**Annual Meeting — June 5–7, 2009**

The 2009 OSWA Annual Meeting and Tree School Rogue are planned for June 5–7, 2009 in Ashland, Oregon. Preparations for the annual meeting are underway to provide opportunities to learn about the latest forest management issues that landowners are facing today during Tree School, interact with family forest landowners who can share their experiences at the Howdy Neighbor Forestry Tour, and enjoy the local area through field trips to wineries and Lithia Park.

The OSWA Annual Meeting begins on Friday, June 5 with a board meeting followed by the annual membership meeting. Members will learn about OSWA's activities over the last year and the current issues that members are facing. Optional field trips and lunch will provide entertainment for members in the afternoon.

Tree School Rogue begins on Saturday, June 6. The all-day program addresses topics such as forest land management practices, carbon markets, and fire liability and suppression. Saturday concludes with OSWA's Annual Dinner and Silent Auction where members can socialize with friends and welcome new members.

The annual meeting wraps up on Sunday, June 7 with the first 2009 Howdy Neighbor Forestry Tour at the Willow-Witt Ranch. Owners, Suzanne and Lanita are 2007 Jackson County Tree Farmers of the Year. Participants will see examples of sustainable forest practices, wildlife management and water protection.

Please join us for the OSWA Annual Meeting, Tree School Rogue, Howdy Neighbor, and all the fun activities that Ashland has to offer. Look for your registration packet arriving soon in the mail or go online at [www.oswa.org](http://www.oswa.org).
OSWA Executive Committee Update

The Executive Committee has met twice since the last Board meeting in February. Over the past two months, the Executive Committee has dealt with a number of administrative issues, tracked membership renewals, evaluated new membership benefits, made decisions about the annual meeting, approved positions on proposed legislation, appointed a nominations committee and addressed ways to create efficiencies and reduce costs associated with the annual election of officers.

In March, the Executive Committee addressed some outstanding accounting issues from last fiscal year regarding depreciation of OSWA assets and the tracking of income and expenditures related to the Woodlands Carbon project. Clint Bentz was retained to help finalize last fiscal year’s financial statement to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee has spent time at each meeting reviewing and discussing membership reports prepared by staff. As of the end of March, OSWA has 1,725 members. So far this fiscal year, 1,340 members have sent dues renewal notices representing $414,132.00 in dues revenue. As of March 31, 368 have not yet paid their dues for 2009, representing $27,200.00 of dues or 13 percent of the amount invoiced so far this year. To address the delinquent dues situation, staff is now preparing and sending each Chapter President a monthly report on members that are behind on dues. OSWA has attracted 30 new members since the beginning of the fiscal year.

Resources

http://www.oswa.org/

Visit the OSWA web site at www.oswa.org for information about your local chapter. Be sure to click on “Your Local Chapter” for a map link to your own chapter website!
At each meeting, the Executive Committee reviews and adopts positions on proposed legislation. To date, we have taken positions to support eight bills and oppose five bills. The GAC is tracking about 60 bills and provides recommendations to the Executive Committee. You can find a list of the bills being tracked on the OSWA website home page.

In April, President Ken Faulk appointed John Poppino to chair the Nominations Committee. Other committee members include Mike Barnes, Nancy Hathaway and Dave Schmidt. If OSWA members would like to suggest candidates for the three 2nd Vice President positions, please contact John or the OSWA office.

Finally, the Executive Committee discussed ways to create efficiencies and reduce costs associated with the annual election of officers. Currently, the vote-by-mail system is very expensive and administratively time intensive. The By-Laws state that the Executive Committee shall serve as the oversight committee for the purpose of refining and defining election requirements such as due dates and vote-by-mail format. The Executive Committee will finalize plans for the 2009 vote-by-mail process at its May meeting.

For a complete account of the Executive Committee’s discussions and decisions, please go to the OSWA website. The meeting minutes are located under the Leadership tab and then under Archives.

Oregon Department of Forestry Budget Update

Oregon legislative leaders are considering drastic budget cutbacks of as much as 30 percent as the state grapples with a projected $4.4 billion budget deficit. Oregon’s overall budget is about $46 billion. A 30 percent cut in general funds at the Department of Forestry spells major cuts to the fire program and nearly wipes out the private forestry program. Below are some experts from a recent ODF general fund reduction plan shared with the legislature and stakeholders.

From ODF — In creating our 30 percent reduction scenario, we held to our principle of looking first to Private Forests, given the risks associated with further reducing our fire protection capacity. The first 23 percent of the reduction, building on earlier scenarios and the Governor’s recommended budget for 2009-2011, comes in Private Forests, with the remainder in Fire.

Private Forests

Combined with lost matching funds, primarily Forest Products Harvest Tax, the General Fund reduction in Private Forests constitutes an overall program reduction of 33 percent.

What staff resources would be lost? The reductions would include:

- 50 of our 57 stewardship foresters, leaving about one position in each of our three operating areas funded to administer the Forest Practices Act.
- Salem staff providing civil penalty administration, geotechnical and other specialized support, effluent testing, Oregon Plan salmon recovery work, and most insect and disease work.
- Committments reduce in management and support staff both in the field and in Salem, including in agency-wide administrative services.

What services would be lost? These would include:

- Most informational and technical services to landowners, from larger corporations to small family woodland owners.
- Adequate monitoring and enforcement of most requirements of the Forest Practices Act, with minimal monitoring and enforcement of reforestation requirements.
- The capacity to ensure compliance with the federal Clean Water Act, pesticide regulations, and state cont’d on pg 9

TREE FARM NEWS

For Immediate Release — March 12, 2009

OSU Grant to Address Generational Transfer of Family Forests

WASHINGTON, DC — The American Forest Foundation today announced a $510,000 three-year restricted grant to Oregon State University to help address an issue of growing concern to many of America’s 10 million family forest owners: What happens to the forest under the next owners? A third of today’s family forest owners are 65 years or older, and 2 in 5 acres is owned by people who plan to sell or transfer some or all of their forest land within the next 5 years. The AFF grant will allow OSU’s Austin Family Business Program to meet this need, OSU and its partners developed “family friendly” materials that are used to bring families together in workshops that walk them through their options and decisions. It creates a safe forum for framing issues that can be emotionally charged between family members with different priorities or different degrees of connection to the land.

Robin Klemm, Director of OSU’s Austin Family Business Program, said “Succession planning is not easy because it involves confronting emotional and complex issues such as death and taxes. It requires, at a minimum, the help of professionals in the legal and financial fields.” The award-winning Ties to the Land curriculum helps families address both family and business goals needed for effective succession planning. “Through the workshops, the readers start their own planning,” said Klemm. Building on a “train the trainer” model, Ties to the Land is now getting traction nationwide. The university is now doing a multi-state launch of its forest planning materials, tapping into 100 family business programs in many other states. It’s also being made available to libraries nationwide.

AFF’s Simpson said, “As a nonprofit representing 50,000 forest owners, I can tell you we really need this program. People are asking for it, so we made it a priority to get it to them.”

Bob Simpson, Senior Vice President for the American Forest Foundation, said “Ties to the Land comes at a critical time of intense economic pressures on family forest owners. Many of them are struggling to balance their love for the land with high property tax rates, highly depressed timber prices, and absentee heirs.” Simpson warns that, without good family planning for transfer of the forestland, what often happens is the easiest thing—the land is sold for development. “With more than 1.5 million acres of forests lost to development each year, we have no time to lose in educating the next generation of forest owners,” to extend its “Ties to the Land” project for inter-generational planning to a nationwide audience after recently completing successful in-state pilots.

Aging landowners can easily be overwhelmed by family disputes and legal complexities of such transfers. A typical situation is when one sibling wants to hold on to the property and the other siblings are pressing to sell. “Only 30 percent of family forest landowners have any kind of management plan, let alone a succession plan,” said Brad Withrow-Robinson, an Extension Forester with the OSU College of Forestry. “These issues are simply not being addressed with the urgency they deserve.”

To meet this need, OSU and its partners developed “family friendly” materials that are used to bring families together in workshops that walk them through their options and decisions. It creates a safe forum for framing issues that can be emotionally charged between family members with different priorities or different degrees of connection to the land.

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Legislative Update

Last month, OSWA introduced a weekly Legislative Update that offers OSWA members the latest information on State legislative bills, hearings and upcoming activities. There are links that allow you to find your federal and state legislators, locate and review bills and connect to OSWA’s Bill Tracker — where you can learn the status of bills that may affect your ownership and management of forestland and OSWA’s support or opposition of various bills. The Legislative Update is emailed each week to nearly 100 OSWA members and all these Updates are available online at the OSWA website home page.

OSWA Actions:
- Worked on the introduction of HB 3319 – a bill that will allow farm plates for vehicles performing forestry work.
- Sponsored HB 2898 – a bill allowing for use of agricultural buildings on land zoned for forest use.
- Sponsored HB 3322 – a bill that authorizes a second dwelling on land zoned for forest use for use by a relative of the owner/ operator when they need assistance of the relative in management of the forest.

OSWA Legislative Priorities and some OSWA actions to date include:
1) Oregon Department of Forestry Funding:
- OSWA Actions:
  • COSponsored two bills related to fire fighting equity – HB 2215 and HB 3281
  • Staff has testified in support of HB 2215 and HB 3281
  • Ongoing discussions with legislators on the importance of restoring funding for ODF’s fire and private forestry programs.
  • OSWA’s Legislative Day at the Capitol for OSWA members to lobby their legislators on ODF budget issues.
  • Prepared talking points for OSWA members for use in talking with their legislators.

2) Climate Change/Carbon:
- OSWA Position – closely monitor relevant committees to ensure that carbon stored on woodlands be included as an offset in any legislation.
- OSWA Actions:
  • OSWA’s support or opposition of various bills. The Legislative Update is emailed each week to nearly 100 OSWA members and all these Updates are available online at the OSWA website home page.
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Federal Estate Tax Senate Resolution

A Senate budget resolution amendment, introduced by Senators Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Jon Kyl (R-AZ) passed the Senate on a 57-48 vote the first week of April. The amendment raises the estate tax exemption to $5 million ($10 million for couples) at a lower maximum tax rate of 35%. Currently, estates valued at more than $1.5 million ($2 million for couples) are taxed at a 45% rate. The budget is now headed for conference between the House and Senate versions of the budget resolution. Both Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley voted no on the resolution.

Federal Estate Tax Senate Resolution

By Jim Nielsen for the Register Guard, Mar 30, 2009

The loss of county jobs and steady revenue, reductions in student enrollments and consequent school funding, large job losses in the timber industry — to a significant extent, these consequences can be attributed to a federal forest land management policy that can be categorized as “eco-centric”: a policy under which social and economic values are overridden by environmental values.

Eco-centric forest management policies have been emerging since about 1990 as the result of aggressive and successful actions by environmentalists and their organizations. The result has been dramatically reduced timber harvests on lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service across the Pacific Northwest.

These consequences are consistent with the results of social and economic research conducted by the Pacific Northwest Experiment Station to satisfy the monitoring requirements of 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. Documentation for this research reveals significant variations in the effects of the plan on communities — some adapted well, others did not. The reality, though, is that the dramatic reduction of federal timber harvest from 1990 to the present has affected adversely the social and economic well-being of many rural and not-so-rural communities in the Northwest.

In 2008, two separate pieces of federal legislation — Sen. Ron Wyden’s Oregon Forest Restoration and Old Growth Protection Act and Rep. Peter DeFazio’s Pacific Northwest Forest Legacy Act – proposed to solve the legal gridlock affecting the federal timber harvest. The sponsors professed support for social and economic values, but specified only thinning and other eco-centric management strategies.

These two plans may satisfy the concerns of environmentalists, but they do not integrate and balance social, economic and environmental resources and values.

A federal forest policy that achieves balance would not resemble the harvest-intensive management of the 1960s and 1970s, but it would recognize specific ecological and economic resources and, through interdisciplinary teams, develop balanced treatment solutions. From my review, I believe the BLM’s Western Oregon Plan Revision provides a framework to achieve such integrated, on-the-ground management.

To be clear, a federal forest plan that truly integrates and balances social, economic and environmental resources will require tradeoffs that environmentalists will resist. To respond to these concerns, I have to draw a connection to the economic stimulus legislation that recently passed Congress.

As a country, we are putting our future in debt for at least $787 billion to promote current social and economic values. Our state legislators and Gov. Ted Kulongoski are considering legislation that would add up to $1.5 billion in debt and increased taxes to create jobs and economic development in Oregon.

To maintain eco-centric forest policy under these circumstances is, politely stated, inconsistent.

A recent poll by the Pew Research Center indicates that our citizens, in this time of economic crisis, are more concerned about the economy and jobs than environmental resources. The massive budget and trade deficits we are experiencing indicate to me that this concern will last into the foreseeable future.

Adopting sustainable strategies for our social and economic values is just as important as doing the same with our environmental resources.

Hanging over our heads is the end in 2011 of the extended Secure Rural Schools Act, which provides revenue to counties where federal timberlands are located. Sen. Ron Wyden has warned us this will not be renewed, and we need to develop new revenue sources.

One of the changes we need is to adopt a federal forest management policy that integrates and balances the social and economic values — and we need to do it quickly.

The BLM is to be commended, because its new plans are excellent, timely examples of such a policy. Our state and federal legislators, the governor and the president need to support the agency and promote legislation that allows the Forest Service to plan and manage similarly.

Jim Nielsen retired from the U.S. Forest Service as a certified silviculturist with both field and administrative duties. He and his wife live on a tree farm near Coquille.
NRCS Announces Signup For The Healthy Forest Reserve Program In Oregon

For Immediate Release — March 30, 2009

Contact information: Meta Loftsgaarden, USDA NRCS Program Manager: (503) 413-336; Meta.Loftsgaarden@or.usda.gov

PORTLAND, OR — The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced funding for management activities on forested lands through the Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP).

The Oregon HFRP sign up is open from April 6 until April 30, 2009 for lands in Oregon’s Lane, Coos, Douglas, Josephine, Curry and Jackson Counties.

In Oregon, the focus of HFRP is to encourage landowners to manage their land for sustainable, profitable timber harvests while promoting forest conditions that improve habitat for the threatened Northern Spotted Owl. Participating landowners will receive long-term assurances that no additional regulatory restrictions under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be imposed beyond the current, baseline conditions if they follow a plan that benefits Northern Spotted Owls.

Through HFRP, landowners may apply for financial assistance. After developing a Forest Stewardship Plan, program participants receive funding to implement selected forest management activities, such as thinning, tree planting and stream buffers.

With HFRP, landowners participate through one of the following enrollment options:

- 10-Year HFRP Restoration Agreement: Program participants develop a Forest Stewardship Plan to manage the land for sustainable timber harvests and Northern Spotted Owl habitat and receive 50 percent of the cost of selected conservation practices. With HFRP the landowners continue harvests as described in the Forest Stewardship Plan. The plan will also set forth a strategy to provide a net conservation benefit for Northern Spotted Owls. As long as the Stewardship Plan is followed, the landowner will retain regulatory assurances that no additional ESA regulations will be imposed for the Northern Spotted Owl as a result of their timber harvest or management activities.

- HFRP Permanent Easement: With a permanent easement, landowners continue to manage the land for timber production while permanently maintaining the property as working forest land and Northern Spotted Owl habitat. The program pays 100 percent of the easement value and 100 percent of the cost of selected activities described in a Forest Stewardship Plan. The plan will also set forth a strategy to provide a net conservation benefit for Northern Spotted Owls. As long as the Stewardship Plan is followed, the landowner will retain regulatory assurances that no additional ESA regulations will be imposed for the Northern Spotted Owl as a result of their timber harvest or management activities.

To be eligible for HFRP in Oregon, applications must meet the following criteria:

- The property is 40 acres or more of privately owned Douglas fir/mixed conifer forest land;
- The land includes known or potential Northern Spotted Owl habitat or provides connectivity between Coast and Cascade Range habitats;
- The landowner agrees to implement a Forest Stewardship Plan on the land; and
- The landowner intends to maintain the property as working forest land.

This is the first year HFRP has been available in Oregon. Additional information about HFRP in Oregon can be found online at: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/hfrp/index.html.

Based on funding, a limited number of applications will be awarded. HFRP is reauthorized under the 2008 Farm Bill, the proposed 2009 program rule can be viewed on the Federal Register Web site at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farm-bill/2008/pdfs/hfrp14-09.pdf.

For more information on HFRP or EQIP, landowners and land managers can visit the NRCS Web site at: www.or.nrcs.usda.gov or contact one of the following NRCS offices:

- Coquille Service Center
  312 North Central
  Coquille, Oregon 97423-1196
  Phone: (541) 398-0242

- Eugene Service Center
  760 Bailey Hill Road, Suite 1
  Eugene, Oregon 97402
  Phone: (541) 485-9443

- Medford Service Center
  173 Panama Drive, Suite 101
  Medford, Oregon 97501
  Phone: (541) 776-1407

- Newport NRCS Office
  23 North Coast Highway
  Newport, Oregon 97365
  Phone: (541) 265-1013

- Roseburg Service Center
  2400 NW Troost St., Suite 102
  Roseburg, Oregon 97470-1069
  Phone: (541) 673-6071

NRCS - Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides assistance to growers and landowners who want to implement measures to protect the soil, water, air, and other natural resources on their working land. Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides funding and professional expertise for measures that protect natural resources while ensuring sustainable production on farms, ranches, and working forest land. The focus of EQIP is to promote sustainable production with activities to:

- Protect water quality
  - Conserve water supplies and improve irrigation efficiency
  - Protect healthy soil and reduce erosion
  - Improve air quality
  - Save energy
  - Improve forest health
  - Protect plant and animal communities

Those who submit an application and are accepted into EQIP may receive technical assistance and payments to help plan and implement conservation practices.

EQIP applications may be submitted at any time with your local USDA Service Center or conservation district office.

Contact NRCS to learn more about how EQIP can help you protect and improve your working land. More information can be found at your local USDA Service Center or online at www.or.nrcs.usda.gov.

NRCS - Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Fire Program

Combined with lost matching funds, primarily landowner assessments, a 7 percent General Fund reduction in Fire creates an overall program reduction of 17 percent. The effect would be equivalent to eliminating fire protection on about 2.7 million of the 16 million acres we protect.

Although our scenario sketches out a $3.4 million General Fund reduction, we believe that overall fire protection costs would actually increase, by $5-$7 million per year, as more fires escape initial attack and grow large, and fewer resources are available to fight them.

What capacity would be lost? The reductions would include:

- All aircraft contracted by districts. Instead, we would seek out these resources when the need arises, subject to their availability at the time – a major reduction in initial attack capability.
- 71 of our 220 initial attack engines, with their crew.
- Staffing for about 15 of our 25 fire lookouts, and half the funding for our detection camera program, which currently maintains 18 cameras.
- Reductions in headquarters support.
- More than $500,000 for safety equipment, tools and professional services.
- Reductions in dispatching, fire prevention, program administration and associated agency-wide administrative services.

What would remain? Reductions of this order would leave the program severely compromised in a number of ways, including:

- Lower protection levels that would mean more damage to resources and property, diminished public and firefighter safety, potential loss of the Bureau of Land Management Western Oregon protection contract, and higher premiums for Oregon’s wildlife insurance policy, if a policy could even be obtained.
- A diminished prevention program, with a resulting increase in fires from forest activities and the general public, and less cost recovery from those responsible.
- Management and administrative reductions that would compound our challenges in accounting, cost reimbursement and other functions.

The actual level of cuts in agency general fund budgets will not be set until after next state revenue forecast is released in mid-May. By law, the Legislature is required to base its 2009-2011 budget on that forecast. To keep up on this situation, sign up for OSWA’s Legislative Update by visiting the OSWA website or calling the Salem office.
**OREGON NEWS**

**Benton County Boasts One of the Nation’s Last Remaining Steam-powered Sawmills**

By Alex Paul, Democrat Herald

Although Benton County is smaller in land mass than neighboring Linn County, it has a rich and important timber and logging history as well.

According to information gathered when the Hull-Oakes Lumber Company was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in the 1990s, the first water-powered sawmill in what was to become the United States sprang to life in 1611 near what is now Richmond, Va.

In Oregon, two sawmills were operating in 1844, one at Fort Vancouver and one at Oregon City. By 1876, there were 77 steam-powered sawmills in Oregon.

In 1890, there were at least a dozen sawmills in Benton County, including one in Corvallis. There were 40 sawmills in the county by 1937.

By 1964, more than 90 percent of all sawmills in the state were powered by steam.

In 1933, one year before Ralph Hull created his first sawmill operation, and estimate 332 sawmills in 170 Oregon communities were in operation. Every day, they sawed an estimated 19.7 million board feet a month.

Ralph Hull developed a steam-powered sawmill on 28 acres near Bellfountain in 1938 and 1939. In 1955, he teamed with Chester Oakes to create the Hull-Oakes Lumber Company, which continues to operate today and is one of the few remaining steam-powered sawmills in the United States.

The company’s specialty is creating giant beams, some more than 200 feet long, used for bridges and piers, among other uses.

Prescribed fire season begins in NE Oregon

by The Associated Press, Baker City, OR

The spring season for prescribed burning has opened on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in northeastern Oregon.

The Baker City Herald reported that crews lit controlled blazes on 60 to 70 acres in the Dry Creek area north of Richland on Monday, one of the warmest days of the year, so far.

Controlled fires are used to clear the forest floor of limbs, twigs and other debris that could fuel a summer wildfire.

Officials say prescribed fires also help thin overcrowded forests and promote the growth of fire-resistant shrubs, as well as grasses that livestock and wild animals like to eat.

The U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management plan to set fire to about 10,000 acres across northeastern Oregon this spring.

**Oregon Forestry Sells Off Its Only Nursery**

by The Associated Press — Monday March 30, 2009, 1:15 PM

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Forestry is selling off its only tree nursery.

Spokesman Kevin Weeks said Monday that declining logging on national forests and increased availability of seedlings from private nurseries forced it to close last year.

D.L. Phipps Forest Nursery opened in 1957 near the Douglas County community of Elkton and at its peak produced 16 million seedlings a year.

At the time, most seedlings for reforestation were produced on a contract basis, and the Phipps nursery was a place anyone could drive up and buy smaller lots.

The price is $2 million for 123 acres, most of it irrigated, with a cold-storage facility.

An auction was held last January, but none of the bids met minimum specifications.

**New Member Benefit**

— Wilco Discount Programs

Wilco is offering OSWA members an exclusive discount program through their Agronomy Centers. The program includes: discounts off regular Ag Center prices for fertilizer ($14 off per ton) and a 2% discount on chemicals and free technical advice.

Wilco is also offering their Specialty Program as another opportunity to save at the Wilco Farm Stores. This program is offered to all farm owners who purchase a minimum of $1200 from farm stores per year and file a Schedule F on their tax returns.

To learn more about this program and to download the application forms, please visit www.oswa.org or call Kurt Spingath at 1-800-382-5339.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**Tom Martin Named President & CEO of the American Forest Foundation**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Forest Foundation (AFF), the leading national nonprofit that works to conserve family-owned forests and provide quality environmental education, today announced that Tom Martin was unanimously elected by its Board of Trustees to succeed Larry Wiseman as President and Chief Executive Officer. Wiseman, who founded the organization as its first president, has led AFF since 1983.

“With development pressures, declining markets and climate change, forest conservation becomes ever more challenging,” said Colin Moseley, chair of the AFF Board of Trustees. “Tom Martin brings the precise set of skills, experience and talent to address these challenges.”

Martin is well-known from several decades of conservation leadership including senior positions at National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), Earth Force, National Audubon Society, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. “I am excited to be joining an organization with such a long and successful history of conservation, forest stewardship, and environmental education,” he added.

Martin said. “This is a critical time for America to use incentives for sustainable forest management to help combat global warming, protect our drinking water supply and preserve critical habitat and open space. It is also critical for the long-term health of our forests and planet that the Foundation’s award-winning environmental education programs expand their reach.”

The American Forest Foundation has established itself as a leader among forest conservation and environmental organizations. “Our goals are simple,” said Wiseman, “and they focus on sustainability.” Since families and individuals own more forestland than government or industry, Wiseman added, “We do everything we can to keep them on the land, and their forests healthy.”

In February, AFF announced an unprecedented agreement among timber, conservation, wildlife, forester, and landowner groups on how forests should be treated under national climate change legislation. In 2007, AFF was awarded an endowment grant of $150 million to support its work on sustainability.

Wiseman agrees. “AFF is poised to become an even more powerful voice for sustainable forestry, family stewardship, outreach, and education,” Wiseman said. “I'll be looking forward to new challenges,” he added, “confident that Tom can guide AFF to this next level of leadership.”
“If you would know strength and patience, welcome the company of trees” — Hall Borland

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Tough Times in the Woods

“Tough Times in the Woods” (http://owic.oregonstate.edu/tough-times/) is a new website developed by Oregon State University Forestry Extension to assist displaced forest workers and forest landowners struggling in today’s economy. The aim of the website is to provide visitors with a series of web links that direct users to helpful information about economic opportunities. Featured websites include information about federal stimulus funds; how these funds are being channeled through state agencies in Oregon; where and how to bid on state and federal forestry projects; cost-share and grant opportunities; and carbon offset and biofuels markets.

The “Tough Times” website is modeled after another OSU Extension site, “Finding Help in Tough Times” (http://extension.oregonstate.edu/emergency/tough_times.php). This site provides web links for Oregon families needing information about unemployment, housing, financial issues, food opportunities, college funding, and many other assistance programs.

OSU Forestry Extension hopes the “Tough Times in the Woods” website will assist users to navigate the sea of information that exists about the federal stimulus dollars and cost-share programs in a way that is helpful to Oregonians. We welcome your comments and feedback, as well as suggestions for other sites related to natural resources and economic opportunities. Together we can weather the tough times of the 2009 recession.

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!

New Members March 2009 – April 2009

BAKER COUNTY: Newsom Gibson

BENTON COUNTY: Ryan Ferril

COLUMBIA COUNTY: Joe Bradbury
Robert Burnham
Mark Griffin
James Endicott

DOUGLAS COUNTY: Sharon Wilkins

JACKSON COUNTY:
Daniel Laury
George Severson

LANE COUNTY:
Boy Scouts, Oregon Trail Council

MARION/POLK COUNTIES:
Morris Fischer
Edward Miller
Donald Mulkey

HOOD RIVER/WASCO/MULTNOMAH COUNTIES:
Drew Bernard
Chris Feryn

WASHINGTON COUNTY:
John Dummer