FORESTLANDS AROUND THE WEST:
WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING

Forest Ownership and Management—What’s Your Style?

Why Indian Forests Work

BLM Plans for the Future

OSU’s Living Laboratories

Port Blakely Manages for Long-Term Value

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Hardwoods

This magazine is a benefit of membership in your family forestry association
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Diversity is the common element in the variety of Pacific Northwest landowners.
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Through centuries of habitation, Pacific Northwest tribes have developed unique values and cultural traditions of their forested lands.
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A leisurely drive along most scenic byways in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana is likely to yield one thing—landscapes rich with trees. These four western states are known for the amount and diversity of forests, owners and land management goals, all of which provide for healthy social, environmental and economic forest values.

These three legs of the forest sustainability stool are balanced primarily because of the diversity of landowners and their objectives. Who are these landowners? In the United States, family forest landowners—35 percent of all forest landowners—rub elbows with the second largest manager of forestlands, the federal government (33 percent). Private landowners, plus TIMOs and REITs (21 percent), and state governments (9 percent) manage the other third of forestlands, with local landowners such as cities and counties (1 percent) rounding out the total.

Because of the large amount of public forest ownership in the West, the percentage of land owned by family forest landowners is smaller—Washington (12 percent), Montana (15 percent), Oregon (14 percent) and Idaho (6 percent) [see Table 1]. Still, contributions family forest landowners make is critical to the overall health and well-being of the forest industry.

Landowners have different perspectives and goals for managing forestlands because of individual objectives, federal regulations governing land management decisions (endangered species, for example) or state statutes. Some landowners are driven by personal goals, such as managing family lands for their beauty or recreation values, while others, including federal, state and local land managers, primarily manage for multiple-use values—conservation, wildlife habitat, parks, recreation, wilderness, clean water and timber production, to name a few.

State agencies, such as the Oregon Department of Forestry, manage state forestlands for structure (see article from the Oregon Department of Forestry)—active harvesting techniques help forests more quickly evolve into older stages to provide the widest range of wildlife habitats as well as economic and recreation benefits. The bottom line is that different landowners managing for a variety of outcomes equates to diverse, healthy forests. Let's take a closer look at each forest landowner group and their management practices.

**Table 1. Area of forestland in Washington, Montana, Oregon and Idaho by ownership category, 2006. (Note: Listed by acreage in thousands of acres)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Washington</th>
<th>Montana</th>
<th>Oregon</th>
<th>Idaho</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>2,717</td>
<td>3,638</td>
<td>4,257</td>
<td>1,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Private</td>
<td>7,032</td>
<td>3,359</td>
<td>6,882</td>
<td>1,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Private</td>
<td>9,806</td>
<td>7,026</td>
<td>11,139</td>
<td>2,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>9,536</td>
<td>17,175</td>
<td>17,960</td>
<td>17,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>2,550</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>969</td>
<td>1,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Public</td>
<td>12,474</td>
<td>17,287</td>
<td>18,042</td>
<td>18,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>22,279</td>
<td>25,314</td>
<td>30,169</td>
<td>21,430</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Federal, State and Local Landowners**

Federal forest landowners primarily include the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of...
present and future generations. Land management priorities include treating acres of hazardous fuels (particularly in the urban wildland interface), reducing the impacts of invasive species, providing high-quality recreation, considering opportunities for alternative energy and its associated infrastructure, and improving watershed condition.

Both the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management manage forestland in western Oregon and Washington and northern California based on the Northwest Forest Plan, a plan that attempts to balance supply of timber with protection of fish and wildlife habitat on a total of 22.1 million acres. The Healthy Forests Initiative, a joint effort between the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, helps to reduce the threat of wildland fires on federal lands in the West, including Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana manage trust lands as part of their state forestland management. These states actively manage state forestlands to provide economic, environmental and social benefits. Depending on the type of state forestland (trust land versus non-trust land), revenue from timber sales goes to county governments, local taxing districts or, in the case of Oregon, the Common School Fund to benefit schools throughout the state.

Local landowners, such as cities and counties, also manage some public lands.

Private Industrial Forest Landowners

Of the private and publicly owned and managed forestland in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, private industrial forest landowners, TIMOs and REITs manage about 19 percent of these lands. Private industrial forest landowners seek to maintain stable business environments while encouraging long-term investments in healthy forests, ensure sustainable timber supplies and protect environmental values.

Regardless of landowner type, it’s in the best interest of all forest landowners to maintain the health of their forests and the forestland base. Different landowners may have different priorities for their land parcels, but when packaged together, the mosaic of land ownerships and the associated management styles and approaches benefit all and contribute to the diversity of our forests in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.

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Forest Facts

• An estimated 11 million private forest owners (± 3 percent) collectively control 56 percent of the forestland (423 million acres ± 0.4 percent) in the United States.
• Family forest owners account for 92 percent of the private forest owners and 62 percent of the private forestland (35 percent of all forestland) in the United States.
• A total of 61 percent of family forest owners in the United States own less than 10 acres of forestland, but 53 percent of the family forestland is owned by people with 100 or more acres.
• The average land tenure for family forest owners is 26 years.
• Two out of every five acres of family forestland are owned by absentee owners.
• A total of 58 percent of family forestland is owned by people who have commercially harvested trees.
• One in five acres of family forestland is owned by someone who has a written forest management plan. Two in five acres is owned by someone who has received forest management advice. The most common sources of this advice are state forestry agencies and private consultants.
• Most family forest owners plan to do relatively little with their forestland in the next five years. Of those who intend to actively do something with their land, harvesting sawlogs or pulpwood and harvesting firewood are the most commonly planned activities. One in five acres is owned by someone who plans to sell or transfer some or all of their forestland in the next five years.
• Compared to the general population, there are a greater proportion of family forest owners who are older, white, male, more educated and wealthier. One in five acres of forestland is owned by someone who is at least 75 years of age.
• There are 6.2 million family forest owners (± 4 percent) with forest holdings of one to nine acres in the United States. There are 19.2 million acres of forestland (± 6 percent) that are owned by family forest owners with forest holdings of one to nine acres in the United States.
• A total of 61 percent of the family forest owners in the United States have forest holdings of one to nine acres. Eight percent of the family forestland in the United States is owned by people with forest holdings of one to nine acres.