US Wildfire Cost-Plus-Loss Economics Project

By Bob Zybach, Michael Dubrasich, Greg Brenner, John Marker

What are the actual costs of a wildfire?

Official Forest Service tallies usually include suppression expenses only. Media reports sometimes include estimates of damage to homes and infrastructure. But the economic impacts of wildfires are far-reaching, and recent research shows the need for improved cost estimates of wildfire.

US forests have been experiencing an escalating number of catastrophic-scale forest wildfires during the past 20 years. US Forest Service and other local, state, federal and tribal government wildfire suppression costs have also escalated dramatically, to nearly $2 billion/year. Preliminary research indicates that USFS suppression costs may represent only 2–10% of the total “cost-plus-loss” damages to burned forests, however; recent public losses attributable to major forest wildfires may total $20 billion to $100 billion/year (or possibly more).

The “US Wildfire Cost-Plus-Loss Economics Project” was founded by the four authors and other interested citizen volunteers in early 2008 to better document and publicize these losses. A comprehensive peer-reviewed wildfire cost-plus-loss ledger has been developed by the authors, and funding is currently being sought to test its functionality for the 2009 fire season. The article is intended to bring the project to public attention and define the project’s purpose and intent.

To read the entire article, visit http://westinstenv.org.
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.
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Our Vision
To see privately owned family woodlands a thriving part of Oregon's landscape in 2050.

President’s Message…
By Ken Faulk

In late 1990 and early 1991, members of the SW Washington chapter of SAF wrote a series of articles which were published in Centralia’s daily newspaper, The Chronicle. These articles were later combined into a booklet called Forestry Topics—a collection of essays. I was so impressed with these pieces that I have saved this booklet for nearly 20 years. Now I am privileged to share one of the essays with you.

Following is an essay written by Byron W. Loucks, who was, at the time, a forester for Weyerhaeuser Co. His essay reflects the concerns and goals of tree farmers of the early 1990’s. There were some 70,000 of us, then. We are 90,000 now. I guess the old cliché applies—the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Non-timber Benefits of Tree Farms
By Byron W. Loucks

Fifty years ago, June 12, 1941, the American Tree Farm Program was begun with the dedication of the Clemens Tree Farm near Montesano. Today there are 70,000 members and 95 million acres of timberland in the program. The American Tree Farm Program is primarily a recognition program for landowners who own 10 acres or more of forest land and manage the timber as a crop while practicing good stewardship and multiple use. We, the 70,000 recognized forest landowners, are proud of our heritage and of our charge to supply a timber crop for the wood and paper products that you, the consumer, needs. But the forests provide many other benefits besides just wood. Among those are the conversion of carbon dioxide to oxygen through photosynthesis and the creation of wildlife habitat.

Plants live and grow by photosynthesis, where water, carbon dioxide from the air and sunlight combine to form the carbohydrates needed for growth. A second-growth Douglas fir tree takes in about 61 pounds of carbon dioxide per year and exhales about 45 pounds of oxygen per year. Each person needs about one pound of oxygen a day, or 365 pounds per year. The 1989 Washington State Tree Farmers of the Year, John and Evelyn Rankin, live in Lewis County near Silver Creek. Their 200-acre Tree Farm, a diverse blend of mature forests to young plantations, produces enough oxygen for approximately 7,500 people—more than the population of Chehalis.

There is a finite amount of carbon in the world. It exists primarily as carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, in the ocean or in storage as living or formerly living plants. Carbon dioxide is a natural component of air, but the burning of fossil fuels (coal and oil) releases carbon that has been stored and increases the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The level of carbon dioxide has increased 25 percent in the last 100 years through land-use changes and burning of fossil fuels, and there is considerable concern about the potential effects of global warming caused by carbon dioxide and other industrial gases. A healthy second growth forest takes up approximately 2.5 tons of carbon per acre per year in its photosynthetic processes.

George and Arlene Nelson, the 1988 Washington State Tree Farmers of the Year, own a 160-acre Tree Farm near Napavine that has been in the Nelson family for over 100 years. The trees growing on their Tree Farm use as much carbon dioxide each year as is generated by 400 automobiles.

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Another important benefit of tree farms is to provide habitat for a variety of plants, animals and birds. Many people believe that tree farms are sterile environments with no wildlife. In reality, the opposite is true. Many species of animals, such as deer, elk, and bear, have larger populations in clear cuts and young plantations than in mature forests. Other species prefer mature forests; for example, the spotted owl may prefer old growth while the grouse prefer younger stands. Research has shown that as many different species and number of individuals live in young stands as in old growth stands, but the species mix may not be the same. The 1990 Washington State Tree Farmers of the Year, George and Rebecca Wood, own a large Tree Farm near Dayton in eastern Washington. Their Tree Farm is located in the ponderosa pine region and is very different than the Rankin’s or Nelson’s Tree Farms in western Washington, but all three contain a wide variety of mammals, birds and plant species, that they look upon as part of their stewardship responsibility. Each has undertaken projects to enhance wildlife populations.

These three Washington tree farmers have been given special recognition for their family’s dedication to good forest land stewardship. Throughout the United States are another 70,000 forest landowners who hold similar values on their private and company forest lands.

from page 1

Kate Eskew at their property in Multnomah County. Landowners will learn from talks and demonstrations on forest health, fire danger, wildlife management, and carbon markets. Landowners will also understand conservation easements, inheritance issues, and how to get technical assistance.

Enjoy the day with other landowners who are looking for advice on how to manage their lands.

Registration is $10 per person, $15 per family (children attend free).

Register at registration@wmswcd.org.

For more information, contact Scott Gall at West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District at scott@wmswcd.org.

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OSWA NEWS

OSWA Executive Committee Update

OSWA’s Executive Committee met on August 14 in Salem. Its primary focus was on addressing association membership and its impacts on finances.

As of July 31, 2009, OSWA’s membership totaled 1644. For the current Fiscal Year which began November 1, 2008, staff has mailed 1593 membership dues renewal invoices totaling $170,529. As of July 31, there are 310 members who have not renewed their dues during this fiscal year, of which 149 have been terminated due to non-payment as required by OSWA’s By-laws. This leaves 161 members that have not yet paid their dues, totaling $15,192 of potential income. Staff is providing each chapter with lists of those members that have not yet paid their dues. As of July 31, we have received dues payments totaling $148,547, which is about 10% below our approved budget projection. Since November 1, we have gained 56 new members, generating $5,120 of new income.

The Executive Committee also discussed Howdy Neighbor and legislative tours planned for this fall. Currently, tours are being planned for state representative Sara Gelser of Benton county and Congressman Kurt Schrader. Details of these events will be posted on the OSWA website.

Planning for OSWA’s 2010 Annual Meeting will soon begin. In preparation for this effort, the Executive Committee discussed and agreed on a set of roles and responsibilities for the state office and the host chapter. Date for the annual meeting will be set in the near future.

President Jen Faulk appointed Mike Barnes to chair a Landowner Assistance Task Group. OSWA leadership established the Task Group to:

- Identify and prioritize the types of landowner assistance that are currently needed and may likely be needed over the next ten years;
- Identify options for delivering assistance to landowners; and,
- Identify stable sources of funding to support landowner assistance activities.

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Tree Farmer of the Year Nominations due June 1, 2010

by Dick Courter, ACF, CF#23 – OTFS Recognition Chair

One Oregon Tree Farm System, Inc. (OTFS) goal is recognizing outstanding Tree Farmers. Oregon has a long rich Tree Farm history. Initial organizational meetings were held at the Portland Hotel (Pioneer Courthouse Square). Oregon, Alabama, Arkansas, California and Washington became charter members inaugurating the program in 1941.


OTFS has relied upon the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) for more than 30 years to coordinate county candidate selection. OSWA Chapters encompassing more than one county can nominate a candidate from each county. Each nominee must be Tree Farm certified which requires a written management plan.

Please begin identifying 2010 candidates. Nominators are encouraged to nominate newly or previously certified candidates, however, ascertaining eligibility is required. Selection committee and professional videographer visits are scheduled. County Video production is not required. Candidates are expected to attend an annual awards luncheon and state winner participation at regional recognition is encouraged but not required.

Among others, two examples of glitches that could surface at nomination are: 1) new certifications might not be entered into the data base, 2) Tree Farmers might be listed as “member” meaning they are not fully certified. All folks fully certified in the past may not be current. Updating a member is easily rectified by an inspecting forester visit. International third-party certification recognition through PEFC (Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) initiated the “member” category. The nominator should attempt to correct potential glitches prior to nomination.

The Molalla High School video class assists with editing. The instructor requests footage at school year beginning for use as a learning tool opposed to receiving the footage midterm causing rush. Because of the need to verify candidate eligibility, to schedule selection committee visits, to schedule and professionally collect video footage in a timely manner and to forward video footage to Molalla High School before class begins, it has become necessary to move the nomination deadline to June 1, 2010.

OFRI reproduces the edited video for distribution to candidates. OSWA Chapters and others are encouraged to use this video. Need a copy, just ask?

It is extremely important to verify candidate eligibility in advance of nomination. Simply communicate potential candidate names to Dick Courter. Eligibility can quickly be determined. Nominators are informed of required corrections. Nomination packages will arrive in early 2010. Starting a selection process now, will facilitate easier nomination completion.

OTFS thank OSWA, OFRI, OSU Extension, ODF, Molalla HS and USDA-Forest Service for ongoing deeply appreciated support.

Questions? Please contact Dick Courter — Genetechs@aaahawk.com - 503.297.1660

Past Tree Farm Awardees
Oregon Dept. of Forestry news release

Forestry Department awarded $6.4 million to reduce wildfire hazards

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has received $6.4 million in federal grants to lessen wildfire hazards on private and state forestlands. They include a $3.9 million project to reduce forest fuels on private lands, and a $2.5 million project for similar work on the state-owned forests. The grants are being provided by the USDA Forest Service through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

ODF will contract out much of the fuel-reduction work to local businesses. The funding will create jobs to thin overly dense tree stands, remove brush, and process the resulting woody material.

$3.9 million for hazardous fuel reduction on private forestlands

Under the $3.9 million ARRA grant, ODF will focus on forested areas in seven Oregon counties at high risk of damaging wildfires.

- Jackson, Josephine counties – 1,610 acres will be treated to reduce hazardous fuel loading and restore ecosystems to more natural wildfire regimes
- Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson counties – 893 acres will be treated
- Linn, Lane counties – 590 acres will be treated

ODF will couple the fuels work with a public awareness campaign to educate homeowners on how they can manage their property and structures to reduce vulnerability to wildfire.

$2.5 million for hazardous fuel reduction on state-owned forestlands

While focused on reducing wildfire hazards on state-owned forestlands, the $2.5 million ARRA grant will also benefit adjacent communities by lessening the risk of a fire spreading to private lands.

Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Marion, Linn and Tillamook counties – 3,894 acres of state forestlands will be treated to reduce hazardous fuel loading.

When ODF receives the federal grant dollars, the various projects will be put out to public bid. On-the-ground work could start as early as this fall after wildfire danger has abated.
Startup plans $60M biomass plant

Biogreen could break ground next summer
_by Erik Siemers, Business Journal staff writer_

A St. Helens startup wants to build a $60 million biomass electricity plant in central Oregon.

Biogreen Sustainable Energy Co. hopes to have its proposed 20 megawatt plant in La Pine operating in two-and-a-half years.

Biomass energy is created by burning organic material such as wood waste to create steam to power turbines.

Biogreen hopes to secure around half of construction costs via federal and state tax credits and grants. The company is in discussions with investors for the remaining $30 million and is considering several different financing options.

While there are several biomass facilities across Oregon, the majority are operated by wood processing plants that use the resulting heat and electricity to power their operations.

Standalone plants such as the one proposed by Biogreen have proven more challenging. Despite several efforts over the past two decades, Oregon has just one large-scale standalone biomass plant—the 30 megawatt Biomass One in White City, which came online in 1986.

Biogreen’s principal investor is Larry Olson, owner of H & H Wood Recyclers Inc. in Vancouver, Wash. He intends to use Biogreen as a customer for woody biomass his recycling company can’t sell.

H & H now sells the woody biomass—known as “hog fuel”—to paper products companies. But government incentives have dramatically curtailed the market for woody biomass, and prices have dropped to about $15 to $30 per ton—half what they were just a few years ago.

“I have 40 truck loads a day I need to go someplace. I’m leaving it in people’s fields where I grind it,” said Olson, whose company generates close to $10 million a year in revenue. “The real reason for Biogreen is totally to have a home for our fuel. The amount of fuel we have will bring us to our knees and we will be out of business if we don’t find a home.”

Biogreen will buy that fuel from H & H at between $35 to $50 per ton. H & H has regular rail shipments of wood chips from its La Pine facility to Longview, Wash.

Biogreen CEO Rob Broberg, who is also general manager at H & H, hopes to fill the empty returning railcars with hog fuel for the Biogreen plant to save on transportation costs.

The company also hopes to find a customer for the steam heat the plant will produce.

On the fast track

Biogreen is about six months away from obtaining the necessary air quality permit, which precedes getting a building permit.

Broberg hopes to break ground next summer, with construction lasting up to two years.

Previous efforts to create standalone plants in Oregon have failed. It’s been difficult to source abundant low-cost wood waste capable of producing power cheap enough to compete with the Pacific Northwest’s low wholesale electricity rates.

“It’s expensive to put all the stuff in a big pile, bring in a grinding machine, fill up a truck, and then haul it somewhere,” said Phil Chang, natural resources program administrator for the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council in Redmond, which has helped businesses looking to make use of woody biomass. “What you make out of that wood has to be valuable enough that it offsets the cost of harvest and transport.”

Biogreen’s plant is one of two recent efforts to launch a standalone biomass plant.

Last week, the Port of Morrow in western Oregon signed a letter of intent on a $4 million deal to sell an idled 10-megawatt biomass facility in Heppner to T2 Inc., a Sweet Home-based company that processes hog fuel.

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Oregon timber harvests continue to plummet

by Amy Hsuan, The Oregonian
503-294-5137; amyhsuan@news.oregonian.com
Tuesday July 28, 2009, 7:13 PM

Oregon’s timber harvest could drop to historic levels, as a collapsed housing market continues to undercut demand for lumber, shuttering mills across the state.

The Oregon Department of Forestry released early projections Tuesday that timber harvests could fall to a record 3 billion board feet in 2009.

The housing crisis has hammered Oregon’s timber industry, once among the nation’s top lumber producers. At its peak in the mid-1980s, the state’s timber harvest reached nearly 9 billion board feet.

“When the housing industry gets a cold, we get pneumonia,” said Ray Wilkinson, executive director of the Oregon Forest Industries Council, a trade association representing some of the state’s largest forestland owners and timber manufacturers. “And there doesn’t seem to be light at the end of the tunnel. Any glimmer of hope seems to be a ways out.”

In 2008, statewide harvests decreased nine percent from 2007 to 3.44 billion board feet, matching 2001 levels, when logging fell to its lowest.

Low demand for new homes nationwide compounds ongoing timber supply issues in the state, a major supplier of Douglas fir and Ponderosa pine products. The single largest market for Oregon wood products and timber continues to be housing construction.

Tightened federal regulations have restricted logging in public forests since the early 1990s, which resulted in widespread mill closures.

This economic downturn, however, has resulted in further closures, hitting rural communities particularly hard. Since 2005, 16 percent of Oregon’s lumber and plywood mills have closed, leaving only nine sawmills operating in eastern Oregon, according to Gary Lettman, forest economist for the Oregon Department of Forestry.

In 2008, Klamath County in southern Oregon lost 40 percent of its harvest since the previous year. Harvests dropped in many western counties as well, which saw in a nine percent decrease for the region. Lane County, which remains the state’s highest timber producer, saw a 14 percent decrease from 2007.

A shrinking harvest means the loss of hundreds of jobs in rural communities, less material for biomass energy and paper products and fewer forest workers to perform thinning projects. Some predict more mill closures to come.

“We have a ways to go,” Wilkinson said. “We could see more mill closures, but the industry will survive.”

Outside federal lands, other sources for timber include state and private lands. Last year’s 9 percent decline in harvest volume was mostly due to private forestland owners putting off logging as wood prices plummeted. Private landowners, some who have over-logged over the past decade to replace the loss of timber from federal lands, make up about three-quarters of the state’s timber resource.

“These are sobering numbers that will take time to reverse,” said Paul Barnum, executive director of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, a semi-independent state agency. “Still many people in the forest sector are heartened that we may be seeing an actual bottom.”

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Conservation Stewardship Program

NRCS began continuous sign-up for the new Conservation Stewardship Program on August 10. To be considered for Fiscal Year 2009 funding, applications must be received by September 30, 2009. Applications received after the cutoff will be considered for funding in FY 2010.

The goal of the Stewardship Program is to help farmers, ranchers and non-industrial private forest owners across Oregon maintain existing conservation on their operations while adopting additional activities. The Conservation Stewardship Program encourages land stewards to improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities on agricultural land and non-industrial private forest land. The program is available nationwide on a continuous application basis.

Through the Conservation Stewardship Program, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, non-industrial private forest lands, agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe, and other private agricultural land (including cropped woodland, marshes, and agricultural land used for the production of livestock) on which resource concerns related to agricultural production could be addressed. Participation in the program is voluntary.

Non-industrial private forest land under consideration for participation in the Conservation Stewardship Program must meet four criteria:

1. The forest or woodland is “green certified” by one of the following certification programs: American Tree Farm System, Green Tag, Smart Wood, Forest Stewardship Council, or Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
2. One or more improvements have been made to the forest/woodland in the past 10 years according to a written forest management or stewardship plan that was prepared with assistance from a certified/licensed natural resource professional. Examples of improvements may include prescribe thinning, tree planting, establishing a firebreak, etc.
3. There is no apparent erosion on harvested or burned areas, roads, skid trails and landings.
4. Native trees are appropriately stocked on the property (except temporarily for areas being reforested) and wildfire risk (in wildfire-prone areas) is minimized by strategically placed narrow firebreaks and wider fuel breaks (which may include roads, streams, riparian areas, and other areas managed to slow fire spread).

The NRCS State Conservationist, in consultation with the State Technical Committee and local work groups, will focus program impacts on natural resources that are of specific concern for a State, or the specific geographic areas within a State. Applications will be evaluated relative to other applications addressing similar priority resource concerns to facilitate a competitive ranking process among applicants within a State who face similar resource challenges.

In order to apply for Fiscal Year 2009 funding, applicants must complete the following steps by September 30, 2009:

1. Complete a Self-Screening Checklist: Before submitting an application, interested producers will first complete a self-screening checklist, available on the NRCS Web site, to determine whether the new program is suitable for them and their operation.
2. Establish Program Eligibility: If producers are interested in the program after completing the checklist, they will then work with their local USDA Service Center to establish their program eligibility and complete the application process.
3. Submit a Program Application: To be considered for FY 2009 funding applicants must submit their CPA-1200 and Appendix by the September 30, 2009 cutoff date.
4. Submit an Operation Map: Applicants must provide an operation map, aerial photograph or overlay that identifies the applicant’s agricultural and/or forest operation and delineates eligible land offered for payment under the program with the associated acreage amounts.

Conservation Stewardship Program Fact Sheet
Upcoming Woodlands Carbon Workshop:

Woodlands Carbon has scheduled a “Measuring Western Forests for Carbon Credits” workshop on Saturday, September 26, in Chehalis, WA. The workshop is intended to help landowners and consultant foresters understand and gain access to the carbon markets.

Participants will understand the voluntary carbon markets, standards of carbon inventory, and landowner contracts with Woodlands Carbon. Attendees will also visit the field to see how the standards are implemented on a woodland property.

Past workshops brought together over 130 participants with ten landowners requesting additional information and field visits to explore next steps in selling their carbon.

For more information or to register, please visit the Woodlands Carbon web site at www.woodlandscarbon.com.

Woodlands Carbon in the News

A recent edition of Grist, an environmental news publication, featured Woodlands Carbon and small local forestland owners discussing the opportunity to trade their carbon in the carbon markets. OSWA members and landowners, Ken Faulk, Clint Bentz, and Peter Hayes were quoted in promoting the aggregation of small landowners to sell their carbon. To read the article, visit www.woodlandscarbon.com.

Woodlands Carbon Board of Directors/Summary of Board Meeting

The new Woodlands Carbon Company Board of Directors met on August 14. Newly appointed Board members Mike Barnes (Chairman), Ken Faulk, Donna Heffernan and Dave Schmidt, joined existing Board members David Ford, Nancy Hathaway and Bob Simpson to address some key operational issues.

The Board approved a revised Landowner Contract that details the roles and responsibilities of the landowner and of Woodlands Carbon. The Board also approved the final version of the Inventory Guidelines developed by Mason Bruce & Girard, Inc. that describe requirements and procedures for collecting and reporting inventory data. An Inventory Loan Policy was approved which offers the opportunity for landowners to apply for funds to help with inventory costs.

Finally, the Board reviewed the year-to-date financials confirming that the company is operating with its approved budget.

Woodlands Carbon Progress

Woodlands Carbon is currently working with nine OSWA landowners to assemble the first pool of carbon. Participants are in the process of conducting inventories on their land and signing contracts to aggregate and sell their carbon.
CONTINUED NEWS

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The first meeting of the OSWA Landowner Assistance Task Force will be held September 2 and will focus on identifying and prioritizing the types of family landowner assistance that is currently being provided and that will be needed in the future.

The Executive Committee will meet next on September 15 to work on next fiscal year’s work plan and budget in preparation of the October 2 Board meeting.

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T2 has 60 days to complete due diligence before the deal can go through. Perhaps most challenging is securing a customer for the power.

“We’re competing against BPA (Bonneville Power Administration) and cheap hydro and cheap coal,” said Stephen Lawn, T2’s business operations manager.

The Heppner plant and the Biomass One plant in White City were both built before 1995.

That means electricity from the two plants can’t be counted toward the state’s renewable portfolio standard, which requires one-quarter of all retail power in Oregon to come from renewable energy by 2025.

That means Biogreen’s energy, by comparison, is likely to be more marketable to utilities on the hunt for additional green power to count toward their renewable energy portfolio.

The Legislature passed a bill that would grant renewable status to the old biomass plants, but Gov. Ted Kulongoski is expected to veto it today. He hopes to revisit the issue when the Legislature goes into special session next February.

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In the long term, economists predict that the industry will rebound, though perhaps not to mid-1980 levels. Oregon’s natural resources and network of mills means the state will always have a significant timber industry, said Keith Balter, a senior economist for Forest Capital Partners, LLC, a large forest landowner.

Housing construction will pick back up again. But other smaller markets in Oregon, such as pulp and paper, may not come back so quickly.

“This is a cataclysmic convergence of events for the forestry sector out here,” Balter said. “But longer term, we do have the underlying fundamentals for recovery. We’re just going to have bridge a period of very severe financial stress.”
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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 September 2009
LANE CHAPTER: STEPHEN CAFFERATA

Weyerhaeuser agrees to $300M sale of OR timberland

FEDERAL WAY, WASH. (AP)—Weyerhaeuser Co. says it has agreed to sell about 140,000 acres of northwest Oregon timberland for $300 million to an entity affiliated with The Campbell Group, a Portland timberland investment advisory firm.

The forest products company also said Thursday it will talk with interested buyers about the possible sale of an additional 82,000 acres in southwest Washington.

Weyerhaeuser President and CEO Dan Fulton says the sale is a “strategic rebalancing” to focus the company’s Western operations on managing Douglas fir. The land being sold and considered for sale consists predominantly of hemlock, spruce and other non-Douglas fir species.

The land being sold and for sale represents about 10 percent of company holdings in the Pacific Northwest. After the sales, Weyerhaeuser will own or manage nearly 1 million acres of timberland in Oregon and more than 1 million acres in Washington. Nationwide, it will continue to own and manage more than 6 million acres of timber.