OSWA Annual Meeting June 15th, 16th, and 17th

By Jim James

OSWA’s Lane County Chapter will host OSWA’s 2017 Annual Meeting, June 15th, 16th, and 17th at the Three Rivers Casino Resort, in Florence. The Theme is “Onward We Proceed”. Thursday, June 15th will be an opportunity to visit the many sites in Western Lane County and visit the many attractions. The OSWA Board will meet Thursday evening at 6:00 after a no-host Board dinner at 5:00. All members are welcome.

2017 OSWA Annual Meeting Sponsors:

The program Friday, June 16th will focus on current events, a look at what we can anticipate in the future, and a look at the past. There will be entertainment by a local band, Awards Banquet, and Silent Auction. State Forester, Peter Daugherty will be the Keynote Speaker. See Friday’s program on page 6.

Saturday, June 17th will be the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year woods tour at the Rankin Woodlands focusing on silvicultural options on the Oregon Coast, thinning, enhancing wildlife habitat, and the benefits of a portable sawmill. Hosts Dianne and Dave Rankin will share their vision for the forest they have managed successfully for 44 years. See Woods Tour flyer on page 7.

A block of rooms at the Three Rivers Casino Resort are reserved for OSWA members. Reservation number (541) 997-7529. See registration information on page 8.
Greetings! - I hope you are all having a great spring!

Your Oregon Small Woodlands Association leadership and members have been very busy working on your behalf in Salem on legislative issues over the past several weeks. There are a number of Bills in this legislative session that could pose huge negative impacts on our ability to manage and harvest our timberlands. The passage of any one of these Bills has the potential of causing enormous economic hardship on forestland owners, and all of them together would be devastating. The good news is, it appears we have had some successes.

On March 1st, a number of us were in Salem for a hearing on HB 2859. This bill would have sunset the “Special Tax Assessments” for our timberland properties as well as logging and farming equipment. This would have had an enormous impact on our personal property taxes for forestland owners and the agriculture community. There was an excellent turnout from both Small Woodlands and the Agriculture community to testify against HB 2859, filling not only the Hearing Room, but an adjoining room as well. The testimony was very compelling and at the end of the day, House Revenue Committee Chairman, Phil Barnhart, informally polled the Committee to have any portion of the bill that would sunset special tax assessments on forestry or agriculture to be removed. Hearing no objections from the committee, he turned to the audience and said, “In other words, you won.” I am convinced the testimony by our Small Woodland members and the agricultural community is responsible for the outcome.

On March 30th, we were back in Salem to testify against HB 3226 which was sponsored by Representative Holvey at the request of Pacific Rivers Council and Center for Sustainable Economy. This is a very dangerous bill intended to replace our current Oregon Forest Practices Act with something that mimics the California Forest Practices Act. In California, it is extremely onerous and expensive to harvest and manage your timber with all of the regulations and hoops forestland owners have to jump through. HB 3226 has the potential of being worse than the California FPA. There are so many serious issues with this bill, it would literally take hours to describe all of the pitfalls. Once again, we had a tremendous representation from the Small Woodlands members to testify, filling more than the Hearing Room. Due to the extreme nature of the Bill, it did not pass through Committee. However, there is a very real possibility it will turn up as a ballot measure in a future election.

On other issues in Salem, OSWA leadership and members also testified in favor the OSU Extension and ODF budgets. All of these efforts make it abundantly clear that OSWA is a tremendous organization that is extremely valuable to the Small Family Forestland Owners in Oregon.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to Roger Beyer for his efforts and work on our behalf. He has provided us with much needed guidance as we navigate through the legislative process with the large number of bills we are keeping an eye on. I also want to express my thanks to all of our members who have been diligent in following these bills and showing up to testify at the Hearings.

continued on page 5
Tree Farm Chair’s Message

Scott Hayes

At tree school last month a lot of family woodland owners visited the Oregon Tree Farm System exhibit and, right next to us, the Oregon Small Woodlands Association.

“What’s the difference between the two?” was a common question.

So, I’d ask, “Do you have a Tree Farm sign on the entrance to your forestland?” It’s interesting to note that of the 1,500 plus OSWA family woodland owners, maybe less than half of them have their lands certified under the American Tree Farm System.

To understand the benefits of having your forestland certified, it helps to understand the history of the American Tree Farm System.

- 1941 – American Tree Farm System founded by the American Forest Council
- 1941 – 1st “Tree Farm” dedicated in Montesano, Washington
- 1981 – American Forest Foundation (AFF) chartered; 2 signature programs
  - American Tree Farm System® (ATFS)
  - The Project Learning Tree® (PLT)
- Early 1990s – AFF receives $150 million meritorious initiatives grant, affirming impact of ATFS and PLT, its volunteers, and cooperators
- Today, 44 States have ATFS Programs
- Each State Committee is successful because of Volunteer Tree Farmers, Foresters and Partners
- Oregon Tree Farm System has almost 700 families with management plans certified to meet specific sustainable standards
  - Protect watersheds and wildlife habitat
  - Conserve soil
  - Produce sustainable forest products

The Certification Process
If you do not have a management plan for your forestland, a volunteer forester from the Oregon Tree Farm System can meet with you to start the process. Once your plan meets the new standards and the forester certifies it, you can post the iconic Certified Tree Farm sign on your property.

Hidden Benefit
Here’s a hidden benefit when you are ATFS certified: Representation. AFF has dedicated staff in Washington, D.C. who work and lobby Congress for your rights. Today a nation-wide Advocacy Leaders group is working with AFF staff on pending tax reform and the 2018 Farm Bill. You can be an Advocacy Leader.
So far, 2017 has proven to be an interesting year. The 2017 legislature has presented some real challenges with hearings on bills that would be devastating to family forest owners, but to date, none have gotten any traction, largely because of the efforts of OSWA and our natural resource allies. See the article on the 2017 Legislative Update. We still have some things to accomplish in this session. The state’s $1.8 Billion anticipated shortfall in revenues needed to maintain all state programs has put some important programs to OSWA at risk. OSU Extension and the Fire and Private Forest Divisions of Oregon Department of Forestry were both hit in the governor’s budget. OSWA has testified in favor of full funding of these programs, but it is going to take some outreach to our legislators to make sure these important programs are adequately funded.

OSWA’s membership renewals have fallen short of expectations. For the last several years, OSWA has experienced a 92% membership retention and then added new members to return our membership to desired levels to keep us a relevant organization. As of this newsletter our retention is at 87%. We have already added 60 new members, but at this time we are behind last year’s rate of retention and growth. Last year we ended the year with basically the same number of members we started with. Adding new members should be a priority for every chapter. Each chapter event should also be a membership recruitment event.

The 2017 Annual Meeting will be in Florence, June 15, 16, and 17. Members should have received the brochure. Also, see articles in this newsletter. OSWA mailed the brochure to non-OSWA family forest owners in Lane, Lincoln, and Coss Counties. Any non-members who register for and attend our annual meeting will be offered a free membership in OSWA for the remainder of 2017. If you have a neighbor who might be interested in OSWA, please invite them to join you at our annual meeting. I believe we have a great program and setting for the meeting. The woods tour on Saturday will be very informative. OSWA’s Board meeting is on Thursday, June 15th at 6:00 pm at the Three River’s Resort Casino. All members are welcome and encouraged to join the meeting. There is a no host Board dinner at 5:00.

OSWA plans to have six Neighbor to Neighbor woods tours in 2017. The locations for five have been selected. If your chapter would like to host a Neighbor to Neighbor tour, please let me know.

### OSWA’s Final 2015/2016 Budget and the 2016/2017 Approved Budget

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Fire Report

By Jim James

The Industrial Fire Prevention Rules (IFPR) will be amended in preparation for the 2017 Fire Season. A committee has been working on revisions for over a year. The proposed rules were presented at the March Board of Forestry meeting with a planned return to the board for final rule adoption at the June 7th Board of Forestry meeting. Implementation of these rules is anticipated for the 2017 fire season.

The proposed rule upgrades intend to clarify language, extend fire-safe operations, and improve agency fire rule administration – while rebalancing the competing goals of fire prevention versus the operational cost of preparedness and operation shutdowns. The upgrades will reform fire prevention regulations to accommodate ever-changing technology, timber types, and industry fire prevention expertise. Here are some of the changes outlined in Rex Storm’s article on this subject in the January Family Forest News.

Several ODF field administration upgrades include:

1) Waiver administration standardized and bolstered
2) Accurate fire cause reporting
3) Electronic information
4) Communication with small landowners/operators

Rule refinements for clarity and practicality include:

1) Same water supply volume, but added hose requirements
2) Clarity on the 110 psi pump equivalent,
3) Size of Extinguishers
4) 1st-day water supply

5) Reduced fire tools for small crews, and a fire watch who can fight fires working-alone

There are also IFPL shutdown reforms such as:

1) IFPL 2 Change, Rotary saw operates only before 1pm
2) IFPL 3 Change: Cable/motorized carriage operate before 1pm,
3) IFPL 3 Change: Feller bunchers operate only before 1pm, with added fireline-capable machine available on-site,
4) IFPL 3 Change: Power saws operate before 1pm on ground-based operations with added fireline-capable machine
5) Eastside IFPL (federal only) remains the same

Contact your Stewardship Forester for details before operating during this fire season. One can look for the new rules on the ODF website. www/Oregon.gov/Oregon Department of Forestry

OSWA President's Message – Continued

By Rick Barnes

On a brighter note, our OSWA Annual Meeting is coming up in June. This year’s meeting will be hosted by the Lane County Chapter and take place at Three Rivers Casino in Florence. I encourage all of you to attend the Annual Meeting if at all possible. This is a great time for our membership to gather to not only discuss issues, but more importantly, offers us the opportunity to celebrate our privilege, pride and honor to be tree farmers. Please see Jim James’ article regarding the annual meeting in this publication.

Again, thank you to all of our members who are actively making a difference in Salem. This is the strength of OSWA!
Friday, June 16 – Theme: “Onward We Proceed” – Mike Cloughesy, Master of Ceremonies

Keynote Speaker – Peter Daugherty, Oregon State Forester, ODF Partnership with forest owners

Session One – Current Events and Challenges – Roger Beyer, 2017 Legislative Session Update, Scott Hanson, Reducing Fire Risk and Managing for Smoke, and Dave Shaw, Swiss Needle Cast

Session Two – Current Events, Kyle Abraham, Deputy Chief Private Forest Division, Oregon Department of Forestry, ODF Private Forests Overview; Jennifer Weikel, Oregon Department of Forestry, Wildlife Biologist, Bald Eagle and Marbled Murrelets; Wyatt Williams, Oregon Department of Forestry, Invasive Species Specialist, Invasive Species; Sarah Navarro, Oregon Department of Forestry, Forest Pathologist, Sudden Oak Death; and Ryan Gordon, Oregon Department of Forestry, Family Forestland Coordinator, Landowner Incentive Programs

Luncheon Speaker – Jim James, Executive Director, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, How does OSWA Position Ourselves to Address Future Issues of Concern

Session Three – West Lane County Yesterday and Today - Jesse Beers, Confederated Tribes Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, Cultural History of West Lane County; Delbert Phelps, Florence Historical Society, Proud History of Florence and West Lane County; and Patrick Corcoran, Associate Professor, Hazards Outreach, OSU Sea Grant Extension, What is the Potential for an Oregon Coast Tsunami

Afternoon and Evening activities – Entertainment, Craig and Terry – Local Musicians; Silent Auction Social - Appetizers and No Host Bar; Awards Banquet announcing Chapter Volunteers of the Year, 2017 Riggin’ Slinger Award, Nominations for 2017 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year, Presentation of 25 and 50 Year Tree Farm Signs, 2016 Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year Video, and 2016 National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Video.

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OSWA News

2016 OUTSTANDING TREE FARMER
OF THE YEAR WOOD TOUR
Saturday – June 17, 2017

You are invited to:

Dave and Dianne Rankin’s
Rankin Woodlands, LLC

85668 South Slough Road
Westlake, Oregon

Check-in & Social: 8:00 a.m.
Tour: 8:30 – 12:00
Lunch: Noon – 1:00

Registration Required - Admission and Lunch Are Free

Dave and Dianne Rankin became actively involved in forestry after retiring from a long career as educators. They purchased Rankin Woodlands in 1973 as a place to build a home and raise two sons. That purchase started decades of passion and appreciation for their forest and all the values associated with it. The original focus was on protecting the ecological values of their forest. Over time they realized the forest could also provide sustainable income while still protecting all the ecological values. Today, the Rankins actively manage their working forest with a focus on a good balance between environmental, economic, and social values.

Directions to Rankin Woodlands Tree Farm Tour

Vans will leave the Three Rivers Casino Resort at 7:30 a.m. and return to the Casino at 1:45 p.m.

Driving own vehicle – At the Florence intersection of Hwy 126 and Hwy 101 travel south for 3.6 miles to Canary Road (Woahink Lake); turn east onto Canary Road and travel 2.9 miles to South Slough Road; turn north onto South Slough Road and travel 1.8 miles where there will be directions for parking. “Tree Tour” signs will be posted.

Tour Sponsors:

Rankin Woodlands, LLC, OSWA Lane County Chapter, Oregon Tree Farm System, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, OSU Extension Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Oregon’s Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) Implementation Committee.

To Register return Registration Form, email oswaevents@gmail.com or call (503) 588-1813 by June 9th
# REGISTRATION FORM

**Oregon Small Woodlands Association 2017 Annual Meeting**  
**Oregon Tree Farm System Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year Tour**  
**Thursday, June 15 – Saturday, June 17 – Florence, OR**  
Hosted by OSWA’s Lane County Chapter and OTFS

| THURSDAY, JUNE 15 | COSTS PER PERSON | NUMBER ATTENDING | TOTAL
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**FRIDAY, JUNE 16**

**OSWA Annual Meeting and Program**  
Includes continental breakfast, program, snacks & lunch  
8:30 am to 4:15 pm  
___ Herb Roasted Breast of Chicken  
___ Roasted Pork Loin  
___ Please indicate if Vegetarian diet is required  

**Silent Auction Social and Awards Banquet**  
(casual dress)  
5:00 pm to 8:15 pm  
___ Salmon  
___ Prime Rib  
___ Please indicate if Vegetarian diet is required  

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17**

**Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year Tour**  
___ $0 x | __________ = __________ |

Dave and Dianne Rankin Woodlands, LLC  
___ I would like to ride a van from Three Rivers Casino  
___ I plan to take my own vehicle to the tour site  

**TOTAL REGISTRATION COSTS**

Attendees Name(s):
1) ____________________________________________  3) ____________________________________________
2) ____________________________________________  4) ____________________________________________

**Contact Information:**
Address ____________________________________________ City, State, Zip ______________________________
Phone ______________________ Email ______________________

Mail form and check to OSWA State Office, 187 High Street NE, Suite 208, Salem, OR 97301.
Make Checks payable to Oregon Small Woodlands Association. Deadline for Registration June 12, 2017
HB 2859 - On Wednesday, March 1st about 20+ OSWA members and 80+ members of the Farm Bureau representing cattle & sheep ranchers, farmers, nurserymen, filbert growers, grass seed farmers, berry growers, and others showed up in force to show unity against HB 2859. This bill would sunset all special tax assessments including those used by family forest owners. These special tax assessments were put in place because of land use zoning and as a form of equity because of the unique circumstances related to management of a natural resource property.

Thank you to the OSWA members who showed up to show support and to the eleven OSWA members who testified; Rick Barnes, Mike Barnes, Marsha Carr, Tammy Cushing, Sarah Deumling, Scott Hanson, Nancy Hathaway, Dennis Morgan, Scott Russell, Gilbert Shibley, and Roger Beyer. This was a great example of the undeniable power of grassroots advocacy.

At the end of the hearing, Chairman Phil Barnhart suggested to the committee that the natural resource special tax assessments in HB 2859 be removed from the bill. The entire committee agreed and Chairman Barnhart declared we had made our point and won the debate. When the bill had a work session, as promised, the natural resource special tax assessments were removed from the bill through an amendment.

SB 892 and SB 500 – On Wednesday, March 22nd there were two bills opposed by OSWA, SB 892 and SB 500, that had hearings. If passed SB 892 would basically shut down aerial application of herbicides. SB 500 would change the laws related to when someone could file a complaint against a landowner who used herbicides. SB 892 would have required a landowner planning an aerial application of herbicides to select a seven-day window of when the herbicide would be applied in their notification to the Oregon Department of Forestry. If they miss the window, a new notification would need to be filed with the normal 15 day waiting period. Anyone familiar with the timing required to do an aerial application of herbicides would know that picking such a defined window of time is virtually impossible to do. There are too many factors that influence when an application can be made such as weather, wind, and availability of equipment to make such a prediction feasible. Knowing this, the proponents of SB 892 hoped to use it as a tool to stop aerial applications of herbicides on forestland.

SB 500 would have changed current law about when someone can file a complaint. Current law requires that anyone wishing to file a complaint on a pesticide application to do so within 60 days of the application to the Department of Agriculture. Such timing allows for time to investigate the claim while there is evidence available to make an evaluation. SB 500 would have eliminated the 60-day requirement allowing claims to be made years after the application, when evidence to refute the claims could be hard to document. Users of herbicides could be vulnerable to frivolous lawsuits after evidence of what actually happened is lost over time.

The Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee heard the bills. OSWA members Dave Rankin, Justin Clarke, Nancy Hathaway, and Greg Peterson all testified in opposition to SB 892 and SB 500. Both bills eventually died in committee. HB 892 did have a work session with amendments, but the amendments did not solve OSWA’s opposition. It died in committee on a three to four vote. Senator Arnie Roblan was the final fourth vote that opposed the bill. He was very understanding of OSWA’s position and we owe him gratitude for his support of our position.
2017 Legislative Update – Continued

By Jim James

HB 3226 - On Thursday, March 30th, OSWA had a big presence at the Capitol in opposition of HB 3226. No one at the capitol missed the forest landowner presence. HB 3226 would have rewritten Oregon’s Forest Practices Laws. It was clear this bill was dead following the testimony. Unfortunately, we do not think this is the last time we will see it, but we know it will not be in 2017.

The hearing turned out to be a side show for the proponents who had a 360 degree camera at the hearing table, but there advocacy received no traction with the committee. State Forester, Peter Daugherty and those testifying dispelled all the false rhetoric coming from the proponents. Several OSWA members were scheduled to testify, but the Hearing Chair did not follow the planned hearing schedule and some testimony was cut short. Thank you to Rick Barnes, Susan Watkins, Marsha Carr, and Scott Russell who were scheduled to testify for OSWA and to others who were able to do so. This was a great effort for OSWA with excellent results. The big showing sent a message to all in the Capitol that such legislation is not needed or acceptable.

Starker Bus used to bring members to the Capitol for an 8:00 am hearing on March 30th

Those in opposition of HB 3226, over half are OSWA members

HB 2466 – Another bill that was heard Thursday, March 30th was HB 2466, that would raise a $10/MBF harvest tax to pay the state general fund’s financial liability for paying for excess forest firefighting costs. Roger Beyer, Steve Cafferata, and Kristina McNitt testified in opposition. Since this bill is a revenue bill, it does not die in committee if not moved from the committee by April 20th, however, we think the likelihood of it receiving additional consideration is quite low.

State Wide and ODF Budgets – OSWA supports full funding of the State Wide budget that includes OSU Extension funding and the Oregon Department of Forestry Budget. Both have had their original hearings where OSWA members testified for full funding. These decisions will be made late in the legislative session. OSWA members are encouraged to contact your Senators and Representatives advocating full funding for OSU Extension and Oregon Department of Forestry’s Fire and Private Forests Divisions. OSWA’s Governmental Advisory Committee will be involved in this outreach.

Riparian Rule Update

By Jim James

As anticipated, on April 25th, the Board of Forestry adopted the new Riparian Rule language for Westside small and medium Salmon, Steelhead, and Bull Trout (SSBT) streams with the exception of the Siskiyou Region. The new rules were developed with assistance of an advisory committee with several OSWA members. Although OSWA did not support the original decision in November 2015, the new rules do a good job of reflecting the decisions made by the Board at that time. The new rules will be implemented on July 1st of this year. Oregon Department of Forestry will have their GIS computer at OSWA’s Annual Meeting on June 16th and during the breaks can show interested landowners whether their small or medium fish bearing streams will be regulated under the new rules.
Drawing for Awesome OSWA Products

By Jim James

To encourage members to renew their membership by the January 31st due date, the Membership Committee recommended OSWA have a drawing for Awesome OSWA Products for those who renewed on time. The 1191 members, who renewed by January 31th, had their membership numbers placed in a container and four numbers were drawn. The four winners are:

- Member 953718 – Rob Blickensderer – Benton County
- Member 951955 – Gene Cooper – Lincoln County
- Member 952570 – Wilda Downing – Lane County
- Member 952736 – David Peterson – Washington County

Each winner can select an Awesome OSWA product from the list on the OSWA website www.oswa.org or select their item at OSWA’s Annual Meeting when all the Awesome OSWA products will be on display. Congratulations to the winners.

Thank you to Membership Committee member Bonnie Shumaker for coordinating this effort and drawing the numbers.

2017 Silver Patron

Barnes & Associates, Inc., based in Roseburg, Oregon, will be celebrating their 25th anniversary in business on September 1, 2017! In May 2016, the company experienced a substantial expansion and opened a second office in Coos Bay to serve our growing client base on the Southern Oregon Coast.

B&A was founded on the concept of providing quality natural resource analysis and management. Our client base includes family forestland owners as well as industrial and public landowners. Our highly skilled, professional staff possesses practical backgrounds in a multitude of disciplines offers a wide variety of natural resource services such as 1) Forest management/stewardship plans, 2) Timber cruising/appraisals, 3) Planning and management of harvesting operations, 4) GIS mapping and analysis, 4) Marketing of logs, timber, and other natural resource products, 5) Reforestation, 6) Prepare timber sale prospectus and marketing packets, 7) forest inventory, and 8) Environmental analysis.
Many of you probably know me, but I’m sure there are a few who don’t. I’d like to start off by saying I’m truly honored and humbled to lead such a group of hard-working and dedicated individuals here at ODF. I started with ODF in 1998 at the Santiam unit with an electro fisher on my back most days. It was a great experience, as was working in the Forest Practices monitoring unit for a number of years and as an FPF/Stewardship Forester for about 6 years in the Molalla and Dallas Unit offices. I also spent about three years with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, before coming back to ODF as the Water Quality Specialist. I’ve enjoyed working for ODF in a number of capacities and getting to know our organization better. My wife and I are both native Oregonians and we have a four-year-old daughter who keeps us busy.

I know there is much uncertainty right now with regards to the Governor’s recommended budget, but please know that I and others are sharing the potential impacts to our Division every chance we get. We are also working to minimize any potential impacts by remaining flexible and looking at every option carefully before deciding what path to pursue for the Division. You are likely aware that we are working through many transitions in management and staff within the Private Forest Division and it’s encouraging to see people step into new roles within ODF.

It’s amazing how fast things change. Case in point, last month a surprise snow storm delivered about 8 inches of snow at my home and now it’s over 60 degrees and I’m thinking of all the chores which I need to do. Things are changing just as quickly at work as well. We’ve just completed the riparian rule public hearings (9 hearings in all) with over 200 people in attendance and over 500 public comments to summarize. Folks really came together to accomplish this feat, including dedicated Salem staff, Stewardship Foresters, Unit Foresters and others. As soon as that was completed, this group and a few others jumped right into preparing training events for the proposed changes to the stream rules. This again was a significant undertaking with several face-to-face meetings. Without the help from a few dedicated Stewardship Foresters we would not have been able to pull it off. There are many other priority projects such as emergence of the SOD Task Force, bald eagle rule language moving to public hearing phase, upcoming release of the FERNS subscriber module, legislative session, Eastern Oregon and Siskiyou streamside protection review… and the list goes on and on.

Wrapping up, I’d like to say I’m eager to work with you all to strengthen the excellent relationships built by my predecessors. If we haven’t already met, please introduce yourself next time we’re at a meeting, field visit, or other venue.

Take Care, Kyle Abraham,
Deputy Chief, Private Forests Division

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!

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5727 SW Macadam Ave. Portland, OR 97239  |  800.735.8325  |  www.jdfulwiler.com
ODF Forest Health – Sudden Oak Death (SOD)
By Sarah Navarro, Oregon Department of Forestry, Pathologist

The Forest Health program helps maintain and improve the health of Oregon's private and state-owned forests. Our forest health professionals use aerial and ground surveys and other means to monitor native and non-native forest insects, tree diseases and pests that threaten Oregon's forests. The Sudden Oak Death (SOD) program is one example of the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) larger efforts to detect and rapidly respond to damaging invasive species. ODF has been part of a collaborative interagency program to combat SOD since its detection in Curry County in 2001. Disease intensification and funding projections make this a critical point in the program's history.

In 2016, ODF did the following in Curry County to address SOD:

- Monitored 50 stream drainages in Curry County, both within and outside the SOD quarantine. Six streams tested positive for Phytophthora ramorum.

- Conducted ground-based detection surveys on approximately 2,500 acres in Curry County. Four helicopter flights and one fixed-wing flight were flown for aerial detection of SOD. Helicopter surveys covered 630,000 acres and the fixed-wing flight covered 400,000 acres.

- Crews collected and submitted over 660 samples to Oregon State University for testing, resulting in the detection of 221 trees infected with P. ramorum totaling 65 new infestations. The European (EU1) strain was detected in 2016 in Oregon wildlands for a second time, ½ mile south of the one EU1-infestation found in 2015. All 65 infestations were well within the new 2015 SOD quarantine area. Compared to the 18 new infestations detected in 2015, the disease appears to be intensifying in Curry County.

In Europe, the EU1 strain of P. ramorum damages and kills several conifer species, including larch, Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and grand fir. Within the 2016 EU1 infestation, 30 infected trees have been detected; Two grand fir seedlings and 23 tanoaks are confirmed infected with the EU1 strain. Treatment of the infestation began on 12/13/16 with herbicide application of the area (54 acres). Cutting and piling of tanoak began on 1/09/17 in preparation to burn.

Interagency collaborators agree on the need to develop a long-term vision for how agencies, landowners and the public will address living with Sudden Oak Death. The needs include:

- Eradicating EU1 in its early stages
- Continuing to slow the spread of the disease
- Expanding our knowledge about the potential economic, environmental and social risks of SOD
- A more robust education and outreach program
- Identifying research needs and funding sources (treatments, tanoak conservation and resistance, etc.)
- Establishing a long-term approach to identifying and funding public safety, infrastructure and property damage concerns associated with SOD such as wildfire hazard and public roads.
- Finding resources to help restore affected lands

The Association of Oregon Counties is convening a local solution task force to discuss the future of Living with SOD.

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The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Private Forests Division works to protect natural resources and help maintain working forests—and their social, economic and environmental viability—into the future. This mission rests on the premise that healthy, diverse private forestlands provide value for all Oregonians, including watershed protection, economic activity, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, green infrastructure and other ecosystem services. The Division carries out its work through effective administration, educational assistance, and enforcement of the Oregon Forest Practices Act; monitoring and improving forest health; delivering state and federal incentive programs to family forestland owners; and providing urban forestry services.

A couple of current wildlife issues being addressed by ODF include activities around Bald Eagle rulemaking and Marbled Murrelet Rule Analysis.

**Bald Eagle Rulemaking** – The bald eagle population has significantly recovered in recent years, so much so that the bald eagle has been removed from both federal and state endangered species lists. However, the Forest Practices Act (FPA) protections for bald eagles are listed under Threatened and Endangered species which is no longer the case. Starting in 2014, ODF began a rule analysis process using information from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and a technical report developed by ODF to determine key information and develop recommendations to discuss with the Board of Forestry.

The recommendations from this process include:

- Maintain protection of nest trees.
- Maintain buffer around nest trees.
- Maintain critical period of use (nesting) restriction, but reduce the distance within which activities are restricted.
- Allow for abandonment of nesting sites if surveys document no use for five years.
- Rescind rules for protection of winter roosting sites and foraging perch sites. Federal requirements under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Act still apply (not enforced by the State).

ODF worked closely with Regional Forest Practices Committees, the Committee for Family Forestlands, and other stakeholders throughout this process. ODF would like to thank all those involved for their efforts.

In March 2017, the Board of Forestry directed ODF to begin the public hearing process on approved draft rule language for bald eagles. Public hearings were held on April 19th in Klamath Falls, April 27th in Roseburg, and May 2nd, in Forest Grove. Please contact ODF, Private Forests Division for more information.

**Marbled Murrelet Rule Analysis Process** – In July 2016, the Board of Forestry received a Petition to Initiate Rulemaking and identify resource sites to establish an inventory and protect existing marbled murrelet sites. The Board considered the petition and acting within its authority under the Administrative Procedures Act, the Board denied the petition. ODFW also received a petition to review the status of marbled murrelet in Oregon and determine if uplisting to Endangered under Oregon’s ESA is warranted.

In September, the petitioners submitted a Petition to Review an Agency Order through the Lane County Circuit Court to request the court compel rulemaking. The Board of Forestry met to reconsider their previous decision to deny the petition for rulemaking. After consultation with the Oregon Department of Justice, the Board voted to withdraw and reverse its previous decision on the rulemaking petition. In response to the Board’s decision, the petitioners withdrew their Petition for Review with the Lane County Circuit Court.

The decision included the following direction to the Department:

1) Collect and analyze the best available information using, as a starting point, the petition. The department should determine whether the petition satisfies the requirements for a technical review paper, and if it does, commence a review of the paper.
2) Establish inventories of resource sites relating to marbled murrelets, and
3) Report back on progress in the near term plans at the March, 2017 Board meeting.
The Department reviewed the petition to initiate rulemaking to determine if it contained the information needed to satisfy the requirements of a technical report as described in the FPA. The Department concluded that the petition does not contain all of the required information, specifically identification of the resource site. The Board needs a technical report, including best available information, to help inform policy decisions for marbled murrelets.

At the Board’s direction, the Department will develop the technical report on marbled murrelets, using the petition as a starting point. The technical report will include additional background information on ecology and habitat use of marbled murrelets, as well as explicitly address the required elements relating to the definition of resource sites and identification of potential forest practices conflicts and the consequences of those conflicts. The technical report will provide the basis of information for subsequent steps and to inform the Board throughout this process. The department will seek input on the draft technical report, including input from stakeholders and technical experts.

It is important to note that the Department is not currently proposing any rules and the rule analysis process may result in several outcomes including no change to rules, use of non-regulatory measures, incentives such as Safe Harbor Agreements, a combination of both, or potentially regulatory actions. Please contact ODF, Private Forests Division for more information.
 Assistance Available Through NRCS Programs – Signups Open Now

By Ryan Gordon, ODF Family Forestland Coordinator

The last few issues of this newsletter have included articles about financial and technical assistance available through the statewide partnership between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and ODF. If you've been following those, you know it's a team effort. The financial incentives you'll receive come through NRCS, while a bulk of the one-on-one technical assistance can be provided by an ODF Stewardship Forester. By and large, NRCS incentives are designed to partially offset the cost of pre-commercial management activities that improve forest health, create wildlife habitat, and address other resource needs.

Late winter and early spring is a good time to sign-up for NRCS programs. The type of cost share and availability depends on where your property is located, but most counties in Oregon now have NRCS programs for forest landowners. There is a time-lag between sign-up and approval – and you may not get in on the first round – but now is a good time to learn about what’s available. Many sign-ups are open through mid-May.

To learn more, contact your local NRCS office: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/contact/local/

Or, contact your local Stewardship Forester: http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Working/Pages/FindAForester.aspx

In Oregon, NRCS sets its investment priorities through the development of Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS). A CIS typically focuses investment into an identified resource concern in a discrete geographic area. To qualify, your property will need to be located within a current CIS. Even if you're not within a CIS now, you likely will be in the future – and expressing interest can help inform decisions about future CIS areas.

For example, there is a CIS that supports cost-share for forestry activities designed to increase structural diversity in Northwest Oregon forests. Others in SW Oregon focus on improving forest health through fuels reduction and thinning, as well as improving forage on grazed forestlands. Several programs in the Willamette Valley focus on oak habitat and riparian restoration. Others in Eastern Oregon focus on mitigating forest fuels.

There are other opportunities made available through special investments in landscape scale restoration projects that often include both public and private lands. The Joint Chiefs’ Landscape Restoration Partnership (Joint Chiefs) has leveraged additional funds in NE Oregon, Central Oregon, SW Oregon, and on the North Coast. Funds available through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) have been used to address resource concerns statewide, and fund innovative initiatives like the Pinchot Institute’s carbon market program for family forest owners. Through their program, landowners in NW Oregon can receive assistance with a forest carbon inventory and development of a management plan (http://www.pinchot.org/gp/RCP).

The options can be confusing and sometimes difficult to navigate. How do you get started?

• Develop a relationship with a local technical service provider. This may be a Stewardship Forester from ODF, but you might also reach out to the local Forestry Extension Agent, an NRCS staff person, or a representative from a local soil and water conservation district or watershed council. Find someone who can help answer your questions and navigate the programs available in your area.

• Survey other resources available to you online and elsewhere. Start by visiting www.knowyourforest.org.

• If you haven’t already, begin thinking about the goals and objectives you have for your forestland. The Woodland Discovery Tool is a great way to get started: http://outreach.oregonstate.edu/programs/forestry/planning/woodland-discovery

Completing the Woodland Discovery Tool is also an important first step in qualifying to participate in an NRCS cost-share program.

Ryan Gordon, Family Forestland Coordinator with the Oregon Department of Forestry, can be reached at 503-945-7393 or Ryan.P.Gordon@oregon.gov.
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THE ACTIONS WE TAKE TODAY DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF OUR FORESTS
Oregon Tree Farm Leaders Invade South Carolina
By Scott Hayes

Well, it wasn’t like we were re-enacting the Civil War, but 15 Oregonians made up the largest contingent from the 11 Western States to the American Forest Foundation’s annual National Leadership Conference.

The Leadership Conference was February 22-24, 2017. This year, 219 State Tree Farm committee leaders, ATFS Inspectors, other volunteers, and our strategic partners met in Greenville, South Carolina. The purpose of the conference was to coordinate and develop ideas, provide and share feedback, and develop long-term strategies that will ensure a vibrant, impact-focused future for the ATFS program.

We learned about critical program updates to the network from the ATFS national office. Most important of all, we had peer-to-peer networking and information-sharing opportunities with other state committee leaders.

These annual Leadership Conferences are a great way to learn how other States are helping family woodland owners better manage their lands under the American Tree Farm System brand. Here’s a few of the learning sessions: Engaging
a Cross-Generational Volunteer Force; Sustainability at the Landscape Scale: A New Marketplace Approach; Florida Landscape Management Plan Pilot Project; Statistics Are Boring: It’s Your Personal Story that Motivates People to Action; and Engaging Minority Landowners.

A critical goal of these annual meetings is to help experienced, and new, tree farm volunteers and inspectors understand the American Tree Farm System’s new vision. In our first 75 years, Tree Farm has been all about getting family woodlands owners to manage their lands using the best practices. And we recognize outstanding families each year for their amazing efforts. We will continue with our historical focus, while at the same time we try to figure out how to expand our influence on our neighbors - on a landscape scale.

Planning is already underway for the 2018 National Leadership Conference, which will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico from January 31 – February 2, 2018.

Do you want to join us next year when Oregon invades New Mexico?

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Defrees Family Honored at National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year Celebration

By Jim James

On April 8th, the Defrees family were honored in a celebration for their recognition as National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year (OTFoY). The event was co-sponsored by OSWA’s Baker County Chapter, Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS), OSU Extension, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and the Blue Mountain Forest Cooperative. Over 60 people met at the Baker City High School for testimonials from friends and acquaintances, the history of the Defrees Ranch (how we got here), and a reflection on how the Defrees family earned the recognition as National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. The Defrees were presented with a Western Regional OTFoY and National OTFoY signs prepared by the ODF Work Camp.

Others recognized at the event were Chris and Donna Heffernan, North Powder and Tom and Cindy Beechinor, Walla Walla, WA, both having recently received Wildlife Stewardship Awards from the Oregon and Washington Wildlife Society. Roje Gootee updated everyone on the successes of the Ritter Land Management project.

The theme of the “value of partnerships” echoed throughout the discussions. There were presentations from OSWA, OTFS, OSU Extension, ODF, and Blue Mountain Cooperative on partnerships and how they work together for the benefit of each organization. The event included a catered lunch. OSWA added five new members at the conclusion of the event and OTFS received some enquiries about the American Tree Farm System.
AFF Requires All Volunteers to Sign No Harassment Policy

By Vicki Leigh, Director American Tree Farm System Network

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) recently announced a No Harassment Policy requesting signature by all volunteers of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). This standard practice reflects AFF’s commitment to a safe environment for volunteers, partners, staff and landowners who are participating in the program. This policy is also a reflection of the values we all share together like community, integrity, responsibility, honesty and respect.

Thank you to those of you who have already logged in to the ATFS Database to submit your signature. AFF has extended the deadline for when all ATFS volunteers are required to sign the policy, to allow more time to continue to listen to and process your feedback.

The Oregon Tree farm System is working with the national ATFS staff to implement this new policy and we are available to listen to any concerns or questions you might have. As a result of the feedback that ATFS has already received since the launch of the policy, we are happy to announce that ATFS staff are developing new tools and resources to help make the signing of the policy more efficient. ATFS has also formed a taskforce of state leaders to help address key questions and related implementation challenges that have been identified, while protecting the volunteers, partners, landowners and staff involved in ATFS.

Here are some frequently asked questions about the new policy.

Why does ATFS need a No Harassment Policy?
There are several reasons that this policy is necessary. First, such policies are standard practice for volunteer and partnership organizations like ATFS. Such a policy demonstrates AFF’s commitment to a safe environment for staff, volunteers, partners and landowners participating in ATFS. Second, over the years, several State Leaders have approached our national team seeking support and guidance regarding situations where a volunteer’s behavior may be perceived as inappropriate and the problems that may create for ATFS business and reputation. In such cases, the State Leaders were primarily concerned about the safety of other volunteers, partners, staff, and landowners engaged in ATFS, and to a lesser degree, the reputation of our program. A standard policy, applied equally among all program participants and with appropriate due process procedures, will help staff, State Leaders, volunteers, partners, and landowners involved in ATFS more effectively deal with these situations.

Why is this needed now?
It is not uncommon for organizations to implement new policies as they grow and adapt to an everchanging social and business environment. Recently, a formal complaint of harassment was submitted to AFF. The complaint related to actions by a forester while conducting ATFS business. AFF staff and the AFF Certification Committee, AFF’s body responsible for issuing and overseeing ATFS technical policy, undertook a comprehensive investigation of the complaint, in accordance with the ATFS Inspector Compliance Policy, considering several forms of evidence, including statements from the forester, the victim and State Committee members. The investigation found that the forester’s actions violated AFF’s position of zero tolerance of harassment against AFF employees landowners, partners or volunteers involved in ATFS. As a result of the investigation, the Certification Committee moved to revoke the forester’s ATFS credentials and privileges. It was a difficult process for all involved. As part of ATFS’s ongoing efforts to prevent any harassment of volunteers, partners, landowners and staff involved in ATFS, AFF, at the direction of the AFF Certification Committee, adopted a clear, concise policy for all ATFS volunteers to be aware of, regarding our zero tolerance of sexual and other forms of harassment.

When we know the new deadline we will let you know. In the meantime, if you have not already done so, you may sign the ATFS No Harassment Policy by logging in to www.atfsdatabase.org. Contact Nephtali Chavez with any issues regarding database log-in. You can contact Jim James jimjamesoswa@yahoo.com if you have any questions about the need for this policy and why OTFS endorses it. All members of the OTFS Board and all OTFS Inspectors need to agree to and sign the new policy.
Tree Disease Impacts Curry Exports

By Jane Stebbins, The Curry Coastal Pilot, Published Apr 18, 2017

The impact of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) on Curry County trees is starting to hit industry pocketbooks, Brookings City Manager Gary Milliman learned last week. Already, problems are arising with wood exports from within the quarantine area around Brookings, with South Korea refusing to take logs shipped from the Port of Coos Bay and bulb retailers refusing to import lily bulbs from Curry County. State Rep. David Brock Smith of Port Orford anticipated that, and formed a SOD Task Force with U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley to address the problem and perhaps obtain federal funds to stop the spread of SOD.

Sudden Oak Death is a waterborne pathogen that attacks tanoaks – and now, other conifer trees. Stopping its slow but steady march northward – primarily to keep it out of the agricultural lands in the Willamette Valley – has been difficult, at best, primarily due to a lack of funding. All of Brookings and much of the south end of the county is in a quarantine area, meaning wood products cannot be taken from the area unless they are certified to be pathogen-free.

Milliman attended the Economic and Workforce Subcommittee, whose role is to develop an outline for a study for the state Department of Forestry to assess the economic impacts of SOD.

Milliman said they’d best hurry. The topic is serious enough to have brought representatives from the Bureau of Land Management, Association of Oregon Counties, U.S. Forest Service, the Governor’s Office, Business Oregon, three Native American tribes, the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, Brookings and Curry County to serve on the subcommittee. “SOD is a very serious matter and could have devastating economic impacts on all of Oregon,” Milliman said. “We were shown a very good power point presentation on the spread of this disease and heard about a new strain of the disease, first discovered in Pistol River, that is now threatening conifer trees.”

The ODF estimates it would cost $4.5 million a year to contain SOD to Curry County. But the governor’s budget proposal eliminates all money to fight SOD. And House Bill 3151 would appropriate $695,000 to the effort over two years. Work sessions are ongoing in the House on that bill. The SOD subcommittee also identified economic segments that would be directly and indirectly impacted by the continued expansion of the quarantine area, the loss of saleable trees and the potential that people could be restricted from accessing the forest to reduce the spread of SOD.

They also discussed impacts on the ability of local agencies to continue to provide services, including the idea of keeping seasonal firefighters to help treat infested areas. Infested trees have traditionally been cut down and burned, and arborists say treatment plans should extend 300 to 600 feet from infested trees – which represents a lot of tree-clearing.
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May 5, 2017
Day at the Capitol

May 24, 2017
Yamhill County Annual Meeting

June 7, 2017
Board of Forestry

June 9, 2017
OTFS Board Meeting

June 15, 2017
OSWA Board Meeting

June 16, 2017
OSWA Annual Meeting

June 17, 2017
OTFofY Woods Tour

July 26, 2017
Board of Forestry Meeting