OSWA News

OSWA Annual Election – Members Urged to Vote!

It's time again! Each year, OSWA members are asked to elect three Executive Committee members to serve two-year terms. Enclosed in this Update is a ballot and instructions on how to complete and send in your ballot. Also, you will find the candidate statements beginning on page six.

The OSWA By-Laws require that the Executive Committee be made up of seven members serving in the following positions: President, 1st Vice President, four — 2nd Vice Presidents and the immediate past President. Each year OSWA members elect three Executive Committee members through a vote-by-mail process. This year, you...

Woodlands Carbon Workshops

Woodlands Carbon and Oregon Small Woodlands Association will be hosting a series of workshops to introduce two new tools critical to accessing local and national carbon markets. The first two workshops are scheduled on July 8 and July 10.

The Western Forests Carbon Inventory Guidelines and Landowner/Woodlands Carbon Contracts will offer woodland owners and consultant foresters the ability to measure current carbon stock and sign with Woodlands Carbon to sell carbon from certified family forests. Both tools have been developed by the Woodlands Carbon/OSWA/American Forest Foundation partnership and reviewed by experts in the field.

Attendees will gain the latest forest carbon market updates, hands on experience of the inventory guidelines, an overview of the contract required of the landowners and the opportunity to meet and discuss options with experts in the field. Attendees will also become eligible to submit inventory to Woodlands Carbon for the 2009 pool.

If you wish to register please visit www.oswa.org for registration information.
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 65 and as authorized by ORS 65.061.

President’s Message…
By Ken Faulk

As I complete my first year as your president, I recognize that managing change is a key part of my duties. Over the past year, the OSWA Executive Committee and I have successfully managed many changes, such as hiring a new executive director, creating Woodlands Carbon Company and filling a vacant Executive Committee position. Change creates opportunity and I am committed to ensuring that we manage change in ways that benefit our members and our cause.

Recently, OSWA’s First Vice President submitted her resignation. As Sonya Chapman leaves this position due to personal reasons, I wish to express OSWA’s appreciation for all of her contributions and offer her our sincere thanks for her years of service.

At last week’s annual meeting, the Board of Directors approved the Executive Committee’s appointment of Gary Springer to fill the remainder of Sonya’s term as First Vice President. Gary has served on the OSWA Board in the past and needs little introduction to woodland owners in Oregon.

On another note, let me give you an update on the Woodlands Carbon Company. Woodlands Carbon is a wholly owned subsidiary of OSWA. It was created to aggregate carbon credits and sell these credits to willing buyers. These credits are measured as the metric tons of CO₂ removed from the atmosphere by the annual growth of our trees.

At the May 12 Woodlands Carbon Board meeting, Mark Copeland stepped down as chair and resigned from the Board to pursue other interests. The Woodlands Carbon Board recommended that the OSWA Executive Committee replace the existing Board in order to improve efficiency. Several members of the Executive Committee have stated their willingness to serve on the newly expanded Woodlands Carbon Board. I will expand the Woodlands Carbon Board by adding those OSWA Executive Committee members that are willing to serve by the end of June.

Along with the change in Board structure, Woodlands Carbon will be managed as a project of OSWA, while maintaining its separate legal status for the purpose of protecting OSWA from liability. To create efficiencies and realize cost savings, the CEO position will be eliminated. OSWA will contract with a project manager to carry out the day to day operational aspects of the business. Mike Gaudern will be asked to contract with OSWA as the project manager. This will assure continuity in the business.

Under contract to Woodlands Carbon, the firm of Mason, Bruce and Girard has completed the forest inventory procedures and guidelines for our forests. A workshop entitled “Measuring Western Forests for Carbon Credits” will be held on July 8th and 10th. Owners of certified forests and consulting foresters should attend.

And finally, you will find a mail-in ballot for OSWA officer elections in this issue of The Woodlander Update. Please return your ballot to the OSWA state office so that it is received no later than Friday, July 17th.

Till next time.
OSWA NEWS

(OSWA Annual Election – Members Urged to Vote!)

are being asked to vote for three 2nd Vice President positions.

Three candidates were nominated through a nominations committee chaired by Mr. John Poppino. At the Annual General Members meeting last week, nominations were opened to the floor. No additional nominations were made from the floor. Thus, the slate recommended by the Nominations Committee and approved by the Board was adopted by a vote of the members during the Annual General Members meeting.

The three candidates are:

Vice President Position 1 - Roy Hendrick III
Vice President Position 2 - Dave Schmidt
Vice President Position 3 - Donna Heffernan

The Board of Directors unanimously voted to conduct the vote-by-mail process by inserting a ballot and instructions in the June edition of The Woodlander Update.

Who can vote? The OSWA By-Laws define who is eligible to vote as follows:

cont’d on pg 4

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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“Serving Many of the Reforestation Needs of the World From This Location Since 1889”
SECTION 1 - MEMBERSHIP

a) QUALIFICATIONS. Any person, firm or corporation owning not more than 5,000 acres of forestland in Oregon shall be eligible for membership in the Association. Any person, firm or corporation owning more than 5,000 acres of forestland in Oregon may be admitted to membership by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and ratified at the next Board of Directors’ meeting. Membership in the Association is not transferable.

b) VOTING QUALIFICATIONS. Any person, firm or corporation under the classification of Section 1 a) owning or managing forestland in Oregon shall become a voting member by submitting designated dues to the OSWA principle place of business. In addition, up to two additional members may be added as voting members provided they reside AT THE SAME MAILING ADDRESS.

To vote, please read and follow the Voting Instructions that are on the reverse side of the ballot. If you have any question, please contact the state office at 503-588-1813.

Ballots MUST BE RECEIVED at the OSWA state office by Friday, July 17, 2009.
Oregon State’s 2008 Tree Farmers of the Year to Host Forestry Tour on July 18th, 2009

There will be an opportunity to visit the 2008 Oregon State Tree Farmer of the Year this summer. Ted and Mary Brown will host a tour of their 756-acre forestland property, Wisdom Creek Ranch, near Union in northeastern Oregon. The Brown’s property is unique because they share a common property line with a portion of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Their tour features a managed property that blends values of forestry and wildlife.

One forest management activity includes salvaging areas with insect and disease problems. Another activity includes managing the remaining native composition of trees to favor disease-resistant Ponderosa Pine for the future. Most of the forest is currently stocked with Ponderosa Pine and includes Douglas Fir, Grand Fir, Western Larch, and Lodgepole Pine. The tree farm grows about 300 board-feet of timber per acre per year.

The tour date is scheduled for Saturday, July 18th, 2009.

Revised Tree Farm Standards Open for Public Comment

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Forest Foundation (AFF) is now accepting comments on its revised Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification on Private Lands (2009–2013) through Monday, June 29, 2009 at 5:00PM (EDT). The revised Standards have been open for public Standards have been open for public comment since May 1, 2009.

The AFF Standards are the basis for its forest certification program, the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). The revised Standards were developed by the Independent Standards Review Panel.

All stakeholders are welcome and encouraged to comment on the revised Standards. For more information on the American Forest Foundation’s standards setting procedures, please visit www.forestfoundation.org.

During the review process, it is extremely important that the Panel hear from all stakeholders — family forest landowners, Tree Farmers, volunteers, natural resource and forestry professionals, conservation organizations, PLT coordinators, educators and volunteers, and other partners.

The 60-day public comment period runs through Monday, June 29, 2009 at 5:00PM (EDT).

To submit comments on the revised AFF Standards, please visit www.forestfoundation.org or email Certification@forestfoundation.org for more information.
Legislative Update

In January, Oregon’s 75th Legislative Assembly convened. For the first time in decades Democrats lead the Governor’s Office, the Senate and the House. This commonality of party control has not led to an entirely smooth session. Instead, the economic difficulties have dominated the past five months of the legislature.

The first order of business was rebalancing the current 2007–2009 budget as quickly as possible. The closer to the end of the biennium (June 30, 2009), the more difficult it would be to find $855 million to fill the revenue shortfall hole. Through budget cuts, fund shifts and federal stimulus dollars, the 2007–2009 budget was rebalanced by the first week of March.

The legislature’s focus shifted, albeit briefly, to policy matters. Family forest landowners have been following climate change legislation since January when Governor Kulongoski introduced a carbon cap and trade proposal. Like everything else in the session, the world-wide economic recession colored the climate change proposals. The Governor’s original bill has been significantly modified by a work group of utilities, industry and business representatives and the Citizens Utility Board, representing environmental interests.

OSWA’s focus in the climate change legislative debate is on insuring that carbon stored on woodlands is included as an offset in any successful cap and trade legislation. The fate of climate change legislation won’t be known until Sine Die, or legislative adjournment, now estimated to be no later than June 30.

Following the May 15 state revenue forecast, the democratic leadership released their proposed 2009–2011 budget. They proposed $2 billion in cuts and $800 million in new taxes on corporations and wealthy households. The republicans released their own budget proposal that included no new taxes; however their proposal was dead on arrival.

The bad news for family forest landowners was the double whammy contained in the democrat’s proposed budget: disproportionate cuts to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and over $5 million in fire cost shifts to forest landowners.

OSWA’s top legislative priority this year is to restore funding to ODF’s fire and private forestry programs and to maintain our current 50-50 cost share arrangement for fire program expenses between the State of Oregon and forestland owners.

We are engaged in intense end of session lobbying aimed at reversing the draconian budget cuts to ODF and restoring our 50-50 cost sharing for fire fighting. With Sine Die expected in the next two weeks, stay tuned.

2009 OSWA Candidate Statements

2nd VP position 1

Roy W. Hendrick, III
Member of Coos/Curry.

I have been involved with tree farming since I was 8 years old (1962) when I made my first visit to my grandfather’s tree farm near Brookings. For an 8 year old living in Santa Barbara, Calif. that was a long way from home; although the visit had been eagerly anticipated during the months preceding it. Our family tree farm is the first certified Tree Farm in Curry County and my grandfather made sure we were proud of that fact.

I made the permanent move to Brookings in 1978 after having received my B.S. in biology from USC (go TROJANS!!) in 1976 and working for 1.5 years in a hospital laboratory in Santa Barbara.

Once in Brookings it was my opportunity to work in the woods and start learning (thanks to OSU extension and a lot of people that answered a lot of questions) about forestry, silviculture, logging, business, politics and everything else that goes along with being a small woodland owner/survivor.

I have been involved with OSWA for many years. I’m not sure what year our family became members of OSWA but since I moved to Oregon, I have been attending meetings, tours, seminars, picnics etc. After completing the Master Woodlands Manager program in 1995, I was elected to join the board of directors of the Coos-Curry Small Woodlands Association of which I became president in 2001. In 2002 I had the honor of becoming a 2nd Vice President of OSWA.

As a 2nd VP I have contributed to our efforts to attract new members by spearheading the committee that produced the new OSWA brochure which has just undergone its third printing in two years. I also have worked
OSWA NEWS

to support our political agenda by organizing (with a little (lotta) help from my friends!!) the very successful silent auction.

2nd VP Position 2

Dave Schmidt
Member Benton and Linn.

A professional forester and former consulting forestry and engineering company owner, Dave began purchasing forest land in 1965 and now owns and manages about 540 acres in Benton, Polk and Lincoln Counties. He was elected Linn County Commissioner and served 12 years before retiring in 2000. Serving as the only elected professional forester Commissioner in the nation, he soon joined the state and national county leadership on natural resource policy issues. He served two years as chair of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Public Lands Steering Committee, 8 years on the Western Interstate Region Board (1 as President), 3 years as vice-chair of NACo’s Rural Action Caucus and has testified and lobbied numerous times in Congress on Endangered Species Act, Forest Health, Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT), and counties and schools “safety-net” legislation. He also represented western counties at the 1993 Presidents Forest Conference in Portland. He likewise has represented Oregon counties in the Oregon legislative process on many issues.

Dave chaired the recent Forest Taxation Committee which recommended the non-industrial timberland property tax option passed by the Oregon Legislature.

He is a past “Tree Farmer of the Year” in Benton and Lincoln Counties and is a member of the Society of American Foresters.

2nd VP Position 3

Donna Heffernan
Member of Baker Chapter.

My name is Donna Heffernan and, along with my family, I have been involved with OSWA since acquiring our tree farm in eastern Oregon in 1992. I hold an A.S. degree in Forestry and Recreation Land Management and a B.S. Degree in Ag Education. My college years were spent working for the California State Park system and then after I graduated I worked for the Fremont National Forest out of Silver Lake, Oregon for four years. In 1984 I moved into Northeastern Oregon to raise a family and help my husband Chris on the production farms he managed.

We have owned our own custom haying and farming business since 1991 but have always kept our hands in forestry issues. Now I am watching my children attend and graduate from college, both with the same interest in forestry that I had when I started college many, many years ago!

OWSA has been a great source of information and support for the many outstanding small woodlands owners in our area, and it would be pleasure to represent them by serving on this board.

Building to Benefit the Environment
— The Role of Oregon Wood Products in the Green Building Movement

“Green building is exploding in Oregon,” enthuses Jeremy Rogers of the Oregon Business Council.

Oregon is a national leader in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified buildings, the nation’s top supplier of structural softwood lumber, and has one of the greatest densities of green building expertise in the United States.

OFRI’s new special report, Building to Benefit the Environment: The Role of Oregon Wood Products in the Green Building Movement, examines the current state of green building certification standards such as LEED, issues with their application, and how wood “stacks up” against alternative building materials.

The Oregon Business Plan affirms Oregon’s aspiration to be a national leader in the green building movement. Still to be resolved, however, is how large a role that Oregon wood may play.

Wood doesn’t compete well with alternatives such as concrete and steel for commercial high-rise buildings. However, it is often the structural material of choice for low-rise commercial and residential applications.

For commercial projects, all wood products grown and manufactured in Oregon may be eligible for two of the

cont’d on pg 9
Ray Jones joins OFRI board

The Oregon state forester has appointed W. Ray Jones to the board of directors of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute. State Forester Marvin Brown appointed Jones to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Matthew Donegan. His term expires in 2011.

OFRI was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1991 to improve public understanding of the state’s forest resources and to encourage environmentally sound forest management.

Jones is vice president of resources for Stimson Lumber Co. in Portland. His career spans more than 30 years in the forest products industry, from field operations to executive management positions. Jones brings to the OFRI board a passion for educating the public about the forest sector. In particular, he has been involved in numerous industry associations working to foster understanding of public land management issues in the Pacific Northwest. He has been active on the boards and committees of the American Forest Resource Council, Oregon Forest Industry Council, Intermountain Forestry Association, Western Climate Initiative and Douglas Timber Operators. Born in Corvallis and raised in Sweet Home, Jones lives in Scappoose.

Jones’ board position represents Class 3 producers, those companies paying harvest taxes on 100 million board feet per year or more. Oregon law stipulates that nine board members represent all of three producer classes, categorized by timber harvest volume into small, medium and large producers. Class 3 represents the largest producers. The state forester appoints these nine, as well as one member representing small woodland owners and one representative of forest industry employees. Also, two ex officio members include the dean of the Oregon State University College of Forestry and a public member appointed jointly by the president of the Oregon Senate and the speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives.

OFRI is funded by a dedicated harvest tax on forest products producers and does not receive monies from the state’s general fund.

Federal Stimulus Monies Approved for Oregon

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (aka. Federal Stimulus), approved by Congress earlier this year, included monies for a wide-range of shovel ready projects in all 50 states. The monies were allocated based on a number of factors, including the unemployment rate of each state. The stimulus monies are flowing through various federal agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service and BLM.

The U.S. Forest Service recently announced a list of approved projects in each state. As of June 2, 2009, Oregon had received approval for 31 projects that total $115,327,700. The two main activities approved for funding are wildland fire management projects and capital improvement and maintenance projects.

There are 18 wildland fire management projects approved totaling $76,499,700. These projects are mostly hazardous fuels reduction projects in eastern and southwestern Oregon. These projects will treat private, state and federal lands. The work to be done includes pre-commercial thinning, hand and machine slash piling, under-burning, creating roadside fuel breaks and chipping forest debris. There are also funds to support fire prevention education and mapping priority fuels treatment areas.

There are 13 capital improvement and maintenance projects approved totaling $38,828,000. These projects are designed to improve fish and wildlife habitat, as well as address road improvement and road maintenance backlogs across the state, mostly on federal lands.
A triple bottom line in Oregon's forests

By John Shelk and Russell Hoeflich, guest opinion
— The Oregonian, May 11, 2009

The Oregonian's editorial on Sen. Ron Wyden's draft bill on Northwest forests (“Opportunity knocks. Will the Northwest answer?,” April 27) expresses the frustration of many over the impasse in Oregon's forests.

Wyden's bill strives to end gridlock and move forward with science-based forest management. Bloggers are already vilifying or praising its approach to protecting old-growth stands. Both sides may be missing the most important point. Wyden's proposal is distinctive in recognizing the differences between forests east and west of the Cascade Range. In that crucial distinction lies a great opportunity for progress.

The relatively dry forests of eastern and southwestern Oregon are currently at greatest risk. By excluding natural fire and other practices, we've dramatically changed the character of these forests. Historically, frequent low-intensity fires cleared grasses and brush while sparing the larger, thick-barked trees. Today these forests are crowded with young trees that carry more intense fire into the older trees, killing everything.

The latest data show that 13 million acres of public forests in the east and southwest — more than one-fifth of Oregon's total land area — are so altered they are increasingly vulnerable to unnaturally severe wildfire, disease and pests.

That's an enormous problem. The good news? This problem is eminently solvable, the solutions have multiple benefits and there simply are no downsides. If we ever have an opportunity to restore a legacy of healthy forests for future generations, this is it.

There is strong support among scientists for the prescription. In most of our dry eastern and southwestern forests, we need people at work thinning smaller trees and brush and conducting controlled burns. That work is underway in some places, but to effectively address the problem, it has to be scaled up at least three- or four-fold.

Stakeholders in our drier public forests — including industry, local communities and conservationists — are forging consensus and ready for action. Living in and around these forests, they understand the urgency.

The Oregon Business Council, The Nature Conservancy and others subscribe to what we call the “triple bottom line” for these forests. Restored, healthy forests are good for nature and people. They produce clean water, clean air and healthy habitats for fish and wildlife. They are more resilient to climate change and they'll store more carbon to moderate global warming.

Healthy forests in our time require active management. Treating our forests with thinning and controlled burns provides good jobs. There's a tremendous amount of work to be done over decades, which will help to sustain rural communities. Woody materials and smaller trees taken from thinning projects can either be made into products or used as biomass with great potential to help meet Oregon's goals for renewable energy.

We commend Wyden for leading the way with his bold proposal to break through the gridlock in our public forests. He would do well to separate his bill into two — one for the eastern and southwestern forests, the other for the wetter west side, where more effort and time will be needed to identify common ground.

We look forward to working with Wyden to produce a bill that achieves the triple bottom line.

John Shelk is president of Ochoco Lumber Co. based in Prineville. Russell Hoeflich is vice president and Oregon director of The Nature Conservancy.

(Building to Benefit the Environment — The Role of Oregon Wood Products in the Green Building Movement)

green building rating points offered by the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system, including the points for locally harvested and manufactured materials.

However, the majority of Oregon's wood production cannot earn the one LEED point for environmentally responsible forest management because the building council recognizes only one of the world's major forest certification programs.

The special report describes some of the behind-the-scenes dialogue underway between the state's forest and green building sectors to address obstacles to increased use of Oregon wood in meeting green building standards.
Wildfire season 2009: Expectations, preparations

By: Oregon Department of Forestry

When asked to characterize the upcoming wildfire season, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) fire managers are likely to fall back on Nobel physicist Niels Bohr’s maxim, “Prediction is very difficult, especially if it’s about the future.”

That’s not to say they don’t try. There are dozens of scientific indicators to pore over prior to the summer – weather trends (El Nino/La Nina), snowpack levels, forest fuel moisture content, et al. But the most critical factor in the equation plays out real-time: the weather during fire season.

If dry lightning occurs in a broad swath across the state, expect to see large wildfires. These thunderstorms bearing little or no moisture can produce hundreds of fire starts in a few hours and temporarily overwhelm Oregon’s fire protection system.

These natural firestorms further confound wildfire managers in being difficult to forecast. Developing thunderstorm systems show up clearly on meteorological instruments, but whether they’ll be dry or wet when they reach Oregon is often a guessing game.

With that considerable disclaimer, current conditions suggest that the state will experience an average to slightly worse-than-average wildfire season in 2009. Statewide, the weather forecast is for below-average rainfall in June, with a drier-than-average July and August likely to follow. Snow melt is currently about average, which tends to limit fire activity at higher altitudes early in the summer.

Within the state, the southeastern region is a special concern, as it is currently in drought. Besides the below-average rainfall, this area of Oregon that lies roughly south of a line from Klamath Falls to Ontario can also expect above-average temperatures this summer.

Finally, conventional forecasting logic says that the summer after a La Nina dissipates, the weather tends to be drier and warmer than average.

Firefighting forces

ODF plans to go into the 2009 season with a firefighting force that includes the standard complement of fire engines, hand firefighting crews, heavy air tankers and helicopters. Fire engine crews are the early responders, running on new reports of fire and seeking to put out 94 percent or more of them at 10 acres or smaller. Hand crews are called in to build fire lines around a blaze and to mop up afterward to prevent rekindling. These include 10-person inmate crews recruited from state correctional facilities and trained by ODF, and 20-person private contract crews.

Air attack comes in the form of leased heavy tanker airplanes and helicopters of all sizes. Though expensive to operate, firefighting aircraft prevent many high-potential fires from growing into major incidents.

Firefighting partners

In Oregon, wildland fire protection is much too big of a challenge for a single agency or department to take on alone. While the Oregon Department of Forestry, private forest landowners, the U.S. Forest Service, rural fire departments and other state, local and federal fire agencies have their respective jurisdictions, cooperation
is second nature. A longstanding “closest-forces” agreement provides for rapid initial attack on new fires by whichever agency’s firefighting resources can get there the quickest. Billings and reimbursements are sorted out later.

Preventing wildfires

About two-thirds of the wildfires annually in Oregon are started by people. In recent years, debris burns that escape control have emerged as the No. 1 cause. The common scenario: A homeowner stacks up yard waste in a pile or burn barrel, ignites it, and then leaves to do something else for a few minutes. Sparks carry into dry vegetation, and the sedate little burn becomes a raging wildfire. These are the fires we can all help prevent. Debris burning safety advice can be found on the ODF website, www.oregon.gov/ODF/safedebris-burning.shtml. The Keep Oregon Green Association also offers burning tips at: www.keeporegongreen.org.

When a dry lightning event is forecast, ODF fire managers may concentrate firefighting personnel and equipment in areas likely to be affected. These “move-ups” of aircraft, fire engines and crews help local forces suppress the wave of lightning ignitions so that no neglected starts can grow into major fires. Fire managers weigh many factors before ordering a move-up due to the high cost.

Remote automated weather stations deployed across the state provide satellite telemetry of weather data, key information used by ODF meteorologists to calculate fire danger throughout Oregon and support fire analysis work.

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**Seedlings for Restoration and Christmas Trees**

**Selection Questions?**

See www.kintighs.com

Springfield, OR

541-746-1842
Wood as the ‘new coal’

By The National Post — Thursday Jun 04, 2009

Wood is becoming a hot commodity in a new low-carbon world, Bloomberg news reports:

Power companies are burning more trees because the renewable fuel can be cheaper than coal and ignited without needing permits to release carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas blamed for global warming. Vattenfall AB of Sweden, Germany’s RWE AG and American Electric Power Inc. of Ohio, the biggest coal-burner in the U.S., have switched a few plants over to wood and more are planned.

According to the International Energy Agency, so-called “biomass” plants provided roughly 14% of the world’s energy needs, though that this figure includes energy sourced from agricultural products as well as wood.

Considering how much environmental NGOs love industrial forest companies, it’s hard to see how they would offer their unconditional support to wood-fired power generation as a green alternative. Greenpeace, for example, says it supports bioenergy, but only so long as it has the net result of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The group also says:

In order to sustain greenhouse gas reductions, biofuel production must not contribute to the destruction of natural forests or other natural ecosystems, or to social conflicts including food security and biofuel crops must be grown in a sustainable way.

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 April 2009 – June 2009

BENTON COUNTY: David Corden
CLACKAMAS COUNTY: Richard Gilbert
Jeff Parson
Jim Waggoner
COLUMBIA COUNTY: Amy Grotta
DOUGLAS COUNTY: Lynn Klimowicz

JACKSON COUNTY: Joseph Powell
LANE COUNTY: Marcia Swisher
Thomas Vaught
MARION/POLK COUNTIES: Phyllis Hall
YAMHILL COUNTY: Gary Brooks
Phil Kuehnel
Dean Werth
Clinton White