OSWA 2009 Annual Meeting Review

The 2009 OSWA Annual Meeting/Tree School Rogue and the first of the season Howdy Neighbor program was a great success, due in large part to our host - the Jackson/Josephine County Chapter and our partner-OSU Forestry Extension. Although about 150 people joined in the events over the three-day weekend, a lighter turn out than last year’s event, all enthusiastically participated in the wide-ranging events. The events generated a lot of very positive feedback by many participants.

The meeting kicked off with a Board of Directors meeting (see page 4). Following the Board meeting, OSWA hosted its Annual Membership Meeting. Members were updated on the association’s key activities and successes, financial condition and legislative activities over the past year. Members also heard from partner organizations such as, Oregon Tree Farm, Oregon Forest Resources Institute and the Oregon Depart-

OSWA Election Results

The OSWA 2009 election results have been tallied. By unanimous vote of the OSWA members, the following people were elected to serve two-year terms on the Executive Committee. Their terms of office run through June 30, 2011. Contact information for all OSWA officers may be found on the back page of all OSWA Woodlander Updates.

Second Vice-President (Position 1) – Roy Hendrick III
Second Vice-President (Position 2) – Dave Schmidt
Second Vice-President (Position 3) – Donna Heffernan

Congratulations to all three candidates and THANK YOU to all of the OSWA members who voted in this year’s election.
Our Vision

To see privately owned family woodlands are a thriving part of Oregon’s landscape in 2050.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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 66 and as authorized by ORS 65.061.

President’s Message…

By Ken Faulk

As of this writing, I have completed about 90% of the inventory project on our Benton Co. tree farm acreage. This inventory will be used to establish a baseline and to determine growth used to calculate carbon credits. A carbon credit represents the removal of one metric ton of CO₂ from the atmosphere.

Tree farmers will be paid a market determined amount yearly for CO₂ removed from the atmosphere as measured by carbon credits.

As the first tree farm inventory reviewed by Woodlands Carbon Company, we have been, you might say, the guinea pig. Even as a partial inventory was calculated, many lessons were learned. Most of these lessons were passed on to consulting foresters and land owners who attended the field portion of the July 8th workshop held at our Slippery Creek tree farm. (See article on page 12.)

Perhaps the most encouraging fact derived from this initial inventory is that our Northwest second growth Douglas-fir stands are growing at a rate that will yearly sequester enough carbon per acre to result in 8 to 10 carbon credits available to sell on the market. The northeast U.S. forests, by comparison, expect only 1 to 2 carbon credits per acre per year. Our younger stands, mixed species stands and lower site stands will produce more like 3 to 5 credits yearly.

Carbon credits will be calculated by running inventory data through the Forest Service’s FVS growth model. A quick and fairly accurate calculation of carbon credits can be done by dividing cubic feet of growth by cubic feet of wood per metric ton of CO₂. For example, 370 cubic feet of growth per acre divided by the Doug-fir factor of 39.7 cubic feet per metric ton of CO₂ equals 9.3 carbon credits per acre. (See table below.)

A slightly discouraging lesson learned from this inventory is that most of our “new forestry” stands are poorer candidates for yielding carbon credits than even-aged, pure stands of Doug-fir. A mixed species, uneven-aged stand is much more expensive to inventory and sequesters less carbon per acre than a vigorous fir stand. Tree farmers who have heeded the call to forego some fiber production in favor of improving wildlife habitat should perhaps receive a premium carbon credit price for growth on these bio-diverse stands. We know there carbon credit buyers who place extra value on these environmentally attractive forests. Hopefully we’ll be able to market the carbon credits from new forestry stands at a premium price as a means of correcting the disparity some tree farmers may experience on carbon credit prices.

I hope to have the carbon credits calculated from our Benton Co. acreage inventory by mid-August and to be among the first to sign a contract with WCC. Our credits may not go into the first pool but I will have a record of the 2009 growth and this can be sold at any time in the future. If you are contemplating selling carbon credits, I encourage you to get your inventory done by December 31, 2009.

Till next time

NW Species cu. ft./ Mt CO₂e

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Lyn Boniface Receives 2009 Riggin’ Slinger Award

Lyn Boniface was honored with OSWA’s highest award – the Riggin’ Slinger award – at the recent annual meeting banquet in Ashland. President Ken Faulk presented the award to Lyn for her years of exemplary voluntary service to OSWA, through her leadership and coordination of the annual auction, her professional contributions as state treasurer, the mentoring and support she provided to the professional staff and her contributions to the Coos/Curry Chapter.

Lyn joins a distinguished list of other OSWA leaders to receive the Riggin’ Slinger Award since its inception in 1982. The Riggin’ Slinger Award is the highest award given by the Oregon Small Woodlands Association and is named for the crucial position in a High Lead logging crew.

In a logging operation, the riggin’ slinger is the person a company depends on for quick thinking, leadership and achievement. A riggin’ slinger works on the landing and coordinates the activities of the entire crew. Without a committed and hardworking riggin’ slinger, things don’t get done and the job or the crew is put at risk. The awardees are selected by the Past President and it does not have to be awarded each year.

Congratulations Lyn!!

OSWA NEWS

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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!

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.
OSWA Board Meets at Annual Meeting

The OSWA Board of Directors met during the annual meeting in Ashland. Board members made several decisions, provided an update on a number of business items and representatives shared information about their chapter activities.

President Ken Faulk highlighted key actions of the Executive Committee, including switching the association’s accounting method from cash to accrual basis, making corrections to the balance sheet to more accurately reflect the association’s true asset and liability status and developing a regular and consistent reporting process to chapters for tracking membership dues.

The Board voted to elect Gary Springer to the Executive Committee as 1st Vice President. He replaces Sonya Chapman, who resigned this past spring due to health reasons. The Board reviewed the election process for the 2009 election and made suggestions to improve the vote-by-mail process.

The Board discussed the association’s finances and the shortfall in dues revenue for year-to-date. The Board agreed that more effort was needed to work with chapters to retain members in light of the recession. Further, it was agreed that leadership should not let up on requesting donations through the OSWA Patron program even in these tough economic times.

Ken provided the Board with a summary of OSWA’s efforts to launch and manage Woodlands Carbon Company. Mike Barnes, Government Advisory Committee Chair, provided the Board with an overview of the association’s legislative activities (see Legislative Summary on page 8).

The next Board meeting will be held October 2 in Salem. All Executive Committee and Board of Director meeting minutes are available online at: www.oswa.org.
OREGON TREE FARM SYSTEM NEWS

The Brown’s host the 2008 Tree Farmer of the Year Tour in Union County

The Brown family, the 2008 Oregon State Tree Farmers of the Year, hosted a tour of their 756-acre Wisdom Creek Ranch on July 18. Their forestland property is located southeast of La Grande in Union County.

Ted and Mary Brown, along with their children Sandy and Ann, provided an informative tour for nearly 50 people from across the state on a clear and very warm day in Northeastern Oregon. Key support came from OSU County Extension Forester, Paul Oester, OFRI’s Mike Cloughsey and Union County 4-H who provided an outstanding lunch.

The tour featured several stops that provided participants with a good perspective of the results of award-winning management activities that have been ongoing over the past 40 years. Participants looked at stands that had been thinned to promote health and resistance to fire, areas that have been salvaged to address insect and disease problems and a stream course that was fenced to help promote ecological values, including birds and wildlife.

The Brown’s property is unique in that it shares a common property line with a portion of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Management over the years has favored disease-resistant ponderosa pine. The property also includes some Douglas-fir, grand fir, western larch, and lodgepole pine. Ted Brown told the group that the family had planted over 40,000 trees since acquiring the property in 1957. Although the Tree Farm grows about 300-board feet of timber per acre per year, the family’s main goal is to maintain biodiversity.

American Tree Farm Standards Receive Public Comment

The public comment period for the revised American Tree Farm System (ATFS) standards closed on June 30. Comments were received by 57 organizations and individuals representing tree farmers, industry, state agencies, government councils, environmental non-profits, consulting foresters, forestry associations, buyers, forestry extension.

The Independent Standards Review Panel is currently reviewing and evaluating the comments and plans to meet next month to make its final recommendations. An overview of the new standards will be presented to the attendees of the National Tree Farm Convention in Washington, DC the last week of September.
ment of Forestry. Guest speaker, Meta Loftsgaarden from USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) spoke to members about funding opportunities that could benefit landowners through their grants and cost-share programs. The meeting concluded with a presentation by Kurt Spingath of Wilco who presented an overview of a discount program for OSWA members for fertilizer and chemicals at their six Agriculture Centers in Oregon.

During the afternoon, members enjoyed tours and the sites of Ashland.

**Tree School Rogue** — On Saturday, participants attended Tree School Rogue. This year, 26 classes were offered ranging from Fire Suppression Tools & Techniques to Carbon Markets: Does Money Grow on Trees? All the classes were well attended and there was lively discussion among participants between sessions and at lunch.

**OSWA Annual Dinner** — The OSWA annual dinner brought together members for an evening of food, wine and getting to know each other. President Ken Faulk presented Lyn Boniface with the Riggin Slinger Award (see story on page 3), recognizing her significant contributions to OSWA over the years. The evening program offered attendees the experiences and insights from three experts that reside in three distinct parts of Oregon — Jennifer Phillipi – a mill owner in SW Oregon and current Board of Forestry member, Donna Heffernan – a forester, forestland owner, rancher, business woman from northeastern Oregon and David Schmidt – a forester, forestland owner, retired businessman, retired county commissioner (and a biker!) from the Willamette Valley. OSWA Executive Director, David Ford moderated the spirited fireside chat and interaction with the audience.

**OSWA Annual Auction** — OSWA members donated 25 items which raised $1,402.00 to support our legislative efforts. Several auction items created some interesting bidding wars. However, the most sought after item of the night was a plate of fudge donated by Donna & Chris Heffernan – the final auction price was $120.00… mighty good fudge!! Thanks to all the OSWA members who donated items for the auction!

**Howdy Neighbor Program** — The first Howdy Neighbor tour of 2009 was hosted by the Willow Witt Ranch, a 442 acre property located east of Ashland. Suzanne Willow and Lanita Witt, the 2007 Jackson County Tree Farmer & 2008 Oregon Regional Tree Farmer award winners, welcomed over 80 participants who spent the morning walking and talking in the woods.

Attendees toured three sites on the property, discussing active management techniques aimed at improving forest health and wetlands, while protecting soil, water, and wildlife values. After lunch, Suzanne and Lanita provided an overview of their sustainable farming operation, where they produce a variety of products, many of which are sold at local farmers markets. The owners’ passion for the land was obvious to all who attended, and the results on the ground are impressive.
OSWA would like to thank the following people for their hard work, dedication and support in making the 2009 OSWA Annual Meeting events a great success: Victoria Morgan & Bill Potterf (hosts of Jackson/Josephine Chapter), Matt Bennett & Rick Fletcher (OSU Extension), Suzanne Willow and Lanita Witt (Howdy Neighbor), Marty Main (Howdy Neighbor), Ken Faulk (OSWA President), Elizabeth Faulk (for all the great photos!), Ilene & Monte Waldorf (Awesome OSWA & Auction support), Mike Cloughsey & OFRI, Forest Dan, Mike Gaudern and Jen Rains (logistics and everything else)… all the Tree School instructors and dinner speakers, and everyone else who helped!

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2009 Oregon Legislative Wrap-up

by Ralph Saperstein – OSWA’s Lobbyist

On June 29, the 2009 legislature ended its shortest regular session in recent memory. For the first time since the 1980s, Democrats controlled the Senate, the House and the Governor’s Office. The recession, tax increase proposals and budget holes highlighted all legislation during the session.

Despite the economic realities of the session the Oregon Small Woodlands Association had a successful session, achieving its highest legislative priorities and laying the groundwork for future advances of OSWA’s objectives. Throughout the difficult session, OSWA was vigilant in protecting family forest landowner interests.

The resolution of the new budget for the 2009–2011 biennium colored the 2009 session. For the most part, Democrats needed their two-thirds majority to pass $733 million of income tax increases. The increases will be referred to voters if 57,000 signatures are collected by September 25, 2009.

ODF Budget

Oregon’s economic difficulties set the tone for the 2009 legislature regarding the ODF budget and every other issue that came up during the session. Despite the legislative challenges, OSWA was successful in achieving critical ODF Fire and Private Forests program goals.

Fire Program

Prior to the session, Governor Kulongoski’s Recommended Budget, GRB, included a cost-shift to forest landowners by increasing their historical 50% share of base fire protection at the district level to 55%. The final ODF budget restores the 50-50 split between forest landowners and the General Fund – a significant victory for forestland owners.

The fire insurance policy deductible’s first $15 million has been paid by forest landowners, with the General Fund picking up fire costs of $10 million until the $25 million deductible had been reached. In recent years, below normal fire seasons have resulted in forest landowners picking up all of the deductible, albeit less than $15 million. OSWA and the Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC) sought sharing of emergency fire costs with the General Fund from the first dollar spent for the deduct-ible. This matter was not sufficiently resolved in the Governor’s Recommended Budget or the co-Chairs’ Budget.

Fortunately, members of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee had previously voted unanimously to support sharing of emergency fire costs from the first dollar spent by passing HB 2215. HB 2215 also extended total landowner obligation to $15 million. The final ODF Budget resolution does not include sharing emergency fire costs from the first dollar. However, due to pressure from supportive legislators, HB 2215 was amended to reduce the landowners’ share limit to $10 million rather than $15 million as it has been since 2003.

Private Forests

The GRB also recommended reductions in ODF’s Private Forests Program that affected reforestation and water quality protection. However, the GRB became irrelevant once the Ways & Means co-Chairs’ Budget was released. Prior to the release of the co-Chairs’ Budget, budget-writers had sought 30% cut lists from all state agencies. Following the release of the 30% cuts list, the Ways and Means Committee conducted a series of public meetings throughout the state in April, in order to receive testimony from citizens regarding the possible budget cuts.

On May 6, OSWA members from around the state came to Salem to offer testimony to the Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee on the ODF Budget. Forest landowners packed the hearing room and an adjacent “overflow” room. OSWA members also came to the Capitol the previous month for the OSWA Legislative day on April 28. The statewide public hearings, individual meetings with legislators and subcommittee testimony all helped lead to a positive resolution of the ODF Budget issues.

To maintain Stewardship Foresters at ODF, OSWA and OFIC offered to continue to pay the Forest Products Harvest Tax share of Forest Practices Act enforcement at the current 2007–2009 rate. This mitigated the impact of the General Fund reduction in ODF’s Private Forest program by restoring funding for seven field foresters. The full budget reduction impacts will not be fully known until this fall.

The End Game

Following release of the co-Chairs’ Budget and direct lobbying from small and large forest landowners and their
OSWA and OFIC lobbyists, the ODF Fire and Private Forests program budgets were resolved. It took patience and brinksmanship on behalf of legislators and landowner representatives to achieve a compromise which ended up better than the GRB and co-Chairs’ Budget.

In addition to fully funding the fire program, the final budget maintains the 50-50 split between forest landowners and the General Fund, does not include a forest landowner cash contribution to fire program administrative costs (landowners provide in-kind services which more than offset administrative costs), restores ODF forest stewardship positions by timber operators agreeing to pay for Forest Practices Act enforcement at the same rate as in 2008, and lowers forest landowner share of the fire insurance deductible from $15 million to $10 million.

Other Legislation
During the Legislative session, OSWA tracked upwards of 50 bills that could have some impact on members. We were successful at laying the ground work for some favorable legislation, such as farm plates for forestry vehicles, allowing for pole-style buildings and a second dwelling on forestry property – all providing parity among forestland owners and farmers.

We were also successful at stopping numerous bills that would have had negative effects on OSWA members, such as HB 2675 – a tree cutting moratorium, SB 382 – would have mandated state set log hauling rates, and HB 2646 – provided special tax treatment for poplar plantation growers.

Conclusion
The 2009 legislative session demonstrates that there is a valuable role for OSWA to play in the legislative process. OSWA was able to participate in the process on issues that have a direct impact on family forest landowners either from regulation, fire protection or through private property rights restrictions. OSWA leadership is evaluating ways to take a proactive stance during the legislative interim to lay the groundwork essential for legislative accomplishments that benefit family forest landowners.

For a more in-depth summary of the 2009 Legislative session that includes a review of OSWA’s legislative objectives that were achieved and highlights of numerous bills relating to topics of interest to OSWA members, visit the OSWA website at: www.oswa.org.

Interior Sec. Salazar turns back Bush logging plan

By JEFF BARNARD AP Environmental Writer

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP) - The Obama administration is withdrawing the Bush administration's last attempt at increasing logging in Northwest forests occupied by northern spotted owls and salmon.

Assistant Interior Secretary Ned Farquhar told a conference call of attorneys Thursday that they had determined the U.S. Bureau of Land Management’s decision not to consult federal biologists over the logging's effects on spotted owls and salmon violated the Endangered Species Act.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar was scheduled to discuss the decision in a teleconference with reporters.

BLM had sought to increase timber production in Western Oregon and increase revenues for rural Oregon counties still hurting from logging cutbacks in the 1990s to protect fish and wildlife.

The plan depended on scaled-back protections for the spotted owl. Interior lawyers told a federal judge last April they will not defend the Bush administration’s plan for taking the owl off the threatened species list.

The BLM plan called for logging five times the timber it sold last year, which amounts to about half of what was logged before the previous Northwest Forest Plan dramatically cut logging.

The Northwest Forest Plan came after lawsuits from conservation groups shut down logging in old growth forests of Oregon, Washington and Northern California to protect habitat for the spotted owl.

The Bush administration agreed to produce a new spotted owl recovery plan and review the critical habitat designation under terms of the settlement of a lawsuit brought by the timber industry.

cont’d on pg 10
Panel: Wood chips could cut business costs
By Elise Hamner, Assistant Editor

The Enterprise School District in Northeast Oregon saved $112,000 on heating costs the first year it converted to burning wood chips for energy in boilers.

“They saved two teacher spots,” said Gary Haga, who owns D & H Logging Inc.

He would like to help local schools and businesses reap similar benefits. He believes his idea could be a save-money, make-money endeavor for the South Coast.

So D & H Logging and Young’s Trucking Inc. are hosting a talk on opportunities to convert forest biomass into energy.

“This is about making jobs in our community and keeping money at home, instead of sending it overseas and paying for oil,” said Gary Haga, of D & H Logging.

In simple terms, it’s about how businesses and organizations that run boilers to heat their buildings can convert those from burning petroleum products to burning wood chips, or pellets or pucks (bigger chunks of compressed wood chips).

“I went to this biomass program in Portland and thought, We’re not doing any of this in Coos County,” Haga said.

And Coos County has a heck of a lot of logging slash. Most of it goes up in smoke on landings.

Haga’s mind got to working. He called a state agency in Salem and got a list of all the boilers in Coos County.

“There’s are 186 boilers,” he said.

He contacted all the owners and invited them, along with all South Coast school districts, to Monday’s talk. It will feature a panel of speakers. Among them are members of the Coquille Indian Tribe, which is studying forest biomass opportunities, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Energy Trust of Oregon, University of Oregon’s Resource Innovations and Paul Dailey, who owns a mill near Reedsport and is trying to develop a pellet mill.

Roseburg Forest Products is using some of its logging slash for its cogeneration plant in Douglas County, Haga said. On most other land, there’s opportunity.

“If I can just get one person to convert to burning chips,” Haga said.

Speakers will discuss alternative fuels, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality exhaust concerns, fuel boilers, tax credits, low-interest loans and grants available for biomass use at home.

cont’d from pg 9

Andy Stahl, director of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, said Thursday’s decision reverses President George W. Bush’s “backward step in protection of Oregon fish and wildlife habitat.” Stahl is a plaintiff in one of the lawsuits challenging the BLM’s Western Oregon Plan Revision.

“This restores the situation before Bush embarked upon this silly exercise,” he said.

Parties to the conference call said the Department of Interior will seek dismissal of the four lawsuits challenging the BLM’s Western Oregon Plan Revision.

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OREGON NEWS

Defenders of Wildlife invite you to enter your restoration project in the Conservation Registry

If you have a habitat conservation project – no matter how small or how large – an amazing new tool is at your fingertips.

Imagine, as a landowner, finding technical assistance, funding, volunteers and lessons learned from others, and then spreading the word about your work. Imagine, as an organization with big projects, creating a portal that imports and tracks all that data, while giving you a stronger ecological impact by connecting with other projects. Imagine the integrated data of all state wildlife plans in one centralized system.

“It’s like a Facebook for conservation,” says Sara Vickerman of Defenders of Wildlife, describing this powerful analytical tool that has been designed to be exceptionally user friendly. “Like social networking for the environment, by tracking all conservation projects happening on the ground, we’re able to understand the scope of all the activities – and identify how collectively we can generate the greatest benefits for fish and wildlife.”

Easy-to-use browsing capabilities include searches by maps and keywords, quick searches by topics like “monitoring” or “marine and estuarine restoration,” and direct links to state portals.

The Conservation Registry has been in development for three years. The project emerged from a stakeholder’s group assisting the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife with the Oregon conservation strategy, which recognized the need to track implementation of all the plans. It grew to become a tool that can document all types of conservation projects happening on the ground.

Take a few minutes to check out the Conservation Registry

Scope out the Home page: conservationregistry.org
Browse the Oregon portal: or.conservationregistry.org
Explore a sample organizational portal, Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit: cpcesu.conservationregistry.org

Enter your own project(s) — it’s free and easy
No project is too small
Find assistance
Get recognized for your work
Go to conservationregistry.com, sign up and click on Add a Project

Defenders of Wildlife researched similar databases around the world and has taken the lead, with contributions of financial and in-kind support. OFRI was one of the registry’s initial supporters. All of Oregon’s natural resource agencies are sponsors and most federal agencies are partners.

Version 1.0, targeting Oregon, Washington and Idaho, is up and running. All data from Bureau of Land Management and The Nature Conservancy projects in Oregon and Washington have been imported. Oregon’s portal opens to more than 300 projects at nearly 800 sites. Soon a nationwide rollout will include the entire United States.

For questions or additional information, contact Gina LaRocco at glarocco@defenders.org or 503-297-3222.

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"Serving Many of the Reforestation Needs of the World From This Location Since 1889"
Woodlands Carbon Workshops

“Measuring Western Forests for Carbon Credits” workshops, developed by Woodlands Carbon, brought together 90 landowners and 30 consultant foresters and unveiled two new tools to help landowners access the carbon market.

The workshops began with a morning session that introduced the voluntary carbon markets available to forest owners, explained the role of Woodlands Carbon as an aggregator of family woodland owners to sell their carbon and unveiled the new West Coast guidelines for carbon inventory and the landowner contract with Woodlands Carbon.

Inventory Guidelines and contract unveiled.

Representatives of Mason Bruce & Girard provided an overview of the West Coast guidelines for carbon inventory developed for Woodlands Carbon. The guidelines are based upon the rules required by the Chicago Climate Exchange. These guidelines allow the landowner to measure a carbon inventory baseline on their land.

Mike Haglund and Scott Horngren of Hagland, Kelley, Horngren Jones and Wilder LLP introduced the Woodlands Carbon – landowner contract. The contract lays out the obligations for both the landowner and Woodlands Carbon.

The contract commits a landowner to storing additional carbon growth in their forest until 2013 and to remain a certified forest for 15 years but allows for the transfer of title (i.e. sale of the property) and for harvest.

Field lessons

In the afternoon attendees visited the field to see case study properties where the inventory guidelines have been transferred to the property level.

Participants discussed the idea of grouping landowners of similar forest age and type together to take advantage of stratification and combining both a timber and carbon cruise to save costs to the landowner while gaining valuable information about their forest-land assets.

Mike Gaudern, of Woodlands Carbon was delighted with the response. “It appears that we have interest from landowners with woodlands of all sizes and types. Younger stands of less complexity and fast growing species seem to be the most cost effective to inventory. We are looking forward to assembling our first pools for sale this fall.”

At the end of the workshops, ten landowners have requested field visits to explore the next steps of completing an inventory and signing a contract.
WOODLANDS CARBON NEWS

For more information, to register for a workshop or to arrange a field visit to see if your property is a good candidate for Woodlands Carbon please contact:

Michael Gaudern
Woodlands Carbon, 1775 32nd Place, Ste. C, Salem, Oregon, 97301
503 588 8356
woodlandscarbonco@gmail.com
www.woodlandscarbon.com

Marsdon Manson is thanked for hosting the training day on July 10th.

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Watershed Science At Work in Oregon's Forests – Studies Look at the Effects of Contemporary Forest Management

When timber is harvested, do fish leave nearby streams? If so, for how long? Where do they go? Does water temperature increase or decline? Are disturbances evident downstream?

Without updated research and the answers to some of these questions, Oregon laws governing harvest practices may not reflect the best available science on the effects of contemporary forest management practices on aquatic habitat. Enacted in 1971, the Oregon Forest Practices Act was based on the science of that era. Since then, lighter equipment, skyline logging and even helicopter harvesting have become common, and superior road-building practices and buffer strips leave much different environmental impacts than past forest practices.

Watershed Science at Work in Oregon's Forests is a new OFRI special report that tells the story of three new studies of unprecedented magnitude conducted by the Watersheds Research Cooperative that will help guide the future of forestry in Oregon.

The Alsea, Hinkle Creek and Trask studies are “paired watershed studies” – complex, costly, vast and decade-long examinations that compare unharvested control basins with others where contemporary forest management activities are taking place. The special report describes the methodologies used by the scientists and some of their preliminary observations.

Teams of top researchers including hydrologists, biologists and ecologists are collaborating on the studies, with public and private landowners. The technology is sophisticated and precise, utilizing equipment like automatic stream temperature gauges and microchips implanted in thousands of fish for tracking their movement in streams.

“With three concurrent watershed studies, we should be able to draw conclusions and make inferences with more confidence. Our hope is that these studies will help inform landowners as they manage the forests and policymakers as they consider continued improvements to Oregon’s forest practice regulations,” said Arne Skaugset, associate professor at the Oregon State University College of Forestry and the director of the cooperative.

This special report can be ordered from the Facts & Resources pull-down menu under Publications at OFRI's Web site: oregonforests.org. Hard copies can be ordered at no cost, but downloads are also available at oregonforests.org/assets/uploads/Watershed_Science.pdf.

Study: Shrinking gene pool among spotted owls contributing to their decline

by Matthew Preusch, The Oregonian

— Wednesday June 10, 2009

Torsten Kjellstrand/The Oregonian A spotted owl west of Veneta in 2007.

When the northern spotted owl went on the endangered species list in 1990, it effectively brought federal lands logging to a halt in the Northwest.

Nearly two decades later, the number of owls is still dropping, and their shrinking gene pool is part of the problem, a new study concludes.

Fewer birds make for a genetic “bottleneck” that increases the potential for interbreeding and reducing the birds’
The Woodlander Update

Commentary: Trees Are the Answer …and the Message
By Steve Wilent

The International Biomass Conference and Expo, held in late April in Portland, Oregon, was a big success, judging by the attendance of more than 1,000 people. The conference had a strong forest and wood processing residues track, and sessions devoted to other forms of biomass, including crop residues, dedicated energy crops, livestock and poultry wastes, urban waste and landfill gases, and food processing residues. The speakers offered a wide variety of views and information on woody biomass use, feedstock availability, federal policies that affect the industry, and other topics. In the exhibit hall, vendors displayed products ranging from new technologies for converting cellulose into biofuels to compressed-wood briquettes, or bricks that can be used as fuel for power-generation plants. These were the things that drew me to the conference, and I wasn’t disappointed. The odd thing, however, was that the most interesting person I met at the event wasn’t a forester, forest industry executive, or woody biomass guru—he was Kent Grewe, a neurosurgeon.

Grewe owns 830 acres of forestland in northwestern Oregon, and managing the land is much more than a hobby and a release from the stress of performing brain and spine surgery. He has a keen interest in forestry practices and is a member of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA). Grewe attended the conference to learn about opportunities for producing and marketing biomass from his property and said he was particularly impressed with a nearby wood pellet manufacturing plant, one of the stops on the preconference tour.

Back in the 1990s, Grewe’s regular commute to and from the hospital where he works included a typical freeway on–off ramp in downtown Portland. He noticed the wide, grassy areas on either side of the ramp and saw Oregon Department of Transportation crews periodically mowing the grass. The area would look better with trees, he thought, and in 1996 he took it upon himself to get the department’s permission to plant some. To this day, Grewe manages a couple hundred trees along the roadway. The western redcedars he planted all died, but the Douglas-firs are thriving. He planted 30 additional Douglas-firs this year after a handful he planted last year were inadvertently mowed, even though they were in highly visible tree tubes.

Grewe told me the trees made a small portion of his commute a more pleasant experience. But they are much more than ornamental: they are living advertising for forestry.

“I thought it would be great ‘green advertising’ for Oregon. Sponsoring organizations—OSWA, SAF, Weyerhaeuser, and so on—might use signage similar to the current litter patrol signs. It would be like a growing billboard,” he said. “Most of those areas are growing grass, requiring the burning of fossil fuels to mow. With trees, Oregon could be advertising carbon-sequestration, producing fiber for whatever future biomass projects might be in vogue at the time, or simply growing saw logs. The motoring public would see it daily and could watch the growth over the years. I think there would be lots of volunteers willing to help with maintenance, especially during the first ‘free to grow’ phase. And with some crown closure, maybe there would be less need for mowing.”

Using signs to inform the public about forestry initiatives isn’t new. I’ve seen numerous signs with messages such as “Planted in 1986” or “Certified Family Forest—American Tree Farm System.” But Grewe got me thinking: What if every SAF chapter adopted an on-off ramp—or any other highly visible patch of ground in an urban, suburban, or rural area—planted some trees and managed them and installed signs with messages such as “Trees Love Carbon Dioxide” or “Forests for America’s Energy Independence”? Or simply, “Trees Are the Answer—Society of American Foresters”?

I’m sure you can think of better messages. But whatever the signs might say, these living billboards would garner much more attention than any other form of advertising I can think of. They would help us reach out to the public—perhaps SAF’s greatest challenge—by doing what we do best: growing trees. If one doctor can do it in his spare time, so can we foresters.

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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!

New Members July 2009

CENTRAL OREGON COUNTIES:
   James Roberts
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   Daniel Lincoln
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   Howell Hughes

JACKSON/JOSEPHINE CHAPTER:
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BAKER CHAPTER:
   M C Ranch
BENTON CHAPTER:
   Jay Widmer

“I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech tree, or a yellow birch, or an old acquaintance among the pines.” — Henry David Thoreau

ability to adapt, says the study published this month in the journal Conservation Genetics.

“Our results provide independent evidence that northern spotted owls have recently declined, and suggest that loss of genetic variation is an emerging threat to the subspecies’ persistence,” said the reports’ authors, including U.S. Forest Service biologist and longtime owl expert Eric Forsman.

Despite the increase in federal forests set aside for the owl under the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, their numbers continue to decline at a rate of about 3.7 percent per year, the study found.

That’s in part due to continued loss of habitat as well as competition from the non-native barred owl, which is larger than the spotted owl and has moved into its territory. The decline is most dramatic in Washington State.

But this new study, which surveyed 352 spotted owls, suggests that the relatively small population of birds may itself be a limiting factor to their recovery.

“Reduced effective population size shown here in addition to field evidence for demographic decline highlights the increasing vulnerability of this bird to extinction,” the study says.