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DATES

Upcoming OSWA Meetings

Jan 20  GAC meeting, Salem
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Feb 6  Board of Directors, Salem
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Mar 6  Executive Committee, Salem
10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Other Meetings

Apr 3  Oregon Tree Farm System
Board meeting

E NEWS

WWW.OSWA.ORG

for local chapter, state, and
national news and events,
grants, marketing tips, educa-
tional opportunities, & helpful
management techniques.

You can now download The Up-
date on the web at
http://www.oswa.org/Update

The WOODLANDER UPDATE

January 2009  News and Information for-and-about Small Woodland Owners  Volume 29  Issue 1

INSIDE

Enterprise Foundation Supports 2009 Howdy Neighbor

Enterprise Rent-a-Car
Foundation recently
awarded a $1,000 grant
to support the Howdy
Neighbor Tour program.
Elizabeth Faulk, a cus-
tomer service represent-
tative at Enterprise’s
Eugene Contact Center,
requested the donation
last summer on behalf
of OSWA’s education
non-profit partner, Family
Forests of Oregon.

The Enterprise Founda-
tion believes it is impor-
tant to provide financial
resources to worthwhile
nonprofit initiatives that
are actively supported by
its employees. Elizabeth,
along with her parents
Ken and Karen Faulk, actively manage their family forestland.

She believes in sharing their knowledge and experience with other families
through non-profit activities like the Howdy Neighbor Tour program. This
program educates family forestland owners and the public about the value
of forest management and the benefits accrued to society through active
management.

Elizabeth was recognized by the Contact Center manager, Linda Dagg and
other colleagues for being the first ever Eugene Contact Center employee
to be awarded a grant for an employee supported non-profit through the
Enterprise Foundation.

Elizabeth Faulk receiving the grant award by Enterprise
management. From left to right – Linda Dagg, Dave
Turner, Elizabeth Faulk and Matt Dodd
President’s Message...

By Ken Faulk

Happy New Year!

In some respects, our Country’s economic woes make it a bit difficult for me to begin the year with a cheer. However, for those of us who own forestland and actively manage our lands, we are certainly better off than those who keep their money in the stock market, at least as of late!

For many years, I have followed and read articles by legendary investor Jeremy Grantham. He has long talked about the value of timberland in an investment portfolio. In a recent Forbes article, his view of timberland as an inflation hedge goes like this: timber increases in value on the stump at a greater rate than inflation. Grantham claims that timber prices in the last century (1905-2005) have grown at a rate that is approximately 3% greater than inflation.

Grantham and others point to more reasons to own timberland than just beating inflation. They believe that timber can beat stock market returns over time too. For example, measuring returns using the National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries Timberland Index shows that timber investment annual compounded returns beat the S&P 500 index by 2.3% between 1990 and 2007. This greater return was also generated with less overall volatility.

Timber also has a low correlation to other asset classes, such as stocks, bonds and real estate. So when the traditional markets go down, timber and land do not directly track those downturns over the long haul. Even with out the trees, our land continues to appreciate over time.

And of course, when the lumber and paper markets are in the dumps, like they are today, I console myself by taking a walk in my forest...listening for the sounds of buds breaking and bark popping! Yes, my trees are still growing and putting on wood even in this bad economy... oh yeah, and they are storing carbon too! This makes me feel just a bit better when all I read in the papers and hear on the news is that economic things are bad and going to get worse before they get better.

Hey, if you want to feel better too, I suggest you take a walk in your woods and listen to your trees and investment grow. Then when you get home, you can read some articles by Grantham and others on the web to reaffirm how smart you are for investing in timberland... just Google the words “Jeremy Grantham” and “timberland”.... It is a great counter to the headlines in most papers today!

Finally, I want to thank Al Thayer for his dedicated service to OSWA as the GAC Chair over the past three years. As we gear up for the 2009 legislative session, Mike Barnes will take the reins of the GAC as chair. One of our goals this session is to get greater participation by every chapter. You will be hearing more about that in the coming weeks and months.

Till next time...
News

Save the Date – OSWA Annual Meeting Set for June

The 2009 OSWA annual meeting is scheduled for June 5-7 in Ashland, Oregon. Jackson/Josephine Chapter is co-hosting the event. On Friday, June 5, the OSWA Board will meet and there will be an evening welcoming reception. Tree School will be held on Saturday at Southern Oregon University and the annual dinner will be held at the historic Ashland Armory. The meeting will conclude on Sunday with a Howdy Neighbor.

Barnes to Chair GAC for 2009 Legislative Session

The Oregon state legislature convenes January 12 in Salem. This legislative session is expected to be full of challenges with the economic recession and projected large budget shortfalls. Mike Barnes, OSWA’s past president and Executive Committee member will Chair OSWA’s Government Advisory Committee (GAC) through 2009. He takes over the chair from Al Thayer who led the GAC for the past three years.

The OSWA Executive Committee approved the 2009 legislative agenda at its January 6 meeting. Our primary focus will be on restoring some significant General Fund cuts in the Oregon Department of Forestry budget proposed by the Governor, specifically the fire program and private forestry. Also, the new legislature is preparing to introduce a number of climate change bills. Our focus will be to ensure that carbon stored on family woodlands be included as an offset in any successful cap and trade legislation. For the complete list of OSWA’s legislative priorities, visit the OSWA website at: www.oswa.org.

Resources

www.oswa.org

Your connection to the most recent news and information affecting family forestland owners including technical assistance, legislation and stories on great stewardship.

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!

Advertise in the Update!

The Update is sent to over 2,900 OSWA members and friends eight times per year.

Our members grow over one million acres of family forestland in Oregon!

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Rates include typesetting and ad preparation.
Douglas County to Launch Biomass Project

By John Sowell

Douglas County plans to set up a test project this summer to convert forest slash and other wood waste into a No. 3 grade heating oil, Douglas County Commissioner Joe Laurance told members of the Douglas Timber Operators on Thursday.

Speaking at a recent breakfast meeting, Laurance said the project would involve the superheating of 5 to 7 tons of woody material per day at a site near Lemolo Lake in eastern Douglas County.

The project would utilize a process described to Laurance and other members of the Douglas County Forest Council during a meeting in September. At that time, Philip Badger, president of Renewable Oil International, explained how a small modular plant could be loaded onto a flatbed truck and taken out into the forest.

The wood waste would be chipped into small, thumbnail-sized pieces and mixed with heated steel shot placed into a heated chamber. The biomass then is heated to 1,000 degrees within a second and the resulting gases are then used to further heat the chamber, which is initially heated by propane.

Each ton of slash produces 157 gallons of bio-oil, the equivalent of nearly four barrels of oil. It could then be used as heating oil or refined slightly to a No. 2 diesel fuel.

The conversion process also produces 500 pounds of char per ton of slash. That material can be used in applications calling for activated charcoal, charcoal briquettes or as home heating pellets with twice the energy of traditional wood pellets.

One-third of the biomass material available in Oregon is located in Douglas County, according to state foresters.

This is ground zero for that, Laurance said.

One of the biggest hindrances for large-scale biomass projects has been the high cost of transporting slash materials to a processing plant. In most cases, its not feasible because of the long distance between the source of the material and the processing plant.

The portable system was tested in a two-year pilot program at a chicken farm outside Huntsville, Ala. Badgers company converted the waste of 264,000 chickens into bio-oil that was used to warm the poultry houses on the farm.

If this shows us what we think it will, we think it will be justifiable, perhaps, to invest in the process, Laurance said.

Members of Oregon's congressional delegation, including Sen. Ron Wyden and Reps. Peter DeFazio and Greg Walden, have expressed interest in the project, Laurance said.

You can reach reporter John Sowell at 957-4209
Family Forests Vital to all Oregonians’ Descendants

By Clint Bentz

Reprinted from the Statesman Journal

Family forest land have been an economic asset to Oregonians for generations. Besides producing some 16 percent of the timber sold in the state each year, they also clean our air, supply clean streams and water, furnish habitat for wildlife and provide opportunities for recreation.

Unfortunately, in spite of the many benefits they provide, the integrity and longevity of these valuable assets are uncertain. Who owns these valuable lands — and just why do their futures look so uncertain?

Family forestland owners are usually thought of as Oregonians owning anywhere between two and 5,000 acres of forest. Statistics show that nearly 60 percent of these owners hold properties of 10 acres or less. While some work and manage their lands full-time, many others have day jobs, ranging from school teachers and forestry consultants to doctors and college professors.

According to 2004 data, nearly two-thirds of family forestland owners in Oregon are more than 55 years in age; more than half are over 65.

While the majority of landowners say they intend to pass their property on to the next generation, most do not create a plan for the property that can help the new owners through the transition or help them understand land management strategies so they can be good forest stewards.

The fate of these lands extends beyond the families involved, often affecting entire communities. That’s because these lands that produce a multitude of societal benefits are often located in lower-lying, more populated areas near towns and cities. And, when combined with pressures from population growth, their location sharply increases the likelihood that they will be developed or divided into ever-smaller parcels.

Forestry, much like agriculture, has to compete against alternative land uses. The fact that Oregon’s population is growing makes this competition tougher.

Oregon retains 92 percent of the forest cover it had in 1850, but conversion to non-forest use may accelerate in the future. Even if forestland isn’t converted, fragmentation diminishes the land’s value for wildlife habitat and other purposes, and makes fire protection more expensive and difficult.

Trade-offs
There are losses of forest values no matter whose land is cleared and converted to other uses. A small landowner may give up her or his livelihood and way of life to sell for development, while the sale of larger parcels by big landowners may mean hundreds of jobs lost in Oregon — permanently. And the U.S. Forest Service estimates the nation is losing 1 million acres of private forestland every year.

That means a loss of timber supply — as well as a loss of fish and wildlife habitat — as forest lands become further fragmented or disappear. Loss of forestland could also threaten municipal drinking water, because healthy forests more than any other land use help maintain water quality.

Solutions
Tax relief, including capital gains tax relief — and cost incentives for landowners, especially for those who make their forest land available for fish and wildlife habitat — are possible approaches to keeping our forest land intact.

(Continued Page 6)
Tax Education Program Can Save You Money

By: Ray Abriel, US Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region

The concept of BASIS is fundamental to calculating a forestland owner's income tax liability. Understanding BASIS and how it works can potentially save an owner many thousands of dollars in taxes.

In an effort to deliver affordable, high quality and timely forest tax education to family forest landowners on this important tax topic, the U.S. Forest Service – Cooperative Forestry, Pacific Northwest Region teamed up with the Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service to develop a CD on Forestland Taxes, and the Importance of Establishing BASIS.

This product creates an educational program that closely resembles a live classroom by utilizing a pre-recorded video of the lecture coordinated with text, graphics, charts, and pictures – it is a virtual classroom experience!

This CD presentation is a step-by-step guide to establishing BASIS and using it to reduce tax liability on profits from a timber sale. The presentation will:

- Define the three types of BASIS: Original, Retroactive, and Adjusted
- Work through examples of how all three types of BASIS are calculated
- Show how BASIS reduces tax liability on profits from a timber sale

Copies of this 46-minute presentation (Series # EM 8941) can be purchased for $19.95 from the Oregon State University Extension Service – Publications and Multi-Media Department: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/

(From Page 5)

Similarly, timber growers could be paid for helping offset climate change, using the trees on their land to store atmospheric carbon.

Other possible solutions include compensating landowners who prevent forest fragmentation by giving up development rights or setting up trusts.

What would be some important advice for family forestland owners — especially those working full-time jobs in addition to managing their forestland? Like a lot of things, finding the right individual to help advise family forestland owners is often a word-of-mouth process.

Talking to neighbors and getting involved with the local woodland association or county Extension forestry agents is a good place to start. Oregon Department of Forestry stewardship foresters are also helpful.

Communicate regularly with family members, including children, about the many values of forestland. Talk to them about why you own it, and get them engaged in the management of the forest while you’re still around to show them the value. In other words, the surest way for land transfer to be successful is when the passion for forests and forestry is passed on to the next generation.

Clint Bentz is a CPA and family forest landowner from Scio. He can be reached at cbentz@bcsllc.com
News

Long-Time OSWA Member Will Be Missed

OSWA lost a long-time member over the holidays, as Bob Skeans passed away. Bob and his family have been OSWA members for many years and active in the Columbia Chapter. Bob’s dad, Everett, was a charter OSWA member. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

OFRI Cuts Costs, Reduces Staff

Last summer’s collapsing housing market, and a weakening economy nationwide, prompted the Oregon Forest Resources Institute’s board of directors in October to seek early review of proposed budgets for the coming fiscal year. But worsening economic conditions this fall all but overtook the agency’s budget planning process.

“I felt we needed to get control of OFRI’s future now rather in the next year’s budget when it would be more difficult to address falling harvest tax revenues,” said Paul Barnum, OFRI’s executive director. In managing this year’s budget, two positions supporting OFRI’s administrative functions were eliminated, effective on Jan. 31. “Both staff members are good people who have worked passionately to support OFRI’s mission, but we had no choice but to address this crisis,” he said.

Since revenue began declining in late 2007, OFRI has reduced budgeted expenditures by 30 percent and the forecast is for another 10 percent reduction in 2009-10.

The 2009-10 budget planning process continues, and Barnum expects to submit a reduced budget proposal to the Board in February that continues targeted support for OFRI’s outreach to landowners, K-12 audiences and the public at large.
Forestry Board Begins 2009 with New Members

By Dan Postrel, Oregon Department of Forestry

The Oregon Board of Forestry will begin 2009 with a changed lineup when it meets on Jan. 7 in Salem. Former World Forestry Center President John Blackwell will fill the board’s vacant chair position, joined by new member Steven Wilson, secretary of the labor group, Woodworkers District Lodge No. 1.

Appointed by Gov. Ted Kulongoski and confirmed earlier this month by the Oregon Senate in an action that also included the reappointment of Jennifer Phillippi to a second term, the two new members fill vacancies left by former Board Chair Stephen Hobbs, Corvallis, and member Barbara Craig, Portland.

Blackwell cited a record in leadership positions with the World Forestry Center, Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission and other organizations as evidence of his ability to bring disparate interests together to build upon common conservation values.

“I hope to apply my experience, accomplishments and values to sustaining Oregon’s forests,” he said, “while leaving a legacy to those who will rise above conflict.”

As secretary-treasurer of the Gladstone, Oregon-based branch of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Wilson has represented workers in the wood products industry for the past 23 years. A former mayor and city councilman in Reedsport, he has a strong commitment to Oregon’s forest-dependent towns.

“I believe I have a good grasp of the interests of timber industry communities and the effects of how the forests are managed,” he said, “along with a keen interest in the environmental issues surrounding Oregon today.”

President of Perpetua Forests Company and an owner of Cave Junction-based Rough & Ready Lumber Company, Phillippi is a fourth-generation Oregonian and third-generation family sawmill owner. In her first term on the board, she took an active role in developing the Forestry Program for Oregon, the board’s strategic policy. The 2003 policy update was distinguished by the inclusion for the first time of a sustainable forest management framework.

“I have found my fellow board members to be remarkable champions of Oregon and Oregon’s forests,” she said. “I believe that both my personal and forest business experience offer a useful perspective to the board.”

Wilson and Blackwell’s terms on the board will run through Dec. 31, 2012, with Phillippi’s term ending Jan. 31 of that year.

More information about the Oregon Board of Forestry can be found at: www.oregon.gov/ODF/BOARD/index.shtml
News

Lumber Forecast Revised Downward Due to Weak Housing Market, Economy

By Western Wood Products Association

PORTLAND, Ore. – With the weakness in the U.S. economy much deeper than was seen earlier this fall, Western Wood Products Association has scaled back its earlier forecast for lumber supply and demand for 2009.

The Association reports Western mills are experiencing the largest downturn in lumber demand ever recorded. The downward trend is forecast to continue through 2009 before beginning recovery in 2010.

U.S. lumber demand is expected to finish 2008 at 40.9 billion board feet, the third consecutive annual decline in demand and 36 percent below the 2005 peak. For 2009, lumber demand is forecast to fall to 35 billion board feet, the lowest annual consumption since 1982.

The unprecedented decline in home building has been the chief cause of the demand freefall. Traditionally, home building consumes as much as 45 percent of the lumber used each year. In 2005 alone, some 27.6 billion board feet of lumber was used in new home construction. Since then, the number of housing starts has been reduced by more than half.

For 2009, housing starts are forecast to reach just 803,000 units, a post World War II low. Lumber used in residential construction will total 9.5 billion board feet, one-third of its 2005 peak.

Weak markets have taken their toll on production levels at mills in the U.S. and Canada. After peaking at 19.3 billion board feet in 2005, Western mills have reduced lumber production at an accelerating rate.

Production in the West should total 13.4 billion board feet in 2008, 17 percent below the previous year. In 2009, lumber output in the West is expected to reach just 11.8 billion board feet. Southern mills will follow the same trend, with production dropping 17 percent for 2008 and slipping another 13 percent to 12 billion board feet in 2009.

Canada and other foreign lumber suppliers have fared worse than U.S. mills. Canadian lumber imports have declined by some 10 billion board feet over the past three years and should finish 2008 at 11.9 billion board feet. Canada will lose even more market share in 2009, as shipments slip to just over 10 billion board feet.

According to the revised forecast, the lumber market is expected to start the slow road to recovery in 2010. Housing starts will move higher, to around 940,000 units for 2010, then rally in 2011 to more normal levels of about 1.5 million. Other markets for lumber, such as repair/remodeling and commercial construction will rise as well.

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USDA Announces New Ecosystem Services Office

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 2008--Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer today announced the intention to establish a new USDA Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets and the creation of a federal government-wide Conservation and Land Management Environmental Services Board to assist the Secretary of Agriculture in the development of new technical guidelines and science-based methods to assess environmental service benefits which will in turn promote markets for ecosystem services including carbon trading to mitigate climate change.

“Our Nation’s farms, ranches and forests provide goods and services that are vital to society - natural assets we call “ecosystem services,” said Schafer. “The Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets will enable America’s agriculture producers to better compete, trade their services around the world, and make significant contributions to help improve the environment.”

Agriculture producers provide many ecosystem services which have historically been viewed as free benefits to society - clean water and air, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and scenic landscapes. Lacking a formal structure to market these services, farmers, ranchers and forest landowners are not generally compensated for providing these critical public benefits. Market-based approaches to conservation are proven to be a cost-effective method to achieve environmental goals and sustain working and natural landscapes. Without financial incentives, these ecosystem services may be lost as privately-owned lands are sold or converted to development.

Secretary Shafer intends to name Sally Collins Director of the Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets (OESM). Organizationally, OESM will be located within the Office of the Secretary providing direct access to the Secretary. Collins will assume this position after serving as Associate Chief of the USDA Forest Service for the past 8 years, where she pioneered concepts for ecosystem services and markets as part of that agency’s sustainable land management mission.

OESM will provide administrative and technical assistance to the Secretary in developing the uniform guidelines and tools needed to create and expand markets for these vital ecosystem services and will support the work of the Conservation and Land Management Environmental Services Board. As directed by the authorizing legislation the first ecosystem services to be examined will be carbon sequestration. The Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets and the Conservation and Land Management Environmental Services Board will be established to implement actions authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill.

The Conservation and Land Management Environmental Services Board will be comprised of the Secretaries of Interior, Energy, Commerce, Transportation, and Defense; the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors; the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology; the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and, the Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers. The Secretary of Agriculture will Chair the Board. The Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Administrator of Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs will serve as vice-chairs.

Nominations will be sought in the near future for a federally chartered public Advisory Committee to advise the Board. The Advisory Committee will include farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners, Tribal representatives, as well as representatives from State natural resource and environmental agencies, agriculture departments, and conservation and environmental organizations.
The Woodlander Update

News

2009 Starker Lecture Series
Sustaining Forests, Homes, & Communities

Starker Lectures are made possible through a generous donation by the Starker Family in memory of T.J. and Bruce Starker and is supported by the OSU College of Forestry and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

Lectures are free and open to the public.

Details available at http://starkerlectures.forestry.oregonstate.edu

Thursday, January 22, 2009
Sustainability of Forests and Forest Management

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Oregon State University
107 Richardson Hall
Corvallis, Oregon

Thursday, February 19, 2009
Preparing the Forest Product Industry to Compete in a Sustainable Market Place
Jerry Yudelson, Yudelson Associates, (Tuscon, AZ)

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Oregon State University
107 Richardson Hall
Corvallis, Oregon

Thursday, March 5, 2009
Community and Social Sustainability
Martin Goebel, Sustainable Northwest (Portland, OR)

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Oregon State University
107 Richardson Hall
Corvallis, Oregon

Capstone Field Trip – March 12, 2009
A Community of Wood
Corvallis Area and Wood Products Businesses
Details coming soon!
Pre-registration will be required.
### OFFICERS

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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!

#### December 2008 - January 2009

**Coos/Curry**
- Charles Hedges
- Alan and Mary Lee

**Douglas**
- CDK-Sagaberd Property, LLC
  - Scott McDonald

**Grant**
- Douglas Korner

**Jackson**
- Karl Wagenknecht

**Lane**
- Larry Blair

**Marion/Polk**