Register now for OSWA's 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting

Spring is here and that means its time for the OSWA Annual meeting. This year, OSWA celebrates 50 years of providing opportunities to family landowners in Oregon. The Annual Meeting, hosted by the founding chapter, Clackamas County Farm Forestry Association will reflect on the years of success and look to the future, focusing on how best to serve our members over the next 50 years.

The OSWA Annual Meeting Committee created an informative program that offers members and guests the opportunity to hear from leaders on a variety of issues that affect family woodland owners. Program topics include; a national perspective on the future of family woodland ownership and its evolving role, working together along the supply chain during these tough economic times, relevant current issues that family woodland owners face today, inspirational stories of success and lessons learned from multigenerational OSWA members, and a look at the current and future economic conditions related to the forest products sector.

OSWA members will celebrate and toast the last 50 years during dinner. Members will hear from a fifth generational landowner who will address

OSWA's 2008 Silent Auction and Exhibits

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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

The Willamette and Pacific Railroad runs from Albany west through Corvallis and on over the Coast Range to Toledo. I can see and/or hear the train making its daily run over the Coast Range and back from my deck. It carries chips to the GP paper mill at Toledo and brings back lumber from the sawmills there. Once upon a time, the Willamette and Pacific had an active spur going south from Corvallis, servicing the Willamette Valley nearly to Monroe. The service on this spur, which included the Hull Oakes mill in Dawson, is in limbo. For whatever reason, service on the spur has been suspended or discontinued. But the rails are still there, running parallel to Highway 99W.

I bring this up to make a point about recovery from recession and our timber market. This rail spur was a very visible sign of how bad the market was at one time. You see, the railroad company found these vacant rails a very suitable place to store all of the open-sided rail cars that normally were in use carrying lumber. At the low point in the market, there must have been well over a mile of rail covered by idled lumber rail cars. Slowly, over the last several months, as I repeatedly traveled Highway 99, I noticed fewer and fewer cars resting on the rails. On a recent trip through the area, I specifically looked for the cars, but all were gone, hopefully back in use once more carrying lumber from our mills. I take this as a very visible sign that the log market is slowly recovering.

Another sign of some recovery is the upward trend in log prices. I have found a very good source online to track log prices on a monthly basis. Northwest Forestry Services is a consulting firm located in Tigard. From their website, you can get a log market report for both Oregon and Washington. The Oregon report is updated on the 15th of the month and the Washington on the 1st. Their report lists a range of log prices by type, an average price variance from the prior month and a comparison of prices in the same month for the prior six years.

We know that over the years and within them, log prices are cyclic. This cyclic nature, along with your ability to implement a harvest quickly, can still open windows of opportunity to capture a higher log price. This window, however, has not opened as wide as we would like and it may close again as the mills build their log inventories. If you have a harvest in mind and have been waiting for prices to rise, it looks like they are back up to 2008 levels for a while. If you are going to wait until log prices are back up to 2006 levels, your harvest may have to wait for a couple more years.

There will be a very good discussion of the recovery of the timber economy on Friday, April 30, 9:00 AM (Plenary 1) at OSWA’s Annual Meeting. I hope to see you all there.

Till next time.
OSWA NEWS

OSWA Board Update

The OSWA Board of Directors met on February 5 in Salem to address a number of association business items. The most pressing issues were the current fiscal year operating budget and recruitment of members to run in this year’s election for three executive committee positions.

Operating Budget - Since expected income is not being received at the budgeted rate, the Executive Committee suggested that projected revenue be reduced by $27,600 and projected expenditures be reduced by $22,400. This would enable OSWA to end the year with a break-even budget.

Major income adjustments discussed were:

• Reducing projected membership dues by 15 percent;
• Reducing projected Patron Program income by 50 percent

Major expense adjustments discussed were:

• Reducing Chapter Dues Rebates to account for a reduced membership renewal of 15 percent.
• Reducing Legislative expenses by $3,000.
• Reducing office operations and meeting expenses by just over $10,000.
• Reducing Publication expenses by $4,400.
• Reduce purchase of Awesome OSWA products by $1500.
• Reduce Travel expenses by $2,000.

By consensus, the OSWA board agreed that the revised budget was prudent at this time. If more money becomes available, the Executive Committee will determine how additional funds would be spent.

Executive Committee Nominations - It was reported that the nominations committee had been appointed by Mr. Faulk as required by the OSWA By-Laws. The committee members are: Mr. Gary Springer, Chair; Mrs. Nancy Hathaway, member; Mr. Roy Hendrick, member; and Mr. David Schmidt, member. It was suggested that each chapter provide the nominations committee members with suggestions of potential candidates to serve on the executive committee.

By-Law Changes - The Executive Committee recommended that the Board of Directors adopt a resolution to change the By-Laws for the purpose of creating leadership continuity in the office of President.

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Resources

http://www.oswa.org/

Visit the OSWA web site at www.oswa.org for information about your local chapter. Be sure to click on “Your Local Chapter” for a map link to your own chapter website!

ADVERTISE IN THE UPDATE!

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

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

1/12 page $70 $210
1/6 page $90 $270
1/4 page $110 $330
1/3 page $145 $445
1/2 page $170 $510
2/3 page $200 $600
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1/4 page $110 $330
1/3 page $145 $445
1/2 page $170 $510
2/3 page $200 $600
Full Page $270 $800

Rates include typesetting and ad preparation.
the importance of family land ownership.

On Saturday, members have the opportunity to select one of two tours that will travel through the county, into the Bull Run Watershed, and onto family tree farms, to learn and understand different land management objectives and practices. OSWA members are encouraged to register today. Please contact the OSWA office if you have any questions.

Reminder- SILENT AUCTION Items for OSWA’s Anniversary Annual Meeting

We are still accepting donations for this year’s silent auction which will be held on Friday, April 30th during the OSWA 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting reception.

Acknowledgement

Oregon Small Woodlands Association would like to acknowledge and thank long standing members, the Kendrick Forest Farm and Jeannie Kendrick for the use of the photos on the cover and page 3 in the OSWA 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting brochure. For information on the Kendrick Forest Farm visit www.kendrickforestfarm.com.
Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year Advances to Regional Summer Tour- Mark your Calendar

Our 2009 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year, Fun Forest, has advanced to the final 3 in the Western Region competition. Judges from outside the Western Region will visit the three sometime in April selecting the Western Tree Farm to move on to the final 4.

Mark your calendar for June 26 for the Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year tour on Fun Forest. Maybe it will be a Regional Tree Farmer of the Year tour as well.

Green Building Petition

The US Green Building Council has been an important force in the green building movement, and unfortunately, their Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system, only accepts wood certified by one system, the Forest Stewardship Council. A bias remains against landowner certification systems, like the American Tree Farm System, that are tailored to meet the needs of small landowners. Please take one minute to sign an online petition (it’s simple and easy to use!), urging USGBC to open their rating system to additional credible certification systems, like the American Tree Farm System. This has been an ongoing issue, and we need your help to send a message to USGBC that there is a large community of family forest owners out there that are not happy with the current USGBC rating system. You may find the online petition at: http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/leed.

Tell a Friend

Tell your friends about the American Forest Foundation’s Grassroots Action Network! As we advocate for increased investments by Congress in 2011 for family woodland owners and other policy priorities, we will need all of the help we can get.

Visit www.familyforestaction.org/forestfoundation/taf/ and enter up to 50 email addresses of your friends, family members, and fellow woodland owners! Be sure to personalize the message to your network of friends to share why you joined the network.

Landowner Q&A Webinar on the new 2010–2015 Tree Farm Standards

AmericanTree Farm is offering a series of Internet-based webinars this year that will feature additional information for landowners, volunteers, and forestry consultants. The one-hour webinar will cover how the new Standards will impact current forest management practices. Mark you calendar with the following webinar dates, register now, and make plans to join one or more of these webinars.

Tuesday, April 13 from 1:00–2:00pm
Thursday, May 13 from 1:00–2:00pm
Tuesday, September 14 from 1:00–2:00pm
Tuesday, October 12 from 1:00–2:00pm
Tuesday, November 9 from 1:00–2:00pm

**OSWA NEWS**

_cont’d from page 3 (OSWA Board Update)_

**By-Law Changes** - The Executive Committee recommended that the Board of Directors adopt a resolution to change the By-Laws for the purpose of creating leadership continuity in the office of President.

Be it resolved; the Board recommends that the OSWA membership approve amendments to the By-Laws that:

1. create a President-Elect officer position to replace the First Vice President position;
2. For the 2010 election, nominate the following positions:
   a. President – two-year term
   b. President Elect – two year term (this person would serve as President for two years beginning in 2012).
   c. 2nd Vice President – Position 4 – two year term.

Beginning in 2012, the membership would:

1. In even year elections, elect a President-Elect for a two-year term and a 2nd Vice President – Position 4 for a two-year term.
2. In odd year elections, elect a 2nd Vice President – Position 1; a 2nd Vice President – Position 2; and a 2nd Vice President – Position 3 (each position for a two-year term).

Article XIII of the OSWA By-Laws provides that changes to the By-Laws may be adopted by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, provided that the specific proposed changes have been distributed to each Board member at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which the vote to adopt occurs. Further, the amendment shall be ratified at the next general vote-by-mail election.

After discussion, Mrs. Marie Gale and Mr. Jim Brown moved and seconded to approve the By-Laws change resolution as recommended by the Executive Committee. The motion passed with unanimous voice vote.

**Membership Work Group** - Mrs. Marie Gale reported on the activities and plans of the Membership Development Work Group. The Work Group met once in early December. It is moving forward with its work through an online bulletin board website. It plans to:

- gather information about members through a phone survey;
- analyze the information gathered;
- find best ways to address issues raised in the survey and through communication with chapter leaders;
- develop strategies; and
- send results an recommendations to the Executive Committee.

As a reminder, all OSWA Board of Directors and Executive Committee meeting minutes are available for review by OSWA members at the OSWA website: www.oswa.org.

**cont’d from page 4 (Silent Auction...)**

Over the years, OSWA’s members and volunteers have contributed to successful silent auctions with fabulous items, such as homemade coat racks, walking sticks, quilts, and fine wine.

Examples of items received for this year’s silent auction are; Camp Howard certificate for summer camp, an autographed book by Bill Hagenstein, certificate for 18 holes of golf for those golf lovers, and a beautiful handmade quilt (shown below).

Monies raised from the silent auction help fund OSWA’s legislative activities that support its members.

Members who wish to contribute to the silent auction are asked to contact Ilene Waldorf at 503-829-3181 or iwal@molalla.net.
OREGON NEWS

Asian Fruit Fly Invasion Could Ruin Oregon Crops

By Eric Mortenson, The Oregonian

Three Oregon companies with a reputation for profess-Fruit fly larvae native to Asia turned this Oregon blue- berry into mush. Farmers, researchers and entomologists are racing to battle a destructive new fruit fly that first appeared in Oregon last summer and quickly wiped out much of the late-season peach and berry crops.

Known as the spotted wing Drosophila, the fly is native to Asia and apparently spread to California in 2008. From there, it migrated to Oregon and, in August 2009, began attacking the late stages of blueberry, raspberry and peach crops. Some growers reported losing 20 percent of their berries and up to 80 percent of late-variety peaches.

Within weeks, researchers determined the fly was present in 15 counties, from Jackson County in southern Oregon, up the Willamette Valley, east through Hood River and Wasco counties and as far as Umatilla County.

High-value crops are at risk, farmers and researchers say. Oregon's blueberry, blackberry, raspberry and strawberry crops are worth nearly $100 million annually. The state's cherry crop is valued at $55 million, and peaches, pears, prunes and plums are worth more than $25 million.

“I don’t know a berry that’s safe from them,” said Jim LaBonte, an entomologist with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. “They hit a huge range of fruit.”

“It’s the most devastating insect I’ve ever seen in agriculture,” said Stuart Olson, a Marion County farmer. Olson, who raises cherries and peaches, shut down his peach orchard last summer after discovering damaged fruit. He estimates he lost the last 10 days of picking and 25 to 30 percent of the revenue he would normally expect from late-variety peaches.

“You couldn’t even find a good peach to go out and pick, they were multiplying so fast,” Olson said.

The Drosophila (pronounced druh-SOFF-i-la) is unusual because it attacks ripe and ripening fruit, while most fruit flies are attracted to rotting produce. Female flies, equipped with a saw-toothed ovipositor, cut into the fruit skin and lay eggs just below the surface. The pinprick damage goes undetected until the larvae hatch and begin feeding, and the fruit collapses in a gooey mess.

“The fruit looks great when you buy it, and it would totally disintegrate within three days,” said Vaughn Walton, who is heading a crash research project at Oregon State University.

The fly is prolific, capable of producing 10 generations of pests per crop growing season, “which is absolutely phenomenal,” Walton said.

Growers, working with crop consultants and university researchers, are trying to determine whether insecticides will control the flies. Using sprays is a dilemma: They’re expensive, cutting into farmers’ profits, and consumers generally don’t approve of them.

Because the flies can produce so many generations per season, they may develop a resistance to chemicals.

LaBonte, the state entomologist, said controlling the fly will be difficult, in part because so many Oregonians grow fruit and berries in home gardens and wild blackberries thrive everywhere.

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Oregon's lumber market is being limited by California's housing crisis

*The Associated Press*

Log exports from Washington and Oregon fell a little more than 10 percent last year, but lumber exports were up dramatically thanks to Washington's strong trade with Asia.

The U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station reports that the two states exported 697.3 million board feet in softwood logs in 2009, with a total value of $429.1 million. A little more than half of the softwood logs went to Japan, while South Korea and China bought most of the rest.

Meanwhile, softwood lumber exports from the region jumped 17.5 percent from 2008, to 344.2 million board feet. That was largely due to Washington state's lumber exports to Asia.

Oregon lumber exports are a fraction of Washington's and have been steadily declining since 1999. That's likely due to federal logging bans which have limited supply. In addition, much of Oregon's lumber goes to California, a market hit hard by the housing crisis.

"Washington has not been as dependent on California," said Hakan Ekstrom, president of Wood Resources International, a consulting firm based in Bothell, Wash.

"They ship to Japan. But obviously right now California is not doing so great so Oregon will be more impacted than Washington."

The wood products market should continue to improve this year, Eckstrom said. And mills that shut down for long stretches during the recession whittled down their inventories, meaning they'll likely have to fire up to replenish their stocks.

"Some countries in Asia are beginning to wake up a little," he said. "You will see them looking for more lumber."

Lumber shipments totaled $223.7 million in 2009, most of which left from the Seattle Customs District, which includes all ports in Washington except Longview.

While log exports fell slightly in 2009, researchers say they've likely hit bottom.

“I think it is encouraging that there is some upward trend,” said Robert Deal, a research forester with the Pacific Research Northwest Station. “We're coming from a terrible place.”

The Columbia-Snake Customs District — which includes the ports of Portland, Vancouver, Longview, Astoria and Coos Bay — reported shipping 353.6 million board feet of softwood logs overseas, almost all to Japan. During 2000, the peak in the past decade, those ports shipped 399 million board feet.

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**Insurance Costs**

At its meeting in Salem on March 2, the Emergency Fire Cost Committee agreed to purchase a catastrophic fire insurance policy for the 2010 fire year that provides $25 million in coverage with a $25 million deductible.

The 25/25 structure has been in place for several years now. Due in part to no claims having been filed recently, and also to utilization by protection districts of state-of-the-art fire detection technology, the premium on the policy will drop to $860,000 this year—five percent less than last year.

The premium cost is shared 50-50 between the Oregon Forestland Protection Fund and the state's General Fund. Also, under legislation passed in 2009 with OFIC's support, the landowner fund is now responsible for the first $10 million of the deductible with the state picking up the remaining $15 million. Landowners used to be liable for the first $15 million.

The Emergency Fire Cost Committee also welcomed a new member at the March 2 meeting—Lee Fledderjohann. Lee is an OSU-trained forester who is currently the Resource Manager for the Collins Companies Lakeviwe sawmill. He is also a board member and former president of the Klamath-Lake Forest Protection Association. He will fill the slot previously held by Dick Beeby, who recently retired.
E Wash scientists study biochar for energy
By Kevin McCullen, Tri-City Herald

Scientists in Eastern Washington are at the forefront of research into an ancient practice that shows promise as a clean fuel source, a way to improve soil condition and to capture carbon that otherwise would be released into the atmosphere.

Researchers from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, the federal Department of Agriculture's research station in Prosser and Washington State University have been integral figures in studies of biochar and its potential uses.

Biochar, a charcoal-like material, is produced when biomass - including wood, plant and animal waste - is burned in the absence of or under low oxygen conditions so the material doesn't combust.

This process, called pyrolysis, thermally decomposes the waste into biochar, bio-oil and syngas. Biochar and bio-oil show commercial promise and syngas offers a power source that can run a pyrolyzer.

The USDA’s Agricultural Research Service has estimated that if the United States were to pyrolyze 1.3 billion tons of various forms of biomass annually, it could replace 1.9 billion barrels of imported oil with bio-oil. That would represent about 25 percent of the annual oil consumption in this country. In addition, USDA estimates the country could sequester 153 million tons of carbon annually by adding biochar to soils.

Although widespread research on biochar began less than a decade ago, debate already is brewing on whether its prevailing commercial use will be for fuel or for soil and carbon sequestration.

In January, UOP, a subsidiary of the Honeywell Corp., announced it had been awarded a $25 million grant from the federal Department of Energy to build a demonstration plant in Hawaii to take waste feedstocks of wood, agricultural products and algae residue to produce bio-oil. The oil then will be refined into aviation and diesel fuel with technology developed in part by PNNL, a junior partner in the project.

Biofuels, including bio-oil from char, “can’t replace all petroleum,” said Doug Elliott, staff scientist with PNNL’s Chemical and Biological Process Development unit. He has been researching biofuels for three decades.

“But U.S. production of biofuels could replace one-third of our total petroleum products annually and on a continuing basis,” he said.

Or the use of smaller portable pyrolyzer units one day could be deployed in forests to clean up wood waste piles, produce lower-grade fuel, generate power and create jobs in rural communities. The Forest Service is funding research of a small demonstration project in a small Northeastern Oregon community.

“There’s all kinds of things that are potentially usable as a fuel source. You can make this work on a whole lot of things that don't have a value and actively have a cost,” said Eric Twombly of BioChar Products, who is conducting the forest fuels project in Halfway, Ore.

Twombly fired up his mobile plant in December at an old lumber mill site about eight miles from the Idaho border. He hopes to produce at least 500 tons of biochar and at least 300 gallons of bio-oil using chipped wood waste.

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CONTINUED NEWS

cont’d from pg 9 (E Washington Scientist…)

A farmer already is buying some of the oil to use in his orchard heaters, and Twombly uses the syngas to power the plant. It now employs three people, but Twombly envisions one day creating at least a dozen full-time, family wage jobs.

And ongoing research by soil scientist Hal Collins and his team at the USDA’s vegetable and forage crop research unit in Prosser is looking at how dairy waste could be transformed onsite into a product that could be added to the soil, used as an energy source and to eliminate the environmental concerns of waste ponds.

Jim Amonette, a soil chemist at PNNL who has extensively studied biochar, and others say it isn’t a panacea that will resolve the nation’s energy and environmental challenges. But he says its potential use in storing carbon and as a soil amendment is promising.

“You are basically taking a biomass that would be back in the atmosphere in five to 10 years and converting it into biochar that will be in the soil for hundreds to thousands of years,” said Amonette, who contributed a chapter to Biochar for Environmental Management, considered one of the definitive reference works on the topic.

“It is one of the few ways you can pull carbon out of the air and generate energy at the same time,” he said.

The process isn’t new. Researchers have found areas in the Amazon basin where people centuries ago deposited charcoal, leaving behind areas with rich soils and lush plant growth. Scientists aren’t certain how they created the charcoal, said David Granatstein, a sustainable agriculture specialist at Washington State University and a co-principal investigator of a study published last year.

Scientists subsequently have found that different methods of pyrolysis - fast and slow, which are distinguished primarily by the rate of temperature increase in the pyrolyzing unit - produced different amounts of finished product.

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Fast pyrolysis takes place in seconds, with temperatures that can reach up to 1,000 degrees. WSU researchers and Collins found in their study, released in 2009, that higher heating produced more bio-oil and less biochar from the same amount of biomass, while slow pyrolysis with slow heating rates yielded more char and less oil.

Amonette said research of the two methods in general has shown that a ton of biomass subjected to slow pyrolysis can produce up to 750 pounds of biochar, while the fast process yields 300 pounds of char.

Pressure to produce bio-oil could grow as oil prices continue climbing. UOP has said it expects to start fuel production in Hawaii no later than 2014. The company estimates it could produce gasoline and diesel for about $2.50 a gallon, Elliott said.

Others, however, tout the potential value of biochar for use in soils and in controlling greenhouse gases. Production of biochar locks up carbon from the biomass that would otherwise rot or be burned, and therefore decreases the amount of carbon dioxide returned to the atmosphere, according to researchers.

"By finding ways to keep this carbon out of the atmosphere for longer periods, we're making better use of the service provided by plants when they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere during photosynthesis," Amonette said.

Soil scientists also have found biochar is good for storing carbon because it takes a long time to decompose, Collins said. It also has shown promise in retaining phosphorous, nitrogen and potassium - helping prevent them from leaching into lakes and streams - and retains moisture because it is porous.

"It's an excellent resource for the flies to remain in the background, then move into adjacent commercial (fruit and berry) operations," LaBonte said. "If you've got these things developing in all the blackberries out there, how are you going to control that?"

Farm groups lobbied for help during the Legislature's February special session and came away with a $225,000 emergency grant that is paying for research, monitoring and education efforts. At OSU, Walton and other researchers are rearing Drosophila and attempting to learn as much about them as possible.

A couple of critical questions have been answered.

The flies appear to thrive in cooler areas and are most active at 68 degrees -- making western Oregon a comfortable home. Because the state's fruit and berries ripen in succession, starting with strawberries in June, the fly may be able to move from crop to crop throughout the summer and fall.

Adult flies have been caught in monitoring traps in the Willamette Valley, indicating the flies can survive Oregon's cold, wet winters.

Research teams have been holding training sessions for farmers throughout the Pacific Northwest. One is scheduled March 30 at the Airport Sheraton Hotel in Portland.

"We are trying to educate ourselves," said Lynn Thompson, a Benton County blueberry grower. "It's hugely worrisome; we don't know what the summer's going to look like."
Questions about herbicide use in Oregon forestry operations - A resource for forest landowners -

The following points may be helpful in discussions about why and under what conditions Oregon forest landowners use herbicides in forestry operations:

- Among all pesticides used in Oregon for any purpose, the forest sector generally uses only herbicides. Other pesticides such as fungicides, insecticides and rodenticides are also tracked by the state but are only rarely used on forestland.

- Forest landowners are responsible for about 4 percent of all pesticides used every year in Oregon, including herbicides.

- When planting after harvest, forest landowners sometimes use herbicides to control weeds, brush and invasive species that compete with tree seedlings for sunlight, nutrients and water. Oregon Forest Practices Rules require planting within 2 years after harvest and that seedlings be “free to grow” within 6 years. Without herbicide use, reforestation may be unsuccessful and, by law, landowners must replant trees until they grow successfully. Once tree seedlings are established, herbicides are seldom used again in the same forest cycle, except occasionally along roadsides.

- Herbicides used in forestry are applied under stringent labeling requirements and nearly always by licensed contractors who have been trained in the lawful use of herbicides. Rules for herbicide use are outlined in the Oregon Forest Practices Rules and on product labels. The rules are administered by the Department of Forestry, the Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

- A landowner must submit a Notification of Operations with the Oregon Department of Forestry 15 days prior to applying herbicide. By law, those applying herbicide must keep it away from water and adjacent properties.

- The herbicides used in forestry operations are some of the same type sold to homeowners for use on residential property, but in forestry applications their use is highly regulated.

Frequently asked questions:

Q1: Why are herbicides used in forestry?

Herbicides are used primarily to control undesirable weeds, brush and invasive species in the early stages of reforestation after harvest to help ensure successful reforestation. Replanting and establishment of “free-to-grow” forests are required by the Oregon Forest Practices
Act. Herbicides are also used to control the spread of non-native invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and Scotch broom.

Q2: Where are herbicides used?

Herbicides are used to control weeds, brush and invasive species in areas recently harvested. Fence lines and road rights-of-way are also treated. Sometimes smaller areas are treated on the ground by forest workers, while larger areas may be treated by hand or by aircraft. Aerial applications are carefully planned and executed to ensure that the herbicides reach only the intended areas.

Q3: When are herbicides used in the forest cycle?

Generally, herbicides are used at the beginning of the forest cycle and then only rarely thereafter, mostly along road right of ways. For example, herbicides may be used to clear brush fields that will be converted into conifer stands. Herbicides are used to favor conifers during the first few years of their growth by controlling competing weeds, brush and invasive species.

Q4: How often are they used in the forest cycle?

Herbicide usage is variable depending on local conditions. In the Coast Range they may be used up to three or four times over 2-3 years, so that young trees can out-compete aggressive brush. In the Cascade Range they may not be used at all, or perhaps once or twice. Slower-growing forest stands in eastern Oregon don’t receive herbicide treatment as often as forests on the west side of Oregon. Herbicide applications are expensive; therefore landowners limit their use to meet management objectives. Homeowners often use herbicides on lawns yearly. In forestry, herbicides may be used for 2 years and then not for another 40 to 80 years.

Q5: What laws govern herbicide use?

In the state of Oregon, the Forest Practice Chemical Rules are OAR 629-620-0000 through 629-620-0800. The Oregon Department of Forestry administers these regulations, which protect water quality and other natural resources. The Oregon Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Division, administers rules relating to applicator licensing, proper application and pesticide labeling. The Environmental Protection Agency provides nationwide control of pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Q6: Where can I get more information about herbicides used in forestry operations?

Local Oregon Department of Forestry offices have copies of Oregon Forest Practices Rules concerning herbicide use. The Oregon Department of Forestry’s pesticide-use page is available at: http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/privateforests/pesticides.shtml.

Questions about herbicide use and application should be referred to the manufacturer or to the appropriate state agency. Questions about this brief may be referred to Mike Cloughesy, director of forestry for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, cloughesy@ofri.com.
A great state of carbon caches
by Susan Palmer, The Register-Guard

Small-scale forests are an important component of the United States when it comes to storing carbon, no national forest in the United States does more than the Eugene-based Willamette, according to a survey released by an environmental group.

In an analysis of data collected by the U.S. Forest Service, The Wilderness Society found that among the federally owned national forests, the top 10 for carbon storage are all in the Pacific Northwest, six of them in Oregon.

The Pacific Northwest climate offers plentiful rain and moderate temperatures that encourage tree growth, and the Willamette National Forest, at nearly 1.7 million acres, is a colossal forest. Only two of the other forests on the list are bigger.

So the Wilderness Society report is no big surprise to Mark Harmon, an Oregon State University professor of forest ecology, who has been studying carbon storage in forests for decades.

If anything, the results might underestimate the amount of carbon stored because the current science is better at estimating what’s held in live trees, than what’s in a forest’s soils and dead wood, which also store carbon, he said.

The survey highlights the role forests’ carbon storage may play in slowing global warming.

During photosynthesis, trees take in and convert carbon dioxide and water into sugar and oxygen. Most of the sugar becomes cellulose — a key component in wood. Scientists estimate that 45 percent of a tree’s wood is carbon-based.

Carbon dioxide is one of the greenhouse gases that’s given off in burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil or wood. These gases form a blanket around the planet that’s trapping heat and leading to climate change, most scientists agree. The capacity of the world’s forests to absorb and hold carbon has been receiving intense scrutiny as an important beneficial action.

A study published last summer in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences concluded that Oregon’s forests are among the best in the world at storing carbon, second only to forests in Australia.

The Willamette, once the nation’s top timber producer before enforcement of federal laws severely limited logging, is home to many stands of big old trees, said Michael Anderson, a senior resource analyst with The Wilderness Society.

“We knew where old growth habitat was,” Anderson said. “We had a sense that the Northwest had a lot bigger trees and denser vegetation than other parts of the country. And the Willamette National Forest in particular has always been seen as an especially productive forest.”

All told, the United States’ federal forests store 9.8 billion metric tons of carbon on about 19 million acres, Anderson said.

About 5.8 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide are released by fossil fuels burned in the United States annually, according to the Wilderness Society.

Organizations such as Anderson’s view the carbon-storage capacity of these national forests as yet another reason to refrain from cutting them, right up there with the habitat they provide for wildlife, Anderson said.

A spokesman for the Willamette National Forest was not able to answer any questions about carbon storage on the Willamette or whether federal officials are considering carbon storage in their forest management strategies.

Anderson said the issue came up at the Copenhagen convention on climate change last year, with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and leaders from several other nations making a commitment to reduce the rate of deforestation.

The Forest Service is in the process of developing new forest management regulations with a meeting in Portland planned for April, Anderson said.

“I know climate change is going to be one topic,” he said.

Willamette: 164 metric tons
Umpqua: 159 metric tons
Olympic (Washington): 159 metric tons
Siuslaw: 152 metric tons
Gifford Pinchot (Wash.): 152 metric tons
Mount Hood: 150 metric tons
A Bright Future for Oregon Biomass

By David Van’t Hof and Paul Barnum

Furthering the discussion prompted by last Friday’s article in The Oregonian on biomass, we’d ask two key questions: How does biomass fit Oregon and the nation’s energy strategy? And does biomass further Oregon’s competitive advantage with respect to renewable energy?

As a nation, we’ve struggled to find an energy strategy other than to use more of it. To the extent there is a consensus, it’s this: Reduce dependence on foreign sources of energy. Encourage and reward conservation. Decrease carbon dioxide emissions. Accelerate the use of renewables. Acknowledge there are trade-offs with all energy production but, with all forms, produce energy as cleanly as possible.

Does forest biomass further that strategy? The answer has to be “yes.” Foremost, woody material is a renewable resource. It’s not a fossil fuel and it’s not foreign. The prevailing view is that because tree growth captures atmospheric carbon, biomass is carbon neutral in the long term.

Is biomass as clean as other renewables? While combusting biomass does generate CO2 and certain particulate emissions, it does so with pollution controls that make it much cleaner than if the biomass is burned in the woods either through controlled burns or uncontrolled forest fire. It is a net improvement.

No energy source is perfect. One challenge with wind and solar is that they don’t produce around the clock and must be “firmed up” with other energy sources. Northwest wind projects have been fortunate to utilize the Columbia River hydro system for firming to date, but that system may be reaching its capacity for firming, and the most likely future source will be natural gas. Biomass can produce 24/7, and as such can be part of the solution to the challenges of other renewable energy sources and can help displace the use of fossil fuels.

Oregon has a diversity of renewable energy generation options, and that gives us a competitive advantage. The Oregon Business Plan states that Oregon’s eastside forests badly need thinning to avoid catastrophic fires and ecological disaster. With 100 years of fire suppression and little active management, many federally managed east side and interior southwest Oregon forests have high levels of fuel buildup in dead and small live trees, putting them at moderate to severe risk of unusually intense fire. A woody biomass sector focused on restoration of our forests is a tremendous opportunity to promote healthier forests while providing rural Oregon with economic opportunity.

We should use this material for biomass energy to help create and sustain jobs in Oregon’s rural communities, where we need them most. The Oregon Forest Resources Institute estimates that between logging slash and restoration thinning statewide, Oregon can sustainably produce upwards to 5 million tons of woody biomass each year, which would create an estimated 4,500 new jobs.

Healthy demand for woody biomass also would strengthen the financial incentive for private landowners to maintain their lands as forest, slowing the pace of forestland conversion for development and sustaining private forest contributions to habitat, water and air quality, recreation and carbon sequestration.

To be sure, there are trade-offs. Using biomass to generate energy is not a silver bullet, nor is any renewable energy resource. However, it can play an important role, along with other sources of renewable energy generation, to accomplish long-term reductions of CO2, combat climate change, and stimulate new jobs and economic opportunity.
"If you go off into a far, far forest and get very quiet, you’ll come to understand that you’re connected with everything." —Alan Watts

**OFFICERS**

**President**  
Ken Faulk  
kfaulk@peak.org

**First Vice President**  
Gary Springer  
springer@starkerforests.com

**Second Vice President**  
Donna Heffernan  
slope@coni.com

**Second Vice President**  
Roy Hendrick, III  
milepost@harborside.com

**Second Vice President**  
Dave Schmidt  
lakehouse9@msn.com

**Past President**  
Michael Barnes  
mbarnes@viclink.com

**Secretary**  
Nancy Hathaway  
nancyhath@comcast.net

**Treasurer**  
Vacant

**STAFF**

**Executive Director**  
David Ford  
davidford27@gmail.com

**OSWA Membership Update**

Thank You and Congratulations to Columbia County SWA!!! Since November 1, 2009, CCSWA has recruited 10 new members and attracted 2 families to reinstate their memberships!

Membership recruitment is a key objective of CCSWA this year. The Chapter is using a new approach to attract members; it will subsidize any new member in the amount of $35.00 so their first year dues will only cost $50.00.

In addition, if a new member joins the day of the seedling sale they get $20 off each bag of trees. OSWA Executive Director David Ford volunteered at March 13 CCSWA tree seedling sale and witnessed four new members recruited at the well-organized and successful event.

Overall, 36 new members have joined OSWA during our current fiscal year (Nov 2009–Oct 2010). In addition, 10 families have reinstated their memberships since November 2009. Thanks to all the chapter volunteers that are helping to promote and grow OSWA!

Thank you for Supporting the Oregon Small Woodlands Association

**NEW MEMBERS**

**CENTRAL OREGON CHAPTER:**  
STAN BOWYER

**COLUMBIA CHAPTER:**  
BILLY ASHER  
JOE CERNAC  
CLAUDIA FRANKLIN  
DARREN HENDERSON  
TERRY LUTTRELL  
JIM PRPICH  
JOHN SMITH  
KEVIN WALDING

**DOUGLAS CHAPTER:**  
STEVEN POTTER

**GRANT CHAPTER:**  
ROBERT GOOTEE

**JACKSON CHAPTER:**  
VERN LAUGSAND  
PAM OLSON

**LINN CHAPTER:**  
BRIAN RABE  
IVAN WOLTHIUS

**WASHINGTON CHAPTER:**  
HOWARD REEHER