OSWA Legislative Day- April 28

The 2009 OSWA Legislative Day at the Capitol is set for Tuesday, April 28. OSWA staff is busy making preparations for a full day of education and interaction with legislative leaders, opportunities to meet with your own legislators and time to observe committee hearings in action.

The end of April is a great time to visit the Capitol, as the legislature will be in full swing working on budget bills for the 2009-2011 biennium, as well as other legislation that may impact your ability to own and manage your family forestland.

Why you should make the trip to Salem...Because, as Dave Schmidt (OSWA 2nd Vice President and former County Commissioner) points out; “Your legislators want to hear from you, their constituents, about the issues that affect you!”

After last year’s event, Sanford and Susan Hillman commented, “We came really not knowing what to expect but looking forward to tagging along with the experts. To visit with our Representative was great. They way the day was planned was beyond our expectations. We recommend doing it again. We’ll be visiting all our legislators in their local office; we no longer feel intimidated and thank you OSWA.”

Bill Arsenault, Douglas County Chapter President and past OSWA Vice President said, “I was looking forward to the day and certainly had a new experience. Learning how to lobby and building effective relations with your legislator really added to the day. I’d encourage other members to take advantage of this opportunity in 2009.

Please join us this year at the Capitol to share with your legislatures what is important to you and all forestland owners. For more information and to register at no cost, please visit the OSWA website at www.oswa.org.
The Woodlander Update

The OSWA 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

Spring is just around the corner! After the long, cold and snowy winter season, spring brings a great deal of change, a change for the better in my view. Our forests are now filling with color, sound and energy; changes that signal the arrival of another growing season. And with the changes in the economy (not so good), our growing forests may be the brightest spot for a while.

We have choices when it comes to dealing with the change all around us. We can fight it or embrace it and turn it to our advantage. The OSWA leadership is embracing change and positioning to take advantage of the changes before us.

Change abounds on the political front. Super majorities control both state legislative bodies, the state-wide budget crisis continues to deepen and our governor has placed natural resources at the bottom of his priorities. This required a reevaluation our legislative priorities and approach. The Government Advisory Committee (GAC), chaired by past-president Mike Barnes, is leading our legislative efforts.

Another change is OSWA’s new lobbyist, Ralph Saperstein and his contributions are already paying dividends. Kristina McNitt is now representing Oregon Forest Industries Council. Her years of dedicated service to OSWA have been greatly appreciated. At the end of this session, OSWA leadership will evaluate a future course regarding legislative representation.

Recently, members have asked questions about how the GAC works and who can participate. The Chair is appointed by the President. The GAC is an open committee and is designed to provide opportunity for all OSWA members to participate in discussions around legislative and agency issues. Thus, no one is excluded from participating and providing their views.

The GAC provides information and recommendations to the Executive Committee (elected by the state-wide membership). The Executive Committee uses the information and recommendations to make decisions, in concert with OSWA policies. Our policies are available on the OSWA website.

The GAC distribution list is currently 70 people; including every OSWA Chapter president, Executive Committee members, OSWA Board members and individual OSWA members that have requested to be informed on GAC issues. We meet every other Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. and any OSWA member can join by phone via a toll free number or in person at OSWA's Salem office. If you would like to receive GAC meeting notices or OSWA's Legislative Updates, contact the OSWA office and staff will add you to the distribution list.

In these times of change, it is really important that your voice is heard. One way to do that is to join a growing number of OSWA members that participate in OSWA’s Legislative Day at the Capitol. This year’s event is on Tuesday, April 28. Mark your calendars and join me and your neighbors in Salem!

Till next time...
OSWA News

2009 OSWA Annual Meeting Events

The 2009 OSWA annual meeting events are scheduled for Friday, June 5 through Sunday June 7 in Ashland, Oregon.

Activities begin on Friday, June 5 with the OSWA Board meeting and annual membership meeting scheduled in the morning. Optional field trips are planned for the afternoon.

Ashland hosts its First Friday Art Walk Open House on our first evening. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore downtown Ashland’s many art galleries and shops before dining at one of a wide array of restaurants.

Tree School is scheduled on Saturday, June 6 at the Southern Oregon University Campus followed by OSWA’s annual reception and dinner in the evening at the Ashland Elks Lodge. A silent auction will be held at the evening event.

The annual meeting events will conclude on Sunday, June 7 with a Howdy Neighbor tour in a local forest.

Oregon’s famous Shakespeare Festival will be performing Henry VIII, MacBeth, and other plays on Sunday evening. Groups interested in attending should contact the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for more information.

Please visit www.oswa.org for more information on registration, special OSWA accommodation rates, and meeting schedule details.

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.
OSWA Legislative Update

The 2009 Oregon legislative session is off and running. Many bills were proposed just in time to meet the deadline for submitting new bills to Legislative Council. OSWA is currently tracking dozens of bills that could impact family forestland owners, and over the next few weeks, we expect that number to increase once all the bills are introduced for this session.

Early days of this session have been all about the budget, similar to past special sessions. Everyone in the State Capitol has no illusions about how bad the State’s fiscal situation is for the remainder of this year, as well as the next biennium. The legislature completed a rebalance the 2007-2009 budget by authorizing $855 million in cuts, fund shifts and other fiscal strategies.

Now the real fun, or serious budget-cutting, begins: for FY 2009-2011 the legislature must fill a $3 Billion revenue shortfall from what would be needed to fund the current service level of the previously approved level of state functions and services.

OSWA's top legislative priorities approved by the Executive Committee are to: (1) restore funding for the Department of Forestry's (ODF) Fire program and ensure fire fighting cost equity among private forestland owners and state general fund expenditures; (2) restore funding for ODF’s Private Forestry programs, including landowner assistance through stewardship foresters; and (3) ensure that any climate change legislation recognizes carbon stored on family forestlands as a legitimate offset.

The Government Advisory Committee (GAC) has been meeting every other Wednesday to discuss proposed legislation. OSWA's Executive Committee uses the information and recommendations developed by the GAC to adopt positions on legislative bills that are in concert with approved OSWA legislative priorities and policies.

Every OSWA member is welcome to participate in the GAC meetings. Members can join by phone via a toll free number or in person at OSWA's Salem office. The meetings begin at 7:00 a.m. and conclude by 8:30 a.m. If you would like to receive GAC meeting notices or OSWA's Legislative Update, contact the OSWA office and staff will add you to the email distribution list.

Members can keep track of OSWA's legislative priorities, GAC activities and Executive Committee actions though the OSWA website at www.oswa.org.

April Conference Offers Unique Perspective on Pacific Northwest Forestry

By Lisa Winn

As current market conditions test the strength and endurance of timber companies, agencies, timberland owners, and communities, the Umpqua Chapter of the Oregon Society of American Foresters offers an exciting Conference examining factors critical to current and future forest management decisions. The 3-day conference, Positioning Pacific Northwest Forestry for Global Success, will take place from April 29-May 1 at the Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino Resort in Canyonville, Oregon, located in the heart of beautiful southwest Oregon.

Today's forest management decisions are influenced by global market demands, environmental constraints, and societal goals. This Conference will provide a well-rounded perspective of these issues and offer solutions to how the PNW can continue to successfully manage our forests into the future.

(Continued Page 7)
AFF Helps Broad Coalition Agree on Climate Plan
By Jessica Leber, Climate Wire

In a sign that they are seeing the forest for the trees, conservation groups, large timber corporations and everyone in between have joined forces to present Congress with a consensus platform for including private forest lands in national climate legislation.

The issue has been a knotty one: Cutting down domestic forests, which every year soak up 10 percent of U.S. fossil fuel emissions, could mean disaster for both climate and wildlife. The flip side of the coin is that managing them well would mean major greenhouse gas benefits.

“We need new markets to make that happen,” said Robert Bonnie, vice president for land conservation and wildlife at the Environmental Defense Fund, one of the Forest-Climate Working Group members.

Almost two-thirds of U.S. forest land is owned by about 10 million private owners. The platform discusses how to maximize their climate benefits by allowing forest owners to get paid for offsetting greenhouse gas emissions within future federal cap-and-trade climate legislation, which would require major fossil-fuel burners to either reduce their own emissions or purchase carbon credits.

The 30-member coalition, which also includes American Forest Foundation, timber giant Plum Creek and Defenders of Wildlife, has been discussing its platform with key Senate committees that will have a hand in shaping legislation this year.

“In the end, it was too important not to agree on core principles,” said Drue DeBerry, senior vice president of conservation for the American Forest Foundation, who a year ago began working to make the groups come together.

Planting new forests, reforestation and forest management programs could all be fodder for sequestering carbon dioxide and creating carbon offsets, the platform says. But offsets are also a complicated accounting project -- making sure the savings are real and not just a figment of paperwork can be a controversial challenge.

“There’s a dynamic tension between the environmental integrity and being able to go to scale with these projects,” said DeBerry, warning against establishing so many burdens that no one participates.

The forestry and landowner community, for its part, wanted to make sure that offset projects would be flexible.

Jim Wyerman, vice president for communications at the American Forest Foundation, said that family forest owners are struggling to hold onto their forests as the price of timber drops and competition rises, along with the owners’ average age of 59.

The fear among many in the environmental community is that unless something is done to provide incentives to private landowners, many of those acres -- habitat, carbon stores and all -- could be lost unless they continue to be productively managed. “Those of us who are passionate within the conservation community feel like we have to get this right,” said DeBerry.
Federal News

Walden Bill Would Create New Biofuels Source

Woody biomass from thinning on federal forests could be used to create fuel under Walden’s Renewable Biofuels Facilitation Act

By: Paul Fattig

Reprinted from the Mail Tribune

Woody biomass from federal forestlands could be used to develop cellulosic ethanol under legislation reintroduced Wednesday by U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, and a Democratic colleague.

The Renewable Biofuels Facilitation Act, also reintroduced by U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, D-S.D., would broaden the definition of cellulosic ethanol within the renewable fuels standard to include biomass gathered from federal lands as well as private forests.

The bill would allow brush, small trees and other forest thinnings from federal hazardous fuels reduction projects to be used for biomass energy production. Such projects from southwestern Oregon alone could produce huge amounts of biomass while reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfires to rural communities, analysts say.

Any biomass projects on federal land would have to comply with all federal environmental laws.

The two representatives, who originally introduced the bill last year, say it addresses a flaw in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. That legislation included a historic 36 billion gallon renewable fuels standard, of which 21 billion gallons are required to be derived from advanced biofuels by 2022.

However, the law’s definition of renewable biomass prevents almost all federal land biomass from counting toward the mandate if it is used to manufacture biofuels.

“Our bipartisan legislation would give the country a better chance of reaching its goal of producing 21 billion gallons of advanced biofuels a year by 2022—even to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 20 coal-fired electricity plants,” Walden said in a prepared statement.

“There’s technology out there to turn woody biomass from forest health treatments in our choked forests into clean fuel, a process that would create good paying jobs and a healthier environment at the same time,” he added.

The legislation will help diversify the nation’s energy portfolio, according to Herseth Sandlin.

“While the energy bill took tremendous strides to decrease our dependence on foreign sources of energy, not allowing biofuels made from certain types of biomass to count toward the RFS hinders the potential benefits of the landmark legislation,” she said.

The bill, reintroduced Wednesday, also would help forest health efforts as well as boost economic development in the surrounding communities, she said.

In addition to Walden and Herseth Sandlin, other cosponsors include Democrats U.S. Reps. Peter DeFazio of Oregon, Bart Stupak of Michigan and Mike Ross of Arkansas, and Republicans Jo Ann Emerson of Virginia and Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming.
The presentations will be valuable to all natural resource practitioners representing private companies, public agencies, small woodland owners, academia, and policy makers. We hope to see many non-SAF members from around the Pacific Northwest in attendance.

The first day of the conference includes a powerful line-up of featured keynote speakers; including Dave Rumker, Managing Partner of the Campbell Group; Bob Flynn, Director, International Timber, RISI, Eric Hansen, Professor at Oregon State University, Lynn Scarlett, former Deputy Secretary of the Department of Interior and Allyn Ford, President and CEO of Roseburg Forest Products.

Day two of the Conference will offer two concurrent sessions. Understanding the Big Picture will provide fresh perspectives on the successes and challenges of major wood producing regions around the world (China, Russia, South America, Australia/New Zealand, and Canada), with special attention to emerging technologies and the role of society in forest management.

The second session, Silviculture in the Pacific Northwest, will provide an in-depth look at the 21st century’s cutting-edge approaches to PNW silviculture. Special emphasis will be placed on stand establishment improvements, fertilization, management for a broad array of objectives, and emerging forest health issues. This session will also address how our profession can remain vital and competitive in both the current market and in the future.

The third and final day will include a field tour to the Hinkle Creek paired watershed study to examine the potential effects of active management under current Oregon forest practice rules and a tour to compare the BLM’s new forest management plan (formerly known as WOPR) to the Northwest Forest Plan.

Don’t miss this unique opportunity to hear from many leading natural resource professionals and managers on how Pacific Northwest forestry can and will endure through difficult economic times and future societal demands. Visit www.forestry.org or look for our brochures for more details.
Oregon News

Three New Directors Join OFRI Board

Oregon State Forester, Marvin Brown has appointed three new directors to the board of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute to fill vacancies as terms expired. The three new directors’ terms began Jan. 1 and expire in three years.

The new directors are R. Wade Mosby of Lake Oswego, Steven J. Zika of Portland, and Bill Kluting of Monmouth.

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.

Bill Kluting is the legislative affairs representative for the Carpenters Industrial Council. Before joining the CIC, he worked as an electrician for 37 years at the Willamette Industries mill in Dallas until the mill closed in 2000. He has been a member of the CIC for 46 years and is a member of the governor-appointed Federal Forest Advisory Committee. The CIC includes locals and district councils across the United States. The majority of the union’s members are employed in the forest products industry. As an OFRI director, Kluting represents forest industry employees.

Wade Mosby is a senior vice president with the Collins Companies, a forest products company headquartered in Portland. A native of Sweet Home, Mosby has worked in the Oregon forest sector for more than 35 years. He joined the Collins Companies in 1990. He is a founding member of the Forest Stewardship Council, an international third-party forest certification system. He is a co-founder and director emeritus of Forest Trends and founding director emeritus of the Oregon Natural Step Network. He serves on the boards of Mull Drilling Co., Sustainable Northwest, American Forest Resources Council, Keep Oregon Green, the Biomass Power Association, the Oregon Business Association and the Composite Panel Associate. In his OFRI director position, Mosby represents Class 1 producers, defined as those paying a harvest tax on 20 million board feet per year or less.

Steve Zika is the chief executive officer of Hampton Affiliates, a family-owned forest products company based in Portland with mills and timberland in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia. His career spans 30 years in public accounting and private industry, the most recent 13 years in executive positions with Hampton Affiliates. He currently serves on the boards of the Western Wood Products Association, American Forest Resources Council, Council of Forest Industries and Associated Oregon Industries. Zika’s board position represents Class 3 producers, those companies paying a harvest tax on 100 million board feet per year or more.

OFRI is funded by a dedicated harvest tax on forest products producers and does not receive monies from the state’s general fund.
Tree death rates in undisturbed old-growth stands across the West have more than doubled in recent decades, with the highest rate of increase in the Pacific Northwest, a team of researchers reported in the journal Science.

The report pins increased tree mortality rates on higher temperatures and related increases in drought and summer dry periods.

The change is tiny compared with devastating forest failures in recent years from bark beetles and fires. It amounts to roughly an extra dead tree an acre each year, said Mark Harmon, a co-author of the study and a forest ecology professor at Oregon State University.

But it’s unexpectedly widespread, the researchers from Oregon, Washington and other Western states said, hitting conifers from firs to hemlocks to pines of various sizes at all elevations.

It’s showing up in pristine stands in national parks and other areas where logging and forest fires have had no effect. And it’s not being offset by increased tree establishment, the researchers said, meaning tree size and age could gradually diminish over time if the trend continues.

Forests could also become more susceptible to abrupt die-backs, the researchers said, diminishing the forests’ capacity to act as “carbon sinks” that could offset global warming. Western forests are among the biggest carbon sinks on the globe.

Scientists have documented increased tree death rates in tropical forests. But the study is the first large-scale analysis of mortality rates in North America’s temperate forests, the researchers said.

In the Pacific Northwest and southern British Columbia, the rate of tree death in the older coniferous forests doubled in 17 years, the fastest rate among the areas studied. Mortality rates doubled in 25 years in California and 29 years in interior Western states, the researchers said.

They based their findings on long-term tree inventories at 76 undisturbed sites across the West featuring forests with an average age of about 450 years. The plots contained 58,736 living trees over the study period, of which 11,095 died. Had mortality rates stayed constant, about 5,500 fewer trees would have died, Harmon said.

The researchers ruled out insect attack, fire suppression, overcrowding of forests, air pollution and other potential local causes, instead attributing the increase in tree deaths on a small -- about 1 degree Fahrenheit -- increase in temperatures in the last 30 years.

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Seedlings for Reforestation and Christmas Trees

Selection Questions?

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Springfield, OR

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Federal News

Federal Stimulus Monies Headed West

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009. This final “economic stimulus bill” totals $787 billion. With the goal of strengthening the economy and creating employment opportunities and job preservation, the Act includes key areas such as: energy, science, transportation, tax cuts, health care costs and many others. The Administration has stated that they expect this Act to retain or create over 3.5 million jobs.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE- US FOREST SERVICE

The US Forest Service will receive $1.15 billion total ($650 million for construction on public lands and $500 million for reducing wildfire threats on federal and non-federal land) in the Act. The $650 million is to be used for road maintenance and decommissioning, train maintenance and decommissioning, facility improvement and maintenance, abandoned mine remediation, watershed restoration/ecosystem enhancements, and the support costs necessary to complete this work.

Of the $500 million targeted for wildland fire management, $250 million is designated for use on federal lands. This funding is to be used for hazardous fuels reduction, hazard mitigation, forest health and rehabilitation. The remaining $250 million is designated for state and private lands to be used for hazardous fuels reduction, ecosystem improvements and forest health activities. Up to $50 million of this funding can be used for grants to increase wood-to-energy use on all lands. Unlike other federal funding programs, there is no cost-share funding match required for either private or state lands.

In late February, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) submitted an extensive list of projects that could be carried out on state lands and private lands for consideration by the US Forest Service. The Forest Service is currently evaluating a list of ODF proposed projects totaling $28 million that could be accomplished over the next few years across Oregon. Decisions on these projects will be made in the coming weeks.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The Act provides $125 million for maintenance, rehabilitation, and restoration of facilities, property, trails and lands for remediation of abandoned mines and wells. Also included is $180 million in funding for construction activities on BLM lands including reconstruction, decommissioning and repair of roads, bridges, trails, property and facilities and energy retrofits. For BLM wildfire management specific to hazardous fuels reduction, the Act provides $15 million.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

There is $43 billion in energy and efficiency programs and energy-related tax provisions were funded at over $20 billion. Of the $2.5 billion for applied research, development, demonstration and deployment activities, $800 million is specified for use on biomass projects.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The Act provides $210 million for firefighter assistance grants (up to $15 million each) directed towards modifying, upgrading or constructing non-federal fire stations. Fire departments (defined as any agency or organization with a formally recognized arrangement with a State, territory, local or tribal authority to provide fire suppression to a population within a fixed geographical area on a first-due basis) are eligible for funding.
Study: Tea Time May Be Right Time For West’s Pines

By: Jeff Barnard
Reprinted from Associated Press

GRANTS PASS- Would a dose of herbal tea slow the march of beetles killing millions of acres of pine trees across the West?

Sort of.

But instead of brewing up a cup, U.S. Forest Service scientists found that sprinkling tiny flakes containing the pheromone verbenone over lodgepole pine forests cut the number of trees attacked by bark beetles by about two-thirds.

Verbenone is found in rosemary and walnut husks and approved for use in herbal teas.

It also resembles a pheromone the beetles give off to tell one another that their tree is getting crowded, and it would be better to pick another one.

Forest Service entomologist Nancy Gillette, lead author on the study, said scientists have known for a decade that when bark beetles smell verbenone they tend to disperse.

The problem has been to find a cheap and effective way of distributing it, and Gillette says sprinkling flakes from helicopters is the best way yet.

It costs about $110 an acre, compared to $1,000 an acre or more for thinning. Insecticides are also expensive, and kill lots of beneficial insects.

Gillette said she could foresee the technique being used around campgrounds, visitor centers and ski resorts, where it would be desirable to save trees.

Andy Stahl, director of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, said it would be fruitless to use across large areas, because the beetles infest only mature trees weakened by factors such as drought, and the infestations are part of a natural cycle that replaces lodgepole pine forests every 100 years.

“All your are doing is saving (commercially) worthless trees in order that they burn next year,” he said.

The beetles have killed millions of acres of pine forests, touching every state in the West.

Warming temperatures have meant winters no longer get cold enough to routinely kill the insects, so more of them survive to bore into trees, which fight them off by oozing sap.

In Colorado alone, a survey found nearly 2 million acres of forests killed by beetles. The biggest outbreak in North America is in British Columbia, where 23 million acres have been killed.
The UPDATE

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!

January 2009- February 2009

Baker County
Kyle Dunning

Columbia County
Gary Page

Coos/Curry
Paul Wesselink

Lane
Craig Carlton

Linn County
Curtis Young

Marion/Polk
John Esbenshade

Washington County
Zach King
William Pressly

Quote of the Month

“If you spent a million dollars every day since Jesus was born, you still wouldn’t have spent a trillion dollars.”

A perspective from Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) on the federal bailout and stimulus packages (as quoted in Newsweek).