northwest Woodlands magazine, SAF Northwest Office and Western Forester magazine, and the Western Forestry and Conservation Association.

About a year later, Frank Kopecky was appointed editor for the Summer 1986 edition. Frank was the editor for about one year, when the search for a new editor developed. Lori through her hat in the ring at that time and became the editor in July 1987. Her first edition was the Fall 1987 edition Volume 3, Number 4. She has been the heart and soul of this great publication for the last 26+ years. Lori has worked diligently to produce articles with real value and interest to family forest owners centered on the general theme of each edition and of interest to landowners in all four state organizations. The Northwest Woodlands reputation as a great family forest magazine is because of the hard work Lori has done to make it so. A huge thank you to Lori for everything she has done for Northwest Woodlands and family forest owners in the last 26+ years. Lori has agreed to be available to assist the new editor in the transition. OSWA wishes Lori the best in her new endeavor.
Fire Lines

Forest Stewardship and Fire Resiliency Go Hand in Hand

By Kristin Babbs

Fire behavior is influenced by weather, topography and vegetation. It’s the latter over which landowners have the most control, affecting how an ignition could potentially spread across one’s own property and beyond. Here are a few things to consider which can positively affect you, your property, and the community in which you live.

Create a forest management plan that addresses fire risk on your property. Expand fire suppression capabilities (water supply, access for large vehicles, and equipment) and create forest conditions (thinning, pruning, clearing brush and slash) that are resistant to fire. State and federal agencies cost-share with landowners through various grant programs to reduce the fuel load and increase forest health and resiliency. Professional foresters consult with landowners to provide education, assess the fire risk, and communicate the objectives of the grant program. Landowners conduct the work themselves or hire a contractor, and are reimbursed a percentage (varies around the state) of the actual cost. Contact your local Oregon Department of Forestry field office for more information about grant opportunities: http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/index.aspx

Participate in your local Community Wildfire Protection Planning (CWPP) efforts. Your fuels reduction work could provide the strategic fire buffer or fuel break needed to protect neighboring landowners and homeowners in the community-at-large. By communicating with other community land managers on a regular basis, you can help map vulnerable areas and better understand where your land ties in with priority landscape activities. For a list of CWPP coordinating groups by county, go to: http://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/2012CWPPTeams.pdf

Be safer from the start. Landowners are choosing to live in the wildland-urban interface for the beauty and the solitude, but that choice involves risk. It is very expensive to defend homes in forested settings--50 percent to 95 percent of total suppression costs (2006 federal audit). Your ideal home site may be farther away from fire protection services, and firefighters may not be able to protect every home due to lack of resources or demands elsewhere. If you plan to build on your property, consult your local fire agencies and check state and local laws and ordinances regarding siting and design. http://www.oregon.gov/odf/pages/fire/structure_road.aspx

Conduct Firewise activities closer to the home: Could you go on summer vacation comfortably knowing that your house will be there when you return? Insurance will not replace the irreplaceable. You can make your property fire-resistant by focusing on the home and its immediate surroundings. A community approach to fire safety is the best approach. Communicate, coordinate and cooperate with your community to reduce your wildfire risk. For more information on Firewise activities and the Firewise Communities USA program, visit their website at: www.firewise.org

Know when to leave. The best time to make plans is long before wildfire strikes. Take time now to create defensible space, develop an evacuation plan, and know what you will need if you must leave your home. For more information on Ready, Set, Go!, visit their website at: www.wildlandfireRSG.org
Timber Salvage and Reforestation after a Wildfire
A fire season to remember, now what?

By Mike Kroon and Nick Hennemann

The 2013 fire season was the most destructive fire season for Oregon since 1951. Over 100,000 state-protected forestland acres burned during these fires.

Now, as forest landowners begin and continue clean-up and salvage harvest operations, they have many questions, including:

- What do I do?
- Should I salvage the burned timber?
- Am I required to salvage the burned timber?
- Why should I salvage the burned timber?
- Can anyone help me, and if so, who?

Yes, help is available. Oregon Department of Forestry Stewardship Foresters can help answer these questions.

Stewardship foresters can help plan successful salvage operations. While similar to a non-salvage operation, there are some notable differences. Three main differences a landowner should consider when deciding what to do after a wildfire include salvage operation-specific requirements and limits regarding:

- The Oregon Forest Practices Act;
- Fire Prevention and Suppression; and
- Financial Assistance.
- Salvage operations should be carefully planned to meet landowner objectives, legal requirements, and restoration requirements for water quality and fish and wildlife.

Always contact the Oregon Department of Forestry before you begin your salvage work. For more information, contact your local ODF office or Stewardship Forester at: http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/privateforests/pages/findforester.aspx, and read Timber Salvage after Wildfires at: http://www.oregon.gov/odf/privateforests/docs/guidance/Timber_Salvage_after_Wildfires_2013.pdf

Funds for Forests?

By Mike Kroon and Nick Hennemann

**What** - $17,281 available to help forest landowners develop Forest Management Plans. (Also known as: the cost-share program)

**When** - Possibly now. Applications will be accepted from December 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014. Depending on available funds, applicants may receive funds immediately.

**Who** - Family Forest Landowners may apply to receive Forest Management Plan development funding.

**Why** - To protect your resources. To develop a long-term written plan to successfully manage your forest land.

**How** - Contact your local Stewardship Forester to help you get started.

Finding Seedlings

By Mike Kroon and Nick Hennemann

Recently, the ODF Private Forests Division developed tools to help landowners find seedlings. The tools include five handouts tailored to each region – Northwest, Cascades, South Coast/Douglas County, Eastern, and Southwest – to help the landowner find the nearest seedling nursery.

Each region has a specific reference tool to help landowner find 1) Local nursery information, 2) your ODF contact for help, and 3) a four step guide about planning reforestation. The form explains how important starting your seedling search early can be to successful reforestation. Nurseries can often run out of seedling inventory early in the fall, so call the nursery you plan to use to check its inventory. Each handout contains local ODF Stewardship Forester contact information. The Stewardship Foresters can provide you invaluable information to help you get started.

The handout provides a four-step reforestation planning strategy. The most important step to successful reforestation is to find seedlings early. Planning and working with your local Stewardship Forester and nursery will help ensure you will have seedlings specifically grown for you. Most nurseries will take seedling orders but may require a minimum volume.

Typically, foresters plant seedlings between December and March. Seedlings planted during this time seem to grow better. Also, finding a good planting crew can prove invaluable. By starting early and planning with your local Stewardship Forester, you will likely have all the seedlings you need and a great crew to plant them.

Once planted, visit your new seedlings throughout the first year to monitor their health and growth. Most problems typically surface within the first year. An early spring visit can reveal whether you will need to manage weeds and brush to help your seedlings succeed.

These new tools and for your other seedling needs please visit: http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/privateforests/pages/seedlings.aspx

Forest Management Plan - Voluntary Monitoring

By Mike Kroon and Nick Hennemann

Why do Voluntary Monitoring?

• The monitoring program helps landowners achieve their management goals.
• Landowners can receive cost-share funds to create a written Forest Management Plan. This Federal program pays for some Forest Management Plan costs, and the landowner pays the balance, called cost-sharing. Landowners who receive cost-share funds voluntarily participate in a monitoring program. The cost-share program randomly selects a few volunteer participants.
• Most landowner participants enjoy the opportunity to receive expert assistance and to showcase their accomplishments.
• The information collected helps ODF improve the cost-share program to better assist current and future participants.
• The monitoring program helps secure future funds available year after year.

Why do Landowners create Forest Management Plans? Landowners write Forest Management Plans to:

• Protect resources, investments, and hard work.
• Create a sustainable timber harvest revenue-streams.
• Improve forest health and protect fish and wildlife.
• Protect soil, water quality, and recreational uses.
• Strengthen market positions through sustainable forestry practices.
• Receive financial assistance to develop long-term management plans and forest health efforts.
• Develop a long-term forestry plan for you and your family to continue the forestry tradition from generation to generation.

How can you start the process of writing a management plan?

• Contact your local ODF Stewardship Forester.
• Learn more about creating your Forest Management Plan at: http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/privateforests/pages/incentivesfsp.aspx
Douglas County Landowners Receive ‘Outstanding Tree Farmer of The Year’ Title at World Forestry Center

Douglas County landowners Rick and Audrey Barnes were honored as Oregon’s 2013 “Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year” today at Oregon Tree Farm System’s annual awards luncheon held at the World Forestry Center in Portland.

The Barneses have owned and managed a 704-acre tree farm 30 miles south of Roseburg for 13 years. During this time, they have:

- restored 91 acres of mining spoils with appropriate tree species
- reduced forest fuels to prevent wildﬁres
- worked to control a host of invasive species
- conducted numerous educational activities for local K-12 schools and West Coast colleges and universities.

“I can think of no other tree farmers with more enthusiasm and commitment to both their property and their community than Rick and Audrey Barnes,” said Gary Groth, Director, Douglas County Land Department.

“Rick and Audrey Barnes are very active in many forestry organizations,” says Groth. “Barnes, a Society of American Foresters’ certified forester, was appointed by the Oregon Board of Forestry to the Committee for Family Forestlands and has served on the committee for four years.”

The Committee for Family Forestlands provides information and counsel to the Oregon Board of Forestry and State Forester in matters relating to family forestlands, including maintenance of a viable family forestland base, protection of resources and positive contributions to Oregon’s vitality.

“Barnes is also a board member of the Douglas Forest Protective Association (DFPA),” adds Groth. The DFPA is a private non-proﬁt association which protects 1.6 million acres in southern Oregon from wildland ﬁres.

Barnes is president of Barnes and Associates, Inc., a forestry and natural resources consulting ﬁrm in Roseburg. His wife, Audrey, is the treasurer of the Douglas County Chapter of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, an organization that promotes responsible resource management through a variety of workshops and other outdoor education efforts.
Starker Forest Honored for Its Commitment to Bettering Oregon’s Forests.

By Mike Barsotti

Starker Forests was recognized by the Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS) at its Annual Awards Luncheon November 2nd with its first annual Family Forestlands Award.

Starker Forests is a fourth generation family ownership that started in 1936 when TJ Starker began purchasing cut-over land and young second-growth forests in Oregon’s central coast range. They now own approximately 80,000 acres.

It is a daunting task to list all the outstanding efforts carried out by the Starkers and their foresters. A partial list must begin with the sound management of their forests for the timber, water, wildlife, and recreational products and opportunities it provides.

They and their foresters have long volunteered their time serving on large number of forestry related boards and committees. Currently a Starker forester is a member of the Oregon Board of Forestry and another is Chair of the Oregon Chapter of the Society of American Foresters.

Elizabeth Starker Cameron donated a 260-acre property to the Oregon State University College of Forestry in 1995 to be used to demonstrate good private forest stewardship, to experiment with management alternatives for private forest owners, and to provide income from periodic timber harvests to support a continuing program in private and family forestry at OSU.

The family also funded a professorship at OSU to oversee the management of the Cameron Tract forward promote its stated three goals.

Starker foresters help organize and participate annually in a number of outdoor school and other community educational efforts.

Starkers began promoting the stewardship of forests with TJ Starker in the 1930s and his vision of land management and community service has been carried out by the family and its foresters ever since.

OTFS is made up of approximately 800 family forest land ownerships that are being actively managed each with a unique set of goals that address theirs and society’s forestry related needs and values. Annually it honors landowners for the stewardship of their lands at the county, region and state level.

Oregon has a number of family owned forest ownerships that are too large to be considered for OTFS’s long standing Tree Farmer of the Year recognition program, but are great examples of sound forest management.

To honor these larger ownerships, OTFS instituted this year a Family Forestlands Award as a way of publicly recognizing the outstanding work these larger forestland owners provide in the management of their forests and promoting a better public understanding of good forestry.

*Pete Mastenbroek – Oregon 2013 Outstanding Inspector of the Year
Development of a Landscape-level Forest Management Planning Framework

The Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS) is a partner in the development of a Model Private Forestland Collaborative for forests east of the Cascade Range. The model will be set up in the Lower Middle Fork John Day River Basin in north central Oregon to engage family forest owners in an “All Lands”, active management approach to addressing landscape-level resource concerns. The nascent collaborative is anchored by 10 family forest owners totaling 10,000 acres of forest and range land, but we hope to include several other properties in the basin. By sharing knowledge, contractors and services; and by working closely with resource agencies, the collaborative will engage forest owners to take action to enhance watershed health while simultaneously improving their individual properties. Coordinated active management using shared management practices that feed forest products to diverse markets will improve forest conditions and financially empower landowners to keep their lands forested.

Partners in the development of the Forest Management Planning Framework include: the Committee for Family Forestlands, Oregon Department of Forestry, OSU Extension, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Oregon Tree Farm System and the US Forest Service.

OTFS has obtained a grant from the American Forest Foundation to develop a landscape-level, coordinated forest resource planning system for prioritizing resource concerns and actions on multiple ownerships that are necessary to meet identified resource concerns. The idea is that an overall Landscape-level Forest Management Plan will be developed for the collaborative and landowners will then develop individual tree farm management plans informed by the landscape-level plan. OTFS intends to have each property become certified as part of the American Tree Farm System.

The immediate outcome of this grant is the development of a framework and process for a Landscape-level Forest Management Plan that: a) compiles existing assessments of resource concerns, b) identifies desired landscape outcomes that address resource concerns, and c) compiles a resultant menu of active management practices that can be implemented on family forestlands.

The intermediate outcome has individual landowners developing property-level Forest Management Plans that are informed by the Landscape-level Forest Management Plan to allow: 1) the properties to be certified under the American Tree Farm System, 2) landowners to develop proposals for securing financial assistance for carrying out planned activities per their individual Forest Management Plans and 3) forest restoration activities such as thinning, fuels reduction, western juniper removal, noxious weed control, road improvements, riparian improvements, prescribed burning and fish and wildlife enhancements to be completed by landowners within the collaborative.

The long-term outcome of this project is to help create a forested landscape with reduced wildfire risk and improved forest resiliency while maintaining or improving wildlife habitat, water quality, scenic beauty and economic opportunity for landowners.
News for Family Forests

Forest Roads Update

Copied from OFIC Newsletter, January 6, 2014

Following remand from the U.S. Supreme Court in early 2013, the Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NEDC) filed a motion with the Ninth Circuit requesting it issue an order reversing the District Court’s original judgment dismissing the case and remanding it with instructions that logging roads with storm water control measures should be considered point sources. The Ninth Circuit responded with an order stating the Supreme Court had reversed its prior ruling by relying on the industrial stormwater rule, but further said the Supreme Court had left intact the Circuit’s own ruling that stormwater runoff collected in ditches and culverts is a point source discharge.

NEDC has used the order to argue the District Court should not grant industries motion to dismiss because there are questions of fact as to whether the logging roads in this case fall within the industrial stormwater rule, either because the roads are “immediate access roads” or “material handling facilities”. NEDC also continues to assert it should be awarded some portion of attorney’s fees, given they “won” on the silvicultural rule argument.

Industry attorneys do not believe either of these arguments have merit. The Supreme Court’s ruling is dispositive and supports dismissal. Further, NEDC had already argued the roads at issue were “immediate access roads” or “material handling facilities”, so NEDC should not be permitted to amend their complaint to reassert the same failed arguments. And finally, the Clean Water Act authorizes the award of attorney fees to the prevailing parties. It is hard to see how NEDC could be viewed as having prevailed in this case.

And fortunately, District Court Judge Anna Brown may be sympathetically disposed. At the latest status conference she began the hearing by saying she had read the Supreme Court opinion and the First Amended Complaint and could not see any viable claim left for NEDC to litigate. The slow churn of litigation continues, with a schedule set to complete briefings by March 10th, after which the judge will take the matter under advisement.

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2014 Gold Patron

ROSBORO, LLC has been a family owned company in Springfield, Oregon since 1939. Rosboro is a true integrated company owning timberland, manufacturing lumber, veneer, plywood and engineered wood products. We specialize in laminated beam construction and utilize Douglas Fir as our primary species of choice. Our manufacturing facilities process Douglas Fir logs 6”-30” in scaling diameter and white wood 6”-11” inches in diameter. Rosboro will accept mixed loads including cedar, Douglas fir and white woods.

Mill Location: Rosboro’s log yard is conveniently located on 28th Street in Springfield, OR. We are located diagonally west from Robert’s Supply. Rosboro’s has an efficient log yard with minimum turnaround time.

For Information & Prices Call:
Larry Strickland (541) 556-7718

Rosboro is number OR-32 of the Oregon Tree Farm System having been a member for over 50 years. Rosboro’s timberlands are recognized by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) standard utilizing certification by the American Tree Farm System.
EPA and NOAA Announce a Draft Disapproval for Oregon

By Jim James

On December 20th the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a long expected draft disapproval of Oregon’s Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program. This is the result of a multiple year effort by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Department of Forestry, and coast area stakeholders to resolve a litigation settlement agreement between EPA & NOAA and Northwest Environmental Advocates (NWEA). NWEA claimed EPA and NOAA’s “conditional approval” of Oregon’s plan to comply with the Clean Water Act was not allowed under the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA). Three unresolved issues in the “conditional approval” according to the agreement between NWEA and the federal agencies are Oregon needs to reduce pollution from logging activities by addressing medium, small, and non-fish bearing stream buffers, high risk landslide areas, and impacts on road operations and maintenance, particularly on legacy roads. The federal position lacks a realistic scientific review. Much of the rational is based on the fact that Washington states’ forest practice laws are more restrictive than Oregon’s and therefore Oregon’s must be inadequate.

There is a 90 day comment period that ends on March 21st to respond to the draft announcement. The final decision is expected in May. For more information one can access the Oregon Department of Forestry website for background information and a copy of Oregon’s response. http://www.oregon.gov/odf/privateforests/Pages/czara.aspx

OSWA will be collaborating with our partners and providing written comment to EPA on their draft announcement.

ODF Response to EPA and NOAA Disapproval of Oregon FPA

By Jim James

State Forester, Doug Decker, sent the message below to the Oregon Department of Forestry staff following the announcement by EPA and NOAA of their intent to claim Oregon’s Forest Practice laws do not meet Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act requirements on December 20th:

You may see news coverage over the next few days about a federal proposal to reject Oregon’s plan for improving water quality in coastal watersheds. I’m writing to provide a bit of context and a look at next steps.

Several state agencies and the Governor’s office have been working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on this matter for several years. This week’s news is disappointing, particularly given that coastal water quality is generally high and has been improving for at least 15 years.

Oregon and the federal agencies share goals-clean water and healthy fisheries-but see different pathways. EPA and NOAA have advocated one-size-fits-all measures, including in forest practices. The Oregon approach, expressed in the Forest Practices Act, which is a key part of the discussion, relies on rules that are tailored to produce the outcomes we seek.

This week’s announcement begins a 90-day comment period. Under terms of a legal settlement involving the federal agencies and an environmental group, EPA and NOAA must announce a final decision next spring. If the decision is to disapprove, Oregon would lose funds that our departments of Environmental Quality and Land Conservation and Development use to support water quality improvement and related projects.

We’ll work to avoid that outcome. And we’ll continue to assert that Oregon’s approach, with a record of success, will lead to further improvements in water quality. – Best, Doug Decker
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