The WOODLANDER UPDATE

December 2010

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OSWA NEWS

The OSWA Website Will Have a New Look

www.oswa.org

OSWA’s website has been reorganized and will now have a Members Only Section and a new Calendar of Events Section. All the information in the previous website can still be found, but it may be in a different location. The access to the new website will continue to be www.oswa.org.

One important feature of the new website is a Members Only Section. It will contain information that should be available only to members such as the minutes of Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings, bylaws, past editions of Woodlander Update and Northwest Woodlander; email and contact information for all Chapter Presidents, Executive Committee members, and Board of Directors; and lists of Legislative Priorities. To access the Members Only Section one will need to use their last name as the User Name and their membership number as the Password. One’s membership number is on the dues invoice and can be found on the portion retained by members. One can contact Chapter Presidents or the Salem office if they need to be reminded what their membership number is.

Another new feature is an event calendar that looks like a calendar. It will contain information on the dates for all Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings and other state organized events.

Con’t on back page

PATRONS

THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS:
STARKER FORESTS
INTERNATIONAL PAPER
We appreciate your support!
**Our Vision**
To see privately owned family woodlands are a thriving part of Oregon’s landscape in 2050.

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**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.

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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE by Nancy Hathaway**

**HOLIDAY MAGIC!**

This is the magical season when Christmas is in the air, bringing with it the wonderful scent of all that greenery you’ve been growing. Just walking through a field of young reproduction or sheared trees brings Christmas to mind, even when it’s mid-summer. Research tells us that memories are brought to mind by sounds and smells. I often listen to recorded books on my MP3 player while I trim out extra leaders on reproduction. It’s amazing to me as I return to check on results that I can actually remember which story I was listening to as I worked in that area. So what a wonderful time this is to take the children to cut greens and choose a tree and make those memories.

From the “how time doth fly” files: I can remember when it was a big deal to take friends into the woods to cut a “wild” tree. Thank goodness we have some old photos of those untrimmed trees, because no one would believe it now without proof. When decorated, all those wide open spaces between branches were filled in with hundreds of tinsel icicles. Nowadays we have grown accustomed to the fluffy, sheared trees that have a gazillion needles to withstand the rigors of handling and shipping.

But the process of choosing a tree has not changed. I think it takes just as long to get a 100% vote on the family tree nowadays as it did then. One year even 30 acres of Christmas trees couldn’t get a decision from an 8 year old. Very quickly all trees looked the same (that was the grower’s aim!) and sensory overload led to frustration. Kids must feel the same when they look at 12 foot high store shelves loaded with toys.

As you leaf through your photo albums, notice and laugh at the progression of all those Christmas trees you posed by. Just as we all grew taller and changed shape, so did those Christmas trees!

Have a wonderful “naturally-green” holiday season. And for those few of you who have an artificial tree, I hope you have a really good excuse.

Nancy
OSWA NEWS

Message from the Executive Director

Happy Holidays to everyone! I hope that everyone has a safe and joyous Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for the hospitality that I have received from the nine chapter I have had the opportunity to visit since I became your Executive Director in August. I hope to meet directly with the remaining eight chapters within the next few months. I must congratulate OSWA’s membership for the enormous amount of volunteer time given to OSWA. I believe this participation is the key to OSWA’s effectiveness in representing the interests of family woodland owners in Oregon. As 2011 approaches, OSWA’s state office has a full agenda of issues to address. Your input is always helpful in setting the direction on issues important to our membership.

2011 Legislative Session

At the October 1st Board meeting, the Board approved our 2011 Legislative Priorities. The Oregon Department of Forestry budget continues to be one of our top priorities. Maintaining the 50% forest landowners and 50% General Fund funding for Oregon’s forest fire program and the 40% forest landowner and 60% General Fund funding for the administration of Oregon’s Forest Practices Act will likely be a challenge. OSWA has been adamant that forest landowners should not be asked to pick up a larger share of ODF’s budget. The more balanced Oregon Senate (16 Democrats and 14 Republicans), the 30/30 split in the House, and a Governor with a history of supporting natural resource agencies may make it easier to achieve this objective. Scott Hayes chairs OSWA’s Government Advisory Committee (GAC) and Roger Beyer, past State Senator and OSWA member from Clackamas County, has been hired as our lobbyist.

All interested members are encouraged to participate in the GAC. The next meeting is scheduled for January 21st. Those who have participated in the past will automatically be members of the GAC. If you wish to join the GAC, please provide your email address to the Salem office and you will receive Legislative Updates and become a GAC members.

Day at the Capital

OSWA’s Day at the Capital is scheduled for Thursday, April 21st. We have reserved the Capital’s Gallery and the hearing room where we, along with our natural resource allies, can set up informational displays and conduct meetings with our legislators. We will make sure legislators are aware of who we are and the issues that are important to us. As we get closer to this date, additional information will be available. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to participate.

DEQ Water Quality Rule Making

Oregon’s Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), is proposing to adopt revised water quality standards for human health toxics. A stakeholder group, which included OSWA, has been involved in the rulemaking process for over a year. The new proposed rule will soon be available for public comment. There will be seven public hearings scheduled throughout the state. OSWA and others are concerned that the new proposed standards can be below natural levels in many forested

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 link to local chapter information.

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.

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streams and variances to address these situations are vague and potentially troublesome to forest landowners. Public hearings are planned for Bend on February 1st beginning at 1:00 pm, Eugene on February 2nd beginning at 9:00 am, Medford on February 2nd beginning at 6:00 pm, Coos Bay on February 3rd beginning at 1:30 pm, Ontario on February 7th beginning at 3:30 pm, Pendleton on February 8th beginning at 6:00 pm. Locations are yet to be determined. One can watch their local papers for details. Anyone interested in this issue is encouraged to attend one of these public hearings. OSWA can provide talking points for use by OSWA members and will submit written comments to the DEQ.

Oregon Department of Revenue reviewing small forestland tract option

The 2009 Legislature asked state government to review state review state activities for efficiency. The Small Tract Forestland Option available to forest landowners with 10 to 5,000 acres of forestland was identified by the DOR as a program with higher administration costs than other DOR programs. The DOR is investigating ways to reduce their costs of implementation. This may include new reporting requirements for participants to replace required, but costly, ownership analysis by DOR. The DOR and OSWA will meet on December 22nd to discuss options to preserve the program and decrease DOR administration costs. OSWA member, Clint Bentz, is actively engaged on this issue for OSWA.

Membership

Membership continues to be a high priority for OSWA. In our 2009/2010 calendar year ending October 31st, we lost 185 members (12.2% of our membership) and added 70 new members. The combined loss of 7.6% of our membership is a trend that we can not allow to continue if we want to continue to be an effective force in Oregon. I have been told OSWA's membership has declined for the last several years. Our President, Nancy Hathaway, chairs OSWA's Membership Committee. The committee will meet again in January to review OSWA's membership benefits messages and to
2010 Oregon’s Tree Farmer of the Year

A long time leader of the forest products industry has been named Oregon’s Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for 2010. The Oregon Tree Farm System recognized Harry Merlo during a ceremony at the World Forestry Center in Portland.

Merlo owns and manages the 12,000 acre MC Ranch located about twenty miles southwest of La Grande in Union County. About 8,500 acres of the property is forest, managed with a goal of long term recreational use and sustainable forestry. The forest supports a diverse range of wildlife, including salmon habitat in the 4 1/2 miles of the Grande Ronde River that flows through the ranch.

Merlo is recognized within Oregon as a philanthropist and an advocate of forestry education. Merlo founded the World Forest Institute in 1989 and continues to be involved with a diverse range of business ventures. Local chapters of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association select the County Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year in Oregon. The Oregon winner is selected by a team of professional foresters from the public and private sector.

For more information on the Oregon Tree Farm System, visit www.otfs.org.

The Oregon Woodland Co-operative: Diversifying Income Opportunities with Nontimber Forest Products Webinar

January 18, 2011 from 10:30 am to 11:30 am (PST)

Presented by Neil Schroeder and Tom Nygren, the Oregon Woodland Co-op, and Lita Buttolph, Institute for Culture and Ecology

This webinar will introduce participants to the Oregon Woodland Cooperative, and the co-op’s efforts to help small woodland owners stay economically viable by collectively marketing high-quality, sustainably harvested local forest products. Neil Schroeder and Tom Nygren, current and past co-op presidents, will describe the co-op’s current goals, development efforts, and projects to market nontimber forest products. Lita Buttolph of the Institute for Culture and Ecology will describe the support services, tools and resources currently being developed for small woodland owners interested in marketing nontimber forest products. Time will be allotted for questions and discussion.

To register, visit http://www.elearning.nnfp.org or call 503-331-6681.
Glendale Mills Fire Up
By: John Sowell, The News-Review

A sawmill idle since late August has reopened part time to cut lumber destined for China, a burgeoning market for a beleaguered U.S. timber industry waiting for the domestic housing market to rebound.

The Swanson Group has struck a deal to supply 20 million board feet of lumber to China, where total timber imports are expected to increase this year by 50 percent over last year.

Twenty-seven employees at the sawmill in Glendale have been working the past two weeks to fill the order. The mill is operating 20 hours a week, and the work should continue through the end of January, company President Steve Swanson said.

The finished lumber — similar to a 2-by-4 but in metric sizes — will be shipped to China from either Tacoma, Wash., or Oakland, Calif., depending on where containers are available, said Swanson, who hopes the order will lead to further shipments to China.

“We hope we'll be able to provide a higher volume of lumber and employ more people in Glendale,” he said.

The boards from the Swanson mill will join an increasing amount of wood products flowing from the U.S. to China. The timber sales will hardly dent the trade imbalance between China and the United States, which imported $296.4 billion worth of goods from China last year while exporting $69.6 billion, according to the U.S.-China Business Council. But the timber sales are providing business for mills hurt by the recession and slow recovery.

The Swanson Group laid off 90 workers when it shut down the Glendale sawmill in August and cut operations at its Roseburg stud mill from 60 hours a week to 20.

At the time, Steve Swanson blamed the shut down on a lack of lumber from federal forests and competition from subsidized Canadian timber, as well as the housing slump.

The 27 workers called back to help with the China order are working half time and receiving unemployment compensation for the other 20 hours that they worked when employed full time, Swanson said.

Increased demand in China and a 25 percent tax placed on logs sent from Russia to China have played major roles in creating a market for U.S. mills, said Bob Ragon, executive director of the Douglas Timber Operators.

In recent years, Russia supplied 60 percent of the logs processed in Chinese mills. The export tax imposed by Russia was meant to spur investment in sawmills in Siberia. Likewise, American companies would rather export finished lumber rather than logs, keeping sawmill jobs here.

“The good news is that they're buying lumber. The bad news is that they want logs, too,” Ragon said.

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OSWA NEWS

Cont’d from page 4 (message from Executive Director...)

implement strategies to retain existing members and recruit new ones. One of the recommendations is to make every OSWA event a membership recruitment event. I encourage every chapter to have a Membership Chairman and to incorporate a recruitment strategy into every chapter activity.

OSWA’s 2011 Annual Meeting

The 2011 Annual Meeting is being hosted by our Baker County Chapter. The Annual Meeting Committee is working on the details, program, and agenda. More information is forthcoming. The date is set for June 17th and 18th. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Thank you OSWA

As I enter my fifth month as your Executive Director, I wish to thank the Executive Committee, Board and Chapters for the support. I am confident in OSWA’s ability to continue to meet its members’ needs and be the voice of family woodland owners in Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Executive Director.

Jennifer Beathe, Dave Schmidt named to OFRI board of directors

Acting State Forester Nancy Hirsch announced that Jennifer Beathe and David Schmidt have been appointed to the board of directors of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

According to Oregon law, the state forester appoints 11 of OFRI’s 13 board members. Two other members serve ex officio: the dean of the Oregon State University College of Forestry and a public representative appointed jointly by the president of the Oregon Senate and the speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives.

Board representation includes small, medium and large forest-products producers (Classes 1, 2 and 3) that pay dedicated forest-products harvest taxes to support OFRI’s programs. The board also contains one member representing small woodland owners and one representing forest-sector employees.

Beathe will represent Class 2 producers, and Schmidt will represent Class 1. They replace retiring board members Pete Sikora and Sara Leiman, respectively. Two other members – W. Ray Jones, Class 3, and Bill Kluting, employee representative – were appointed to second terms. The terms are effective beginning Jan. 1, 2011.

Beathe is a forest engineer at Starker Forests in Corvallis, where her responsibilities include harvest planning, supervision and road drainage. Starker Forests maintains active forestry education and outreach programs for elementary school students and the public. Beathe is a member of the Society of American Foresters and has served on the board of directors of the Oregon Society of American Foresters Foundation.

Schmidt is a long-time professional forester and owner of Schmidt Family Forest LLC. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters and has served in several state and national leadership posts on natural-resource policy issues. He also is a past Tree Farmer of the Year in Benton and Lincoln counties and is on OSWA’s Executive Committee serving as 2nd Vice President. He served 12 years as a Linn County commissioner, retiring in 2000.

OFRI is a semi-independent state agency dedicated to forestry education. To learn more about OFRI and its work, visit Oregonforests.org.
Family Forest Owners Take Good Care of Land

By: Mike Cloughesy, Director of Forestry, OFRI

Last month’s Sustainable Life story, “Tree farmers encounter new eco-challenges” (Oct. 14) could leave the reader wondering, “Why be a family forestland owner?” The story gloomily recounts that harvested lands sometimes aren’t replanted; that timber sometimes is harvested and the land sold for development.

Fortunately, this isn’t the norm in Oregon. And it won’t be the case in the future for many good reasons. Our state’s systems of land conservation and forestry regulation still work quite well despite a struggling economy. Oregon’s land use laws are intact, and for decades have conserved forestlands for the values Oregonians hold most dear: clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, wood products and perhaps the most important reason—just because they are there.

The story implies that the Forest Practices Act administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry is unenforced. It would have the reader believe that lacking adequate oversight by the Oregon Department of Forestry, landowners won’t replant trees after harvest and will stop caring for their lands.

Those conclusions are unfounded when you consider that Oregon’s small and large woodland owners are among those most concerned about the dwindling numbers of the Oregon Department of Forestry’s stewardship foresters.

Especially for small woodland owners, the stewardship forester is often the first and last stop whenever a private landowner wants to do something on his or her land. Detailed plans are developed, filed and reviewed. Stewardship foresters advise landowners on where to find qualified service providers and sources for seedling trees.

The relationship between the private forest landowner and the stewardship forester provides landowners assurance that they are operating lawfully as they harvest or thin their trees, perform road maintenance, apply pesticides and do the dozens of other things they must do to keep their forestland healthy and productive.

Despite state budget cuts, the sky is not falling on Oregon’s private forests for at least three reasons:

First, compliance with the Oregon Forest Practices Act and its requirement for reforestation after harvest is very high. The law is the law. Foresters trained in best management practices are not suddenly going to abandon them just because ODF’s oversight function has been pared back.

Secondly, the story ignores the self-interest that all forest landowners have in keeping their lands planted and growing trees. Sound management is a strongly held ethic throughout Oregon, one that permeates both the agricultural (farms) and silvicultural (forests) communities.

• And lastly, many private forests are certified to third-party standards of sustainability, such as the American Tree Farm System, which require replanting and other high standards as a condition of certification.

Western Oregon is one of the best places in the world to buy forestland and grow trees. Our mild climate, deep soils and abundant rainfall make tree growing a good investment. However, landowners can’t just put in some Douglas firs “green-side-up,” stand back and expect to reap the benefits in a few years. Forests plantations take careful management.

The same factors that allow conifers such as Douglas fir, hemlock and spruce to grow well also foster brush, weeds and hardwood trees such as big leaf maple (a native species, not an invasive as stated in the article). Successful family forest landowners have learned how to control competing vegetation and animals that feed on seedlings until the forest is established. In fact, the Oregon Forest Practices Rules require that trees not only be planted within two years of timber harvest, but that enough planted and volunteer trees be “free to grow” at age 6 to form a healthy new forest.

Forest landowners have access to other resources, too. The Oregon Tree Farm System, the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, the Association of Consulting Foresters, the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and Oregon State University Forestry Extension programs, such as the Master Woodland Managers and the Women Owning Woodlands Network, are among the many professional resources that help families manage their forests for health and sustainability.

An amenity that many Portlanders may take for granted is the lush green forest that encircles the metro area. That forest is mostly privately owned family forestland. More than 70,000 Oregon families own forestland of between 10 acres and 5,000 acres throughout the state. Often over multiple generations, those families have provided a long and strong tradition of caring for forests.

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The volume from the Swanson Group’s order to China equals nearly the entire amount of lumber sent to China from Oregon and Washington in 2009. That year, 22.2 million board feet of timber were delivered to China from Northwest mills, up from 10.9 million board feet the year before, according to Debra Warren, an economist with the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Portland.

That mark already has been shattered this year. Through the first three quarters of 2010, 47.1 million board feet of lumber have been delivered to China from the Northwest, said Warren, whose office is an arm of the U.S. Forest Service.

China is expected to continue buying more timber, said Butch Bernhardt, spokesman for the Western Wood Products Association in Portland.

China doesn’t have many wood-framed homes, like those in the United States. But the Chinese need lumber for forms used in concrete construction, he said.

Northwest mills are in a good position to supply that wood because they’re closer to Asia than plants in the South, Bernhardt said. Northwest mills enjoy the same advantage in exporting to Japan, which bought 116.6 million board feet of timber from the Northwest during the first three quarters of this year.

While Japan remains a bigger customer for the year, monthly shipments to China outpaced those to Japan for the first time ever in August, Bernhardt said.

The United States, Canada and New Zealand are the three countries benefiting the most from China’s decision to look beyond Russia for lumber and logs.

British Columbia has already sold 1.5 billion board feet of lumber to China this year and is on track to end the year with 2.5 billion board feet sold, according to the Vancouver Sun. Exports to China from British Columbia are up 33 percent from last year, the newspaper reported.

Most of New Zealand’s sales to China have come in the form of logs. Sixty percent of that country’s exports go to China.

Canyonville pilot project could help open O&C lands to logging

By: John Sowell, The News-Review

A pilot logging project on a federal forest near Canyonville could provide a model for balancing environment considerations while opening logging on 2.4 million acres of Oregon & California Railroad forests, participants in a forest summit in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday said.

The project was discussed Wednesday during a daylong series of meetings and panel discussions between Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and a group of Oregon government officials, timber industry representatives and environmentalists.
“This was the most productive meeting we’ve had,” Douglas County Commissioner Doug Robertson said. “We had the Oregon delegation and the secretary talking about an Oregon issue. This was not just window dressing. There was meat with it.”

Forestry professors Norm Johnson of Oregon State University and Jerry Franklin of the University of Washington outlined their ideas for large-scale forest restoration projects on Bureau of Land Management land outside Canyonville and near Ruch in Jackson County.

The aim of the projects is to enhance habitat for the threatened northern spotted owl and for salmon while yielding logs for mills that have seen supplies from federal forests cut by more than half over the past two decades. Each pilot project would involve thinning and logging on 10,000 acres dispersed across 80,000 acres of watersheds.

“It’s scientifically based,” said Rep. Peter DeFazio, who attended the meeting along with other members of the Oregon congressional delegation. “For years, I’ve heard from extremists on both sides asking us to use scientifically based techniques. That’s what we’re doing here.”

The pilot projects, described in a 160-page plan drawn up by the professors, is consistent with the Northwest Forest Plan and will not be easily challenged, DeFazio said. That should allow the projects to move forward fairly quickly, he said.

“Hopefully, with what we learn here, we can apply it over all of the O&C lands and maybe over some of the Forest Service lands,” DeFazio said.

Environmental consultant Andy Kerr told The Associated Press that if the pilot projects go through in the next 12 to 18 months, they would represent a major change in the way BLM’s Roseburg and Medford districts design logging projects.

While the U.S. Forest Service and other BLM districts in Oregon have been successful at designing projects that are not challenged by conservation groups, the Roseburg and Medford districts have continued to offer sales that cannot pass legal tests for protecting the environment, Kerr said.

In the past, numerous timber sales were held up by lawsuits filed by conservation groups seeking to enforce environmental laws. The Bush administration tried to increase logging on Oregon & California Railroad trust lands administered by the federal Bureau of Land Management, but its Western Oregon Plan Revisions were withdrawn by the Obama administration following criticism of the plan by scientists and environmentalists.

During an October meeting in Roseburg arranged by DeFazio, Salazar called for the pilot projects to test forest restoration techniques. He said then that he wanted them to lead to the establishment of a 20-year management plan for the 2.4 million acres of O&C lands, which were originally owned by the defunct Oregon & California Railroad but later seized by the federal government following a massive scandal.
Views of a small woodland owner

By: Susan Watkins, OSWA member

Seventy thousand people in Oregon work every day to make sure the rest of us have clean air and drinking water, abundant wildlife and gorgeous views. These hardworking unsung heroes are teachers, doctors, fire-fighters, florists and others who own small woodlands, forests of 10 to 5,000 acres that ring rural towns and agricultural valleys throughout the state.

These lands are critical not only to our environment, but also to our economic and social well-being and our common identity as Oregonians.

We think of Oregon’s private forests as dominated by large landowners, but small forest owners account for about 40 percent of Oregon’s privately-owned forestland and contribute up to 15 percent of Oregon’s annual timber harvest. Small forests near populated areas, like my own 40-acre forest near McMinnville, provide a welcome buffer between towns and industrial forestlands.

While industrial lands are managed primarily for fiber and other wood products, family and individual forests are managed for a variety of goals, including the beauty and privacy of the woods, benefit to family and enhancement of wildlife habitat as well as timber production. Though all forest owners follow the Oregon Forest Practices Act, small landowners’ wide range of management styles provides a natural hedge against loss of ecosystem diversity and also offers a living laboratory for study of best forest practices.

But landowners are under increasing pressure to abandon the forest. A declining timber market provides little opportunity for economic return. State and federal regulations apply even though Oregon’s economic woes have led to a decline in government technical support for forest owners and an increase in the landowners’ share of costs for wildfire protection.

And small forest owners are aging. Almost half of Oregon’s small woodlands owners are 65 or older, and 75 percent are over 55, meaning that 2.5 million acres of Oregon forests are likely to change hands soon.

Often, the inheriting generation is ill-prepared to manage the forest. To help remedy this, I joined with other small forest owners, Oregon State University Forestry Extension, the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and the Austin Family Business Program to launch the “Ties to the Land” project. T3L works with participating families to improve multi-generational communication and develop forestry and management skills. Other programs help families protect legacy lands with conservation easements, which keep forest land in forest use, even if it changes hands.

Landowning families also need some changes in public policy. Family forestland owners need policies that:

- Restructure inheritance laws to allow resource lands to pass intact within families;
- Revise zoning laws to allow multiple generations to live on the land they manage, without subdividing the forest;
- Restore and maintain funding for on-the-ground state services, including foresters who provide technical support and forest management advice; and
- Offer incentives that recognize the benefits small forest owners now contribute to all Oregonians at their own expense.

We already know that our forests will not last unless we work to protect them. Helping small landowners keep their forests as forests will benefit us all.

Susan Watkins of McMinnville is a founder of the Ties to the Land Initiative and a member of the Committee for Family Forestlands, an advisopanel to the Oregon Board of Forestry. This piece reflects her personal views as a small woodland owner.

To some, the forests are a solace and retreat, but many families also want to have a sustainable economic relationship with their forests and so treat them as working forests.

Now that the election is over, it’s time Oregonians cast their votes for Oregon’s forests by making sure that there are sufficient resources and infrastructure at all levels – private as well as county and state government – to help family forest landowners manage their lands as forests in perpetuity.

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“There is always music amongst the trees in the garden, but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it.”

—Minnie Aumonier

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