Forestry and the Farm Bill

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, commonly referred to as the Farm Bill, was enacted into law in June 2008 and governs the bulk of Federal agriculture, forestry and related programs for the next 5 years. Its 15 titles include administrative and funding authorities for a wide range of programs, including an expanded emphasis on accessibility and sustainability of forests and encouraging production and use of agricultural and rural renewable energy sources.

Title VIII of the Act contains the majority of the forestry provisions. There is more emphasis on forestry than in previous years and more monies are authorized to support a wide array of forestry activities. Authorized monies will be made available primarily through several USDA agencies, such as the Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Rural Development. (Continued Page 6)

ATFS Receives PEFC Endorsement

Washington, D.C. - Family forest owners in the U.S., who own nearly two-thirds of the country’s forestlands, learned on August 7th of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) endorsement by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC). PEFC is an international, independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 1999 which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification. ATFS is the oldest and largest forest conservation, certification, and advocacy program in the United States. The 67 year-old program is sponsored by the American Forest Foundation.

Family forest landowners welcomed the endorsement by PEFC for certifying sustainably produced wood, a step that will open the door to new green markets for wood that is sustainably produced on their land.

Only about 10 percent of the global wood market currently comes through forest certification systems. Now with ATFS, PEFC has 500 million certified acres. At this size and growing rapidly, PEFC is by far the largest global program for certifying sustainable forests. (Continued Page 3)
To provide opportunity to Family Woodland Owner by:

- Educating and informing the owners of forested tracts and the public regarding forestry and family forestland management issues.
- Providing a medium for the exchange of ideas about family forestland by land owners, public agencies, consultants and timber industry personnel.
- Serving as a forum to make recommendations for investigating and solving problems, and for improving forest management, harvesting, and marketing.
- Disseminating information on the establishment, growth, harvesting and marketing of forest crops produced on family forestlands, and to foster the wise use and protection of forests and encourage better forestry practices.
- Representing the owners of family forestlands to the general public and before legislative bodies and regulatory agencies.
- Complying with ORS Chapter 65 and as authorized by ORS 65.061.
News

(From page 1) ATFS

Canada, Norway, Finland, Spain, Brazil, the Malaysian Republic, and many other European countries are among those with PEFC-approved forest certification systems. This is the second such approval for the U.S., with the first being the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

One hurdle the endorsement has overcome is related to the selling of carbon from certified tree farms on the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX). According to exchange rules forest carbon offsets must come from certified forests recognized by the PEFC.

For more information contact Bob Simpson, Senior Vice President, Forestry at 202.463.2458 or bsimpson@forestfoundation.org.

The OSWA State Board of Directors Report

Meeting on August 1st in Salem, the OSWA directors discussed and took action on a number of business issues.

ADMINISTRATION
Fiscal report: Treasurer Lyn Boniface reported we are on target with our 2008 financial projections. The Board reviewed the Executive Committee’s draft budget and provided suggested changes in the areas of dues, chapter rebates and staffing. The final budget will be adopted for 2008/2009 at the October Board meeting.

Each chapter representative agreed to discuss options, related to revenue and staff needs, with their county board and provide their suggestions to the Board prior to the October meeting. A committee will be appointed by President Faulk to come up with viable suggestions for increasing revenue beginning in the 2009-10 budget and beyond.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
The AFF / OSWA carbon aggregation business development plan is coming together right on schedule. AFF is working with Forecon and CCX to develop a modeling system that CCX will accept. No Northwest models have been accepted as yet by CCX. This gives us time to get our administration in place and recruit tree farmers to participate in the first carbon pools.

EDUCATION
Howdy Neighbor tours will be held Sept. 6th at the Oakes Family Forestland in Monroe and in Prineville on Sept. 27.

Chapter Activity Reports were presented. Highlights included In Benton County: Howdy Neighbor on Marsha Carr’s family property on Sept. 6 is being supported by a donation of $1,500 and a number of partners including OSU extension and SWCD’s. Clackamas organized a mill tour to Freres in Lyons to see cogeneration plant, Tree Farmer of the Year tour on Saturday, Swiss Needle Cast tour, developing yearlong plan. Clatsop County’s Howdy Neighbor tour had 40 participants. Even a county commissioner attended. Columbia County sent 700 5th graders to World Forestry Center, embarking on new program to send 6th graders to Tillamook Center. (Continued Page 5)
The 2008 National Tree Farmer Convention will feature a Silent Auction. Proceeds from the Auction will be divided between Washington and Oregon to support their Tree Farm Program.

Donations are needed! We ask that you please respond before Friday, October 3, 2008. The donor is acknowledged on the bid sheet displayed at the silent auction. Donations are tax deductible. Items should be valued at $25.00 or above, and easily transported and/or shipped.

Some examples of items from previous years include antiques; quilted wall hangings; hunt/fishing excursions; numbered & signed prints; and handcrafted items (child’s sled, chairs, bird houses etc).

It is important that we know about donated items before the Convention. You can bring the item with you or mail it, but please help us by letting us know your intentions to donate in advance.

Items may be shipped to one of the addresses below:

Washington
Sherry Fox
462 Tucker Road
Toledo, WA 98591

Oregon
OSU Extension
200 Warner-Milne
Oregon City, OR. 97045

Please send this form to Ken Everett, PO Box 1200, Oregon City, OR 97045 Ph 503-655-5524

Solicitors Name and Phone Number___________________________________________________

Describe item:  ___________________________________________________________________

Made By: _______________________________________________________________________

Approximate value $_________ Donated by:___________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________________________

City: _______________ State: _____ Zip: __________________

_____ Person donating will bring the item directly to the Convention in Portland.

_____ Person donating will mail the item in advance.

_____ The Solicitor will deliver or ship the item to the above address.
News

(From page 3) Directors

Coos County members are stepping up to help; SOD and biomass are a recent focus. Douglas County are participating with a booth in the county fair. Lane County face budget cuts, there is no Forestry Extension Agent; Steve Bowers has transferred to Douglas County. Lane chapter now realizes they could have taken a more active role to lobby for retention. Jim Johnson explained that each county must come up with $50,000 towards Extension and the State will match that amount 2-1 or 3-1. Now Lane must look to other agencies or other funding (grants.) Polk County is also at risk. Washington County hosted the Tree Farmer of the Year tour at the Shumakers with 120 attending. The chapter also donated $2000 to the 2008 Howdy Neighbor program. Yamhill County’s work continues on a number of OSU / OSWA projects including ties to the land.

ADVOCACY

Sudden Oak Death, Roy Hendrick reporting. ODF will hire a .75 FTE to work on SOD. The quarantine area in Southern Oregon has expanded tenfold. The northern boundary is Pistol River. ODF has 80 stream-baiting sites, as the pathogen can spread in water. Helicopter survey flights find dead trees which are then ground-truthed and burned, as well as all other oaks within a 300 foot radius. Fewer dead trees were found than expected. Then the Department of Agriculture checks the area for pathogens and if none are found, will issue a certificate of clean health good for 6 months. Funding will run out on Oct. 1st, but an attempt to secure bridge funding will be made. The cost is expected to $1-10 million per year for a 3 year program. Oregon is taking an aggressive approach (similar to fire) in which the problem areas are attacked right away. California did not take that approach and now has 14 contiguous counties which are infected. Oregon’s vigorous attack has enabled growers to continue exporting nursery stock.

Western Climate Initiative and Carbon
Forestry is now included in WCI language. Inclusion of forest management projects is major step forward in policy development. Mark Copeland has been a tremendously helpful volunteer in this issue. Two notes about Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX). It may not work for larger landowners who harvest on a yearly basis. Inventories will be done in cubic measurements.

Poplar
Al Thayer’s letter opposing the lottery funding for building a private mills and the high energy and water consumption for poplar was discussed. The Board of Forestry, rather than the legislature, is dealing with this issue. Poplar harvests will appear to be subject to the harvest tax. The Board thanked Al for all his work on the poplar issue and asked the GAC to continue to monitor the situation.

Fire Funding
Representative Chuck Burley spoke by phone about the fire fighting budget adoption process. There is no legislative review of costs so past overspending and high personnel costs are big issues needing to be resolved. State Forester Marvin Brown has been instructed to prepare a budget that puts $3.5 million of General Fund Money (for fire fighting) into a Program Option Package (POP). The huge downside is that if the POP isn’t approved by the legislature, then the $3.5 million expense will default to forest landowners. Trying to shift the burden onto landowners would free up the GF money for other uses. Rep. Burley will work with Ray Wilkeson and Kristina McNitt, but will also need GRASS ROOTS SUPPORT FROM OSWA MEMBERS. Reminder: October 15 is the last day to turn in the in-kind fire protection survey reports.
(From page 1) **Farm Bill Continued**

One significant change in the bill is that a greater portion of monies made available for cost sharing activities will be based on competition, such as management planning, tree planting and forest stand improvement. Most of the monies to support forestry will become available beginning in fall of 2009.

The final version of the bill includes more than $600 million in new mandatory funding for renewable energy programs over the next five years. That is in addition to $35 million that is being spent today for woody biomass research and renewable energies.

USDA’s Economic Research Service recently completed a side-by-side comparison of previous Farm Bill and the 2008 Act. New features for 2008 include a users’ guide, an alphabetical list of key provisions, and search capabilities within the side by side. This comparison may be found online at: www.ers.usda.gov/Farm Bill/2008.

Over the next several editions of the Update, key provisions of the Farm Bill will be highlighted that may provide opportunities for OSWA members.

**From OFIC news**

**SUDDEN OAK DEATH**

Efforts to secure the resources necessary to continue the state’s “Sudden Oak Death” control and eradication program in southwest Oregon have shifted from the state to the federal level.

The state kicked in $427,500 in June to keep the program going through September, and the state Departments of Agriculture and Forestry are now seeking federal dollars for the next phase. In an August 5 letter to the administrator of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), ODA and ODF asked for $2.538 million in emergency funding to continue this effort through June 2010. “Without immediate assistance,” they wrote, “the state will be out of funding after September and will be unable to continue control and eradication activities, resulting in the uncontrolled spread of this disease throughout western Oregon and other vulnerable area in the Pacific Northwest.”

OFIC teamed up with OSWA, the Farm Bureau, the Nature Conservancy and the Oregon Association of Nurseries to send a follow-up letter to APHIS in support of the state’s request. Given the short time frame and other pressures on the federal budget, this will be a tough needle to thread. There is a chance that emergency funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation could be made available. If not, it will likely be necessary to try to include these dollars in an emergency supplemental appropriations bill that will be put forward (to pay for wildfire suppression in California, among other things) when Congress reconvenes in September.
As ODF passes torch Seedlings are Available

By Steve Akehurst
IFA Nurseries, Inc.

The D. L. Phipps Nursery, operated by the Oregon Department of Forestry near Elkton, Oregon has ceased operation after 50 years of growing seedlings for reforestation. Many small woodland owners may be asking, “So, where do I get the trees I need for planting?” While a little more searching may be necessary, in most cases, one of the privately owned nurseries located around the state will be able to fill your request.

The long tradition of seedling production at the Elkton facility nurseries is continuing with IFA Nurseries, Inc. As a legacy of the old Industrial Forestry Association, IFA has been in the nursery business since 1941. With its seasoned staff of managers, IFA Nurseries grows several conifer species and stock types for many of the zones and elevations landowners require. Along with Elkton, IFA manages greenhouse and bare root nurseries in Canby and Klamath Falls, Oregon, as well as Olympia and Toledo, Washington. Contact information is available on their website at: http://ifanurseries.com.

Oregon is blessed with several companies producing high quality seedlings. A complete listing of these facilities is available through the publication section of the Oregon Department of Forestry’s website at: http://egov.oregon.gov.

A new approach to buying and selling seedlings was recently begun by Bob McNitt with the online “Forest Seedling Network.” Bob’s mission is to connect forest landowners and Christmas tree growers with seedling growers who have surplus seedlings throughout the Northwest. FSN users can query the interactive database of vendors or landowners posting stock for sale. View Bob’s site at: http://forestseedlingnetwork.com/.

Buying “spec” seedlings the year they are needed is one option. Another plan to consider is growing your trees under contract with one or more nurseries. While it may require more advance planning or combining orders with other landowners to fulfill minimum order standards, in the end you are likely to have substantial cost savings and seedlings grown to your specifications.

Whatever your situation might be, from one time buyer to annual planter, forest landowners and nurseries have had a long-standing partnership aimed at improving the technology needed to perpetuate Oregon’s forests.

Steve can be contacted at 541-556-8907
Update from Salem…
by Kristina McNitt

Grassroots Continued…

It’s who you know…and it’s time to act!

So, who DO you know? I challenge you to spend Labor Day through Election Day getting to know your State Representative and Senator. The last two columns I’ve written have stressed the importance of cultivating relationships with your elected legislators… the best time to do that is NOW, in the heat of their campaigns – just as I will be contacting them in January, in the heat of OSWA issues.

Pick up the phone. Introduce yourself. Offer a cup of coffee and conversation. Do you have to be an expert about OSWA issues? No. You are already the expert – don’t undersell yourself! That is what amazes me the most about grassroots… people discount the genuine, “real life” experiences they bring to the table. Out of caution, you might decide not to make that call… what a lost opportunity. Please call.

Next, you know the drill. Consider a lawn sign. Consider writing a letter to the editor (call your lobbyist to write it for you), consider introducing your friends to this person. Consider making a TAX FREE political contribution. Up to $50 per person, per year, costs you nothing. Either that $50 bucks goes to the government or it can be directed by you to the candidate of your choice.

An Insert in this Update is a list of candidates and legislators who have received endorsements and contributions from AG-PAC. I am very pleased at the open interviews and process of AG-PAC this year and highly recommend you take a moment to see how your legislators rate. These endorsements were made by leaders of a large group of natural resource organizations who all share similar stakes in potentially controversial issues next session. Any endorsement from AG-PAC means a lot and it shows a solid record of support for natural resources issues.

I would like to extend appreciation, again, to all the OSWA members who have contributed items, time and money to the annual auction that pays for the OSWA seat at AG-PAC. For our $3,000 membership this year, OSWA was at the table for all interviews and contribution decisions… to the tune of $40,500 just three weeks ago. And more contributions will be made in mid September. What a way to leverage our funds! Thank you, thank you, thank you.

(note: the varied amount of contributions reflected on the enclosed table indicates the relative “toughness” of that particular campaign – not the level of AG-PAC support. Some strong natural resource legislators received little or no funding due to the fact they are in a relatively "safe" re-election contest)
The Oregon Forest Resources Institute names new executive director

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) today announced that Paul Barnum will be its new executive director effective August 21. OFRI is a semi-independent state organization dedicated to forestry education.

Barnum replaces Leslie Lehmann who is retiring after serving nearly 16 years as OFRI’s founding executive director.

“We’re delighted that Paul Barnum has agreed to join OFRI,” said Carol Whipple, OFRI’s board chair. “Paul’s extensive experience in communications and public affairs, combined with his forestry knowledge, are an excellent fit for OFRI’s needs and for those served by OFRI’s educational programs. I also want to commend Leslie Lehmann for her strong leadership of OFRI since its inception and wish her the very best in retirement.”

Barnum joins OFRI after a career in both private and public sectors. He is a former chair of OFRI’s board and also served as president of SOLV, a statewide conservation organization.

In accepting the position, Barnum noted his strong commitment to working with Oregon’s diverse population to increase understanding of natural resources management. “I am passionate about managing our forest resources responsibly for the benefit of all citizens and welcome the opportunity to further that ideal as OFRI’s executive director,” he said.

Most recently Barnum was a senior writer with Russell Investments in Tacoma and before that held a series of public affairs and communications jobs with Weyerhaeuser Company. He has worked as an account executive for a Eugene public affairs firm, project manager for University of Oregon Public Affairs and Development, adjunct instructor of public relations for the University of Oregon School of Journalism, director of public information with Clatsop Community College, and editor and writer for weekly newspapers. He holds a B.A. in English and an M.A. in Journalism from the University of Oregon.

The Oregon State Legislature created the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) in 1991 to improve public understanding of forestry and the state’s forest resources and to help landowners achieve environmentally sound forest management. OFRI is funded by a portion of the harvest tax on forest products producers. The OFRI Board represents small, medium and large forest products producers, small woodland owners and forest products employees. Ex-officio board members include the dean of the Oregon State University College of Forestry and a representative of the general public appointed jointly by the president of the Oregon Senate and the speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives.
Lynn Nichols  A Mighty Loss.

As many of you know, OSWA and Oregon lost a dear friend last week with the passing of Lynn Nichols. Rather than try to list the numerous things Lynn achieved in her time, we felt the following note received from Scott Hanson summed up the spirit that Lynn brought to every thing she did. Her passion saw her respected across a wide variety of chapters and organizations.

Our thoughts and condolences are with her family and many friends at this time.

Mike and others,

I have volunteered many times at the State Fair woodland booth over the last seven or eight years. Many of those years Clackamas County volunteered toward the beginning days of the Fair. There was a familiar face upon my arrival to the woodland booth exhibit area. It was Lynn Nichols. As many of you know Lynn worked tirelessly on the woodland booth design for many years, and she stopped by the booth frequently to see that everything was going O. K. I felt my drive to Salem to man the booth for a few hours was a pretty miniscule contribution compared to the many hours Lynn spent designing the booth. So, it was totally appropriate for Lynn to win the Riggin’slinger award at the 2007 (See above) OSWA Annual meeting held at Camp Adair near Corvallis. The applause began politely until Scott Russell stood up to begin a standing ovation effort. More people began to stand-up and cheer until finally everyone was standing up in the room; whistling and cheering in a thunderous roar. It was really quite a scene. Lynn accepted the award and I believe was quite moved by the outpouring of affection toward her from her fellow woodland owners. So, thank you Lynn for all of your volunteer efforts over many years to promote the woodland owner community in the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,
Scott Hanson,
OSWA member

Editors Note: It’s time to reveal the mystery man who wrote the letter to the Editor regarding the June 15 Oregonian article, “More Oregonians are buying small woodlands, discovering it’s hard work” Gary Springer of Benton chapter was the author. He thanks those who have responded to his comments.
Thank You!!!

OSWA / Family Forests of Oregon 2008 Patrons

Platinum: Davidson Industries, Oregon Forest Resources Institute
Gold: Stimson Lumber Co, Port Blakely Tree Farms
Silver: Starker Forests, Edmund Hayes Jr., Marion and Polk SWA Chapter, Lone Rock Timber, Oregon Forest Industries Council
Bronze: Coast Range Conifers, JD Fulwiler Insurance, SafeCo Insurance, IFA Nurseries

Thank you patrons!

To become a patron, please visit http://www.oswa.org/OSWA-FFO_Patron_letter.pdf, or call Mike Gaudern at the State Office.

Howdy Neighbor! says Astoria.

The Christie family played host to the fourth Howdy Neighbor tour of 2008 on July 26th.

A good crowd gathered to talk all things forests and forestry with Forest Dan and friends leading the discussion. Many topics were covered, including the use of conversation easements in passing on property, bridge design and needs for good road works, the use of state forests and how to overcome conflicts, emerging carbon markets, thinning practices, how to get started in owning family forests and what to expect. How to plan for inheritances tax issues and real life examples of what can happen if you don’t!
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Welcome New OSWA Members!
We encourage you to take full advantage of your local chapter activities and share your experiences with your new friends and neighbors. And, remember to have fun as you protect, manage, use and enhance your family forest resources!

June 25 - August 20

Clackamas
Bruce Carlile

Columbia
Michael Engh
Rex Storm

Coos/Curry
Bob Aten

Douglas
Harriet May

Jackson/Josephine
Carol Weigler
Diane B. Seitz

Lane
Richard L. Christensen

Lincoln
H. Quinton Parker, Jr.

Linn
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Marion/Polk
Cathy Farnsworth
Walter Perry

Washington
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